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Case Closed?

**A jury hands down its verdict.
Has the right man been convicted?**

On May 30, 1997, police sergeant Gregory Gallagher was on duty in Boston, Massachusetts. From inside his squad car, he spotted a man he thought looked suspicious. Gallagher got out of his car. As he did, the man ran. Gallagher pursued him.

In the backyard of a house, they wrestled, and the man grabbed Gallagher's gun. He shot Gallagher twice, once in the back and once in the thigh. He also shot at

an eyewitness who was watching from a nearby window.

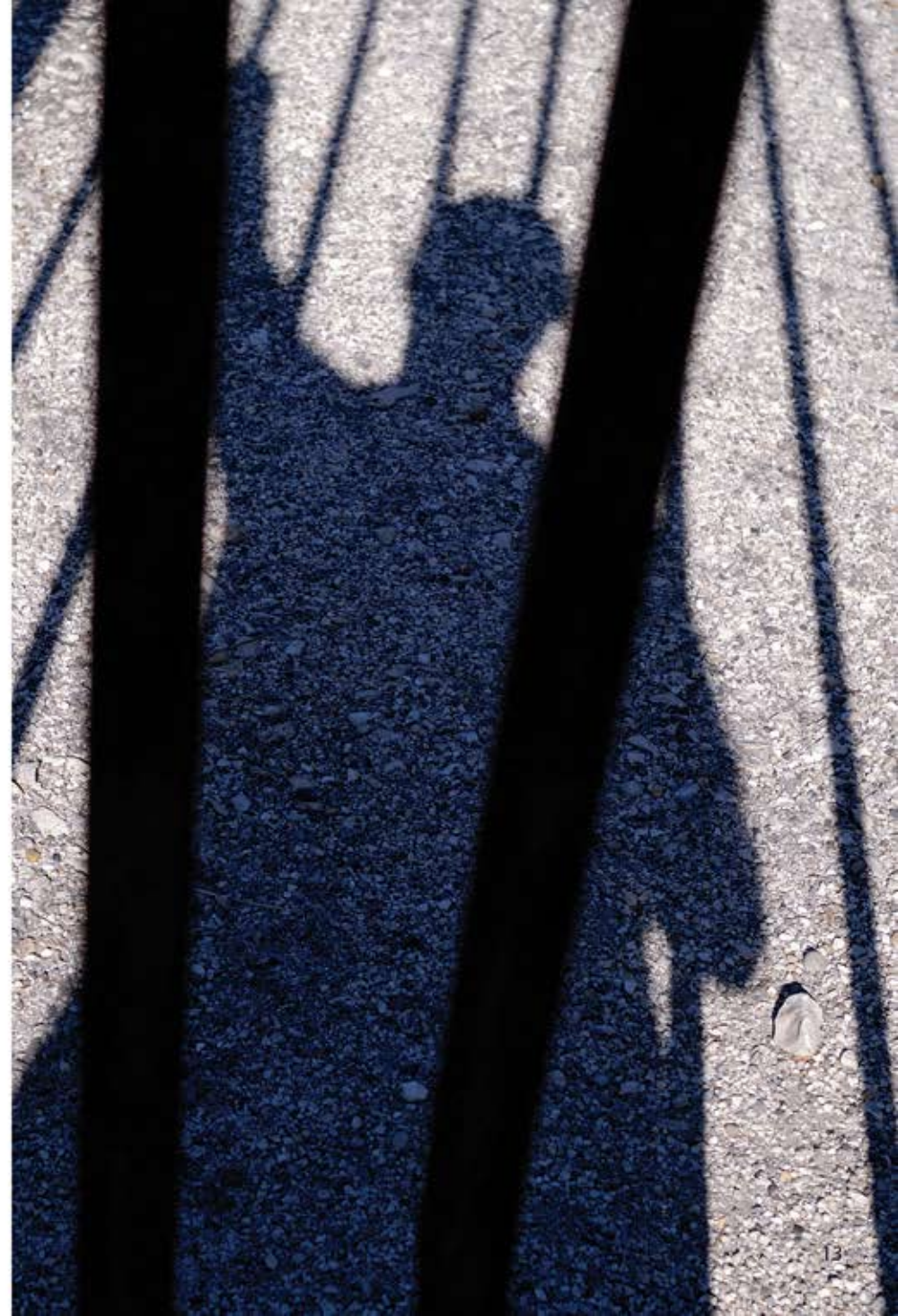
The shooter ran from the scene, leaving only a baseball cap behind. Then he broke into a nearby house and demanded a drink of water from the terrified residents. He took off his sweatshirt and put down the gun. After drinking his water, he put down the mug, left the house, and disappeared.

Guilty As Charged?

Two weeks later, Gallagher was asked to identify the man who assaulted him. He identified 26-year-old Stephan Cowans from a set of photographs. The police arrested Cowans.

Prosecutors thought they had enough evidence to charge Cowans with attempted murder. The eyewitness from the window had picked him out of a lineup. And experts claimed that a fingerprint found on the mug the attacker had drunk from on the day of the shooting matched Cowans's left thumb.

On July 6, a jury found Cowans guilty of assault and battery of a police officer. He was sentenced to 30 to 45 years in jail. But Cowans insisted he was innocent.



Crime Scene Investigators

Here's a step-by-step guide to investigating a crime scene.

1. Do a walk-through.

Take note of everything before you collect any evidence. Look for how the criminal may have gotten into and out of the area.

2. Protect the crime scene.

Lots of people work at a crime scene: photographers, police, medical examiners, sketch artists, firefighters,

and reporters. Make sure they don't touch important evidence. Touching evidence may spoil it.

3. Pick a path.

Choose one path into and out of a crime scene. Make sure everyone uses it. This helps protect any possible evidence.

4. Record it. Take pictures of the scene. Videotape it. Sketch it if you have to. Also, be sure to measure bloodstains.

5. Collect fragile materials first.

Fingerprints, footprints, hairs, and fibers can get stepped on, blown away,

or smudged. It's important to find them and collect them quickly.

6. Don't flush!

Don't use the toilet or turn on faucets. You could be sending important evidence down the drain.