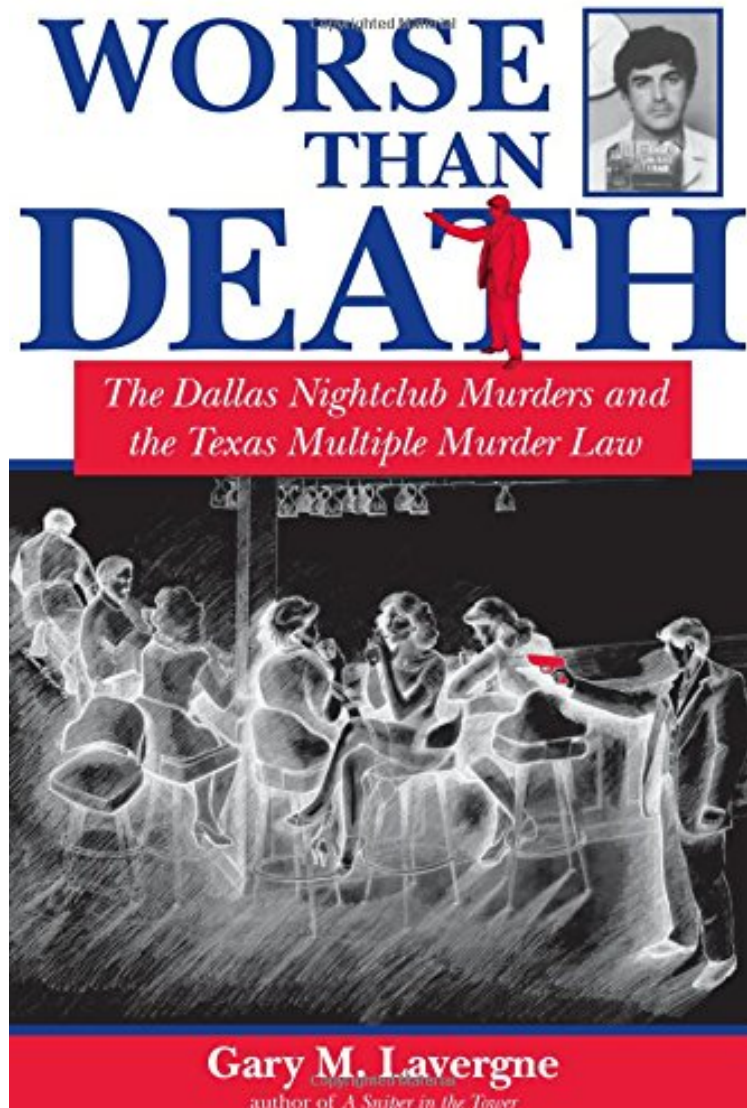


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## **Worse Than Death: The Dallas Nightclub Murders and the Texas Multiple Murder Law (North Texas Crime and Criminal Justice Series)**

*Gary M. Lavergne*

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**Gary M. Lavergne : Worse Than Death: The Dallas Nightclub Murders and the Texas Multiple Murder Law (North Texas Crime and Criminal Justice Series)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Worse Than Death: The Dallas Nightclub Murders and the Texas Multiple Murder Law* (North Texas Crime and Criminal Justice Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dallas historyBy Randy ButlerGreat read. Thank you.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Worse than deathBy Pamela C. BrownA fascinating book particularly for the Dallas resident that remembers this horrifying event. First rate author and I have enjoyed several of his books.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. KINDA BORINGBy blahOnly made it half way through. I should be done with it. Dont know if i will finish. Maybe after i work through the rest of my order i will try again. Not very memorable, and yes i cant spell.

In 1984, a Moroccan national named Abdelkrim Belachheb walked into Iannis Restaurant, a trendy Dallas nightclub, and gunned down seven people. Six died. Despite the fact that the crimes occurred in a state that prides itself on being tough on criminals, the death penalty was not an option for the Belachheb jury. Even though he had committed six murders, and his guilt was never in question (despite his insanity defense), his crimes were not capital murders under 1984 statutes. As a direct result of this crime, during the 1985 regular session the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 8the multiple murder statute to make serial killing and mass murder capital crimes. Belachhebs case serves as an excellent example to explore capital punishment and the insanity defense. Furthermore, Belachhebs easy entry into the United States (despite his violent record in Europe) highlights our contemporary fear over lax immigration screening and subsequent terrorism. The case is unique in that debate usually arises from an execution. Belachheb was given life imprisonment and is currently under maximum security a fate some would argue is worse than death. He is scheduled to have his first parole hearing in 2004, the twentieth anniversary of his crime.

"A powerful indictment of porous policies regarding admitting dangerous criminals into the U.S.--seventeen years before 9-11."About the AuthorGary M. Lavergne is Director of Admissions Research at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of A Sniper in the Tower: The Charles Whitman Murders and Bad Boy from Rosebud: The Murderous Life of Kenneth Allen McDuff , both published by the University of North Texas Press. Lavergne has appeared on numerous television shows, including The Today Show, The Prosecutors for the Discovery Channel, and American Justice for the AE Television network.