



TRUE CRIME

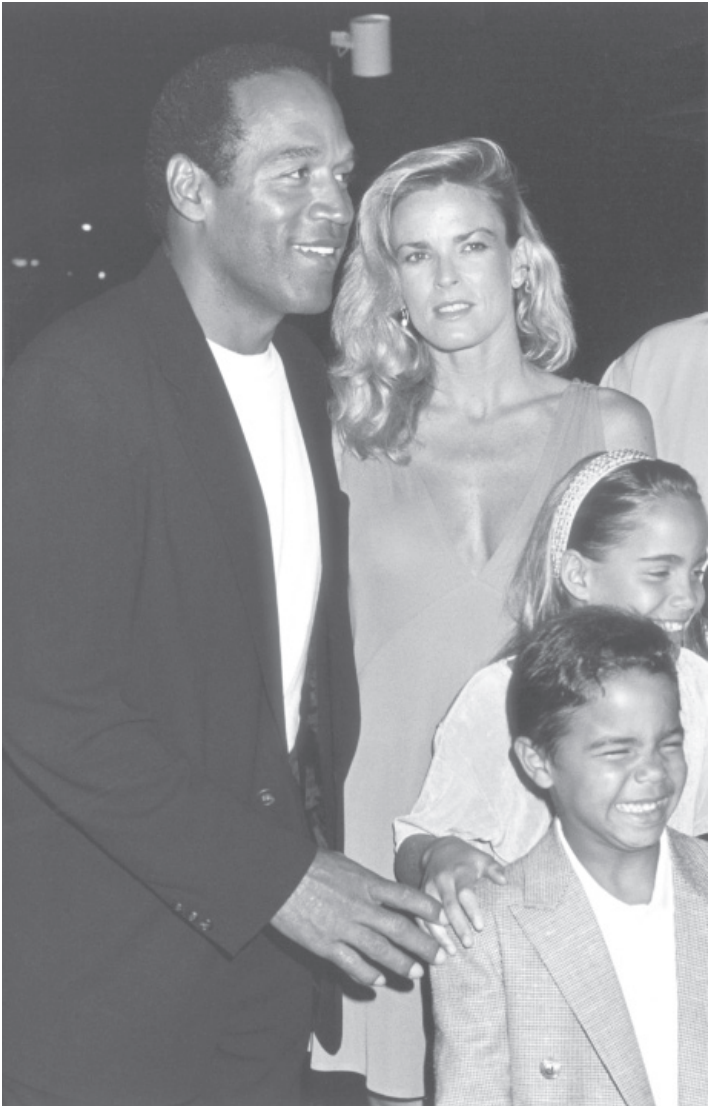
CELEBRITY CASES

T.R. Thomas

O.J. SIMPSON

There was almost no traffic on the I-405 freeway in Los Angeles. This was unusual for a late afternoon in June. A white Ford Bronco traveled slowly down the freeway. It was going about 35 mph. A large group of police cars followed it.

About 20 news helicopters flew overhead. People lined up along the overpasses to watch. More than 95 million people watched on TV. Most TV stations stopped their regular shows to cover the chase. NBC even broke into its coverage of the NBA Finals.



O.J. Simpson is shown with his ex-wife, Nicole, and their children on March 16, 1994. Less than three months later, Nicole was murdered.

CELEBRITY CASES

he did. The low-speed chase ended at his mansion. O.J. was arrested.

A Marriage Gone Sour

O.J. and Nicole met in June 1977. Beautiful, blonde Nicole was only 18 at the time. She worked as a waitress at a swank Beverly Hills nightclub. That is where they met. O.J. was 30. He was still married to his first wife, Marguerite. They had three kids. But that did not stop O.J. from dating other women. Later, he would cheat on Nicole, too.

O.J. and Marguerite got a divorce. O.J. and Nicole married in 1985. Later that year, they had a baby girl, Sydney. In 1988, they had a baby boy, Justin.

By then O.J. had retired from professional football. He was working as a sportscaster. He also acted in movies and

famous slow-speed chase. O.J. Simpson was charged with the murders.

People from all over the world followed the trial. There were new developments every day. The evidence included a bloody glove and a Bruno Magli shoe print. Kato Kaelin, O.J.'s houseguest, testified. O.J.'s limo driver also testified. Every piece of the puzzle was examined.

O.J.'s defense team included F. Lee Bailey, Johnnie Cochran, and Robert Shapiro. The high-powered lawyers established reasonable doubt. O.J. was found not guilty.

The victims' families took O.J. to civil court after that. They sued him for wrongful death. They won the case. The judge ordered O.J. Simpson to pay the Goldmans and Browns 33.5 million dollars. He paid very little of that.

CELEBRITY CASES

O.J. Simpson has led a troubled life since then. In September 2007, he was involved in an armed robbery. On December 5, 2008, he was sentenced to 33 years in prison. Today, he is serving his sentence at Lovelock Correctional Center in Lovelock, Nevada.

CHAPTER 2

MARTHA STEWART

DATAFILE

T I M E L I N E

August 3, 1941

Martha Kostyra is born in Jersey City, New Jersey.

October 19, 1999

Martha's media corporation goes public. She becomes a billionaire.

June 4, 2003

Martha is arrested for her crimes.

**Where is Westport,
Connecticut?**

DID YOU KNOW?

Martha Stewart worked as a model when she was young. She appeared in TV commercials for soap and shampoo. She was also in ads for Tareyton cigarettes. Their slogan was "I'd rather fight than switch." The ads showed people with fake black eyes.

MARTHA STEWART

Martha Stewart is one of the most powerful women in America. She is the head of a media *conglomerate*. She also has her own TV show. At one point, her magazine sold more than two million copies a month. In 2004, she went to prison. Her media empire took a hit but recovered.

Martha's crime was not a violent one. She was convicted of a *white-collar crime*. She owned stock in a company called ImClone. It made cancer drugs. One of its new drugs failed to get FDA approval. That meant ImClone couldn't sell the



Martha Stewart leaves a hearing at federal court in New York.