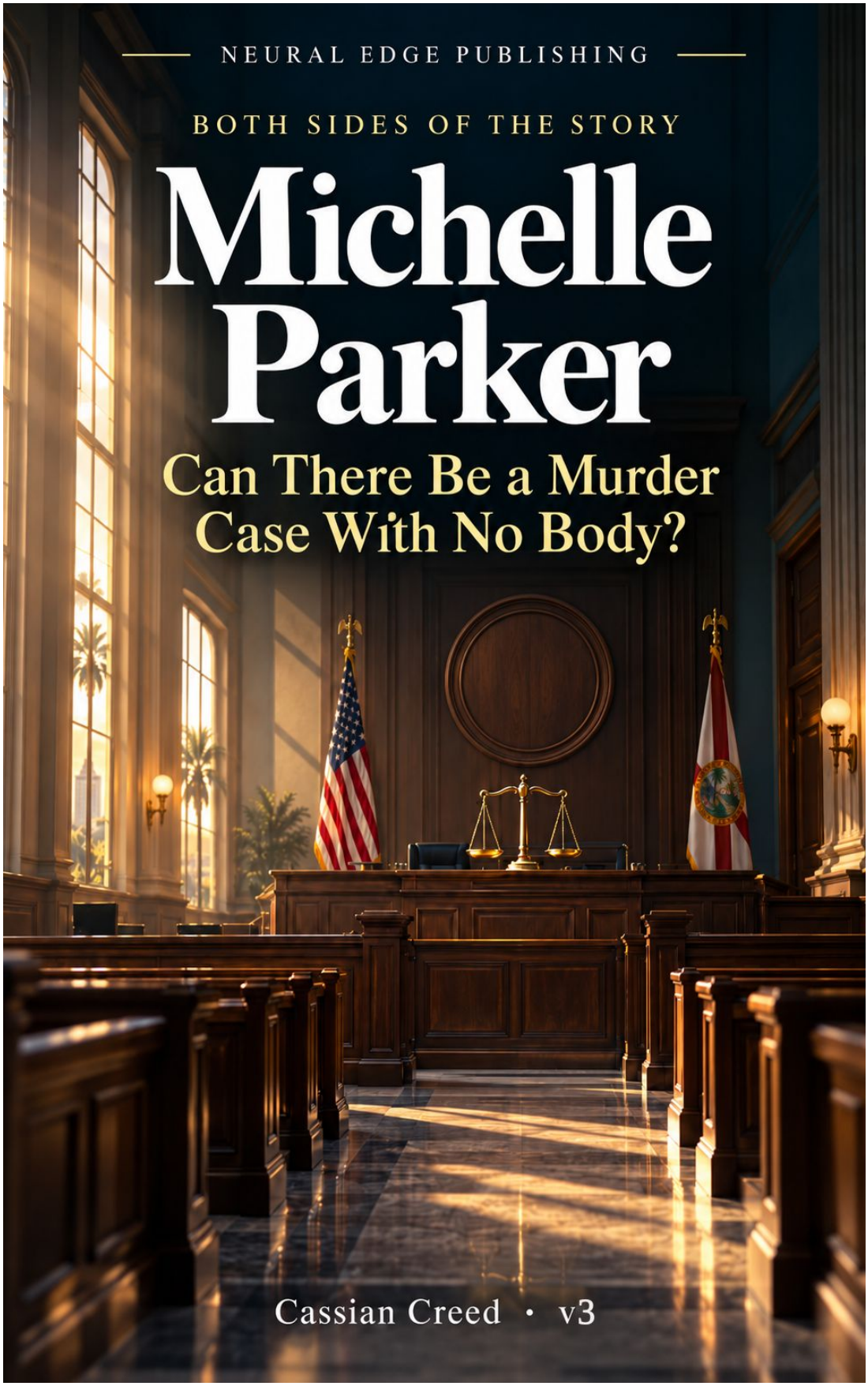


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What's inside

Both Sides of the Story: Michelle Parker — Can There Be a Murder Case With No Body?

Status as of October 17, 2026
The charge, the plea, custody, and the sealed affidavit.

How a Jury Trial Works in 2 Minutes
The rules every juror follows.

Part 1 · Who She Was
Michelle, her family, and what happened in 2011.

Part 2 · The Prosecution's Story
The charge, why second-degree, and how a no-body case is built.

Part 3 · The Defense's Story
The defense theory, the Arthur hearing, and each side's best moves.

Part 4 · What the Jury Will Be Asked to Decide
Is she dead? Was it a crime? Plus a real Florida no-body case.

Part 5 · What It Teaches
Three things to watch for, and what could still change.

Words to Know
Court words made simple.

Sources and As-Of Date
Every source, dated.

The full guide is 20 pages. Next: a free sample page from inside the guide.

A note on fairness

A defense lawyer who makes the State prove its case is not "helping a criminal." He is doing a job the Constitution requires. When every case is tested, the whole system gets more accurate. That protects victims too. A wrong conviction leaves the real answer unfound.

Each Side's Best Moves

These are the usual moves in a case like this. They are not predictions.

The State's move	The defense's counter
No-body case: prove a death first, then prove who caused it.	"The State can't prove a death, let alone who did it."
A "rope" of circumstantial facts: timeline, phones, statements, new digital work.	Cut each thread with an innocent reason. "A phone is not a person."
Consciousness of guilt: argue that conflicting statements show a guilty mind.	"Fear, stress and 15 years of questions — not guilt." Plus tunnel vision: "Police never looked at anyone else."

Part 4 · What the Jury Will Be Asked to Decide

There is no trial yet. There is no trial date. But we can already see the two big jobs a jury would face, if this case gets that far.

Job one: Is Michelle dead?

Most murder trials skip this question. The body answers it. Here, there is no body. So a jury would first have to decide whether the State has proven that Michelle is dead.

Can a jury in Florida do that without a body? Yes.

Lawyers use a Latin phrase here: **corpus delicti**. It means "body of the crime." It does **not** mean a dead body. It means proof that a crime happened at all.

The Florida Supreme Court said: "The corpus delicti of murder can be proven circumstantially, even without any evidence of the discovery of the victim's body" (*Crain v. State*, 894 So. 2d 59, Fla. 2004). The court leaned on two earlier Florida rulings that said the same: *Meyers v. State* (Fla. 1997) and *Bassett v. State* (Fla. 1984).

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