



WOMEN IN DISTRESS™  
OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.  
ESTABLISHING S·A·F·E™  
STOP ABUSE FOR EVERYONE™

### *Books*

By Prudy Taylor Board

If you were channel surfing last weekend and happened on the CBS program 48 Hours: Murder by the Book, you watched a segment titled Invitation to a Murder, the story of the murder of Donnah Winger from Hollywood, Florida. This lovely young woman's murder was also the subject of a Tru (formerly Court TV) TV program and a true crime book by the same name authored by Gail Abbott Zimmerman. Why did this crime garner so much attention? Because it was an unusually vicious murder, because the Wingers supposedly had a perfect marriage and had just adopted a daughter, and because an innocent young man was murdered along with Donnah Winger.

Mark Winger was a successful nuclear scientist. He and Donnah had moved to Springfield, Illinois and there the truly shocking double murders were committed in the Winger home. In brief, Mark Winger called 911 and reported that a male intruder had invaded their home and was bludgeoning his wife who later died. He, Mark Winger, shot the man and, at first, was considered a hero. However, as the years passed, suspicions grew and at last the full details of his two murders—Mark was no hero—were revealed and he was sent to prison.

I had watched both presentations on TV last weekend and so sat down to read the book thinking it would be repetitious. It was, in part, but it was also an engrossing read with much more information than either TV show could include. Actually, I couldn't put it down. But there's even more to the story that elevates this tragedy—the loving actions of Donnah's family.

In an effort to raise funds for Women in Distress of Broward County, Sara Jane Drescher (Donnah's mother) and her husband, Ira, established Donnah's Fund in their daughter's memory. They have underwritten the cost of several hundred books to give to mystery lovers, for a suggested donation of \$10 minimum to Women in Distress of Broward: Donnah's Fund. Mrs. Drescher's goal is to raise money to help abused women establish safe and healthy lives for themselves and their children. To date, 70 families have been able to do just that as a result of her efforts.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the book and simultaneously make a donation to Donnah's Fund, you may send your check to "Donnah's Fund" c/o Women in Distress, P.O. Box 676, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33302. To contribute online or with credit card log on to [www.womenindistress.org](http://www.womenindistress.org) and click on donate or call 561-870-7060 for additional information. (Invitation to a Murder published by Pocket Star Books. Paperback. 336 pages. ISBN 978-1-4165-7)