

# HODEL INVESTIGATIONS



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **BLACK DAHLIA PRIME SUSPECT IDENTIFIED IN NEWFOUND 1949 LETTER**

*69-Year-Old Handwritten "In Case of Death" Letter Discovered by Family Member*

Los Angeles, California, October 29, 2018 —

More than 70 years after the most notorious unsolved homicide in Los Angeles — the 1947 Black Dahlia murder — a voice from beyond the grave has identified the prime suspect as the killer.

W. Glenn Martin, an undercover informant for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) during the late 1940s, made his chilling confession in a handwritten three-page letter dated October 25, 1949. Martin penned the detailed missive to protect his teenage daughters, whom he feared could be harmed for his harboring of dark secrets.

The letter and an analysis of the details contained within are published in the latest book, out this week, by former LAPD homicide detective Steve Hodel about the Black Dahlia murder — *Black Dahlia Avenger III*.

Elizabeth Short, sensationalized as the Black Dahlia in the tabloid press, was a 22-year-old small-town girl with stunning looks from Medford, Mass. Short was kidnapped, sadistically tortured and her body surgically bisected in a procedure known as a “hemicorpectomy,” which was first taught in U.S. medical schools in the 1930s.

Short’s body was mutilated with such precision that investigators at the time determined the act “could only have been performed by a skilled surgeon.”

That surgeon, according to Steve Hodel, was Dr. George Hodel, Steve Hodel's father. For almost 20 years, Steve Hodel has relentlessly investigated the Black Dahlia case with the skill of a decorated LAPD homicide detective of 17 years.

Short's horrific murder on January 15, 1947 left a trail of questions and clues that Steve Hodel has meticulously and methodically traced back to his father — a Hollywood socialite and doctor, whose genius mind was studied over his lifetime by Stanford University researchers until his death in 1999.

Sandi Nichols, 62, of Indianapolis, Indiana, granddaughter of Glenn Martin, found the LAPD informant's letter in July, tucked in her mother's belongings after her mother's passing. Unfamiliar with the murder cases detailed in the letter, Nichols turned to the Internet for answers and found Steve Hodel.

Hodel, a New York Times best-selling author who has written four books linking his father to the Black Dahlia murder and more than a dozen other deaths, received a call from Nichols just as he was putting the finishing touches on his latest book, *Black Dahlia Avenger III*.

"This was literally a 'stop the presses' moment," Hodel said. "Historically, the Martin letter is our most important investigative find to date, second only to the 2004 discovery of the secret Hodel/Black Dahlia transcripts, locked in the DA's vault for fifty-years."

After speaking with Hodel at length, Nichols provided him with the original letter along with a number of family photographs.

Scribbled on the envelope of the 1949 letter were chilling words: "In Case of Margaret Ellen's or Glenna Jeans Death]." Martin sealed and initialed the confession, "WGM," and directed that his letter was to be opened only if harm came to one or both of his then-teenaged daughters.

That harm never came, and so the letter remained in his possession until Martin's own death in 1976. It lay hidden in a dusty box amid his ex-wife's personal belongings for the next 40 years.

"This letter didn't belong to me," Nichols said from her home in Indianapolis. "I had to find someone who knew what to do with it, and Mr. Hodel was the right person."

Martin's letter not only names "GH" as the Black Dahlia killer, but also identifies him as an acquaintance of and the likely suspect in a second Dahlia-related murder that occurred two years after Short's death. The victim was Louise Springer, who was kidnapped and strangled just two blocks from where Elizabeth Short's body parts were found displayed on a vacant lot five miles south of Hollywood.

The Springer murder occurred on June 13, 1949, a few months before Martin wrote his letter and before LAPD suspected it was related to Short's death.

Martin's letter references "GH" 13 times. Martin also details his own undercover work with LAPD, which was to assist Internal Affairs officers in its attempts to identify and arrest corrupt

police officers. Martin's letter goes on to name those LAPD officers, whom he believed were involved in ongoing coverups, specifically for the benefit of “GH.”

Martin was unaware at the time he wrote his letter that the LA County District Attorney’s Office had already identified Dr. George Hodel as “the prime Black Dahlia suspect” in secret reports submitted to a 1949 Grand Jury.

Three months later, investigators from the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office secretly conducted electronic surveillance of the Hodel residence for a period of 41 days and obtained admissions and confessions from George Hodel related to multiple murders and police payoffs, according to police files.

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## **SPECIAL EVENT**

**Best-selling author and retired LAPD detective Steve Hodel  
presents his latest findings in the Black Dahlia murder  
Followed by Q&A session with award-winning journalist Daniel Vasquez  
Nov. 1, 2018  
7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
South Pasadena Library Community Room  
1115 El Centro Street  
South Pasadena**

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**For more information, please call (626) 403-7350  
No tickets or reservations are necessary**

Additional information can be found at– [www.stevehodel.com](http://www.stevehodel.com)

Contact Steve Hodel at: [steve@stevehodel.com](mailto:steve@stevehodel.com)

Historic Black Dahlia case photographs available upon request—[steve@stevehodel.com](mailto:steve@stevehodel.com)