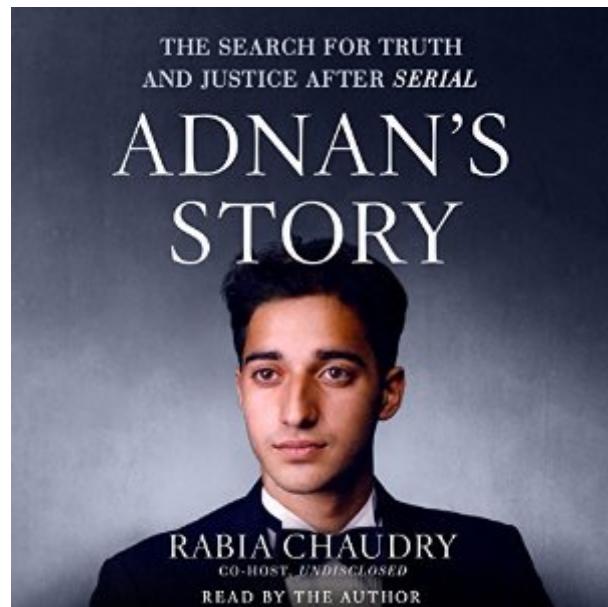


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# Adnan's Story: The Search For Truth And Justice After Serial



## Synopsis

"The first letter I received after being arrested in 1999 was from Rabia. Since that time until now, she has believed in my innocence and been committed to my exoneration.... [T]here is no one better to help tell my story, and no one that I trust more to tell it, than Rabia." (Adnan Syed) On February 28, 2000, Adnan Syed was convicted and sentenced to life plus 30 years for the murder of his ex-girlfriend, Hae Min Lee, a high school senior in Baltimore, Maryland. From the moment of his arrest, Syed has consistently maintained his innocence. Rabia Chaudry, a family friend, always believed him and has never given up the hope that he might someday be released. By 2013, however, after almost all appeals had been exhausted, things looked bleak. That's when Rabia contacted Sarah Koenig, a producer at This American Life, in the hopes of finding a journalist who would bring greater attention to Adnan's story and perhaps shed new light on the case. Koenig's investigation turned into Serial, an international phenomenon and Peabody Award-winning podcast. Adnan's Story will reexamine the investigation that led to Adnan Syed's arrest, share his life in prison, cover new evidence and possibilities that have since come to light, and review the recent court successes - including a ruling by a Maryland judge to reopen Syed's case. Woven with personal reflections from Adnan himself, including new never-before-seen letters he penned from prison, and the story of his family, his community, and public advocate Chaudry, the book offers new insight into the story that captivated the attention of millions as his legal team and investigatory team, along with countless others who have crowdsourced an investigation like never before, seek to exonerate him and find out the truth of what really happened on that day in 1999. What has captivated the public about Adnan's story are the layers of contradictions, fascinating characters, cultural dissonance, and fog of ambiguity around what really happened to Hae Min Lee. But this is not just a personal story; it is a testament to a thoroughly broken system that convicts tens of thousands of innocent people and how the power of the media and public can move rigid institutions to bring about justice.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

I really enjoyed the book. Prior to reading the book, I had only heard the Serial podcast. My only complaint is that I read it on my Kindle. The author, Rabia Chaudry, inserted copies of notes, hearing transcripts, etc. I could not read them on the kindle because the print was too small. It would not enlarge. I pretty much figured out what the contents were, but it would have been nice to be able to read it (or have a transcript written below).

I loved this book. Simple as that. I listened to Serial, Undisclosed, and Truth & Justice and have just been so invested in this case since. I was dying for this book to come out, because I knew that Rabia would tell the story with class, truth, and dignity. She did not disappoint. I laughed, cried and every emotion in between while reading this book. Some parts made me flat out angry because of how wrong the State was back during the original case and recently during the PCR hearing. This is a must have for every person in Adnan's corner, but also those people who doubt that our justice system has flaws. It certainly does and this book proves that. This book is an education because it reminds us that the people we are taught are "the good guys" sometimes turn out not to be. I only wish there was more of this book!

Finally finished "Adnan's Story" after deeply diving in to every word Rabia writes. I feel it is a companion piece to the "Serial" and "Undisclosed" podcasts (you should seriously listen to both), but I only say so because I do not have the experience of a clean read (meaning I listened to both podcasts with pen and paper, then read the book). Rabia conveys an insider's view of the effect of a wrongful conviction not only on Adnan, but on his family and loved ones, and it is heart wrenching. Everyone in the United States should read this book so they can see how the justice system CAN work entirely against you (and sadly Adnan is not the only victim of a failed justice system). I attended Rabia's book signing in Baltimore (great!) and was lucky enough to talk to Doug Colbert, Adnan's original bail attorney, now a law professor at the University of Maryland, and after talking to him, I signed up for an LSAT prep class the very next day. We should all be human rights

attorneys...our country certainly needs it. Rabia's years of commitment and compassion should be an inspiration to us all. I want to be just like her when I grow up....I'm 49.

Forget what you learned listening to Serial, it was crafted in a way to be easy listening, understandable and appealing to a large audience. Forget what you think you know about the US Justice System, Cops and Prosecutors, because it is fantasy, as if it was created by Disney. Rabia Chaudry is an excellent writer and lays out the evidence and what happened in a logical and concise way. Every one wants to focus on "the deal with Jay" and even Jenn. That is a rabbit hole the cops and prosecution want you to go down to mislead everyone from the fact that the State has no physical or scientific evidence tying Adnan to the murder or the burial site. There was actual physical evidence that didn't get fully explored. There was a lot more actual investigating that could have been done by both the County and City Police, when Hae first went missing, that did not get done. If someone went missing and you knew they had a pager, why would you not request the pager records from the provider? Why was Don not more fully investigated? I enjoyed the personal stories Rabia Chaudry shared about her life and her family's, as much as finally reading how it all went down with the Detectives and the Prosecution's case. We are all much more the same than the stereotypes thrown around to create differences would have us believe. I grew up Catholic and was taught you are going to hell if you have sex before marriage. God forbid I committed a crime and had my Catholicism thrown at me and the fact that I didn't follow Catholicism to the letter is evidence that I am a manipulator and liar. Could not put this book down, once I started.

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