

CHAPTER 1

MURDER AND MAYHEM



Paris, Illinois: July 6, 1986.

The community profile on Paris, Illinois, claims it's "A town whose values might have been painted by Norman Rockwell." From outward appearances, Paris looks like an innocent little rural town where everyone knows one another, life is carefree and simple and the community is rustic, friendly and peaceful. The surrounding area depicts a sleepy farming community with countryside scattered with grazing cattle, crisscrossing train tracks and endless, rural fields. The Paris downtown square surrounds a majestic and architecturally beautiful courthouse that one would think inspires truth and justice. The community profile also boasts that, "Paris appeals to young couples just starting out in life, ready to raise a new generation." Unfortunately, that wouldn't happen for Dyke and Karen Rhoads.