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You don`t get mood swings from eating cornflakesO. J. Simpson Everybody's got whatever problems they have. I refuse to let somebody's mistaken beliefs affect my life.O. J. Simpson Fear of losing is what makes competitors so great. Show me a gracious loser and I'll show you a permanent loser.O. J. Simpson Women are my biggest defenders. It's that bad-boy syndrome. Now girls chase me.O. J. Simpson What do you mean you have my children at the police station? Why are my kids at the police station?O. J. Simpson Thinking ... is what gets you caught from behind.O. J. Simpson There is no principle involved in my holdout. Only money.O. J. Simpson There is no prayer so blessed as the prayer which asks for nothing.O. J. Simpson The only thing that endures is character. Fame and wealth-all that is illusion. All that endures is character.O. J. Simpson The day you take complete responsibility for yourself, the day you stop making any excuses, that's the day you start to the top.O. J. Simpson Nicole will come up in conversations where it's in a part of the conversation. Or we may be somewhere and I would tell some story about their mother and I. You know, we always honor her birthday.O. J. Simpson NFL owners should quit worrying about silly things like players celebrating in the end zone. They should give them something to really celebrate. Get rid of the artificial surfaces.O. J. Simpson My NFL pension can barely pay my son's tuition. You know, it's very little money.O. J. Simpson Money takes wings. The only thing that endures is character.O. J. Simpson Life's been good to me. Why am I so lonely and bored? I used to wonder why so many rich men commit suicide. I no longer wonder.O. J. Simpson Life was good to me. I had a great wife, good kids, money, my own health -- and I'm lonely and bored.O. J. Simpson In America you get as much justice as you can afford.O. J. Simpson If there wasn't no fight, there wasn't no weekend.O. J. Simpson I've been very clear. I won. I didn't commit the crime.O. J. Simpson I've - all my life with Nicole [Brown], no matter what was going on, I handled it without being physical with her.O. J. Simpson I'm enjoying the money, the big house, the cars; what ghetto kid wouldn't?O. J. Simpson I'm absolutely, 100 percent, not guilty.O. J. Simpson I think I've been a great citizen.O. J. Simpson I tend to watch a little TV... Court TV, once in a while. Some of the cases I get interested in.O. J. Simpson I really have reached a point where I can write a book about all of this.O. J. Simpson I have always wanted to be liked and respected.O. J. Simpson I had one fight in my adult life. I had the famous '89 fight with Nicole, which she admits that she initiated the physical part.O. J. Simpson I feel that my advances in the business world will shatter a lot of white myths about black athletes-and give some pride and hope to a lot of young blacks.O. J. Simpson I don't understand what I did wrong except live a life that everyone is jealous of.O. J. Simpson I don't know how often I can discuss one incident in my entire life, but I'll continue to do that.O. J. Simpson Enjoy sharper detail, more accurate color, lifelike lighting, believable backgrounds, and more with our new model update. Your generated images will be more polished than ever.See What's NewExplore how consumers want to see climate stories told today, and what that means for your visuals.Download Our Latest VisualGPS ReportData-backed trends. Generative AI demos. Answers to your usage rights questions. Our original video podcast covers it all—now on demand.Watch NowEnjoy sharper detail, more accurate color, lifelike lighting, believable backgrounds, and more with our new model update. 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Simpson was charged with the double homicide of Nicole Brown Simpson, his ex-wife, and Ronald Lyle Goldman, a close personal friend and waiter. This article provides an overview of the people involved, the court trial, and other related stories. The murder occurred in June 1994, and the criminal trial began in November 1994. The trial lasted eight months, and an initial verdict was announced in October 1995. At the time, the O.J. Simpson murder trial was touted as the most publicized trial in the country's history and was closely followed by people worldwide. On the night of the incident, Nicole and Ronald were found dead outside her condominium in California. Both bodies were discovered on the entranceway to the condo. Crucial evidence suggested the involvement of OJ Simpson, and it was suspected that he was responsible for both murders. When Simpson was given the option to turn himself in, he did not report to the police station as notified. Still, he assembled a team of high-profile lawyers, including his close friend Robert Kardashian. They addressed the media with a public note from Simpson himself. As the most publicized case in U.S. history, the state of California spent well over $20 million on trial. It garnered more attention than the infamous Charles Manson murders. The prosecution was convinced that Simpson was behind the murders despite a minimal amount of evidence linking him to the crimes. The prosecutors used the DNA evidence found in the bloody footprints, hair samples, and clothing articles at the crime scene and from his home. To prepare for his defense, the former athlete brought together a formidable legal team, including Robert Shapiro, F. Lee Bailey, Johnnie Cochran, and Alan Dershowitz. After several months of intense trial proceedings, the jury announced the verdict of "not guilty" on both murder counts. Despite the telling DNA evidence, the lack of conviction was blamed upon the mismanagement of the case by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). In 2007, Simpson was arrested on six charges of assault, conspiracy, burglary, and robbery. With an initial bail bond set at $125,000, the football player-turned-actor pleaded not guilty to the charges of assault, theft, and kidnapping. His bail amount was doubled in January 2008. By September of that year, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of 12 counts of armed robbery and kidnapping. Simpson was then sentenced to a term of 33 years in prison. However, he was eligible for parole after serving nine years. In 2009, his lawyers re-appealed to the court, but the Nevada Supreme Court upheld the sentence. In July 2013, he received parole for some of the charges levied in 2008, but others are still in place. The "Juice" remained in prison until October 1, 2017. After seventeen years of investigating the infamous case, a Private Investigator named Bill Dear claims that O.J. Simpson is not guilty of the 1994 murders of Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman. Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman were brutally murdered at Nicole's home on Bundy Drive in Brentwood, California, on June 12, 1994. The weeks and months that followed were full of spectacle, including a much-watched car chase and the eventual arrest of O. J. for the murders. The televised trial that followed was unlike any that the nation had ever seen. Long convinced of O. J.'s guilt, the world was shocked when the jury of the "trial of the century" read the verdict of not guilty. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, mainstream media, and much of the world remain firmly convinced that O. J. got away with murder. According to private investigator William Dear, precisely this confidence has led the police and the public to overlook a far more likely suspect. Dear gathered more than sixteen years of investigation by his team of forensic experts and presented evidence that O. J. was not the killer. In O. J. is Innocent and I Can Prove It, Dear makes the controversial but compelling case that it was, in fact, the "overlooked suspect," his eldest son Jason, who committed the grisly murders. Sure to stir the pot and raise some eyebrows, this book is a must-read. 50 color illustrations. If you have any questions about the O.J. Simpson Murder Trial, please comment below. Get the scoop on more celebrity drama. Check out more Celebrity Investigations. Disclosure: As an associate with Amazon and BeenVerified, we earn from qualifying purchases. This means if you click on a link and purchase the product or service, we receive an affiliate commission at no extra cost to you. This helps offset some of the costs of running our site. Thanks for your support. Getty ImagesOn the night of June 12, 1994, O.J. Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman were stabbed to death outside of her house in Los Angeles. Their murders and the subsequent arrest of the retired NFL star ignited a series of events that America's legal system and media had rarely seen before.Here's a timeline of the murders of Brown Simpson and Goldman as well as the pursuit, arrest, trial, and eventual acquittal of Simpson. O.J. SimpsonNicole Brown SimpsonRon GoldmanJump to:June 12, 1994: Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman are killed6:30 p.m.: After attending her daughter's dance recital, alongside her ex-husband, Brown has dinner with friends and family at the Brentwood restaurant Mezzaluna, where Goldman works as a waiter. Brown's mother accidentally leaves her eyeglasses at the restaurant, and Goldman volunteers to stop by Brown's house to drop them off.10:41 p.m.–10:45 p.m.: Brian "Kato" Kaelin, who is Simpson's houseguest at his Rockingham mansion just a couple of miles down the road from Brown Simpson's home, hears a thumping noise on the opposite side of his wall and goes outside to investigate.10:50 p.m.–10:55 p.m.: A neighbor spots Brown Simpson's white Akita by itself—barking with bloody paws.11:01 p.m.: Waiting since 10:25 p.m., limousine driver Allan Park sees Simpson exit his house. A few minutes later, Park drives Simpson to the Los Angeles International Airport for his flight to Chicago.11:45 p.m.: Simpson takes off to Chicago. June 13, 1994: O.J. Simpson becomes a suspectGetty ImagesThe murder scene of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman12:10 a.m.: Brown Simpson's dog leads neighbors to the dead bodies of Goldman and Brown Simpson, which lie near the gate.4:15 a.m.: Simpson checks into a hotel in Chicago.4:30 a.m.: Police arrive at Simpson's Rockingham mansion to inform him of Brown Simpson's death but instead discover his blood-stained Bronco and a bloody glove that matches one found near Goldman's body. Getty ImagesA crowd forms outside Nicole Brown Simpson's Los Angeles home, where she and Ron Goldman were found murdered10:45 a.m.: With a search warrant in hand, the police search Simpson's mansion and find even more blood traces on the property, including in his Bronco. 12 p.m.: Returning to Los Angeles after being informed of his ex-wife's death, Simpson arrives at his mansion where he is handcuffed and then taken to the police station where he's questioned for hours.June 15, 1994: Robert Shapiro becomes O.J. Simpson's attorneyReplacing Howard Weitzman, defense attorney Robert Shapiro takes over as lead counsel for Simpson.June 16, 1994: Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman's funerals are heldGetty ImagesO.J. Simpson and two of his children attend Nicole Brown Simpson's funeral.Simpson and two of his children attend Brown Simpson's funeral. A funeral is also held for Goldman.June 17, 1994: The Bronco freeway chaseGetty Images"A.C." Cowlings drives a white Ford Bronco with O.J. Simpson inside on a Los Angeles area highway.Getty ImagesFans cheer for O.J. Simpson on the side of the freeway as the retired pro athlete evades police.Simpson is formally charged with murdering his ex-wife and her friend. Although he originally promised to surrender to authorities, he flees and becomes a fugitive. He is later spotted off the freeway in a white Ford Bronco with his friend Al "A.C." Cowlings in the driver's seat. Fans began to line the freeways to cheer him on. As helicopters follow Simpson's Bronco, an estimated 95 million people watch the 60-mile pursuit on TV (famously interrupting the broadcast of the NBA finals). Simpson ultimately surrenders at his house a little before 9 p.m. He is arrested and jailed without bail. What Happened to O.J. Simpson's White Ford BroncoJuly 22, 1994: O.J. Simpson pleads not guiltyGetty ImagesO.J. Simpson's mugshotSimpson pleads "absolutely, positively, 100 percent not guilty" to the murder charges. Judge Lance Ito is assigned to the case.September 9, 1994: Prosecutors seek life without paroleThe prosecution decides not to pursue the death penalty and instead, seeks life without parole for the defendant if he's convicted.November 3, 1994: The jury is selectedThe initial jury is selected and is made up of four men and eight women. Eight of the jurors are Black, one is Hispanic, one person is white, and two are of mixed race. January 11, 1995: The jury reports for dutyThe jury—12 men and 12 women—are sequestered.January 15-16, 1995: Simpson's lawyers stop speaking to each otherAttorney Robert Shapiro tells the media that he and another one of Simpson's defense attorneys F. Lee Bailey are no longer on speaking terms.O.J. Simpson: The Key Players in His Murder TrialJanuary 18, 1995: Johnnie Cochran takes the reigns of the defenseJohnnie Cochran becomes lead counsel for the defense.Judge Ito rules that the jury is allowed to hear evidence of Simpson's alleged domestic abuse toward Brown.January 24, 1995: The prosecution begins its opening statementGetty ImagesMarcia Clark during the O.J. Simpson trial for murder in 1995Prosecutors Marcia Clark and Christopher Darden make passionate opening statements. "He killed her out of jealousy," Darden told the jury. "He killed her because he couldn't have her."January 25, 1995: The defense gives its opening statementCochran begins his opening statement on behalf of the defense. "This case is about a rush to judgment, an obsession to win at any costs," he told the jury.January 27, 1995: O.J. Simpson's book comes outSimpson's book, I Want to Tell You: My Response to Your Letters, Your Messages, Your Questions, is released.February 3, 1995: Nicole Brown Simpson's sister-in-law takes the standBrown Simpson's sister-in-law, Denise Brown, testifies in tears over how Simpson abused his ex-wife.February 12, 1995: The jury visits key locationsThe jurors take a field trip to Simpson's Rockingham home and Brown Simpson's house on South Bundy Drive, now labeled a crime scene.March 13, 1995: A detective in the case says he's not racistDetective Mark Fuhrman is cross-examined and denies being racist. He also objects to the defense's theory that he undermined the investigation by tampering with evidence.March 21, 1995: Kato Kaelin takes the stand againFor a second time, the retired athlete's houseguest takes the stand and describes how he spent his evening with Simpson just hours before the double homicide occurred.April 4, 1995: A member of the investigation confesses to crime scene wrongdoingsGetty ImagesCriminologist Dennis FungCriminologist Dennis Fung admits that proper protocols weren't entirely enforced at the scene of the crime.May 10, 1995: The DNA evidence is presentedThe DNA testimony begins, and jurors learn one day later that one in 170 million people, including Simpson, would have the genetic characteristics as a drop of blood that discovered at the crime scene.June 15, 1995: O.J. Simpson tries on the leather glovesGetty ImagesO.J. Simpson trying on the "too tight" bloody gloves during his double murder trialGetty ImagesProsecutor Christopher Darden presents evidence that O.J. Simpson owned similar, if not the same, gloves found at the crime scene.Darden has Simpson try on the leather gloves in front of the jury. Simpson puts them on and declares them "too tight."August 29, 1995: Tapes are released of detective Mark Fuhrman saying racial slursThe jury hears old taped recordings of Fuhrman stating multiple racial slurs and also bragging about his enforcement of police brutality. This contradicts the detective's earlier testimony during cross-examination.September 28, 1995: The defense presents its closing argumentFollowing the prosecution's closing arguments the day before, Cochran delivers his closing argument to the jury with his famous phrase: "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit."October 3, 1995: O.J. Simpson is acquittedGetty ImagesA stack of New York Post newspapers from October 3, 1995, that share the news of O.J. Simpson's acquittalDeliberating for less than four hours, the jury returns with a verdict of not guilty on two counts of murder. Simpson is a free man.October 23, 1996: A civil trial against O.J. Simpson begins for Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman's DeathsThe families of Brown Simpson and Goldman, including his father Fred Goldman, sued O.J. Simpson for damages in civil court for their loved ones' wrongful deaths. The trial begins a little more than a year after Simpson's criminal acquittal.February 4, 1997: The jury finds O.J. Simpson responsible for the 1994 murdersAfter the civil trial extends into a fifth month, the 12-person jury unanimously found the football great liable for the deaths of his ex-wife and her friend. They awarded $8.5 million in compensatory damages to Goldman's parents. One week later, they decided Simpson should pay $25 million in punitive damages to both victim's families. "The jury decision of last Tuesday was the only decision important to us, to find the killer of my son and Nicole," Fred Goldman said after the order was handed down. "The money is not an issue. It never has been. It's holding the man who killed my son and Nicole responsible."Biography.com EditorsStaff Editorial Team and ContributorsThe Biography.com staff is a team of people-obsessed and news-hungry editors with decades of collective experience. We have worked as daily newspaper reporters, major national magazine editors, and as editors-in-chief of regional media publications. Among our ranks are book authors and award-winning journalists. Our staff also works with freelance writers, researchers, and other contributors to produce the smart, compelling profiles and articles you see on our site. 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We are covering Nigeria news, Niger delta, world updates, and Nigerian newspaper reviews. We guide our readers to the world of politics, business, energy, sports, entertainment, fashion, lifestyle and human interest stories. The O.J. Simpson trial was one of the most high-profile and controversial criminal trials in American history. The trial lasted from January 24, 1995, to October 3, 1995, and it captivated the nation's attention for months. O.J. Simpson, a former NFL football star, was charged with the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, on June 12, 1994. The trial was a spectacle that was covered extensively by the media and watched by millions of people around the world. The murder investigation began in the early morning hours of June 13, 1994, when the bodies of Brown Simpson and Goldman were found outside of Brown Simpson's condominium in Los Angeles, California. The police quickly became suspicious of Simpson, who had a history of domestic violence and had threatened Brown Simpson in the past. He was soon considered a person of interest in the case and was questioned by the police. However, he refused to surrender and instead fled in his white Ford Bronco, leading the police on a low-speed chase through the streets of Los Angeles. Simpson was eventually arrested and charged with the murders. His trial was assigned to Judge Lance Ito and was held in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The prosecution was led by Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, while Simpson's defense team was led by attorney Johnnie Cochran. The trial was a media circus from the beginning, with hundreds of journalists from around the world covering the proceedings. The testimony of key witnesses, including Simpson's former housekeeper, a limousine driver, and a police detective, provided a wealth of evidence against Simpson. However, the defense team was able to raise doubt about the reliability of the prosecution's evidence and cast doubt on the credibility of the prosecution's witnesses. One of the key pieces of evidence presented at trial was a pair of gloves found at the scene of the crime and at Simpson's home. The prosecution argued that the gloves were worn by the killer and that they were too small for Simpson's hands. The defense team countered by having Simpson try on the gloves in front of the jury, in an attempt to demonstrate that they were indeed too small for him to wear. This moment was widely seen as a turning point in the trial, and it became one of the most memorable moments in the proceedings. Another important aspect of the trial was the testimony of forensic experts, who provided evidence about blood stains, DNA samples, and other physical evidence collected from the crime scene. The prosecution argued that the evidence linking Simpson to the murders, while the defense team argued that the evidence was unreliable and that it had been mishandled by the police. Throughout the trial, the jury was sequestered, meaning that they were kept isolated from the outside world to prevent them from being influenced by media coverage or other outside factors. This allowed the jury to focus solely on the evidence presented in court and to make a fair and impartial decision. In the end, the jury found Simpson not guilty of the murders, much to the surprise of many observers. The verdict sparked a nationwide debate about the fairness of the criminal justice system and the role of race in the trial. Many believed that the verdict was influenced by racial biases and that the jury was swayed by the defense team's argument that the police had framed Simpson because of his race. The O.J. Simpson trial was a seminal event in American history and had a lasting impact on the country. It brought into sharp focus many important issues, including domestic violence, police misconduct, and the role of the media in criminal trials. It also sparked a nationwide conversation about race and the criminal justice system and continues to be studied and debated by scholars, journalists, and the general public. Page 2 The O.J. Simpson trial was one of the most high-profile and controversial criminal trials in American history. The trial lasted from January 24, 1995, to October 3, 1995, and it captivated the nation's attention for months. O.J. Simpson, a former NFL football star, was charged with the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, on June 12, 1994. The trial was a spectacle that was covered extensively by the media and watched by millions of people around the world. The murder investigation began in the early morning hours of June 13, 1994, when the bodies of Brown Simpson and Goldman were found outside of Brown Simpson's condominium in Los Angeles, California. The police quickly became suspicious of Simpson, who had a history of domestic violence and had threatened Brown Simpson in the past. He was soon considered a person of interest in the case and was questioned by the police. However, he refused to surrender and instead fled in his white Ford Bronco, leading the police on a low-speed chase through the streets of Los Angeles. Simpson was eventually arrested and charged with the murders. His trial was assigned to Judge Lance Ito and was held in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The prosecution was led by Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, while Simpson's defense team was led by attorney Johnnie Cochran. The trial was a media circus from the beginning, with hundreds of journalists from around the world covering the proceedings. The testimony of key witnesses, including Simpson's former housekeeper, a limousine driver, and a police detective, provided a wealth of evidence against Simpson. However, the defense team was able to raise doubt about the reliability of the prosecution's evidence and cast doubt on the credibility of the prosecution's witnesses. One of the key pieces of evidence presented at trial was a pair of gloves found at the scene of the crime and at Simpson's home. The prosecution argued that the gloves were worn by the killer and that they were too small for Simpson's hands. The defense team countered by having Simpson try on the gloves in front of the jury, in an attempt to demonstrate that they were indeed too small for him to wear. This moment was widely seen as a turning point in the trial, and it became one of the most memorable moments in the proceedings. Another important aspect of the trial was the testimony of forensic experts, who provided evidence about blood stains, DNA samples, and other physical evidence collected from the crime scene. The prosecution argued that the evidence linking Simpson to the murders, while the defense team argued that the evidence was unreliable and that it had been mishandled by the police. Throughout the trial, the jury was sequestered, meaning that they were kept isolated from the outside world to prevent them from being influenced by media coverage or other outside factors. This allowed the jury to focus solely on the evidence presented in court and to make a fair and impartial decision. In the end, the jury found Simpson not guilty of the murders, much to the surprise of many observers. The verdict sparked a nationwide debate about the fairness of the criminal justice system and the role of race in the trial. Many believed that the verdict was influenced by racial biases and that the jury was swayed by the defense team's argument that the police had framed Simpson because of his race. The O.J. Simpson trial was a seminal event in American history and had a lasting impact on the country. It brought into sharp focus many important issues, including domestic violence, police misconduct, and the role of the media in criminal trials. It also sparked a nationwide conversation about race and the criminal justice system and continues to be studied and debated by scholars, journalists, and the general public. Page 3 The O.J. Simpson trial was one of the most high-profile and controversial criminal trials in American history. The trial lasted from January 24, 1995, to October 3, 1995, and it captivated the nation's attention for months. O.J. Simpson, a former NFL football star, was charged with the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, on June 12, 1994. The trial was a spectacle that was covered extensively by the media and watched by millions of people around the world. The murder investigation began in the early morning hours of June 13, 1994, when the bodies of Brown Simpson and Goldman were found outside of Brown Simpson's condominium in Los Angeles, California. The police quickly became suspicious of Simpson, who had a history of domestic violence and had threatened Brown Simpson in the past. He was soon considered a person of interest in the case and was questioned by the police. However, he refused to surrender and instead fled in his white Ford Bronco, leading the police on a low-speed chase through the streets of Los Angeles. Simpson was eventually arrested and charged with the murders. His trial was assigned to Judge Lance Ito and was held in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The prosecution was led by Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, while Simpson's defense team was led by attorney Johnnie Cochran. 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Many believed that the verdict was influenced by racial biases and that the jury was swayed by the defense team's argument that the police had framed Simpson because of his race. The O.J. Simpson trial was a seminal event in American history and had a lasting impact on the country. It brought into sharp focus many important issues, including domestic violence, police misconduct, and the role of the media in criminal trials. It also sparked a nationwide conversation about race and the criminal justice system and continues to be studied and debated by scholars, journalists, and the general public. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Skip to content The O.J. Simpson trial, widely known as "The Trial of the Century," remains one of the most pivotal and controversial legal battles in modern history. Spanning from 1994 to 1995, the case captivated audiences worldwide, blending elements of celebrity culture, racial tensions, and legal drama. At the heart of it all was Orenthal James Simpson, a celebrated NFL athlete turned actor, whose life was irrevocably changed when he was accused of the brutal murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. This trial wasn't merely a legal proceeding; it became a national spectacle, sparking debates that extended beyond the courtroom. In this article, we delve into the intricate details of the O.J. Simpson trial, exploring the events leading up to it, the prosecution and defense strategies, and its far-reaching implications. O.J. Simpson Trial On June 12, 1994, the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman were discovered outside Nicole's Los Angeles residence. The scene was horrifying—both victims had suffered multiple stab wounds, and the evidence suggested a violent confrontation. Nicole was the ex-wife of O.J. Simpson, and their relationship had been marred by allegations of domestic abuse. From the outset, Simpson was a prime suspect. Evidence mounted quickly: a trail of blood led from the crime scene to Simpson's home; bloody footprints matched a rare shoe that Simpson owned; and a blood-stained glove was found on his property. Four days later, the world witnessed one of the most surreal moments in American media history. A slow-speed chase unfolded on live television as Simpson, a passenger in a white Ford Bronco driven by his friend Al Cowlings, evaded authorities. The spectacle captivated over 95 million viewers, ending with Simpson's arrest at his home. The prosecution, led by Marcia Clark and Christopher Darden, presented a case built on physical evidence and a narrative of domestic violence. They argued that the murders were premeditated, the culmination of O.J. Simpson Trial history of jealousy and abuse toward Nicole. DNA Evidence Blood matching Simpson, Nicole, and Goldman was found at multiple locations, including the crime scene, Simpson's car, and his home. At the time, DNA technology was relatively new,

high expectations,[33][34] but struggled in his first three years, averaging only 622 yards per season.[35] Bills coach John Rauch, not wanting to build an offense around one running back, assigned Simpson to do blocking and receiving duties at the expense of running the ball. In 1971, Rauch resigned as head coach, and the Bills brought in Harvey Johnson.[33][36][37] Despite Johnson devising a new offense for Simpson, Simpson was still ineffective that year. After the 1971 season, the Bills fired Johnson and brought in Lou Saban as head coach.[33] Unlike Rauch, Saban made Simpson the centerpiece of the Bills offense.[38] Simpson breaking the NFL's single-season rushing record in 1973 In 1972, Simpson rushed for over 1,000 yards for the first time in his career, gaining a league-leading total of 1,251 yards. In 1973, Simpson became the first player to break the highly coveted 2,000-yard rushing mark, with 2,003 total rushing yards and 12 touchdowns.[35][39] Simpson broke the mark during the last game of the season against the New York Jets with a seven-yard rush. That same game also saw Simpson break Jim Brown's single-season rushing record of 1,863 yards.[40] For his performance, Simpson won that year's NFL MVP Award and Bert Bell Award.[41][42] While other players have broken the 2,000-yard mark since Simpson, his record was established when the NFL had only 14 games per season, as opposed to the 16-game seasons that began in 1978.[43] In 2013, Simpson was reported still holding the rushing record for 14 games.[44] Simpson gained over 1,000 rushing yards in the next three seasons. He did not lead the league in rushing in 1974, but did cross the 1,000-yard barrier despite a knee injury.[45] In game 11 of 1974, he passed Ken Willard as the rushing leader among active players, a position he maintained until his retirement more than five seasons later. Simpson also made his first and only playoff appearance during the 1974 season. In a divisional game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Simpson rushed for 49 yards on 15 attempts and caught a touchdown pass, but the Bills lost the game 32–14.[46] Simpson won the rushing title again in 1975, rushing for 1,817 yards and 16 touchdowns. He also had a career-high 426 receiving yards and seven receiving touchdowns that season.[35] Simpson again led the league in rushing in 1976, rushing for 1,503 yards and eight touchdowns.[35] He had the best game of his career during that season's Thanksgiving game against the Detroit Lions on November 25. In that game, Simpson rushed for a then-record 273 yards on 29 attempts and scored two touchdowns. Despite Simpson's performance, the Bills lost the game 27–14.[47] A low light that season came during a game against the New England Patriots a few weeks earlier when defensive end Mel Lunsford and several other Patriots defenders stuffed the superstar running back for no gain. Still, as Simpson tried to continue driving forward, Lunsford bodyslammed him to the ground. Simpson got up and punched Lunsford, which prompted Lunsford to swing back. Bills offensive lineman Reggie McKenzie then jumped on Lunsford's back. Still, Lunsford bent down and flung McKenzie over his head. He went back to swinging at Simpson before a melee of the two teams stopped the fight and ended up in a pile on the field. Lunsford and Simpson were ejected from the game as the Patriots' solid defense persisted, with New England winning 20–10 to finish the 1976 season 11–3. The Bills finished 2–12.[48] Simpson played only seven games in 1977 due to injury.[9] On March 28, 1978, prior to the 1978 season (the last year on his three-year contract that paid him $733,000), the Bills traded Simpson to his hometown San Francisco 49ers for five draft picks (2nd and 3rd round draft pick for 1978, a 1st round and 4th round pick for 1979, and a 2nd round pick for 1980);[a] Simpson had tried to get the Bills to engineer a trade to the Los Angeles Rams prior to 1976 because of him and his wife's preference for the West Coast.[50][51][52] The team previously had Delvin Williams and Wilbur Jackson in the backfield.[2] Simpson played in San Francisco for two seasons, rushing for 1,053 yards and four touchdowns.[35] Physical problems with his knees influenced him to retire from football.[2] For his last home game at Candlestick Park, the 49ers held an "O.J. Simpson Day" at the stadium.[17] His final NFL game was on December 16, 1979, a 31–21 loss to the Atlanta Falcons at Atlanta–Fulton County Stadium.[53] His final play was a 10-yard run on 3rd and 10 for a first down.[54] Simpson gained 11,236 rushing yards, placing him 2nd on the NFL's all-time rushing list when he retired; he now stands at 21st. He was named NFL Player of the Year in 1973, and played in six Pro Bowls. He was the only player in NFL history to rush for over 2,000 yards in a 14-game season, and the only player to rush for over 200 yards in six different games in his career. From 1972 to 1976, Simpson averaged 1,540 rushing yards per (14 game) season, 5.1 yards per carry, and he won the NFL rushing title four times.[35] Simpson was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985, his first year of eligibility.[55] In 2019, he was named to the National Football League 100th Anniversary All-Time Team.[56] Simpson also occasionally returned kickoffs during his early career, finishing with 33 returns for 990 yards and a touchdown, an average of 30 yards per return.[57] Simpson acquired the nickname "Juice" as a play on "O.J.", a common abbreviation for orange juice. "Juice" is also a colloquial synonym for electricity or electrical power, and hence a metaphor for any powerful entity; the Bills' offensive line at Simpson's peak was nicknamed "The Electric Company".[58] Simpson played in only one playoff game during his 11-season Hall of Fame career: a 1974 Divisional Round game between the Buffalo Bills and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Simpson was held to 49 rushing yards on fifteen carries to go with three receptions for 37 yards and a touchdown as the Bills lost 32–14.[59] Indeed, 1974 would be one of only three winning seasons the Bills would tally in Simpson's nine years with the team.[citation needed] In 1975, Simpson competed on the television series Superstars, and was the season's winner. He received $39,250 in prize money.[60] Following the example of the previous season's winner (Kyle Rote Jr.), Simpson donated $5,000 of his prize money to the Special Olympics.[61] Legend for statistics table indicators * AP NFL MVP & OPOTY † NFL record ^ Led the league Bold Career high NFL career regular season statistics Year Team Games Rushing Receiving Fum GP GS Att Yds Avg Lng TD Y/G A/G Rec Yds Avg Lng TD Y/G R/G 1969 BUF 13 0 181 697 3.9 32 2 53.6 13.9 30 343 11.4 55 3 26.4 2.3 6 1970 BUF 8 8 120 488 4.1 56 5 61.0 15.0 10 139 13.9 36 0 17.4 1.3 6 1971 BUF 14 14 183 742 4.1 46 5 53.0 13.1 21 162 7.7 38 0 11.6 1.5 5 1972 BUF 14 14 292 1,251 4.3 94 6 89.4 20.9 27 198 7.3 25 0 14.1 1.9 8 1973* BUF 14 14 332 2,003 6.0 80 12 143.1† 23.7 6 70 11.7 24 0 5.0 0.4 7 1974 BUF 14 14 270 1,125 4.2 41 3 80.4 19.3 15 189 12.6 29 1 13.5 1.1 7 1975 BUF 14 14 329 1,817 5.5 88 16 129.8 23.5 28 426 15.2 64 7 30.4 2.0 7 1976 BUF 14 13 290 1,503 5.2 75 8 107.4 20.7 22 259 11.8 43 1 18.5 1.6 6 1977 BUF 7 7 126 557 4.4 39 0 79.6 18.0 16 138 8.6 18 0 19.7 2.3 2 1978 SF 10 10 161 593 3.7 34 1 59.3 16.1 21 172 8.2 19 2 17.2 2.1 5 1979 SF 13 8 120 460 3.8 22 3 35.4 9.2 7 46 6.6 14 0 3.5 0.5 3 Career[35] 135 116 2,404 11,236 4.7 94 61 83.2 17.8 203 2,142 10.6 64 14 15.9 1.5 62 NFL playoff career statistics Year Team Games Rushing Receiving Fum GP GS Att Yds Avg Lng TD Y/G A/G Rec Yds Avg Lng TD Y/G R/G 1974[35] BUF 1 1 15 49 3.3 11 0 49.0 15.0 3 37 12.3 25 1 37.0 3.0 0 Fastest player to gain 1,000 rushing yards in season: 1,025 in seven games in 1973 and 1,005 in seven games in 1975 (tied with Terrell Davis).[62] Fastest player to gain 2,000 rushing yards in season: 2,003 in 14 games in 1973.[44] Most rushing yards per game in a season: 143.1 per game in 1973.[63] Simpson appearing on an episode of Medical Center in 1969 Simpson began acting while at USC and appeared on Dragnet in an uncredited role as a potential recruit to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).[64] He became a professional actor before playing professional football, appearing in the first episode of Medical Center—as Cicely Tyson's husband despite being 23 years her junior—while negotiating his contract with the Bills.[10] Before Simpson's murder trial, sportswriter Ralph Wiley wrote in 2002, white people considered Simpson a "unifying symbol of all races". History professor Lou Moore said that this made Simpson the first Black athlete to be "put on".[65] In 1975, People magazine described Simpson as "the first [Black] athlete to become a bona fide lovable media superstar".[15] Simpson avoided starring in blaxploitation films, choosing third or fourth lead roles while studying experienced stars like Lee Marvin and Richard Burton.[11] His Hertz commercials from 1975 benefited Simpson's acting career, but he sometimes intentionally chose non-positive roles; "I've got to tear down that picture of O.J. Simpson, the clean-cut athlete, to get believability into whatever part I happen to be playing."[66] He said in 1980 that "The Oscar or the Emmy says you've reached a level of competence in this business, and I would love to have one."[64] While in the NFL, Simpson appeared in productions such as the television miniseries Roots (1977), and the dramatic motion pictures The Klansman (1974), The Towering Inferno (1974), The Cassandra Crossing (1977), and Capricorn One (1978).[67][68] In 1979, he started his own film production company, Orenthal Productions, which dealt mostly in made-for-TV fare such as the family-oriented Goldie and the Boxer films with Melissa Michaelsen (1979 and 1981).[67] Simpson said that he did not seriously consider an acting career until seeing Marvin and Burton, while filming The Klansman in California, ordering chili from Chasen's via a private jet.[10] Simpson appeared in the audience of NBC's Saturday Night Live during its second season and hosted an episode during its third season.[69] He was the second professional athlete to host the show.[70] In 1987, Simpson also made a cameo in the comedy Back to the Beach. He played Det. Nordberg in all three entries of The Naked Gun film trilogy (1988, 1991, 1994) alongside Leslie Nielsen, Priscilla Presley, and George Kennedy.[71] Nordberg would get injured in a continuous series of gags.[72] According to Arnold Schwarzenegger, Simpson was considered by director James Cameron to play the eponymous character in The Terminator (1984) when Schwarzenegger was cast as the character Kyle Reese, but Cameron ultimately cast Schwarzenegger as the Terminator, while Simpson had no involvement in the film.[71] The film's producers felt Simpson was "too nice" to be seen as a killer like the Terminator.[70] Simpson starred in the un-televised two-hour-long film pilot for Frogmen, an A-Team-like adventure series that Warner Bros. Television completed in 1994, a few months before the two murders he was accused of. Simpson played the leader of a group of former United States Navy SEALs named John "Bullfrog" Burke who operated out of a surf shop in Malibu.[73] NBC had not yet decided whether to order the series when Simpson's arrest canceled the project. NBC executive Preston Beckman collected each copy of Frogmen to ensure that no copy leaked to the media.[73] While searching his home, the police obtained a videotaped copy of the pilot as well as the script and dailies. Although the prosecution investigated reports that Simpson received "a fair amount of" military training—including use of a knife—for Frogmen, and there is a scene in which he holds a knife to the throat of a woman, this material was not introduced as evidence during the trial.[74] NBC executive Warren Littlefield said in July 1994 that the network would probably never air the pilot if Simpson were convicted.[75] Most pilots that are two hours long are aired as TV movies whether or not they are ordered as series. Because—as the Los Angeles Times later reported—"the appetite for all things O.J. appeared insatiable" during the trial, Warner Bros. and NBC estimated that a gigantic, Super Bowl–like television audience would have watched the Frogmen film. In 2000, co-star Evan Handler - who would later go on to portray "Dream Team" member Alan Dershowitz in The People v. O. J. Simpson: American Crime Story - told the Los Angeles Times the studio's decision not to air it or release it on home video, and forego an estimated $14 million in profits, was "just about the only proof you have that there is some dignity in the advertising and television business."[74] In 2006, Simpson starred in his own improv-based hidden-camera prank TV show, Juiced. Typical of the genre, Simpson would play a prank on everyday people while secretly filming them. At the end of each prank, he would shout, "You've been Juiced!" Each episode opened with half-dressed models dancing around Simpson, who is dressed as a pimp and sings his own rap song.[76] In one episode, Simpson is at a used car lot in Las Vegas, where he attempts to sell a white Ford Bronco (the SUV model that became infamous during his 1994 police chase).[76][77] A bullet hole in the front of the SUV is circled with his autograph, and he pitches it to a prospective buyer by saying that if they "ever get into some trouble and have to get away, it has escapability."[76] In another sketch, Simpson pretends to be having an affair with another man's girlfriend. Later, he transforms into an old white man whose dying wish is to call a game of bingo. Juiced aired as a one-time special on pay-per-view television and was later released on DVD.[78] Simpson worked as an NFL analyst on NBC from 1978 to 1982.[79] He joined ABC's Monday Night Football crew in 1983,[80] becoming the first black announcer on the network's No. 1 NFL broadcast team.[81] For Super Bowl XIX during the 1984 season, ABC moved Simpson to its pregame show, replacing him in the broadcast booth with active player Joe Theismann, who had played in the previous two Super Bowls.[82][83] Simpson continued his Monday Night Football announcing duties in 1985 before being dropped after the season.[79][83] In 1989, he rejoined NBC to replace Ahmad Rashad as an analyst on their NFL Live! pregame show.[79][82] After he was accused of his ex-wife's murder, Simpson was replaced by Rashad in 1994.[84][85] Simpson in a 1976 advertisement for Spot-Bilt shoes Chuck Barnes helped Simpson form business relationships with Chevrolet and ABC early in his football career. By 1971, the magazine New York wrote that Simpson was already wealthy enough to "retire this week if [he] wanted to."[86] Beginning in 1975, he appeared in advertisements with the Hertz rental car company. Commercials depicted Simpson running through airports (embodying speed), as others shouted to him the Hertz slogan "Go, O.J., Go!".[87] He was the first Black man to be hired for a major corporate national advertising campaign,[2] a unique decision for a conservative, dominant corporation to fend off its rival, No. 2 Avis.[88] Besides helping his acting career, Simpson estimated that the very successful "superstar in rent-a-car" campaign raised the recognition rate among people he met from 30% to 90%.[11] Hertz's annual profit increased by 50% to $42.2 million within the first year, brand awareness increased by more than 40%,[66] and 97% of viewers understood that the commercials advertised Hertz, avoiding the common "vampire video" problem[11] of viewers remembering an ad, but not which brand it promotes. Simpson was so important to the company that CEO Frank Olson personally negotiated his contract, and Hertz used him for an unusually long time for a celebrity endorser. Although Simpson appeared less often in Hertz commercials by the late 1980s, his relationship with the company continued; Simpson was to travel to Chicago to meet with Hertz executives and clients on the night of the Brown-Goldman murder.[87] Simpson used his amiable persona,[89] good looks, and charisma in many endorsement deals.[87] Advertising Age in 1977 named Simpson the magazine's Star Presenter of the Year;[66] by 1984, consumer research found that he was the most popular athlete endorser. A 1990s MCI Communications commercial starring Eunice Simpson satirized her son's work.[87] Other products Simpson endorsed included Pioneer Chicken, Honey Baked Ham, TreeSweet orange juice, Calistoga Water Company's line of Napa Naturals soft drinks, and Dingo cowboy boots. As president and CEO of O. J. Simpson Enterprises, he owned hotels and restaurants. When Simpson and Brown divorced in 1992, he had $10 million in assets and more than $1 million in annual income, including $550,000 from Hertz.[87] Simpson and Whitley with their daughter Arnelle at their home in Bel-Air, California, in 1970 On June 24, 1967, Simpson married Marguerite L. Whitley. Together, they had three children: Arnelle L. Simpson (b. 1968), Jason Lamar Simpson[90] (b. 1970), and Aaren Lashone Simpson (1977–1979). In August 1979, Aaren drowned in the family's swimming pool.[91][92] Marguerite declined to testify at the trial on behalf of Simpson. According to LAPD Officer Terry Schauer and his partner Richard Deandra, when she and Simpson were married, they got a call from Marguerite, who alleged that Simpson was physically violent towards her. She refused to press charges against him.[93][94] In an interview with Barbara Walters in 1995, Marguerite denied allegations that a police officer responded to a domestic violence call during her marriage to Simpson, telling Walters the alleged incident was not true and that she never made a police report. “Never—never did. I just found out about this, after 21 years.”[95] Marguerite addressed rumors that she was a battered woman during her marriage to Simpson, stating, "If he did, he would have got a frying pan upside his head. There was just no way that I would allow that to happen to me."[95] In the interview Marguerite also expressed her belief in Simpson's innocence and denied rumors that their son Jason helped commit the murders. “Oh God, it’s not something O.J. would do. It’s not—you know, it’s just not something either one of them would do,” she said.[96] Simpson met Nicole Brown in 1977 while she was working as a waitress at a Beverly Hills nightclub called The Daisy.[97][98] Although still married to his first wife, Simpson began dating Brown. Simpson and Marguerite divorced in March 1979.[99][100]:126–28 During the 1984 Summer Olympics torch relay, Simpson carried the torch on Santa Monica's California Incline road, running behind Brown.[101] Brown and Simpson were married on February 2, 1985, five years after his retirement from professional football.[102] The couple had two children, Sydney Brooke Simpson (b. 1985) and Justin Ryan Simpson (b. 1988).[103] The marriage lasted seven years.[104] Simpson with his daughter, Sydney Brooke, in 1986 According to Sheila Weller, "[Simpson and Brown] were a dramatic, fractious, mutually obsessed couple before they married, after they married, after they divorced in 1992, and after they reconciled."[105] In the June 3, 2024 edition of People, Brown's sister Denise stated that Simpson was at times volatile to Brown early into their relationship, including on one occasion in 1977 where he "flipped out" and "had her upstairs in the bathroom crying. He said, 'You embarrassed me.'" after seeing Nicole kiss a mutual male friend on the cheek after she and her family went to upstate New York to attend a Buffalo Bills game which Simpson was playing in.[106] Brown claimed that by the end of 1989, police had visited her and Simpson's house eight times for domestic violence calls, and they did not help her in any of them.[107] On December 31, she phoned the police, saying that she thought he was going to kill her. She was found by officers hiding in the bushes outside their home, "badly beaten and half-naked." Authorities said Simpson had "punched, slapped, and kicked" her. Simpson sped away from the cops in his car, but eventually, he pleaded no contest to spousal abuse.[16][104][108][109] Simpson was given two years' probation, 120 hours of community service, and he had to donate $500 to a battered women's shelter.[109] Brown filed for divorce on February 25, 1992, citing irreconcilable differences.[100]:136 This was after finding out about an alleged year-long affair Simpson had had with model Tawny Kitaen.[107] Among the more caustic accounts, in American Tragedy: The Uncensored Story of the Simpson Defense, former maid Bethy Vaquerano alleged that Brown was racist and had been physically abusive towards Simpson.[110][111] In her book I’m Not Dancing Anymore, Simpson’s niece Terri Baker said Brown could be very insulting to people when she was angry and that she observed Brown insulting and slapping Simpson in the past.[112][113] Reports suggest that in 1993, Brown and Simpson made an attempt at reconciliation.[108] In October, Brown called the police to report Simpson being violent again, after he allegedly found a photo of a man Brown had dated while they were broken up.[107] Again, officers intervened.[16] A family friend claimed that Simpson had told Brown's friends that if he ever "caught her with anyone, he would kill her."[108] Brown's friend Kris Jenner claimed Brown at one point told her, "Things are really bad between O.J. and I, and he's going to kill me, and he's going to get away with it."[109] The two broke up again, seemingly permanently, in May 1994.[107] According to Brown’s sister Tanya, on the night she was murdered, Nicole told their mother Juditha, while dining out together at the Mezzaluna restaurant, that Simpson would always be her soulmate.[114] In total, prosecutors for Simpson's murder trial found 62 incidents of abusive behavior by Simpson towards Brown.[16] News reporting regarding these incidents led to California enforcing its 1986 laws protecting domestic violence victims more. Hertz continued to air its commercials with Simpson.[115] Main article: Murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman Police officers searching Brown's condo for evidence in June 1994Shortly after midnight on June 13, 1994,[116] Nicole Brown and her friend, Ron Goldman, were found stabbed to death in the courtyard outside Brown's condo, in the Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles. Police determined the murders had taken place on the night of the 12th. Goldman had been there to return to Brown a pair of glasses that her mother had lost earlier that day. The knife used was never found. Simpson was an immediate person of interest in their murders, and there was never any other suspect found. He maintained that on the 12th, he had been at home, waiting for a limousine to take him to an airport for a flight to Chicago. After police gathered all the evidence, charges were filed and a warrant was signed for Simpson's arrest.[16][77][107][108][116] Simpson's mug shot, June 17, 1994 Simpson, in agreement with his attorneys, was scheduled to turn himself in at approximately 11:00 a.m. to the Parker Center police headquarters on the morning of June 17. Simpson failed to turn himself in, and he later became the subject of a low-speed pursuit (on the 405 Freeway) by police while riding as a passenger in a white 1993 Ford Bronco SUV,[77][117][118] a vehicle owned and being driven by his former teammate and longtime friend Al Cowlings.[118] According to Cowlings, Simpson was armed in the back of the vehicle with a pistol, holding it to his head and threatening to shoot himself if he was not taken back to his Brentwood estate. This caused the responding California Highway Patrol officers to pursue with extreme caution.[77] The police closed the nearby highways. At one point during the ride Simpson tried to call sportscaster Bob Costas, with whom he had worked before and had a good relationship, but was unable to reach him. [119] As Cowlings rode, Simpson's lawyer Robert Kardashian publicly released a letter from him, saying: "Don't feel sorry for me ... I've had a great life, great friends. Please think of the real O.J. and not this lost person."[16] The Bronco ride lasted more than 2 hours, until 8 pm, when Simpson and Cowlings arrived at Simpson’s Brentwood home, and negotiations for surrender began. [120] He was arrested shortly before 9 p.m.[108] The chase was shown on "nearly every live television station."[72] Stations interrupted coverage of the 1994 NBA Finals to broadcast the incident live. With an estimated audience of 95 million people, the event was described as "the most famous ride on American shores since Paul Revere's."[121] Tens of thousands of people gathered on Los Angeles streets and highways to view the chase.[122] The incident likely increased sales of the Ford Bronco by an additional 7,000 purchases in 1994 compared to 1993.[123] Many advocates for victims of domestic violence consider Brown's death as instrumental in Congress prioritizing the passage of the Violence Against Women Act. The act, passed in September 1994, created the National Domestic Violence Hotline.[124] Main article: Murder trial of O. J. Simpson The Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, where the trial took place The pursuit, arrest, and trial of Simpson were among the most widely publicized events in American history. Simpson's integrated defense counsel team, named the "Dream Team",[125] included Kardashian, Johnnie Cochran, Robert Shapiro, F. Lee Bailey, and Alan Dershowitz. The prosecution for the State of California was led by Marcia Clark and Christopher A. Darden.[16][126][127] The judge was Lance Ito. The trial ran from January to October 1995,[16] making it the longest trial in California history.[117] The jury sequestered for 266 days, also the longest in California history. It ended up including 10 Black people in a 12-person jury.[16] The trial was often characterized as the "trial of the century" because of its international publicity, likened to that of Sacco and Vanzetti and the Lindbergh kidnapping.[128] It was televised via a remote-control camera installed above the jury box, and it increased public interest in reality television and understanding of DNA evidence.[115][129][130] It influenced the creation of the LAPD's DNA crime lab, and California added Section 1109 to the state's Evidence Code, "allowing uncharged conduct and other evidence of prior abuse to be shown to jurors in similar cases."[115] Minor figures in the trial became celebrities, such as the resident of Simpson's guesthouse at the time of the murders, Kato Kaelin.[72] In 1995, while waiting to appear before a jury for his trial hearing, Simpson published the book I Want to Tell You: My Response to Your Letters, Your Messages, Your Questions, which was intended to be a "self-portrait of [his] mind at this critical time", and included letters he had received while incarcerated.[131] It was produced with Lawrence Schiller.[16] Before the trial began, it was discovered the police investigation had been flawed: "Photo evidence had been lost or mislabeled; DNA had been collected and stored improperly, raising a possibility that it was tainted."[16] Prosecutors provided DNA evidence, including both victims' blood being found in Simpson's car, Brown's blood being found on Simpson's socks, and hair and clothing fibers consistent with Simpson, Brown, and Goldman, as well as fibers from a 1993–94 Ford Bronco and Brown's dog, being found on a black leather glove recovered from Simpson's home.[107][132] The other glove in the pair was found at Brown's condo. The defense claimed that the glove found at Brown's condo did not fit Simpson's hand. In response, prosecutors theorized that Simpson had not been taking anti-inflammatory medications for his arthritis, which would make his hand swell if he tried to put on the glove during the trial. Johnnie Cochran informed Judge Ito the next day that Shawn Chapman contacted the Los Angeles County Jail doctor, who confirmed Simpson was taking his arthritis medication every day, and that the jail's medical records verified this.[133][134] Cochran claimed during the defense's closing argument, "If the glove don't fit, you must acquit."[72][117][132] The phrase became famous in popular culture.[135] Prosecutors also raised concerns that because the glove had been soaked in blood, and was repeatedly frozen and thawed before the trial, that it would have shrunk. Cochran denied this claim. When Simpson tried the glove on in court, he struggled to put it on. Nevertheless, Aris Isotoner Inc. vice president Richard Rubin would later testify that the gloves were of his company's rare Aris Light model and that a new pair of extra large gloves would fit Simpson.[136][137] People magazine wrote that the moment was crucial to his eventual acquittal.[107][132] The trial came in the context of multiple incidents involving the Los Angeles criminal justice system in the previous years. In 1991, Latasha Harlins, a 15-year-old Black girl, was shot in the head by store owner Soon Ja Du, who accused her of stealing a bottle of orange juice. A jury convicted Du of involuntary manslaughter, but a judge only sentenced her to probation. Also in 1991, four police officers allegedly beat Rodney King, a Black man; in 1992, all of the officers were acquitted. These incidents led to the 1992 Los Angeles riots.[138] The defense alleged that the crime scene had been compromised, and presented audiotape recordings of Mark Fuhrman, an officer who was at the scene and collected evidence, repeatedly using the racial slur "nigger" in an interview with an aspiring screenwriter. Fuhrman was later charged with perjury for lying about not saying the slur, and pleaded no contest.[16][107][122][139] This added to the popular perception that LAPD officers were racist, which worked against the police reforms being made by the city of Los Angeles since the beating of Rodney King.[139] The trial created a public discourse on race relations, motivated by Bailey and Cochran's cross-examination of Fuhrman over the tapes. It "divided the nation" along racial lines; white people were more likely to believe in Simpsons' guilt, while Black people were more likely to believe in his innocence. Many believed Simpson was being set up by the police,[140] taking into consideration the LAPD's history of corruption, the acquittal of the officers who beat Rodney King, and that Fuhrman, who found the glove at Simpson's home, entered the home without a search warrant. The defense argued that Fuhrman had planted the glove.[16][122][141] Charles F. Coleman Jr. wrote for MSNBC that "Black people didn't love O.J. Simpson, they hated the LAPD."[138] Jim Newton wrote for the Los Angeles Times that "the effect [of the defense's focus on Fuhrman] on the jury was inescapable."[139] "On the evidence that they gave me to evaluate, it was crooked by the cops," juror David Aldana said in an interview.[142] "The evidence given to me to look at, I could not convict. Did he do it? Maybe, maybe not."[142] Juror Sheila Woods denied the jury's decision was based on race in an interview with Vulture.[143] When asked if she believed Simpson was framed, Woods stated, "I don't know if he was necessarily framed. I think O.J. may know something about what happened, but I just don't think he did it. I think it was more than one person, just because of the way she was killed. I don't know how he could have just left that bloody scene — because it was bloody — and got back into his Bronco and not have it filled with blood. And then go back home and go in the front door, up the stairs to his bedroom ... That carpet was snow white in his house. He should have blood all over him or bruises because Ron Goldman was definitely fighting for his life. He had defensive cuts on his shoes and on his hands. O.J. only had that little cut on his finger. If Goldman was kicking to death, you would think that the killer would have gotten some bruises on his body. They showed us photos of O.J. with just his underwear just two days after, and he had no bruises or anything on his body."[143] In an interview with CNN following Simpson's death, juror Yolanda Adams said she was still comfortable with her decision to render a not guilty verdict and denied the verdict was based on payback for Rodney King, citing the reasonable doubt in the case presented by the defense and the actions of the police officers involved in the case like Mark Fuhrman pleading the fifth when he was asked if he planted or manufactured any evidence against Simpson.[144] The New York Times wrote that "in the end, it was the defense that had the overwhelming case, with many grounds for reasonable doubt, the standard for acquittal."[16] The trial culminated after 11 months on October 3, 1995, when the jury rendered a verdict of "not guilty" for the two murders.[128] Around 100 to 150 million people nationwide tuned in to watch or listen to the verdict announcement.[115][128] The jury deliberation lasted three hours. By the end, the trial produced "126 witnesses, 1,105 items of evidence and 45,000 pages of transcripts." Simpson was released after 474 days in custody.[16] Immediate reaction to the verdict was known for its division along racial lines: a poll of Los Angeles County residents showed that most African Americans there felt justice had been served by the verdict, while the majority of whites and Latinos opined that it had not.[145] NBC News wrote that "Black residents in parts of Los Angeles spilled out onto the street, cheering and passing celebratory drinks", and that similar scenes happened across the country.[146] In 1994, 22% of Black respondents to a poll believed Simpson was guilty, as opposed to 63% of white people.[146] A 2016 poll showed that 57% of Black Americans and 83% of white Americans believed Simpson was guilty.[147] This change was partially caused by the verdict of Simpson's later civil trial.[146] At various points after the acquittal, the portion of a mural in Potrero Hill which featured Simpson in his 49ers uniform was vandalized by splashes of red paint and devil horns which were put on his head; he was eventually painted out of the mural.[17] Following Simpson's acquittal, no additional arrests or convictions related to the murders were made. He maintained his innocence in subsequent media interviews.[148] In May 2008, Simpson's associate Mike Gilbert claimed that Simpson had admitted his role as the murderer, saying he used the knife that Brown was holding when she opened her condo's door for him that night, and that he had stopped taking his arthritis medicine so his hands would swell in court.[149] During the trial, Johnnie Cochran informed Judge Ito that Shawn Chapman contacted the Los Angeles County Jail doctor, who confirmed Simpson was taking his arthritis medication every day, and that the jail's medical records verified this.[150][134] In a 2025 Netflix Docuseries titled "American Manhunt - O.J Simpson" directed by Floyd Russ, an interview segment with O.J Simpson's former sports agent Mike Gilbert revealed that Gilbert worked up the nerve to ask Simpson what really happened with Nicole, and told his client that he had always suspected he was guilty. According to Gilbert, Simpson responded: “If Nicole wouldn’t have opened the door with a knife, she would still be alive.” (Gilbert also made this claim in his 2008 book, “How I Helped O.J. Get Away with Murder: The Shocking Inside Story of Violence, Loyalty, Regret, and Remorse.”)[151] Simpson's lawyer at the time Yale L. Galanter said none of Gilbert's claims were true and that Gilbert is "a delusional drug addict who needs money. He's fallen on very hard times. He is in trouble with the IRS."[149] "I've talked to O.J. about it," said Galanter, who refused to allow Simpson to comment directly because of his robbery trial in Las Vegas. "This stuff not only didn't occur but it's not factually supported by the evidence."[149] Comparisons were made years later between the Trayvon Martin case and the O.J. Simpson case, and how race impacted both. During an interview with Piers Morgan, when asked if there was a similarity in the racial aspects of the cases, Ron Goldman’s sister Kim said all of the evidence pointed towards guilt in Simpson’s case, while she believed George Zimmerman’s not guilty verdict was correct because it was a self defense case and that the killing of Trayvon Martin was not racially charged.[152] Fred Goldman also denied racism played a factor in the killing of Trayvon or the outcome of the Simpson trial in an interview.[153] Rufo vs. SimpsonSeal of the CourtCourtSuperior Court of California, County of Los AngelesDecidedFebruary 5, 1997VerdictSimpson liable for the wrongful death of and battery against Goldman, and battery against BrownCitationSCO31947Court membershipJudge sittingHiroshi Fujisaki Following Simpson's acquittal of criminal charges, the families of Ron Goldman and of Nicole Brown Simpson filed a civil lawsuit against Simpson. Daniel Petrocelli represented plaintiff Fred Goldman (Ronald Goldman's father), while Robert Baker represented Simpson.[154] Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki presided,[154] and he barred television and still cameras, radio equipment, and courtroom sketch artists from the courtroom.[155] The trial excluded discussion of racial issues, which were considered "inflammatory and speculative."[16] On October 23, 1996, opening statements were made, and on January 16, 1997, both sides rested their cases.[156] On February 5, 1997, a civil jury in Santa Monica, California, unanimously found Simpson liable for the wrongful death of and battery against Goldman, and battery against Brown. (The Brown family had not filed a wrongful death claim.)[157] Simpson was ordered to pay $33,500,000 in damages: $8.5 million in compensatory damages to the Goldman family, and $12.5 million in punitive damages to each family.[158] His net worth at the time was $11 million.[16] In 1997, Simpson defaulted on his mortgage at the home in which he had lived for 20 years, at 360 North Rockingham Avenue, and the lender foreclosed the property. In July 1998, the house was demolished by its next owner, Kenneth Abdalla, an investment banker and president of the Jerry's Famous Deli chain.[159] In February 1999, an auction of Simpson's Heisman Trophy and other belongings netted almost $500,000, which went to the Goldman family.[160] The Goldman family also tried to collect Simpson's NFL $28,000 yearly pension,[161] but failed to collect any money.[162] In July 2017 after Simpson was granted parole, Ron Goldman’s father Fred inquired about the real estate purchases made by Sydney and Justin Simpson, Brown’s children with Simpson. David Cook, a lawyer for Fred Goldman, said he would seek bank records and depositions to follow the kids’ money trail and see if any of the homes were bought with their dad’s cash, which could make them eligible for a clawback. “The kids’ loss is no greater than Fred’s, but Fred’s loss should be no greater than theirs,” Cook said.[163] In June 2022 Fred alleged in court papers (intended to keep the wrongful death and battery judgment viable) that Simpson owed $96 million due to significant interest generated on the initial order to pay damages.[164] In the late 1990s, Simpson attempted to register "O. J. Simpson", "O. J.", and "The Juice" as trademarks for "a broad range of goods, including figurines, trading cards, sportswear, medallions, coins, and prepaid telephone cards."[165] A "concerned citizen", William B. Ritchie, sued to oppose the granting of federal registration on the grounds that doing so would be immoral and scandalous.[166] In February 2001, Simpson was arrested in Miami-Dade County, for simple battery and burglary of an occupied conveyance, for pulling the glasses off another motorist during a traffic dispute three months earlier. If convicted, Simpson could have faced up to 16 years in prison, but he was tried and quickly acquitted of both charges in October.[167][168] On December 4, 2001, Simpson's Florida home was searched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on suspicion of ecstasy possession and money laundering. The FBI had received a tip that Simpson was involved in a major drug trafficking ring after 10 other suspects were arrested in the case. Simpson's home was thoroughly searched for two hours, but no illegal drugs were discovered, and no arrest or formal charges were filed following the search. Investigators uncovered equipment capable of stealing satellite television programming, which was later evidence in a federal lawsuit.[169] In July 2002, Simpson was arrested in Miami-Dade County for water speeding through a manatee protection zone and failing to comply with proper boating regulations.[170] The misdemeanor boating regulation charge was dropped, and Simpson was fined for the speeding infraction.[171] In March 2004, satellite television network DirecTV, Inc. accused Simpson in a Miami federal court of using illegal electronic devices to pirate its broadcast signals. The company later won a $25,000 judgment, and Simpson was ordered to pay an additional $33,678 in attorney's fees and costs.[172] In 2007, the state of California said that Simpson owed $1.44 million in back taxes.[173] A tax lien was filed in his case in September 1999.[174] Main article: If I Did It: Confessions of the KillerIn 2006, publisher ReganBooks had planned to release Simpson's book If I Did It, which was supposed to be his account of how he would hypothetically kill Brown and Goldman.[131] Simpson's eldest daughter, Arnelle Simpson, testified in a deposition that she and Van Exel, president of Raffles Entertainment and Music Production, came up with the idea for the book and pitched it to her father in an attempt to make money.[175] She testified that her father thought about it and eventually agreed to the book deal.[175] Simpson stated, "I have nothing to confess. This was an opportunity for my kids to get their financial legacy. My kids understand. I made it clear that it's blood money, but it's no different than any of the other writers who did books on this case."[175] Nicole. Jesus. I looked down and saw her on the ground in front of me, curled up in a fetal position at the base of the stairs, not moving. Goldman was only a few feet away, slumped against the bars of the fence. He wasn't moving either. Both he and Nicole were lying in giant pools of blood. I had never seen so much blood in my life. It didn't seem real, and none of it computed. If I Did It: Confessions of the Killer, Simpson, Fenjves (2006), p. 81. In Simpson's hypothetical scenario, he has an unwilling accomplice named "Charlie" who urges him to not engage with Nicole, whom Simpson plans to "scare the shit out of."[176] Simpson ignores Charlie's advice and continues to Nicole's condo, where he finds and confronts Ron Goldman. According to the book, Nicole falls and hits her head on the concrete, and Goldman crouches in a karate pose. As the confrontation escalates, Simpson writes, "Then something went horribly wrong, and I know what happened, but I can't tell you how."[177] He writes that he regained consciousness later with no memory of the actual act of murder.[176] Pablo Fenjves ghostwrote the book based on interviews with Simpson.[178] The publishing deal allegedly started when ReganBooks employee Judith Regan received a phone call from Simpson's lawyers, who said he was ready to confess to the murders. Regan claimed the word "If" was put in the title so that Simpson would have plausible deniability when his children read the book, because "he couldn't tell them that he had done it." The book was scheduled for release in November 2006, but was cancelled beforehand due to public outcry.[131] A scheduled T

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