



Across the Lake Publishing Company

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# Did Elfrieda Knaak Burn Herself Alive - Or Was It MURDER?

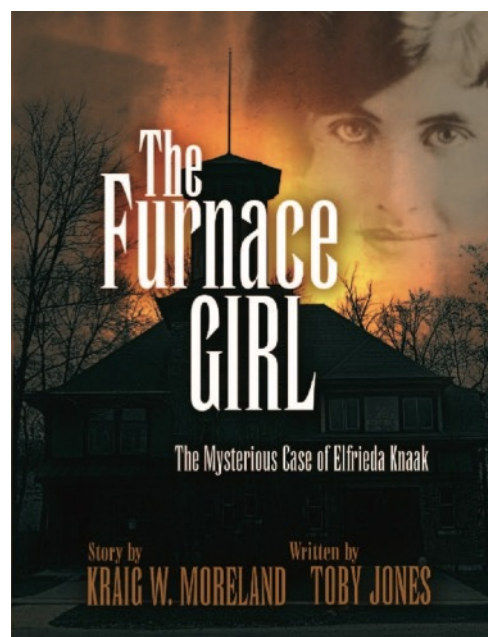
## The Furnace Girl - The Mysterious Case of Elfrieda Knaak

**Summary** – On October 29, 1928, in the quaint Chicago suburb of Lake Bluff, 30-year-old Elfrieda Knaak was found naked, with burns over more than half of her body, and propped up next to a furnace in the basement of the Village Hall. The events that took place in the following two weeks turned the idyllic village of Lake Bluff upside down as local and county law enforcement officials scrambled to determine what took place and who was responsible.

Ninety years later, the questions are still unanswered--How did she get there? By what means was she so badly burned? Who could have perpetrated such a heinous crime? This baffling story became a nationwide media sensation, thrusting the small town of Lake Bluff and its beloved Village Hall onto the front pages of newspapers from New York to Los Angeles.

The Furnace Girl is Kraig Moreland's theory of what really happened to Elfrieda Knaak, as told to and beautifully written by Toby Jones. It is a stranger-than-fiction story, narrated through the eyes of Griff Morgan, a young orphan boy, whose harrowing journey makes him an accidental witness to what still remains one of the most puzzling, unsolved crimes of the early 1900s.

The Furnace Girl appeals to crime buffs and those looking for a powerful coming-of-age story that pulls on even the toughest of heartstrings.



**Story By:** Kraig W. Moreland

**Written By:** Toby Jones

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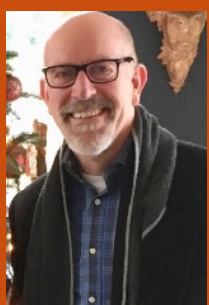
[thefurnacegirl.com](http://thefurnacegirl.com)



### Kraig W. Moreland

#### About the Author

Kraig, a life-long resident of Lake Bluff, Illinois, has a great passion for film and local history. Over the last 15 years, he has written and co-produced the Lake Bluff Ghost Walk. In 2011, Kraig wrote, filmed, and produced a documentary "A Childhood Lost & Found - A Journey back to The Lake Bluff Children's Home," a heart-felt story of the Lake Bluff Orphanage, the children who lived there and the people who cared for them. The film was awarded a "Superior Award" from the Illinois Association of Museums in 2012.



### Toby Jones

#### About the Writer

Toby studied Creative Writing at DePauw University and then earned a Masters of Divinity at Princeton Seminary. He went on to teach English at both the high school and college levels, including a four-year stint at Phillips Exeter Academy. *The Furnace Girl* is Toby's first collaborative effort and foray into historical fiction.