



# LADIES OF THE GUN: THE FAMED CHICAGO 'LADY KILLERS.'



In the early 1920s, Chicago saw a rash of "lady killers." Most were domestic violence victims who killed in self-defense and were quickly acquitted. But a few were glamorous "ladies of the gun" who were guilty, beautiful, and not one bit sorry. Socialite **Belva Gaertner** shot her married lover in his car and then claimed she couldn't remember a thing. Married beauty **Beulah Annan** invited her secret boyfriend over while her husband was at work. After drinking several gallons of wine, the illicit couple quarreled and Beulah shot him dead. And the tragic **Kitty Malm** joined her boyfriend for an ill-fated factory robbery.

These three women were jailed alongside **Sabella Nitti**, an innocent immigrant accused of murdering her husband. The three gunwomen were the inspiration for the play "Chicago." Sabella, considered the so-called ugly one, was made into a bit character.

In her presentation, Dr. Lucchesi pushes Sabella into the spotlight. In telling the story of the famed gunwomen, she also tells of the innocent immigrant that history forgot.

