

13 Stories III
Story Options 2022

Option #17: Patrick Charles Murphy

Born in Texas, Patrick Murphy enlisted in the U.S. Army at age eighteen. Between 1900 and 1903 he served in the Philippines before being discharged. Beginning in 1907 he served a year and a half for larceny in federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas, under the name Charles Miller. In 1915, he traveled to Kellogg, Idaho hoping to find work at the Bunker Hill & Sullivan Mining Company. After a few jobless days, he robbed the owner of the Depot Saloon, who was closing up for the night. He demanded money and two bottles of whiskey. As he attempted to leave Kellogg, a night watchman motioned for Murphy to stop. Murphy shot and killed the elderly watchman. Found in a drunken stupor among logs and boxcars the next morning, He had left a trail of coins and bills. He was convicted of murder in the first degree and received a life sentence. While serving in the Idaho State Penitentiary, he wrote and published several books and short stories, including *Behind Gray Walls* and *Shadows of the Gallows*. He maintained the rose gardens and also made and sold craft items. He was paroled in 1931.

