

## Chris Watts

“Picture perfect is not always perfect,” is a common saying that people use in consoling themselves when they come across families like that of Chris Watts. Well, it turns out nothing is truer. Although, I would like you to think about this for a moment, do you think picture-perfect is always a façade, and more often than none, there is something wrong with these families. Or do you think, some people have genuinely perfect lives? This is a story of how beautiful could so easily and quickly turn awry.

Chris Watts met his wife, Shanann Rzucek in 2010, subsequently, they went on and got married that same year in November, in their hometown of North Carolina. During a trip to Colorado, they enjoyed the environment and decided to build their lives in this new town that they enjoyed so much. This led them to move into a five-bedroom house. The rooms in this house would soon become less empty with the birth of their two daughters, Bella Marie and Celeste Cathryn. Bella, on December 17, 2013, and Celeste, were born July 17, 2015.

According to reports, Shanann Watts’ social media was filled with endearing and charming photos of her family that was taken during their domestic adventures. Chris would be in these photos and even videos offering to clean up after a baking session and giving big hugs to his daughters.

At about 2 a.m. on August 13, 2018, Shanann’s friend Nickole Atkinson dropped her off at her home, she was returning from a business trip in Arizona, while Chris was at home with the kids. Later that day, Shanann’s unusual absence from a scheduled obstetrics and gynecology appointment was noticed, she also failed to return the texts left her by Nickole, at this point her friend Nickole was getting worried.

She finally knew something was wrong when Shanann missed a business meeting. She went to the residence of the Watts to check on them, seeing as other efforts to reach them had been futile. At the door, Nickole knocked severally, and after she did not get a response from the house. She called Christopher (Chris) who was allegedly at work. Nickole then called the authorities and reported her friend missing.

After a few minutes, at about 1:40 pm, an officer from the Frederick Police Department arrived at their house to conduct a welfare check, the officer was permitted to search the house and there

seemed to be no signs of disarray, even the family dog was unharmed, but guess who was still not found, Shanann and the kids. It was discovered that her car still had the girls' car seat in there. Her keys and purse were also found in the house, which meant that she did not go anywhere, at least not voluntarily.

Earlier that day, Christopher (Chris) Watts had strangled his wife in their bed after she got back from her trip. When he told her that their marriage was over, she immediately knew it was because he was having an affair, although Chris stated that his mistress had no involvement in his crimes. Although, he could not but help acknowledge the fact that the relationship played a role in his actions. There were speculations that he did that because he wanted to start a family with his new lover.

An instance was even mentioned where he gave Shannon pills intending to make her lose the child because his mistress "wanted to have his first male child." After Chris strangled his wife, he reported that his first daughter, Bella came into the room holding onto a blanket. She cried and asked, "what are you doing to mummy?" as he wrapped her lifeless body in a bedspread.

Watts would eventually move the body to the floor of the backseat of his truck. Not knowing what to do with the girls, he put them in the truck also and drove to an oil site of a company where he used to work. He [reportedly buried](#) Shanann's body in a shallow grave; came back and smothered both girls after which he also dumped their bodies into separate crude oil storage tanks. At this time Shanann was 15 weeks pregnant with their third child, so technically, he committed four murders.

[Chris confessed](#) to these murders barely hours after he went on TV to plead the support of locals in finding his missing family. On August 15, 2018, Chris was arrested by the Police, after much evidence which included CCTV videos, a failed polygraph test, and ultimately his confession. On the same day of arrest, he was also fired from his job.

On November 6, Chris Watts pleaded guilty to the murder of his wife and two daughters. Although he could have gotten the death sentence, Shanann's family put a request for him not to be killed, as they wanted to avoid any more deaths. On November 19, Chris Watts was sentenced to five life sentences, three to run consecutively and the other two concurrently, without the possibility of parole.

Consecutively in the sense that he is supposed to serve these life sentences one after the other, and the two concurrent sentencing at the same time. He does not have any chances of coming out of jail, for any reason. Well, maybe in a body bag, when he dies.

Multiple movies have been created based on the Watts story, in January of 2020, Lifetime released a film called 'Chris Watts: Confessions of a Killer'. Shanann's parents spoke against this film, as they were not consulted before the movie was made or released. More recently on September 30, 2020, [Netflix released](#) American Murder: The Family Next Door.

Today, Chris Watts continues to serve his life sentences in Wisconsin at a maximum-security prison, where he was moved to, due to what authorities referred to as "security concerns".