

Murder On The Appalachian Trail by Ryan Dube

The day that Claudia Brenner and Rebecca Wight were shot was a sunny spring day on the Appalachian Trail. The two women were lovers, and spending some time together after a long hiatus apart. After hiking south for many hours along the Pennsylvania section of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.), the two women pitched a tent at the Birch Run Shelter and slept through the night uneventfully.



The next morning, Rebecca walked over to a lean-to to check for their hikers' logbook. She did so nude, because it was a very warm day and [nudity is a common luxury](#) among many hikers in a secluded campground. Unfortunately, she encountered a man sitting there. After an uncomfortable exchange, Rebecca returned to the tent and both women quickly got dressed and left the campsite in search of a more private place where the two could enjoy nature in peace.

At one point, as they stopped to [check their map](#) for directions, the rough-looking man came up behind them and asked them if they were "lost already." This time the two women noticed that the man was carrying a rifle. Unnerved, Rebecca and Claudia headed a side trail to avoid the strange man. As the day progressed they soon forgot about the spooky encounter. Eventually, they came to a beautiful, secluded campsite beside a small stream. As they relaxed by the stream, the mood turned romantic. Claudia suggested that they pitch a tent for the evening, and seconds later the first gunshot rang out.

The first shot hit Claudia in the arm. Rebecca told Claudia to get down low, but the next four shots all struck Claudia, once even in the head. Realizing they had to take cover, Claudia first ran to the large hemlock in the middle of the campsite. But when Rebecca ran for the tree as well, she was hit twice, in the head and the back. As both women escaped the campsite in terror, Rebecca couldn't continue on, so Claudia had to leave her. After a long and terrifying hike out of the woods, Claudia hailed a car. Unfortunately, when the rescuers found Rebecca later, she had already died from her injuries.