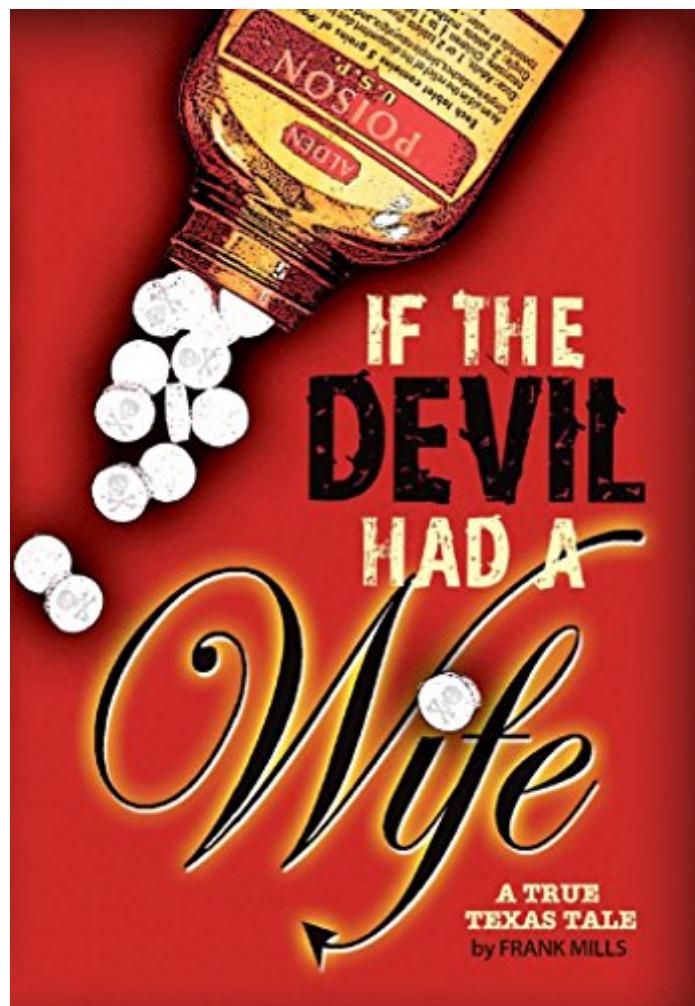


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# If The Devil Had A Wife: A True Texas Tale



## **Synopsis**

Once upon a time. Happily ever after. Such are the classic promises of fairy tales. Yet in Texas we find a twist to the familiar storyline. In If the Devil Had a Wife, there is still the battle of Good vs. Evil, a beautiful maiden, a wealthy suitor, a kingdom of riches and the wicked witch, but any similarity with Cinderella and Snow White ends there. With the help of her life partner and an attorney (always necessary in these modern times), Nelda Stark executes a devious plan that elevates fraud and theft to a new high. A massive coverup reaches into the Texas Attorney General's Office, stealing from not only the Stark family, but the federal and state governments.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When I picked up If the Devil Had a Wife, I thought, "Oh no, another book about how bad Texas people can be." As I began reading, I soon found that I was right, but not in a negative way. The book is one of those real life, tell all books that will hold your interest from beginning to end. The author, a descendant of H. J. Lutcher Stark, knows the subject through extensive research and interviews with family and friends. Her chronology of the family events is persuasive and well presented. The story of Lutcher Stark and his family contains romance, intrigue, drugs, greed and

many other aspects of the life of the rich and famous. Lutcher Stark married the love of his life, Nita Hill. When Nita could not have children they adopted twins. After Nita's death, Lutcher married Ruby Childers who died about a year after their marriage. Then he married Nelda Childers, Ruby's sister. What followed is the gist of this book and how those events affected future generations of the Stark family. The details about the inner workings of the Stark Foundation provide revealing information about the educational and arts contributions the Foundation made to various institutions in southeast Texas and Louisiana. You will enjoy this book. It's a very good Stark family biography. I am not sure that all the family secrets have been unearthed, even after all of the research done by Starks' children and grandchildren. But I'll bet some of the ancestors in the Stark family turned over in their graves when their descendants destroyed their good intentions. The author writes under a pen name. She uses her father's birth name, Frank Mills. When Frank was adopted by Nita and Lutcher Stark, he was renamed Homer Stark. If the Devil Had a Wife is the winner of the 2011 NTBF Book Award in adult non-fiction.

Began this book two days ago and I'm almost finished. You definitely do not want to put it down ,once you have begun reading it. I grew up in Orange and had heard "rumors" for many years. But to read about the many things that actually happened ,was shocking. Highly recommend this book ,whether you grew up in Orange or not. A totally engrossing and entertaining read.

A true fairy tale about a Texas king and queen and the bad things that happen when the queen dies and the king marries the wicked witch. It reads like the perfect novel... a family with everything - money, power, prestige... You'd think it couldn't possibly have REALLY happened... but you'd be wrong. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I really felt like I knew the characters and cared about what happened to them. A great read.

It has all the elements of what you look for in a good book - drama, suspense, intrigue....and even better, it is all true!!

The history of East Texas revolved around the Stark Empire. This book tells all the True to life experiences of the life of H J Lutcher Stark. His third wife, Nelda, was the last person to visit his mother, first wife, second wife, her own mother, Lutcher and the attorney that helped with the will done on Lutcher's deathbed, when he was so drugged he had to be helped to sign his name. Nelda was fascinated by the German's using Phenobarbital to kill in WWI, she bought lots of the drug, but

no one she knew had epilepsy. It is so fascinating, you can't put it down. This will make a fantastic movie.

After the first couple of chapters I started a list in the back of the book. I won't spoil it for you by telling you what kind of list. But believe me, you'll need a list, too. When most people sit down to write their family's history, they head to the court house for birth certificates and marriage licenses. Frank headed to the courthouse for a whole lot more!

If possible, I would have given this book one star. I can't believe I spent money on what could have been an interesting story but instead was a moment by moment recall of every visit with every relative, friend of a relative, or distant cousin of a friend of a relative. The book was written to pay off the attorneys - I deeply regret that I contributed to that cause.

Once I got into the book it was difficult to put down. The chapters unfold into tales of secret practices. As you go along more intrigue than you could imagine unfolds. It is the history of a family in Orange, Texas and the secrets they took to the grave with them. I highly recommend it.

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