

BIG SHOT



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Who Shot Ya?

The manager of Lynyrd Skynyrd's late bassist is on a crusade to prove his friend was murdered.

In 2001, Leon Russell Wilkeson, the bassist for the legendary Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd, was found dead in a hotel room in Ponte Verde Beach, FL. The medical examiner's autopsy report concluded that the death was a drug overdose.

In an explosive book, *The Unsolved Murder of Lynyrd Skynyrd Bassist Leon Wilkeson*, Dale Bowman, Wilkeson's manager since 1995, raises questions about his friend's demise. Bowman doesn't deny his Wilkeson's addiction to crack cocaine and alcohol, but he claims that the wrong drugs were found in his friend's system (painkillers and tranquilizers), and that other details about the crime scene don't add up.

Bowman's theory is that bodyguard Myron Gray, who was staying in an adjoining room, slipped Wilkeson the drugs in a glass of water "in order to control him." Gray, a drug abuser with mental problems, overdosed in 2003. "Draw your own conclusions from the facts," says Bowman, who set up leonsmurder.com to promote his book and look for clues, "and the truth may shock you." DR



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