Defendant: Jodi Arias

Victim(s): Travis Alexander

Court Decision: Jodi Arias was convicted of first-degree murder in the death of Travis Alexander. She was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole after a highly publicized trial that included graphic evidence and testimony.

Case Facts:

**Travis Victor Alexander** (July 28, 1977 – June 4, 2008) was an American salesman who was murdered by his ex-girlfriend, **Jodi Ann Arias** (born July 9, 1980), in his house in [Mesa, Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesa,_Arizona). Arias was convicted of [first-degree murder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_(United_States_law)) on May 8, 2013, and sentenced to [life in prison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_in_prison) without the possibility of [parole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parole) on April 13, 2015.

At the time of the murder, Alexander sustained 27 stab wounds, a slit throat and a single gunshot wound to the forehead. Arias testified that she killed him in [self-defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-defense), but nevertheless she was convicted by the jury of first-degree murder. During the sentencing phase, the jury [deadlocked](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hung_jury) on the [death penalty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment_in_Arizona) option, and Arias was thus sentenced to [life imprisonment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_imprisonment_in_the_United_States) without the possibility of [parole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parole). Alexander's death and the subsequent investigation and trial received widespread media attention in the United States.

Alexander was born on July 28, 1977, in [Riverside, California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverside,_California), to Gary David Alexander and Pamela Elizabeth Morgan Alexander. At the age of 8, Travis moved in with his paternal grandparents. After his father's death in July 1997, his seven siblings were also taken in by their paternal grandmother. Alexander told a friend that, prior to joining a church, he would frequently engage in fights. He performed stand-up comedy under the alter ego "Eddie Snell" Alexander was a salesman and [motivational speaker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motivational_speaker) for [Pre-Paid Legal Services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LegalShield) (PPL)

Arias was born on July 9, 1980, in [Salinas, California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salinas,_California), to William and Sandra (née Allen) Arias. She attended school until the 11th grade, at which point she dropped out of Yreka Union High School She was an aspiring photographer and worked odd jobs until she got a sales position with PPL.

Arias and Alexander met in September 2006 at a work conference in [Las Vegas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas), [Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada). Arias converted to [the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints), of which Alexander was a member, and was baptized by him on November 26, 2006 in a ceremony in [Southern California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_California). Alexander and Arias began dating in February 2007, and Arias moved to [Mesa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesa,_Arizona) to live closer to Alexander, but then, in April 2008, she moved to [Yreka, California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yreka,_California), and lived there with her grandparents. Alexander and Arias dated intermittently for a year and a half, often in a [long-distance relationship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long-distance_relationship), taking turns traveling between their respective Arizona and California homes. Even when Alexander was in a different relationship, he and Arias would [sext](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexting) each other.

Alexander's friends who knew Arias and observed them together reportedly had a negative opinion of her, stating that the relationship was unusually tumultuous and that Arias's behavior was worrying

Alexander was murdered at his house in [Mesa, Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesa,_Arizona), on Wednesday, June 4, 2008. He sustained 27 stab wounds, a slit throat, and a gunshot wound to the head. [Medical examiner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_examiner) Kevin Horn would later testify that Alexander's [jugular vein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jugular_vein), [common carotid artery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_carotid_artery), and [trachea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trachea) had been slashed and that he had [defensive wounds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_wound) on his hands. Horn further testified that Alexander may have been dead at the time the gunshot was inflicted and that the back wounds were shallow. Alexander's death was ruled a [homicide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homicide). He was buried at Riverside's [Olivewood Memorial Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olivewood_Memorial_Park) cemetery.

Alexander missed an important [conference call](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conference_call) on the evening of June 4. The following day, Arias met Ryan Burns in the Salt Lake City suburb of [West Jordan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Jordan,_Utah) and attended business meetings for the conference. Burns later said that he noticed that Arias's formerly blonde hair was now dark brown and that she had cuts on her hands. On June 6, she left Salt Lake City and drove west toward California. She called Alexander several times and left several [voicemail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voicemail) messages for him. She also accessed his cell-phone voicemail system. When Arias returned the car on June 7, it had been driven about 2,800 miles (4,500 km). The rental clerk testified that the car was missing its floor mats and had red stains on its front and rear seats. However, it could not be verified that the car had floor mats when Arias had picked it up, and the red stains could not be analyzed as the car was cleaned before police could examine it.

On June 9, having been unable to reach Alexander, a concerned group of friends went to his home. His roommates had not seen him for several days, but they believed that he was out of town and thus did not suspect that anything was amiss. After finding a key to Alexander's bedroom, the group entered and found large pools of blood in the hallway to the master bathroom and Alexander's body in the shower. In the [9-1-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9-1-1) call (not heard by the jury), the dispatcher asked whether Alexander had been suicidal or if anyone was angry enough to hurt him. Alexander's friends mentioned Arias by name as a possible suspect, stating that Alexander had told them that she had been stalking him, accessing his [Facebook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook) account and slashing his car's tires.

While searching Alexander's home, police found his recently purchased digital camera damaged in the washing machine. Police were able to recover deleted images showing Arias and Alexander in sexually suggestive poses taken at approximately 1:40 p.m. on June 4. The final photograph of Alexander alive, showing him in the shower, was taken at 5:29 p.m. that day. Photos taken moments later show an individual believed to be Alexander "profusely bleeding" on the bathroom floor. A bloody palm print was discovered along the wall in the bathroom hallway; it contained DNA from both Arias and Alexander.

On July 9, 2008, Arias was [indicted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indictment) by a [grand jury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_jury) in [Maricopa County, Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maricopa_County,_Arizona) for the first-degree murder of Alexander. She was arrested at her home six days later and was [extradited](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extradition) to Arizona on September 5. Arias pleaded [not guilty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plea) on September 11. During this time, she provided several different accounts about her involvement in Alexander's death. She first told police that she had not been in Mesa on the day of the murder and had last seen Alexander in March 2008. Arias later told police that two intruders had broken into Alexander's home, murdering him and attacking her. Two years after her arrest, Arias told police that she killed Alexander in [self-defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-defense), stating she had been a victim of [domestic violence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_violence).