

= Katherine Ann Power =

Katherine Ann Power (born January 25 , 1949) is an American ex @-@ convict and long @-@ time fugitive , who along with her fellow student and accomplice Susan Edith Saxe , was placed on the Federal Bureau of Investigation 's Most Wanted Fugitives list in 1970 . The two participated in robberies at a Massachusetts National Guard armory and a bank in Brighton , Massachusetts where Boston police officer Walter Schroeder was shot and killed . Power remained at large for 23 years .

A native of Colorado , Power turned herself over to authorities in 1993 after starting a new life in Oregon . She pleaded guilty and was imprisoned in Massachusetts for six years before being released on 14 years ' probation . While in prison , Power completed her bachelor 's degree , and after her release , earned a master 's degree at Oregon State University . She resides in the Boston area .

= = Early life = =

Katherine Power grew up as the third of seven children in Denver , Colorado . Her parents , Winfield and Marjorie , raised their Irish Catholic middle @-@ class family on Winfield 's salary as a bank credit manager and Marjorie 's income as a registered nurse . She became a Girl Scout and won a scholarship to Marycrest Girls High School , a Catholic school in Colorado . While in high school , she won a Betty Crocker cooking award , wrote a regular column for the Denver Post , graduated as valedictorian and received a full scholarship to Brandeis University , a liberal arts school in Waltham , Massachusetts .

In 1967 , Power enrolled at Brandeis as a sociology major and honor student at a time of anti @-@ Vietnam War protests at the school . She became known for wandering the campus braless and barefoot in an orange @-@ colored smock , for her attendance at Students for a Democratic Society protest rallies and for her involvement in the Brandeis Strike Information Center . She and her room @-@ mate Susan Saxe worked to organize student protests for a committee known as the National Student Strike Force . The two also became acquainted with fellow organizer Stanley Ray Bond , an ex @-@ convict and soldier attending classes at the university on a special program .

= = Protest and murder = =

Through their association with Bond , Power and Saxe became involved in a plot to arm the Black Panthers as a response to United States involvement in the Vietnam War . Bond introduced them to former convicts William Gilday and Robert Valeri and together the group plotted to rob the State Street Bank & Trust . On September 20 , 1970 , the group robbed a National Guard armory in Newburyport , Massachusetts and took 400 rounds of ammunition . They also stole weapons and set fire to the facility , causing about \$ 125 @,@ 000 in damage .

Three days later , on September 23 , 1970 , the group robbed a bank in Brighton , Massachusetts , carrying handguns , a shotgun and a submachine gun . The first police officer on the scene , Boston police officer Walter Schroeder , was shot in the back by Gilday when he attempted to stop the robbery . He subsequently died from his wounds . The group escaped with \$ 26 @,@ 000 in cash that they planned to use to finance an overthrow of the federal government . Power was behind the wheel of one of the two getaway vehicles .

While raiding her apartment after the bank robbery , police found evidence tying Power to both robberies . This included weapons , ammunition and a telephone switchboard from the armory . Power 's attorneys would subsequently blame her involvement in the robberies as the result of manipulation by her partner Bond .

= = Fugitive = =

Gilday , Valeri and Bond were captured shortly after the Brighton robbery . Bond died in custody while making a bomb as part of an escape bid , while Valeri turned state 's evidence and testified

against Gilday . Valeri received a jail term of 25 years for the robbery , while Gilday received a death sentence . Power and Saxe eluded capture .

In November 1970 , Power and Saxe became the sixteenth and seventeenth persons on the FBI 's Most Wanted Fugitives list . At first , Power and Saxe traveled together , escaping arrest by hiding out in women ' s communes . For part of this time , the two went to ground in Connecticut and Power assumed the name Mae Kelly . Saxe was able to elude arrest until 1975 , when she was captured in Philadelphia . She then served five years in prison .

Prior to her surrender in 1993 , Power had last been seen in Kentucky in 1974 . In 1977 , she assumed the alias Alice Louise Metzinger , taking the name from the birth certificate of an infant that had died the year before her birth . In 1979 , she moved west to Oregon and gave birth to a son , Jamie , by an unknown father .

As time went by , authorities received few tips regarding Power 's location and she was eventually removed from the Most Wanted Fugitives list in 1984 . The following year , she settled in the city of Lebanon in Oregon 's Willamette Valley with her son Jamie and boyfriend Ron Duncan , a local meat cutter and bookkeeper . While living in Oregon , Power taught cooking classes at Linn @-@ Benton Community College in Albany and worked at restaurants in Corvallis and Eugene . She reached the shortlist for the post of food writer for the Corvallis Gazette @-@ Times and became part @-@ owner of Napoli Restaurant and Bakery in Eugene .

Power had suffered from clinical depression since childhood and confided her fugitive status to her therapist Linda Carroll . She developed the desire to stop living her life under her assumed name and , through therapy that included participation in the mock trial of a soldier charged with killing civilians during the Vietnam War , she began to prepare for her surrender to the authorities . This included her decision to marry Duncan in 1992 and reveal her background to her friends .

= = Surrender = =

In 1993 , Katherine Ann Power negotiated a surrender with authorities and ended 23 years of hiding . Negotiations were carried out through her attorneys Steven Black , a public defender , and Rikki Klieman , a prominent Boston lawyer . On September 15 , 1993 , she pleaded guilty to two counts of armed robbery and manslaughter in Boston . At the time , her son Jamie was 14 years old and a freshman in high school , while Power was 44 years old . Her husband , Ron Duncan , then adopted Jamie .

In court , Power made the following statement about officer Schroeder :

Power was sentenced to eight to twelve years in prison for the bank robbery , and five years and a \$ 10 @,@ 000 fine for the National Guard armory crimes . Additionally , judge Robert Banks of Suffolk County Superior Court imposed a probation condition that Power could not profit from her crime . Banks remarked that the sentence negotiated was inadequate . The second five years were to be served concurrently with the eight- to twelve @-@ year sentence , with a possibility of parole after five years . This probation condition also precluded her ability to profit directly or indirectly from telling her story . Power appealed this portion of the sentence on First Amendment grounds , but the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court rejected the argument and the U.S. Supreme Court denied certiorari .

In a 1993 public statement , Power said :

= = Prison and release = =

While in prison Power completed her college degree in liberal studies through Boston University . In March 1998 , Power was eligible for parole after receiving time off for good behavior , but withdrew her request after opposition from the victim ' s family . On October 2 , 1999 , she was released from prison in Massachusetts and placed on fourteen years of probation after serving six years of her eight- to twelve @-@ year sentence . Fifty years old at the time of release , Power then returned to Oregon and the family she formed while a fugitive . Shortly after release she appeared at a public forum on peace at Willamette University in Salem , Oregon , where she questioned the ? violent

posture ? of some people in the peace movement , including activist Philip Berrigan .

Later , Power enrolled in graduate studies at Oregon State University in Corvallis , where she worked on a master 's degree in interdisciplinary studies with focuses on writing , philosophy , and ethics . She also taught freshman composition for the English department . On May 10 , 2001 , she read a poem she wrote called " Falling from Darkness " in Corvallis (this was also a poetry reading and did also include poems she did not write) and graduated with her MAIS later that year . In September 2001 , Katherine Ann Power represented the Oregon State philosophy department in a biotech lecture series . As of 2008 , she worked for Cambridge Cares About AIDS in the Boston area .

= = Cultural references = =

Since her surrender , Power and her story have been the basis for a variety of books and even a television episode of Law & Order . The episode , entitled White Rabbit , was loosely based on her case . In the show , her character is called Susan Forrest and she is found after money from the robbery turns up in a private safety deposit box after a robbery . William Kunstler appears in the episode playing himself as Forrest 's lawyer . The fifth season episode aired on October 19 , 1994 . Later her story was the basis for Dana Spiotta 's novel Eat the Document (2006) . She also plays a part in David Racine 's novel Floating in a Most Peculiar Way (1999) .