

0. LET THEM LIVE! - Story Preface

1. WHO WERE LEOPOLD & LOEB?

2. THE PERFECT CRIME

3. THE BRUTAL FACTS

4. WHY DID THEY DO IT?

5. CHANCE EVENTS DESTROY A PLAN

6. LEOPOLD MAKES A MISTAKE

7. TOO MUCH EVIDENCE

8. WHAT DO YOU MEAN NOT GUILTY?

**9. LET THEM LIVE!**

10. DID JUSTICE INTERVENE?

11. REHABILITATION WORKS for NATHAN LEOPOLD

12. DID IT STICK?

13. MORE COOL LINKS



After psychologists (called "alienists" in 1924) testified at Leopold and Loeb's sentencing hearing, the *Chicago Tribune* published a cartoon mocking the testimony. Click on the image for a better view. Keep in mind that the words are from 1924 (when people, including cartoonists and press reporters, used descriptions we would not use today).

In one of the most famous final arguments in American legal history, Clarence Darrow called upon the judge, John R. Caverly, to show mercy. A passionate lawyer who could hold juries spellbound, Darrow spoke during a twelve-hour hearing.

He pleaded for life, even though he acknowledged that his clients had committed heinous deeds. He used psychiatrists (called "alienists" at the time) during the short trial (really an evidentiary hearing) to convince the Judge the boys were worth saving.

Darrow argued that Nathan and Richard were "too young to hang." He reminded Judge Caverly that "if these boys are to hang, you must do it." He pleaded with the court that if the sentences were death, it would not "help the children" who heard about the punishment.

Yet ... he acknowledged that his clients were "not fit to be at large."

As a large crowd gathered outside the court house, Darrow gave an argument causing tears to stream down nearly every face (including the Judge's). And it was that passionate, pleading, pathos-filled argument which convinced Judge Caverly to show mercy.

He gave both Leopold and Loeb life sentences for the murder of Bobby Franks. And ... he gave them each an additional "99 years" for Bobby's kidnapping.

Once again, Darrow had won an unwinnable battle. He gave his young clients a chance at rehabilitation.

At the time of sentencing, Darrow was able to achieve in court what he firmly believed in conscience—that everyone deserves a second chance.

Unbelievably ... his clients would live.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LET-THEM-LIVE-Leopold-and-Loeb)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LET-THEM-LIVE-Leopold-and-Loeb>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LET-THEM-LIVE-Leopold-and-Loeb)

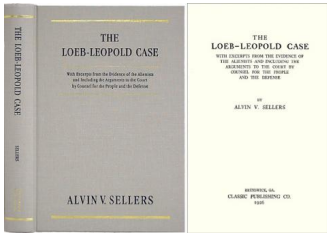
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LET-THEM-LIVE-Leopold-and-Loeb>



### Judge John R. Caverly

Image online, courtesy the University of Missouri-Kansas City [website](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Judge-John-R.-Caverly>



### The Leopold-Loeb Case

Image online, courtesy Google Books.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Leopold-Loeb-Case>



### Judge Caverly - Leopold and Loeb

Image, described above, online via Library of Congress: DN-0077503, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago History Museum.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Judge-Caverly-Leopold-and-Loeb>



### Leopold and Loeb - A Courthouse Crowd

Image, described above, online courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leopold-and-Loeb-A-Courthouse-Crowd>



### Leopold and Loeb - Chicago Street Scene

Image online, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leopold-and-Loeb-Chicago-Street-Scene>

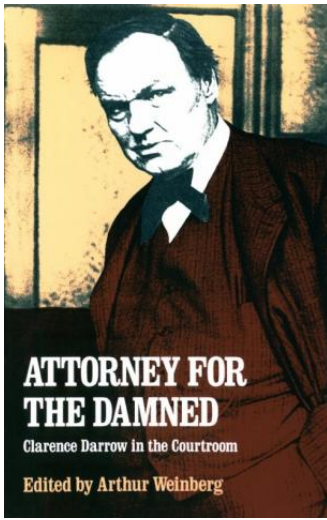


### Courthouse for the Case of Leopold and Loeb

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

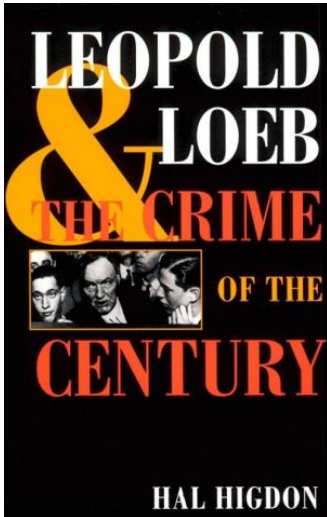
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Courthouse-for-the-Case-of-Leopold-and-Loeb>



## Attorney for the Damned

Book-cover image, online via Amazon.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Attorney-for-the-Damned>



## Leopold and Loeb: The Crime of the Century - by Hal Higdon

Book-cover image online, courtesy Amazon.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leopold-and-Loeb-The-Crime-of-the-Century-by-Hal-Higdon>

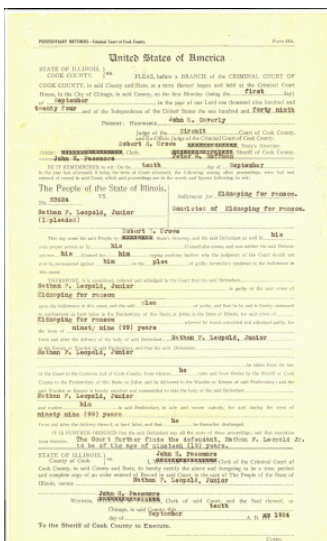


## Leopold and Loeb - Courtroom Scene at Trial

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leopold-and-Loeb-Courtroom-Scene-at-Trial>



## Leopold and Loeb - 99 Years for Kidnapping

Image online, courtesy Cook County Court.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leopold-and-Loeb-99-Years-for-Kidnapping>

## Leopold and Loeb - Darrow's Final Argument

Clip from "[Compulsion](#)," a 1959 film based on the story of Leopold and Loeb.  
Online, courtesy YouTube.

**Director:**

Richard Fleischer

**Producer:**

Richard D. Zanuck

**Screenplay by:**

Richard Murphy

Based on the book, *Compulsion*,  
By Meyer Levin

**Starring:**

**Orson Welles** - Jonathan Wilk

**Diane Varsi** - Ruth Evans

**Dean Stockwell** - Judd Steiner

**Bradford Dillman** - Artie Strauss

**E.G. Marshall** - District Attorney Harold Horn

**Martin Milner** - Sid Brooks

**Richard Anderson** - Max Steiner

**Gavin MacLeod** - Padua, Horn's Assistant

**Music:**

Lionel Newman

**Cinematography:**

William C. Mellor

**Editing:**

William H. Reynolds

**Distributor:**

Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation

**Release date:**

April 1, 1959

**Run Time:**

103 minutes

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leopold-and-Loeb-Darrow-s-Final-Argument>

