**Case**

**Treva Throneberry**

**Treva Throneberry** was born in Texas. Her sisters describe their family as a peaceful and loving one, but Treva paints a different picture. At age 15 years, Treva accused her father of sexual molestation. She later recanted her accusation but was removed from her parents’ home and placed in foster care. At age 17 years, Treva ran away from her foster home and was found wandering alone by a roadside before spending time in a mental hospital. A year later, Treva moved into an apartment but soon vanished from town. Years later, she was charged by Vancouver police with fraud and forgery. Her fingerprints matched those of Treva Throneberry, who was born 30 years before, but Treva said she was an 18-year-old named Brianna Stewart. She had been attending Evergreen High School in Vancouver for the past two years, where everyone knew her as Brianna Stewart. This was the basis for the fraud and forgery charges.

Since her disappearance from Texas, Treva had been known by many other names in places across the country. In each town, she initially presented herself as a runaway 15- or 16-year-old in need of shelter who then left suddenly before her new identity turned 18 years old. She would then move to another town and start again as a 15- or 16-year-old. Her foster care mother said Treva could not envision living beyond age 18.

Treva was examined by a psychiatrist and found competent to stand trial. At her trial, Treva represented herself. She would not plea-bargain because she insisted she was Brianna Stewart and not Treva Throneberry. She argued in court that she was not insane and did not have a mental disorder that caused her to distort reality or her identity. Despite her claims, however, Treva was convicted of fraud and sentenced to a 3-year jail term. She continues to insist she is Brianna Stewart.