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PRESS RELEASE

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**CASEY CEP TO PRESENT BOOK TALK AT THE ARCHIVES ON MAY 7 AT 6:00 P.M.
*FURIOUS HOURS: MURDER, FRAUD, AND THE LAST TRIAL OF HARPER LEE***

Montgomery, AL (04/11/2019) – On **Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m.**, author Casey Cep will present a book talk on her new publication ***Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee*** at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) in Montgomery. Admission is **FREE**.

Casey Cep's highly anticipated new book *Furious Hours* is the stunning story of an Alabama serial killer and the true-crime book that Harper Lee worked on in the years after *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Reverend Willie Maxwell was a rural preacher in Alabama accused of murdering five of his family members for insurance money in the 1970s. With the help of a savvy lawyer, he escaped justice for years until a relative shot him dead at the funeral of his last victim. Despite hundreds of witnesses, Maxwell's murderer was acquitted—thanks to the same attorney who had previously defended the Reverend. Sitting in the audience during the vigilante's trial was Harper Lee, who had traveled from New York City to her native Alabama with the idea of writing a true-crime novel. Lee spent many years working on her own version of the case. Now Cep brings this story to life, from the shocking murders and the courtroom drama to the racial politics of the Deep South. At the same time, she offers a deeply moving portrait of one of the country's most beloved writers and her struggles with fame, success, and the mystery of artistic creativity.

Casey Cep is a writer from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. After graduating from Harvard with a degree in English, she earned a M.Phil in Theology from Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Republic*, among other publications. This is her first book and this event will be Cep's first presentation of the book in Alabama. Copies of *Furious Hours* will be sold at the event. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the book talk, call Alex Colvin, (334) 353-4689.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Friday and the second Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

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