

Willow in a Storm, by James Peter Taylor and Kathleen Murphy Taylor (Scarletta Press. \$14.95)

In 1956, James Peter Taylor murdered Thief River Falls banker Kenneth Lindberg during a botched kidnap/robbery attempt. It was the last of a series of get rich quick schemes in the 25-year-old's journey from promising high school athlete to convicted felon. The victim of sexual abuse by his tyrannical father, Taylor had struggled with a host of personal demons prior to the Lindberg murder, but nothing could prepare him for the brutality and corruption that characterized his 44 years behind bars, where he survived multiple rapes, a stabbing, and a horrific beating that left him partially blind, yet remarkably unbowed.

With the help of prison reform advocates like Sister Helen Prejean of *Dead Man Walking* fame and a host of lesser-known supporters, Taylor gradually acquires the tools and inspiration to reclaim his self-respect and, with it, some hope.

A compelling tale of crime, punishment, and redemption, Taylor's raw memoir exposes both the terrible injustices of an inhumane prison system and the power love can wield in its midst. 

