

*DEAR
BOSS*

An investigation into Jack the
Ripper and his influence on
history and the mindset of
serial killers today.

SIDDHI SURTE

“The only thing to be revealed in the investigation of Jack the Ripper, is ourselves.”

— Dr. Alex Murray, *Jack the Ripper, the Dialectic of Enlightenment and the Search for Spiritual Deliverance in “White Chappell, Scarlet Tracings”*

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THE MAN & THE MYTH

For centuries, Jack the Ripper has baffled, intrigued and amazed generations of true crime enthusiasts and investigative departments alike. From his signature penchant for gutting his victims, to the absolute arrogance of his dealings with the law, the man has been elevated to stuff of legends. As the world's first documented serial killer, Jack laid the foundation for generations of such murderers and psychopaths to come forth into the limelight. The avidness with which this crime was documented forever changed how the media portrayed serial killers. From gruesome, heartless killers, these men were now elusive shadows whom the world watched with fascination.

Through this book, we aim to document how Jack the Ripper influenced, inspired and even indoctrinated generations of serial killers in the wake on the Whitefield murders. With the help of Jack's five victims, we take you through the behavioral patterns and motives followed by most serial killers. With examples of other such murderers, we aim to shed light on how this event poignantly affected how history and currently, the world views serial killers. Despite differences in motives, how many killers still seek media attention and the rise in their numbers through the years. If not for the immense popularity devoted upon Jack the Ripper and the Whitechapel murders, especially upon the elusive Jack, a lineage of bloodthirsty, brutal culprits could be avoided in their entirety. Which is why, *Dear Boss* documents how, one simple man over the course of two months, forever stained history with his bloody deeds. ◇

MARY ANN NICHOLS

THE BAIT

31 August 1888

Murder at Buck's Row

The body of a homeless prostitute, brutally murdered and mutilated, was discovered in a Whitechapel backstreet on 31 August 1888. The first of Jack the Ripper's infamous Whitechapel murders, this would forever change the course of history.

This being his first murder, he wasn't as brutal or cruel with the victim. He lured her and took her to an alley before killing her as this establishes the pattern for all his future kills. The newness of murdering, how the first murder, even if it isn't done in a gruesome manner is a gateway to the future making of a serial killer.

As London's bells rang in the last day of August 1888, rain was falling. It had been one of the wettest summers in living memory, and there was thunder in the air. On the horizon a fierce red glow seared the sky above Shadwell, where a huge fire had broken out in the dry dock.

Some time between one and two o'clock that morning, a woman called Mary Ann Nichols, known to her friends as 'Polly', was thrown out of the kitchen of the shabby lodging house at 18 Thrawl Street, Spitalfields. Fate had dealt Polly a rough hand. A 43-year-old mother of five children, she was separated from her husband and now drifted from one workhouse to another, scratching a meagre existence from handouts and casual prostitution.

An hour or so later, Polly was seen by one

of her roommates on the corner of Whitechapel Road, clearly drunk. She had made her doss money three times over, she boasted, but had already spent it on gin and was off to make some more.

That was the last time Mary Ann Nichols was seen alive. At 3.40am, a carter found her lying in the darkened doorway of a stable. Her throat had been slit and her body horribly mutilated. The murderer who would later be dubbed 'Jack the Ripper' had claimed his first victim.

Initial Investigation

Minutes after the two carters left Polly's body, PC John Neil 97J was walking his beat on when he came across the corpse lying on the ground on Buck's Row. Shining his lantern onto her face, he saw that her eyes were wide open, staring lifelessly into the morning sky. As PC John Thain 96J approached to offer his help, Neil's lantern illuminated the gashes in the

Thrawl street, London (1902)





The location where Mary Ann Nichols' body was found. Buck's Row, London.

woman's throat, almost deep enough to have completely decapitated her.

Upon observing the wounds, Neil sent Thain to fetch Dr. Rees Ralph Llewellyn, who pronounced her dead on site. He judged from warmth in her extremities that she had been dead for less than half an hour. Neil himself had been within earshot of the site only a few minutes before the body was discovered and had heard nothing at all.

By then, a crowd of early-risers had begun to gather, and Dr. Llewellyn called for the body to be moved from the scene to the mortuary. Police canvassed the area, but no one reported having seen or heard anything unusual.

Inspector John Spratling arrived and consulted with Thain after the body had been taken away by ambulance.



Another view of Buck's Row in Whitechapel district.

Llewellyn had noted that the blood that had spilled from the body's throat onto the ground was about equivalent with the volume of two wine-glasses. Ambulance workers had noted that though a bit of blood had trickled from her throat onto the street, the back of her dress and her weathered brown ulster was completely soaked in congealed blood as well.

Dr. Llewellyn had gone home to bed after the body had been taken to a workhouse mortuary



Police mortuary photograph of Mary Ann Nichols. (1888)

in Old Montague Street, but was summoned again soon afterward. While attempting to move the body from the ambulance into the morgue, Inspector John Spratling observed that unusually brutal mutilations lay beneath Nichols' clothing. Her abdomen had been slashed, a jagged cut exposing her innards from pubis to breastbone, along with additional cuts to the abdomen. The wounds had been inflicted with violent downward stabs into the victim's body.

"I have seen many terrible cases," Llewellyn stated later to a reporter from *The Times*, "but never such a brutal affair as this."

Llewellyn's complete postmortem report from September 1st is lost to time, but surviving notes taken by Spratling upon an initial examination of the body and its post-mortem summarize findings this way:

'...her throat had been cut from left to right, two distinct cuts being on left side, the windpipe, gullet

and spinal cord being cut through; a bruise apparently of a thumb being on the right lower jaw, also one on left cheek; the abdomen had been cut open from centre of bottom of ribs along right side, under pelvis to left of the stomach; the omentum, or coating of the stomach, was also cut in several places, and two small stabs on private parts; [all] apparently done with a strong bladed knife; supposed to have been done by some left handed person; death being instantaneous.'

Although Llewellyn had speculated that the attacker could have been left-handed, he later expressed doubt over



Newspaper cartoon of a constable finding Mary Ann Nichols' body. (1888)

this initial thought, but the belief that the killer was left-handed endured (not a natural left-hander).

Speculation arose over several points including whether the killer had killed her in a separate location and then left her on Buck's Row. This would seem to be supported by the fact that no one in the area had heard screaming, and that she was found lying on her back as if carefully placed. The blood at the scene, also, seemed to be minimal when considering the ghastly wounds to her abdomen, unless she had been killed somewhere else. That hypothesis, however, would later be dismissed. There were no trails of blood leading to the site where her body was found, and nobody had heard a carriage or other vehicle carry her to the spot. Additionally, Dr. Llewelyn confirmed that the blood from the lacerations to her abdomen had mostly congealed into the body itself.

All the wounds also showed signs of being made with the same knife, a "strong-bladed knife, moderately sharp, and used with great violence," according to the doctor. Other facts about the possible killer were unclear, but Llewelyn speculated that he might have had some knowledge of human anatomy, due to the fact that he had attacked the vital organs and veins of the victim.

The blood spatter implied, however, that none of the lacerations were what ultimately killed the victim. If her throat were cut first, there would have been far more blood, presumably spattered against the wall of the stable or further across the cobblestones rather than pooled directly under her head. Instead, experts agree that it is very likely the woman was manually choked to death before being mutilated. The entire act would have taken place in about five minutes between 3:30 and 3:40am, and inspectors acknowledged that the approach of Cross may have even interrupted and scared the killer away.

Media Frenzy

As the murder had occurred in the territory of the Bethnal Green Division of the Metropolitan Police, it was initially investigated by the local detectives. Elements of the press linked the attack on Nichols to two previous murders, and suggested the killing might have been perpetrated by a gang. The Star newspaper instead suggested a single killer was the culprit and other newspapers took up their storyline. Suspicions of a serial killer at large in London led to the secondment of Detective Inspectors from the Central Office at Scotland Yard in London.

Rumours that a local character called "Leather Apron" could have



Newspaper clipping relating to the death of Mary Ann Nichols. (1888)

been responsible for the murder were investigated by the police, even though they noted “there is no evidence against him”. Imaginative descriptions of “Leather Apron”, using crude Jewish stereotypes, appeared in the press, but rival journalists dismissed these as “a mythical outgrowth of the reporter’s fancy”.

The Bait

This being the first known murder of the ‘Canonical Five’, it was a relatively tame killing judging by Jack the Ripper’s later standards. The first murder is as such, characteristically lesser in impact but immensely influential in the making of a murderer. It is what’s known as ‘a bait’.

A bait is the delectable trap which snares one into a far worse end.

Though the first murder may not be as heinous or brutal as the others in a serial killers portfolio, it is the initial bloodlust that drives many to keep committing these crimes. The time frame between the first and the second victims is often the most crucial factor in deciding the fate of a serial killer. It could take anywhere between a week to a few years for him to return to the life of crime, but the haunting memory of the first kill is always what lures a killer back to the lanes of murder and chaos.

Through the examples of the following serial killers, we can document and study how immensely the memory of a first kill baited and lured them to the heinous life of homicidal killings. ◇

**“IT WASN'T AS DARK AND
SCARY AS IT SOUNDS. I
HAD A LOT OF FUN...
KILLING SOMEBODY'S A
FUNNY EXPERIENCE.”**

- ALBERT DESALVO





Albert DeSalvo, commonly known as 'The Boston Strangler' killed 13 women in the early 1960s.

THE BOSTON STRANGLER STRIKES

Alberto DeSalvo is best known for confessing to be the “Boston Strangler,” who killed 13 women in Boston in the early 1960s but he was never charged. He was incarcerated for unrelated offenses when he was stabbed to death in 1973. The Strangler case was never closed. DeSalvo’s confession remains the only evidence linking him to the case, and it contradicts autopsy findings.

He admitted to murdering 13 women in Boston between 1962 and ‘64, most of whom were elderly and alone. Albert DeSalvo, had a history of breaking and entering where he would knock on ladies’ doors, pretend he was a model scout and proceed to ‘measure up’ the flattered woman if he was lucky enough to get in.

Anna Slesers, a seamstress and devout churchgoer was the first victim to be murdered. She lived on her own in a modest brick house apartment at 77 Gainsborough St. in Boston. She had finished dinner and just had enough time to take a quick bath before her son, Juris, was to pick her up for the Latvian memorial services that were being held in her church that night. Just before seven o’clock, Juris knocked at his mother’s door. No answer and the door was locked. His worst fears were confirmed when he saw her lying in the bathroom with the cord from her robe around her neck.

The first sight of Anna Slesers’ body, its sheer, startling nudity, and the shockingly

exposed position in which it had been left. She wore a blue taffeta housecoat with a red lining, but it had been spread completely apart in front and was grossly exposed. The blue cloth cord of her housecoat had been knotted tightly about her neck, its ends turned up so that it might have been a bow, tied like a little girls knot under her chin.

The apartment was made to look as though it had been ransacked. Anna's purse was lying open with its contents partially strewn on the floor. But despite this attempt to make the scene look like a robbery, a gold watch and other pieces of jewelry were left completely untouched.

Anna had been strangled with the cord of her robe which had been tied around her neck tightly into a bow.

Her vagina showed evidence of sexual assault with some unknown object.

The Strangler's victims were women of several different ethnicities and of widely varying ages; the youngest was 19 and the oldest 85. During the first phase of the killings, the victims were often older and during the second phase, younger. He entered their homes through home invasions, where he attacked them sexually. As the Strangler's nickname implies, the victims were killed by strangulation, usually with their own nylon stockings. Sometimes the killer constructed ligatures by weaving together a bunch of smaller ones. At one time he was about to strangle a woman. Then he saw his victim's in a mirror and that tears came to his eyes and he immediately stopped.

The Strangler also had a habit of tying the murder weapons and/or other handy lengths of fabric such as handkerchiefs around the victims' necks into a bow.

Police assumed that the crime had started out as a burglary. When the burglar saw the woman in her robe he was overcome by an uncontrollable urge to molest her, killing her afterwards to avoid being recognized.

The Strangler then appears to have stopped killing for a few months,



(left) Anna Slesers, 55 was the first victim of the Boston Strangler.

(below) Newspaper clipping announcing the brutal murder of Anna Slesers.





Slesers' body was found strangled and violated in her home by her son. Juris.

returning on December 5. During this second round of murders, the victims were usually in their late teens or early 20s. At the last crime scene, that of Mary Sullivan on January 4, 1964, the killer left a Happy New Year card propped up against her left foot.

Between June 14, 1962, and January 4, 1964, 13 single women between the ages of 19 and 85 were murdered in the Boston area; they were eventually tied to the Boston Strangler. Most of the women were sexually assaulted in their apartments, and then strangled

Between June 14, 1962 and January 4, 1964, 13 single women (between the ages of 19 and 85) were victims of the Boston Strangler.



with articles of clothing. The eldest victim died of a heart attack. Two others were stabbed to death, one of whom was also badly beaten. Without any sign of forced entry into their dwellings, the women were assumed to have either known their killer or voluntarily allowed him into their homes. The police were not convinced that all of these murders were the work of a single individual, especially because of the wide gap in the victims' ages; much of the public, on the other hand, readily accepted that the crimes were committed by one person.

DeSalvo allegedly began his "Green Man" crime spree - so named because he dressed in green to commit sexual assaults. He is reputed to have raped over 300 women (as many as six a day) in four states in a two-year period. DeSalvo committed a series of home invasions known as the Green Man attacks. Dressed in green work-clothes, he would break into apartments

belonging to women, tie them to their beds in a spread-eagle position at knifepoint, sexually assault them, and leave. A victim who was attacked on October 27, 1964 gave the police a description of the assailant, which led the investigators to DeSalvo and was published in newspapers, leading to more victims coming forward. He was arrested in November of 1964, for one of these rapes and was remanded to Bridgewater State Hospital for evaluation. DeSalvo was murdered in his cell in 1973. ♦

'Boston strangler' gaoled for life

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, Jan. 18.— A man who claimed to be the Boston strangler was gaoled for life today for a series of offences unconnected with the 13 Boston sex killings.

Albert de Salvo, 35-year-old mental patient, was found Guilty after a seven-day trial of a series of assaults on women in the Boston area in 1964.

De Salvo is to appeal. He was remanded to a state hospital pending the outcome.

During the trial his counsel, Mr. F. Lee Bailey, described de Salvo as an "uncontrollable vegetable" and said he wanted him found innocent because insane.

Mr. Bailey was asked by the judge for his views before sentence was pronounced. He replied: "My position is that this defendant must be incarcerated for as long as he shall live or until psychiatric science can cure him."—Reuter.

(right) Newspaper clipping announcing the capture of Albert DeSalvo.

(below) Police records documenting Albert DeSalvo as the Boston Strangler.





““ I HAD THESE OBSESSIVE
DESIRES AND THOUGHTS
WANTING TO CONTROL
THEM, TO—I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO PUT IT—POSSESS
THEM PERMANENTLY.”

– JEFFERY DAHMER

Fury as EC bans our law

By DAVID BRADSHAW

SCOTS MPs demanded jobs for Premier John Grieve last night after the House of Commons voted to limit the number of jobs that Britain's law allows. The House of Commons voted 300 to 100 to support the Government's plan to limit the number of jobs that Britain's law allows. The Government's plan to limit the number of jobs that Britain's law allows.

Power
Tony Blair today 'took a lead' from the Labour Party. He is determined to win the support of the public to stop it. He is determined to win the support of the public to stop it.

ITN talks fail
ITN talks failed to reach an agreement. The talks failed to reach an agreement.

Flagship hospital
The flagship hospital is facing a crisis. The flagship hospital is facing a crisis.

The flagship hospital is facing a crisis. The flagship hospital is facing a crisis.

THE CANNIBAL

Face of madman who killed 17 and ate them

THIS is the face of real-life Silence Of The Lambs killer Jeffrey Dahmer who has confessed to butchering 17 men.

By STEPHEN DICKSON in New York



Jeffrey said it was an accident he had found. "Even when he was quite young he had to use a knife to open the meat off dead animals." And Dahmer told how Dahmer often took him to the flat in his own house.

Torture
"One time he was down there with a knife when the group opened the door. He could see only his bare chest. He warned her. 'You don't want to come down here.'"

Smell
"We smelled a harsh odour coming from the basement flat," she said. "The father looked investigated and found bones and muscle in a large vat."

'Butcher' link on air base
The woman was all murdered and their bodies mutilated near an air base where he was stationed in a medical orderly more than two years ago.

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MILWAUKEE CANNIBAL ON THE PROWL

Jeffrey Dahmer (May 21, 1960 to November 28, 1994) was an American serial killer who took the lives of 17 males between 1978 and 1991. Over the course of more than 13 years, Dahmer sought out men, mostly African-American, at gay bars, malls

and bus stops, lured them home with promises of money or sex, and gave them alcohol laced with drugs before strangling them to death. He would then engage in sex acts with the corpses before dismembering them and disposing of them, often

keeping their skulls or genitals as souvenirs. He frequently took photos of his victims at various stages of the murder process, so he could recollect each act afterward and relive the experience. Dahmer was captured in 1991 and sentenced to 16 life terms. He was killed by fellow prison inmate Christopher Scarver in 1994.

Dahmer realized that he was gay, and as his sexuality blossomed, so too did his increasingly abnormal sexual fantasies. Dahmer began fantasizing about raping men that he saw, and became aroused by the idea of completely dominating and controlling another person. As he grew less able to control his desires, his fantasies became reality.

Unknown to anyone, Jeffery Dahmer was mentally disintegrating. In June of 1988, he was struggling with his own homosexual desires, mixed with his need to act out his sadistic fantasies. Dahmer's first murder occurred just after graduating high school, in June 1978, when he picked up a hitchhiker named Steven Hicks and took him home to his parents' house. Dahmer proceeded to get the young man drunk; when Hicks tried to leave, Dahmer killed him by striking him in

Polatoid images of Dahmer's mutilated victims were found in his home after his arrest. (1992)

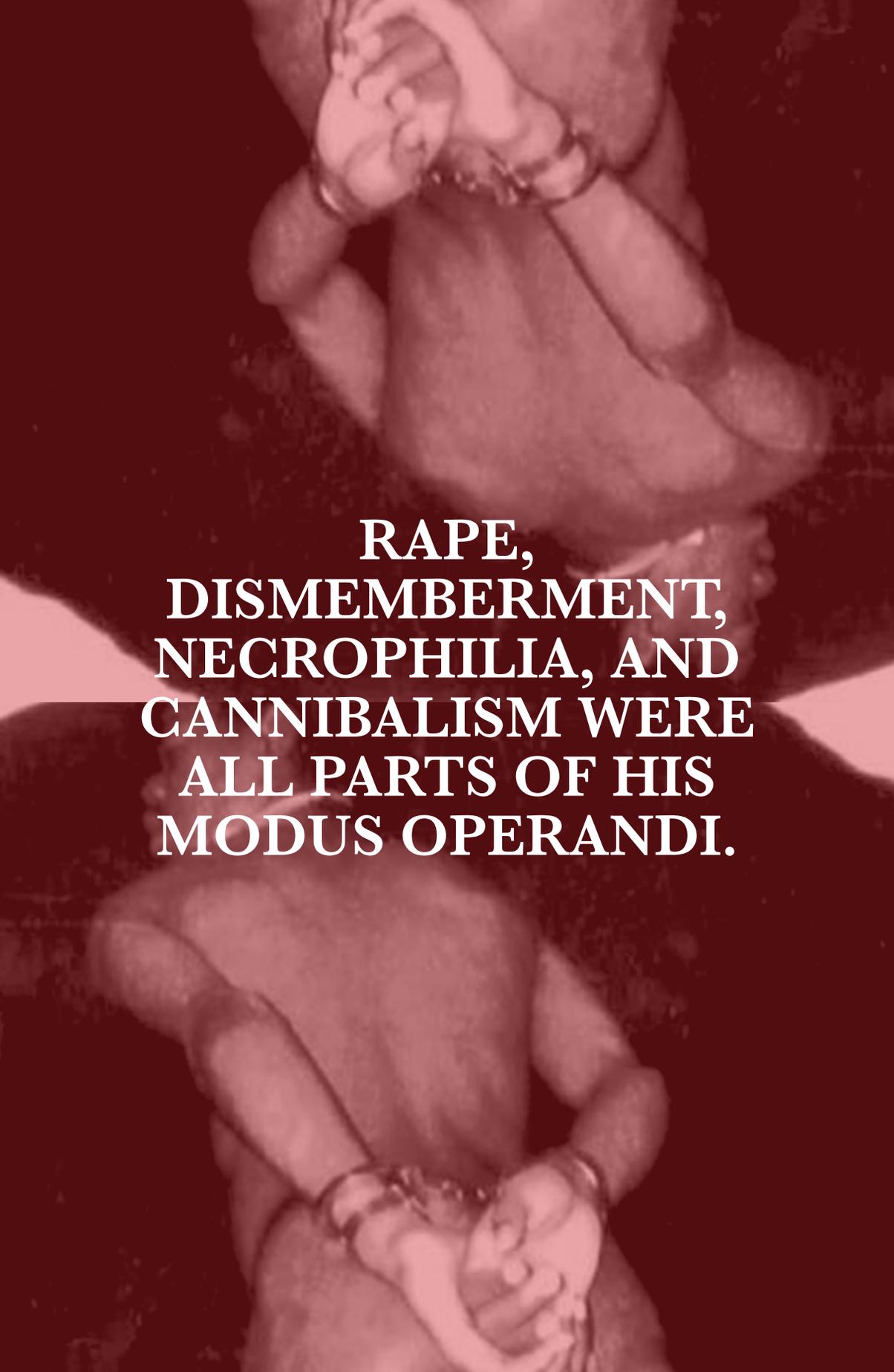


Filed mugshot of Jeffery Dahmer on arrest. (1992)

the head and strangling him with a barbell used as a rope.

He then cut up the body, placing the parts in garbage bags, he dissolved the flesh in acid before flushing the solution down the toilet; he crushed the bones with a sledgehammer and scattered them in the woodland behind the family home. Years later he returned and dug up the bags and crushed the bones and disbursed the remains around the woods. As insane as he had become, he had not lost sight of the need to cover his murderous tracks. Later his explanation for killing Hicks was simply, he didn't want him to leave.

Rape, dismemberment, necrophilia, and cannibalism were all parts of his modus operandi. His residence housed the remains of the dead, packed and stored in jars and even in refrigerators. Evidences such as photographs of the victim and the murder scene prove schizotypal personality disorder in Jeffery Dahmer.



**RAPE,
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Jeffrey Dahmer photographed his victim's bodies in various positions, which he found to be sexually significant to him.

From an early age, Dahmer manifested an interest in animals. Friends later recalled Dahmer initially collected large insects, dragonflies, and butterflies, which he placed inside jars. Later, he collected animal carcasses from the roadside, occasionally accompanied by one or more of his few friends; he dismembered these animals either at home or in an expanse of woodland behind the family home. According to one friend, Dahmer dismembered these animals and stored the parts in jars in the family's wooden toolshed, always explaining that he was curious as to how each animal "fitted together". In one instance, he decapitated the carcass of a dog before nailing the animal's body to a tree. He later impaled the skull of this dog upon a stake beside a wooden cross in woodland behind his house. Dahmer's fascination with dead animals might have begun when, at the age of four,

he noted his father removing animal bones from beneath the family home.

Dahmer began to actively seek victims, most of whom he encountered in or close to gay bars, and whom he typically lured to his grandmother's home, where they were drugged before or shortly after engaging in sexual activity with him. Once he had rendered the victim unconscious with sleeping pills, he killed them by means of strangulation.

Almost all the murders Dahmer committed after moving into the Oxford Apartments had involved a ritual of posing the victims' bodies in suggestive positions—typically with the chest thrust outwards—prior to dismemberment. He readily admitted to performing necrophilia with several of his victims' bodies, including performing sexual acts with their viscera as he dismembered their bodies in his bathtub. Having noted that much of the blood pooled



The inside of Dahmer's fridge where he stored the organs and innards of numerous victims.

inside his victims' chest after death, Dahmer first removed their internal organs, then suspended the torso so the blood drained into his bathtub, before dicing any organs he did not wish to retain and paring the flesh from the body. The bones he wished to dispose of were pulverized or acidified, with Soilex and bleach solutions used to aid in the preservation of the skeletons and skulls he wished to keep. In addition, he confessed to having consumed the hearts, livers, biceps, and portions of thighs of several victims killed within the previous year.

Over the following two years, Dahmer's victim count accelerated, bringing his total from four to 17. He developed rituals as he progressed, experimenting with chemical means of disposal and often consuming the flesh of his victims. Dahmer also attempted crude lobotomies, drilling into victims' skulls while they were still alive and injecting them with muriatic acid. He was careful to select victims on the fringes of society, who were often itinerant or borderline criminal, making their disappearances less noticeable and reducing the likelihood of his capture.

On July 22, 1991, Dahmer lured Tracy Edwards into his home where he was then forced into the bedroom

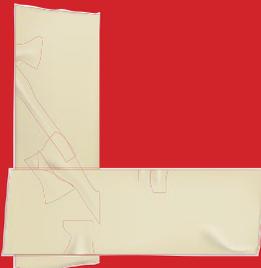
by Dahmer with a butcher knife. During the struggle, Edwards was able to get free and escape out into the streets where he flagged down a police car. When the police arrived at Dahmer's apartment, Edwards alerted them to the knife that was still left in the bedroom.

Upon entering the bedroom, the officers found the pictures of dead bodies and dismembered limbs that allowed them to finally place Dahmer under arrest. Further investigation led them to find a severed head in the refrigerator; three more severed heads throughout the apartment, multiple photographs of the victims, and more human remains in his refrigerator. A total of seven skulls were found in his apartment as well as a human heart in the freezer. An altar was also constructed with candles and human skulls in his closet. After being taken into custody, Dahmer confessed and began divulging the gruesome details of his crimes to the authorities.

Dahmer served his time at the Columbia Correctional Institution in Portage, Wisconsin. He was attacked on November 28, 1994, by an inmate as they cleaned one of the prison showers. Dahmer was found still alive, but died on the way to the hospital from severe head trauma. ◊

“FOR HEAVENS SAKE
CATCH ME BEFORE I
KILL MORE, I CANNOT
CONTROL MYSELF.”

- WILLIAM HEIRENS



the apartment. In December of that same year Frances Brown, a divorced woman, was discovered with a knife lodged in her neck and bullet wound to the head in her apartment in Edgewater, Chicago, after a cleaning woman heard a radio playing loudly and noted Brown's partly open door. Brown had been savagely stabbed, and authorities thought that a burglar had been discovered or interrupted. No valuables were taken, but someone had written a message in lipstick on the wall of Brown's apartment, "For heavens sake catch me before I kill more I cannot control myself." This led to him being nicknamed "the Lipstick Killer" in the media.

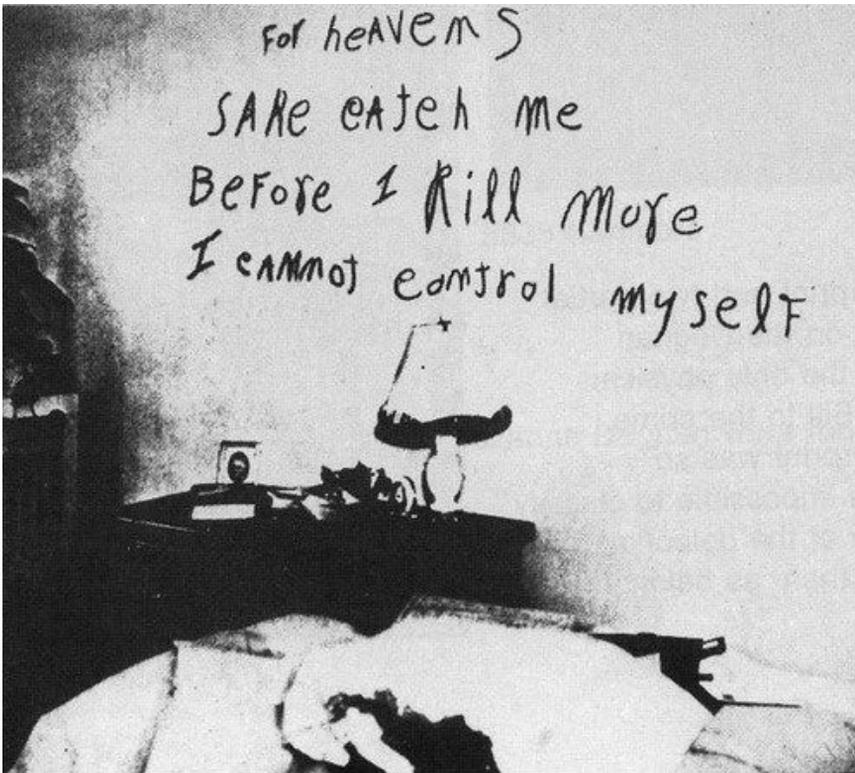
In January, 1947, the final victim was found, she was a six-year-old Suzanne Degnan, who was discovered missing from her first floor bedroom in

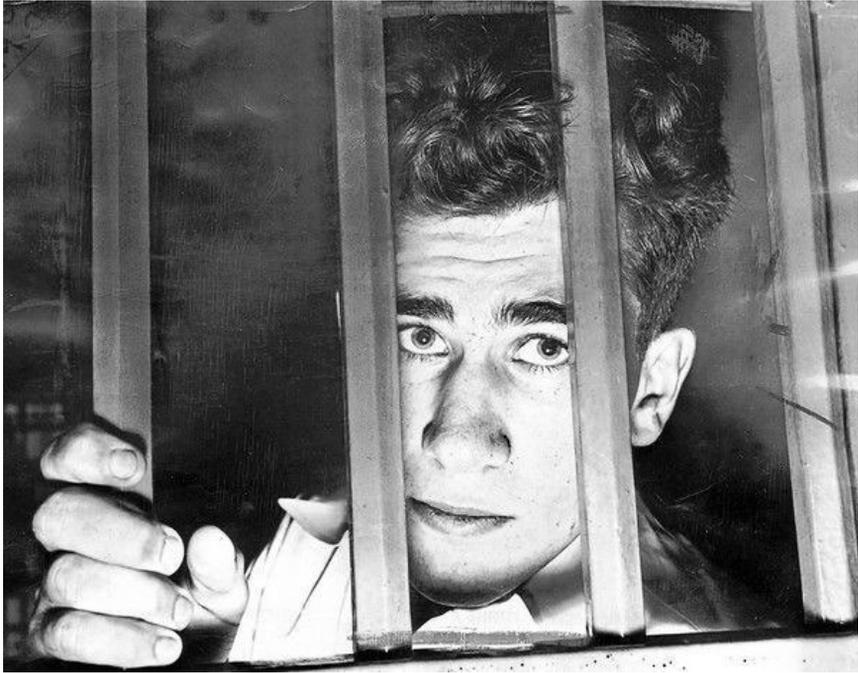
Edgewater, Chicago. After searching the apartment and not finding the girl, her family called the police. Her disappearance earned significant publicity, and police vowed to find whoever was responsible. Police found a ladder outside the girl's window, and also discovered a ransom note placed that read:

'GeI \$20,000 Reddy & wAIte foR WoRd. do NoT NoTify FBI oR Police. Bills IN 5's & 10's. BuRN This FoR heR SAfTY..'

A man repeatedly called the Degnan residence demanding the ransom but hung up before any meaningful conversation could take place.

The infamous note which led to the moniker given to William Heirens.





William Heivens at the time of his arrest. (1946)

Chicago Mayor Edward Kelly also received a note:

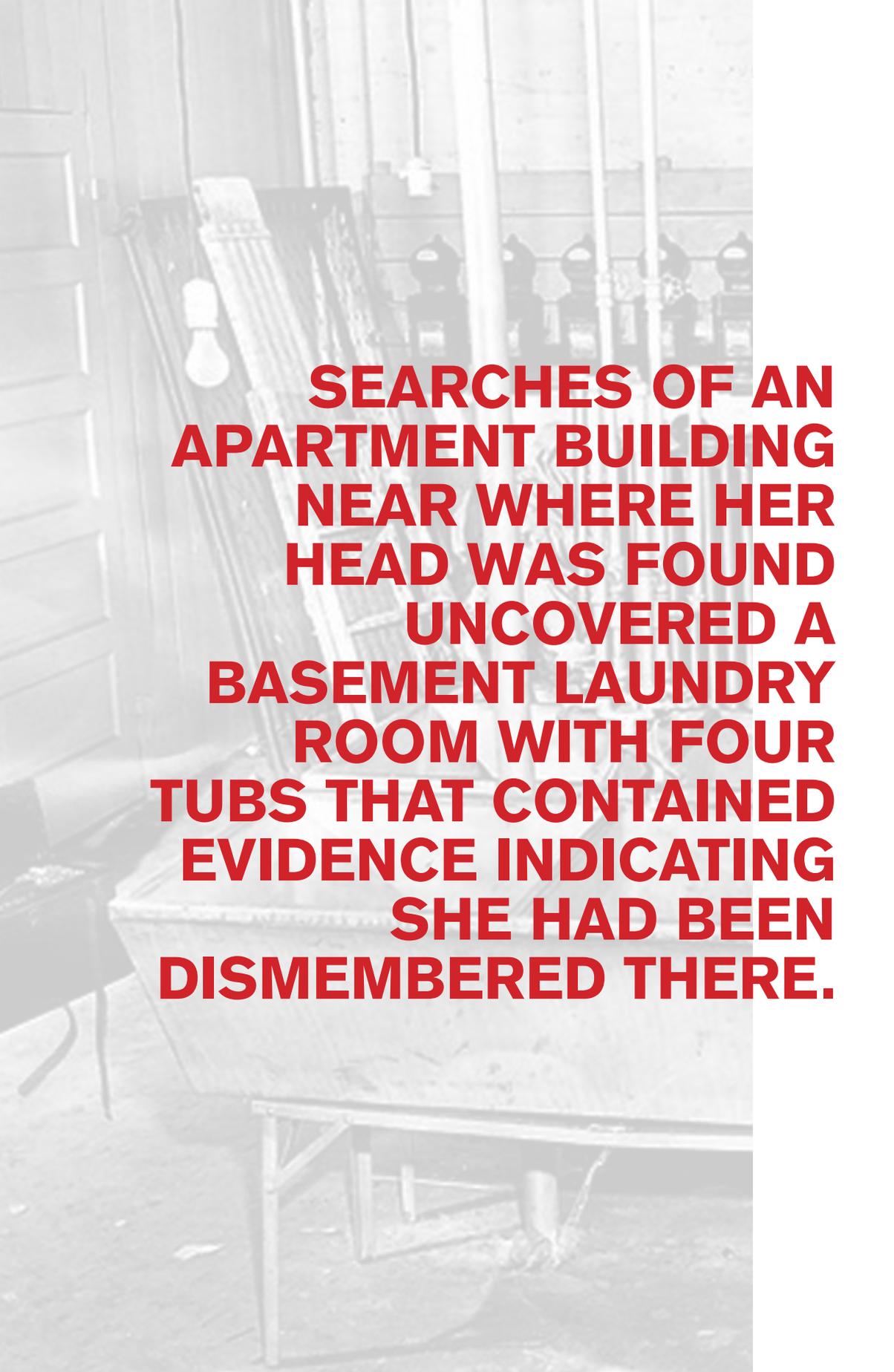
This is to tell you how sorry I am not to not get ole [sic] Degnan instead of his girl. Roosevelt and the OPA made their own laws. Why shouldn't I and a lot more?

Someone later telephoned police anonymously, suggesting that police look in the sewers near the Degnan home. Police did, and discovered the young girl's head in a storm-drain sewer that was in an alley a block from the Degnan residence. In the same alley, they discovered the girl's right leg in a catch basin, her torso in another storm drain and her left leg in a drain in another alley, each location progressively further from her home. Her arms were found a month later in a sewer on the other side of the Howard elevated train line more than three blocks from the Degnan residence. All the drains were capped with circular cast-iron manhole covers, yet no one had heard them lifted or

replaced. Searches of an apartment building near where her head was found uncovered a basement laundry room with four tubs that contained evidence indicating she had been dismembered there. The killer had mopped the floor, but blood was found in the drains of all four tubs. The press called it the "Murder Room" although the autopsy showed that she had been alive when taken from her home, murdered at a second location that was never identified, and then taken to the laundry room.

One of the few pieces of evidence linking William to the first two murders was a bloody fingerprint smudge found on the door jamb on the entrance door.

All victims attributed to the Lipstick Killer were women. The first two were both killed in their apartments. His third victim, six-year-old Susan Degnan, was abducted from her home, taken to a separate location

A grayscale photograph of a cluttered basement laundry room. In the foreground, there is a large, rectangular tub on a metal stand. To the left, a wooden door is partially open. In the background, there are four more tubs lined up against a wall. The room is filled with various items, including a chair, a table, and some boxes. The overall scene is dimly lit and appears to be a crime scene.

**SEARCHES OF AN
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NEAR WHERE HER
HEAD WAS FOUND
UNCOVERED A
BASEMENT LAUNDRY
ROOM WITH FOUR
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SHE HAD BEEN
DISMEMBERED THERE.**

and then killed. In the first two cases, Heires also ransacked the apartments but never stole anything valuable. All three victims were killed in different ways, but all were mutilated somehow post-mortem. In the cases of Josephine Ross and Frances Brown, the killer taped over the gashes in their bodies with adhesive tape and wrapped an article of clothing around their heads. Another recurring thing in the murders was tubs of some sort; Josephine Ross' body was washed in the bathtub in her apartment, Frances Brown's body was washed the same way and was found draped over the edge of the bathtub, and Suzanne

Degnan was dismembered in a laundry tub with a hunting knife. After Suzanne Degnan was dismembered, the severed parts were put in storm drains and catch basins. According to some sources, Heires also had a habit of urinating and defecating in the apartments of his victims.

Criminals do tend to get more violent as they search for further "thrill", but according to police Heires went from burglary to cold-blooded murders in just a few steps. Post his arrest on August 7 1946, William confessed to all the Lipstick Killer murders. He died of natural causes at the age of 83. ♦

The basement where Suzanne Degnan was dismembered the press called this The Murder Room.



ANNIE CHAPMAN

THE MURDER

31 August 1888

8th September 1888

The ghoul strikes again.

On the 8th September 1888, the people of the East End were waking to the news that the person responsible for the murder of Mary Nichols had struck again.

As the nearby brewery clock struck 5:30, Elizabeth Long, was walking along Hanbury Street when she passed a man and a woman standing against No. 29. The man's back was to her so she couldn't see his face, but he was dressed in a long black coat and was wearing, according to Long, a deerstalker hat.

As she passed, she heard the man say, "Will you?"

The woman, whom Long later identified as Annie Chapman, replied, "Yes."

5:15 am, a young carpenter who lived at No. 27 Hanbury Street named Albert Cadoche went out into his backyard, probably to use the lavatory. He reportedly heard a woman's voice say "No," and a sound of something falling against the fence connecting the backyards of No. 27 and 29.

At 6 am, John Davis, the occupant of No. 29 Hanbury Street, prepared to go to his job as a carter for the day. When he descended the stone steps into the backyard of his apartment building, he was met with a mutilated female body sprawled between the steps and the neighboring fence.

He noticed that her skirts were pulled up to her groin and, without further investigation, ran into the neighboring street to call for help. He flagged down three workmen, who took one look at the body and then rushed out to find a constable.

They soon came upon Inspector John Chandler of H Division on Commercial Street. "Another woman has been murdered," they told him.



29 Hanbury Street, London (1920)



The backyard of 29 Hanbury Street where Annie Chapman's body was found on the morning of the 8th of September 1888.

Initial Investigation

The crime scene seemed to imply that Annie did not put up much of a struggle. Even Cadoche, who presumably heard Annie and her murderer from the adjoining backyard, described a limited amount of noise coming from the yard of No. 29. It is possible, however, that in her sickly state, and so taken by surprise by the attack, and she did not have the opportunity to cry out before being stifled forever.

The doctor was so disturbed by the damage done to Annie's corpse that he refused to go into explicit detail about the abdominal mutilations during the inquest. His description is as follows:

'The left arm was placed across the left breast. The legs were drawn up, the feet resting on the ground, and the knees turned outwards. The face was swollen and turned on the right side. The tongue protruded between the front teeth, but not beyond the lips. The tongue was evidently much swollen. The front teeth were perfect as far as the first molar, top and bottom and very fine teeth they were. The body was terribly mutilated... the stiffness of the limbs was not marked, but was evidently commencing. He noticed that the throat was dissevered deeply; that the incision through the skin were jagged and reached right round the neck...'

The fact that Annie's tongue was found protruding from her mouth implied that she, like Polly Nichols, had died from asphyxiation rather than from the damage done by the killer's knife. The autopsy revealed

indications found in the lungs and membranes of the brain of advanced disease. In spite of the fact that she was described as "plump", her body also showed signs of starvation. There was a little food in her stomach, but no alcohol in her system, which eliminated the possibility of her having been intoxicated at the time of murder.

Additionally, Annie's belongings had been scattered across the backyard of No. 29, a fact that has baffled students of the case for over a century, starting with investigators. Dr. Philips said that Annie's belongings had been placed near her body in order, "that is to say arranged there." These belongings included a piece of muslin, an envelope corner containing two pills, and a comb wrapped in paper. Abrasions on her fingers showed that she had been wearing three rings, apparently of brass, but those had either been pawned or taken by the murderer. She was also wearing a kerchief around her neck, which she had been wearing when she left the lodging house.

A few drops of blood were visible on the fence above Annie's head, but not as much as to suggest that her throat had been cut while she was still living. Remarkably, a nearby water spigot showed no signs of having been touched by someone whose hands were covered in blood, a further sign of the Ripper's audacity.

Also found on the scene was a leather workman's apron, which led to the initial moniker of a villainous figure, known as "Leather Apron." Posters and newspaper cartoon soon started featuring images and warnings about this 'heinous beast'.

Several questions arose at the initial discovery of the body as well as during the inquest as to a) where Annie had

**GHASTLY
MURDER**
IN THE EAST-END.
DREADFUL MUTILATION OF A WOMAN.

Capture : Leather Apron

Another murder of a character even more diabolical than that perpetrated in Back's Row, on Friday week, was discovered in the same neighbourhood, on Saturday morning. At about six o'clock a woman was found lying in a back yard at the foot of a passage leading to a lodging-house in a Old Brown's Lane, Spitalfields. The house is occupied by a Mrs. Richardson, who lets it out to lodgers, and the door which admits to this passage, at the foot of which lies the yard where the body was found, is always open for the convenience of lodgers. A lodger named Davis was going down to work at the time mentioned and found the woman lying on her back close to the flight of steps leading into the yard. Her throat was cut in a fearful manner. The woman's body had been completely ripped open and the heart and other organs laying about the place, and portions of the entrails round the victim's neck. An excited crowd gathered in front of Mrs. Richardson's house and also round the mortuary in old Montague Street, whither the body was quickly conveyed. As the body lies in the rough coffin in which it has been placed in the mortuary - the same coffin in which the unfortunate Mrs. Nicholls was first placed - it presents a fearful sight. The body is that of a woman about 45 years of age. The height is exactly five feet. The complexion is fair, with wavy brown hair; the eyes are blue, and two lower teeth have been knocked out. The nose is rather large and prominent.

Newspaper clipping alerting the populace about the 'diabolical Leather Apron'. (1888)

spent her final hours and b) what exactly was the time of death. Dr. Philips noted that, though rigor mortis had not set in at the time the body was discovered, the body was quite cold. This led him to postulate that the time of death had been at about 4:30 am.

His estimation ran in direct opposition to the testimonies of three witnesses. Mrs. Long expressed certainty that she saw Annie at 5:30 am, due to the chiming of the nearby brewery clock. Police were inclined to believe Mrs. Long's testimony, due to the fact that she was able to identify Annie's body in the mortuary.

Albert Cadosch was also certain that he had heard the voices coming from the backyard of No. 29 around that same time.

The biggest case for Dr. Philips being in error came from John Richardson. On his way to work, he stopped in the backyard of No. 29 to sit on the steps and remove a broken piece of leather from his boots. He was sitting on the back steps that would have been about a foot away from Annie's body, had she been murdered at 4:30 am. However, Richardson reports not having seen anything out of the ordinary.

One reason that was given for the coldness of Annie's body was the level of mutilation to her abdomen. Exposure of so many veins, arteries, and internal organs to the cold morning air could have hastened the chilling of the body at a higher rate than that of an intact corpse.

Despite challenges offered by the Inspector and Surgeon, Coroner Wynne Baxter, accepted the testimonies of the three witnesses as an account of the events of the fateful morning.

The mark of a murderer

The discovery of the second canonical victim led to more speculations as well as further development of how we view Jack the Ripper even in our own time. Dr. Philips speculated from the efficient removal of the uterus that perhaps Annie had been killed for the sole purpose of attaining the organ.

Annie's death also marked the beginning of theorizing that the Whitechapel Murderer had some sort of medical background or was possibly in trade as a butcher. This idea arose from the precision of the uterine removal, and the fact that it must have taken place within a very short period of time. Later medical investigators, however, would put a damper on the image of the Ripper as someone with surgical prowess.

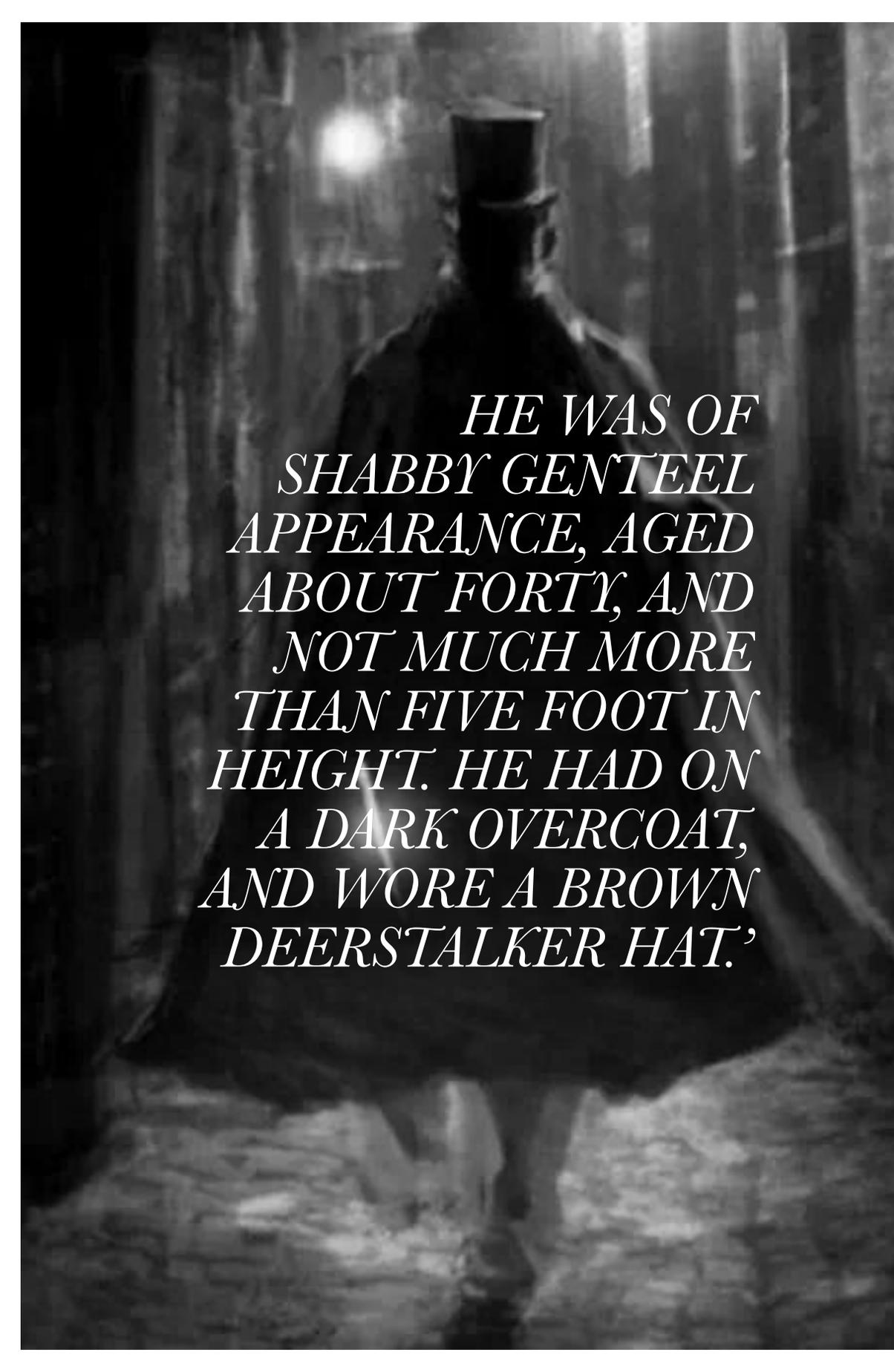
Lastly, Long's testimony has also supported iconic imagery of the Ripper that lives on into modern times. First, she described the man she saw with Annie Chapman as "shabby genteel", lending credence to the idea that the man was at least slightly well off. Secondly, her words describing him:

'...as being of foreign appearance with a dark complexion. He was of shabby genteel appearance, aged about forty, and not much more than five foot in height. He had on a dark overcoat, and wore a brown deerstalker hat.' evoke that famous image of the skulking ***Whitechapel Murderer in a long coat and hat.***

As the Daily Telegraph observed "*...Dark Annie's dreadful end has compelled a hundred thousand Londoners to reflect what it must be like to have no home at all except the 'common kitchen' of a low lodging house; to sit there, sick and weak and bruised and wretched, for lack of fourpence with which*

Mortuary photograph of Annie Chapman. (1888)





*HE WAS OF
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THAN FIVE FOOT IN
HEIGHT. HE HAD ON
A DARK OVERCOAT,
AND WORE A BROWN
DEERSTALKER HAT.'*

to pay for the right of a 'doss'; to be turned out after midnight to earn the requisite pence, anywhere and anyhow; and in course of earning it to come across your murderer and to caress your assassin..."

The fact that another murder had occurred caused feelings of fear and fascination to ripple through the district in equal measure. The London Daily News reported that the excitement in the district was "intense" and commented that both the house where the murder had occurred and the mortuary to which the body had been taken had been "besieged by people." The article also stated that people were actually paying a penny a time to view the bloodstained spot in the backyard where the murder had taken place.

The divisional police surgeon surgeon of police, Dr George Bagster Phillips told a journalist that both he and his assistant were being called out throughout the Saturday night to attend to people who had been assaulted in the streets – some of them of "the most serious character" – and all of them arising:- "...directly or indirectly out of the intense excitement occasioned by the discussion of this affair.

Unless Mr. Phillip's experience is different from that of other medical men in the locality, this certainly shows that even so dreadful a murder as that which has just taken place is only a part of the mischief such an occurrence originates...

It is with these newspaper reports that we can get a sense of what was going on in the district in the aftermath of each Whitechapel murder and how the populace as a whole was reacting. It was more than

apparent that, for the people of the East End, an autumn of terror was well underway.

The Murder

It becomes apparent that newspapers, such as The Daily Telegraph and The London Daily News, were starting to notice the pitiable lifestyles of the type of women who were the chosen victims of Jack the Ripper and were trying to urge their readership to look charitably upon the plight of the poor and dispossessed of the East End. But it is also evident that the newspapers were starting to look with revulsion upon the horror of the injuries inflicted on the bodies of the victims by the unknown miscreant responsible for the crimes.

As The Times put it:-

"One may search the ghastliest efforts of fiction and fail to find anything to surpass these crimes in diabolical audacity..."

From the second victim onwards, the brutality of the Ripper's crimes only increased. If the first murder is the bait, the consequent one will show signs of how diabolical the killer's mindset really can be. The thing that sets these two murders apart, mainly is the acceptance of bloodlust.

An accidental crime done in the heat of the moment can be just that-an accident. But anything following that is quite deliberately a murder. Most serial killers come into their own from their second victim onwards. It is when they completely and utterly give in to the urges which cause them to kill. To mutilate,

(left) The infamous representation of Jack the Ripper based on Elizabeth Long's testimony.



Press illustrations detailing the murder of Annie Chapman. (1888)

dismember, pillage and destroy another human beings existence from the world. The calculated invasion of Annie Chapman’s corpse was but an indicator of how extensively horrifying a killer Jack could be. The very first intimation you could say.

It is then that he discovered his niche and steadily started developing into it. Each serial killer similarly, has followed patterns of cruelty and abomination in which they violated their victims. These murders are what truly defined their careers as prolific murderers. Once they give in to the call for blood, there is no knowing just how far the depravity of these

monsters can go. Oftentimes, serial killers are known to erect elaborate crime scenes and ways of covering them up, for the sole purpose of allowing them to continue killing. Over the course of a few years or even a few months, they go all out in satisfying every depraved need in their conscience which wills them to continue this unabated sating towards murder and a life of crime.

For it is the absolute embracing of bloodlust that makes a serial killer. It is therefore, these signs of indulgence that mark the murderer as one to haunt the halls of history. ◇



““AFTER MY HEAD HAS BEEN CHOPPED OFF, WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO HEAR, AT LEAST FOR A MOMENT, THE SOUND OF MY OWN BLOOD GUSHING FROM MY NECK? THAT WOULD BE THE PLEASURE TO END ALL PLEASURES.”

– PETER KÜRTE

Der Massenmörder von Düsseldorf verhaftet!



Press coverage announcing the capture of 'The Vampire of Düsseldorf'.

VAMPIRE OF DÜSSELDORF ON THE LOOSE

Peter Kürten (26 May 1883 – 2 July 1931) was a German serial killer known as both The Vampire of Düsseldorf and the Düsseldorf Monster, who committed a series of murders and sexual assaults between February and November 1929 in the city of Düsseldorf. In the years prior to these assaults and murders, Kürten had amassed a lengthy criminal record for offenses including arson and attempted murder.

Kürten's bloodlust went out of control in 1929 and he was eventually caught, convicted of nine murders (though he was suspected of committing up to 68) and executed. His victims

were mainly women and girls and his motivation was sexual sadism, which can be traced back to his childhood.

Kürten became known as The Vampire of Düsseldorf as he occasionally made attempts to drink the blood from his victims' wounds, and the Düsseldorf Monster both because the majority of his murders were committed in and around the city of Düsseldorf, and the savagery he inflicted upon his victims' bodies with his methods.

The first murder Kürten is known to have committed occurred on 25 May 1913. During the course of a

burglary at a tavern in the town of Mülheim am Rhein, he encountered a 9-year-old girl named Christine Klein asleep in her bed. He strangled the child, then slashed her twice across the throat with a pocket knife, ejaculating as he heard the blood dripping from her wounds onto the floor by her bed.

The following day, Kürten specifically returned to Köln to drink in a tavern located directly opposite that in which he had murdered Christine Klein, in order that he could listen to the locals' reactions to the child's murder. He would later recollect to investigators he derived an extreme sense of gratification from the general disgust and outrage he had heard in the patrons' conversations. Moreover, in the weeks following Klein's funeral, he would occasionally travel to Mülheim am Rhein to visit the child's grave, adding that when he handled the soil covering her grave, he would spontaneously ejaculate.

Two months later—again in the course of committing a burglary with the aid of a skeleton key—Kürten broke into a home in Loscheckes.

Discovering a 17-year-old girl named Gertrud Franken, Kürten manually strangled the girl, ejaculating at the sight of blood spouting from her mouth. Kürten managed to escape from the scene of both this murder and that of Klein undetected.

Two months after killing the young girl, Peter Kürten committed the same crime, this time burglarizing the home of a 17-year-old girl. As he had before, he strangled the woman and ejaculated at the sight of her blood.

Kürten's preferred method of torture and murder was stabbing, usually with a pair of sharpened scissors. In addition to physical mutilation, he would sexually abuse his victims and strangle them into unconsciousness. He also occasionally returned to the crime scenes, to discuss his crimes with police, under the guise of a concerned citizen.

The first was a woman he had stalked for almost a week, whose body he wished to crucify on a decomposing tree, in order to cause a scene for the public. Eventually, he settled for burying her, though he did follow up

(left) Gertrud Franken and (right) Christine Klein, one of the first victims of the Vampire of Dusseldorf.





Gertrude Hamacher was only 5 when she was abducted and murdered by Peter Kürten on August 23, 1929.

Peter Kürten was simply a deranged serial killer, plagued with erotic visions of death, seeking retribution for a childhood lost.

In the course of a few months, Kürten murdered one person after another. At the beginning of February, he assaulted a woman and murdered a young girl. Two weeks later he murdered a mechanic by stabbing him 20 times. After a short pause he attacked in August, and stabbed three people in separate circumstances. Two days later, he killed two young sisters and stabbed one woman the next day. The following month he raped and killed a servant girl in woods on the outskirts of Dusseldorf. He attacked two more women soon after, and in November he committed his last and inexplicably cruel murder of a five-year-old girl, who was stabbed 36 times with scissors. After he buried the body of the girl, Kürten sent a map to a local newspaper which revealed the location of the grave. He became known as the Vampire of Dusseldorf because he drank some of the blood of several of his victims.

Reportedly, the police were confused by the high number of killings and the different types of assaults, thinking that there were several killers involved. Some victims were stabbed, others strangled, still others bludgeoned with a hammer. There were thousands of suspects. Kürten was caught after he took a young woman to his home and then to the woods, where he raped her but didn't kill her. All his crimes were similar. The victims were cut, sliced, over and over. Some would be stabbed dozens of times, occasionally in the genital area. Others would show signs of having been penetrated vaginally by Peter's coarse fingers.

Kürten stressed that although he had changed his actual method of

the murder with a detailed letter to police, including a map to her body.

After writing the letter, in an attempt to throw police off his trail, he switched from his signature pair of scissors to a knife. Additionally, he randomly stabbed three people, an 18-year-old girl, a 30-year-old man, and a 37-year old woman, who all escaped but described their attacker differently, effectively distracting police.



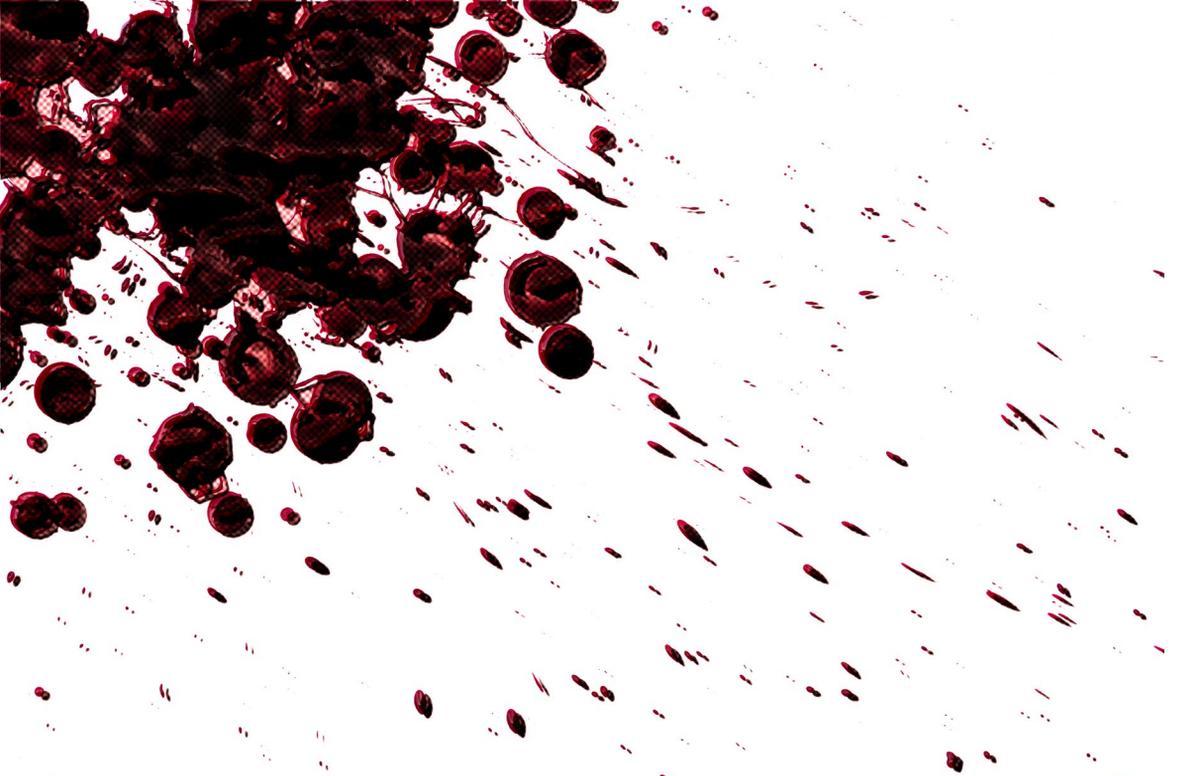
(top and bottom) The head of Peter Kürten on display at the Ripley's Believe It or Not museum in Wisconsin Dells. (present day)

attack to deceive investigators into believing they were seeking more than one perpetrator, the weapon he used was inconsequential in reference to his ultimate objective of seeing his victim's blood. Kürten stated:

"Whether I took a knife or a pair of scissors or a hammer in order to see blood was a matter of indifference to me or mere chance. Often after the hammer blows the bleeding victims moved and struggled, just as they did when they were throttled."

Upon his arrest in 1930, Kürten freely admitted his guilt in all the crimes police had attributed to The Vampire of Düsseldorf. In total, Kürten admitted to 68 crimes including 10 murders and

31 attempted murders. He made no attempt to excuse his crimes, but justified them upon the basis of what he saw as the injustices he had endured throughout his life. Nonetheless, he was adamant he had not tortured any of his child victims. Kürten also admitted to both investigators and psychiatrists that the actual sight of his victim's blood was, on many occasions, sufficient to bring him to orgasm, and that, on occasion, if he experienced ejaculation in the act of strangling a woman, he would immediately become apologetic to his victim, proclaiming, "That's what love is all about". He further claimed to have drunk the blood from the throat



of one victim, from the temple of another, and to have licked the blood from a third victim's hands. In one of these instances, he had drunk so much blood from the neck wound he had inflicted upon victim Maria Hahn that he vomited. Kürten also admitted to having decapitated a swan in the spring of 1930 in order that he could drink the blood from the animal's neck, achieving ejaculation in the process.

Kürten was found guilty and sentenced to death on nine counts of murder. He was also found guilty of

seven counts of attempted murder. Kürten displayed no emotion as the sentence was passed, although in his final address to the court, he did state that he now saw his crimes as being "so ghastly that [he did] not want to make any sort of excuse for them". At 6 o'clock on the morning of 2 July, Peter Kürten was beheaded by guillotine in the grounds of Klingelputz Prison, Cologne. When asked whether he had any last words to say, Kürten simply smiled and replied, "No." ♦



““YOU THINK I PLAYED
GOD, AND I DID.”

- ***DONALD HARVEY***



Official FBI mugshot of Donald Harvey post arrest.

ANGEL OF DEATH TURNS DEMONIC

Donald Harvey (April 15, 1952 – March 30, 2017) was an American serial killer and orderly who claimed to have murdered 87 people, though official estimates are between 37 and 57 victims. Harvey said he started out killing to “ease the pain” of patients.” As time progressed, he began to enjoy it more and more and became a self-described “angel of death” until his arrest in 1987.

Donald Harvey worked in and around the medical

profession from the age of 18. He began his career as an orderly at the Marymount Hospital in London, Kentucky. He later confessed that during the ten-month period he worked at the hospital, he killed at least a dozen patients. Harvey was insistent that he killed purely out of a sense of empathy for the sufferings of those who were terminally ill. He also admitted that many of the killings he committed were due to anger at the victim.

Harvey kept his crimes from coming to light for over 17 years.

The true extent of his crimes may never be known since so many were undetected for so long. Harvey used many methods to kill his victims, such as arsenic; cyanide; insulin; suffocation; miscellaneous poisons; morphine; turning off ventilators; administration of fluid tainted with hepatitis B and/or HIV (which resulted in a hepatitis infection, but no HIV infection, and illness rather than death); insertion of a coat hanger into a catheter, causing an abdominal puncture and subsequent peritonitis. Cyanide and arsenic were his most used methods, with Harvey administering them via food, injection, or IV. The majority of Harvey's crimes took place at the Marymount Hospital (now St. Joseph's – London) in London, Kentucky, the Cincinnati V.A. Medical Hospital, and Cincinnati's Drake Memorial Hospital.

Harvey did not limit his victims to helpless hospital patients. When he suspected his lover and roommate Carl Hoeweler of infidelity, he poisoned Hoeweler's food with arsenic so he would be too ill to leave their

apartment. He poisoned two of his neighbors—sickening one, Diane Alexander, by putting hepatitis serum in her drink and killing the other, Helen Metzger, by putting arsenic in her pie. He also killed Hoeweler's father Henry with arsenic.

The "Angel of Death" is a label that would be given to another man decades after the infamous Nazi doctor. Donald Harvey was the last person anyone thought would be a serial killer. Unassuming, unobtrusive, gentle, and kind, he was a nurse's aide and worked in a hospital—the last thing someone pictures when they think of a cold-blooded killer. But beneath the smooth, soft, gentle, and seemingly loving exterior lurked a dark force so powerful that it would propel Harvey to murder scores of victims often returning to kill multiple patients in one night.

His first job was in 1970 at Marymount Hospital (now called Saint Joseph Hospital) in London, Kentucky. Once he entered the industry, Harvey didn't waste any time and would make his first kill that year, when this supposedly soft, quiet, and gentle nurse's aide would kill Logan

Donald Harvey being led away for his arrest. (1987)





Donald Harvey is interviewed in the Laurel County Jail during his trial.

Evans. Harvey took a sheet of blue plastic and a pillow and smothered Evans until he died.

After killing Evans, Harvey cleaned him up and notified the nurse on duty as if he had no part whatsoever in the murder. This would be the beginning of a long series of homicides that wouldn't be uncovered until 1987, 17 years later.

Harvey was quickly off to the races after an initial taste of blood. After murdering Logan Evans on May 30, 1970, his next kill, though it started off by accident, would be the next day. After Evans, Harvey murdered a man named James Tyree by using the wrong size catheter.

After he inserted the catheter, he held Tyree down until he vomited blood and died. How Harvey wasn't caught at this point, with two deaths back-to-back at his place of work, right beneath the noses of all of his colleagues, is pretty amazing.

Donald Harvey was unusually comfortable and immediately natural

when it came to killing people. Maybe it was the lack of grisly bloodshed and not having to hide or dispose of bodies, but the rapidity with which Harvey took to killing his victims is alarming and horrifying.

After less than a month had passed since his back-to-back murders, Harvey would go on to commit his third. On June 22, 1970, Donald Harvey killed a woman named Elizabeth Wyatt in a sickeningly twisted fashion: He cut off her oxygen supply and watched her die. Apparently, Wyatt was sick, elderly, and miserable; she was said to have been praying for death. Harvey would go on to say that this was his first mercy killing.

Unlike other serial killers, who often take long breaks between their murders, Harvey seemed to maintain a steady bloodthirst that would continue through the 1970s. Less than 20 days after killing Elizabeth Wyatt, Donald Harvey murdered a man named Eugene McQueen.

McQueen was not supposed to be laid on his stomach due to a medical condition. Harvey ignored this and rolled McQueen over, allowing him to die by drowning in his own bodily fluids. In order to cover up his third murder, Donald Harvey proceeded to take McQueen into a bath and tell the nurse that he wasn't looking good. The nurse, however, held him to continue, so he bathed the freshly dead man.

Harvey's lust for blood was seemingly insatiable, and his methods were quiet. He was poised to kill again and again for some years to come. With four victims under his belt, the Angel of Death was completely comfortable in his own skin, operating and murdering within the confines of the hospital, where no one could hear his victims scream. The hospital also provided the most excellent cover, as it's a place where death is commonplace and doesn't seem so out of the ordinary. There were no missing persons reports or faces plastered all over the television; it turns out the perfect cover for murder was a combination of a benevolent facade and the willingness to murder in plain sight.

After Eugene McQueen, Harvey would go on to kill six more people, somehow without arousing suspicion, all before the end of the year 1970, bringing his total body count for that year to ten victims. Harvey would

eventually claim to have murdered 87 people. He was convicted of 37 murders, though some have estimated that he may have killed as many as 57.

He killed one victim, Ben Gilbert, by sticking an oversize catheter into him and then proceeding to stick a coat hanger through the catheter and into Ben. After his bladder and bowels were punctured, Gilbert went into shock and died. Harvey simply disposed of the catheter and the coat hanger and went on with his life.

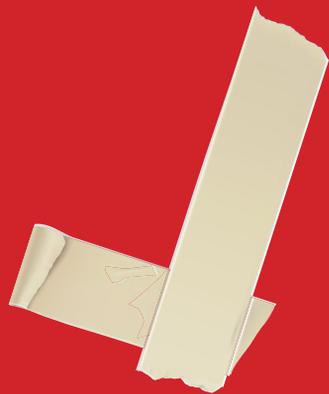
Donald Harvey would ultimately make two confessions to all of the murders he'd committed up until each point. On March 31, 1971, Harvey was arrested for burglary while insanely drunk. Overwhelmed and out of his senses, he actually confessed to all of the murders he'd committed up until that point—but the police didn't believe him. Afterward, they let him walk straight out of their hands, something that happens with an alarming frequency where serial killers are concerned.

This would be the first of two confessions from Donald Harvey. The second came in 1987, after he'd been caught and arrested, and the evidence had mounted against him. He would ultimately be convicted and sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison.

On March 28, 2017, Donald Harvey was found lying in his cell. He had been severely beaten by another inmate, and he died two days later. ◇

**““ I COULD NOT HELP THE
FACT THAT I WAS A
MURDERER, NO MORE
THAN THE POET CAN HELP
THE INSPIRATION TO SING.”**

- *H.H.HOLMES*





THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE MURDER CASTLE

Herman Webster Mudgett, better known as H.H. Holmes, (May 16, 1861 to May 7, 1896) was a con artist and bigamist who was one of America's first serial killers. His criminal exploits were just as extensive and occurred during the same time period as Jack the Ripper. Sometimes referred to as the "Beast of Chicago," Holmes is believed to have killed somewhere between 20 and 200 people. He killed many of his victims in a specially constructed home, which was later nicknamed the "Murder Castle." Apprehended in 1894, he was hanged for his crimes two years later.

In 1861, Herman Webster Mudgett was born in New Hampshire. It is said that at an early age he was fascinated with skeletons and soon became obsessed with death. It may have been this interest that led him to pursue medicine as a career.

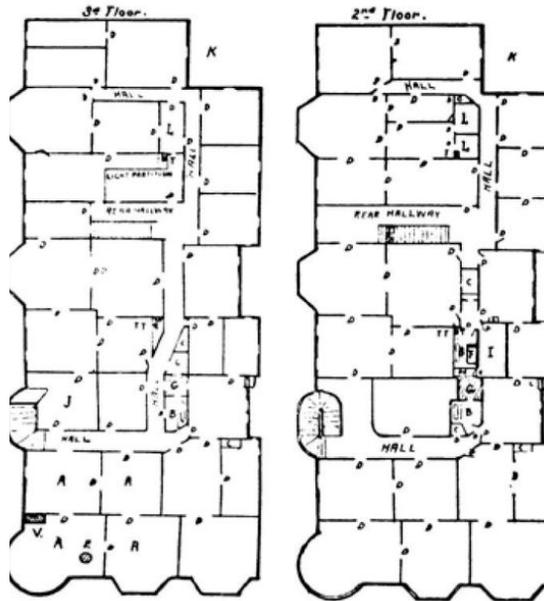
While enrolled in medical school, Holmes stole cadavers from the laboratory, burned or disfigured them, and then planted the bodies making it look as if they had been killed in an accident. The scandal behind it was that Holmes would take out insurance policies on these people before planting the bodies and would

collect money once the bodies were discovered.

In 1884 Holmes passed his medical exams and in 1885 he moved to Chicago. He soon found work in a pharmacy, using his now infamous alias, Dr. Henry H. Holmes. He eventually took over the business, and was later rumored to have killed its original owner in cold blood.

After Holmes had become the owner of the drugstore, he purchased an empty lot across the street. He designed and built a 3-story hotel, which the neighborhood called the "Castle." During its 1889 construction, Holmes hired and fired several construction crews so that no one would have a clear idea of what he was doing; he was designing a "Murder Castle." After construction was complete in 1891, Holmes placed ads in newspapers offering jobs for young women and advertised the Castle as a place of lodging. He also placed ads presenting himself as a wealthy man looking for a wife.

All of Holmes' employees, hotel guests, fiancés, and wives were required to have life insurance policies. Holmes paid the premiums as long as they listed him as the beneficiary. Most of his fiancés and wives would suddenly disappear, as did many of his employees and guests. People in the neighborhood eventually reported that they saw many women enter the Castle, but would never see them exit. It wasn't long before they caught on.



Floorplans of the second and third floors of the Holmes Castle.

A- Offices. B- Bathrooms. C- Closets. D- Doors. E- Stove. F- Trap Door. G- Chute. H- Blind Wall. I- Laboratories. J- Minnie Williams' room. K- Alleyway. T- Trap door leading from third floor into laboratory on second. TT- trap door leading from third floor into bathroom on second. *Chicago Times-Herald*, July 26, 1895 p.2.

Floor plans of the infamous Murder Castle.

In 1893, Chicago was given the honor of hosting the World's Fair, a cultural and social event to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. The event was scheduled from May to October, and attracted millions of people from all over the world. When Holmes heard that the World's Fair was coming to Chicago, he looked at it as an opportunity. He knew many visitors would be searching for lodging near the fair and believed many of them would be women whom he could easily seduce into staying at his hotel. After being lured into the hotel, many of these out-of-town visitors would never be seen again. This added fuel to rising suspicions about the hotel.



Exterior of the Murder Castle built by H.H.Holmes.

The first floor of the Castle had several stores; the two upper levels contained Holmes' office and over 100 rooms that were used as living quarters. Some of these rooms were soundproof and contained gas lines so that Holmes could asphyxiate his guests whenever he felt like it. Throughout the building, there were trap doors, peepholes, stairways that led nowhere, and chutes that led into the basement. The basement was designed as Holmes' own lab; it had a dissecting table, stretching rack, and even a crematory.

As a former medical student, Holmes had many connections that enabled him to sell his victims' skeletons to local labs and schools. He, and sometimes a hired assistant, were accused of stripping the flesh off the bodies, dissecting them, and preparing the viable skeletons. The rest of the remains would be tossed in pits of lime or acid, effectively breaking down the remaining evidence.

For an insurance scam, Holmes had his friend and accomplice, Benjamin

Pitezel, fake his own death so that his wife could collect his \$10,000 life insurance payment. However, rather than find a cadaver lookalike for Pitezel, Holmes decided to just kill Pitezel. Later, Holmes claimed to have murdered three out of five of Pitezel's children as well. Holmes would later confess to murdering Alice and Nellie by forcing them into a large trunk and locking them inside. He drilled a hole in the lid of the trunk and put one end of a hose through the hole, attaching the other end to a gas line to asphyxiate the girls. Holmes buried their nude bodies in the cellar of his rental house at 16 St. Vincent Street in Toronto. Holmes was reported to have visited a local pharmacy to purchase the drugs which he used to kill Howard Pitezel, and a repair shop to sharpen the knives he used to chop up the body before he burned it. The boy's teeth and bits of bone were discovered in the home's chimney.

Holmes killed Pitezel by knocking him unconscious with chloroform and setting his body on fire with the use

of benzene. In his confession, Holmes implied that Pitezel was still alive after he used the chloroform on him, prior to being set on fire. However, forensic evidence presented at Holmes' later trial showed that chloroform had been administered after Pitezel's death (a fact which the insurance company was unaware of), presumably to fake suicide to exonerate Holmes should he be charged with murder.

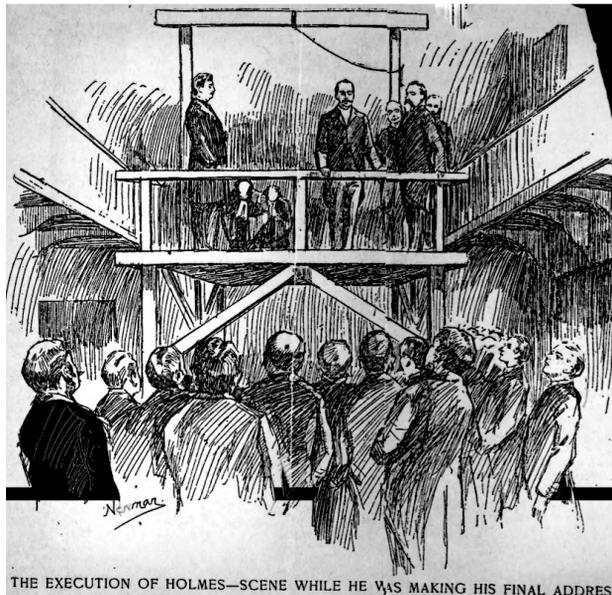
The police investigation spread through Chicago, Indianapolis, and Toronto. While conducting their investigation in Toronto, police discovered the bodies of the Pitezel children, who had gone missing sometime during Holmes' insurance fraud spree. Linking Holmes to their murders, police arrested him and he was convicted of their murders.

Following his conviction, Holmes confessed to 27 murders in Chicago, Indianapolis, and Toronto (however, through investigations and missing person's reports, it is believed that Holmes is responsible for up to 200 murders), and six attempted murders. Holmes was paid \$7,500 (worth \$221,000 today) by the Hearst newspapers in exchange for his confession, which was quickly found to be mostly nonsense. Holmes gave various contradictory accounts of his life, initially claiming innocence and later that he was possessed by Satan. His propensity for lying has made it difficult for

researchers to ascertain the truth on the basis of his statements. Viewed from the outside, the murder castle was simply a big ungainly building, one of the architectural monstrosities common in the nineties. But its interior, honeycombed with trap doors and secret passageways and walled-up rooms, was the fulfillment of every small boy's dream of a haunted house.

If ever a house was haunted, that one on Chicago's South Side should have been. To this day, fifty years later, nobody knows precisely how many persons were murdered in it. Estimates range from twenty to a couple of hundred. Most, if not all, were women. It is believed that they were chloroformed, gassed, strangled, or perhaps beaten to death. Their bodies were destroyed in cellar pits containing quicklime and acids. Some of their skeletons were sold by their efficient murderer, who was determined to realize every penny of profit from his gruesome crimes.

Press illustration of the execution of H.H. Holmes.



ELIZABETH STRIDE

THE LETTER

31 August 1888

8th September 1888

30th September 1888

An attack in Berner Street

Elizabeth Stride spent the last afternoon of her life cleaning rooms in the lodging house at number 32 Flower and Dean Street, where she had lived on and off for the previous six years.

The deputy keeper, Elizabeth Tanner, paid her sixpence for the chores and by 6.30pm Elizabeth was slaking her thirst in the nearby Queen's Head pub at the junction of Fashion and Commercial Streets.

By 7pm she had returned to the lodging house, and was, according to fellow resident Charles Preston - from whom she borrowed a clothes brush - dressed "ready to go out" Having chatted briefly with another lodger, Catherine Lane, Liz Stride left the lodging house at around 7.30pm.

It rained heavily that night and the next sighting of her was at eleven o'clock when J. Best and John Gardner were certain that they saw her sheltering in the doorway of the Bricklayer's Arms on Settles Street.

She was in the company of a man who was about 5 foot 5 inches tall. He had a black mustache, sandy eyelashes and was wearing a black morning suit together with a billy-cock hat.

According to Best "... they did not appear willing to go out. He was hugging and kissing her, and as he seemed a respectably dressed man, we were rather astonished at the way he was going on with the woman. But there isn't much we said."



The corner of Berner Street where Liz Stride's body was discovered.

The two men couldn't resist a little light-hearted banter at the couple's expense and remarked to the woman "Watch out, that's Leather Apron getting round you"; Embarrassed by the chaffing the couple "went off like a shot" and Best and Gardner watched them hurry off through the rain towards Commercial Road.

At around 11.45pm, William Marshall, a laborer who lived at number 64 Berner Street, was standing outside his lodgings, when he noticed a man and woman outside number 63.

They both seemed quite sober, and as he watched them began to kiss. Marshall heard the man remark to the woman, "You would say anything but your prayers."

The couple then moved off, heading in the direction of Dutfield's Yard.

Marshall described the man as being middle aged and stout, and had the appearance of a clerk. He was around 5 feet 6 inches tall clean shaven, and respectably dressed. He wore a Small, black, cutaway coat, dark trousers, and a round cap.

Two distinct elements make Stride's murder unique among the canonical five.

First, there were no mutilations to her abdomen in the way that there were on the bodies of the other four victims. Second, the cause of death was not determined to be strangulation, as there were no marks of strangulation on her body.

Initial Investigation

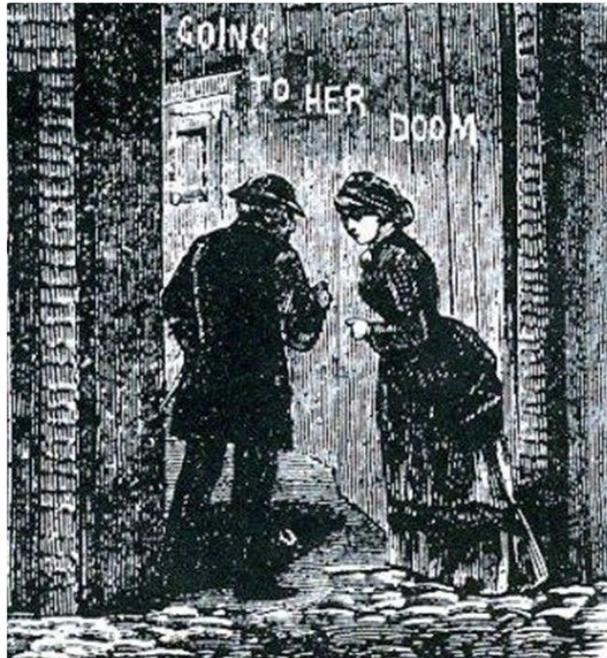
There had been some criticism of how police had handled the Annie Chapman investigation. Men from the medical community, complained that it was a failure to have just used one doctor for the autopsy without getting a second opinion. For that reason, both Dr. Phillips and Dr. Blackwell conducted Elizabeth Stride's autopsy.

Liz was found in possession of two pocket-handkerchiefs, a thimble and a piece of wool attached to a card. A red flower was pinned to the dark jacket she wore. She was also found clutching

a package of cachous, which were used to sweeten the breath. These cachous were still in the package and not scattered around, as they would have been if she had been suddenly knocked to the ground.

Dr. George Phillips and Dr. Frederick Blackwell agreed that the cause of death was blood loss from the left carotid artery due to the wound on her throat. The gash to the throat was consistent with the wounds of the other Ripper victims, including a clean, deep knife wound of about 6 inches that moved from left to right. Some have speculated that it is possible the murder could have been performed with a different knife, specifically a shoemaker's knife, than the previous two. In fact, doctors conceded that this was a possibility; however, it is also possible the same weapon used on Nichols and Chapman was used on Long Liz.

Press illustration depicting Elizabeth Stride 'Going to her Doom'.



Puzzlingly, though, Dr. Phillips and Inspector Reid mentioned in their reports that there was no sign of blood spatter that would indicate she had been killed while standing. In fact, PC Lamb indicated in his testimony that, “She looked as if she had been gently laid down.” Phillips claimed there was no trace of malt liquor, anesthetics, or narcotics in Stride’s stomach. Therefore, drugging or drunkenness cannot account for Stride having gone down without a struggle.

There was a check silk scarf round the neck, the bow of which was turned to the left side and pulled tightly.

There was a clear-cut incision on the neck. It was six inches in length and commenced two and a half inches in a straight line below the angle of the jaw, three quarters of an inch over an undivided muscle, and then, becoming deeper, dividing the sheath. The cut was very clean and deviated a little downwards. The arteries and other vessels contained in the sheath were all cut through. The cut through the tissues on the right side was more superficial, and tailed off to about two inches below the right angle of the jaw. The deep vessels on that side were uninjured. From this it was evident that the hemorrhage was caused through the partial severance of the

THE TIMES, WEDNESDAY,

THE EAST-END MURDERS.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, Coroner for the South-Eastern Division of Middlesex, resumed his adjourned inquiry at the Vestry-hall, Cable-street, St. George's-in-the-East, respecting the death of Elizabeth Stride, who was found murdered in Berner-street, St. George's, on the 30th ult.

Detective-Inspector Reid, H Division, watched the case on behalf of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Detective-Inspector Edmund Reid, recalled, said,—I have examined the books of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, and find therein the entry of the death of John Thomas William Stride, a carpenter, of Poplar. His death took place on the 24th day of October, 1884. Witness then said that he had found Mrs. Watts, who would give evidence.

Constable Walter Stride stated that he recognized the deceased by the photograph as the person who married his uncle, John Thomas Stride, in 1872 or 1873. His uncle was a carpenter, and the last time witness saw him he was living in the East India Dock-road, Poplar.

Elizabeth Stokes, 5, Charles-street, Tottenham, said,—My husband's name is Joseph Stokes, and he is a brickmaker. My first husband's name was Watts, a wine merchant of Bath. Mrs. Mary Malcolm, of 15, Eagle-street, Red Lion-square, Holborn, is my sister. I have received an anonymous letter from Shepton Mallet, saying my first husband is alive. I want to clear my character. My sister I have not seen for years. She has given me a dreadful character. Her evidence is all false. I have five brothers and sisters.

A jurymen.—Perhaps she refers to another sister.

Inspector Reid.—She identified the deceased person as her sister, and said she had a crippled foot. This witness has not been called.

An article announcing the murder of Elizabeth Stride published in The Times. (1888)

left carotid artery and a small bladed knife could have been used.

The day after the murder, a citizen mob formed outside of Berner Street protesting the continuation of the murders and the seemingly slipshod work of the police to catch the Ripper. From here on in, the Ripper is public enemy number one, and Home Office begins to consider offering awards for his capture and arrest.

The Letter

On September 27th, a letter, dubbed the “Dear Boss” letter and also signed “Jack the Ripper”, was received by the Central News Agency. It claimed responsibility for Stride’s and Eddowes’s murders, and described the killing of the two women as the “double event”, a designation which has endured.

Dear Boss

25. Sept. 1888.

I keep on hearing the police have caught me, but they wont fix me just yet. I have laughed when they look so clever and talk about being on the right track. That joke about Leather Apron gave me real fits. I am down on whores and I shant quit ripping them till I do get buckled. Grand work the last job was. I gave the lady no time to squeal. How can they catch me now. I love my work and want to start again. You will soon hear of me with my gunny little games. I saved some of the proper red stuff in a ginger beer bottle over the last job to write with but it went thick like glue and I cant use it. Red ink is fit enough I hope ha ha. The next job I do I shall clip the lady's ears off and send to the

police officers just for jolly wouldnt you. Keep this letter back till I do a bit more work. then give it out straight. My knife's so nice and sharp I want to get to work right away if I get a chance. Good luck.

yours truly

Jack the Ripper

Dont mind me giving the trade name

want good enough
to post this before
I got all the red
ink off my hands
cuse it -
No buds yet. They
say I'm a doctor
now ha ha

(top) The actual 'Dear Boss' letter sent by the Ripper, making history with his words.

(bottom) continued. Back of the same letter signed 'Jack the Ripper' with an addendum to use his 'trade name'.

This letter was initially believed to be just a hoax. But three days later, the double murder of Stride and Eddowes made them reconsider, especially once they learned a portion of the latter's earlobe was found cut off from the body, eerily reminiscent of a promise made within the letter. The police deemed the "Dear Boss" letter important enough to reproduce in newspapers and post-bills of the time, hoping someone would recognize the handwriting and help the investigation.

It was the first time a murderer so blatantly taunted the authorities even going so far as to contact them himself. The moniker 'Leather Apron' was soon dismissed of, to be replaced by the now legendary, 'Jack the Ripper' as was requested by the killer.

The letter was followed by two others, each more arrogantly worded than the last. The instant uproar and

subsequent police furor following these letters is part of what catapulted Jack to the legendary status we know him by today. Never before had a criminal gone so far as to evade the authorities and write back to them about the atrocities committed. His continued procession of brutally slicing his victims continued with renewed fervor after the letters, more so with the added thrill of duping the police.

This method of reaching out to the authorities and openly admitting to his crimes, only to taunt them further was an obvious ploy for attention. The kind of importance bestowed upon the Whitechapel murders by the media on emergence of these letters is also what gave him the extravagant publicity a lot of serial killers aimed for.

The act of baiting authorities after committing a crime is what gives many killers an added thrill to the act. The fact that they have performed an act of such atrocity only to follow it by dangling it in the face of investigative forces elevates the experience in their minds. Bringing forth a perverse satisfaction in evading even the most determined crime sleuths. The additional benefit of instant fame - the kind only media publicity brings to you is what pushes these criminals to continue contacting their very pursuers. The killers we see here forth are people who actively contacted the police about their doings, even keeping a continued correspondence about their criminal dealings for years before being caught. Or even go unsolved. Their behavior and unrepentant reasoning towards these acts is what we study through their letter writing activities. ◇

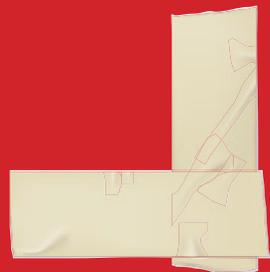
Post mortem photograph of Elizabeth Stride from the London police archives.

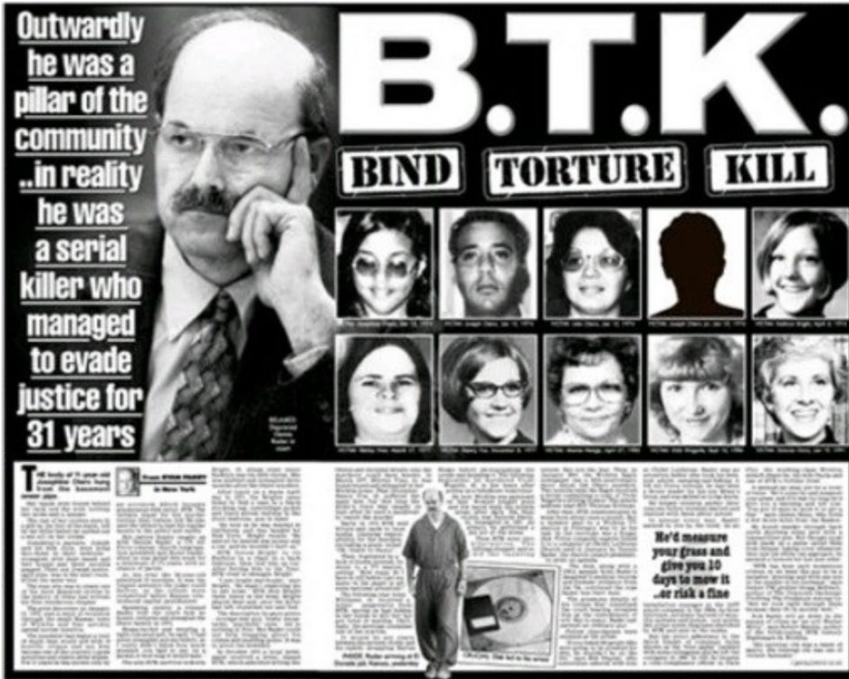




**“ I ACTUALLY THINK I
MAY BE POSSESSED
WITH DEMONS, I WAS
DROPPED ON MY HEAD AS
A KID”**

– DENNIS RADER





Press coverage documenting the criminal career of Dennis Rader.

BIND, TORTURE, KILL AND FLEE

Known as the ‘BTK killer,’ Dennis Rader murdered 10 people in the Wichita, Kansas, area from 1974 to 1991, often leaving clues to taunt authorities through the means of letters.

Dennis Rader seemed to have a normal childhood. But Dennis Rader would later admit that from a very young age, he developed fantasies about the bondage and torture of women. He also admitted to killing and hanging small animals as a child, but he kept this life hidden from everyone

that knew him. All of those close to Rader described him as “normal,” “polite,” and “well-mannered.”

On his first murder January 15, 1974, Rader strangled to death four members of the Otero family in their Wichita home—parents Joseph and Julie, and two of their children, Josephine and Joseph Jr.—before leaving with a watch and a radio. Strangulation and souvenir-taking would become part of his modus operandi, or pattern of behavior. He also left semen at the scene

and later said that he derived sexual pleasure from killing. The Oteros' 15-year-old son, Charlie, came home later that day and discovered the bound bodies.

In October 1974, Rader placed a letter in a public library book in which he took responsibility for killing the Oteros. The letter ended up with a local newspaper, and the poorly written note gave authorities some idea of who they were dealing with. Rader wrote, "It's hard to control myself. You probably call me 'psychotic with sexual perversion hang-up.'" He warned that he would strike again, noting, "*The code words for me will be bind them, torture them, kill them, B.T.K.*" The initials stuck, and the murderer came to be known by variations of the "BTK killer" moniker, or simply "BTK."

Shortly afterward, in January 1978, Rader sent a poem to a local newspaper about the Vian killing. Several weeks later, he sent a letter to

The mask worn by Dennis Rader when he committed his crimes.



a local television station stating that he was responsible for killing Vian, Fox and another unknown victim. Despite his cat-and-mouse game with authorities, Rader was able to keep the lid on his secret, murderous life.

In April 1979, Rader waited in an elderly woman's home, but left before she returned. He sent her a letter to let her know that BTK had been there. In an effort to catch him, the authorities released the 1977 recording of his phone call to police, hoping that someone might recognize the voice.

With many news stories marking the 30th anniversary of the Otero murders, BTK resurfaced in 2004. Rader sent local media outlets and authorities several letters filled with items related to his crimes, including pictures, a word puzzle and an outline for the "BTK Story." He also left packages with clues, including a computer disk that ultimately led authorities to Rader's church. Investigators also noticed his white van on security tapes of some of the

package drop-off areas, and cemented their case by obtaining a DNA sample from Rader's daughter. Rader was arrested on February 25, 2005, and later charged with 10 counts of first-degree murder.

Rader was particularly known for sending taunting letters to police and newspapers. He authored many communications from 1974 to 1979. The first was a letter that had been stashed inside an engineering book in the Wichita Public Library in October 1974 that described, in detail, the killing of the Otero family



Photographs of his victims bound and left for dead clicked by Rader at the peak of his crime spree.

in January of that year. In early 1978, he sent another letter to television station KAKE in Wichita, claiming responsibility for the murders of the Oteros, Kathryn Bright, Shirley Vian and Nancy Fox. He suggested many possible names for himself, including the one that stuck: BTK. He demanded media attention in this second letter, and it was finally announced that Wichita did indeed have a serial killer at large.

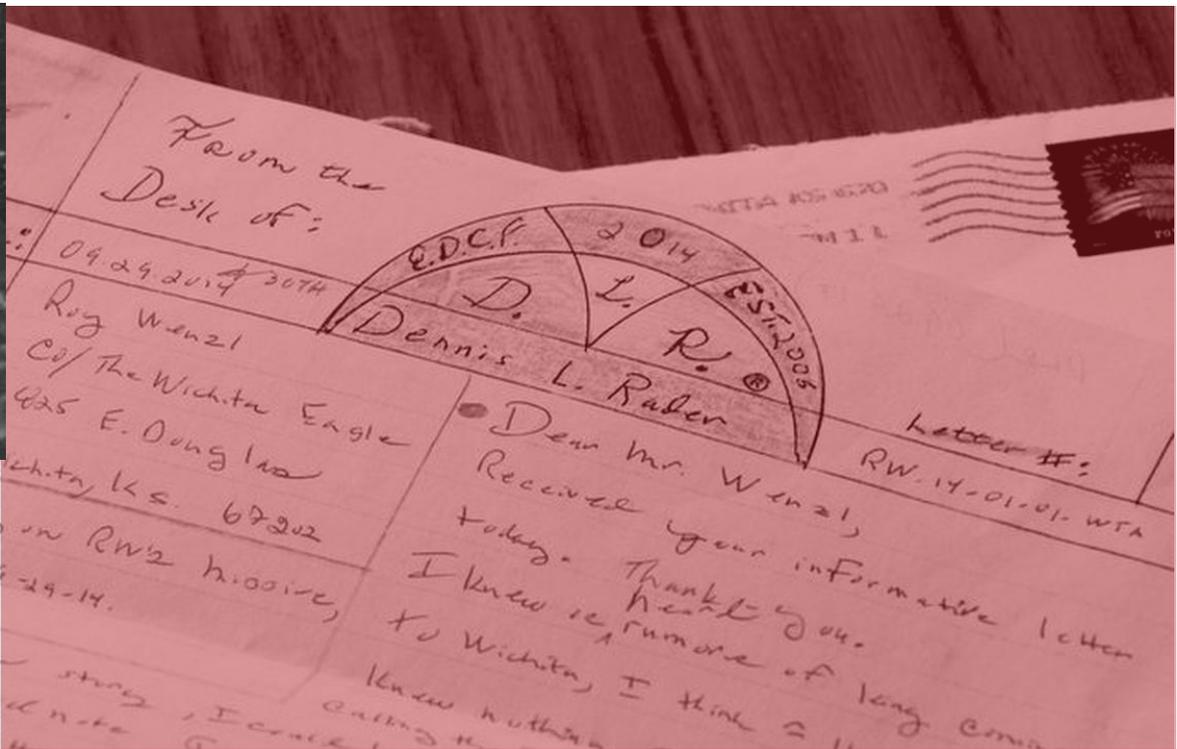
Rader began a series of communications to the local media that led directly to his arrest in February 2005. In March 2004, The

Wichita Eagle received a letter from someone using the return address Bill Thomas Killman. The author of the letter claimed that he had murdered Vicki Wegerle on September 16, 1986, and enclosed photographs of the crime scene and a photocopy of her driver's license, which had been stolen at the time of the crime. Before this, it had not been definitively established that Wegerle was killed by BTK. DNA collected from under Wegerle's fingernails provided police with previously unknown evidence.

Rader had a reasoning behind his killings. One of the unique aspects of

Polaroid image of one of Rader's final victims with his mask lying next to the body.





One of the many letters sent by the BTK Killer, the semi-circle drawing on top was his signature imprint on each of his letters, with the year of writing and his name highlighted in blue and yellow crayons.

Rader's crime spree was his enormous ego; he kept in contact with the press in the 1970s in an effort to spread fear throughout Wichita. In an early letter, he blamed "Factor X" as the motivation behind his murders. Rader fancied himself as an aficionado of serial killers and said that everyone from Jack The Ripper to Ted Bundy to the Son of Sam had the same Factor X that linked them together.

Part of Rader's twisted game was the sexual thrill he got from striking terror. That's why he kept in contact with the press; he enjoyed knowing that he was the reason that fear swept through Wichita in the 1970s. Rader chose his victims carefully, stalking them for days and weeks, learning their movements, their schedule, and then carefully planning his attack. In fact, he stalked many women, and if something didn't work to his advantage, he moved on.

Rader wasn't content to live out his sexual fantasies in the flesh. He also

wanted to relive them by saving the moment through photographing some of his victims.

When discussing the first crime, the Otero murders, Rader casually mentioned that the home was a corner house. By choosing a house with multiple exit points, Rader was facilitating his escape. Rader also worked for the alarm company ADT and had knowledge of how to defeat a home alarm.

The purpose of his communications was both to terrorise the community in which he lived and to make sure that his greatest accomplishments were credited to him.

On February 28, 2005, Rader was charged with 10 counts of first degree murder. He was sentenced to 10 consecutive life sentences, with a minimum of 175 years. He is now in solitary confinement for his protection). ◇



““ I WANT TO REPORT A MURDER... NO, A DOUBLE MURDER. THEY ARE TWO MILES NORTH OF PARK HEADQUARTERS. THEY WERE IN A WHITE VOLKSWAGEN KHARMANN GHIA. I'M THE ONE THAT DID IT.”

– THE ZODIAC KILLER



Official police posters released with the sketch of the Zodiac Killer.

THE ZODIAC ALIGN'S TOWARDS MURDER

The self-proclaimed Zodiac Killer was directly linked to at least five murders in Northern California in 1968 and 1969 and may have been responsible for more. He taunted police and made

threats through letters sent to area newspapers from 1969 to 1974, before abruptly ceasing communication. Despite intensive investigations, he was never caught and the case remains open.

Nothing definitive is known about the Zodiac's background since he was never caught. The most prevalent theories that exist are that the killer may have had a Naval background, and may possibly have been British, due to his uncommon grammar and spelling styles.

The first killings occurred on Dec. 20, 1968, in Vallejo, California. The two teen victims were shot and killed while sitting in a parked car in a gravel parking area. The next crime occurred on July 4, 1969, only a few minutes away from the first killings. The killer approached a parked car with a flashlight and shot the two passengers before walking away and coming back to shoot them again. One of the victims, Michael Mageau, survived and was able to give a description of the killer.

One of the many Zodiac letters propagating the usage of the Zodiac Symbol buttons.

This is the Zodiac speaking

Being that you will not wear some nice ~~♠~~ buttons, how about wearing some nasty ~~♠~~ buttons. On any type of ~~♠~~ buttons that you can think up. If you do not wear any type of ~~♠~~ buttons I shall (on top of every thing else) torture all 13 of my slaves that I have waiting for me in Paradise. Some I shall tie over-ant hills and watch them scream + twic and squirm. Others shall have pine splinters driven under their nails + then burned. Others shall be placed in cages + fed salt beef untill they are gorged then I shall listen to their pleas for water- and I shall laugh at them. Others will hang by their thumbs + burn in the sun then I will rub them down with deep heat to warm

A few weeks later, the San Francisco Chronicle, the San Francisco Examiner, and the Vallejo Times-Herald all received identical handwritten letters from someone claiming to be the killer. The letters gave details of the ammunition used and the wounds and positions of the victims, information which had never been officially released. The letters were signed with a symbol of a circle overlaid/intersected by a cross. Each letter also had a separate sheet, with a message of 360 characters, printed in cipher, in which the author of the letter claimed his identity was hidden. Each editor received only a third of the message.

"The message:

"Dear Editor, I am the killer of the 2 teenagers at Christmas at Lake Herman and the Girl last 4th of July. To prove this I shall state some facts which only I & police know. Christmas

1. Brand name of ammo Super-X
 2. 10 shots fired
 3. Boy was on back, feet to car
 4. Girl was lying on right side, feet to West
- 4th of July
Girl was wearing patterned pants
Boy was also shot in the knee
Brand name of ammo was Western."

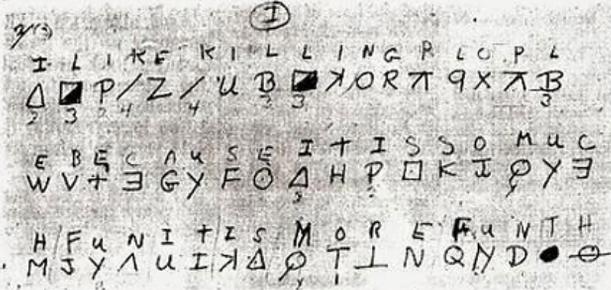
The letters contained details from the Zodiac killer's murders that only the killer could have known. The letters contained the demand to be printed on the front page of the newspaper, with the threat of further killings the next weekend if this was not heeded. The weekend killing spree did not take place and the letters were

A 'Murder Code' Broken

A Salinas high school teacher who is an amateur cryptographer said yesterday he has broken the cipher sent to three Bay Area newspapers by someone claiming to have committed three Vallejo murders.

The unsigned letters to the editors of The Chronicle, the Vallejo Times-Herald and the Examiner said the writer had killed two Vallejo teenagers last December and a young woman on July 4.

Donald G. Harden, a history and economics teacher at North Salinas High School,



Salinas cryptographer's solution is written above each code-line

Newspaper report detailing the cracked cipher by Donald and Betty Harden.

eventually printed, in the hope that they may help the police investigation of the murders. Each letter closed with a symbol consisting of a circle with a cross through it, in what would come to be known as the Zodiac killer's symbol.

Police departments, with the support of the FBI, worked feverishly to track down the killer; another letter soon arrived at the San Francisco Examiner. Beginning, "Dear Editor: This is the Zodiac speaking," it also described the murders in detail and taunted police for not having been able to crack his code or catch him.

The Zodiac is known to have sent many cryptographic and puzzling letters to not only the SFPD but the press as well.

In these letters, the Zodiac made his intentions and wishes known. In some, he would include odd drawings, mosaics of photos, and astrological charts. One letter includes a cipher with which the police could use to discover his identity. They were unsuccessful in accurately translating any of his letters.

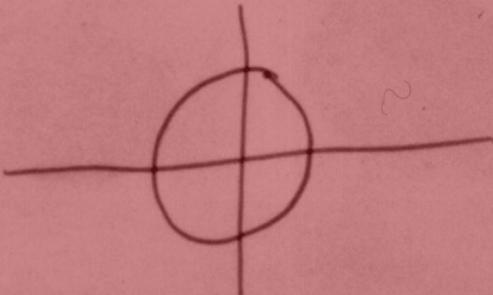
Californian code experts, Donald and Betty Harden, cracked the code, except for the last string of 18 letters,

on 8 August 1969, a week after the cipher had been sent with the first letters. Disappointingly, the cipher did not contain the Zodiac's identity, as he had promised, but instead, an explanation of why he killed. The de-coded cipher read (presented with original misspellings) :

*"I LIKE KILLING PEOPLE
BECAUSE IT IS SO MUCH FUN
IT IS MORE FUN THAN KILLING
WILD GAME IN THE FORREST
BECAUSE MAN IS THE MOST
DANGEROUS ANIMAL OF ALL TO
KILL SOMETHING GIVES ME THE
MOST THRILLING EXPERIENCE IT
IS EVEN BETTER THAN GETTING
YOUR ROCKS OFF WITH A GIRL
THE BEST PART OF IT IS THAT
WHEN I DIE I WILL BE REBORN IN
PARADISE AND ALL THE I HAVE
KILLED WILL BECOME MY SLAVES
I WILL NOT GIVE YOU MY NAME
BECAUSE YOU WILL TRY TO SLOI
DOWN OR STOP MY COLLECTING
OF SLAVES FOR MY AFTERLIFE
EBEORIETEMETHHPITI."*

On 20 April 1970, the Chronicle newspaper received a letter, which included a 13-character piece of code as well as the plans for a bus bomb. It began "This is the Zodiac speaking.

H E R > 9 J A V P K I O L T G O O
 N 9 + B O O D W Y < K F O
 B X E O M + u z G W O O L O H J
 S 9 9 A A J A V O 9 O + + R K O
 O A M + O L T O I O F P + P O K /
 9 A R A F J O - O C F > O D O
 O O + K O O E O U O X G V O O L I
 O O O J F T O O + O N Y O + O L A
 O < M + B + Z R O F B O Y A O O K
 - O J U V + A J + O 9 A < F B Y -
 U + R / O L E I D Y B 9 B T M K O
 O < O J R J I O O T O M + P B F
 O O A S Y O + N I O F B O O E I A R
 J G F N A F O O O B O O V O L + +
 Y B X O O E O A C E > V U Z O - +
 I O O O B K O O 9 A O F M O O O
 R O T + L O O C < + F J W B I O L
 + + O W C O W O P O S H T / O O 9
 I F X O W < A L B O Y O B O - C O
 > M D H N 9 K S O Z O A I K E +



COOP-SFPD
 1596-78
 7-14-78 GWE
 7-17-78

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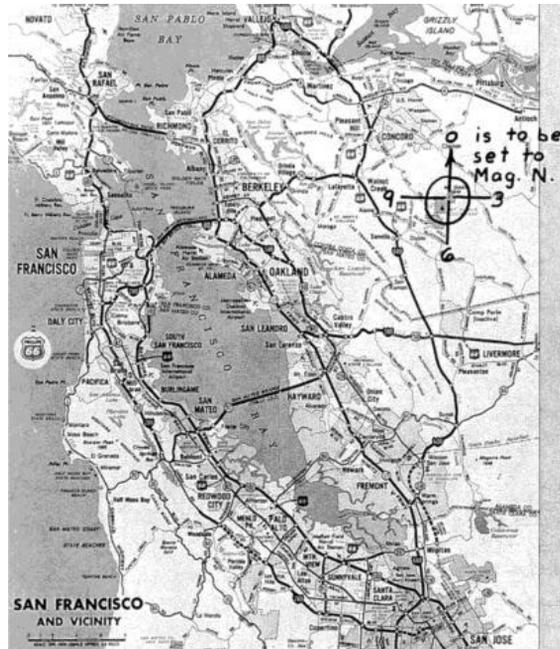




(above) One of Zodiac's earliest victims as was found by the police.

(right) The map drawn by the Zodiac indicating the location of the murders.

(left) One of the full-length ciphered letters received by the police, displayed in the FBI archives.



By the way have you cracked the last cipher I sent you? My name is --“ followed by a 13-character code, and was signed off with the crossed-circle symbol. In the letter, the Zodiac claimed to have killed 10 people to date. The name was never successfully decoded by the police and his identity remains unknown.

The Zodiac Killer has successfully evaded capture till date and multiple theories exist as to his identity and current whereabouts. In April 2004, the SFPD marked the case “inactive”, citing caseload pressure and resource demands, effectively closing the case. However, they re-opened their case sometime before March 2007. ◇

““ ONE THING IS CERTAIN
AND THAT IS THAT
SOME OF YOUR
PEOPLE WHO DO NOT JAZZ
IT ON TUESDAY NIGHT
WILL GET THE AXE.”

***– THE AXEMAN OF
NEW ORLEANS***



THE MYSTERIOUS AXMAN'S JAZZ

(DON'T SCARE ME PAPA)

By JOSEPH JOHN DAVILLA
Author of the Noted Sophie Tucker
Coon Novelty Song
'Give Me Back My Husband, You've
Had Him Long Enough', Etc.



Press illustration depicting the night of jazz induced terror.

PLAY JAZZ OR BE KILLED: THE AXEMAN'S WARNING

The fear in the air in New Orleans in 1918 and 1919 was the result of a nameless, faceless killer known only as the Axeman. The Axeman attacked victims at night, often in their homes, and always disappeared without a trace. Locals lived in a state of constant anxiety as the Axeman struck again and again, the body count in his wake always rising.

Beginning in May 1918 and lasting through October 1919, a series of horrific assaults and murders engulfed the New Orleans metropolitan area, the obvious work of a serial killer. These crimes were never solved, and they stopped as mysteriously as they had started. The murders became infamous not only for their blood-spattered violence but also for the bizarre modus

operandi of the perpetrator. Each of the 'canonical' victims was Italian, and either a grocer or a baker. Family members were sometimes not spared; men, women, and even small children were mercilessly slaughtered, a most unusual behavior for a serial killer.

Like Jack the Ripper 30 years earlier and the Cleveland Torso Killer 15 years later, this unknown criminal had several nicknames - the Boogeyman, the Axeman of New Orleans, or simply and most commonly, the Axeman (or Axman). But, unlike Jack the Ripper and the Cleveland Torso Killer, the Axeman would leave behind some survivors of his attacks, some eyewitnesses to his crimes, and all of his implements of murder. But for all that, he was never officially identified, much less apprehended.

It all began on May 23, 1918, when an Italian grocer named Joseph Maggio and his wife were butchered while sleeping above their store. The police discovered that a panel in the rear door had been chiseled out, providing an entry point for the killer. The murder weapon, an axe belonging to the Maggios, was found in their bathtub. Nothing had been stolen, including jewelry and money that were in plain sight.

Most eyewitnesses later described the Axeman as a tall, dark-skinned, heavy-set man. After entering, he would then attack his victims in their sleep and bludgeon them with an axe. Curiously, the weapons he employed (axes, but upon occasion also knives and straight razors) were always abstracted from the houses he entered, and they were always left behind at or

near the scenes of the crimes along with the chisels that he had used for removing the panels from the doors. So far as is known, he never robbed any of his victims.

In March of 1919, the Axeman revealed himself as much as he ever would. A letter received by the New Orleans Times-Picayune newspaper, purportedly from the Axeman, revealed that he loved jazz music and thus would spare anyone who played jazz through the night of Tuesday, March 18.

The citizens of metropolitan New Orleans did their best to follow the Axeman's instructions to the letter. That night, every club in town stayed open, playing jazz tunes in morbid terror. As promised, no one playing jazz that night died at the hands of the Axeman.

The Axeman went silent for several months. New Orleans residents breathed a collective sigh of relief,

Newspaper clipping detailing the Axeman's gruesome murder spree.

The 'Axman's' Victims

Miss Sarah Laumann, 2123 Second street: August 3, 1919.

Charles Cortimiglia and wife and their two-year old daughter, Mary, Gretna, La.: March 9, 1919.

Joseph Romano, Tonti and Gravier: August 10, 1918.

Louis Besumer and Annie Harriet Lowe, Dorgenois and Labarpe streets: June 27, 1918.

Joseph Maggio and wife, Upperline and Magnolia streets: May 23, 1918.

Epitano Andollina and two sons, 8301 Apple street: December 22, 1917.

Tony Sciambria and wife, three and one-half years ago.

Joseph Davis and wife, four years ago.



A police photograph showing of one of Axeman's victims found slaughtered in his home.

hoping that the reign of terror was over. Those hopes were thrown to the wayside when the Axeman went on a rampage from March to October, 1919. During that seven-month period, the Axeman attacked six more people, killing three – including a two-year-old girl.

Three days after he resumed his attacks, on March 13, 1919, the Axeman sent a letter to New Orleans newspapers. In it, the killer said he would never be caught. He also wrote:

'I shall leave no clue except my bloody axe, besmeared with blood and brains of he whom I have sent below to keep me company.'

There have been a few suspects in the Axeman murders, but none panned out. The identity of the killer remains a puzzling mystery. Many of the victims were Italian-American, leading some to believe that the Mafia may have been involved, but that theory has never been proven either.

The Axeman was not caught or identified, and his crime spree stopped as mysteriously as it had started. The murderer's identity remains unknown to this day, although various possible identifications of varying plausibility have been proposed. ♦

CATHERINE EDDOWES

THE RETURN

31 August 1888

30th September 1888

8th September 1888

30th September 1888

A recurring nightmare

At 8:30 PM on Saturday 29 September, City PC Louis Robinson saw a crowd gathered around 29 Aldgate Street. Approaching to see what all the commotion was about, he saw a woman lying in a heap in the center of the group of people.

"I asked if there was one that knew her or knew where she lived," he reported, "but I got no answer."

Finding the crowd silent and Robinson enlisted the help of City PC George Simmons in getting her to her feet and dragging her to Bishopsgate Police Station.

Sergeant James Byfield was registering inmates when Simmons and Robinson brought the woman into the station around 8:45 PM. When Byfield asked her name, she replied, "Nothing." Five minutes later, she was placed in a cell, where she passed out.

An hour later, the City Police constables assigned to the night shift headed out through the gates of Bishopsgate Station to walk their beats. This included City PC Edward Watkins, whose fifteen-minute loop took him through Mitre Square, and City PC James Harvey, whose route passed by Mitre Square as well.

At 12:15 AM, PC George Hutt heard the woman who was brought in earlier calling out, asking when she would be released.

"When you are capable of taking care of yourself," replied Hutt.

"I can do that now," she said.

Several minutes later, she was finishing being processed, and amended her earlier registry of "Nothing" to Mary Ann Kelly of 6 Fashion Street. It was more believable, but still an alias. Her real name was Catherine Eddowes, sometimes called



Bishopsgate Polics Station.

Kate Kelly. She was ready to be released by 1 am.

"What time is it?" She asked Hutt.

"Too late for you to get anything to drink," he replied.

She exited in the opposite direction of where her actual nightly residence had been, the Cooney's Lodging House located at Flower and Dean Street. Instead she headed back toward Aldgate High Street, where Robinson had discovered her earlier.

At about 1:30 am, Joseph Lawende, a commercial traveller, Joseph Hyam Levy, a butcher, and Harry Harris, a furniture dealer were walking nearby. They were heading down 16-17 Duke Street from the Imperial Club. The three passed by a couple walking in the opposite direction. Harris did not notice them at all, and Levy took little note of them other than the fact that they were both rather shabby looking.

Lawende, however, had the best memory of the couple's appearance of all. While he didn't see the woman's face, he was later able to recognize her clothing. He went on

to describe the man as looking to be about 30 years old, five foot seven inches tall, with a mustache, wearing a loose-fitting salt and pepper jacket and a red handkerchief around his neck. Lawende was the last person, besides her killer, to lay eyes on Catherine Eddowes while she still lived.

Mitre Square was a ten-minute walk from Bishopsgate Station. Eddowes was discovered murdered there at 1:45 am by PC Watkins.

At 2 AM, Dr. Frederick Gordon Brown arrived at Mitre Square to perform the on-site post mortem, later continuing the autopsy at the Golden Lane mortuary twelve hours later. Of all the Ripper victims up until this point, Catherine Eddowes' body had the greatest amount of damage done.

Her throat was cut in the same manner, about six or seven inches from left to right. The large

vessels on the left side of the neck were severed. Her intestines were also placed over her right shoulder, and had been nicked, releasing smeared fecal matter upon the space behind her shoulder. About two feet of intestine had been detached from the body and placed between Eddowes' body and left arm. Whereas the previous disemboweled victims had fairly straight and organized cuts to their abdomens, Eddowes had been cut in a more jagged and erratic manner.

Mitre Street, the location where Eddowes body was found.



FINDING THE MUTILATED BODY IN MITRE SQUARE

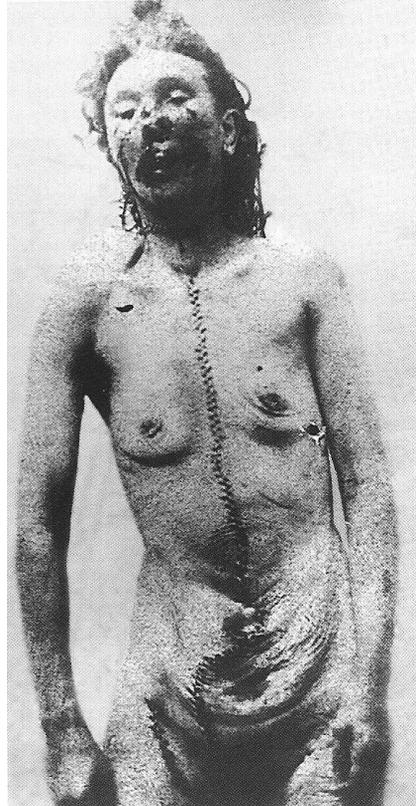
Kate was also the first to have her face mutilated by the Ripper. A triangular flap was peeled from the skin of each cheek, with tips pointing toward the eyes that some have said look like arrows. There were also cuts made to her eyelids, including one that was about an inch and a half long to the left eye.

Upon examining her internal organs, Brown found that Eddowes' right kidney was pale, or as he described: "bloodless with slight congestion of the base of the pyramids." This was a sign that she suffered from Bright's disease. The left kidney had been removed, and could not be found in or around the body. The uterus had been cut horizontally and had been removed all but for a quarter of an inch-sized stump left.

Initial Investigation

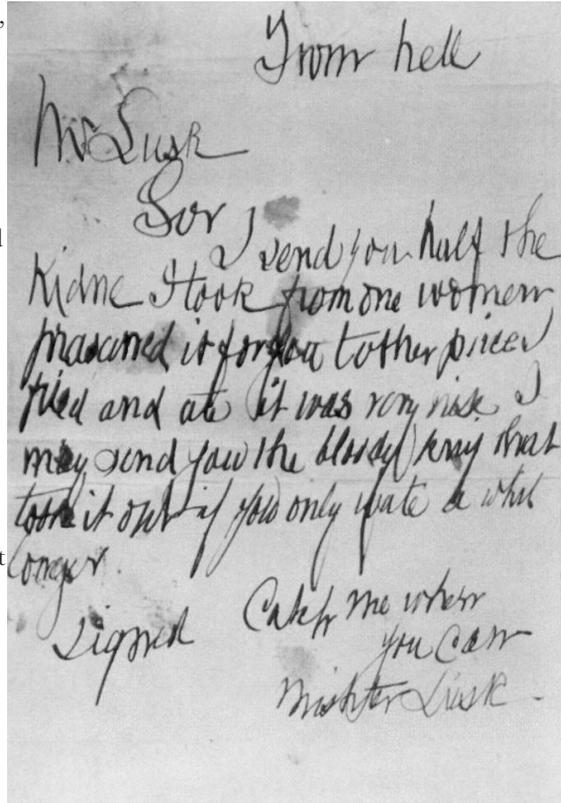
Brown made several summarizing comments at the conclusion of his post-mortem exam. Among these, was that the murder was the work of one person, and that this person had severed Eddowes' throat so suddenly that there was no way she could have cried out. He also stated that whoever had removed Eddowes' kidney must have had some knowledge of where the kidney was located to be able to so quickly remove it in the dark, whether that meant he was a medical man or a slaughterhouse worker. Brown asserted that he had no idea what reason someone would have to take any of the body parts away.

The kidney, however, would come into play later on in the form of a package sent to George Lusk, head of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee (a neighborhood watch group) on October 16th, 1888. What appeared to be a human kidney that had been preserved in spirits was sent to



(top and bottom) Mortuary photographs of Catherine Eddowes' mutilated body.

On 1 October, a postcard, dubbed the “Saucy Jack” postcard and signed “Jack the Ripper”, was received by the Central News Agency. It claimed responsibility for Stride’s and Eddowes’ murders, and described the killing of the two women as the “double event”, a designation which has endured. It has been argued that the postcard was mailed before the murders were publicised, making it unlikely that a crank would have such knowledge of the crime, but it was postmarked more than 24 hours after the killings took place, long after details were known by journalists and residents of the area. Police officials later claimed to have



identified a journalist as the author of the postcard, and dismissed it as a hoax, an assessment shared by most Ripper historians.

On 16 October 1888 a parcel containing half a human kidney accompanied by a note was received by George Lusk, Chairman of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee. The note has become known as the “Lusk letter” or the “From hell” letter, because of a phrase “from hell” used by the writer, who claimed to have “fried and ate” the missing kidney half. The handwriting and style were unlike that of the “Saucy Jacky” postcard. The kidney was taken to Dr Thomas Horrocks Openshaw at the nearby London Hospital. He believed that the kidney was human, from the left side, and preserved in spirit. The Daily Telegraph reported on 19 October that he said it was a recent “ginny

kidney” from a 45-year-old female, but in the Star newspaper the same day Openshaw denied the report strongly, saying it was impossible to tell its age or gender, or how long it had been preserved in spirits. Major Smith claimed in his memoirs that the sent kidney matched the one missing from Eddowes.

The Return

Apart from the sheer brutality displayed in the murder of Catherine Eddowes, what makes this crime even more terrifying is the confidence with which it was executed. The return of Jack, committing two homicides in a single night shows how entirely sure he was in his abilities and his immunity against the police.

The infamous ‘From Hell’ letter, the last one sent by Jack the Ripper.

Lusk as an accompaniment to the notorious “From Hell” letter. Major Smith claimed later on that the kidney had shown signs of Bright’s disease, but Metropolitan Police memos at the time denied this and said that the kidney could have come from somewhere else.

Metropolitan Police and the City of London police joined together for the murder inquiry, and found some evidence in the surrounding area of the path that the Ripper may have taken. For example, at 3 am, soon after Brown came to examine Eddowes’ body, there was a piece of fabric covered with blood and fecal matter lying in a passageway near Goulston Street in Whitechapel. This fabric was found to match a part missing from Eddowes’ own apron, seeming to imply that after the murder, the Ripper had headed back into Whitechapel. Goulston Street was only about a 15-minute walk from Mitre Square.

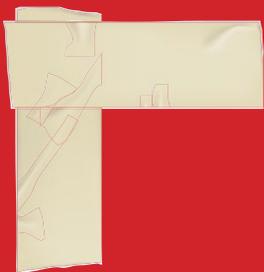
Another puzzling piece of evidence was a graffito found above the place where the soiled fabric was found. Written in chalk, it said, “The Jewes are the men that Will not be Blamed for nothing”. Not knowing whether or not this was related to the murder, and afraid that this might incite anti-Jewish rioting and violence, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Charles Warren demanded that it be washed away before morning.

The return of the Ripper also depicts his increased bloodlust in the act of murder. As noted previously, Jack was interrupted during the murder of Elizabeth Stride, causing him to flee early and leave the body in an incomplete state of dissection. Many believe this is the reason he returned to kill Catherine Eddowes the very same night, mainly to satiate the mania which drove him to kill.

The ‘Dear Boss’ letter intimated to a brutal, merciless crime with the promise of an ear as a souvenir. To exact his promise, Jack is seen to have spent an exceptional amount of time dismembering Eddowes and slicing off part of her ear for proof of identity.

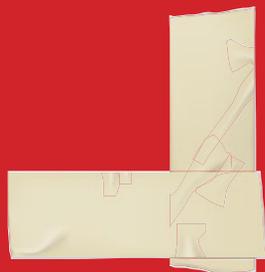
The crime and its deliberate execution shows how confident Jack was in his ability to not get caught. All the while spending hours in precisely slaughtering the body for his pleasure.

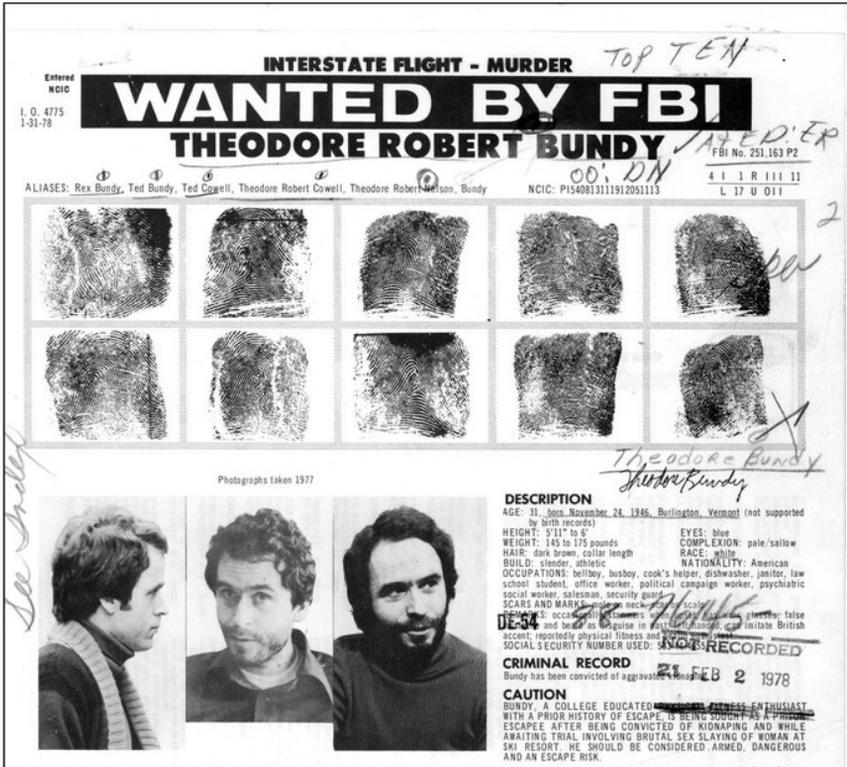
The mark of a serial killer completely giving in to this need for murder, oftentimes returning to the site of murder multiple times in one night showcases how consumed he is by this lust for blood. The absence of fear of capture or discovery highlights how driven they are by the sheer need to kill. A man’s return signifies the loss of his humanity in it’s entirety. For when he is so oblivious to the repercussions to his own actions as to embark on such a crazed spree all in one night, he is truly given in to the call for murder. ◊



**““ YOU FEEL THE LAST
BIT OF BREATH
LEAVING THEIR BODY.
YOU’RE LOOKING INTO
THEIR EYES. A PERSON IN
THAT SITUATION IS GOD!”**

- TED BUNDY





Official FBI poster asking for the arrest of Ted Bundy.

SERIAL RAPIST TURNED MURDERER ON THE LOOSE

American serial killer and rapist Ted Bundy was one of the most notorious criminals of the late 20th century. Theodore Robert Bundy (born Theodore Robert Cowell; November 24, 1946 – January 24, 1989) was an American serial killer, kidnapper, rapist, burglar, and necrophile who assaulted and murdered numerous young women and girls during the 1970s and

possibly earlier. Shortly before his execution and after more than a decade of denials, he confessed to 30 homicides that he committed in seven states between 1974 and 1978. The true victim count will forever be unknown and could be much higher than the number to which Bundy confessed. Many of Bundy's young female victims regarded him as handsome and charismatic,

which were traits that he exploited to win their trust. He would typically approach them in public places, feigning injury or disability, or impersonating an authority figure, before overpowering and assaulting them at more secluded locations. He sometimes revisited his secondary crime scenes for hours at a time, grooming and performing sexual acts with the decomposing corpses until putrefaction and destruction by wild animals made further interaction impossible. He decapitated at least 12 of his victims, and for a period of time, he kept some of the severed heads as mementos in his apartment. On a few occasions, he simply broke into dwellings at night and bludgeoned his victims as they slept.

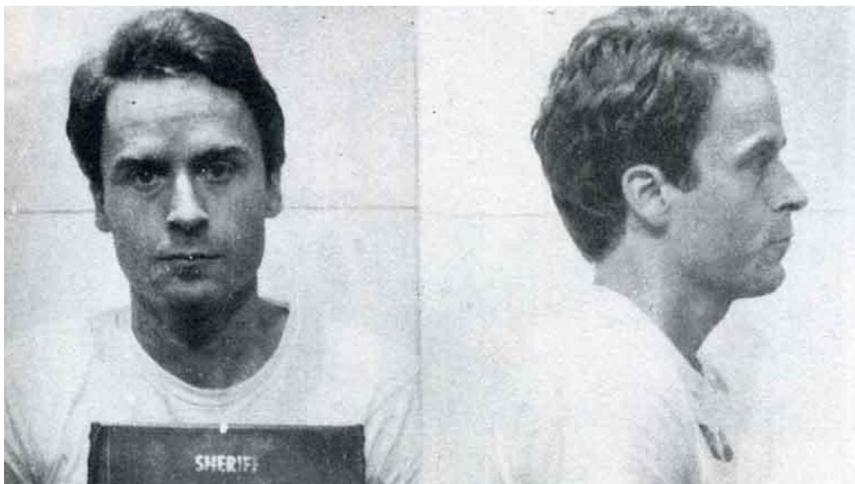
On January 4, 1974, Bundy first attempted murder. He broke into the basement bedroom of a female student at the University of Washington, bludgeoned her in her sleep and sexually assaulted her. She survived but suffered permanent brain damage. Over the following four months, he killed three students; another from the University of Washington on January 31, one from

Evergreen State College on March 12 and one from Central Washington State College on April 17. After more abductions and murders, the authorities became aware that the same man, who a number of witnesses had said called himself “Ted”, was responsible for the disappearances. Among the people who reported Bundy as a potential suspect were his ex-girlfriend, one of his psychology professors, and Ann Rule. Because of his reputation as a clean-shaven and well-mannered student, the police paid no attention to their tips.

The next semester, 1975, he killed four more women, three of which were taken in Colorado. The fourth was 13-year old Lynette Culver, who was abducted from a school playground in Pocatello, Idaho, taken to a hotel room, and raped and drowned in a bathtub. As with a number of Bundy’s victims, her body was never found. He killed another girl, 15-year old Susan Curtis, during his summer break.

On August 16, he was pulled over when he wouldn’t stop for a police officer. Inside his car, the officer found balaclavas, gloves, a crowbar,

Mugshots of Ted Bundy released post his 1975 capture.





(bottom) Photographs documenting all known victims of Ted Bundy.



(top) Newspaper clipping alerting young women of Bundy's many disguises.

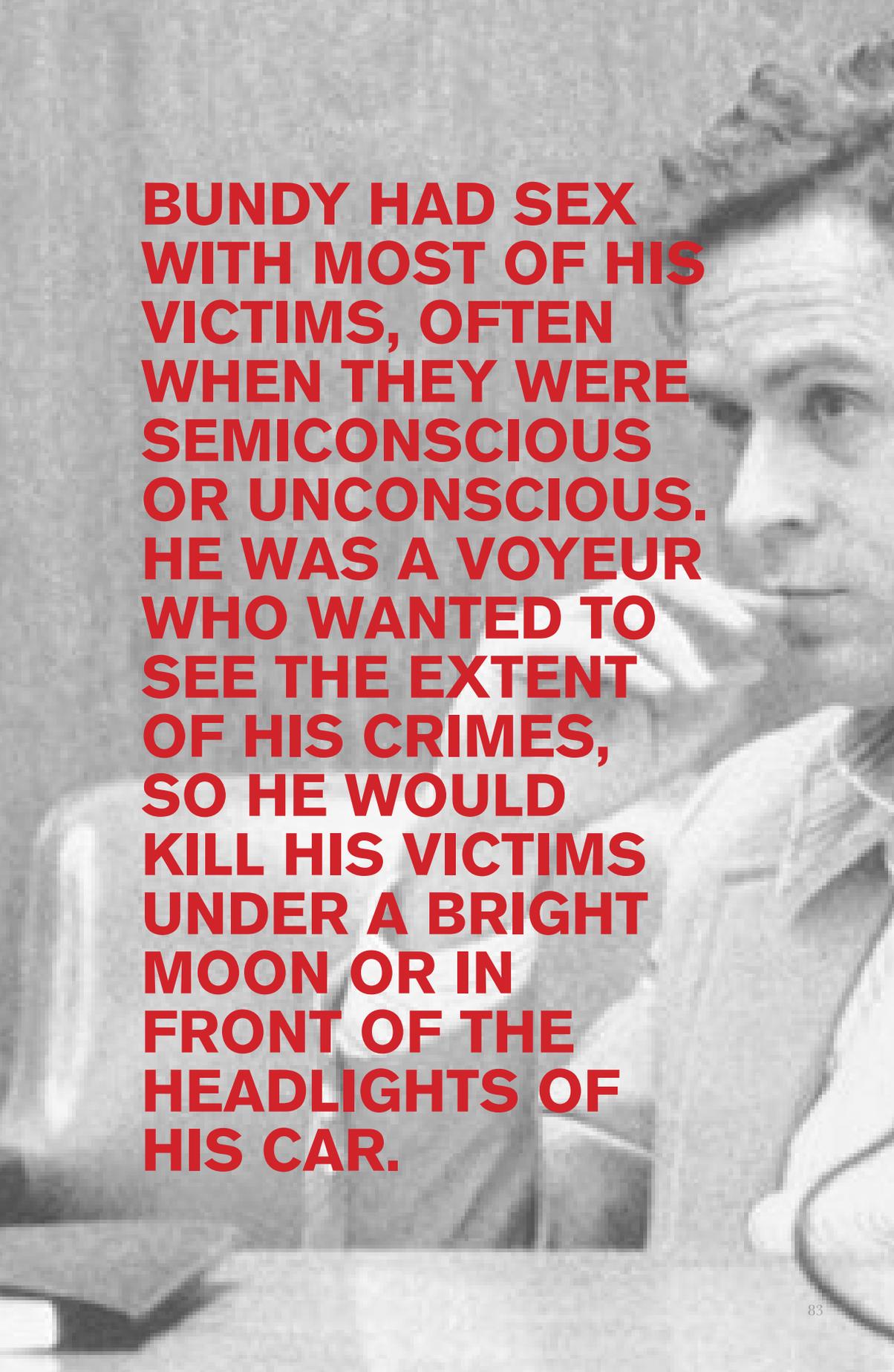
handcuffs, and other items he suspected to be burglary tools.

In 1975, the maniac was arrested for kidnapping Carol DaRonch, one of the few who survived his attacks, and sentenced to up to 15 years behind bars but he later escaped.

In January 1978, he broke into the Chi Omega sorority at Florida State University and killed his four of among his final victims.

There were signs Bundy had a dark side at an early age; he was interested in knives as a kid, and as a teenager he would look into strangers' windows and stole whatever he wanted. He was shy and became the target of bullies. He would tell his victims he was injured and asked for help, luring them to his car. He would apparently follow a very specific plan before ever approaching a victim, so he knew how he would dispose of their bodies and get rid of evidence. Bundy had sex with most of his victims, often when they were semiconscious or unconscious. He was a voyeur who wanted to see the extent of his crimes, so he would kill his victims under a bright moon or in front of the headlights of his car.

His facial features were also "unremarkable". This allowed him to completely change his appearance with only minor adjustments; a mustache, different hairstyle, a hat, etc. He would even disguise himself as a



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police officer or a firefighter to gain his victim's trust. Sometimes, Bundy would use a fake cast, have his arm in a sling, or use crutches to play on a potential victim's sympathy. They were then struck in the head with a crowbar, shoved into his car, and forced to wear handcuffs.

Bundy would often visit his victims, whom he dumped at a site in Taylor Mountain. He admitted to applying makeup to the corpses, having sex with them, and would lie with them for hours afterward. He also dressed them in clothes that they never wore and apply nail polish that their families had never seen them use. Bundy also kept a collection of photos of his victims that he took with a Polaroid camera as a way of remembering the crimes. Bundy decapitated at least 12 of his victims and kept some of their heads as mementos of his vile acts.

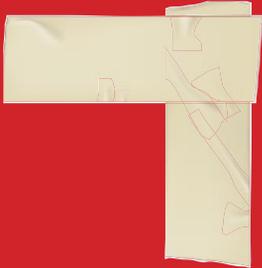
Bundy escaped police custody twice. In June 1977, he was attending a hearing after he was charged with killing a nursing student in Aspen, Colorado. He was left alone at one point, the FBI notes, and he escaped through a second-story window. FBI agents offered a \$100,000 reward for his capture, and he was brought back behind bars within a few days.

But the most infamous escape came next. On New Year's Eve in 1977, he made a hole in the ceiling of his cell, having lost 30 pounds to fit through it, and snuck out through the jailer's office with none the wiser.

Ted Bundy was executed on January 24, 1989, when he was 42-years-old. There was a "circus atmosphere" outside the prison, according to journalist Jon Word. Hundreds of people sang, danced and set off fireworks in across the street from the prison as the execution was carried out via the electric chair. ◇

Photograph of Louise Bundy speaking to her serial killer son Ted Bundy minutes before was executed. She is reported to have said, "You will always be my precious son." to him over the phone. He was executed minutes later.





**““A CLOWN CAN GET AWAY
WITH MURDER.”**

- JOHN WAYNE GACY





Mugshots from the police archive post arrest of John Wayne Gacy.

KILLER CLOWN ON THE PROWL

John Wayne Gacy was born in 1942 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Also known as “The Killer Clown” and “Pogo the Clown,” this sadistic charmer enjoyed a hobby of entertaining the city’s children in a clown suit. However, he had a much deeper and unspeakably sinister disguise. Using his gregarious personality, he lured dozens of young males to his home to torture, rape, and kill them. He lured his victims with the promise of construction work, and then captured, sexually assaulted and eventually strangled most of them.

In Chicago, Gacy founded a successful construction business, attended church, re-married, and volunteered

as the Democratic Precinct Captain in his area. During this time he threw elaborate block parties and built a solid reputation in his community. Gacy was respected and admired by friends, neighbors, and police officers.

Gacy suffered alienation at school, unable to play with other children due to a congenital heart condition that was looked upon by his father as another failing. He later realized he was attracted to men, and experienced great turmoil over his sexuality.

With 33 confirmed murders, he is famous only for his chilling acts of brutality that have made him one of the most prolific and disturbing serial killers in American

history. He was sentenced to serve 12 death sentences and 21 natural life sentences in total.

All of Gacy's known murders were committed inside his Norwood Park ranch house. His victims were typically induced to his address by force or deception, and all but one of his victims were murdered by either asphyxiation or strangulation with a makeshift tourniquet; his first victim was stabbed to death. Gacy buried 29 of his victims in the crawl space of his home. Three other victims were buried elsewhere on his property, while the bodies of his last four known victims were discarded in the Des Plaines River.

The number of murders Gacy committed started to increase. He discovered various ways in which he could hide and dispose of his victim's corpses. The most common disposable area was found in the crawl space underneath his house. Various reports say that 29 bodies were found buried underneath the crawl space.

In 1968, Gacy was convicted of sexually assaulting two teen boys and given a 10-year prison sentence. He was released on parole in the summer of 1970, but was arrested again the following year after another teen accused Gacy of sexual assault. The charges were dropped when the boy didn't appear during the trial.

During July 1975, a teenager who worked for Gacy disappeared. His parent's pleaded with Chicago police officers to investigate Gacy, but they never did. This would not be the last time worried parents asked officials to review Gacy as a suspect, but the pleas fell on deaf ears. In 1976, Gacy divorced for

a second time, and it seemed to give him a feeling of personal freedom. Unknown to anyone else at the time, Gacy began to rape and kill young men at will in this newfound freedom.

A young man went to the Chicago police for help in 1977, claiming that he had been kidnapped and molested by John Wayne Gacy. A report was made, but officers failed to follow up on it. The following year, Gacy murdered a 15-year-old boy who had gone to Gacy's home to ask about a job with his construction company. This time, the Des Plaines police got involved and searched Gacy's home. They found a class ring, clothing for much smaller individuals, and other suspicious items. Upon further investigation, officers discovered that the ring belonged to a teenage boy

Gacy as "Pogo the Clown". He stated that acting as a clown allowed him to "regress into childhood"



who was missing. Over a period of just a few years, he murdered 33 people.

The Killer Clown's first murder took place on January 2, 1972. The 15-year-old victim's name was Timothy Jack McCoy. Gacy had met him outside the city's Greyhound bus terminal in downtown Chicago. After giving the boy a tour of the city, Gacy offered him a safe space to sleep overnight with the guarantee that he would return the boy in time to catch his bus. McCoy was in the process of cooking eggs and cutting a slab of bacon when he went to wake his host. The slumbering man rose to the sight of McCoy still holding the kitchen knife. With a violent reaction, he wrestled the knife from McCoy's hand and slammed his head against the bedroom wall. He kicked the boy and then stabbed him twice in the chest, killing him. Gacy later claimed that the fact that the murder resulted in an orgasm triggered the association in

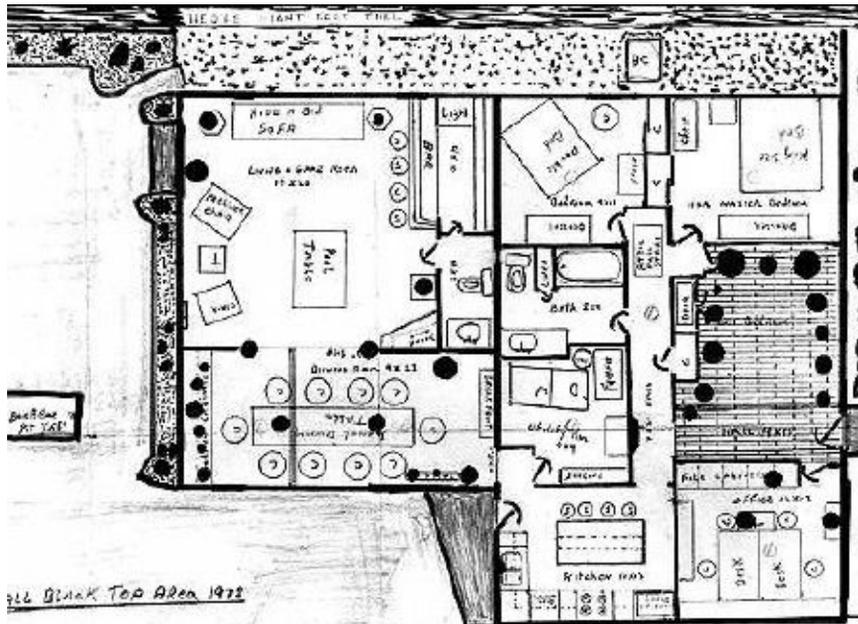
his mind between murder and ecstasy. Police later found McCoy's body in his crawlspace along with 26 others.

Gacy later stated that the second time he committed murder was around January 1974. The victim is believed to have been an unidentified teenage youth estimated to be aged between 14 and 18 whom Gacy strangled before stowing the youth's body in his closet prior to burial. Gacy later stated that fluid leaked out of this youth's mouth and nose as he was stored in his closet, staining his carpet. As a result of this experience, Gacy later stated he regularly stuffed cloth rags or the victims' own underwear in their mouths to prevent a recurrence of this incident.

Deceiving youths into donning handcuffs became Gacy's typical modus operandi in subduing his victims. After plying a youth with drink, drugs or generally gaining his trust, Gacy would produce a pair of

Photographs of some of John Wayne Gacy's earliest victims.





Floorplan drawn by John Wayne Gacy showing the locations of his victims of murders

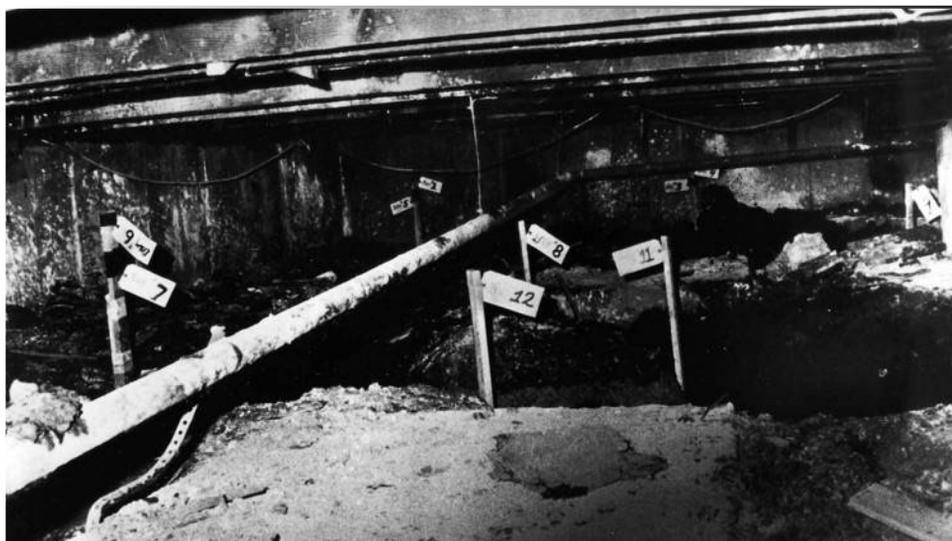
handcuffs (occasionally as part of a clowning routine) which he would persuade his intended victim into donning. With his victim manacled and unable to free himself, Gacy would then make a statement to the effect of: “The trick is, you have to have the key”, before proceeding to rape and torture his captive. He would finish with “the rope trick”, placing a rope over his victim’s neck and tying a makeshift tourniquet until the victim was strangled to death.

On December 11, 1978, 15-year-old Robert Piest went missing. It was reported to police that the boy was last seen by his mother at the store he worked at as he headed out to meet Gacy to discuss a potential job. On December 21, a police search of Gacy’s house in Norwood Park Township, Illinois, uncovered evidence of his involvement in numerous horrific acts, including murder.

When specifically questioned about Robert Piest, Gacy confessed to strangling the youth at his house on

the evening of December 11 after luring him there, adding that he had been interrupted by a phone call from a business colleague while doing so; he also admitted to having slept alongside the youth’s body that evening before disposing of the corpse in the Des Plaines River the following evening.

In the early hours of December 22, 1978, Gacy confessed to police that since 1972, he had committed approximately 25 to 30 murders. Once back at Gacy’s house, the victims would be handcuffed or otherwise bound, then sexually assaulted and tortured. To muffle his victims’ screams, Gacy would often stick cloth rags or items of the victim’s own clothing in their mouths. Some victims had been partly drowned in his bathtub before they had been revived, enabling Gacy to continue his prolonged assault. Many of his victims had been strangled with a tourniquet, which Gacy referred to as his “rope trick”; occasionally, the victim had convulsed for an “hour or two” after





The 28th body being removed from serial killer John Wayne Gacy's property. In total 29 bodies were found on the premises, with 26 buried beneath the crawl space of his home.

the rope trick before dying. With only two exceptions, all his victims had died between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. When asked where he drew the inspiration for the two-by-four found at his house in which he had manacled many of his victims, Gacy stated he had been inspired to construct the device from reading about the Houston Mass Murders and its victims.

The victims were usually lured alone to his house, although on approximately three occasions, Gacy had what he called “doubles”—occasions wherein he killed two victims on the same evening. After death, the victims’ bodies would typically be stored beneath his bed for up to 24 hours before burial in the crawl space, although the bodies of some victims had been taken to his garage and embalmed prior to their burial as well.

Most victims were buried in Gacy’s crawl space, where he would

periodically pour quicklime to hasten the decomposition of the bodies. In January 1979, he had planned to further conceal the corpses by covering the entire crawl space with concrete. Gacy stated he had lost count of the number of victims buried in his crawl space and had initially considered stowing bodies in his attic before opting to dispose of his victims off the I-55 bridge into the Des Plaines River. Thus the final five victims—all killed in 1978—were disposed of in this manner: because his crawl space was full.

Gacy’s trial began on February 6, 1980, with a prosecution team headed by William Kunkle. With Gacy having confessed to the crimes, the arguments were focused on whether he could be declared insane and thus remitted to a state mental facility. On May 10, 1994, John Wayne Gacy was executed by lethal injection. ◇

(left hand page) (top) Gacy marked the location of the graves in his crawlspace using small white flags on which he wrote the name of each victim. (center) A police doctor documenting the corpses of the victims in the morgue. (bottom) An uncovered skeleton of one of Gacy's victims found in the crawlspace.

MARY JANE KELLY

THE FINALE

31 August 1888

30th September 1888

8th September 1888

30th September 1888

9th November 1888

A night of terror

As he pursued his accounting books, John McCarthy, could not overlook the fact that his tenant, Mary Jane Kelly, was six weeks behind in her rent. He had allowed the fees to accumulate, and this morning decided that it was time to see if



Dorset Street, the location where Mary Jane Kelly was found murdered in her bed.

Kelly could pay up, tasking his shop assistant, Thomas Bowyer, with catching Kelly before she left her room for the day. Kelly, like many others in the city, was planning to observe the procession of Right Honorable James Whitehead as he drove to the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand to be sworn in as mayor.

When Bowyer arrived at #13 Miller's Court, he knocked on the door twice. Receiving no answer, he rounded the corner of the yard to see that a couple of glass window panes were broken. He reached in through the knocked-out glass and moved the curtain to see whether Mary Kelly was at home or not. The first thing he saw were what looked like two lumps of meat sitting on the bedside table.

The second thing he saw sent him running back to his employers' office. McCarthy followed him back to Miller's Court. He drew the curtain aside to see just what the office assistant had: a bloody corpse, mangled beyond recognition, with parts strewn all over the blood-soaked bed. McCarthy sent his assistant to find a constable, and Bowyer soon came across Inspector Walter Beck and Detective Walter Dew chatting on Commercial Street.

"Another one. Jack the Ripper. Awful. Jack McCarthy sent me."

Bowyer could barely get the words out of his mouth. The officers followed him, observing the carnage through the broken window with queasy horror. They sent for Inspector Abberline, who was in charge of the Ripper Case. The Inspector arrived at 11:30 am and Dr. George Bagster Phillips, a police surgeon who had also responded to the murder of Annie Chapman, arrived around the same time that night.

Rather than immediately break the door down, however, the officer and medical investigator had been instructed to wait for the arrival of two police bloodhounds. The two-hour wait signaled a considerable breakdown in communication within the police force, though.

Finally, Superintendent Arnold arrived at 1:30 pm in the afternoon, ordering the door to be broken down. John McCarthy used a pickaxe to chop the front door down. The scene inside, which they had only glimpsed at before, would haunt them forever.

By the accounts of those who knew her, Mary Kelly was the youngest and the most attractive of the Ripper's

victims. She was born around 1863 in Limerick, Ireland, making her 25 at the time of her death. She was tall—about 5 feet 7 inches—and had blonde hair, blue eyes, and fair skin.

When authorities entered the room, there was a fire burning in the fireplace. Mary Jane Kelly’s clothes were neatly folded on a chair and her boots sat in front of the fireplace.

Kelly’s corpse was nude except for a chemise and lying in the middle of the bed that sat flush against the apartment wall. She was inclined slightly to the left side of the bed, and her head was resting on the left cheek. Her right arm had been partially disconnected from the torso; her legs were spread wide and placed at right angles. Attending police surgeons included Dr. Thomas Bond and Dr. George Bagster Phillips made the post mortem report, but the carnage was so great that some of this information was suppressed for the public inquest.

Dr. Bond’s report said:

“The whole of the surface of the abdomen and thighs was removed and the abdominal cavity emptied of its viscera. The breasts were cut off, the arms mutilated by several jagged wounds

and the face hacked beyond recognition of the features. The tissues of the neck were severed all round to the bone.”

Presumably, without the presence of police walking their beats, concealed in a private room, the Ripper had the time and privacy to carry his compulsions further than he had to that point. As with previous victims, there were entrails and organs piled to the right of the body. This time, there were also other lacerations and organ displacements: Kelly’s uterus, kidneys, and one breast were placed beneath her head. Her left lung was torn and her heart was completely missing.

The Ripper had taken the flaps of skin, which he’d stripped from the thighs and abdomen, and piled them on the bedside table. Those were the lumps that Thomas Bowyer had first spotted when he peeked in through the broken window.

Every feature of Kelly’s face was irregularly slashed. Her nose, ears, cheeks, and eyebrows were all partially removed and her lips were sliced multiple times.

The bed was saturated in blood, and Dr. Phillips stated with confidence that the cause of death, this time, was “severance of the carotid artery” rather than asphyxiation.

Police report documenting the murder of Mary Jane Kelly.

Registration District <i>Whitechapel</i>									
1888. Death in the Sub-district of <i>Spitalfields</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>									
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signatures, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
<i>92</i>	<i>9th November 1888</i>	<i>Maria Jeanette Kelly otherwise DAVIES</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>25 years</i>	<i>Prostitute</i>	<i>Severance of right carotid artery. Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown. Victim</i>	<i>Certificates received from R Macdonald, Coroner for Middlesex. Inquest held 12th Nov 1888</i>	<i>November 1888</i>	<i>H. Edwards</i>



Police photograph depicting a close-up of the jagged remains of Kelly piled on the table beside her bed.

Retracing the crime

No one could confirm sightings of Mary Jane Kelly between the time that Joe Barnett left her room at 7:45 pm and 11:45 pm, though one story had her drinking with a woman named Elizabeth Foster at the Ten Bells pub. At 11:00 pm, she was said to be very drunk and drinking with a young, respectable looking man with a dark moustache at the Britannia.

The first confirmed sighting came at 11:45 pm by Mary Ann Cox, a prostitute who lived at #5 Miller's Court. Cox was returning home to get warm and saw Kelly walking ahead of her with a stout man. A gas lamp that stood directly across from #13 illuminated Miller's Court, so it was

easy for any neighbor to see who was entering and exiting Kelly's apartment.

"The man was short, stout, with a blotchy face. He looked to be in his thirties. He had a short, carrotty moustache, a billycock hat, a longish dark shabby coat, and a quart pail of beer," Cox said.

Compared with other Ripper victims, Kelly's origins are obscure and undocumented, and much of it is possibly embellished. Kelly may have herself fabricated many details of her early life as there is no corroborating documentary evidence, but there is no evidence to the contrary either.

At 2 am, George Hutchinson was walking to his residence at a men's home on Commercial Street when he passed a man standing at the corner of Commercial and Thrawl. Not giving the man a second look, he soon happened upon Kelly. Kelly asked him for a sixpence, but he declined, saying he had spent all of his money already. Kelly departed in search of cash, soon meeting with the man Hutchinson had passed on the corner.

The man put his hand on Kelly's shoulder and they exchanged inaudible words and a laugh.

"All right," Kelly said.

"You will be all right for what I have told you," the man replied.

Hutchinson watched as the man put his hand on Kelly's shoulder and they began to walk back toward Dorset Street, a parcel in the man's left hand. Hutchinson scrutinized the man, noticing his pale complexion, small moustache, dark hair, and bushy

eyebrows. He was wearing a felt hat pulled low, a long dark coat, and dark spats over boots. Hutchinson summarized the unknown man's look by saying he had a "Jewish appearance". Hutchinson followed the two all the way back to Miller's Court and stood, watching as Kelly kissed the man and let him inside. He stood outside Miller's court until the clock struck 3 am, then left when nobody emerged from the room.

Around the same time, Mrs. Cox was heading home once again through the rain. She did not see any light from Kelly's room, and as she lay at home awake for the next hour or so, heard the sound of men walking in and out of the courtyard.

With so many out on the street already for the Mayor's show, the nearby streets were a circus of spectators. Haunting photos were taken of the crime scene and Mary's mutilated body. The remains were finally taken to Shoreditch Mortuary at 4 pm. The police boarded up the windows and padlocked the doors of #13 Miller's Court.

Mary Jane Kelly was laid to rest in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Leytonstone. She was moved from the mortuary at Shoreditch to the graveyard at 12:30 pm on Monday, November 19th, 1888.

The Finale

The murder of Mary Jane Kelly was a finale of sorts for Jack the Ripper. This is the last known murder by the Ripper before he inexplicably disappeared from the streets and history forever.

The deliberate escalation of his crimes, from the relatively tame murder of Mary Ann Nichols to the gruesome mutilation of Mary Jane Kelly reflect on the insidious planning done by the Ripper. As we follow the rising graph of his brutality, we can note the growth he displayed as a serial killer.

Jack is not the only killer to have a grand plan laid out towards the execution of his crimes. The halls of history are littered with many such serial killers who judiciously planned and cut their way to quench their bloodthirst. The culmination of these deranged mental plannings marks these serial killers as far more dangerous than a simple murderer. Because of their personal dedication towards fulfilling these goals, they've been known to strike recklessly and ruthlessly to achieve that fulfilling grand finale. ♦

(next page) A recreation of Mary Jane Kelly's crime scene as was found by the police.

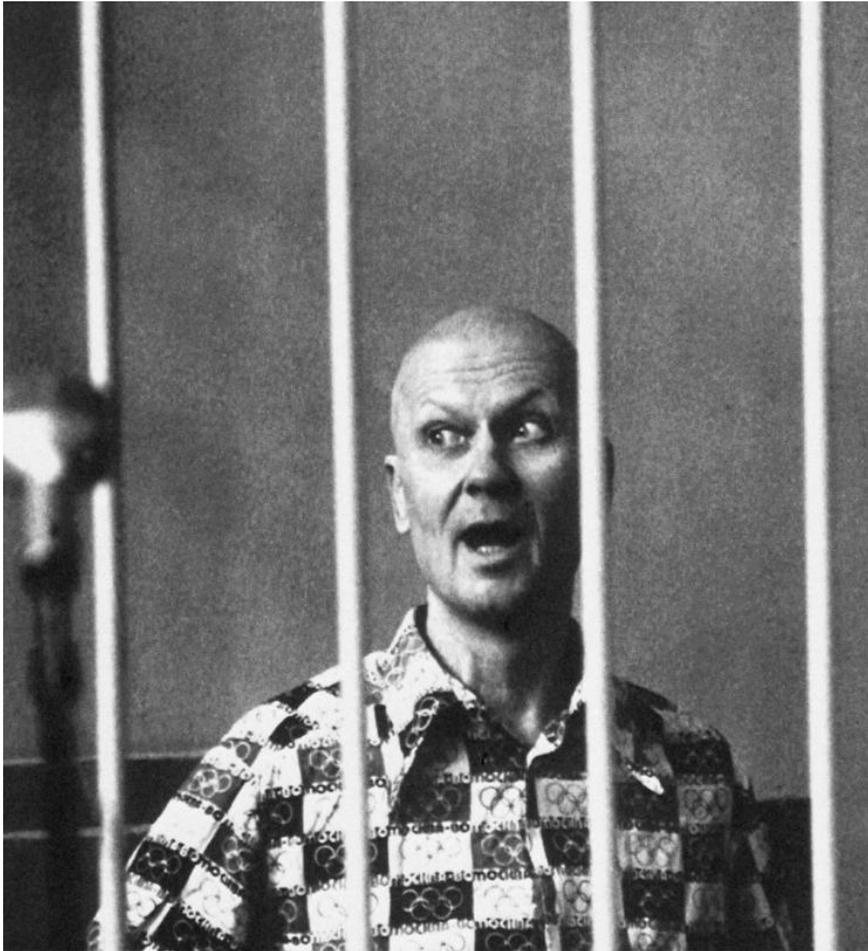




**““ I KILLED SO I COULD
LIVE MYSELF: YOU
KILL SOMEONE AND
IMMEDIATELY FEEL
RELIEVED, YOUR SHOULDERS
STRAIGHTEN UP AND YOU
WANT TO LIVE.”**

***- ALEXANDER
PICHUSHKIN***



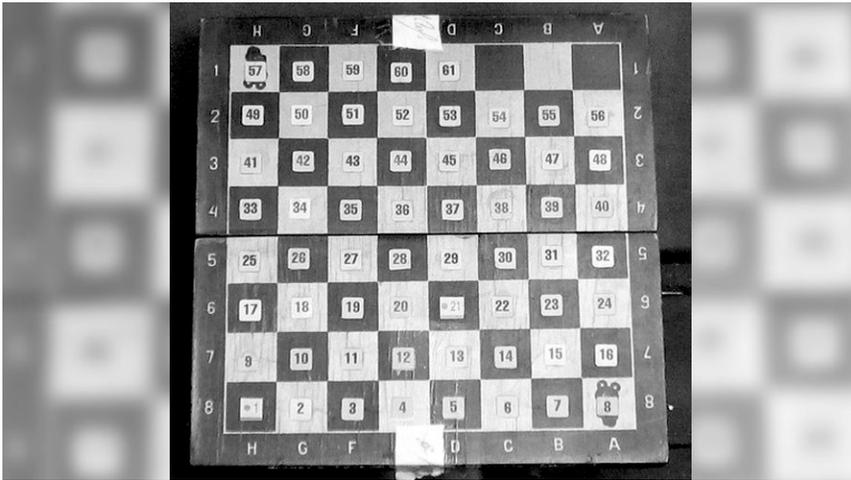


Press photograph of Alexander Pichushkin in jail.

CHESSBOARD KILLER COUNTING HIS SQUARES

Russian serial killer Alexander Pichushkin, nicknamed “The Chessboard Killer,” was caught in Moscow and convicted in 2007 of killing 48 people. After his arrest the police discovered

a chessboard with dates on all but two of the squares, apparently connected to the murders he committed. Due to the gruesomeness of murders, Russians considered reinstating the death penalty.



The chessboard of murder found in Pichushkin's house post arrest.

Born in 1974, life was fairly normal for Russian child and future serial murderer Alexander Pichushkin. Normal at least until one day when he fell off a swing and was hit on head by the swing on its way back. While it may seem like a minor childhood accident, Pichushkin's family claims that the event marked a change in his demeanor. Instead of being a normal, sociable child, Pichushkin became aggressive and impulsive. This change was so drastic that his mother transferred him to a school that focused on children with learning disabilities. Unfortunately, this resulted in Pichushkin being bullied by other children which added to his rage.

While Pichushkin may have looked like just a sad figure to many, he was also engaging in some more insidious activities. Pichushkin would carry a video camera with him and when he ran into other children he would record himself threatening them. Pichushkin committed his first murder in 1992 while still a student, but went through a long lull where he didn't kill anybody until the early 2000's.

Most of his victims were people who lived on the margins of society- the

homeless, addicts, etc.- which made it so that bodies were found without their disappearance ever having been reported. According to Pichushkin, he would lure them to secluded areas in Bitsa park under the pretense of sharing vodka while toasting the death of his dog. Pichushkin was finally caught when he murdered one of his ex-coworkers- a woman who informed her boyfriend she would be spending some time with Pichushkin, leaving his phone number.

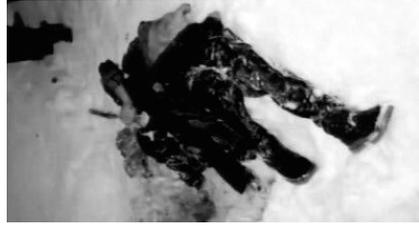
Some footage from the metro station caught Pichushkin and the victim together, leading to his arrest. Pichushkin eventually confessed to 60 murders -11 more than the police found bodies for. During the trial, he described how killing made him feel powerful and that he felt it was necessary for him to kill to survive. He initially claimed he wanted to kill 64 people- one for each square on a chess board- but later said he would've kept on killing had he not been caught.

In 2007, Pichushkin was convicted of 49 murders and 3 attempted murders, with the sentence being life in prison with the first 15 years being spent in solitary confinement.

Some serial killers keep souvenirs from their victims, whether they are small items or even internal organs. Pichushkin kept a small notebook in his pocket on which he had sketched out a chessboard. Each square had a date written in it that corresponded to one of his murders. At the time of his arrest, 61 of the 64 squares on the chessboard were filled in.

Pichushkin lured some of his victims into the park (some were already there, relaxing or walking one of the paths) where he hit them in the back of the head with blunt objects. Pichushkin would tell them his dead dog's grave was in the park as a way of getting his victims to let down their guard. The two would stoop down to pray over the grave, and then Pichushkin would hit them in the back of the head with a blunt object, like a hammer, a wrench, a log, or anything else that was handy. He claimed to aim for the back of the head in order to avoid getting blood on his clothing. He often left the murder weapon near the body, and in some cases, he would insert an empty bottle of vodka into the indentations in his victim's skulls. One of Pichushkin's rare female victims was found with small metal stakes pounded into her skull.

Pichushkin killed people because it made him feel like God. He liked that he was the person who chose to decide whether a person lived or died. During his trial, he stated that "In all cases I killed for only one reason. I killed in order to live, because when you kill, you want to live." He went on to say "I felt like the father of all these people, since it was I who opened the door for them to another world." His statements made it clear that he felt



(below) Photographs of some of Pichushkin's victims as they were found in the open.

no remorse about the people whose lives he snuffed out.

The police originally arrested Pichushkin for the murder of Marina Moskalyova, but he confessed to having killed 60 other people. During his trial, Pichushkin was kept in a locked glass cage in the courtroom, supposedly for his own safety, although it helped keep him from hurting others as well. Ironically, Pichushkin's idol, Andrei Chikatilo, was held in a similar manner throughout his own trial, 14 years prior. Pichushkin was eventually sentenced to life in prison, and he had to serve the first 15 years of his sentence in solitary confinement. Till date he is still in prison. ◇



“LOOK DOWN AT ME AND
YOU SEE A FOOL, LOOK
UP AT ME AND YOU SEE
A GOD, LOOK STRAIGHT
AT ME AND YOU SEE
YOURSELF.”

– ***CHARLES MANSON***

THE Sun *Desert hunt for mass graves*

THIS MAN THEY CALL SATAN

LOS ANGELES, Wednesday—Members of the hippie "Satan's Slaves" gang accused of the ritual murder of actress Sharon Tate and 11 others, may have buried more victims in a secret "tribal burial ground."

Police who today started a search for the mass graves in Death Valley, California, believe the gang buried its victims in a ghastly ritual ceremony.

They think the burial grounds are hidden somewhere in this desolate area which the "Slaves" used as headquarters for their maniacs.

The police said it was the witness statements of the trial who did all the talking in the courtroom, that, while known.

A "death list" was also being kept on it and listed upon the list names were made daily this week.

"When this is all over we are going to put out all the information the police ask."

"There could be several hundreds of other members of the gang."

One of the alleged victims, a young woman, said she had never seen the man before. She said she had never seen the man before.

Charles Manson, the hippie mass-murder suspect, on his way to court in California yesterday

A VICTIM OF THE SEA'S UNSEEN KILLER

THIS IS ONE OF THE many ways a young man with a long hair and a beard was killed in the sea. The man was killed in the sea. The man was killed in the sea.

with this woman and her husband. The man was killed in the sea. The man was killed in the sea.

'MADNESS'

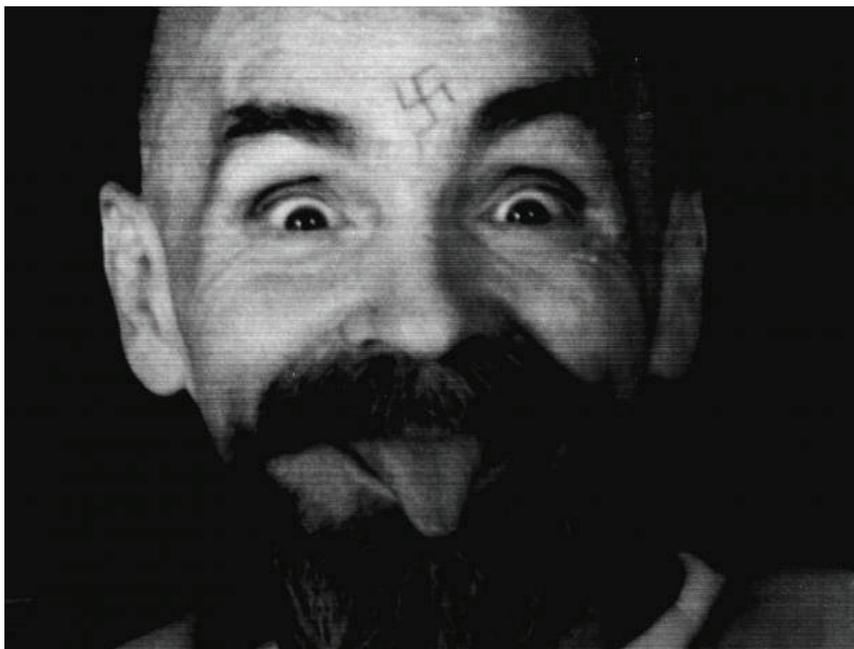
It was established by the police that the man was killed in the sea. The man was killed in the sea.

Cover page of *The Sun*, chronicling Charles Manson's murder spree.

MANSON FAMILY ON RAMPAGE

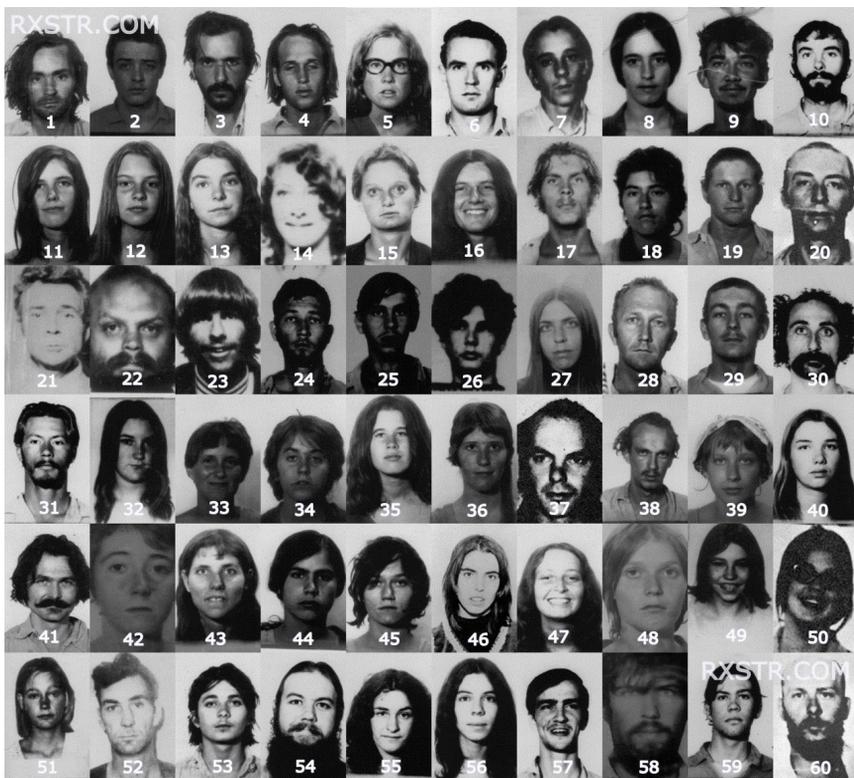
Charles Manson led a cult "family" that killed seven people in a bloody two-day rampage in Los Angeles in 1969. The crime shocked all with its brutal blend of 60s sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Manson, then 34, once aspired

to be a musician, but when that failed, styled himself as a cult leader. Manson directed but did not actually participate in the killings, and was convicted of murder as the mastermind, along with two other murders.



(top) Charles Manson photographed in jail at the age of 60.

(bottom) Mugshots of every captured member of the 'Manson Family'.



He initially carved an X into his forehead and later modified it into a swastika, and styled himself as a Christ-like figure. Born in 1934 in Cincinnati, his childhood was spent in juvenile reform schools and jails, and he served 10 years in Washington state prison for pimping and passing stolen checks. After his release, he drifted south to California, attracting scores of followers, mostly dropouts and misfits on the streets of San Francisco.

He eventually settled down with a hard-core group of followers, mostly young girls, at a deserted ranch in the San Fernando Valley. Experts described him as a master manipulator of both people and the media. He had been in prison since his murder conviction in 1971, most recently at California's Corcoran State Prison.

Manson claimed that he was Jesus and believed the string of murders would help hasten an apocalyptic race war. His cult of about 100 followers was deeply engaged in drug use and included many naive young girls lured in to help carry out his mission. His followers committed nine slayings at four locations in the summer of 1969.

The sliced face of Abigail Folger from the police archives.



Manson began his ascent into power and assembling of his “family” during 1967’s “Summer of Love” in San Francisco. He taught his followers that they were the incarnation of the original Christians; he said the “establishment” was made up of Romans. Five of Manson’s “family” were also sentenced to death following their murder convictions. During the seven-month trial, Manson continued to hold sway over his cult members, both in the courtroom and outside the building. Some of the young defendants giggled and sang during the proceedings. At one point, Manson arrived in court with that “X” carved in his forehead. His “family” followed suit the next day.

Charles Manson was an unlikely figure to evolve into the personification of evil. A few inches over five feet, he was a petty criminal and small-time hustler. And his followers bore little resemblance to the stereotypical image of hardened killers. Most were in their early twenties, middle-class white kids, hippies and runaways who fell under his charismatic sway.

Manson did not commit the murders himself; instead he persuaded his group of followers to carry out the killings. The crimes received frenzied news coverage, because so many lurid and sensational elements coalesced at the time — Hollywood celebrity, cult behavior, group sex, drugs and savage murders that concluded with the killers scrawling



Photographs of the 10050 Cielo Drive victims.

words with their victims' blood on and around each crime scene.

Los Angeles residents were terrified by the crimes. Before the killers were apprehended, gun sales and guard dog purchases skyrocketed and locksmiths had weeks-long waiting lists. Numerous off-duty police officers were hired to guard homes in affluent neighborhoods and security firms tripled in size.

Manson and four of his followers — Susan Atkins, Leslie Van Houten, Patricia Krenwinkel and Charles “Tex” Watson — were convicted of murdering actress Sharon Tate, the wife of movie director Roman Polanski, in their Bel-Air home on Aug. 9, 1969, along with four others. Tate, 26, who was eight months pregnant, pleaded with her killers to spare the life of her unborn baby. Atkins replied, “Woman, I have no mercy for you.” Tate was stabbed 16 times. “PIG” was written in her blood on the front door.

“People were so terrified because these seemed to be murders without a motive,” said lead prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi, who died in 2015. “They weren’t robberies or burglaries. It was so random. If you’re not safe in your home, where are you safe? And these murders were particularly brutal. On

the two nights there were 169 stab wounds in total.”

The 9½-month trial — the longest in U.S. history at the time — was as bizarre as the crimes.

Manson — who had spent more than half of his life in prison before the conviction — was housed at Corcoran State Prison since 1989. He broke prison rules dozens of times for violations including possessing cellular phones and a hacksaw blade, throwing hot coffee at a staff member, spitting in a guard’s face, fighting, refusing to obey orders and trying to flood a tier in his cellblock. Long ago, he turned the X on his forehead into a swastika. He was denied parole 12 times and had numerous disciplinary violations. His last parole hearing was in 2012, which he declined to attend.

Sentenced to death for the crime, Manson escaped execution when the state Supreme Court declared the death penalty unconstitutional at the time. He spent decades behind bars, an unrepentant and incorrigible inmate who’d been cited for behavioral issues more than 100 times. Considered one of the most infamous criminals of the 20th century, Manson died of natural causes at a Kern County Hospital. He was 83. ♦

“SERIAL KILLERS DO,
ON A SMALL SCALE,
WHAT GOVERNMENTS
DO ON A LARGE ONE. THEY
ARE PRODUCTS OF OUR
TIMES AND THESE ARE
BLOODTHIRSTY TIMES.”

– RICHARD RAMIREZ





Photograph of Richard Ramirez during his trial.

THE NIGHT STALKER EMERGES

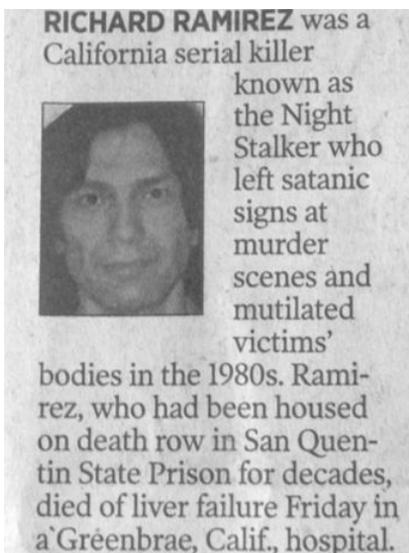
The 'Night Stalker,' Richard Ramirez was an American serial killer who killed at least 14 people and tortured dozens more before being captured in 1985. Born in Texas in 1960, Richard Ramirez was an American serial killer who killed at least 14 people and raped and tortured at least two dozen more, mostly during the spring and summer of 1985. His life of crime began when he was just 13 years old.

After developing epilepsy as a child, he became a heavy drug user and cultivated an interest in Satanism, which became a calling card for investigators at his crime scenes. Apprehended in August 1985, Ramirez was sentenced to death at the conclusion of his trial in 1989. He spent the remainder of his days at California's San Quentin Prison, before dying from cancer on June 7, 2013.

Ramirez typically struck at night and entered his victims' homes through home invasions. According to several witness reports, he would dress in black, presumably as camouflage. His victims varied in age and race and were often shot with a .22 revolver but were also killed or attacked in a variety of ways, including stabbing, slashing with a machete, and bludgeoning with a hammer or a tire iron. Ramirez sometimes raped his female victims and left Satanic pentagrams as a signature. His generally preferred style of killing was to burglarize the home, kill the husbands, and then rape the wives sometimes as the husbands watched in horror.

As a teenager, Ramirez was heavily influenced by his older cousin, Miguel, who had recently returned from fighting in the Vietnam War. The two smoked marijuana together as he told Ramirez about the torture and mutilation he had inflicted on several Vietnamese women, corroborating these stories with photographic evidence. At age 13, Ramirez witnessed his cousin murder his wife.

Press clipping announcing the death of the Night Stalker.



Dropping out of school in the ninth grade, Ramirez was arrested for the first time in 1977, for marijuana possession. The shooting turned Richard Ramirez from a scared, abused young boy into a hardened, sullen man. He began using LSD and cultivating his interest in Satanism, which he practiced throughout his life.

Still under his murderous older cousin's influence — Miguel had been found not guilty of the shooting, and spent just four years in an insane asylum before being released — Ramirez developed an obsession with the same kinds of sexual violence Miguel had inflicted on the Vietnamese women in his photos. He soon moved to California, progressing to cocaine addiction and burglary, and cultivating an interest in Satanism. His interest in Satanism evolved and he became involved with the Church of Satan. He was arrested twice in the Los Angeles area for auto theft, in 1981 and again in 1984, and noticeably began to neglect his personal hygiene.

The obsession almost reached its pinnacle when Ramirez was arrested for attempted rape. The charges were later dropped when the woman declined to testify against him, but the damage had already been done. Ramirez had developed a taste for blood and was searching for an outlet.

On June 28, 1984, he found it, in the form of 79-year-old Jennie Vincow. Authorities found the woman's body in her bed, brutally raped, her throat slashed so deeply she was almost decapitated. Her apartment showed sign of forced entry, and items were found to be missing as well.

He then went on a prolific crime spree, killing up to 14 people in a matter of weeks. The media latched on to these crimes, heavily

Full Name: Ramirez Date of Birth: 2-28-60
 Height, Weight, Shoe Size: 6'1" 180-12 Hometown: Texas
 Marital Status: Single Family: 5
 Wheels: Lamborghini in the parking lot Brothers: 4 Sisters: 1
 Most Treasured Honor: My dick
 Perfect Woman or Man: Me
 Childhood Hero(s): Jack The Ripper
 Favorite TV Shows: The Munsters
 Favorite Movies: Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Night of the Living Dead
 Favorite Songs: Led Zep, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden
 Favorite Singers: Metallica, Ozzy, AC/DC, R.C.C., D.D.D.
 Favorite Musicians:
 Hobbies: Slitting + Dicing + Spicing up Rump Roast
 Favorite Meals: Women's feet
 Why You Wrote Me: Cause your up on the times. Or so it seems And your fine.
 Recommended Reading: All murder books, True Crime magazines
 Last Book Read: Marquis DeSade - Julietta + Justine
 Ideal Evening: Full moon, sex + drugs all night
 Every January 1st, I Resolve: Can't say here. ha
 Nobody Knows I'm: ??
 My Biggest Regret: Not carrying a gun at all times. ha



((top)) Questionnaire filled out by Ramirez where he chronicles Jack the Ripper as being one of his role models. ((bottom)) Ramirez's pair of sneakers after he changed his shoe size following coverage of his original shoe prints.

documenting them and releasing footage from each crime scene on national television. The police and investigators covering the case became worried at this media frenzy as it would give the Night Stalker information about their ongoing investigative progress.

Ramirez, who had been following the media coverage of his crimes, left the Los Angeles area and headed to the San Francisco Bay area. On August 18, 1985, Ramirez entered the home of Peter and Barbara Pan. Peter, aged 66, was killed in his sleep with a gunshot to his temple from a .25 caliber handgun. Barbara, aged 62, was beaten and sexually violated before being shot in the head and left for dead. At the crime scene, Ramirez used lipstick to scrawl a pentagram and the phrase, "Jack the Knife", on the bedroom wall.

When it was discovered that the ballistic and shoe print evidence from the Night Stalker crime scenes matched the Pan crime scene, then-mayor of San Francisco Dianne Feinstein divulged the information in a televised press conference. This leak infuriated the detectives in the case, as they knew the killer would be following media coverage giving him opportunity to destroy crucial forensic evidence. Ramirez, who had indeed been watching the press, dropped his size 11 1/2 Avia sneakers over the side of the Golden Gate Bridge that night. He remained in the area for a few more days before heading back to the Los Angeles area.

Richard Ramirez's reign of terror over southern California lasted from June 1984 until August 1985. In 14 short months, Ramirez killed 13 people, attempted to kill 5 more, sexually assaulted 11 women, and burglarized 14 homes. The citizens of

southern California lived in a constant state of fear from the atrocities committed at the hands of the Night Stalker. He enjoyed multiple female admirers, even marrying one lucky woman. His satanism and sheer lack of concern for human life cemented his place in history as one of the most violent serial killers of our time.

The media eventually nicknamed him "The Night Stalker". On August 24, 1985, Ramirez committed his last known murder, killing a man named William Carns and raping his fiancée, leaving her alive. She got a good look of both him and the orange Toyota he was driving, including its license plates. On the morning of August 28, the car was found outside a shopping center in Los Angeles County. Though Ramirez was always careful not to leave behind fingerprints, he forgot to wipe off one on the rear-view mirror. When the print was matched to those of his prints that were on file, the Night Stalker task-force released his name and picture to the media. Overnight, Richard Ramirez's face was plastered on the front page of newspapers and all over television.

When Ramirez was recognized from the published mugshot, a large number of residents banded together, apprehended him, and managed to hold him down until police arrived and arrested him. His trial for fourteen counts of murder and 31 other felony counts didn't take long and included hundreds of pieces of evidence against him. During his trial he yelled "Hail Satan!" in court and displayed a pentagram he had drawn onto his palm.

Ramirez spent the rest of his life in prison, eventually dying of complications from blood cancer in 2013 at the age of 53. ♦

THE MIND OF A KILLER

As we've chronicled, not just the crimes but also the methods of Jack and his influence on the generations of killers to follow, we realize that perhaps the most obvious legacy of Jack the Ripper is the lasting interest in the case, which has never really waned. The Ripper has remained a consistent draw in movies, at newsstands, on television, in tours and exhibits. The field of Ripperology is taken very seriously by those who do more than dabble in it. Many Ripperologists have written successful books, some of which have proven definitive sources on the subject of the murders.

This still doesn't fully explain why the Ripper's legacy endures. Certainly, the fact that a century later his identity has yet to be uncovered points to the continued interest. But a darker perspective was suggested by Alex Murray in 2004. We assume that the more civilization has developed, the more we've left behind our nightmarish capability of exercising brutality. Having emerged from the slums of developed society, Jack the Ripper stands as our best reminder of the potential violence latent in each one of us, no matter how civilized we become. ◇

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