

# **Herbert Mullin:**

## **The True Story of the Psychopath of Santa Cruz**

**by Jack Rosewood**

**Historical Serial Killers and Murderers**

**True Crime by Evil Killers**

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## Introduction

The twisted tale of Herbert Mullin and his brief but volatile murder spree truly is one that is stranger than fiction. Drugs, sexuality, mental illness, and his bizarre beliefs all worked together to create one of the most dangerous killers in California at that time.

Herbert Mullin did not come from a violent background, and he never displayed the usual childhood warning signs of impending murderous depravity. Instead he was voted most likely to succeed in life by his fellow classmates at school, and was recognized by the neighbours as being a good boy, an asset to society. So how on earth did it go so terribly wrong?

Thirteen innocent people died at the hands of Herbert Mullin between October 1972 and February 1973. The majority of the victims weren't enemies, or threats to Mullin. All but two of them in fact had never met him before in their lives. They really were just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Many serial killers have a signature, a clear motive, and a set preference for certain characteristics amongst their victims. Herbert Mullin had none of the above. He believed he was doing California a favour by killing these people, not because they were bad people, but because he believed that each person he killed prevented a major natural disaster from occurring.

Herbert Mullin was diagnosed with schizophrenia on numerous occasions, and spent a lot of time admitted to mental hospitals. When he was first charged with the murders, the question was whether or not he was sane at the time of the killings. Specialist after specialist confirmed the diagnosis of schizophrenia, even though they couldn't agree on the type of schizophrenia Herbert suffered from. Nonetheless, was Herbert's killing mission because of a mental illness? Or was it an incredibly well thought out plan to hide the real target.



## **Chapter 1: A Good, Normal Boy**

Bill and Jean Mullin brought Herbert into the world on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 1947 in Salinas, California, a younger brother for their daughter Patricia. It was a religious household, with Jean being a devout Catholic, but this didn't seem to have a negative impact on Herbert. His father Bill was a military veteran from World War II, and although he was referred to as strict and authoritative, this also didn't seem to impact the mental and emotional capacity of Herbert.

The family resettled in Felton, Santa Cruz, and Herbert was enrolled at the local high school, San Lorenzo Valley. He was very popular at school, and was a respected football player and a good student. At the end of high school he was voted by his classmates as the most likely to succeed in life.

### **High School Sweethearts**

Herb met Loretta at high school, and before long they were going steady. By all accounts he was a good boyfriend, and the two were almost inseparable. When Herbert was 17 years old, they got engaged, and everything seemed to be going well. But that was not to be the case for too much longer. Everything started to change for Herbert, including his own doubts about his sexuality which would eventually bring this long-term relationship to an end.

### **The Death of a Friend**

During the summer after the end of High School in 1965, Herbert's closest friend Dean Richardson was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident. In his grief, Herbert built a shrine in his bedroom dedicated to Dean, and began to explore the philosophies of reincarnation. It was at this time that he also began to ponder whether or not he was homosexual. Many specialists would later suggest that this was the turning point in the sanity of Herbert Mullin.



## **Chapter 2: The Cracks Are Showing**

After the death of Dean, Herbert enrolled in College and studied engineering. He was still seeing Loretta, and doing well with his studies. In 1966 he met up with a former friend of Dean's named Jim Gianera. Jim introduced Herbert to marijuana, an act that would lead to both their downfalls in later years.

### **Sex, Drugs and College**

That very first experience of marijuana led Herbert down the path to LSD, and he first experienced the hallucinogenic drug in the later months of 1966. Herb and Loretta had broken up for about six months, but they were soon back together and engaged again. It was at this time that Herbert started becoming interested in reincarnation and Eastern religions and philosophies.

In 1967 he graduated from College with a road engineering degree, and proceeded to enroll in another college, San Jose State. The Vietnam War was in full swing by this time, and along with many other college attendees, he began to protest America's involvement in the war. It was at this point in time that everything started to unravel for Herbert Mullin.

### **Vietnam - Awarded Conscientious Objector Status Thanks to Dad**

November 1967 saw Herbert withdraw from college and adopt a hippie lifestyle. He registered as a conscientious objector in January 1968, claiming his right to refuse military service requirements due to his freedom of conscience and thought and religion.

Whilst waiting for his status to be approved as a conscientious objector, many events occurred in Herbert's life. His engagement with Loretta ended allegedly because Herbert had a sexual experience with another man. He started to claim he was bisexual, and there were a few reports of strange and violent behaviour. By April he

was arrested for possession of marijuana, and because he pleaded to a lesser offence he was granted probation.

At this time he began working with Goodwill Industries, managing one of their stores in San Luis Obispo. He continued to work there for several months, and his employment there was taken into consideration by the selective service board, and along with a letter written by his father claiming Herbert was a peaceful minded man, his conscientious objector status was approved.

He subsequently quit his job and announced he was off to study yoga in India, but instead he moved to Sebastopol to the property of his sister and her husband.

### **Chapter 3: He's Mad, I Tell You – Doctor's Warnings**

Whilst living in a trailer on his sister's ranch, Herbert's mental health started to deteriorate. One evening during dinner, he displayed echopraxia, whereby he mimicked everything his brother in law said and did. After this, Herbert committed himself voluntarily to his first of many stays in a psychiatric hospital. This first stay involved six weeks of therapy and treatment at Mendocino State Hospital, where they diagnosed Herbert with schizophrenia that was further complicated with the abuse of drugs.

Following his release from the hospital, he became non-compliant with the treatment and the doctors warned that his prognosis was very poor given his inability to be cooperative. Herbert then left the area with a fellow hospital patient and made his way to Lake Tahoe to seek work as a dishwasher at a casino resort. By August 1969, he had moved back to his parents' home in Santa Cruz.

At this time there was an incident with a forest park ranger who told Herbert to move on, as there was to be no camping in this area. This will prove to have a lasting impression on Herbert that would bring about a particularly calculated and vicious murder. During the confrontation with the forest ranger, Herbert pulled a knife and threatened the ranger, resulting in him being taken to jail.

No charges were filed over this incident, but Herbert was to undergo treatment for drug abuse as a resident in a prevention center. Herbert began self-mutilating by burning his own penis with a lit cigarette repeatedly, but it is not known whether this was the first attempt at self-harm or whether earlier attempts were simply not known.

Herbert was enrolled in the welfare system, and in October 1969 he paid a visit to his previous boss at Goodwill Industries. This meeting did not go well, with Herb admitting he could hear voices as well as making a sexual advance to the male manager. The manager was so concerned he called a relative who was a doctor, and

the relative contacted the county sheriff to have him committed to the mental hospital.

This particular stay lasted a total of eight weeks, during which time he was further classified as a paranoid schizophrenic. His parents made the trip to visit him regularly, and he admitted to them on one of their visits that he was homosexual. On his release this time, it was again noted that his prognosis was extremely poor, given his reluctance to engage in any forms of treatment.

Over the next several months, Herb's behaviour and mental state deteriorated rapidly. There were bouts of admissions to mental hospitals, and he was picked up by the police for a variety of offences, largely drug related. He decided he wanted to live in a commune that was located in Santa Cruz, but the people living there were not comfortable around him. Herbert, and a friend from the commune, Pat Brown, went on a trip to the Hawaiian island of Maui. Pat went off in his own direction, and feeling abandoned, Herbert once again committed himself to a mental hospital in Maui. This time he was diagnosed as having schizo-affective schizophrenia.

On his return to the mainland of the United States, he once again found himself in a psychiatric ward after being arrested by the police for drug possession. The police dropped the charges, and the hospital could only legally hold Herbert for 72 hours before they were forced to release him once again.

His next brush with the law was in March 1971, where he was arrested for being intoxicated in public and resisting arrest. Again, the charges were dropped and he was free to be out and about in the community once more.

## **San Francisco**

Herbert moved to San Francisco, and got an apartment in a poor part of town that catered to other mental health patients, drug and alcohol addicts. Through an acquaintance he made there, he started to delve further into his beliefs about reincarnation. Herbert began to believe that the voices he heard in his head were actually telepathic messages from others, a gift he received from God so that he could carry out his important mission.

Herbert became fascinated with art, and in particular, the works of Leonardo Da Vinci, and as such, spent many hours in the public library researching and reading. He began to focus his research on Albert Einstein, and he made a connection between himself and Einstein that convinced him he had special work that need to be done.

### **Home Again**

In September 1972 Herbert moved back to Santa Cruz to live with his parents once more. The voices were more persistent, louder, and instructive now, and he had completely stopped taking his medication. He developed an intense anger towards his father, whom he believed was responsible for all the problems Herbert had encountered in life. At this same time, there was a prediction made that California was to be struck by a major earthquake. Everything was coming together for Herbert's reign of terror.

## **Chapter 4: Four Months of Madness**

October 1972 was to be the start of Herbert's killing spree that would rock the people of Santa Cruz. At the same time another voracious killer was prevalent in the same area - Ed Kemper, the giant of a man who would become known as the Co-ed Killer. Between the two of them, Santa Cruz became nicknamed the 'serial killer capital'.

### **The Victims**

#### **Lawrence 'Whitey' White**

At the time of the murder, White was 55 years old, and was homeless. An alcoholic, White had spent much of his life in and out of the jail system, generally through minor offences and petty crime.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1972, White was hitchhiking along a fairly remote stretch of highway near the Santa Cruz Mountains. Seeing an opportunity, Mullins pulled over to the side of the road and told White he had engine trouble, and asked if he would take a look. Whilst White was bent over the engine, Mullin retrieved a baseball bat from his vehicle and proceeded to bludgeon him to death with it. Mullin claimed that White had sent him a telepathic message, saying he was Jonah, and to "pick me up and throw me over the boat. Kill me so that others will be saved". Mullin made no attempt to hide the body, instead leaving him lying on the side of the road where he would be found the next day.

#### **Mary Guilfoyle**

A 24 year old college student, Mary Guilfoyle was hitchhiking home to Santa Cruz when her fate crossed paths with Herbert Mullin. He offered her a ride, and as they were driving down the road in his car, he pulled out a knife and stabbed her through the heart. This injury undoubtedly killed her, but he continued to stab her through the back and the chest. Mullin then pulled the car over to the side of the road and

carried her body to the bushes, where he proceeded to cut her open and remove her intestines, which he scattered about in the tree branches. His reasoning behind this act was so that he could check them for pollution. Mary was the only victim he mutilated. Unfortunately, her remains were not found until February the next year, and initially her murder was suspected to be the handiwork of Ed Kemper.

### **Father Henry Tomei**

A well-respected and much loved priest at St. Mary's Church in Los Gatos, Father Henry Tomei had once been involved in the French underground during World War II, in the fight against the Nazis. Born in Marseilles, France, Father Tomei moved to Santa Cruz following the war.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1972, the 65 year old Father decided to see if there was anyone in the church who was in need of confession. Unfortunately for him, there was – Herbert Mullin. Herbert sat in the confessional booth and confessed his sins, including the two recent murders he had committed. Fearing the Father would turn him in; he then proceeded to stab Father Tomei to death with his hunting knife. A witness entered the church and saw the struggle, and spoke of how she saw Mullin not only stab the Father, but also stomp on him repeatedly. She fled to the parish house to seek help, whilst Herbert Mullin fled the scene. The witness was able to give a reasonable description to the police, however they thought it may have been an interrupted burglary.

### **Jim and Joan Gianera**

The murder of Jim (James) Gianera was different than the previous murders, as this time, the victim was known to Herbert Mullin. It was Jim that initially introduced Herbert to marijuana, which led to Herbert's addiction to drugs. This murder was one of only two out of the thirteen that was believed to be premeditated, and it took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1973.

Herbert felt that Jim had ruined his life by giving him marijuana in college, and so he set about trying to track him down to seek revenge. He went to his old place of residence, a fairly basic cabin, but it was now occupied by a woman named Kathy

Francis and her two young children. Kathy gave Herbert the new address for Jim, and he left.

On his arrival at the Gianera home, Herbert and Jim had an argument, and Herbert subsequently shot the 25 year old three times. Jim managed to run up the stairs to alert his wife Joan, who was in the shower, and Herbert followed. He then fatally shot Jim in the bathroom, and turned his attention to 21 year old Joan. He shot her five times and then stabbed her, ensuring she was dead.

### **Kathy Francis, David Hughes, Daemon Francis**

As soon as the Gianera's had been killed, Herbert returned to the cabin where Kathy and her two sons were. He proceeded to kill them all by shooting them and stabbing them multiple times. The two boys were only 4 and 9; thus showing that Herbert had no hesitations about killing children.

Kathy Francis' husband was away at the time, and since he was known to be associated with drug dealers, the authorities at first thought it was a drug-related killing. They had no clue at this time that there was a serial killer in the area; as not all of the bodies had been found or linked together.

This murder was also considered premeditated, as he had planned to go back there and remove any witnesses. However, one FBI profiler felt that the timeline was the wrong way around, and that Herbert had murdered Kathy and her boys before going to Jim Gianera's house.

### **David Oliker, Robert Spector, Brian Card, Mark Dreibelbis**

These four teenage boys aged between 15 and 19 were camping out in the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in February 1973. Mullin came across them whilst he was out walking through the park, and was not happy they were there. Perhaps drawing on his own experience when he was young, of the ranger ordering him out of the park, Mullin struck up a conversation with the boys and pretended he was a park

ranger. He told them they had to leave, as they were polluting the area, but they ignored him. At this time, he told them that he would be back to check the next day.

Unfortunately, none of the boys took his threat seriously, thinking that they were safe because they had a rifle with them. The following day, the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, Mullin did indeed return whilst the group were preparing to cook a meal. They had a rough makeshift cabin they had constructed, and Herbert entered and occupied the doorway, ensuring nobody could escape. Using his pistol, he then fired at them all, repeatedly reloading, until they were all dead. Mullin claimed he telepathically asked each of the boys if he could kill them and they supposedly all replied 'yes'.

The bodies of the four boys weren't discovered for about a week, and police officers at the time talked of how horrific the scene was. The bodies were left there overnight after discovery, and the two officers who guarded the scene felt very uneasy and unsafe, not knowing if the killer was still out there or not.

### **Fred Perez**

The murder of 72 year old Fred Perez would result in the ultimate downfall of Herbert Mullin. Fred was outside his house tending to his lawn, when he was shot in the chest and killed in broad daylight. His next door neighbour heard the gun shot, looked out the window, and noticed a station wagon driving away. It wasn't speeding, and there was no attempt made to disguise the car. She took down the licence plate and notified the police.

## **Chapter 5: Caught In Broad Daylight**

Up until the murder of Fred Perez, there had been absolutely no hint or suggestion to the authorities that Herbert Mullin was involved in any of the murders. He may have been picked up on several drugs charges in his adulthood, but he had never really been stood out as a violent offender; that is, until now.

Thanks to the alert neighbour who took down his licence plate, Mullin was pulled over and apprehended within 10 minutes of Perez's murder. He made no attempt to resist the officers, and went quietly without speaking a word. In the front of his car sat the rifle leaning against the seat. Herbert had placed a paper bag over the muzzle. Sitting in another bag on the front passenger seat was the pistol he had used on many of his other victims.

When first interviewed at the county jail, every time Herbert was asked a question he would shout out 'silence'. (Interestingly, Mullin and Ed Kemper were held in adjoining cells at one point, during which time Mullin was accused of stealing the dump sites of Kemper). While in custody, officers searched his apartment, and among the items found were Father Tomei's rosary pouch and an address book with Jim Gianera's name and address listed. After finding these items, Mullin was officially charged with six counts of murder.

The bodies of the teenagers shot in the park were found on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, and these murder charges were added to the initial six. Realising he was caught, Mullin then confessed to the murders of White, Guilfoyle and Tomei, but because they were legally committed in other counties he was not charged with those in Santa Cruz.

### **No Fear of Capture**

All of the murders committed by Mullin were undertaken in broad daylight. Unlike the majority of serial killers who prefer to work under the cover of darkness, Mullin seemed to be nonchalant about the possibility of being caught. The only time he

removed a witness was when he killed Kathy Francis and her sons. However, was he really disposing of someone who could turn him in or was he just taking advantage of opportunity; given she was alone with two small boys in the house and wouldn't be a physical threat?

Herbert Mullin made no real attempt to hide the bodies of his victims. Often they were left where they fell, with the exception of Mary Guilfoyle. Her murder was quite different to the others, and didn't really fit the same pattern. In her murder, she was found unclothed, and there was speculation that she had been raped either prior to or after the murder. Her clothing was never found. Also, she was horribly mutilated post-mortem, which was also unique in comparison to Herbert's other victims.

At the scene of the murders of the boys who were camping, bullet shells were found, meaning Herbert made no attempt to take any evidence away from the scene. At Father Tomei's murder, a partial palm print was found on the confessional booth, but this wasn't linked to Mullin until after his arrest.

So why wasn't Herbert Mullin concerned about being captured and charged with these heinous murders? Perhaps it is because he thought that he was doing California a great service by murdering these people. Not because of who they were, or what they represented, but because of his own twisted beliefs.

### **What Do Earthquakes, Albert Einstein and Herbert Mullin Have In Common?**

In Herbert's mind, everything. A man of very strange beliefs, everything changed for Herbert Mullin when he discovered that his birthdate was the anniversary of the catastrophic earthquake in San Francisco in 1906. One of the deadliest natural events in American history, this particular earthquake resulted in a loss of at least 3,000 lives and the destruction of around 80% of the city. Herbert Mullin believed that the coincidence of the earthquake and his birthday had hidden meaning.

Also, whilst studying art in a library, he began to pay more attention to Albert Einstein. When he discovered Einstein had died on his birthdate, he believed that this was confirmation that he was destined to save the world by preventing another

catastrophic earthquake. Apart from this brief mention of Albert Einstein, his relevance seems to be lost. Perhaps he felt that he was just as intelligent as Einstein, or maybe he mentioned him just to confuse people.

Herbert believed that the great world wars and the Vietnam War had prevented any further earthquakes because of the loss of life sustained during those wars. His twisted brain felt that to prevent an earthquake, there needed to be sacrifices of human lives. Once the wars had ended, he felt it became up to him to carry on killing people so that the rest of the world would be spared.

Combined with his schizophrenia, Herbert added the belief that the people he murdered were sending him telepathic messages, indicating that they were okay with being sacrificed. He also took this to mean he was on a mission from God, and that he must obey his wishes.

After his arrest and incarceration, Mullin continued to believe his theory that killing people prevented natural disasters. He even pointed out that there was no natural disaster during that time period in California, which he said was proof that his theory is true.

## **Chapter 6: Victimology**

Serial killers normally murder victims that are similar to one another, or there is a clear motive behind each murder. Many tend to have a 'type' that they prefer, such as physical characteristics, race and gender. There have been those that murder prostitutes, and others who target homeless people. Why this is depends on the individual killer, but for Herbert Mullin, there was no type.

Herbert Mullin didn't target certain people because of the way they looked or because of their religious or political beliefs. Instead, his victims were a variety of gender, age and background, which included 10 males and 3 females. His victims were children, teenagers, young women, and elderly men. They came from all walks of life, and except for one, they had never met before.

### **Wrong Place, Wrong Time**

Unlike many killers who survey their potential victims by watching them, studying them, and choosing them, the majority of his victims were completely random. They were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. If Lawrence White hadn't been walking along that stretch of road, he wouldn't have crossed paths with Mullin. The same can be said about Mary Guilfoyle, who was hitchhiking.

Perhaps that is what is most disturbing about the killing spree of Herbert Mullin. Nobody was really safe if they happened to cross his path. It didn't matter who you were, or what you were doing, if you came across Mullin you were at risk. As the death of Fred Perez showed, you weren't even safe if you were outside looking after your gardens or doing home maintenance.

### **Random Acts Of Killing**

This type of killer is often the hardest to catch, as there seems to be no pattern to the killings. The more random the victims are the less likely there is going to be any kind

of link between them and the killer. This makes it incredibly difficult for law enforcement. If you have a killer that preys on prostitutes you can put them under surveillance and watch for the suspect. But, when there is no link, you could be looking for anybody at all.

Because of the location of some of the victims, and the time it took for their bodies to be found, it was even more difficult for law enforcement to realize they even had a serial killer on their hands. This was further compounded by Ed Kemper's murders which overlapped those of Mullin in nearby areas.

Although the majority of victims were random, you can't overlook the murders of Jim Gianera and his wife, and Kathy Francis and her boys. They were the only murders that didn't involve random targets. He had a personal vendetta against Jim, and his wife was home at the time, so she had to be killed because she was a witness. The same goes for Kathy Francis – she knew Mullin had been looking for Jim so when Jim and his wife's bodies were found, she could identify Mullin as a suspect. So, she too had to be eliminated. Tragically her small boys were home with her, and they too were silenced.

In many cases previously, there has been a premeditated murder followed by random killings. This is often because the killer gets a taste for it once they have experienced the first time, so they move on to random targets. Mullin doesn't fit this picture, because he started out with random targets, and then switched to premeditated murder, then back to random. No wonder the police were unable to pinpoint a motive or a suspect!

## **Chapter 7: The Trial Begins**

When Mullin was arrested following the eyewitness report of the shooting of Fred Perez, it wasn't long before he openly confessed to all of the murders. Subsequently he was charged with 10 counts of murder. The first 3 murders weren't included because they took place outside of the county. Because of his outlandish claims that he killed to prevent an earthquake from occurring, the trial was going to be complicated, as they tried to establish whether or not he was even sane enough to stand trial. At that period in time, the judicial system usually put a suspect on trial, then after the outcome they would hold a separate hearing to determine sanity. In the case of Herbert Mullin, they ran both hearings at the same time.

### **The Evidence**

Although evidence wasn't entirely necessary because Mullin had confessed, it was still imperative that all crime scene and personal evidence be collected and analysed. After all, it seemed that Mullin was quite loony, so a good defense lawyer could have claimed his confession as false.

There was very little evidence found at most of the crime scenes. There was the partial palm print found at the scene of Father Tomei's murder, blood spatter at the Gianera house, and bullet shells found at the scene of the murders of the 4 teenagers. Despite Mullin killing potential witnesses, he really did not seem concerned about leaving evidence at the scene of any of the crimes. He didn't even dispose of the murder weapons, and they were found in his car at the time of his arrest.

### **The Weapons**

Many serial killers have a weapon of choice that they prefer, or a method of killing that they continue with each victim. Mullin started out by using a weapon of opportunity, a baseball bat he carried in the back of his car. From there he moved on to using a hunting knife, a .22-caliber rifle and a RG-14 revolver, also a .22-caliber.

Many of the victims were shot and stabbed, the only differences being the first 3 murders. The methods of killing each victim are as follows:

- Lawrence White – beaten to death with the baseball bat
- Mary Guilfoyle – Stabbed through the heart and disembowelment
- Father Tomei – Stabbed to death
- Jim Gianera – shot 3 times and stabbed
- Joan Gianera – shot 5 times and stabbed in the back
- Kathy Francis – stabbed in the chest, then shot in the head
- The Francis children – shot in the head, and one was stabbed in the back
- The 4 teenagers – all shot in the body and the head
- Fred Perez – shot in the arm/chest

Each of the crime scenes indicated a level of overkill, as most of the victims were already deceased when he stabbed them. Often there were multiple gunshot wounds and several knife wounds in the bodies. FBI profilers later claimed that this was Herbert Mullin's signature. The definition of a signature is an act that goes way beyond what is necessary to commit the crime. Other signatures by serial killers have been known to include leaving notes, redressing or covering the victim, or posing the victim in a certain manner. Often this is how a murderer is linked to other murders.

### **A Non-Specific Motive**

The murders committed by Herbert Mullin can be classified as non-specific motive killings, for a number of reasons. This classification is given to those who kill for no apparent reason or motive; except one that is only known to them. Non-specific motive killings almost always take place during daylight hours, as the offender seems to be unconcerned about being captured.

The victims of the non-specific motive killer are generally random, as is the case with most of Herbert Mullin's victims. They are usually not known to the offender, and the age, gender and race aspects are irrelevant. These types of murders are usually

committed in public places, again without fear or consideration of being caught. They seem to like the high risk facet of committing murders in this manner.

Generally, with a non-specific motive killer, there will be nothing taken from the crime scene by the offender, and the scenes are disorganized with no effort made by the offender to conceal the crime or the bodies.

### **A Question Of Sanity**

The biggest question surrounding the trial of Herbert Mullin was not whether he committed the murders, but whether he was sane at the time of the crimes. After all, he said he was hearing voices, he believed the victims were asking to be killed by sending him telepathic messages, he had a long history of schizophrenia, and he believed he was saving the world from a natural disaster. He must be crazy...right?

The problem with legal insanity is that it all comes down to whether or not the person knew what they were doing was right or wrong at that time. There are two mental health defences – insanity and diminished capacity. If Herbert had been found insane, he couldn't be found guilty for the murders. Likewise, if he suffered from diminished capacity, meaning he didn't understand what he was doing, he couldn't be found guilty of first degree murder.

There was absolutely no question that Herbert Mullin was indeed suffering from a mental health disorder, in this case, schizophrenia. But it is possible to have schizophrenia and not be classified as legally insane. Just because his delusions and the voices in his head were telling him to kill does not mean that he didn't understand that what he was doing was wrong.

During the trial, the jury was flooded with hours upon hours of testimony regarding Mullin's mental health disorder and his apparent psychosis. Some of the points made by the defense team included:

- His belief that his family were conspiring to drive him insane
- He believed his family had hid from him that he was actually bisexual

- He felt that his family members should have pleased him sexually from as young as 6 years old
- His theories regarding reincarnation and human sacrifice
- The earthquake theory
- His belief that because Albert Einstein died on his birthday he must be the 'designated leader' of the generation
- He claimed that each victim had asked to die by telepathy, thereby giving their consent to be killed

Despite the tedious amounts of information pertaining to his state of mind, the jury eventually decided that Herbert Mullin was indeed sane at the time of each murder. This was largely because of the evidence put forward by the prosecution, showing that Mullin made sane decisions before and after each murder. Some of these included:

- Sanding the blood off the baseball bat
- Removing the shell casings from the Gianera scene
- Extermination of witnesses
- Removing the serial number off his gun

### **Psychiatric Conundrum**

At least one of the psychiatrists appointed by the court to interview and examine Herbert Mullin believed that he was sane for most of the murders. This doctor theorised that Mullin had been insane during the first 3 murders, probably brought about by LSD. Mullin had then stopped taking drugs because he was hoping to get into the military, so by the time he killed the other 10, he was sane. He felt that Mullin killed the others out of revenge, removing witnesses to prevent prosecution. He also believed that the murders of the 4 teenagers were simply because Mullin not like hippies. The final murder, he believed, was committed in such disregard for his escape or capture that it was done so that he would be caught and thus put an end to it all. Essentially, he was tired and wanted to be done with the killing.

More than one psychiatrist theorised that Mullin's statements regarding the earthquakes was an afterthought, a way to play up to the ability of pleading insanity. This is largely because his seemingly ridiculous and irrational statements didn't come out until after he was arrested, and nobody had ever heard him mention them previously. The same was thought about the telepathic messages, and the 'die songs' Mullin talked about, as these also weren't mentioned until after his arrest.

However, following the trial and incarceration, a well-known FBI profiler suggested that Herbert Mullin was indeed insane, including during the period of the murders, and that a great injustice had been done by incarcerating him in a prison instead of a mental institution.

Possibly the biggest suggestion that Mullin was sane, was that during his trial he would often make clear and concise statements regarding intent. For instance, he claimed he killed Joan Gianera because she was a witness. This shows insight and intent, which if he was insane, wouldn't be possible. He claimed he collected the shell casings from the Gianera house because they were his, and they belonged to him. Another damning statement he made was that Gianera had ruined his life with drugs so he planned to take revenge on him. This shows motive and premeditation, again, acts that wouldn't occur if the perpetrator was insane.

### **Trial Of Patience**

The trial began on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1973, for 10 of the murders. Three of the murders were out of the county, so he wasn't charged for them during this trial. Herbert was charged with 2 counts of first degree murder, and 8 counts of second degree murder. The 2 first degree charges related to Jim Gianera and Kathy Francis, as they were or seemed to be premeditated.

Because Mullin had confessed to all 13 murders, the trial would be about proving or disproving sanity rather than deciding whether or not he actually committed the murders. This is just as well, because apart from one witness sighting, the police had no real evidence against him.

On the very first day of trial it was clear to everyone involved that it was going to be a difficult process. The first thing Mullin tried to do was plead guilty, which was refused by the judge due to the sheer magnitude of the case. Mullin tried again to plead guilty at which time his defense lawyer attempted to intervene, which resulted in Mullin refusing counsel and stating he would represent himself.

The judge attempted to convince Mullin that there was nothing wrong with his defense counsel, and that he should stick with him instead of trying to represent himself. Again Mullin stated he would plead guilty to 10 counts of murder, first degree. This tested not only the patience of the judge, but also of Mullin himself, who became increasingly frustrated. Since the judge was concerned about Mullin's competence to stand trial, he called in psychiatrists to make a report.

### **The Die Song**

One such psychiatrist, who was brought in to testify on behalf of Mullin, was Donald Lunde. He confirmed the diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia and played a recording of Mullin explaining his philosophy in his own words. The recording states as follows:

*"You see, the thing is, people get together, say, in the White House. People like to sing the die song, you know, people like to sing the die song. If I am president of my class when I graduate from high school, I can tell two, possibly three young male Homo sapiens to die. I can sing that song to them and they'll have to kill themselves or be killed -- an automobile accident, a knifing, a gunshot wound. You ask me why this is? And I say, well, they have to do that in order to protect the ground from an earthquake, because all of the other people in the community had been dying all year long, and my class, we have to chip in so to speak to the darkness, we have to die also. And people would rather sing the die song than murder.*

*I believe man has believed in reincarnation for maybe, consciously, verbally, for ten thousand years. And so they instituted this law . . . they used to do it back then, ten thousand years ago. . . . Well, they let a guy go kill crazy, you know, he'd go kill crazy maybe twenty or thirty people. Then they'd lynch him, you know, or they'd*

*have another kill crazy person kill him. Because they don't want him to get too powerful in the next life, you know. . .”*

Herbert Mullin claimed that when the chronological events of the world wars were correlated with a list of major earthquakes through history, it would show that as the rate of deaths increases, the rate of earthquakes decreases.

### **The Jonah Theory**

Herbert Mullin also explained to Dr. Lunde his Jonah theory, and why he believed Lawrence White claimed to be Jonah speaking to him telepathically. His statement was as follows:

*“I mean . . . you read in the Bible about Jonah -- there was twelve men in the boat -- Jonah was in the boat, you know, it was just like Jesus you know, and Jonah stood up and said, 'God darn! If somebody doesn't die, you know all thirteen of us are going to die. And he jumped overboard, you know, and he was drowned, you know. And the sea . . . about in a half hour or so, it calmed down.”*

When Dr. Lunde tried to explain that Jonah didn't die, that the whale spat him out, Mullin became very defensive and stated he should just believe that a small natural disaster can prevent a major one from occurring.

### **His Sexuality**

Mullin believed that his family was conspiring against him from a young age to prevent him from learning about the healthiness of being bisexual. He believed homosexuality starts when a boy reaches the age of 8 years, but his parents intentionally hid this information from him. He also speculated that his entire family was homosexual.

When asked why his Aunt Bernice and Uncle Enos would have convinced his parents to shun his sexuality, he claimed it was because his sister and his cousins were already having orgasms at the age of 6 years old.

## **Father Issues**

Unlike many other serial killers who had issues with their mother, Herbert had many problems with his father. Was this perhaps the reason behind the murders? Probably not, but it needed to be analyzed to be sure. Especially since Herbert tried to lay the blame on his father by saying it was he who sent Herbert the telepathic messages instructing him to kill.

Although William Mullin had been a Marine, and had served in World War II, he was not considered to be a violent man. He was stern, but there were no stories of violence in the home towards Herbert, his sister or their mother. His father also taught him how to use a gun, and would take him shooting to impart his military knowledge on Herbert. The two of them would have regular boxing bouts in the kitchen before the evening meal, and whilst William thought they were bonding, for Herbert he saw these events as his father trying to intimidate and challenge him.

Numerous times throughout the trial, Herbert Mullin insisted the authorities take his father's fingerprints. He told them to check all unsolved murders in California and Oregon since 1925 because he was convinced his own father was a serial killer. Was this aimed at trying to shift blame? Or did Herbert think that if his father was a killer, maybe he would get a lighter sentence for leading them to that conclusion?

## **Sentencing**

It took the jury more than 14 hours to reach a verdict in this case. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, 1973, they determined that Herbert Mullin was guilty of 2 counts of first degree murder, and 8 counts of second degree murder. The sentence he received was life, with a possible parole date of 2025.

Herbert Mullin was charged by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office for the murder of Father Tomei. Initially he pled not guilty, claiming insanity. However, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1973 he pled guilty to the charge of second degree murder and was again sentenced to life. Because he had already received life sentences in both counties, the other murder cases were never brought against him in a court of law.



## **Chapter 8: Life Behind Bars**

Herbert Mullin currently resides in the Mule Creek State Prison in California. During his incarceration he has been labelled a model prisoner, and has undertaken a number of vocational courses, such as landscaping, cooking, cabinetry and has learned the art of tai chi. His most recent role in the prison system was as a janitor, for which he received high praise from his supervisor.

There have been no further criminal charges or issues with Herbert Mullin during his time behind bars. A small, quiet man, he tends to keep out of trouble. He spends time painting, and many of his artworks have been sold; although it is uncertain whether this is because people like his paintings, or because they want to own something created by a notorious serial killer.

It is common place for people who can almost be considered ‘fans’ of serial killers to purchase memorabilia. Whether it is art, personal belongings, letters or any other objects, they can fetch a pretty price on the market. Another ‘fan’ favorite is glossy photographs of the inmates. To see a photo of Herbert Mullin today, you would wonder what happened to the attractive young man with the full head of hair. Nowadays he is balding, wears wire-rimmed spectacles and seems even shorter than his original height of 5’7”.

### **Parole Hearings**

Herbert Mullin has been up for several parole hearings, in each of which he has been denied. Because he received a sentence of life imprisonment, the rules of the state say that although his parole date isn’t until 2025, he can still apply for parole prior to that. His most recent parole hearing was in 2011. By 2025 he will be 78 years old.

The parole hearing in 2011 lasted for around 2 hours, during which time Mullin tried to convince the board that he was ready to be released back into society. He wanted

to return to Santa Cruz County, find a wife and perhaps take a psychology course at the local university.

During the parole hearing, Mullin remained very calm, almost impassive; even when the names and circumstances of the deaths of each victim were read out to him. He was perhaps a little argumentative during the proceedings, but overall was very well controlled and behaved.

Although he freely admits he killed 13 people, he still maintains that he is not guilty of the murders due to insanity. His explanation for the killings this time did not mention the earthquake theory, but instead, blamed his schizophrenia. He also still blames his parents for not teaching him about the facts of life and preventing him from maturing. Although his parents are since deceased, he believes they should be held accountable for making him do the things he did.

Referring to his previous drug addictions, Herbert now attends AA meetings, and has also refused medication of any sort since 1976. He believes he would be a model citizen, and that he is completely rehabilitated.

However, although he claims remorse for his victims, he still only believes he played a part in the killings, and will not take full responsibility for his actions. Despite saying he is remorseful, he showed no proof of that, and did not offer any words for the families of his murder victims.

Because of his unwillingness to accept full responsibility for the crimes, and since he has shown no true remorse, parole was once again denied. He constantly tried to make out that he was victim, a claim that was considered nonsense. Mullin again remonstrated that he doesn't accept his own culpability for the terrible murders he committed. His next parole hearing was scheduled for 2016.

## **Chapter 9: Who's To Blame?**

Herbert Mullin has a long list of people and things to blame for his actions. As far as he is concerned, he may have been the one who killed the victims, but it wasn't his fault. He believes he was pushed into doing it, due to family members conspiring against him and drug abuse. It wasn't him; it was the mental illness he claims. The list of excuses is quite extraordinary, and some will surprise you.

### **His Father**

Herbert claimed his father was sending him telepathic messages to kill. He said his father was sadistic and abusive, but there are no records of such behaviour. He also claims his father made him repress his sexuality and stopped him from maturing.

### **His Mother**

His mother had given him a book of the works of Michelangelo, which Herbert believes carried a suggestion that he should cut somebody up. He also blamed his mother for siding with his father in repressing his true sexuality and preventing him from maturing.

### **Ronald Reagan**

At the time, Ronald Reagan was the California Governor, and he began closing down the mental health facilities in the early 1970's. It is said that Reagan believed Mullin's release from mental health hospitals was the biggest psychiatric mistake made.

### **Marijuana and LSD**

The drugs ruined his brain, and he blamed the dealers for selling them to him.

## **Hippies**

Herbert believed the hippies had brainwashed him, and convinced him to be a conscientious objector.

## **Santa Cruz Police**

Possibly the strangest, Herbert believed that if they had kept him locked up after his drug possession arrest, none of the murders would have happened.

## Chapter 10: Schizophrenic Or Playing A Game?

Whilst it is true that Herbert Mullin had multiple admissions to psychiatric hospitals over his adulthood, and psychiatrists diagnosed him with schizophrenia; could it also be possible that he was faking all along? After all, Herbert was an intelligent man; could he have planned to murder Jim Gianera and used the first murders to throw the police off the scent?

Although it seemed there were many years between being diagnosed with schizophrenia and carrying out the 13 murders, in reality the time span was not really that huge. He was first diagnosed in 1969 at the age of 22, and the first murder took place in 1972, just 3 years later. This is a very small gap for a man who possibly had been planning to seek revenge, and needed to come up with an excuse for the killings.

Each psychiatrist that interviewed Herbert Mullin came up with the same basic diagnosis of schizophrenia, but they all diagnosed different forms of schizophrenia. He was labelled a paranoid schizophrenic, an undifferentiated schizophrenic, and an unspecified schizophrenic. There are significant differences between these various forms of schizophrenia, so you would think they would all agree on the same type for Herbert Mullin.

His admissions to psychiatric facilities were often triggered by another event. The many times he was arrested for disorderly behavior, public intoxication, and drug possession, all resulted in him being admitted to a mental health facility and all charges being dropped. This was really convenient for Herbert, who might have ended up spending quite a bit of time in prison had the charges been pursued.

Even his admission to the psychiatric facility in Hawaii could be considered dubious. At the time of his admission, his friend had abandoned him and he was alone, and did not know anyone else in Maui. He was also financially broke, and had to call his parents to ask them to send him the airfare to get home. So, he had no company, and

no money. If he hadn't gone into the psychiatric unit, how would he have survived? Better to be in a hospital with a warm bed and good food. Besides, his parents were more likely to send him the money if they felt he was unwell and needed help.

During his stays in the mental hospitals, Herbert was continuously non-compliant with the treatment and therapy. He constantly refused to take the medication and would not take part in the rehabilitation programs. Because he was often admitted voluntarily, he could leave whenever he wanted, so he would stay for the minimum requirement that he felt would be long enough, and then would discharge himself. Nine times out of ten he would beg his parents to let him come home.

One of the most interesting and eye-opening statements about Herbert Mullin's mental health came from no other than Ed Kemper himself. Kemper is an extremely intelligent man, with an IQ of 140, which is genius level, and he has very good insight into the human psyche. When they were in adjoining cells before their respective trials, Kemper and Mullin interacted quite a bit, despite being polar opposites. With Kemper dwarfing the smaller Mullin, Kemper delighted in teasing and hassling Mullin. He is quoted as saying:

*"Well, Mullin had a habit of singing and bothering people when somebody tried to watch TV. So I threw water on him to shut him up. Then, when he was a good boy, I'd give him some peanuts. Herbie likes peanuts. That was effective because pretty soon he asked permission to sing. That's called behavior modification treatment".*

The fact that Kemper even knew what behavior modification was is a testament to the level of his insight and intelligence. The statement above may seem as though Herbert was a bit backward, and meek, but when you listen to how Kemper speaks, you will understand the choice of words he used. After that time together in adjoining cells, Kemper was asked whether or not he thought Mullin was insane. His response was that Mullin was nothing more than a cold blooded killer.

### **No Job, No Money**

Although Herbert had a number of menial jobs as an adult, he didn't seem to have the capacity to hold on to any one job in particular. A well-educated man like Herbert

should have been able to get a good job and keep it. Was he unable to because of the mental illness or was it because of his drug habit? Drugs such as LSD are expensive, and he would have needed a regular income to support a habit that was allegedly as bad as he claimed.

Herbert seemed to think his parents owed him everything. Is it possible that he drifted back home all the time not because he was unwell, but because he was lazy and wanted to take advantage of them? After all, he gained a degree in engineering; surely he could have used that in some employment capacity. But, if his parents were led to believe that he was mentally unwell, then they were more likely to take him in and support him.

### **Excuses, Excuses, Excuses**

Herbert Mullin seemed to have an excuse for everything. Everyone and anyone was responsible for his actions according to him. Murderers and criminals alike, tend to use the same sort of excuses:

- Abusive parent
- Poor family environment
- Drugs
- Mental illness

There is absolutely nothing that can show that Herbert's parents were anything other than hardworking, doting parents who did the best they could for their children. It wasn't a broken home, there was no physical or sexual abuse, nor was there any addiction problem. Alcohol wasn't a large factor in this household, as Herbert's mother was devoutly Catholic and ran her household clean and stable.

His father William, although an ex-military man, was stern but not strict. He certainly didn't rule the house with an iron fist. He spent time with Herbert, telling him his war stories, encouraging him to box, and showing him how to use a gun. These were the things William knew about, and he simply wished to impart his knowledge on his son, like most fathers would do.

William even wrote a letter of support for Herbert so that he could be registered as a conscientious objector against the Vietnam War. This must have been a difficult letter for William to write, as he was proud of his own war service and time in the military. Yet he did this because his son asked him too. That doesn't sound like a father who was a tyrant. It sounds more like a father who would do anything for his son.

Though there was truth in the claim that Jim Gianera introduced Herbert to marijuana, and Herbert then went on to try LSD, most of his 'drug addiction' tales seem to be by his own admission. There doesn't seem to be a large number of people coming out of the woodwork to back up his stories of being horribly addicted to LSD and marijuana.

At that time, it was believed that LSD could cause a psychosis, and there were some theories that LSD caused schizophrenia. In recent times, researchers have discovered that there is no such thing as LSD induced psychosis. This finding is still debatable however, and research is ongoing. As a young person in the late 60's early 70's, Herbert would have undoubtedly been told to steer clear of the demon drug LSD or it would send you insane.

During at least one of his many arrests prior to the murders, a police doctor had noticed the large tattoo on Herbert's abdomen that said 'legalize acid'. As soon as this was noted, he was labelled a 'druggie'. Combine the tattoo with his erratic and strange behavior when he was in police custody, and it comes as no surprise that they put two and two together and decided he was a drug addict and a mental patient.

### **A Tale of Many Twists**

So, if Herbert wasn't really a drug addict, and was simply going along with the ploy that he was using to help create an insanity excuse, why was he so against Jim Gianera? Sure, there is no question Jim originally introduced him to marijuana. But consider what was happening in Herbert's life at that time. For one he was confused about his sexuality. He wasn't sure if he was bisexual, homosexual or heterosexual. Jim had also been a close friend of Dean, whose death had a major impact on Herbert's life. There was even talk of Herbert being in love with Dean, and whether

or not there had been a sexual encounter. Was Herbert simply jealous of Jim and his friendship with Dean?

Following his first foray into drug taking, Herbert also ended his long-term relationship and engagement. According to Herbert, this was because of his sexuality confusion. The confusion that may have been heightened by LSD, which will often change the way a person thinks, feels and acts. Therefore, was Jim responsible for all this confusion and the ending of his engagement because he introduced him to drugs in the first place?

Herbert claimed that drugs ruined his life, and that if Jim hadn't have given him drugs, none of the chaos that ensued would have occurred. But it's important to note, that whilst they had a brief encounter during college, they really had nothing much to do with each other from then forward. Just because one person gave you a smoke of marijuana, does that make them entirely responsible for an alleged drug habit? And does that mean they should die because of it? It seems there is much more to this story, and the only one that really knows the truth is Herbert. But he's not going to say a word, because he needs people to believe the stories.

### **How Far Would You Go?**

So, if you had decided that you needed to kill someone because of an alleged wrong doing years earlier, how far would you go to try and disguise the crime or create an excuse? As mentioned earlier, was Jim Gianera the prime target right from the start? Now, if Herbert had gone straight to Jim's location and killed him, would it have been possible to link him to the crime?

Let's remember that Herbert was unaware Jim had moved. So, he goes knocking on a door, and the lovely lady who answers tells him where he now lives. He can hardly just go and kill Jim now, because this woman knows he was looking for him. Therefore he had to remove the witness. Her children had probably seen his face, so they had to go too. The possibility remains, that there was only ever one intended victim.

So why kill the first 3 victims? Perhaps Lawrence White was just a practice run, as awful as it is to say. Maybe Herbert was testing himself to see if he could actually go through with killing someone; of course this is purely suppositional. There were three murders that were completely different to the other ten. First, Lawrence White was killed with a baseball bat and left on the side of the road. This weapon was not used again. Mary Guilfoyle was the only victim that was assumed to be raped, and was also eviscerated. This level of mutilation was not carried out on any of the other victims. Also, Father Tomei was stabbed after giving Herbert confessional – was this to also remove a witness?

Now, if we consider that the intended target all along was Gianera, and that Kathy Francis, her children and Joan Gianera were killed because they were witnesses, that leaves the 4 teenaged boys in the forest and Fred Perez. The boys in the forest challenged Herbert, and did not take him seriously. Their total lack of respect would have infuriated him to the point where he had already killed before, so what would a few more victims matter? Of note also, is that he first saw the boys on one day, and then went back the next day to kill them. Was this also not premeditated?

Then finally there was poor old Fred Perez, out tending to his lawn. This murder was the most random of them all, as there was no interaction between killer and victim. They didn't speak, they had never met. Herbert simply pulled up outside his home, and shot Mr. Perez, then calmly drove off again. This could be considered in two ways:

1. Herbert had become so arrogant and sure he was going to get away with another murder, that he wasn't concerned who it was or who witnessed him doing it. He was infallible in his opinion, and had developed a blood lust for killing.
2. Herbert had decided that it was time to give up. By committing such a random murder in broad daylight and not making much of an effort to get away, he was asking to be caught.

Thirteen horrible murders, and the first thing Herbert Mullin's does, is plead insanity. It's the oldest trick in the book for getting off murder charges, and many

have tried it before and succeeded. But to try and prove he was truly insane, he needed a solid background history. A history that involved numerous stays in mental institutions, and psychiatric assessments. A history that involved as many of the local police as possible witnessing him supposedly going crazy. After all, when the trial comes, who better to stand up and say you're insane than the police officers in your local town?

### **Theories Or Clever Ruses**

Now we need to consider the whole earthquake sacrifice and Albert Einstein theories. The theory Herbert had that by killing people he was preventing earthquakes is by far the one thing that would make everyone think that he was indeed insane. It just didn't make sense; how a sane person could come up with that theory was just implausible. But...and it's a big but...what if, on finding out there was a coincidence between Herbert's birthdate and the earthquake of 1906, Herbert became interested in earthquakes, and felt it was kind of cool to share a date with such an important event in history. Maybe it was from this interest that the idea came.

The Albert Einstein theory is even stranger. Herbert seemed to be clutching at straws when he divulged his theory about Einstein. He claimed that Einstein died on his birthday as a sacrifice so that Herbert wouldn't have to go to the Vietnam War. If Herbert didn't want to go to war, why didn't he just use his schizophrenia as an excuse? Perhaps Herbert related to Albert Einstein in that he felt that he was just as important or intelligent as Einstein, but hadn't been recognised for it yet. But of course, this is all supposition.

### **The Number 13**

When police searched his previous apartment, they found boxes and boxes of notes handwritten by Herbert Mullin. Most of the writing was unintelligible, like the scribbles of a madman. But one theory that was written about in these notes concerned the 12 apostles + 1. One analyst surmised that this could be interpreted as Mullin thinking he was the 13<sup>th</sup> apostle. However, another theory could be that the 12 + 1 related to the number of murders he was going to commit. After all, the number

of his victims was 13. Even more ironic, is that the first and the last victims were killed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Why was the number so relevant to Herbert?

Was this just a coincidence? After all, as a child and a youth Herbert did attend Sunday school, went to church every Sunday, and attended confession at least once a month. Combine this with the fact that his mother ran a Catholic household, perhaps religion and the number of apostles was just drawing from his previous experiences with religion.

### **The Voices Made Me Do It**

During the period following arrest when Mullin was being regularly interviewed and assessed by both the police and the psychiatrists, he made constant claims about hearing voices. This is not a new phenomenon with schizophrenia, as it is a symptom of the disease. However, Herbert claimed the voices came from different sources, which is unusual, as schizophrenics usually hear a specific voice.

At one point Herbert said he could hear God talking to him, and that it was God who told him to save California from sinking into the sea following the next big earthquake, by sacrificing innocent people. Herbert also claimed that his father and his victims all communicated with him telepathically, telling him they were ready to be sacrificed for the greater good.

The interesting thing about schizophrenics hearing voices is that most of them don't act on them. For example, if a voice told you to go out and kill, you still have a conscious choice to decide not to follow the instruction. In fact, it is very possible to disobey the voices. It's not like you must do what they tell you to do – the choice is still yours. So, just because a voice in your head tells you to go out and kill someone, it's not an excuse to then go out and do so.

Schizophrenia was quite a well-known disorder in that time period, even if the full understanding of the disease didn't come about until later years. What many people in the general population did know about it was that schizophrenics heard voices, they behaved strangely, and if you took psychedelic drugs, you were more likely to become schizophrenic. Again, was Herbert just playing a very calculated game?

## **Military Rejection**

Herbert applied to join the Coast Guard in November of 1972, but he was rejected because he failed the psychological exam. By now he had already killed 3 victims, so it is strange that he even applied to the Coast Guard. But then, even more surprisingly, in January 1973 he applied to join the Marine Corp. Although he had passed the mental and physical exams, he wouldn't agree to release his criminal record, so he was dismissed. If Herbert Mullin was so incredibly insane with schizophrenia that he was running around killing innocent strangers, how on earth did he pass the mental exam required for joining the Marines?

That same month Herbert was asked to leave the family home, so he moved into an apartment. He applied for a number of jobs, and told his parents he was going to enlist in the Army, however, that doesn't appear to have happened. After being rejected by the Coast Guard and the Marines, entrance into any of the other Armed Forces including the Army would have been highly unlikely. Perhaps he was trying to pacify his father, who was ex-military himself.

## **Putting On Gloves**

In 1971 Herbert had moved to San Francisco, and decided to take up boxing. It is logical to think that he would have done this after his childhood experiences of boxing with his father, maybe to feel closer to his father. Then again, there was nothing terribly logical about Herbert Mullin.

He joined a gym called the Newman Herman Gym and began to do some amateur boxing. Despite being a small and slightly built man, his trainer would go on to see that he had a lot of guts, and he would often take on boxers who were a lot stronger and more experienced than him. It wouldn't matter if they beat him down, Mullin would get back up again and keep trying.

In March of 1972 Herbert was issued a permit to compete in the Golden Gloves boxing tournament. During one of his bouts, he wouldn't stop hitting his opponent, to the point where the trainers had to drag him off. That was the last record of him boxing.

Because this occurred so close to the time when Herbert was about to start his murdering mission, one has to wonder what his real motives were for boxing anyway? As mentioned before, perhaps it was a way to feel closer to his father. Or maybe he thought his father would be proud of him following in his footsteps. Then there could be an even darker reason for his sudden interest in boxing. He was a small man, and maybe he wanted to get stronger and in better shape, so that he could carry out his mission easier, and thus would be better able to overcome his victim in case he was met with resistance.

## **Chapter 11: Quotes, Quirks and Tidbits**

Herbert Mullin was known to come up with some rather bizarre statements, quotes and theories on a multitude of topics. Some were gleaned from all the writing he would do at home, in his prison cell, and even during his trial.

**When police searched his apartment after his arrest for the murder of Fred Perez, they found a handwritten note that said:**

*“Let it be known to the nations of earth and the people that inhabit it, this document carries more power than any other written before. Such a tragedy as what has happened should not have happened and because of this action which I take of my own free will I am making it possible to occur again. For while I can be here I must guide and protect my destiny”.*

**One of his quotes that is directly related to the murder of the 4 teenagers in the forest:**

*“The peace advocates and flower children had played tricks on my mind, and I had to reap vengeance”.*

**After he was arrested, Herbert Mullin said this about his father:**

*“I believe that my father has been unequally blamed for my failures. But surely, if he had given me the six-year old homosexual ‘blow job’ oral stimulation that I was entitled to, like most other people get, I would never had taken LSD without his permission”.*

**His reason for killing Father Tomei in his words:**

*“I saw the light over the confessional and the voice said: That’s the person to kill”.*

## **Strange Behaviors**

Many witnesses told of how Herbert Mullin used to water his doormat every day.

During the overlap period between 1970 and 1971, Herbert started to exhibit behaviors that seemed bizarre to others. At one point he would walk around wearing a large sombrero, and proceeded to talk with a Mexican accent. Over that same time, Herbert seemed to be trying to change his appearance. He would shave his head and go on diets to lose weight. These may seem like minor incidences, but when you consider what he was going to be doing in the not so distant future, it's conceivable that he was practicing how to disguise himself.

## **Memorialized In Music**

In 2001 a song was released called Megalomania, written and performed by a doom metal band called Church of Misery. This band hailed from Japan, and all of their songs are written about serial and mass killers. The song Megalomania is written about Herbert Mullin, and the lyrics are as follows:

### **Megalomania**

*(Music and Lyrics by Tatsu Mikami)*

I'm savor of this earth – total calamity

We need a sacrifice – order from above

Go out and kill all bastards

I wanna see your face of despair

Yeah, all right now

Now's the time to do my mission

Stabbing your chest with my knife

Blowing your head with my gun

I wanna hear your cry of death

Yeah, won't you listen

Earthquake will come here 'California'

No one can stop disaster

But I'm the one

As disturbing and unsettling as these lyrics are, they do seem to capture quite a bit of information regarding Herbert Mullin's beliefs and crimes. Not surprisingly, the song (along with many of their others) is not terribly well known. However, by Church of Misery writing a song about Herbert Mullin, he joins a vast list of other serial and mass killers this band has immortalised in music.

Taste The Pain – Graham Young

Sick of Living – Zodiac Killer

Cranley Gardens – Dennis Nilsen

B.T.K. – Dennis Rader

Where Evil Dwells – Richard Ramirez

Badlands – Charles Starkweather

Green River – Gary Ridgway

Born To Raise Hell – Richard Speck

Road to Ruin – Charles Whitman

Filth Bitch Boogie – Aileen Wuornos

Ripping Into Pieces – Peter Sutcliffe

Master of Brutality – John Wayne Gacy

Killifornia – Edmund Kemper III

Reverend – Jim Jones

Plainfield – Ed Gein

Murder Company – Henry Lee Lucas and Ottis Toole

Spahn Ranch – Charles Manson

Room 213 – Jeffrey Dahmer

Boston Strangler – Albert De Salvo

Lambs to the Slaughter – Ian Brady and Myra Hindley

Plus many other equally disturbing musical renditions of these heinous killers and their crimes. Is it morally right to write music about them in this way? Probably not, but unfortunately it comes down to the public's fascination with serial killer culture.



## **Chapter 12: Was Herbert Mullin Born To Kill?**

There have been numerous research studies, documentaries books and professional opinions as to whether or not serial killers are born to kill, or whether it is something external and environmental that changes them. The purpose of research into this is to try and identify potential psychopaths and killers in childhood, to try and prevent later crimes. Also, people just want to know why killers do what they do.

A list of traits was developed through research to help identify children who may go on to become killers. These traits are purely a guideline, but it was discovered that many serial killers had these 9 traits in childhood and their youth.

### **Trait 1 – Antisocial Behavior**

Antisocial behavior can be seen in some children who are developing slower than their peers, and this type of behavior is of no real concern. However, if a child suddenly becomes antisocial, this could be a sign that not all is well.

### **Trait 2 – Setting Fires**

Arson is often the first stepping stone towards becoming a killer. It is believed that this is because arson creates a feeling of control and power.

### **Trait 3 – Torture of Animals**

Of all the 9 traits, this one is understood to be the strongest of all the other warning signs. Killing or torturing small animals is not normal behavior for children. This behavior shows that they are trying to exert power over others, and they choose smaller animals because they are easier to control and harm.

### **Trait 4 – Family Issues**

Often a serial killer will come from a dysfunctional family. This may relate to divorce, alcohol and drug abuse, criminal issues, or psychiatric problems.

### **Trait 5 – Abuse**

Abuse in childhood is believed to greatly affect how the child develops. The abuse can be sexual, verbal, psychological or physical, and most of the time it is committed by a close member of the family. The feelings of helplessness and humiliation associated with being abused are believed to instill a need to have power over others and create those same feelings in their victims, so they can feel how the killer felt as a child.

### **Trait 6 – Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

There have been some serial killers who discovered alcohol and drugs in their youth, and these became dangerous addictions.

### **Trait 7 – Voyeurism**

Sexual deviancy such as voyeurism, fetishism and sado-masochistic pornography may be discovered at a young age. There have been a number of killers who started out as peeping toms.

### **Trait 8 – Intelligence**

Many serial killers have a reasonably high level of intelligence, especially those that fall into the organized killer category. This is often why they evade capture for long periods of time, or can manipulate doctors and authority figures to their advantage.

### **Trait 9 – Shiftlessness**

Many serial killers struggle to hold down a regular job, and often they end up doing menial labor work, despite having good intellectual ability.

## **The Traits in Herbert Mullin**

When you look at the childhood and youth history of Herbert Mullin, he only ever depicted 2 of the 9 traits – drug addiction and shiftlessness. He was popular in school, so there was no antisocial behavior. As far as is known, Herbert never deliberately lit any fires. There is no indication that Herbert ever tortured or killed small animals either.

Family life in the Mullin household was rather normal, and perhaps better than many other families. There was no alcohol or drug abuse, and the family was a stable unit. No reports were ever made regarding domestic disputes or violence, and Herbert's parents remained married until they died. There was also no history of criminal activity in the family or psychiatric problems, except for Herbert.

Herbert claimed his father was abusive, more psychologically than physically, but there is no evidence to corroborate this claim. His sister has certainly never spoken up about any abuse that may have occurred, so it is believed that this abuse was part of Herbert's fantasy.

There were some sexual issues in Herbert's life, but it wasn't of the same calibre as trait number 7. He was confused about his sexuality, and after ending a long engagement, announced to the world he was homosexual. Nowadays he prefers to be considered bisexual.

Herbert has not undergone an IQ test, so the level of his intelligence has not been formally measured. However, he was a good student at school and college, and he had a 3.0 grade point average. He also went on to complete a 2 year degree in road engineering.

Trait number 9, shiftlessness, definitely pertains to Herbert Mullin. He drifted from place to place, home to home, and job to job. Despite his education, the jobs he did undertake were menial in nature, such as being a busboy, a store assistant, a dishwasher and service station attendant. The only job he had that carried a little bit more of a challenge was as a Manager of a Goodwill store.

So, when you look at the traits used to determine whether or not a killer is born to kill, Herbert Mullin barely fits only 2 of these. His childhood seemed completely normal right up until his late teens when his friend Dean was killed in an automobile accident. When you weigh up all the information about his childhood history, it appears that Herbert does not fit the bill of being born to kill.

## Chapter 13: Aftermath

When a person is brutally murdered, it creates a ripple effect through all of the people who either knew that person, or who attended the crime scene. If a person dies from an illness, or old age, then you generally have time to say goodbye, mend any disputes you may have had, or just be able to spend time with them. When someone is suddenly ripped from your life however, the aftermath can be truly devastating.

Often, the focus is on the perpetrator and the victim, particularly through the trial and incarceration. But there are a lot more people that are involved, some simply because they bore witness to the tragedy, and those who fight to find the suspect and put them behind bars. The list of people that can be affected by a murder is huge:

- First person on the scene
- Witnesses
- Local police, state police, federal agents
- First response paramedics
- Medical examiner
- Family of the deceased
- Spouse or partner
- Friends
- Co-workers and colleagues
- Family of the suspect
- Spouse or partner of the suspect
- Children of the suspect
- Lawyers for prosecution and defense
- Jury
- Community

Sometimes even more people are affected by a murder, depending on the circumstance of the crime. If the victim is the leader of a church for example, such as Father Tomei, then the members of the church will be affected. When the victim is a student, those they attend school with will be affected. And so on.

### **First Person On The Scene**

This is perhaps one of the worst positions to be in. Finding a murder victim can be horrific, particularly if a weapon was involved, and the scene is bloody and messy. There is also a great sense of responsibility when you find a victim, as it is you who has to notify the authorities. Crime scenes are not pleasant, and sometimes the victim is found by a complete stranger, such as when bodies are left out in the open. Also, depending on how long the victim has been dead for, the smell can be awful, and it is a smell that many say never really leaves you.

Being the first on the scene of a murder means you see the victim and the circumstances of the crime before anyone has covered the body or taken it away. Those images can stick with you for a very long time, and can lead to flashbacks and nightmares.

### **Witnesses**

A witness is affected similarly to the first person on the scene. They have seen an event that is truly disturbing, and they know that they may hold the key to solving the case. Sometimes witnesses try so hard to recall information that they unintentionally begin to fabricate or confuse details. This is due to the overwhelming sense of responsibility.

### **Local Police, State Police, Federal Agents**

If you think a police officer would be immune to the sadness and brutality of a murder scene, you would be mistaken. It is true that they have a job to do, and they have to focus on that, but ask any officer what it's like when they go home at the end of the shift and you will find that this is the time they allow themselves to think about what they have seen. Murders of children are particularly difficult, as in the Herbert

Mullin case. Nobody can easily forget the sight of a small child tragically killed at the hands of a monster.

### **First Response Paramedics**

Although the victims don't normally require treatment, they still have to be declared deceased, so paramedics are called in. Like police officers, paramedics also see violent and terrible scenes, but that doesn't make it any easier to forget them.

### **Medical Examiner**

It takes a very special type of person to work as a medical examiner, due to the nature of the job. They face death every day, and it is their job to find out as much information about the murder as possible. Although they may be more immune to seeing and examining murder victims, when you have a serial killer case, it becomes more intense, as the bodies pile up, they need to work as quickly as possible to try and find some kind of evidence to lead to a suspect, or convict one.

### **Family of the Deceased**

Of course the family of the victim would be affected far worse than anybody else. They have had somebody they loved ripped from their lives in the worst possible circumstances. Trying to understand why the perpetrator chose their loved one as his or her victim is often one of the hardest obstacles family members face. Parents who lose a child suffer greatly, as the natural order of things says they are not supposed to outlive their children. Children of a murdered parent are left feeling abandoned, and it can take a long time for the child to understand what has happened. When both parents are murdered, this can result in the child being shipped from family member to family member, or from foster home to foster home. This further destabilizes the family environment, leading to a lot of problems for many children.

### **Spouse or Partner**

The partner or spouse of a murder victim suffers in more than one way. Firstly they have lost their mate, someone they love, admire and share a life with. Secondly, in

the murder of a woman, the husband or boyfriend are regularly considered a suspect until proven otherwise. This can impact the man's life greatly, having that cloud of suspicion hanging over his head. They can become alienated from friends and family as they become unsure whether or not he is guilty. The man can lose his job, his home, and his respect in the community until such time as they are proven to be innocent.

### **Friends**

Friends can struggle to come to terms with the sudden loss of one of their group. There will be constant reminders of things they used to do together, the way they laughed together, and the support they may have given each other. The friends are often questioned to determine the victims last movements, or their character, which can be a difficult experience for many people.

### **Co-workers and Colleagues**

When you work with someone, you get to know them well usually. You share break times, office space, a locker room. It can take quite a long time to get used to going to work and not seeing the familiar face there.

### **Family of the Suspect**

Many families find it hard at first to accept that their loved one has committed murder, let alone multiple murders such as Herbert Mullin committed. They don't want to believe this person has done such terrible things, which is a perfectly natural reaction. Once word gets out around the community or through the media, their lives can change dramatically. They will have to face finger pointing, abuse, speculation and discrimination, simply because they are closely associated with a killer. In many cases, close family members have packed up and left town following the trial of their loved one, especially if they have been found guilty. It is easier to move away and start again than live with constant judgement and harassment, even if it is only in their own minds.

### **Spouse or Partner of the Suspect**

Often when a suspect has been arrested and charged, attention turns to the partner or the spouse. The number one question they are usually asked is 'how could you have not known?' Remarkably, there have been many serial killer cases where the killer has lived a seemingly normal family life, gone to work each day and provided for their wife and children without seeming at all dangerous. So it is very plausible indeed that a spouse or partner could be oblivious to the behaviors of their spouse or partner. Imagine if your husband had been killing people for a number of years, and you knew nothing about it. How would you feel? It would be like complete betrayal to learn that the person you married was not who you thought they were. Also, there is the guilt of thinking, maybe 'I could have prevented this or stopped the killing sooner'.

### **Children of the Suspect**

Regardless of how young a child of a killer may be, the stigma of being related to a murderer can be carried with them for the rest of their lives. Sometimes the children feel a sense of guilt towards family members of the victims, almost as though it was their fault. They become fearful of telling anyone who their father is or was, for fear of being ostracised. Added to that, they also have lost a parent, who in many cases was a doting and loving father.

### **Lawyers For Prosecution and Defense**

Although lawyers choose to do the job they do, some cases are much harder for them to live with than others. On the one hand, if the prosecutor loses the case, there is the possibility that a murderer may go free and strike again. For the defense attorney, they may be helping a murderer get off a charge, even if they suspect the person may be guilty, because they have a duty to the court and still must act in the interests of their client. Sometimes the case is so heinous, or the suspect is obviously guilty, that the lawyer may recuse themselves from the case. In trials where the suspect pleads guilty, the role of the defense lawyer is to get them the best possible deal in relation to sentence.

### **The Jury**

The jury in a murder trial probably has the most difficult task of them all. It is their job and their responsibility to weigh up all the information from both sides of the case and determine guilt. In the trial of Herbert Mullin this task was further compounded by the question of sanity. If they found him sane, he could be locked away for life. If they found him not guilty by reason of insanity, there was always going to be a possibility that he would go into an institution for a period of time then perhaps be released back into the community. Did they find him sane because they honestly thought he was? Or were they making sure he would never get back into the community? Either way, it was the right decision to make, as Herbert Mullin would always be a danger to society.

## **The Community**

The smaller the community, the bigger impact a murder or serial murders will have on it. All too often you hear people say “I would never have picked him to be like that”, or “he was such a nice guy”. The sheer fact that this person had been living amongst them, and had been interacting with the public in a normal and reasonable manner, whilst at the same time committing murders, was confusing and traumatic to many community members. Also, during the period of Herbert Mullin’s killing spree, there was also Edmund Kemper III running around killing women. The community of Santa Cruz was terrified. People were afraid to go anywhere, particularly since Herbert’s murders occurred during daylight. Not only did they fear the night, they also had to fear the day. The terror experienced by the community would have had a tremendous impact on how people lived their lives from that day forward.

## **Legal Changes**

Perhaps the biggest legal change that came about because of Herbert Mullin was the bill that was put into action a year after the trial. Ronald Reagan, who was the governor at that time, and who would later become president, had used his administration to shut down the mental hospitals in California. Because Herbert’s parents had desperately tried to find a long stay facility, but were unable to, before Herbert committed the murders, there was a huge public outcry. If Herbert had been admitted to a mental hospital, he would have had treatment for his schizophrenia,

and wouldn't have been out murdering innocent people. Following the trial, there was a new bill that prohibited any mental hospitals or mental institutions from being closed down.

## **Chapter 14: Putting It All Together**

Herbert Mullin was not a well man that much is true. He purposely went out and killed 13 innocent people, allegedly because he believed it was his mission from God. His theory was that if he killed enough people, California would be saved from slipping into the sea due to a massive earthquake, such as the one that occurred on his birthdate in 1906.

Yes, he was diagnosed schizophrenic multiple times during his young adulthood. It's true that he was admitted numerous times to mental health facilities. But, not all schizophrenics turn out to be killers. In fact, the number of schizophrenic murderers is rather small. Could this really be blamed for his bizarre theories and his mission to kill? He claims he was hearing voices telling him to kill, but as mentioned previously, not all schizophrenics act on those voices. If the voice is telling you to set yourself on fire, are you really that likely to do it? It is well documented, that the voices can be ignored or disobeyed. So why couldn't Herbert?

### **Mental Health**

Another theory is that the mental health aspect was simply a ruse, a rather clever way of trying to get off any charges that may come about from what he was about to do. After all, his 'mental health' issues had already gotten him off a number of charges for drug possession and disorderly behavior. Herbert learned that if he acted crazy, he could get away with just about anything. His only punishment was to be put into a hospital for a few weeks, where he would be looked after, fed, and eventually freed.

During his admissions to the mental hospitals, Herbert was consistently non-compliant with the treatments there. He refused to take the medications, and he failed to take part in the group sessions or counselling appointments. Often he would be released simply because it was a waste of time and resources to keep him there due to his lack of commitment to the programs. Once released, he continued the pattern of non-compliance by again not taking medication, and not attending any

community therapy sessions. Even within 3 years of his incarceration he stopped taking medication. Yet there has been no record of wildly crazy behavior or issues since he stopped it. So was he really insane? Without medication there is no way he could remain stable.

If he wasn't insane, he was an especially clever man, capable of deceit and manipulation. He managed to convince every psychiatrist that he was mentally unwell with schizophrenia, and even forensic profilers were convinced he was insane. Some even believe a great injustice was done to Herbert, and that he should have been committed to a mental institution instead of a prison.

### **Drugs Ruined His Brain**

When things started going wrong for Herbert Mullin, he blamed the LSD and marijuana use, claiming it had ruined his brain. When that didn't work, he blamed the schizophrenia. But how interesting is it, that one of his victims was the very person who introduced him to drugs in the first place. Even more interesting, is that he was able to recall who gave him the drugs and had the insight to blame him for his downward spiral. The murder of Jim Gianera was completely premeditated and was a vengeance killing. It wasn't random. He specifically hunted him down to kill him.

But despite his claims of drug abuse, and the fact that he had 'legalise acid' tattooed on his body, there is no real evidence that Herbert ever took a great deal of drugs. It was a good excuse to use in those days though, as back then, they believed LSD caused schizophrenia and psychosis. To the average person back then it was quite reasonable to believe that the drugs made Herbert kill. Nowadays however, we know that it is not true.

### **Planning Ahead**

One can't help but wonder how in the middle of the all these random killings, Herbert was able to carry out murders that weren't random at all. What if, when Herbert reached his early 20s, he decided that the things that had gone wrong for him until that time were due to the drugs, and he planned to seek revenge on the man who introduced him to them. But, if he just went up and shot Jim Gianera, the

finger may have been too easily pointed in his direction. Perhaps he could cover up the intended target by killing a few other people beforehand.

So how was he going to get away with one murder without getting caught? There are a few options he could have considered. He could plead insanity – it had worked for lesser charges when he had been arrested. But to prove insanity, he would have to come up with a crazy theory that everyone would think was proof he was mad. He had always been fascinated with the fact that the great San Francisco earthquake occurred on his birthdate, so why not use that fact as part of his defense. Add to that his ‘theories’ surrounding Albert Einstein dying on his birthdate, and you have yet another bizarre belief. People would definitely think he was crazy.

But what if the insanity plea doesn’t work? Next best bet is to blame the drugs. Everyone thinks LSD will send you mad and make you do bad things. So, how to prove you have been taking LSD regularly? How about getting a gawdy tattoo on your abdomen, demanding the drug be legalized? You would have to be a ‘druggie’ to do something like that. Or would you?

If the authorities don’t fall for the drugs and mental illness excuse, the final answer could be to blame dad. It was widely believed that an abusive father led to a dysfunctional young man. There had been other murders committed by men who had been abused by their parents. Herbert couldn’t claim it was his mother who abused him though. She was a good God-fearing woman, so nobody would have believed that theory.

Three years before the first murder, Herbert could have been putting everything into place. He started acting crazy, convincing people that he was mentally unwell with schizophrenia. He would need a history of it though, so multiple admissions over a short period of time would suffice. He could have dabbled in LSD a few times, just to make people think he had a drug problem. Herbert could have started writing boxes and boxes of documents in relatively unintelligible nonsense to further prove he was crazy.

Herbert started boxing. Perhaps this was to improve his strength and stamina, in case the murders proved physically difficult. There is no point trying to murder

someone if you can't control them physically. Besides, his father would be proud that he had tried to follow in his footsteps and remembered the days when they would play fight in the kitchen.

Poor Lawrence White was a victim of circumstance. He may have been the training run for the true murder that was to occur later. Or maybe Herbert was trying to decide what would be the most effective weapon to use when it came time to kill Gianera. Mary Guilfoyle was a completely different story. It was suspected that she was raped by Mullin. At the time he was claiming to be bisexual, so this is quite possible. Perhaps dissecting her was also a training exercise, and he decided that it was just too messy. Father Tomei was a witness by confession so he had to go.

Then he got to Gianera. Unfortunately for Kathy Francis and her boys, they were too valuable as witnesses to let live. The teenagers in the forest treated him with disrespect, and here was Herbert, a serial killer, being dissed like that by young men. He wasn't going to put with that. The murder of Fred Perez doesn't quite fit the picture however. Perhaps Herbert had decided it was too difficult to keep running and hiding, and this was the only way he could put an end to the killing and put his training in excuses to the ultimate test.

Whichever way you look at it, whether Herbert was indeed insane, or whether he pulled off a well-planned targeted execution, his crimes were absolutely abhorrent. It is no surprise that he is not likely to ever get parole, as he still continues to this day to blame everything and everyone else for his actions. Of course he can't admit that it is entirely his fault, as it would then be less likely for anyone to believe he was insane.

Thanks to Herbert Mullin and Edmund Kemper III, Santa Cruz will forever be remembered as the serial killer capital of the world. Though Mullin's killings would be over in a short period of time, just 4 months, the repercussions for those that lived there during that time were terrible. Four months of madness, and 4 months of fear. It is no surprise that Herbert Mullin ranks up there as one of the worst serial killers to date.

**FREE  
BONUS  
CHAPTER**

## **The making of a serial killer**

“I was born with the devil in me,” said H.H. Holmes, who in 1893 took advantage of the World’s Fair – and the extra room he rented out in his Chicago mansion – to kill at least 27 people without attracting much attention.

“I could not help the fact that I was a murderer, no more than the poet can help the inspiration to sing. I was born with the evil one standing as my sponsor beside the bed where I was ushered into the world, and he has been with me since,” Holmes said.

The idea of “I can’t help it” is one of the hallmarks of many serial killers, along with an unwillingness to accept responsibility for their actions and a refusal to acknowledge that they themselves used free will to do their dreadful deeds.

“Yes, I did it, but I’m a sick man and can’t be judged by the standards of other men,” said Juan Corona, who killed 25 migrant workers in California in the late 1960s and early 1970s, burying them in the very fruit orchards where they’d hoped to build a better life for their families.

Dennis Rader, who called himself the BTK Killer (Bind, Torture, Kill) also blamed some unknown facet to his personality, something he called Factor X, for his casual ability to kill one family, then go home to his own, where he was a devoted family man.

“When this monster entered my brain, I will never know, but it is here to stay. How does one cure himself? I can’t stop it, the monster goes on, and hurts me as well as society.

Maybe you can stop him. I can't," said Rader, who said he realized he was different than the other kids before he entered high school. "I actually think I may be possessed with demons."

But again, he blamed others for not stopping him from making his first murderous move.

"You know, at some point in time, someone should have picked something up from me and identified it," he later said.

Rader was not the only serial killer to place the blame far away from himself.

William Bonin actually took offense when a judge called him "sadistic and guilty of monstrous criminal conduct."

"I don't think he had any right to say that to me," Bonin later whined. "I couldn't help myself. It's not my fault I killed those boys."

### **It leaves us always asking why**

For those of us who are not serial killers, the questions of why and how almost always come to mind, so ill equipped are we to understand the concept of murder on such a vast scale.

"Some nights I'd lie awake asking myself, 'Who the hell is this BTK?'" said FBI profiler John Douglas, who worked the Behavioral Science Unit at Quantico before writing several best-selling books, including "Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit," and

"Obsession: The FBI's Legendary Profiler Probes the Psyches of Killers, Rapists, and Stalkers and Their Victims and Tells How to Fight Back."

The questions were never far from his mind - "What makes a guy like this do what he does? What makes him tick?" – and it's the kind of thing that keeps profilers and police up at night, worrying, wondering and waiting for answers that are not always so easily forthcoming.

Another leader into the study of madmen, the late FBI profiler Robert Ressler - who coined the terms serial killer as well as criminal profiling – also spent sleepless nights trying to piece together a portrait of many a killer, something that psychiatrist James Brussel did almost unflinching well in 1940, when a pipe bomb killer enraged at Con Edison was terrorizing New York City.

(Brussel told police what the killer would be wearing when they arrested him, and although he was caught at home late at night, wearing his pajamas, when police asked him to dress, he emerged from his room wearing a double-breasted suit, exactly as Brussel had predicted.)

"What is this force that takes a hold of a person and pushes them over the edge?" wondered Ressler, who interviewed scores of killers over the course of his illustrious career.

In an effort to infiltrate the minds of serial killers, Douglas and Ressler embarked on a mission to interview some of the most deranged serial killers in the country, starting their journey in California, which "has always had more than its share of weird and spectacular crimes," Douglas said.

In their search for a pattern, they determined that there are essential two types of serial killers: organized and disorganized.

## Organized killers

Organized killers were revealed through their crime scenes, which were neat, controlled and meticulous, with effort taken both in the crime and with their victims. Organized killers also take care to leave behind few clues once they're done.

Dean Corll was an organized serial killer. He tortured his victims overnight, carefully collecting blood and bodily fluids on a sheet of plastic before rolling them up and burying them and their possessions, most beneath the floor of a boat shed he'd rented, going there late at night under the cover of darkness.

## Disorganized killers

On the flip side of the coin, disorganized killers grab their victims indiscriminately, or act on the spur of the moment, allowing victims to collect evidence beneath their fingernails when they fight back and oftentimes leaving behind numerous clues including weapons.

"The disorganized killer has no idea of, or interest in, the personalities of his victims," Ressler wrote in his book "Whoever Fights Monsters," one of several detailing his work as a criminal profiler. "He does not want to know who they are, and many times takes steps to obliterate their personalities by quickly knocking them unconscious or covering their faces or otherwise disfiguring them."

Cary Stayner – also known as the Yosemite Killer – became a disorganized killer during his last murder, which occurred on the fly when he was unable to resist a pretty park educator.

Lucky for other young women in the picturesque park, he left behind a wide range of clues, including four unmatched tire tracks from his aging 1979 International Scout.

“The crime scene is presumed to reflect the murderer’s behavior and personality in much the same way as furnishings reveal the homeowner’s character,” Douglas and Ressler later wrote, expanding on their findings as they continued their interview sessions.

### **Serial killers think they’re unique – but they’re not**

Dr. Helen Morrison – a longtime fixture in the study of serial killers who keeps clown killer John Wayne Gacy’s brain in her basement (after Gacy’s execution she sent the brain away for an analysis that proved it to be completely normal) – said that at their core, most serial killers are essentially the same.

While psychologists still haven’t determined the motives behind what drives serial killers to murder, there are certain characteristics they have in common, said Morrison, who has studied or interviewed scores of serial killers and wrote about her experiences in “My Life Among the Serial Killers.”

Most often men, serial killers tend to be talkative hypochondriacs who develop a remorseless addiction to the brutality of murder.

Too, they are able to see their victims as inanimate objects, playthings, of you will, around simply for their amusement.

Empathy? Not on your life.

“They have no appreciation for the absolute agony and terror and fear that the victim is demonstrating,” said Morrison. “They just see the object in front of them. A serial murderer has no feelings. Serial killers have no motives. They kill only to kill an object.”

In doing so, they satisfy their urges, and quiet the tumultuous turmoil inside of them.

“You say to yourself, ‘How could anybody do this to another human being?’” Morrison said.

“Then you realize they don’t see them as humans. To them, it’s like pulling the wings off a fly or the legs off a daddy longlegs.... You just want to see what happens. It's the most base experiment.”

### **Nature vs. nurture?**

For many serial killers, the desire to kill is as innate as their hair or eye color, and out of control, but most experts say that childhood trauma is an experience shared by them all.

In 1990, Colin Wilson and Donald Seaman conducted a study of serial killers behind bars and found that childhood problems were the most influential factors that led serial killers down their particular path of death and destruction.

Former FBI profiler Robert Ressler – who coined the terms serial killer and criminal profiling – goes so far as to say that 100 percent of all serial killers experienced childhoods that were not filled with happy memories of camping trips or fishing on the lake.

According to Ressler, of all the serial killers he interviewed or studied, each had suffered some form of abuse as a child - either sexual, physical or emotional abuse, neglect or rejection by parents or humiliation, including instances that occurred at school.

For those who are already hovering psychologically on edge due to unfortunate genetics, such events become focal points that drive a killer to act on seemingly insane instincts.

Because there is often no solid family unit – parents are missing or more focused on drugs and alcohol, sexual abuse goes unnoticed, physical abuse is commonplace – the child’s development becomes stunted, and they can either develop deep-seeded rage or create for themselves a fantasy world where everything is perfect, and they are essentially the kings of their self-made castle.

That was the world of Jeffrey Dahmer, who recognized his need for control much later, after hours spent in analysis where he learned the impact of a sexual assault as a child as well as his parents’ messy, rage-filled divorce.

“After I left the home, that’s when I started wanting to create my own little world, where I was the one who had complete control,” Dahmer said. “I just took it way too far.”

Dahmer’s experiences suggest that psychopathic behavior likely develops in childhood, when due to neglect and abuse, children revert to a place of fantasy, a world where the victimization of the child shifts toward others.

“The child becomes sociopathic because the normal development of the concepts of right and wrong and empathy towards others is retarded because the child’s emotional and social development occurs within his self-centered fantasies. A person can do no wrong in his own world and the pain of others is of no consequence when the purpose of the fantasy world is to satisfy the needs of one person,” according to one expert.

As the lines between fantasy and reality become blurred, fantasies that on their own are harmless become real, and monsters like Dean Corll find themselves strapping young boys

down to a wooden board, raping them, torturing them and listening to them scream, treating the act like little more than a dissociative art project that ends in murder.

## **Going inside the mind: Psychopathy and other mental illnesses**

While not all psychopaths are serial killers – many compulsive killers do feel some sense of remorse, such as Green River Killer Gary Ridgeway did when he cried in court after one victim’s father offered Ridgeway his forgiveness – those who are, Morrison said, are unable to feel a speck of empathy for their victims.

Their focus is entirely on themselves and the power they are able to assert over others, especially so in the case of a psychopath.

Psychopaths are charming – think Ted Bundy, who had no trouble luring young women into his car by eliciting sympathy with a faked injury – and have the skills to easily manipulate their victims, or in some cases, their accomplices.

Dean Corll was called a Svengali – a name taken from a fictional character in George du Maurier’s 1895 novel “Trilby” who seduces, dominates and exploits the main character, a young girl – for being able to enlist the help of several neighborhood boys who procured his youthful male victims without remorse, even when the teens were their friends.

Some specific traits of serial killers, determined through years of profiling, include:

- **Smooth talking but insincere.** Ted Bundy was a charmer, the kind of guy that made it easy for people to be swept into his web. “I liked him immediately, but people like Ted can fool you completely,” said Ann Rule, author of the best-

selling "Stranger Beside Me," about her experiences with Bundy, a man she considered a friend. "I'd been a cop, had all that psychology — but his mask was perfect. I say that long acquaintance can help you know someone. But you can never be really sure. Scary."

- **Egocentric and grandiose.** Jack the Ripper thought the world of himself, and felt he would outsmart police, so much so that he sent letters taunting the London officers. "Dear Boss," he wrote, "I keep on hearing the police have caught me but they won't 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 shan't 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 funny 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 can't 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 ... My knife's so nice and sharp I want to get to work right away if I get a chance. Good luck."
- **Lack of remorse or guilt.** Joel Rifkin was filled with self-pity after he was convicted of killing and dismembering at least nine women. He called his conviction a tragedy, but later, in prison, he got into an argument with mass murderer Colin Ferguson over whose killing spree was more important, and when Ferguson taunted him for only killing women, Rifkin said, "Yeah, but I had more victims."

- **Lack of empathy.** Andrei Chikatilo, who feasted on bits of genitalia both male and female after his kills, thought nothing of taking a life, no matter how torturous it was for his victims. “The whole thing - the cries, the blood, the agony - gave me relaxation and a certain pleasure,” he said.
- **Deceitful and manipulative.** John Wayne Gacy refused to take responsibility for the 28 boys buried beneath his house, even though he also once said that clowns can get away with murder. “I think after 14 years under truth serum had I committed the crime I would have known it,” said the man the neighbors all claimed to like. “There’s got to be something that would... would click in my mind. I’ve had photos of 21 of the victims and I’ve looked at them all over the years here and I’ve never recognized anyone of them.”
- **Shallow emotions.** German serial killer Rudolph Pliel, convicted of killing 10 people and later took his own life in prison, compared his “hobby” of murder to playing cards, and later told police, “What I did is not such a great harm, with all these surplus women nowadays. Anyway, I had a good time.”
- **Impulsive.** Tommy Lynn Sells, who claimed responsibility for dozens of murders throughout the Midwest and South, saw a woman at a convenience store and followed her home, an impulse he was unable to control. He waited until the house went dark, then “I went into this house. I go to the first bedroom I see...I don’t know whose room it is and, and, and, and I start stabbing.” The victim was the woman’s young son.
- **Poor behavior controls.** “I wished I could stop but I could not. I had no other thrill or happiness,” said UK killer Dennis Nilsen, who killed at least 12 young men

via strangulation, then bathed and dressed their bodies before disposing of them, often by burning them.

- **Need for excitement.** For Albert Fish - a masochistic killer with a side of sadism that included sending a letter to the mother of one of his victims, describing in detail how he cut, cooked and ate her daughter - even the idea of his own death was one he found particularly thrilling. "Going to the electric chair will be the supreme thrill of my life," he said.
- **Lack of responsibility.** "I see myself more as a victim rather than a perpetrator," said Gacy, in a rare moment of admitting the murders. "I was cheated out of my childhood. I should never have been convicted of anything more serious than running a cemetery without a license. They were just a bunch of worthless little queers and punks."
- **Early behavior problems.** "When I was a boy I never had a friend in the world," said German serial killer Heinrich Pommerencke, who began raping and murdering girls as a teen.
- **Adult antisocial behavior.** Gary Ridgeway pleaded guilty to killing 48 women, mostly prostitutes, who were easy prey and were rarely reported missing – at least not immediately. "I don't believe in man, God nor Devil. I hate the whole damned human race, including myself... I preyed upon the weak, the harmless and the unsuspecting. This lesson I was taught by others: Might makes right."

### 'I felt like it'

Many psychopaths will say after a crime, "I did it because I felt like it," with a certain element of pride.

That's how BTK killer Dennis Rader felt, and because he had no sense of wrong regarding his actions, he was able to carry on with his normal life with his wife and children with ease.

Someone else's demeanor might have changed, they may have become jittery or anxious, and they would have been caught.

Many serial killers are so cold they are can pop into a diner right after a murder, never showing a sign of what they've done.

"Serial murderers often seem normal," according to the FBI. "They have families and/or a steady job."

"They're so completely ordinary," Morrison added. "That's what gets a lot of victims in trouble."

That normalcy is often what allows perpetrators to get away with their crimes for so long.

Unlike mass murderers such as terrorists who generally drop off the radar before perpetrating their event, serial killers blend in. They might seem a bit strange – neighbors noticed that Ed Gein wasn't too big on personal hygiene, and neighbors did think it was odd that William Bonin hung out with such young boys - but not so much so that anyone would ask too many questions.

"That's why so many people often say, "I had no idea" or "He was such a nice guy" after a friend or neighbor is arrested.

And it's also why people are so very, very stunned when they see stories of serial killers dominating the news.

“For a person with a conscience, Rader's crimes seem hideous, but from his point of view, these are his greatest accomplishments and he is anxious to share all of the wonderful things he has done,” said Jack Levin, PhD, director of the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict at Northeastern University in Boston and the author of “Extreme Killings.”

### A new take on psychopathy

Psychopathy is now diagnosed as antisocial personality disorder, a prettier spin on an absolutely horrifying diagnosis.

According to studies, almost 50 percent of men in prison and 21 percent of women in prison have been diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder.

Of serial killers, Ted Bundy (who enjoyed sex with his dead victims), John Wayne Gacy and Charles Manson (who encouraged others to do his dirty work which included the murder of pregnant Sharon Tate) were all diagnosed with this particular affliction, which allowed them to carry out their crimes with total disregard toward others or toward the law.

They showed no remorse.

### Schizophrenia

Many known serial killers were later diagnosed with some other form of mental illness, including schizophrenia, believed to be behind the crimes of David Berkowitz (he said his neighbor's dog told him to kill his six victims in the 1970s), Ed Gein, whose grisly saving of

skin, bones and various female sex parts was a desperate effort to resurrect his death mother and Richard Chase (the vampire of Sacramento, who killed six people in California in order to drink their blood).

Schizophrenia includes a wide range of symptoms, ranging from hallucinations and delusions to living in a catatonic state.

### **Borderline personality disorder**

Borderline personality disorder – which is characterized by intense mood swings, problems with interpersonal relationships and impulsive behaviors – is also common in serial killers.

Some diagnosed cases of borderline personality disorder include Aileen Wuornos, a woman whose horrific childhood and numerous sexual assaults led her to murder one of her rapists, after which she spiraled out of control and killed six other men who picked her up along with highway in Florida, nurse Kristen H. Gilbert, who killed four patients at a Virginia hospital with overdoses of epinephrine, and Dahmer, whose murder count rose to 17 before he was caught.

With a stigma still quite present regarding mental illness, it's likely we will continue to diagnose serial killers and mass murderers after the fact, too late to protect their victims.

### **Top signs of a serial killer**

While there is still no simple thread of similarities – which is why police and the FBI have more trouble in real life solving crimes than they do on shows like “Criminal Minds” – there are some things to look for, experts say.

- **Antisocial Behavior.** Psychopaths tend to be loners, so if a child that was once gregarious and outgoing becomes shy and antisocial, this could be an issue. Jeffrey Dahmer was a social, lively child until his parents moved to Ohio for his father's new job. There, he regressed – allegedly after being sexually molested – and began focusing his attentions on dissecting road kill rather than developing friendships.
- **Arson.** Fire is power, and power and control are part of the appeal for serial killers, who enjoy having their victims at their mercy. David Berkowitz was a pyromaniac as a child – his classmates called him Pyro as a nickname, so well-known was he for his fire obsession - and he reportedly started more than 1,000 fires in New York before he became the Son of Sam killer.
- **Torturing animals.** Serial killers often start young, and test boundaries with animals including family or neighborhood pets. According to studies, 70 percent of violent offenders have episodes of animal abuse in their childhood histories, compared to just 6 percent of nonviolent offenders. Albert DeSalvo – better known as the Boston Strangler – would capture cats and dogs as a child and trap them in boxes, shooting arrows at the defenseless animals for sport.
- **A troubled family history.** Many serial killers come from families with criminal or psychiatric histories or alcoholism. Edmund Kemper killed his grandparents to see what it would be like, and later – after he murdered a string of college students – he killed his alcoholic mother, grinding her vocal chords in the garbage disposal in an attempt to erase the sound of her voice.
- **Childhood abuse.** William Bonin – who killed at least 21 boys and young men in violent rapes and murders – was abandoned as a child, sent to live in a group home where he himself was sexually assaulted. The connections suggest either a rage that

can't be erased – Aileen Wuornos, a rare female serial killer, was physically and sexually abused throughout her childhood, resulting in distrust of others and a pent-up rage that exploded during a later rape - or a disassociation of sorts, refusing to connect on a human level with others for fear of being rejected yet again.

- **Substance abuse.** Many serial killers use drugs or alcohol. Jeffrey Dahmer was discharged from the Army due to a drinking problem he developed in high school, and he used alcohol to lure his victims to his apartment, where he killed them in a fruitless effort to create a zombie-like sex slave who would never leave him.
- **Voyeurism.** When Ted Bundy was a teen, he spent his nights as a Peeping Tom, hoping to get a glimpse of one of the neighborhood girls getting undressed in their bedrooms.
- **Serial killers are usually smart.** While their IQ is not usually the reason why serial killers elude police for so long, many have very high IQs. Edmund Kemper was this close to being considered a genius (his IQ was 136, just four points beneath the 140 mark that earns genius status), and he used his intelligence to create complex cons that got him released from prison early after killing his grandparents, allowing eight more women to die.
- **Can't keep a job.** Serial killers often have trouble staying employed, either because their off-hours activities take up a lot of time (Jeffrey Dahmer hid bodies in his shower, the shower he used every morning before work, because he was killing at such a fast rate) or because their obsessions have them hunting for victims when they should be on the clock.

## Trademarks of a serial killer

While what we know helps us get a better understanding of potential serial killers – and perhaps take a closer look at our weird little neighbors – it is still tricky for police and FBI agents to track serial killers down without knowing a few tells.

### The signature

While serial killers like to stake a claim over their killings – “Serial killers typically have some sort of a signature,” according to Dr. Scott Bonn, a professor at Drew University in New Jersey – they are usually still quite neat, and a signature does not necessarily mean evidence.

“Jack the Ripper, of course, his signature was the ripping of the bodies,” said Bonn.

While there are multiple theories, Jack the Ripper has yet to be identified, despite the similarities in his murders.

Too, the Happy Face Killer, Keith Hunter Jespersen – whose childhood was marked by alcoholic parents, teasing at school and a propensity to abuse small animals - drew happy faces on the numerous letters he sent to both media and authorities, teasing them a bit with a carrot on a string.

“If the forensic evidence itself - depending upon the bones or flesh or whatever is left - if it allows for that sort of identification, that would be one way of using forensic evidence to link these murders,” Bonn said.

## The cooling off period

Organized killers are so neat, tidy and meticulous that they may never leave clues, even if they have a signature.

And if there's a long cooling off period between crimes, tracking the killer becomes even more of a challenge.

After a murder – which could be compared to a sexual experience or getting high on drugs – the uncontrollable urges that led the killer to act dissipate, at least temporarily.

But according to Ressler, serial killers are rarely satisfied with their kills, and each one increases desire – in the same way a porn addiction can start with the pages of Playboy then turn into BDSM videos or other fetishes when Playboy pictorials are no longer satisfying.

“I was literally singing to myself on my way home, after the killing. The tension, the desire to kill a woman had built up in such explosive proportions that when I finally pulled the trigger, all the pressures, all the tensions, all the hatred, had just vanished, dissipated, but only for a short time,” said David Berkowitz, better known as the Son of Sam.

Afterwards, the memory of the murder, or mementos from the murder such as the skulls Jeffrey Dahmer retained, the scalps collected by David Gore or the box of vulvas Ed Gein kept in his kitchen, no longer become enough, and the killers must kill again, creating a “serial” cycle.

That window between crimes usually becomes smaller, however, which allows authorities to notice similarities in murder scenes or methodology, making tracking easier.

In the case of William Bonin, there were months between his first few murders, but toward the end, he sometimes killed two young men a day to satisfy his increasingly uncontrollable urges.

“Sometimes... I’d get tense and think I was gonna go crazy if I couldn’t get some release, like my head would explode. So I’d go out hunting. Killing helped me... It was like ... needing to go gambling or getting drunk. I had to do it,” Bonin said.

### Hunting in pairs

Some serial killers – between 10 and 25 percent - find working as a team more efficient, and they use their charm as the hook to lure in accomplices.

Ed Gein may never have killed anyone had his accomplice, a mentally challenged man who helped Gein dig up the graves of women who resembled his mother, not been sent to a nursing home, leaving Gein unable to dig up the dead on his own.

Texas killer Dean Corll used beer, drugs, money and candy to bribe neighborhood boys to bring him their friends for what they were promised was a party, but instead would turn to torture and murder. He would have killed many more if one of his accomplices had not finally shot him to prevent another night of death.

William Bonin also liked to work with friends, and he enticed boys who were reportedly on the low end of the IQ scale to help him sadistically rape and torture his victims.

## Other red flags

According to the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit – founded by Robert Ressler - 60 percent of murderers whose crimes involved sex were childhood bed wetters, and sometimes carried the habit into adulthood. One such serial killer, Alton Coleman, regularly wet his pants, earning the humiliating nickname "Pissy."

Sexual arousal over violent fantasies during puberty can also play a role in a serial killer's future.

Jeffrey Dahmer hit puberty about the same time he was dissecting road kill, so in some way, his wires became crossed and twisted, and sex and death aroused him.

## Brain damage? Maybe

While Helen Morrison's test found that John Wayne Gacy's brain was normal, and Jeffrey Dahmer's father never had the opportunity to have his son's brain studied, although both he and Jeffrey had wanted the study, there is some evidence that some serial killers have brain damage that impact their ability to exact rational control.

"Normal parents? Normal brains? I think not," said Dr. Jonathan Pincus, a neurologist and author of the book "Base Instincts: What Makes Killers Kill."

"Abusive experiences, mental illnesses and neurological deficits interplayed to produce the tragedies reported in the newspapers. The most vicious criminals have also been, overwhelmingly, people who have been grotesquely abused as children and have paranoid patterns of thinking," said Pincus in his book, adding that childhood traumas can impact the developmental anatomy and functioning of the brain.

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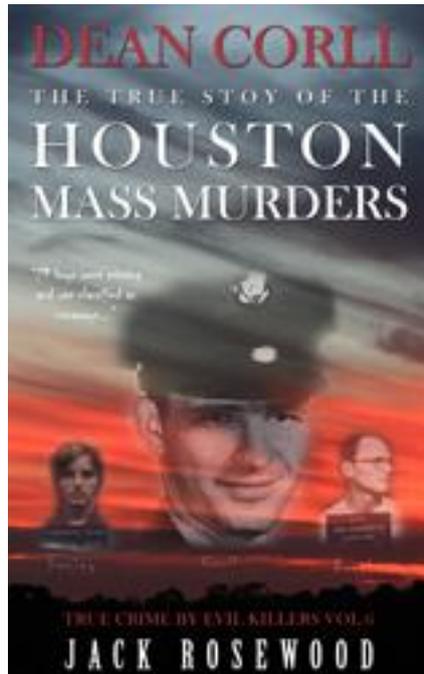
So what do we know?

Serial killers can be either uber-smart or brain damaged, completely people savvy or totally awkward, high functioning and seemingly normal or unable to hold down a job.

But essentially, no matter what their back story, their modus operandi or their style, "they're evil," said criminal profiler Pat Brown.

And do we need to know anything more than that?

## More books by Jack Rosewood



In an area of Houston known as the Heights, boys had been going missing for years, but it was the peace-and-love 1970s, so police just called them runaways, even if they'd left with little more than a swimsuit and some change.

When the truth was uncovered, and police – and the rest of Houston – realized the boys had become victims of notorious American serial killer Dean Corll, Houston recoiled in horrified shock. Residents realized that they had not only become the site of the most grisly mass murder in Texas history, but the worst mass murder in all of U.S. history.

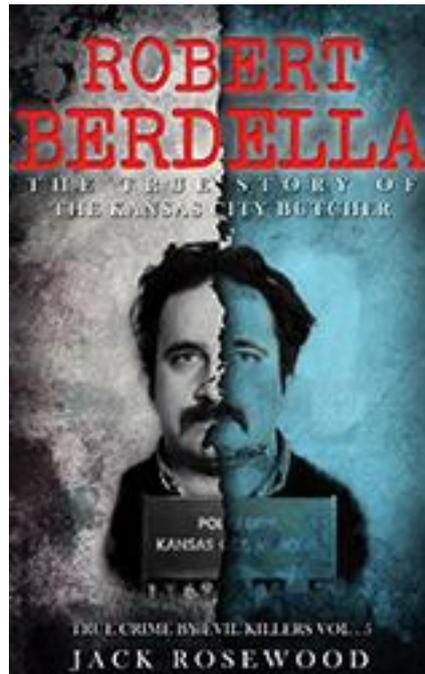
The word serial killer had not yet been coined, and as body after decomposing body was uncovered from the dirt floor of the boat shed where Corll and his two young accomplices had buried most of the victims, there were hardly words for what this sadistic lust killer had done. The depraved evil that Corll and his accomplices – two teen boys themselves who were promised money but eventually developed a thrill for the kill - was revealed as one of

the cohorts, Wayne Henley, calmly, affably, told the stories of how after Corll sexually assaulting them and tortured them in unimaginable fashion, they would kill them and take the boys' bodies away to bury them beneath the dirt.

This serial killer's biography will haunt you, especially as you learn more about the sadistic torture methods lust killer Corll used on his young victims, all lured to his various apartments by people they believed were their friends.

While Corll is dead, killed by Henley during the lust killer's last night of depravity, the case remains entwined in Houston history, and unforgettable for the families of those who lived it.

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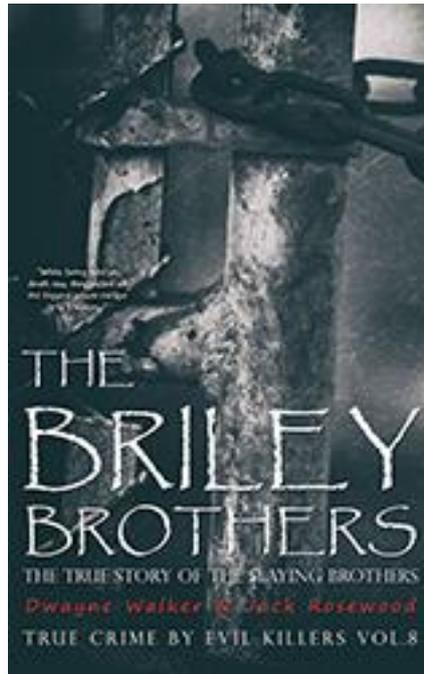
When Chris Bryson was discovered nude and severely beaten stumbling down Charlotte Street in Kansas City in 1988, Police had no idea they were about to discover the den of one of the most sadistic American serial killers in recent history. This is the true historical story of Robert Berdella, nicknamed by the media the Kansas City Butcher, who from between 1984 and 1988 brutally raped, tortured and ultimately dismembered 6 young male prostitutes in his unassuming home on a quiet street in Kansas City.

Based on the actual 720 page detailed confession provided by Berdella to investigators, it represents one of the most gruesome true crime stories of all time and is unique in the fact that it details each grizzly murder as told by the killer himself. From how he captured each man, to the terrifying methods he used in his torture chamber, to ultimately how he disposed of their corpses - rarely has there ever been a case where a convicted serial killer confessed to police in his own words his crimes in such disturbing detail.

Horrific, shocking and rarely equaled in the realms of sadistic torture – Berdella was a

sexually driven lust killer and one of the most sadistic sex criminals ever captured. Not for the faint of heart, this is the tale of Robert "Bob" Berdella, the worst serial killer in Kansas City History and for those that are fans of historical serial killers, is a true must read.

[GET IT NOW](#)



Richmond, Virginia: On the morning of October 19, 1979, parolee James Briley stood before a judge and vowed to quit the criminal life. That same day, James met with brothers Linwood, Anthony, and 16-year-old neighbor Duncan Meekins. What they planned—and carried out—would make them American serial-killer legends, and reveal to police investigators a 7-month rampage of rape, robbery, and murder exceeding in brutality already documented cases of psychopaths, sociopaths, and sex criminals.

As reported in this book, the Briley gang were responsible for the killing of 11 people (among these, a 5-year-old boy and his pregnant mother), but possibly as many as 20. Unlike most criminals, however, the Briley gang's break-ins and robberies were purely incidental—mere excuses for rape and vicious thrill-kills. When authorities (aided by plea-bargaining Duncan Meekins) discovered the whole truth, even their tough skins crawled. Nothing in Virginian history approached the depravities, many of which were committed within miles of the Briley home, where single father James Sr. padlocked himself into his bedroom every night.

But this true crime story did not end with the arrests and murder convictions of the Briley gang. Linwood, younger brother James, and 6 other Mecklenburg death-row inmates,

hatched an incredible plan of trickery and manipulation—and escaped from the “state-of-the-art” facility on May 31, 1984. The biggest death-row break-out in American history.

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## Here's Your Free Gift

This time it's a short documentary about how many of the serial killers that I've written about think. We all know that serial killers are being shaped while being kids. This documentary shows how a child constantly have thoughts about killing.

Full URL: <https://youtu.be/VDVaiwzU8yc>

or [click here](#)

[Bonus Chapter: What Makes A Serial Killer?](#)

## **A Note From The Author**

Hello, this is Jack Rosewood. Thank you for downloading and reading Herbert Mullin: The True Story of the Psychopath of Santa Cruz. I hope you enjoyed the read of this chilling story. If you did, I'd appreciate if you would take a few moments to post a review on Amazon.

Here's the link to the book: [Amazon](#)

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Thanks again for reading this book, make sure to follow me on [Facebook](#).

Best Regards

Jack Rosewood