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The Dark Side of Illegal Immigration: Nearly One Million Sex Crimes Committed by Illegal Immigrants in the United States

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By Deborah Schurman-Kauflin, Ph.D. Violent Crimes Institute, Atlanta, Georgia

Background

Introduction:

After conducting a 12 month in-depth study of illegal immigrants who committed sex crimes and murders for the time period of January 1999 through April 2006 , it is clear that the U.S. public faces a dangerous threat from sex predators who cross the U.S. borders illegally.

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There were 1500 cases analyzed in depth. They included: serial rapes, serial murders, sexual homicides, and child molestation committed by illegal immigrants. Police reports, public records, interviews with police, and media accounts were all included. Offenders were located in 36 states, but it is clear, that the most of the offenders were located in states with the highest numbers of illegal immigrants. California was number one, followed by Texas, Arizona, New Jersey, New York, and Florida.

Based on population numbers of 12,000,000 illegal immigrants and the fact that young males make up more of this population than the general U.S. population, sex offenders in the illegal immigrant group make up a higher percentage. When examining ICE reports and public records, it is consistent to find sex offenders comprising 2% of illegals apprehended. Based on this 2% figure, which is conservative, there are approximately 240,000 illegal immigrant sex offenders in the United States.

This translates to 93 sex offenders and 12 serial sexual offenders coming across U.S. borders illegally per day. The 1500 offenders in this study had a total of 5,999 victims. Each sex offender averaged 4 victims. This places the estimate for victimization numbers around 960,000 for the 88 months examined in this study.

Victims:

Of the 1500 cases reviewed, 525 (35%) were child molestations, 358 (24%) were rapes,

and 617 (41%) were sexual homicides and serial murders. Of the child molestations, 47% of the victims were Hispanic, 36% were Caucasian, 8% were Asian, 6% were African American, and 3% were other nationalities. In most instances, the offenders were familiar with their victims. In fact, 82% of the victims were known to their attackers. The other 18% were molested by strangers. In those instances, the illegal immigrants typically gained access to the victims after having worked as a day laborer at or near the victims' homes. Victims ranged in age from 1 year old to 13 years old, with the average age being 6.

In rape cases, the offenders were less likely to know their victims. Only 64% of the victims knew their attackers. Furthermore, rape victims proved to be more diverse than child molestation victims. Hispanic and Caucasian victims were identical at 35% each.

The next most likely victims were African American women, and other nationalities comprised the remainder. These women suffered brutal attacks. Commonly, a weapon was used to control the victims. These weapons were most often sharp instruments. And the victims were beaten during the rapes over 70% of the time. Offenders engaged in sodomy in 67% of the attacks, and gang rape took place in .007% of the cases. Rape victims ranged in age from 16-79 and averaged age 23.

Serial rapists accounted for 3% of all illegal immigrant rapists. Each serial rapist averaged 5 victims, with the number of victims ranging from 2 to 11. Two serial rapists were confirmed HIV positive, and another offender had a venereal disease.

The murders were the worst of the sex crimes and were especially vicious. The most common method was for an offender to break into a residence and ambush his victims. Not only were victims raped, but some (6%) were mutilated. The crime scenes were very bloody, expressing intense, angry perpetrator personalities. Specifically, most victims were blitzed, rendered incapable of fighting back, and then raped and murdered. The most common method of killing was bludgeoning, followed by stabbing. Caucasians were more likely to become victims of sexual homicide committed by illegal immigrants. Hispanics were second, and African Americans were third. Victims of sexual homicides averaged age 42. However, victims ranged in age from 16-81.

Serial killers accounted for .005% of the sex crimes. The serial killers averaged 9 victims per offender. Victim choice centered on victims the offenders did not know. Each serial killer targeted men and women, but females were higher, making up 73%. Illegal immigrant serial killers were more likely to strike in the West and the Southern United States.

Victim socioeconomic status changed for each type of crime. Those who fell victim to child molestation tended to be from a lower socioeconomic status than those who were raped and those who were raped and murdered. In fact, 57% of those rape/murdered were from the upper middle class.

There was an especially disturbing finding that in 22% of all sex crimes committed by illegal immigrants, victims with physical and mental disabilities were targeted. These disabled victims were each under age 18. In those cases, the perpetrators knew their victims.

Offenders:

The average age of illegal immigrants who were sex offenders was 27, but they ranged in age from 16-69. Child molesters tended to be older, averaging age 32. The average age of rapists was 26, and murderers averaged age 28. There is a trend that these offenders are becoming younger. For example, in 2006, the average age of sex offender illegal immigrants was 20. The highest number came from Mexico. El Salvador was the original home to the next highest number of sexual offenders. Other countries of origin included: Brazil, China, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Russia, and Vietnam.

They averaged 4 victims per offender. Nearly 63% had been deported on another offense prior to the sex crime. There was an average of 3 years of committing crimes such as

DUI, assaults, or drug related offenses prior to being apprehended for a sexual offense.

Alcohol and drug use seemingly played a large role in these crimes. In fact, 81% of offenders were drinking or using drugs prior to offending. Rapists and killers were more likely to use alcohol and drugs consistently than child molesters.

Offenders had the use of a vehicle in 78% of the cases. However, the vehicles were only owned by those offenders 54% of the time. In the other instances, the offenders either borrowed or stole the vehicle.

Many offenders were unkempt in appearance and worked with their hands. They were transient in that they went where work took them. Therefore, only 25% were stable within a community. Further, in 31% of the crimes, the offenders entered into the communities where they offended within 2 months of the commission of their sex offenses. However, many, 79%, had been in the U.S. for more than one year before being arrested for a sex crime, and they were typically known to the Criminal Justice system for prior, less serious offenses before they molested, raped, or murdered.

There was a trend to be single while offending, as only 23% were married at the time of their crimes. Most were known to date quite a bit and have derogatory views of females. Domestic violence was common as well, as nearly half of those with spouses or significant others had a history of domestic abuse.

Nearly 35% were considered religious and even more, 59% had been raised in a religious home. Their work consisted of manual labor in industries such as agriculture, construction, restaurant, and tourism. Residences were rented and usually shared with several other illegal immigrants. Many were partially bi-lingual with a preference for their native languages.

Education levels were typically low. Only 22% had graduated high school. As such, there was a pattern of irresponsible, impulsive behavior in offender backgrounds. Solutions to their problems entailed moving, i.e. running away. Most simply ran to the southern U.S. border after being connected with their sex offenses.

Conclusions:

Illegal immigrants who commit sex crimes first cross the U.S. border illegally. Then they gradually commit worse crimes and are continually released back into society or deported. Those who were deported simply returned illegally again. Only 2% of the offenders in this study has no history of criminal behavior, beyond crossing the border illegally. There is a clear pattern of criminal escalation. From misdemeanors such as assault or DUI, to drug offenses, illegal immigrants who commit sex crimes break U.S. laws repeatedly. They are highly mobile, work in low skilled jobs with their hands, use drugs and alcohol, are generally promiscuous, have little family stability, and choose victims who are easy to attack. Their attacks are particularly brutal, and they use a hands-on method of controlling and/or killing their victims.

Note: Nearly 30% of the victims were illegal immigrants themselves. The remainder were U.S. citizens.

Female Mass Murderers: Jennifer San Marco Joins an Exclusive Club After Killing 7

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We don't know anything about them. There hasn't been enough research. These are common statements made by people who have not read my book, *The New Predator: Women Who Kill, Profiles of Female Serial Killers* (2000,) or any of the numerous articles I have written about my extensive research and in person interviews with women convicted of mass murder.

After Jennifer San Marco terrorized workers at the U.S. Postal Service in early 2006, leaving a trail of dead bodies behind her, there were so many questions. Why did she do it? How did no one see something was wrong with her? No one seemed to have answers. But I do. I went to the source back in 1998 and spoke with women convicted of similar mass killings. What I found was stunning and fascinating.

It used to be that only men defined themselves by their work, and thus, when they were fired, they lost their identities. Often this pushed certain men over the edge, and these men would target their former workplaces with mass murder. More and more, women feel their identities are wrapped up not only in their families, but in their jobs as well. So it is not surprising to find women losing themselves when they no longer have their jobs. Jennifer San Marco had to leave the Postal Service in June 2003 due to psychological problems. San Marco talked to herself on a regular basis, and sometimes the discussions turned into arguments. Her behavior was bizarre which demonstrated disorganized thinking. She would stare at people for long periods of time, to the point of making them uncomfortable, but her actions were not simply passive. She had to be dragged off in handcuffs after hiding under a mail machine. She would yell inappropriately and was said to make racist remarks. She even appeared naked at a gas station. So why would someone in such trouble be left without help? What made her kill?

Clearly San Marco was suffering mental problems, and instead of getting the assistance of a mental health professional and working on getting better, she turned inward. This is common amongst all mass murderers. When I asked convicted female mass killers what the years were like immediately prior to their attacks, they stated that they were in free falls. Their lives had taken downward turns which included loss of jobs and families. One by one, things of importance were seemingly taken from these women. They were not in positions emotionally or financially to seek out the help they needed, and instead, they became ever-more destructive. Their behaviors were erratic, and they thought little of their well being. They began losing themselves in their thoughts. Seemingly every part of their lives went wrong. Money was tight. Close family and friends were hard to come by. They simply refused to change their ways. They knew that they were in trouble, yet they felt that their lives were no longer worth living. And people had to be forced to pay.

In their minds, they form murderous plans. Those they have blamed for their troubles are targeted and fantasized about to the point of drawing the women completely out of reality. Initially they use fantasy to escape their pain. Then over time, they can lose touch with reality. Their stress levels become unmanageable. Sleep is hard to get. Peace is impossible to find. Everyone is out to get them, and the proof is in the emptiness which surrounds them. Anger and confusion fill their minds completely. Often they are frightened of their loneliness and frozen by how their lives have become full of nothing. Tomorrow does not matter because their pain and fear are so great, that in their thoughts, it is better if tomorrow never comes. But if there is no future for them, why should there be a future for those they hate? Sometimes these women target specific individuals that feel caused their problems. Other times, they simply pick random targets. They believe that seemingly innocent people must have done something wrong to deserve the death penalty.

Most people don't know that these women often plan their crimes, even though the events appear to be explosions of anger. However, a great deal of thought has gone into the mass executions. Planning has taken place. And in the end, the women lose out to their internal suffering, as do the victims. For female mass murderers, when their lives begin falling apart, they simply do not have support systems to ensure that they get appropriate treatment. So they suffer in silence and turn inward, which alienates others. This produces more isolation until there are few if any people around them who can 'get through' to them. Research has shown that people who have suffered breakdowns make better recoveries when they have strong support networks-family, friends, church. But these women do not, and they lose faith in their abilities. They do not feel that they can pick themselves up and go on. Therefore, the vicious cycle continues until their mental suffering is so great that death becomes very welcome.

Why not simply kill themselves instead of killing others? When I asked these women that question, I received an interesting answer. Even though, by the time they kill, they are

sinking into a mental swamp, they still hold on to the belief that others caused their misery. It is their stab at society from the grave. They feel that they are already dead, and it is the only way that society will finally pay attention to them. In the end, they get the attention that they needed before they killed. Sadly, that attention comes way too late. In their atrocious acts, they take revenge and force society to look at them. And it is their hope that when the world examines their lives, that it sees what it did wrong. They want to punish individuals and society because in their eyes, society and specific individuals hurt them fatally. In their killings, they do the same.

Female Serial Killer : Is The 'Lady of Silence', Junana Barraza, A Human Monster?

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Female serial killers are still considered rare. In fact, to my knowledge, I am still the only profiler to have interviewed a large group of such murderers to get insight into their minds. And today, we are seeing more and more of these most dangerous criminals. In late January 2006, a former female wrestler was arrested in Mexico City and charged with the serial killings of several elderly women.

Forty eight year old Juana Barraza was linked with the deaths of at least 10 elderly women. Barraza is a former wrestler known as the Lady of Silence who dressed in pink spandex. She was known as quiet and very neat, which is typical of female serial killers. She was also said to have a deep seated anger toward her mother, and this anger seems to have played a part in a brutal string of killings. Police speculate that Ms. Barraza approached the women under the pretense of being a social worker or health care worker. They said that she was in possession of a list of names and addresses of older women who were on government assistance. Eerily, she is said to have had a forged I.D. from the government program. As such, she entered the women's homes as if to help them, but instead, she allegedly strangled the innocent women as they fought for their lives.

There were no sexual assaults, but interestingly, there were items removed from the crime scenes. Some valuables were taken, but it is the religious statues and items that have raised eyebrows. The Lady of Silence seems to have taken religious objects including Bibles, Saint statues, and Crucifixes. What makes this so frightening is that when police examined Ms. Barraza's home, they found an altar to Santa Muerte, the Death Saint. Santa Muerte is depicted as a skeleton figure and said to give protection and good luck to petitioners. Though the Catholic Church does not acknowledge Santa Muerte, many believe that Death provides miracles. Many people who are marginalized and involved in crime pray to the Saint for protection during the commission of their crimes. It is also said that one can ask Santa Muerte to get rid of undesirable people. Thus, Saint Death draws people who feel society has rejected them. Many also claim that Saint Death claims all, even Jesus, and so Death is all powerful. This makes petitioners feel powerful as well, which can help explain why Ms. Barraza would have an altar dedicated to this Saint.

I have been approached by many reporters asking why a female would target elderly women. Since I am the expert on female serial killers, I have a unique insight as to the motivation. Female serial killers are very self absorbed and drawn to control. Many times they value their appearance to the outside world above reality. They are narcissistic and seek the nicer things in life. They cannot stand the thought of being helpless, so they target what they hate. Intentionally, they look for helpless victims, and when a female seeks out elderly women, her reasons are two-fold. First, she seeks older women because they represent a window into the future. One day, we all will be old and dependent upon others. Female serial killers despise that thought. Second, these murderers often come from homes dominated by a narcissistic and uncaring female. The killers murder elderly women as revenge, a way to get back at a mother who hurt them through a substitute. Often they are unable to strike at their mothers. So they kill what they hate repeatedly because it makes them feel better for a short period of time.

Female serial killers are very skilled at their crimes, and so often, they are overlooked as suspects because it is still very difficult to believe women could commit such murders. But as we see through the years, there are more heinous crimes committed by women, and only through education will people finally realize that there are monsters in our midst.

Importing Violence : The Danger of Immigration from Violent Cultures

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Over the past several years, the U.S. has seen a large influx of immigrants, both legal and illegal, from countries whose values are opposed to the rights guaranteed by the U.S. constitution. Specifically, there are large numbers of immigrants coming from countries that are misogynistic. These societies accord women little to no rights, and the idea of violence committed by men against women and children is not unusual.

First, take the concept of 'rpto.' This comes from Mexico where in some areas, it is socially acceptable for a man of any age to abduct a female of any age as long as long as he intends to marry her. That is right. Men can kidnap and rape females. This is acceptable in Oaxaca where the government continues to view rpto as a minor crime. One legislator even referred to this horrid violation as "romantic." Lest anyone believe such garbage, note that 24 year old Mexican immigrant Eliseo Nunez snatched a 12 year old girl and took her to Mexico to fulfill his erotic desires. Isn't that romantic?

The fact is that South American male attitudes toward females are often archaic and misogynistic. Thus it is not surprising that the U.S. is seeing more attacks against women and little girls committed by these immigrants. In August 2005, illegal immigrant Jose Ramirez from El Salvador was charged with the violent attack of a 15 year old girl who refused to respond when he whistled at her (Roh, 2005). Perhaps such primitive behavior stems from the homeland culture. El Salvador and Guatemala have had a string of unsolved brutal murders where young females have been abducted and cut apart. Authorities have found body parts, including heads scattered around. In one instance, two female heads were deposited right in front of a local police station, blood still oozing from the severed heads (Miles, 2003). Gangs are suspected in these crimes as it is often part of their initiation to kill.

A serial rapist from Honduras was recently convicted in New Jersey. Ricardo Cepates is an illegal immigrant who was convicted on 26 counts of kidnapping, rape, and robbery. Another illegal immigrant, who should have been deported in 2000, savagely stabbed Carly Snyder to death. Fredil Rodriguez hailed from Honduras and apparently brought his hatred of women with him (Hirsch, June 15, 2005).

Perhaps the most grotesque and gruesome crime is the rape and murder of a nun by yet another migrant worker from South America. It is amazing that this story received so little attention when imaginary crimes against illegal immigrants are portrayed on television shows in order to gain sympathy for these criminals (i.e. a T.V. show airing an episode where a Minutemen volunteer hurts an illegal immigrant). Thirty three year old Maximiliano Esparza raped and sodomized two nuns and used their rosary beads to control them during the attack. The Sisters were beaten, raped, sodomized, and finally, Esparza used her own rosary beads to strangle Sister Helen Lynn Chaska to death. Esparza had needed lodging and checked into the Klamath Falls Gospel Mission in Oregon. This Spanish speaking migrant had spent his evening getting drunk at a local strip club and encountered the nuns as they were walking and saying prayers. Of note, Esparza had a history of criminal behavior and had served a three year sentence in a California prison. He had been deported one time, and shockingly, U.S. Border Patrol let him go after detaining him a few months prior to the rape/murder. It doesn't get more vile and disgusting than this.

And yet, there are more such gruesome crimes. Saul Dos Reis is a Brazilian national who found 13 year old Christina Long in an internet chat room. Long was in what she believed

to be the safety of her Danbury Connecticut home. Feeling the typical teenaged desires for freedom, Long was drawn in by the twenty something Reis, and agreed to meet him. The Brazilian had sex with her, strangled her, and dumped her lifeless body.

The carnage has continued year after year. Walter Alexander Sorto was an illegal alien and Salvadorian national. Maybe he was one of those wonderful people who break our immigration laws to fill jobs at wages no U.S. citizen can afford to take. Or perhaps, he was not. Like so many others, 25 year old Sorto is a sex killer. In 2003, he snatched, raped, and slaughtered two women in Houston. Most disturbing is the fact that he had been known to police for his prior offenses which included robbery. He was on probation for his robbery when he butchered the women (Hayes, 2004).

If you are not yet disgusted, you will be. Not only are criminal immigrants coming from cultures that are misogynistic, but they are changing U.S. culture in response to their sickness. Many illegal aliens join violent gangs which take over neighborhoods and terrorize innocent citizens. These gangs are highly organized with tentacles spread through several countries. The mantra of the deadly MS13 gang is: blood in, blood out. And the chilling effects of the illegal aliens participation in these gangs are very far reaching. For example, on December 19, 2002, Victor Cruz, Jose Hernandez, Armando Juvenal, and Carlos Rodriguez were involved with the drawn out gang rape of an unsuspecting 42 year old New York woman. These illegal aliens were well known to police for their prior crimes of assault, attempted robbery, drug offenses, and illegal gun possession. No deportation followed their lesser offenses because of the sanctuary policy.

However, woman-hating cultures are not confined to South America. The Middle East is full of misogynists, and for reasons that many consider sinister, they are migrating to democratic countries. Why migrate to a country whose norms and beliefs are completely opposed to their lifestyle? The reason is that they hope to change these democratic societies. Instead of adopting and assimilating into countries they choose to migrate, they often cluster together in neighborhoods and bring their hate filled belief systems with them. When examining the lives of Muslims all over the world, it is plain that women do not fair well in Islam. In fact, here is a simple quote from volume 1, book 6, number 301:

Once Allah's Apostle went out to the Musalla (to offer the prayer) o 'Id-al-Adha or Al-Fitr prayer. Then he passed by the women and said, "O women! Give alms, as I have seen that the majority of the dwellers of Hell-fire were you (women)." They asked, "Why is it so, O Allah's Apostle ?" He replied, "You curse frequently and are ungrateful to your husbands. I have not seen anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion than you. A cautious sensible man could be led astray by some of you." The women asked, "O Allah's Apostle! What is deficient in our intelligence and religion?" He said, "Is not the evidence of two women equal to the witness of one man?" They replied in the affirmative. He said, "This is the deficiency in her intelligence. Isn't it true that a woman can neither pray nor fast during her menses?" The women replied in the affirmative. He said, "This is the deficiency in her religion.

In other countries to which Muslims have immigrated, there have been atrocious violent crimes committed against women. Germany is seeing the "smiley." Don't know what a smiley is? A smiley is a cut from the side of the mouth to the ear. It is supposed to serve as a warning to Muslim girls to make them wear a veil. For those who don't, the smiley is the punishment of the day.

And other countries are learning about the dangers of importing some Muslims. Rape is acceptable in the sunna and in the Koran. In Copenhagen, an Islamic mufti said that women who do not wear headscarves are "asking for rape." Likewise, in Australia, a visiting Pakistani committed rape and said his victims had no right to refuse him because they were not covering themselves with head scarves. But it doesn't end there. In 2004 in London, visiting Egyptian professor Sheik Yusaf al-Qaradawi said rape victims should be punished if they were dressed provocatively when assaulted!

Human rights activist Simon Deng has reported that he witnessed women being raped

and tortured by Muslim men. In Sudan, Khartoum's soldiers are routinely sent out to decimate villages, and in doing so, rape women who are not Muslim. Women who are found are asked whether they are Christian or Muslim. If Christian, the women are gang raped and then have their breasts sliced off.

And let us not forget the repulsive practice of honor killings. Honor killings are done in order to restore honor to a family that believes a female has shamed them. There is nothing in the Koran that speaks to killing women because they disgrace the family. But many Muslims interpret another wonderful little tenet in Islam to allow it. The Koran does allow men to beat their wives, which is atrocious. But it is used to justify the sickening honor killings where women are victims of rape! The United Nations Population Fund has found some disturbing statistics. Worldwide, there are up to 5,000 such killings each year.

Not all Muslims are bad. Many live in peace. However, there are so many atrocious acts committed in the name of Islam. Current day, Islamic extremists act like psychopathic sex predators and mass murderers. Raping women is a matter of personal choice. There is no deity ordaining the sexual assault of anyone. But even Islamic leaders outright state that rape is expected when women look good. That is what is so disturbing –that women are deemed responsible for rape if they don't cover themselves up. This is wrong.

It was stunning when in early 2006, Muslims were up in arms over a cartoon which depicted the prophet Muhammed in an unflattering light. Denmark upheld the cartoon as a form of free speech, and even though it was simply a political cartoon, Muslims around the world burned flags, stormed embassies, and called for censorship. It is one thing to be upset over satire; it is another to react violently to it. That is an issue which those who practice Islam must face. Islam cannot control its outer fringes, and that is the problem. Importing such a culture of violence and hate can do nothing but ruin a free country. What will happen when radical Muslims or even Muslims sympathetic to radicals, clash with Western women who have no intentions of ever wearing veils?

The list goes on and on. Those who come to the United States must be forced to abide by human decency standards and the laws. And those who come to this country must do so legally. Illegal aliens are criminals and must be treated as such. If not, why should any U.S. citizen follow any existing laws? There must be a unification in this country, not a division. Citizens must be unified for a secure border and a consistent standard for behaviors that will not be tolerated, not even under the guise of religion. Women have worked very hard for progress in the U.S. Those who come to this country must understand that women are not second class citizens, and violence against them will not be tolerated. Ever.

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Ticket To Terrorism : Why the United States is Hated Around the World

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We hate you! This is an all too familiar quote heard from many countries speaking to the

United States. Even in countries considered to be U.S. allies, frequently there is a large contingency of anti-American sentiment. Plus, countries that receive billions in aid from the U.S. state unequivocally that the United States is their enemy. Why is the country that gives so much to so many the object of disdain? There are several reasons, but two stand out: power and culture. The United States is currently the most wealthy and powerful country and the only remaining super power. Many are unhappy about these facts and view U.S. policies as the perceived causes of their sufferings. Additionally, many around the world view the United States as an interfering force. They do not want the U.S. to get involved in their policies. Countries that routinely suppress human rights become angry when the United States condemns their actions. They fear the U.S. may intervene and change their ways of life. Even though the goal is freedom and human rights for all, populations routinely criticize the world's only remaining super power as being intrusive for its desire to have freedom throughout the world.

Of note, many of the countries that throw venom toward the U.S. step straight to the front of the line in order to receive monetary handouts from this most hated country. For example, Egypt receives \$2 billion per year from the United States, but check out Egyptian sentiment toward the U.S. It is one of extreme contempt. Egyptian government and press routinely state that they hate the United States. Likewise, Brazil refused to accept a \$40 million aid package to help curb AIDS because there was a clause in the package which condemned prostitution. Brazil's rationale was that such a clause would hurt its anti-AIDS program because the Brazilian government encourages prostitutes to use condoms. The sex industry is legal in Brazil, and so it does not want any other country commenting on its policy. Brazil views the U.S. condemnation as "meddling." This is the view of the countries that receive money from the U.S. They want the financial support but do not want any comments about their policies. In other words, countries that receive U.S. aid would like the United States to simply shut up and hand over the millions. Amazingly, the U.S. does hand over millions, and billions, but to citizens of the U.S., it feels as if a grand scale mugging has taken place. Many people in parts of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East complain that U.S. policies hurt them. They feel that their poverty and lack of success are somehow due to the United States. Instead of looking inward at their own problems, they lash out against the successful nation, but at the same time, they demand free money to the tune of billions.

Many in the Middle East blamed the sanctions against Iraq for the starvation of the Iraqi people. The United States was seen as a villain who starved the Iraqi people. The problem is, the United States was not the instigator. Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. No one held a gun to his head to make him do that. He broke promise after promise to the United Nations in regards to weapons. Sanctions were placed against Iraq to help prevent this ruthless dictator from getting any ideas of world domination. An Oil for Food program was implemented so that the people of Iraq would not go hungry. The inept (and now allegedly corrupt) United Nations as well as Saddam himself were the cause of Iraqi suffering. When U.S. troops liberated Iraq, \$13 BILLION (yes, that's right) \$13 billion sat unused in the oil for food escrow in Paris, France. This could never have happened without the U.N. quietly sitting on its hands and worse yet, collecting 1.5% of the oil for food funds as a commission for operating the program. Still, the United States is somehow to blame. Militant Islamists have used this to spread their hatred of the U.S. They yell that the United States causes Muslims to suffer. Then other countries with agendas contrary to the U.S. jump on the bandwagon and reiterate what the militants have said. Islamic terrorists promise that their poverty (which the selfish dictators and royals have caused) will be alleviated by strict construction of Islamic law. Those who are suffering and often uneducated believe these claims and go along with the militant view. This breeds contempt and potential violence.

Communist leaderships in many countries are leery of the United States as well because they do not want their people to consider democracy. Why? Because the communist leaders would no longer have power and wealth. They would be removed from their positions. Therefore, communist countries trample human rights and deny freedom of religious worship. Their goal is to destroy any inclinations toward democracy within their populations. Furthermore, communist regimes do not want successful democracies nearby. Why? Because they do not want their people to see that democracy can be

successful. For example, China is unhappy that the United States has said it will protect Taiwan should China decide to take military action to bring Taiwan into line with the communist regime. China's position is that Taiwan is its territory, and the United States is getting into its business by protecting Taiwan. To deter the U.S. from actually stepping in should China invade Taiwan, China gave the United States its conquest plan for Taiwan which included nuclear strikes against the United States should the U.S. attempt to stand in China's way. The media does not latch on to this story, nor does it continually dub China an imperialist. When China seeks to force a democracy into a communist country, the world stands silent. When the United States helps fight back Iraqi forces which have invaded Kuwait, it is the object of ridicule and disdain.

The populations of regimes hostile to the U.S. are taught that the U.S. is the enemy, and so a cycle of hatred continues. The bottom line is that Western democracy is a threat to extremist religions and communist regimes. As long as power hungry violent individuals walk the Earth, there will be cruel groups who seek to destroy freedom loving countries. Populations must be freed and educated in order to minimize recruiting potentials of terrorist groups.

As a side note, the United States can condemn my lifestyle any time it wants to give me forty million dollars.

BTK Serial Killer Profiles

Original BTK Serial Killer Profile

On August 4, 2000 - Dr. Schurman-Kauflin was contacted by David Lohr with Court TV's CrimeLibrary.com and asked to draw up a profile of the BTK Serial Killer based on information available. This profile indicated the most likely type of person to have committed the Otero murders in 1974. The doctor's profile was very accurate. Suspect Rader was 28 in 1974; Dr Schurman-Kauflin said BTK would be between 28-30. It has been reported that the BTK Killer mailed copies of the CrimeLibrary.com story, including this original profile, to the newspaper prior to his arrest.. This original profile can be seen at the following site:

http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/unsolved/btk/profile_9.html?sect=4

Updated BTK Serial Killer Profile

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By Deborah Schurman-Kauflin, Ph.D. Violent Crimes Institute, Atlanta, Georgia

On February 1, 2005 Chanda Brown, a reporter with KSNW-TV in Wichita Kansas, asked Dr. Schurman-Kauflin to update her profile the BTK Serial Killer. The following update was provided to Chanda Brown on February 1, 2005.

Dear Ms. Brown:

Thank you for your question. I have not seen everything that has come out regarding the case, but I do have some additions to the profile I did for David Lohr in 2000. Please remember, this is based on second hand information as I do not have the actual case files.

- Divorced white male who now would be in his 50's
- Sad, lonely, bored
- Has normal appearance and fits in well with the people who live in Wichita
- Drives a non-descript pickup truck or car most likely American made
- This is someone who was physically fit, but now it would be hard to predict
- He was and is strong and enjoys using his hands
- Can be charming and disarming when he chooses
- He prefers his own company because he feels superior to everyone
- He is a drinker, but I do not see him as being drunk when he committed his crimes.

- He is likely a beer drinker.
- Lower to middle class area.
- He is not known as a criminal.
- He is sane but a psychopath.
- He has a strong dislike of women and views them with disdain. His views would be known to those around him
- Does not like face to face confrontations. He would be the type who enjoys revenge from a distance
- Holds a grudge. Set in his ways. Conservative views.
- He never rose to the level of employment that he sought. He would feel that he should have been someone who was in charge.
- Has a hatred for authority in a job situation.
- He enjoys reading true crime, media regarding his crimes, and anything he feels would help him get away with things.
- He has a level of immaturity in that he does not take responsibility for things. He would always blame others when things go wrong.
- Very intelligent, more so than even he knows.
- A victim. He has been hurt in his life, and at some point, he shut down emotionally. Because he was threatened and injured, he feels totally justified in his actions.
- Struggled with sexuality. He would have trouble having normal sex and it is likely that he suffers from sexual dysfunction such as retarded ejaculation.
- He enjoys playing puppet-master and would prefer killing and manipulating others to almost anything. He is a consummate liar and manipulator who will always have an excuse for why his life has gone badly.
- He is a collector. Look for not only trophies from victims but a collection in general. He would be drawn to military or police and/or items involved with violence.
- If he has or had a dog, it would have been one associated with strength such as a german shepherd or pit bull. He would not have a poodle.
- He may have a police scanner in his possession and lots of pictures of women.
- Wants to feel power because he is powerless. It does not appear as if he has a lot of money or stature. He is likely to own his own home. The house would be well kept, and he would know where everything was in the house.
- He fashions himself a military type-stalking, killing. He enjoys being stealth and probably has a gun and has hunted or goes to a firing range.
- He enjoys being discussed in the media and takes delight in people guessing about him. That way he can sit back and feel above the fray when people are wrong.
- He has the world at the end of his string, but his problem is that in order to be truly heard, he has to be caught. He is an enigma to the world and himself. If he wants to be the next Ted Bundy, he has to be in front of the cameras, not behind them. So what to do? Communicate with police and media. Let experts make guesses about you. See who comes the closest. Then he decides what he wants to do. He's still in control and having a good laugh at everyone scrambling around trying to find him.
- There is a good chance police have his name. In so many of the cases I work, police know who the perpetrator is, but there is not enough evidence to arrest. Police probably have his name in their files somewhere.
- It is possible he has written to convicted serial killers to discuss crimes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Schurman-Kauflin
 email: profiler@drdsk.com
 VCI President
 www.drdsk.com

The Fantasy Life Of The Female Multiple Murderer

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Abstract

Though there is ample research into the minds of male multiple murderers, researchers

know very little about female multiple killers. This study is an examination of the fantasy life of female multiple murderers based on in-depth interviews conducted by this author. This research is an attempt to determine if female multiple killers, like their male counterparts, enjoy violent fantasies which drive their homicidal behavior. Fantasy life and premeditation issues are discussed.

Introduction

In the frightening world of serial and mass murder, there is an ever-increasing spotlight on the female multiple murderer. Whether she blasts her way through a crowded shopping mall on a lazy Sunday or presses a pillow over a helpless victim's face, it would appear as if the number of female multiple murderers is growing (Holmes & Holmes, 1998). Their numbers have escalated in the last fifty years. For example, three-quarters of documented cases involving female serial killers occurred after 1950. Furthermore, over one-third of the total number of recorded female multiple murderers began killing after 1970 (Hickey, 1997). In the perspective of time, this is a large percentage of offenders in the locus of the late twentieth century.

Strangely, though this phenomenon is increasing, there is a paucity of research concerning the female multiple killer (Cluff et al., 1997). The media that thrives on high multicide body count has essentially forgotten the female (Kelleher, 1998). And even the Federal Bureau of Investigation initially ignored the female multiple murderer. For example, in the early 1980's when the F.B.I. was doing research into the minds of multiple killers, the agency failed to include females in its studies. In fact, the book which discusses the F.B.I.'s research findings never mentions a female serial or mass murderer (Ressler et al., 1988). However, at the very time the F.B.I. was doing research in 1980, a female serial killer was asphyxiating six victims in a Southern state (author's files).

With the increasing numbers of female perpetrators and the escalating violence, why have researchers relegated female multicide to a seemingly secondary and unimportant status? The most well known explanation suggests that the female typically uses a different method to kill than the male multiple murderer. That is, women don't kill in a manly way (Hickey, 1997: 205). The male serial killer is often a sexual predator, and the male mass murderer uses ultra-commando type weapons (Kelleher, 1998; Kelleher; 1997). In this way, it appears as if multicide has been defined in terms of sexuality and weapons.

Unlike their male counterparts, women are more likely to use poison or suffocation to kill their victims (Cluff et al., 1997). Furthermore, females rarely rape or torture when they kill (Holmes & Holmes, 1998). Therefore, many researchers disregard the female multiple murderer because she, to their knowledge, lacks a sexually sadistic motivation (Seagrave, 1992). So it would appear that researchers and the media have been using a primarily sexual dynamic to define serial murder. But this dynamic defies the definition of the words themselves.

The word serial is defined as "forming a series," (Patterson, 1989). The word murder is defined as "killing a human being with premeditated malice," (Patterson, 1989). Therefore, the literal meaning of 'serial murder' is a series of killings (of human beings) with premeditated malice. Even though the method of murder seems to be a point of contention, the literal meaning of the words exclude this dynamic. Within the true definition of the words, females should have been examined side by side with their male counterparts from the beginning.

A second reason that females have been ignored centers on societal expectations. In summary, females are typically viewed as being non-violent (Kelleher, 1998). Thus it is difficult for many to accept the thought that females could commit serial acts of murder (Holmes et. al., 1991). Additionally, most females who commit murder do so within the confines of a domestic dispute (Hickey, 1997). That is, females typically kill those they know (Jurik & Winn, (1990). Add gender role expectation with statistical resources which point to female homicide in domestic situations, and it is not too surprising that many researchers have failed to recognize the female multiple murderer.

What little research has been done relies heavily on secondary sources of information, such as legal records and newspaper accounts. These efforts have been important and have provided an insight into how the female kills her victims and what types of victims she seeks (Keeney & Heide, 1994). Specifically, prior research has discovered that female serial killers tend to kill with poisons and asphyxia, are geographically stable, have menial jobs, and they always choose victims who are weak and defenseless (Kelleher, 1998). Furthermore, body disposal is not a problem for the female serial killer because authorities are usually unaware that a homicide has taken place. Using poisons and asphyxiating the helpless makes murder virtually undetectable (Cluff et al., 1997).

Though this prior research has provided valuable information regarding female killers, it does not provide an insight into the female multiple killers' mind. Specifically, research into the minds of male multiple murderers has brought forth a plethora of information concerning the thoughts involved in repetitive homicide. It is known that males enjoy a rich and violent fantasy life that drives their horrific behavior (Ressler et. al., 1988). However, it has not been determined whether the female multiple murderess enjoys the same thought processes.

Does the female multiple murderess fantasize about hurting people? Does a fantasy life drive her murderous behavior? Discovering what lies within the female's devious mind can aid those who work with children, police, parents of murdered children, and researchers alike. This research addresses these questions, and the hope is that an understanding of female multiple murderers' fantasies will serve as a springboard for further research into this most least understood killer. This research is an attempt to create a snapshot of the workings within the minds of female multicide.

Prior Research

The concept of fantasy is well-known as it pertains to male serial killers. Fantasy is said to be "an elaborate thought with great preoccupation, anchored in emotion and having origins in daydreams" (Ressler et al., 1988). As they pertain to sexual predators, researchers are most concerned with fantasies that are interoceptive, intrusive and reiterative (Burgess et al., 1991: 242). That is, researchers must focus on those fantasies that are developed within the individual, persist, and finally reoccur within this person's life to the point of distraction.

Within the realm of serial killers, it has been established that male offenders enjoy a rich and perverse fantasy life (Hazelwood & Douglas, 1980; Holmes & Holmes, 1998; Prentky et al., 1989; Ressler et. al., 1988). Violence and domination involving a helpless victim rule these fantasies, for in their fantasy worlds, the male serial killers are all-powerful creatures. The killer fantasizes about humiliating and dominating a victim because he feels powerless within his real life. In this fantasy world, they are powerful beings who dominate everyone, and this quells reality which is far too harsh for these narcissistic-like beings to accept. The fantasy serves as an escape from the powerlessness, which either in his mind or in reality, plagues the killer (Ressler et al., 1988: 71). In other words, the serial killer has such a low self-concept that he dreams of hurting and torturing another human, so he can feel better (Hickey, 1997).

Furthermore, these fantasies are incredibly vivid to the offender. Research has shown that the more vivid the fantasy, the more heightened the sexual response to the individual (Smither & Over, 1987). As time passes, the serial killer creates more vivid and more grotesque fantasies that become more and more like a narcotic. The tolerance increases thereby allowing the offender to create ever-more heinous acts within his mind (Holmes & Holmes, 1998). Thus it logically follows that the serial murderer will fantasize with graphic details to heighten his sexual stimulation.

This fantasy life of male multiple murderers develops in early childhood and can encompass a killer's life (Hazelwood, R. and Douglas, J., 1980; Prentky et al., 1989: 890; Ressler et al., 1988: 35; Reinhardt, J.J., 1957; Schlesinger & Revictch, 1980). It is through this fantasy world that the serial killer incorporates and accepts his views about sexuality.

At puberty, the serial killer becomes “entrenched” in a fantasy life in which sex is twisted until within the fantasy, there is no possibility that he could ever be rejected. The one way to ensure no rejection is to kill in the fantasy (Sears, 1991: 123).

In other words, male serial killers fantasize repeatedly about hurting others in order to reduce their high tension levels. When they do so, they feel more isolated with the knowledge that what they are feeling and thinking is so different and unacceptable to society. And so, the male serial killer becomes more entrenched in his fantasy life because he is more comfortable within that setting. He can control it. He owns it. And therefore, he is god-like.

Within the mind of the female who kills one time, a rich fantasy life has been established as well. Specifically, the female who kills her child or her husband in a one-time act of violence is often an isolated individual who is left with ‘bottled emotions.’ These internalized emotions then emerge in the forms of elaborate and violent fantasies (Pearson, 1946:10). Women who kill one time typically find themselves lonely and frustrated, so in order to compensate for the feelings of emptiness and withdraw, they begin to objectify their future victim by creating visions of destruction in their minds. In other words, the women fantasize about murdering their victim. These fantasies begin with different types of homicide and progress through post-murder actions. Typically, these fantasies only begin after the female has entered adulthood (Pearson, 1946:42).

So it has been established that male multiple murderers and females who kill one time both have a fantasy life that entails acts of domination and murder. Thus, it would follow that female multiple murderers enjoy the same types of violent fantasies, but such thought patterns had not been studied. Therefore researchers have been left to speculate as to whether the female multiple killer fantasizes about killing.

Objectives Of The Study

Seven females convicted of multiple murder were interviewed by this author for a study which examined homicide type as well as background behavior and thought patterns associated with multiple murder. The subjects consisted of 4 serial killers and 3 mass murderers who were located in California, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio. Serial murder as defined for this study is the killing of two or more individuals over a period of greater than thirty days. Mass murder is defined as the killing of 5 or more individuals in one process. That is, mass murder involves killing where there is no emotional ‘cooling off’ period between homicides. Together, these 7 women were responsible for 41 documented homicides. However, during the interviews, these murderers admitted to killing 67 victims. Thus, the impact of violence from these female predators is substantial.

Prison records, police records, trial transcripts, and other secondary sources were consulted prior to each interview. Each crime was examined for elements of planning or rehearsal which would indicate prior thought. Signs of planning included attempts to hide identity, elaborate body disposal, and preordained alibis. Single variable procedures were used to determine the significance of actions and thought patterns within this group of murderers.

Results

The interviews supported the a priori hypothesis that suggested an all-encompassing fantasy life beginning in early childhood. Of the seven women interviewed, all admitted to a high level of introversion which led to an intrusive and reiterative thought pattern culminating in murder. These violent fantasies begin in early adolescence and become all-consuming to the female offender who reacts to the grotesque cognitions by erecting barriers to the outside world. In other words, the female multiple murderer retreats into an elaborate fantasy life which is maintained by infrequent interactions with other human beings.

As she becomes more entrenched into a rich and violent fantasy life, the female multiple murderer reports increased stress levels brought about by her realization that her thought

patterns are divergent from mainstream thought. In response, the female multiple killer becomes ever-more isolated. As such, a tornado effect erupts. The female multiple murderer fantasizes about killing, and when she has contact with others, she realizes that her thought pattern is unique. So, in order to avoid the feelings of dissonance created by human interaction, she isolates herself and begins retreating further into her own mind.

As the female multiple murderer becomes more secluded, a unique change begins to take place. At first, her violent fantasies simply involve the act of murder. One woman reported fantasies involving killing with a gun, while five others stated that their fantasies entailed some form of asphyxia (suffocation or strangulation). Lastly, one woman abstained from this question.

Furthermore, the initial fantasy life of the female murderers is not directed at specific individuals. Six subjects stated that initially, their mental violence was directed at nameless bodies. Any person would be acceptable in the role of murder victim. Thus, the initial fantasies are directed at the elderly, men, women, and children. It was only after a period of several months that these women reported fixating their violent cognitions on a specific individual, usually someone they knew. Eerily, all but one of the subjects noted increasing violence within their fantasies.

The same six females reported that as they got closer to committing homicide, they experienced more intense and specific fantasies involving pre-crime, crime, and post-crime behaviors. Immediately prior to committing murder, the female multiple murderess experiences elaborate and obsessively detailed cognitions that invade every facet of her life. She becomes consumed with murderous intent and begins planning how she can kill without being detected. Every detail is thought out in her mind and incorporated into her fantasy. Once her cognitions become rote, she begins to prepare for murder.

Of the seven women interviewed, five admitted to reading materials to educate themselves about murder and forensic pathology. These five women reported going to their local libraries and reading books about poisons, autopsy procedures and police procedures. The admitted purpose was to learn how to kill without being detected. Simply, these women altered their fantasies to incorporate forensic knowledge into their fantasy lives. For instance, one serial killer who strangled one victim admitted to changing her murder method to suffocation upon learning that strangling leaves marks on the neck.

It is after the female multiple murderess begins educating herself that her murders begin. She is confident in her new-found expertise that she has infused into her mind. Since she has rehearsed this thought-pattern repeatedly and educated herself, she feels self-assured about her ability to carry out the violent acts which consume her mind. For the first time, she believes that she can do something that very few people can do, and she believes that she will be successful in eluding detection. Once she has attained this confidence, she chooses a victim who is close and defenseless, and she acts out her fantasy in precise detail.

Of the seven women involved in this research, two killed by using poison, two killed by asphyxiating their victims, one shot her victims, while the seventh stabbed her victims. Of the six women who admitted to a violent fantasy life, all used the murder method about which they had fantasized. For instance, the female mass murderer who enjoyed sadistic sex involving knives used a knife to stab her victims to death. Similarly, the female serial killer who fantasized about asphyxiating her victims actually smothered and strangled her six victims. The fantasy life did drive how these women committed their crimes.

For a brief time following the homicides, the females reported feelings of elation. They felt successful at making their dreams into reality, and six of the seven females stated that they felt all-powerful while committing the murders. However, this euphoria quickly dissipates leaving the female to feel lonely and isolated once more. And the violent fantasies continue in her mind and become ever-more incessant. She is faced with the prospect of getting caught for her action, yet she feels no remorse for her crime. Furthermore, she turns inward to seclude herself from the outside world, and the pattern of violence slowly establishes itself. Thus, the tornado begins again, and the path to

murder becomes firmly entrenched.

Conclusions

In summary, the female multiple murderer begins experiencing violent fantasies in early adolescence. These fantasies are obtrusive and uncontrollable, and they interfere with the female's daily functioning as she isolates herself in order to retreat to her mental comfort zone. With her unrealistic fantasy life, the female multiple murderer is more comfortable in her mind than with other people.

Her thoughts are violent, and the feelings of dissonance force her into a mental retreat. She erects mental barriers to keep those around her at a distance thus insulating herself from outside interference. Yet unlike her male counterpart, the female multiple murderess does not simply chose one victim-type in her initial fantasies. She is indiscriminate in her terror, killing children, adults, males, and females. In her fantasies, she kills whoever she desires. It is only after a period of several months that her fantasies begin to fixate on a certain person.

Method within the fantasy differs from woman to woman as some prefer guns, while the majority focused on using a hands-on murder method. Within their violent thoughts, the preferred technique to kill involved strangling a helpless victim, and initially, this helpless victim is not someone she knows. From their inception, her violent fantasies involve killing faceless bodies. It is only after several years of murderous mind-candy that the female multiple killer begins to incorporate specific individuals into her fantasy. But these individuals are not typically those who are causing the female stress. Instead she chooses to fantasize about killing a person who she can control.

But in order to truly act without getting caught, the female realizes that she must educate herself. She then acts to make her fantasy into reality by reading and making attempts to educate herself on police procedure, poisoning, and autopsy protocol. These efforts are aimed at eluding detection. And it does not take long for the female to move from education to annihilation as she uses her knowledge to plan and execute what she believes will be a perfect murder.

As she gains knowledge, she incorporates it into her fantasy world. In other words, she uses what she learned to plan a murder that minimizes her chances of being caught. And it is shortly thereafter that she actually kills. Though the murder brings initial happiness, the fantasies are strong and move the female serial killers forward into the cycle of violence once more, and their pattern of murder becomes established. For the mass murderer, the fantasies remain, but she is unable to act because she has likely been apprehended.

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7 Easy Steps For Working a Female Serial Murder Investigation

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In the frightening world of serial and mass murder, there is an ever-increasing spotlight on the female multiple murderer. Whether she blasts her way through a crowded shopping mall on a lazy Sunday or presses a pillow over a helpless victim's face, it would appear as if this phenomenon is increasing (Holmes & Holmes, 1998). In fact, the numbers of female serial killers have escalated in the last fifty years. For example, three-quarters of documented cases involving female serial killers occurred after 1950.

Furthermore, over one-third of the total number of recorded female multiple murderers began killing after 1970 (Hickey, 1997). In the perspective of time, this is a large percentage of offenders in the locus of the late twentieth century. What is even more frightening is that a female serial murder case is perhaps the most difficult type of investigation that a homicide investigator will ever face. And because these cases are not readily seen, detectives typically have had no instruction on how to handle these situations. Through research and case work, this author has developed 7 easy to follow steps that will help detectives when facing this type of killer.

In order to solve these crimes, detectives must look at the way female serial murderers kill and why they kill. If the motivation is understood, method is rather easily seen. This then leads to identification. When examining these crimes, a striking pattern is seen: females typically use a different method to kill than males (Hickey, 1997). The male serial killer is often a sexual predator who will use hands-on methods to kill (Kelleher, 1998; Kelleher, 1997). That is, males use manual strangulation, knives, or objects where they can touch their victims. On the other hand, female serial killers tend to kill with covert murder methods such as poisons or suffocation, and they rarely touch their victims directly when killing. As such, there is usually no torture or bindings to show victim damage (Cluff et al., 1997; Schurman-Kauflin, 2000).

Females tend to be geographically stable, have low-paying jobs, and they always choose victims who are weak and defenseless (Kirby, 1999; Kelleher, 1998; Schurman-Kauflin, 2000). For example, females typically target the elderly, young children, or the sick. As nurses and caregivers, women have access to such victims. Therefore, body disposal is often nonexistent since female serial killers usually murder the helpless within indoor environments. By using poisons and asphyxiating the helpless, the murders often become seemingly undetectable (Cluff et al., 1997; Schurman-Kauflin, 2000).

So why do they do it? Female serial killers commit murder because they have intense feelings of helplessness and lack of control. Through killing, female serial killers set out to create power and importance in their lives. They tend to come from horrific backgrounds filled with high levels of abuse and emotional cruelty, isolation, lack of stability, and

abandonment. Typically there is no one who truly cares for the young female. She becomes despondent and then angry. Being unable to defend themselves, the females turn this anger inward and begin fantasizing about killing. The fantasy serves as an escape from the powerlessness, which either in the mind or in reality, plagues the killer (Schurman-Kauflin, 2000). As time passes, the serial killer creates more vivid and more grotesque fantasies that become more and more like a narcotic. The tolerance increases thereby allowing the offender to create ever-more heinous acts within her mind. This is very important as female serial killers fantasize in detail about how to kill while avoiding detection (Schurman-Kauflin, 2000). They determine that by creating an equivocal death scenario, they are less likely to be caught (Kirby, 1999). If a death is equivocal at best, many times, especially in smaller jurisdictions, there is no investigation.

Several questions should be asked by homicide investigators when examining a possible series of homicides where a female is suspect.

1. Who is connected with all the victims and had access to them?

Look for a person whose name comes up in connection with each victim. It is helpful to make a chart and make a notation each time an individual's name is mentioned. This may seem simplistic, but in female serial investigations, one will find that the perpetrator's name will be listed with each victim. If there is a system in place that marks each time a person is named in connection with the victims, there will be one person consistently mentioned. With the pressure of such an important case, this simplistic step is often overlooked. There is immense pressure from media and those in superior positions within the police organization that short-cuts occur. This is one step which must not be ignored.

2. Who has had stressor within a few months of the homicides?

For those whose names are repeatedly mentioned in connection with the victims, look for a pattern of financial distress, failed relationships, and a decline in functioning. Typically, one will find a relationship breakup or job troubles immediately prior to each homicide. This stress makes a female who has suffered particular backgrounds more apt to kill. These background factors include early abandonment, social isolation, abuse, lying, manipulation, acting out, and self-centeredness. One must remember to look for stressors that relevant to the female, not the investigator. For example, when conducting first person interviews with female serial murderers, this author found that one stressor was positive-positive for someone else. These females are so self-centered that they view success for others as a blight against themselves. So examine the lives of those around the female for such things as promotions, new relationships, pregnancies etc. Anything that might strike jealousy in the female can be a stressor and therefore act as a springboard for murder.

3. Does the female demonstrate typical serial murder behaviors?

Female serial killers tend to be individuals who enjoy spending time by themselves. They are cold emotionally, have an odd sense of humor (finding death funny), lack deep personal attachments, are complete narcissists, always are looking for naïve people who they can dominate, and believe that no one understands them. Invariably, they feel superior to law enforcement officials. One offender remarked how she enjoyed watching investigators "chase their own tails," while she was killing. At the same time, investigators will find that the individual tends to "space out" mentally and have a cold stare. These women have been described as two-faced, literally. When angered, people will note that these women change. Their faces change. Their expressions change, and a cold, shark-like look takes over the eyes. This look is frightening to those who see it. For this reason, the female often goes off by herself. She'll be known for disappearing, almost being invisible at times. She enjoys spending time alone because she fantasizes about killing and rehearses her crimes. Female serial killers will often do volunteer work. They can appear to be altruistic. However, this only serves as a cover for her other activities. They do so because it gives them power. When asked why they would do kind things while at the same time killing, female serial killers have replied that they decide when to be good and when to be bad (Schurman-Kauflin, 2000).

4. Has the female made statements about wanting to kill or hurt others?

Even though it may seem incriminating, female serial killers talk about wanting to commit murder, before and while they are killing. They will express a desire to harm others who in their eyes have wronged them. When asked about it, they will typically reply that they were kidding. However, they continue such talk and are rather bold because they feel confident that police are bumbling idiots who could never catch them. In speaking with associates, look for statements in which the female said she would like to hurt and kill others, especially if there is a specific plan. Many times the female, prior to the murders, will discuss her plan hypothetically with others. However, when confronted with these statements, watch the female backtrack, say either it is a lie or that she was joking, and finally how you are hurting her with such accusations. That is the pattern with serial killers. When first caught, they will try to cover up, deny involvement, and finally cry about how hard all of this is on them!

5. Is the female fascinated by death and violence?

Just as the female serial murderer will voice her desire to harm others, she will also have an unusual fascination with death and violence. She will follow serial crimes on the news, have books on violent crimes, and find terrible violence entertaining, even funny. There have even been documented cases where female serial killers become sexually aroused while watching violence or fantasizing about violence. Others around her will notice her fixation and be able to identify what "turns her on," so to speak. She will have access to reading materials to educate herself about murder and forensic pathology. Either these women go to local libraries or buy books about poisons, autopsy procedures and police procedures. Simply, these women altered their fantasies to incorporate forensic knowledge into their fantasy lives. The planning is well in place before the first homicide occurs.

6. Does the female make up elaborate stories?

In this author's interviews with female serial killer, a strange pattern emerged. Female serial murderers tend to make up wild stories. These tales will be strange and unbelievable. And there is a pattern within this pattern. In these stories, the female loves to appear as if she is a victim. She was held up at gunpoint, but there will be no evidence that any such event occurred. Additionally, she loves to look like a hero. So not only will she be held up at gunpoint, but she was able to disarm the gunman by talking him down. Again, there will not be one hint of truth to these stories, yet she will continually tell them to anyone who will listen. She lies to lie, and loves to manipulate others into believing her tales.

7. Are the homicides covert in nature?

The rule for female serial killers is that they kill using "hidden" methods. Poisons and asphyxia are preferred, and the reasons are simplistic. Females do not usually have the strength to overpower a victim, even a sick or vulnerable one. Female serial murderers are so concerned that they not be injured while killing that they do not want to risk using other methods (Schurman-Kauflin, 2000). Thus, they will use several discreet methods such as slowly poisoning those close to them, either in food or mixing in medication. Or they wait until a victim is at rest so they can smother without resistance. Occasionally, they will strangle if the victim is extremely weak. Given that the female is so obsessed with not being injured herself, this is yet another personality trait to look for when investigating this crime. Look for these covert methods along with extreme attempts to insulate herself from harm.

When female serial murderers kill, they feel a sense of euphoria. They feel complete control for the first time in their lives. They become addicted to this feeling and will not willingly give it up. The problem is that this great feeling quickly dissipates leaving the female to feel lonely, isolated, and helpless once more. Then the violent fantasies resume and become incessant. Though the female is faced with the prospect of getting

caught, she feels no remorse for her crimes. The feeling of killing is too great and rewarding, so confession is very unlikely. If an investigator understands these motivations for killing it puts him or her in a better position to speak with the female at a level she will understand and within feel comfortable. This makes it easier for the female to speak about her past and her actions, or at least speak in general terms about what happened.

Investigators must be aware that they are fighting an uphill battle when conducting an investigation of a female serial killer. People are reluctant to believe that a female can commit such crimes. Second, female serial killers leave little forensic evidence. Third, unlike many of their male counterparts, female multiple murderers do not confess. It is rare that a female will admit to her crimes. Therefore, the investigator is left with a circumstantial case and a public unwilling to accept the notion of women serial murderers. So it is imperative that detectives look for the patterns outlined above to build their cases.

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