10 Creepy Serial Slashers You Probably Haven't Heard About

The choice of a knife as a murder weapon implies a certain willingness to get up close and personal with the victim, a certain enjoyment of the "wet work" of killing. From the iconic shower scene in the movie, Psycho, to the slasher films of the 1970s and '80's, the image of the knife-wielding maniac inspires in us a visceral fear. At the same time, it fascinates us. The following 10 men loved to kill with blades:

1. Itzcoatl Ocampo

During the fall of 2011 and winter of 2012, Itzcoatl "Izzy" Ocampo terrified the homeless community of Orange County, California. He viciously stabbed to death four homeless men between the ages of 42 and 64.

He stalked his victims, lying in wait until they went to sleep. After the men bedded down for night, Ocampo pounced, using a wicked seven inch knife to stab them to death. All of his victims received multiple stab wounds.

Ocampo, a former marine, was discharged honorably in 2010. Ocampo told police that he had joined the Marines so that he could kill people. Deployed to Iraq, he was disappointed to find that he'd been assigned to drive a water and dirt truck on base. He felt that he needed to kill to be a real marine.

Deprived of his need to kill people while he was overseas, Ocampo was determined to do some killing back home. He preyed on the homeless because they were vulnerable and accessible. Ironically, Ocampo's own father is homeless, living in the cab of an old big rig.

Ocampo's cockiness was his ultimate undoing: He decided to attack the hapless John Berry, age 64, in broad daylight, and in full view of passers-by. Witnesses saw him leap on the older man from behind, savagely stabbing him. Unfortunately for Berry, his wounds were fatal, but bystanders were able to get a good look at his killer. They were able to give a good description to police, and when Ocampo returned to the scene to retrieve his knife, they arrested him.

Ocampo is awaiting trial in a California jail.

2. Glen Edward Rogers, the Cross-Country Killer

Glen Edward Rogers, born July 15, 1962, is a charming man, handsome in a rough, shaggy kind of way. He earned the name "Cross-country Killer" because he left a trail of dead women across the United States in the mid-nineties. He is also known as the "Casanova Killer" because of his penchant for romancing his victims before killing them.

His known victims number five: four women and one man. He claims, however, to have committed many more murders, including the slayings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. His jail-cell confession caught the attention of Simpson's defense team, and earned him a spot in the trial of the century.

Like many serial killers, Rogers had a definite type he preferred. He liked women with red or reddish hair who were vulnerable in some way; he stayed away from strong women who he could not manipulate. He would convince the women to take him in and repaid their kindness by stabbing them to death.

Rogers is awaiting execution in a Florida prison.

3. Cary Stayner

Cary Stayner, the quiet and hardworking handyman for the Cedar Lodge Hotel, located near Yosemite National Park in California, had a secret. He had been fantasizing about killing women since he was 7 years old.

In February 1999, it seemed the urge to kill became too strong. His first victims were Cedar Lodge guests Carole Sund, Sund's 15-year-old daughter, Juli and 16-year-old Sylvina Pelosso. He got into their room by saying that he was there to fix a leak. He strangled the elder Sund and Pelosso in the hotel room, but he saved young Juli Sund for the following day, when he took her up to the lake and slashed her throat.

Months later, the urge to kill kindled inside him again when he struck up a conversation with his final victim, 26-year-old teacher Joie Armstrong. On that warm July day in 1999, he decided that she had to die. He abducted her and cut her head completely off.

After Stayner was finally arrested at the Laguna Nigel nudist resort he frequented, he confessed to all four murders. He was insistent that none of the victims had been sexually assaulted in any way, as if that made his crimes any less horrific!

Stayner is on death row in a California prison, awaiting execution.

4. Juan Vallejo Corona

On May 19, 1971, the body of a skinny white male, Kenneth Whitacre, was found buried in a peach orchard. The orchard's owner called the police because he had become suspicious about a recently dug hole on his property. Whitacre, a drifter, had been stabbed in the chest, bashed in the head, and received several slashing wounds to the back of his head.

Later in the month, the police found the body of Charles Fleming, another drifter, buried at a neighboring farm. That same day, they recovered eight more bodies in an adjacent field. All of the victims had been bludgeoned and stabbed. This field later became known as Graveyard Lane. The victims fit a strong pattern: all were white male migrant farm workers. The bodies showed evidence of sexual assault: some of them were naked, others had their pants pulled down, genitals exposed. A recent receipt from a Yuba City meat market with Juan Corona's name on it had been buried with the bodies. Even more graves would be uncovered in the coming days, bringing Corona's total victim count to 25.

After the police arrested Corona, an investigation of his home uncovered a "death ledger" in which the names of 34 men were listed. Seven of the names matched the known victims. Two vehicles were parked outside, a van and Corona's Chevrolet Impala. Both appeared to have bloodstains inside, and in the van was some other interesting evidence: a shovel, a sack with bullets, some clothing and an 18 inch machete.

Corona was convicted of 25 counts of first degree murder and is serving his time in a California prison.

5. Karl Denke, the Cannibal of Ziebiece

Known around town as Papa Denke, Karl Denke was well liked in the community. He played the organ at the local church and helped out the needy. Between 1921 and 1924, he also axed to death 30 or more people in his small ground floor apartment on Stauwa Street. He chopped up the bodies for meat and used the skin, hair and bones to make the belts and shoelaces that he peddled around town. He sold some of the meat at the Wroclaw meat market.

Denke was arrested on Dec. 21, 1924 after a neighbor called the police. The neighbor had seen a man stumbling down the hallway with blood pouring from a scalp wound. The man, Vincenz Olivier, told the neighbor that Denke had attacked him with an ax.

The police searched Denke's apartment and made several gruesome discoveries: vats of pickled meat, pots of fat, bloodstained clothes, and the identification papers of 12 transients. They also found a ledger with the dates, names and weights of people Denke had killed. The dates in the book went back to 1921.

Little else is known about the case since Denke hung himself in his cell on the night of his arrest. His reasons for killing remain a mystery.

6. William MacDonald, the Mutilator

William MacDonald terrorized the city of Sydney, Australia from 1961 to 1962 as the Mutilator. He viciously stabbed five men to death and mutilated their genitals.

On June 4, 1961, the body of Alfred Greenfield was discovered in the Sydney Domain Baths. He had been stabbed 30 times with a large knife and his genitals had been cut off. His second victim was William Cobbin. His body was discovered in a public toilet, also stabbed multiple times and minus his genitals. His third victim was Frank McLean, who was found alive, but he later died of his injuries.

In November 1962, neighbors alerted police to a rank odor coming from MacDonald's shop. Inside was a badly decomposed body. Since MacDonald was nowhere to be found, the authorities misidentified the corpse as belonging to MacDonald. When the police discovered MacDonald to be alive, a more thorough autopsy revealed that the body actually belonged to Patrick Hackett. He had been stabbed and his penis had been removed, just like the other four victims.

MacDonald is alive and living in a Sydney prison. He told an interviewer that the reason he committed the murders was to get revenge on the corporal who had raped him while he was in the military.

7. Richard Speck

On July 13, 1966, Richard Speck stabbed to death eight student nurses from the South Chicago Community Hospital in their dormitory. A single survivor, Cora Amurao, hid under a bed until 6 a.m. The terrified girl could hear her friends screaming as Speck raped and murdered them. Luckily for her, Speck must have lost count of his victims.

The scene the police discovered was horrifying: there was so much blood in the upstairs bedrooms that it had run out into the hallway and soaked through the carpets. Based on the description of the killer that Cora Amurao gave them, the police identified Speck. They found him at local rooming house, sleeping off a night of alcohol and drugs.

Speck was sentenced to 400 years in prison and died there of a heart attack on Dec. 5, 1991. A bizarre videotape shot before his death showed Speck with female breasts, having sex with another prisoner. On the tape, he was asked why he murdered the nurses. He replied "It just wasn't their night."

8. Elias Abuelazam, the Flint Slasher

During the summer of 2010, the normally friendly citizens of Flint, Michigan were scared. There was a serial killer on the prowl, and no one felt safe. The killer, Elias Abuelazam, lured his victims by pretending to need help with his car or needing to ask directions. He was dubbed the Flint Slasher.

Abuelazam is responsible for as many as 14 stabbings in Flint, of which five were fatal. He is also suspected of a stabbing in Toledo, Ohio. Fortunately, the victim in Ohio managed to survive.

36-year-old Abuelazam immigrated to the United States from Israel. He was a drifter who settled in Flint where an uncle lived. He worked the night shift as a liquor store manager. He was eventually caught after he was recognized as the Flint Slasher from a police sketch. Although he killed four other people, he was only tried for the murder of Arnold Minor. He was found guilty and is serving time in prison.

9. William Patrick Fyfe, the Handyman Killer

William Patrick Fyfe was skilled with his hands. He was good with tools and could fix things. He was also an adept serial killer who used his trade as a handyman to get to his victims. He became known as the Handyman Killer during the period of 1979 and 1999 when he raped and killed nine women in Montreal, Quebec.

He found his victims by knocking on doors. He claimed to be a handyman in the neighborhood doing odd jobs. If a woman answered the door and she lived by herself, letting him in would be the last decision she ever made. Once inside, he would reveal the true purpose for his visit: a brutal rape at knifepoint followed by murder.

In addition to the handyman murders, Fyfe is also suspected in a series of violent rapes in Montreal during the period of 1984 to 1987. During this time, a rapist known as the "Plumber" was attacking women in their homes after gaining entry under the ruse of doing repair work.

Fyfe is alive and serving a life sentence in a Saskatchewan prison.

10. Maksim Gelman

24-year-old Maksim Gelman was a small time drug dealer and user in New York City. In his mind, however, he was an important player. On Feb. 11, 2011, he became convinced that the FBI was watching him. At 5:30 a.m., he went to his mother's house to ask to borrow her car so that he could get out of the city. This resulted in an argument with his stepfather, Alexandr Kuznetzov, 54. Enraged, Gelman grabbed a kitchen knife and stabbed Kuznetzov multiple times, killing him. His horrified mother called the police but Gelman snatched the keys and took off in the car.

The next place Gelman wound up was at the home of his former friend, 20-year-old Yelena Bolchenko. Bolchenko had cut off contact with Gelman after it became apparent that he was obsessed with her. Her mother, Anna, age 56, answered the door. Gelman barged into the house and demanded to know where Yelena was. Anna refused to tell him, so Gelman stabbed her to death.

For the next six hours, Gelman lay in wait for Yelena in the Bolchenko home. When Yelena returned home and discovered her mother's body, she phoned the police. Gelman attacked her with the same knife he'd used on her mother, fatally stabbing her. During the attack, a blood-covered Yelena managed to get outside. She staggered over to a neighbor and incredibly, Gelman followed her and continued stabbing her.

Gelman managed to get away in his mother's Lexus, but in his haste to escape, he rear-ended another vehicle. Desperate to flee the scene, he pulled the knife on the driver and stabbed him, demanding his car. He took off in the stolen vehicle, and while speeding down the street, ran over 62-year-old Stephen Tannenbaum, who was crossing the street. Tannenbaum was rushed to the hospital, but his injuries were fatal.

His killing spree ended in the New York subway when Gelman absurdly attempted to hijack a train. Unable to get into the train's cab, he attacked 40-year-old father of two, Joseph Lozito. The 270 pound Lozito fought back, sweeping Gelman's legs with his feet and bringing him down to the floor. Although Gelman continued to slash at him with a knife, Lozito held him down until the police were able to subdue him. Although Lozito received seven knife wounds to his head, face and arms, he survived the attack and was hailed as a hero.

Gelman was sentenced to 200 years in prison and is currently living in a New York prison.

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