

Jeff Dahmer, the Box, and the Lie That Doesn't Add Up

When the details don't align and the emotional logic fails, it's not a personal account. production.



THE DAHMER CASE
APR 15, 2025



12



2



Share

There's a scene in [A Father's Story](#), the memoir attributed to Lionel Dahmer, that become one of the most emotionally charged moments in Jeff Dahmer's public mythology.

The box.

A locked wooden container.

A suspicious father.

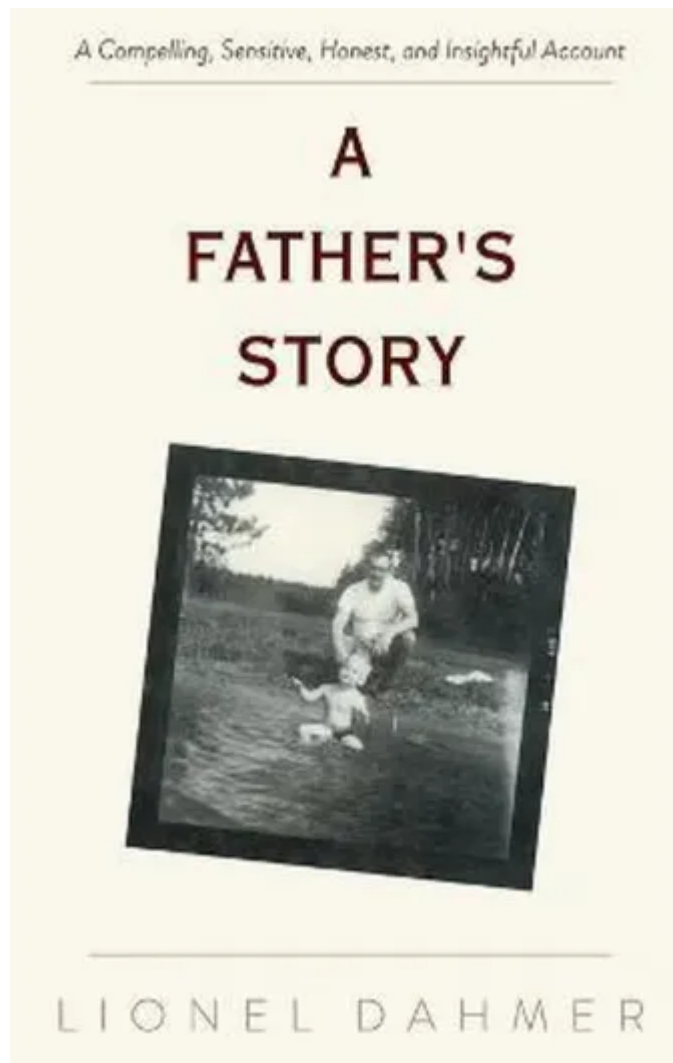
A tense confrontation.

A moral climax:

The son opens the box.

The father looks inside.

And all he sees... is a stack of porno mags.



A Father's Story by Lionel Dahmer

Jeff did not move to open it.

*I turned and started for the basement to get a tool with which I could open the box my
Jeff leaped in front of me. He whipped out a birthday check I had written only the day I
and ripped it up. "I don't want this if you can't give me one foot of privacy."*

I stared at him silently, and Jeff very quickly calmed himself.

*"You're right, Dad," he said quietly. "It's magazines, that kind of thing. But just leave it
now, OK? It might upset Grandma. I'll open it for you in the morning, I promise."*

He walked back into the kitchen and tucked the box beneath his arm. "I'll open it in morning," he said, as he disappeared into the basement.

The next morning, Jeff returned with the box. He took a key from his pocket and opened it. "See?" he said.

I glanced down in to a stack of pornographic magazines.

"Get rid of that stuff before your grandmother sees it," I told him. "OK, Dad," Jeff said obediently, then he closed the box and returned to the basement.

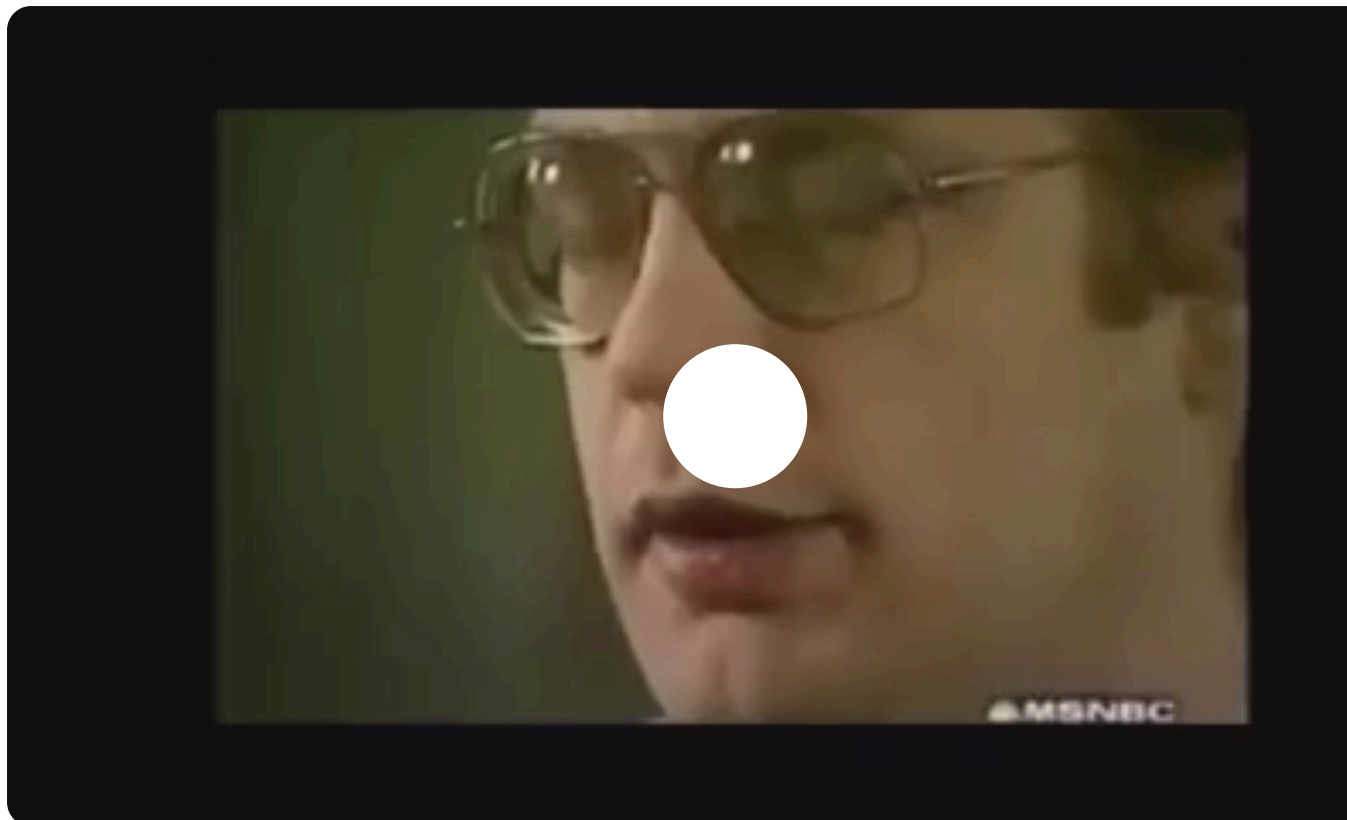
Just like that, the tension evaporates. There is no horror, no gore, just some adult material. Lionel breathes a sigh of relief. The scene is framed as a moment of emotional reprieve—a near miss, a false alarm.

But there's a problem.

Why would Lionel Dahmer be relieved?

Jeff Dahmer was presented to the public as homosexual. Lionel—by his own account—disapproved of homosexuality. So, if the box contained gay pornography, why would that bring him relief?

Why would he treat it as a reassuring discovery?



The emotional logic doesn't hold. Lionel's reaction only makes sense if the maga were heterosexual, but that would directly contradict the official version of Jeff's identity.

This isn't just an inconsistency. It's a narrative error.

A character reacting in a way that doesn't match his own beliefs, to content that doesn't match the profile of his son. It's the kind of inconsistency a screenwriter catch in the second draft.

Unless... that's exactly what it was.

Because in a completely different version of the same moment—told not by Lion by Jeff—there's another twist:

"The box was never opened. Not in my dad's presence."

— Jeffrey Dahmer, Stone Phillips interview, 1994

That doesn't just contradict Lionel's story. It **collapses** it.

Jeff says the box was never opened. The confrontation never reached that point. 'mystery remained intact.

So now we have two versions:

- In Lionel's, the box is opened, and the contents are "innocent."
- In Jeff's, the box stays shut, and the scene ends unresolved.

Which one are we supposed to believe?

And more importantly: **why do they contradict each other at all?**



Here's the explanation:

A Father's Story wasn't written to preserve memory. It was written to **preserve a narrative**.

By the time the book was published, the myth had already solidified. The son was a monster—emotionally distant, morally opaque, and unreachable. The father needed to appear concerned, attentive, and tragically just one step behind.

But that version of events didn't exist—so they made one up.

They didn't just reshape the truth. They **fabricated it**.

They gave us a symbolic object: a box, a boundary, a staged moment of almost ca the monster—just in time.

But like all bad fiction, it left behind plot holes.



12 Likes

Discussion about this post

Comments

Restacks



Write a comment...



Barca Barca Apr 15

They have the ability to write and erase memories as if the mind was a vhs tape.



LIKE (1)



REPLY



Katie Beautiful Beat Face Apr 15

Schroedinger's porn stash



LIKE (1)



REPLY

Substack is the home for great culture