

Dexter Season 1: The Ice Truck Killer

Season 1 introduces Dexter Morgan, a forensic blood spatter analyst for the Miami Metro Police Department. By day, he's a seemingly normal, if somewhat awkward, colleague and boyfriend to Rita Bennett. By night, Dexter is a vigilante serial killer, operating under "The Code of Harry." This code, taught to him by his adoptive father, Harry Morgan, dictates that Dexter must only kill other murderers who have escaped justice, and he must never get caught. His internal monologue refers to his murderous urges as "The Dark Passenger."

Dexter's adoptive sister, Debra Morgan, is a tough and ambitious detective in Vice, later transferred to Homicide. His colleagues include Sergeant James Doakes, who is highly suspicious of Dexter, and Lieutenant María LaGuerta, who is often at odds with Debra.

The central antagonist of Season 1 is the "Ice Truck Killer" (ITK), a serial killer who drains his victims' blood and meticulously dismembers them, leaving cryptic clues for Dexter. The ITK's methods and taunts are eerily similar to Dexter's own past. As Dexter investigates, he uncovers a shocking personal connection: the ITK is his biological brother, Brian Moser (also known as Rudy Cooper). Brian, like Dexter, was found in a pool of blood after their mother's murder, but unlike Dexter, he wasn't adopted and raised under Harry's Code. Brian attempts to form a bond with Dexter, wanting to kill Debra with him. Dexter, however, chooses to protect Debra, ultimately killing Brian to prevent him from harming his sister. This season explores themes of nature vs. nurture, identity, and the façade Dexter maintains. Rita's children, Astor and Cody, are also introduced, forming a crucial part of Dexter's "normal" life.