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BTK: THE KILLER'S FETISH

Ms. Siddhi Pant

Dennis Rader, under the moniker **BTK**, illustrating for **BIND, TORTURE, AND KILL**, murdered 10 people from 1974 to 1991.

The fancy idea of serial killers as acquired through society was counteracted when it was found that Dennis had no childhood trauma. He was a parishioner, the congregational president of his church, and he also had a full-time job that made him nothing less than a normal citizen of the society.

Where did it all begin?

The brutal series of events commenced with the killing of the Otero family where Dennis murdered all 4 members of the family. This brutal murderer showed no mercy to children and women.

Dennis strangled both Joe and his wife Julie (the Oteros) and then the 9-year-old, Joey. He killed him by putting a plastic bag over his head and suffocating him. He took Josephine, the 11-year-old girl, to the basement and hung her.

Or in Dennis' words:

"I put a plastic bag over his head, then ropes and pulled him tight. First of all, Mr. Otero was strangled; a bag was put over his head and strangled. And then I thought he was going down. Then I went to strangle the lady, and I thought she was. Then I strangled Josephine, I thought she was down, and I went to Junior and put the bag on his head. After that, Mrs. Otero woke up again and you know, she was pretty upset, what's going on? So, I went back, and at that moment I strangled her to a suffocating death."



Credits: Image provided by the Sedgwick County Sheriff's office



Credits: Photo by Jeff Tuttle-Pool/ Getty Images

The Otero family-



Josep Otero Jr.

Josephine Otero

Julie Otero

Joseph Otero

Credits: Image from bizarrepedia.com

Dennis's subsequent murders included:

- 5. Katherine Bright - Aged 21- Died on April 4th, 1974
- 6. Shirley Vain - Aged 24 - Died on March 17th, 1977
- 7. Nancy Fox - Aged 25 - Died on December 8th, 1977
- 8. Marine Hedge - Aged 53 - Died on April 27th, 1985
- 9. Vicki Wegerle - Aged 28 - Died on September 16th, 1986
- 10. Dolores Davis - Aged 62 - Died on January 19th, 1991

Role of BTK in forensics

After the vicious killing spree from 1974 to 1991, BTK went silent. During this time, he mocked the law enforcement through disreputable hidden notes, ads, newspapers, so as to achieve their recognition.

In March 2004, the Wichita television station received a letter containing clues of the BTK murder. Alongside the letter was a box containing a graphic description of The Otero murder.

Use of forensic techniques

DNA analysis:

Dennis Rader's daughter offered up a DNA swab when she suspected her father had something to do with it. The DNA was a close match to the semen found at the crime scenes. A forensic serologist was brought in to collect the DNA for processing and comparison.

Handwriting analysis:

The police brought in a handwriting specialist to study the letters BTK sent in and matched them to the original one. This helped distinguish the suspect who was suspected of the BTK murder but wasn't.

Technology:

The police had to use the forensic technology specialist to hack into the diskette that Rader sent to the police. When they hacked it, they found the name "Dennis" and a few church documents. This was the pivotal proof that helped in locking up BTK.

Utilization of digital forensics:

Through the use of the EnCase software, in unveiling the details regarding the recent activities involved in the floppy disk, there has been a whole lot of room to sue Dennis. The EnCase software, in this case, turned out to be a very important tool. The software is designed for forensics, cyber security, and e-recovery. The section of e-recovery is accustomed to recovering deleted electronic evidence that may be used to document concrete evidence of crimes; electronic evidence in most cases is free from doubt. This explains why Dennis could finally have confessed to committing crimes.

Therefore, computer forensics plays a major role in tracking down evidence, especially those that have some digital concepts or links. It is possible to trace all crimes through the use of forensic techniques.

Sentencing:

In February 2005, Dennis was convicted. He confessed all his monstrous

work and murders. He was charged with 10 murders and sentenced to life in prison for all ten. The overall term for his punishment is 175 plus years with no chance of obtaining parole.

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Myth - If the skin on the finger is scraped off, the fingerprint will change.

Fact - Unless the deep layer is damaged, the fingerprint will grow back in the same pattern.