

INCEST STORY OF THE CAPTIVATED

The girl who spent 24 years of her life imprisoned by her father

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Fig. 1: Elizabeth Fritzl

A case that shocked the conscience of the world was brought to light when Elisabeth Fritzl was able to escape from her captor, her father, in April 2008. This is a story of 24 years of cruel, inhuman, and sadistic exploitation which began when she was barely 11 years old.

Elisabeth Fritzl lived with her parents Josef Fritzl and Rosemarie Fritzl and her siblings. In 1977, when she was just 11, her family and siblings had gone to Italy for vacation with their family friends. Josef was alone at home with Elisabeth at the time and this was when he first raped her.



Fig. 2: The house of Josef Fritzl

On August 28, 1984, Josef strategically brought her down to a basement he had modelled and designed in their home, which was kept hidden behind a hinged door. Soon after fixing it, he pushed Elisabeth inside after making her unconscious with an ether-soaked towel.

When Elisabeth went missing, Rosemarie and Josef filed a missing report. While the investigations were going on, Josef claimed to remember her talking about joining some religious cult. When there was no evidence of her disappearance, the case went cold and police stopped further investigations due to a lack of any leads.

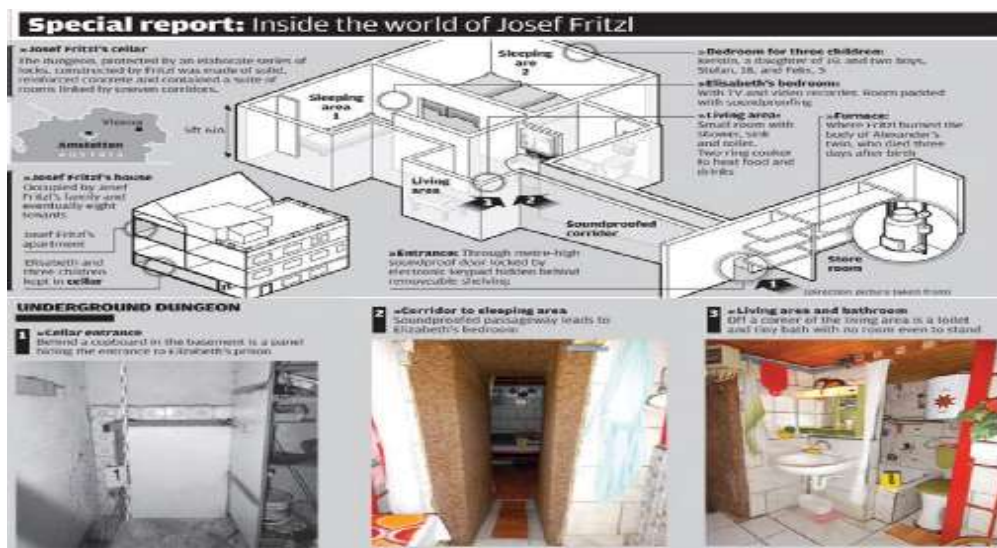


Fig.3 : Inside the world of Josef Fritzl

Meanwhile, Josef, held her captive for the next two years, in a tiny dark basement room with just the basic amenities which were required. The continued violent sexual abuse led to Elisabeth having to conceive his child but 10 weeks later she had a miscarriage.

After two years she became pregnant and gave birth to Kerstin. And later, her second child Stefan. Over the years, she birthed seven children in total. One baby died merely a few days after birth, and three were sent upstairs to Josef. The other three children lived underground with Elisabeth and never saw the outside world until their rescue in 2008.

Josef claimed he found notes with babies found at the doorstep or hidden among bushes that these kids belonged to Elisabeth and that she was sending her children to her parents to take adequate care of them as she couldn't give.

The cell never got hot water neither a heating system nor air circulation. Yet, Elisabeth tried giving her children the most normal life she could and even taught them how much she knew in the dark basement.

The children grew up in unhealthy conditions and had to witness terrors from a young age as Josef raped their mother in front of them. This led to lasting physical and psychological damage in all of them.



Fig.4 : Modelled basement Elisabeth was kept in.

Fritzl's family complained to Josef about the sounds they all occasionally heard, but he excused them as damaged pipelines and noisy heaters, those were the miserable yelps of Elisabeth.

In 2008, Kerstin, the eldest child who was 19 years old by then, fell severely ill. Elisabeth begged her father to give medical attention to her sickly daughter. He had a change of mind and took her to the hospital where the horrifying truth of Elisabeth's ordeal over the past years finally came to light.

For a week, Kerstin was in the hospital and was being questioned by police regarding her family, but no one came to endorse her. She had bruises and a discoloured body, as Josef had physically abused her too and she'd never seen sunlight in her lifetime.

Police got suspicious and questioned Josef regarding her sudden appearance. They reopened the case and went through the notes allegedly sent by Elisabeth and noticed an irregularity in them. Being pressured by police, Josef finally released Elisabeth from her cell on 26 April 2008, 24 years after her imprisonment.

Elisabeth rushed to the hospital Kerstin was in. Her presence at the hospital startled the police. They interrogated her regarding what the truth was. Elisabeth made a deal with them first claiming to never come face to face with her father Josef ever again. After this, she revealed everything he had done to her in the last 24 years of her captivity.

The police filed charges of rape, manslaughter, false imprisonment, and incest based on the evidence provided by Elisabeth. Her family was questioned subsequently but everyone claimed to not know anything.



Fig5 : Josef Fritzl

Josef showed up at the court covering his face for the first two days. He claimed to be not guilty. As the case went on, he was charged with murder and rape. Ultimately, Josef suddenly changed his claims and admitted to his guilt.

When the details of this sordid case came to light years later, the rest of the family was horrified to know what had occurred beneath the roof of their home. Josef went on to mastermind a plan to keep his daughter under his custody for 24 years.

In Austria, judgement is not based on all the claims collectively but on the highest punishment. Hence, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for captivating his daughter and using her as a sex slave for 24 years.

Now Elisabeth and her children live in a designated location with full police protection and new identities. This case horrified the authorities and the rest of the world.

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