

**DAHMER- MONSTER: THE JEFFREY DAHMER STORY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Based on intrigued value, his controversial lifestyle and his uniqueness, Dahmer was chosen. Jeffrey Lionel Dahmer is perhaps one of the most infamous killer cannibal. This study focuses on the widely viewed Netflix show ‘Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story’ based on the highly publicized case of Jeffrey Dahmer, who murdered and dismembered 17 young men. The purpose of the case study is to examine the relationship between Jeffrey Dahmer's troubled childhood and its impact on his adult psychopathic behavior as well as an obsession with death in order to find possible explanations between them as a means of identifying the origins of horrifying serial killing behavior.

Serial crime is a social phenomenon that continues to disturb and fascinate many experts. As a result, there is a need to understand the distinctiveness of serial killers as well as their psychological development. The paper will be split into three distinct parts: (i) Introduction (ii) Research Methodology (iii) Analysis of the case study and (iv) Conclusion: Theories applicable to why Jeffrey Dahmer carried out these crimes.

**KEY-WORDS**

1. Serial Killer
2. Cannibalisms
3. Murder
4. Necrophilia
5. Psychopath

**INTRODUCTION**

Because it is difficult for people to understand why someone would be willing to take more than one life, the topic of serial killers has intrigued people throughout history.

An ample amount of information on the serial killer's mentality, biological development, and environmental development of serial killers have been brought to light by current research on individuals with antisocial behavior and psychopathic tendencies, however, very little research has focused on the elements of a serial murderer's youth, which may have played a critical role in violent behavior later in life.

We tried to do a psychological analysis of Jeffrey Lionel Dahmer through the NETFLIX series ‘DAHMER’- *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* created by created by Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan for Netflix, which was released on September 21, 2022.

The focus of the examination will be American serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. It will analyse how his fascination with death, childhood neglect, and subsequent emotional trauma may have contributed to his decision to kill seventeen young men.

### Serial Killer's Profile Serial Killers Definition Criteria -

Since the crimes are typically motivated by psychological factors, the victim must be a stranger to the serial killer and there cannot be any chance for financial gain. Even though the victims are mostly random, the murderer may nonetheless view them as symbolic.

### Serial Killer Characteristics -

Serial killers can be either men or women, of any age and from any race. The sexual satisfaction they get by destroying another person's life is a common trait that many serial killers frequently share. These murderers, often referred to as "sexual sadists," incorporate their errant sexual desires into their murderous deeds.

### Various Types of Serial Killers -

A serial killer can emerge in a variety of ways, and the two primary types are organized and disorganized. The organized killers plan ahead every aspect of a crime and until they have thoroughly planned the entire crime, including the escape, they continue to stalk their victims. They are likely to be married with children, project a likeable persona, and bring their own weapon with them and always drive their own car when they commit a murder. These organized murderers follow how the atrocities are covered in the media.

In contrast to organized killers, disorganized killers tend to be impulsive and make decisions on the spot. They generally lack a personal vehicle and commit their crimes close to where they live. They could also be unemployed or working a low-skilled job, and they might be socially awkward.

Hedonistic killers are a different category of serial killer that exists as well. Usually schizophrenic individuals think they are being "commanded" to kill by an external force. These are murderers who think it is their purpose and duty to eliminate homosexuals, prostitutes, or a certain race from the world.

The Power-control killers are often people lacking a sense of power and authority or those who experienced this lack in the past.

These killers will carry out their murders in a way that gives them the ability to decide between life and death: the control over life or death. The most prevalent type of serial killer is the hedonistic killer, which can be furthermore categorised as thrill, comfort and lust killer.

The thrill killer feeds on fear and death. A comfort killer typically kills for some type of short-term gain or other advantage that will bring some level of comfort to them. A lust killer can be described as a sexual predator whose sexual satisfaction is fueled by mutilation and suffering their victims endure. The fact that Jeffrey Dahmer continued to mutilate his victims even after they died makes him the ideal illustration of this kind of serial killer.



In the summer of 1978, Steven Mark Hicks, 18. He was spotted hitchhiking to an Ohio rock performance in Bath's Chippewa Lake Park. He would catch the attention of a passing by man who began to take great interest in his physique and apparels, his looks were made more alluring by the fact that he had just come of age. He reportedly continued his hike alone; this would be the anyone saw of Steven alive. The captivated individual, Jeffery Dahmer, who too was 18 at the time, would leave his body strangled after being struck with a dumbbell with signs of resistance can be seen before eventual dismemberment. Jeffery would continue to murder, dismember and commit necrophilia and cannibalism for the following decades. He came to be known as the Milwaukee Cannibal or the Milwaukee Monster.

At the time of his capture, notorious American serial murderer and sex offender Jeffery Dahmer was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, schizotypal personality disorder, and psychotic disorder. He was found guilty of 15 to 16 killings perpetrated in Wisconsin. His murder spree as well as post capture confession would lay foundation to the works of FBI's development of modern serial-killer profiling.

### **NETFLIX**

The story of Jeffrey Dahmer saw a spiked emergence upon the release of "The Jeffrey Dahmer Story" in late September 2022. It aired its first episode on 21st of September and was met with critical controversial reviews. The show told the story of American's most infamous serial killer from the point of view of his victims. It did not glorify his acts nor frame it as a legacy, the fact that most, if not all, of his victims were male who had been sexually abused brought strong lash back from the homosexual members of the audience. As LGBTQ members stated, "This is not the representation we wanted", which would lead Netflix to remove the LGBTQ tag on the thriller series on its streaming platform.

He applied his methods of preserving human skulls and bones to almost all his victims. His addiction to alcohol also played a major role in his downfall in society as a non-deviant.

### Episode Reviews/Timeline

July 22, 1991

Episode 1, The series begins with the end of his crime spree as his latest target escapes and reports the police of his actions, leading to his eventual capture.

1965-1991 May 26th

Episode 2, The second episode begins with a look at young Jeff contending with his troubles at home and school. The childhood troubles are given a major emphasis in this episode, exploring the major triggers in his behavior and how they manifest in his teens, this is followed by complicated developments leading up to a later point in his life where he attracts and hunts Kieran Tamadong whose point of view is shown in the later half of the episode.

1977 June 18th

Episode 3, This episode holds significant value in the development of Jeff's obsession with dissection and his eventual downfall to become a deviant. The episode showcases the attempts made by Lionel to better bond with his son and teach him about adulthood and sexual oriented feelings, it is revealed to the viewers at this point that Jeff does not hold any interest in women but is able to find pleasure in dissecting animals. The episode also tells the viewers of the divorce where the mother abandons Jeff while the father is allegedly involved with another woman. This feeling of constant neglect led to Jeff developing abandonment issues which are dealt with by excessive drinking of alcohol. At this point, a critical and pivotal moment arrives where the right guidance and peers would have changed the outcome of decades to come. Jeffery runs into the hitchhiker, who after his death is disposed of in various ways as his body is dismembered. This moment marks his first kill and severe mental disabilities as he is seen attempting to seduce the corpse. The act of killing was unintentional, having come over with extreme unchecked emotions Jeffery only asks why everyone leaves him.

1991 July 23 - 1987 November 20

Episode 4 explores Jeffery and his perspective of himself as a serial killer, the episode begins with the interrogation after his capture in 1991 before moving back to 1987 presenting the overall plot arc of the show where Jeffery is seen attempting to suppress his impulses to kill again for 9 years. Not performing well in his academics due to low GPA due to his lack of aptitude for Math and addiction to alcoholism results in him not being able to attend the honor society picture leaving him feeling hurt, angry and left out. Later, his father returns with his newly wed wife only to find Jeffery in an unclean and untidy house littered with bottles of liquor. Jeffery also speaks of his poor academic performance which prompts his father to enlist him into the army, where he is assigned as a field medic. The knowledge he gains to treat injured soldiers is abused to later aid his killing spree. Jeff is removed from the army for having sexually forced himself on a fellow soldier. The latter of the episode explores his relationship with his grandmother who presents him with a box filled with fond memories of his father, this action is seen as a core act in his after-kill moments as he often kept the remains of his victims. The episode ends with the murder of Steven Walter Tuomi, who is killed off screen when Dahmer wakes up claiming he has no memories of having killed him.

1991 May 24

Episode 5 follows Jeffery recounting his victims during his confession and how he relapsed into killing people again. The momentary loneliness he experienced upon excessive alcohol consumption lengthened, after having made a routine of killing people by drugging and suffocating them prior to him having his way with their body as he felt a sense of control over them. Killing his victims before committing heinous and painful acts to them shows us the humane side of Jeffery seeking comfort in his actions regardless of how bad he realizes them to be. A close call occurs with the police when one of his victims is found by the grandmother, who upon waking up goes to the police to report Jeff but is dismissed due to his race.

May 24th – May 26th 1991

Episode 6 tells the story of Tony Hughes and his character identical to the real-life counterpart. The episode has Jeff attempt to go against his usual methods and give a genuine undrugged chance to the way he pursues his victims. Showing his want to establish genuine bonds with Tony, they spend the night well but Tonys rush to leave for his late arrival at work alarms Jeff, who is seen deciding against killing Tony. Later it is revealed that Jeffrey did kill Tony too but also goes a step ahead and cannibalized his flesh to feel one with him.

1991 July 23

Episode 7 answers the questions to why Jeffrey had been able to avoid being caught despite having been unclean with his methods of disposal as the stench was spilled throughout the building. The episode elaborates on the testimony given by his neighbors and their repeated attempt to bring the oddness in light to the authorities. In an unfortunate turn of events, Konerak Sinthasomphone was one of the victims who managed to escape but was returned back to the killer's apartment after being seen as an intoxicated youth. His older brother too was victimized by Jeffrey. The episode points out the numerous instances when Jeffreys neighbors called the authorities and pointed the obvious crimes but were either ignored or left unattended.

1992 January 30th – February 17th

Episode 8 continues to show the timeline where the first episode took off from, it goes in detail how Leonel and Joyce dealt with the after match of Jeffreys capture. His confession brought a wave of infamous and often untrue tales from people claiming to be related to the notorious serial killer. Both the parents are shown to go through the different stages of grief before coming to accept and make amends with their child after having realized their faults as imperfect parents. The episode ends on a note of warmhearted acceptance between the three.

1994 May 24th – July 3rd

Episode 9 deals with the after math of the court hearing and Jeffreys imprisonment, His life in the prison cell, his admirers, followers, letters written by both lovers and haters. The episode also follows up on the families of his victims, people he interacted with and his distant family members. The final few minutes show him being given a fatal wound to the neck but he survives and reads letters written to him in the care ward.

1995 November 28th

Episode 10

The finale of the series concludes with a spiritual note on religion, acceptance and repentance for sin. The eventual demise of Jeffrey comes to pass during his time in prison. Upon hearing of his passing, Lionel and Joyce hold conflict over what must be done with his body, Lionel has turned to be a caring and accepting father loving Jeffrey with forgiveness regardless of his acts knowing full well that he too has a part to blame in his development. Joyce wished to contribute his body to science to understand what defect may have led him to act the way he did while Leonel wished to honor his sons wish to be cremated. The case is taken to court and ends with a note on how the brain must be destroyed for one cannot process why he turned out the way he did as multiple factors come into play and not just genes.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **FAMILY HISTORY**

Born to Joyce Annett and Lionel Herbert Dahmer on May 21st 1960, Lionel Dahmer was absent for most of his childhood while Joyce Dahmer spent most of her time in bed demanding constant attention while having attempted suicide once before the birth of her second child. This troublesome dynamic consequently had both the parents neglect their child as neither devoted much time to their son. Who at one point stated that he felt "Unsure of the solidarity at home". The neglect and challenges to their relationship only grew with time as his elementary teacher saw signs of abandonment in him which only grew with the birth of a second child.

### **CHILDHOOD**

Description of Childhood Abuse -

The long-term repercussions of child maltreatment and/or neglect on adolescent social, emotional, and even physical development have been the subject of several studies over the years. A consistent finding from several of these studies is that adolescents who have grown up witnessing violence in their homes and/or communities are more likely to develop long-term emotional, physical, and mental trauma. These children will also experience difficulties with "attachment, regressive behaviour, anxiety, and melancholy, as well as conduct and violent problems.

One male child who grew up to be violent and aggressive was Jeffrey Dahmer. Jeffrey Dahmer's formative years were different from those of many other serial killers. Jeffrey Dahmer may have undoubtedly experienced psychological trauma due of his various familial problems. Jeffrey Dahmer was exposed to a number of possibly traumatic incidents as a child. One of these was that he had surgery to repair a double hernia in his skull when he was four years old. His mood and behavior looked to have been negatively impacted by the surgery. He had grown very distant and introverted. He soon became interested in bones and the dismemberment of animals. It is possible to conclude that Dahmer had sadistic tendencies since he was a young child.

In his early years, Jeffrey Dahmer frequently witnessed his mother under the effects of her anti-anxiety drug. Dahmer had been neglected his entire childhood. Both of his parents were caught up with the challenges of their relationship and their own lives, that they paid little or no attention to him and his disturbing obsessions and behaviors.

Jeffery grew a fascination towards dead animals and their carcasses from an early age, the bizarre interests are suspected to have begun when he saw his father remove some of the buried animal bones from beneath the family home. The sound of the bones oddly thrilled him which prompted him to further explore the territory for more bones he may examine and play with. This fascination with osteology soon grew as he sifted his attention to live animals in order to better understand where their bones were located. He learnt how to preserve bones and better explore his scientific curiosity by his father who taught him what happens when chicken bone is kept in bleach. His methods saw practical application with dead animals, road kills and later in his life

### **OCCUPATION**

During this tense time, Dahmer's financial troubles grew worse. He funded his fantasies and drinking with the money he made. His employment was in jeopardy due to his frequent absences, which ultimately resulted in his termination. Dahmer's absence was frequently explained by the fact that he had committed a murder the previous evening and had to get rid of the body. Everything a person does to support himself and meaningfully assist in the nourishment of others is included in the broad definition



of employment. People who don't work are therefore seen as dejected because they've given up on finding fulfilment through their jobs. Because of his limited actions and lack of cooperation, Dahmer was ill-equipped to handle the challenges of occupation. A meaningful occupation thus requires an interest in people and a contribution to their welfare.

### **SOCIAL-LIFE**

The purpose of a person's social life is to facilitate their interactions with others, whether informally or formally. Dahmer's actions were characterised by brutality and loneliness, and they demonstrated a lack of human community fellowship. Additionally, he was shown to be an alcoholic, depressed, and worried about his financial condition, all of which are indicators of rejection and loneliness. If a youngster feels that his environment and the people in it are hostile and that he is surrounded by enemies, he will find it difficult to make friends and will not be a good friend to himself. No one was involved in Dahmer's crimes. One can argue that his lack of social interest eliminated this possibility.

Dahmer's actions showed a desire for self-justification, which implied a personal purpose to life that society cannot understand. Dahmer's isolation and lack of social interaction may be explained by his great lack of social interest.

### **SEXUAL**

Sexual relationships are frequently used to describe the sexual task of life, which is typically intimate, trustworthy, self-disclosing, cooperative, and long-term in commitment. With his way of living, Dahmer's bravery and level of cooperation with the other sex was appropriate. He decided against getting married and instead turned to homosexual partnerships to avoid dealing with this life's challenge. Often, this isolation stems from a fear of criticism, and in this attempt to avoid criticism, all of his relationships with others are hampered, and every occurrence is assessed according to a personal system of perception. He was unable to add to any connection because he just behaved in his own best interests and for his own amusement.

The partners in Dahmer's casual, gay interactions were subjected to his will either by being (a) drugged (b) lobotomized (c) murdered (d) or manipulating them after death through acts of necrophilia or cannibalism.

### **POSSIBLE TRIGGERS**

The FBI in that era had been testing and developing a new understanding of crime, one which is led not by sudden motivation and explicit reason but deviance. They labeled such serial killers as Psychopathic Deviants. From their new field of behavioral study, they better understood and patterned the major factors for why a human may turn to this behavior. One of the most common notes that was overlooked by any law enforcement agents in the crime scenes was the method of murder and its consistency, upon successful capture and confession, the killers would all mention a troubled childhood.

Jeffery Dahmer matched the description as he had negligent parents who did not alter nor steer his behavior and strange interests when he first developed them.

### **CONCLUSION**

Childhood is one of the most important periods in a person's development and exposing a child to abuse and/or neglect can undoubtedly have an impact on how well they can form positive self- or other images.

The neglect and abuse that Jeffrey Dahmer experienced as a youngster were highlighted in this case study. As a young child, Jeffrey Dahmer had several traumatic incidents. He was excluded from interactions between children and parents, which would have facilitated his social development. He

turned into a vicious serial killer out of frustration with his constant rejection and solitude, killing everybody who sought to leave him. Dahmer saw his victims as his prey and thought he had the ability to manipulate them. He saved pictures and mementos of his victim's body.

We can infer that Jeffrey Dahmer's early encounters with mistreatment and neglect had a significant impact on his later actions as a serial killer.

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