

1

00:00:00,139 --> 00:00:10,145

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:10,145 --> 00:00:20,151

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

3

00:00:21,152 --> 00:00:31,158

During the autumn of 1888, there occurred one of the most baffling crimes in the files of Scotland Yard.

4

00:00:31,158 --> 00:00:38,162

In the White Chapel area of London's east end, women walked in fear of their lives.

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00:00:38,162 --> 00:00:44,166

A wave of terror had been caused by an elusive murderer known as Jack the Ripper.

6

00:00:51,170 --> 00:00:59,175

The World's Most Wicked

7

00:01:01,176 --> 00:01:09,181

London, the centre of the Victorian Empire on whose colonies the sun never set.

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00:01:09,181 --> 00:01:16,185

The home of kings and queens, of magnificent monuments that only a thousand years of royalty could build.

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00:01:16,185 --> 00:01:19,507

It's also a city of cruel paradoxes.

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00:01:19,507 --> 00:01:21,188

No one knows how many vagrants

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00:01:21,188 --> 00:01:22,989

wandered the East End streets

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00:01:22,989 --> 00:01:25,631

attempting to eke out an existence.

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00:01:25,631 --> 00:01:29,033

Jack London called them the people of the abyss,

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00:01:29,033 --> 00:01:31,314

poor, miserable human beings

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00:01:31,314 --> 00:01:34,876

clinging to the garbage heap of life.

16

00:01:34,876 --> 00:01:37,038

Against this backdrop would be played

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00:01:37,038 --> 00:01:39,359

one of the most provocative unsolved crimes

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00:01:39,359 --> 00:01:41,440

of the 19th century.

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00:01:41,440 --> 00:01:43,802

Investigations continued to this day

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00:01:43,802 --> 00:01:45,243

with growing evidence that while

21

00:01:45,243 --> 00:01:48,685

in fact the ripper's victims were from England's lowest class,

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00:01:48,685 --> 00:01:53,488

his deeds directly affected many of the most powerful people in the land.

23

00:01:53,488 --> 00:02:01,853

On the night of August 31st, 1888,

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00:02:01,853 --> 00:02:05,575

Mary Ann Nichols, a woman separated from her husband,

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00:02:05,575 --> 00:02:10,058

found herself once again in the wretched East End.

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00:02:10,058 --> 00:02:13,540

She had no money to secure a bed at a common lodging house

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00:02:13,540 --> 00:02:16,181

where she had previously stayed.

28

00:02:20,024 --> 00:02:23,546

She pleaded, begging for a free bed.

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00:02:32,231 --> 00:02:34,913

Realizing the hopelessness of her cause,

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00:02:34,913 --> 00:02:38,235

Mary Nichols decided that she would sell her precious bonnet

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00:02:38,235 --> 00:02:40,556

for the entrance fee.

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00:02:40,556 --> 00:02:43,198

Less than one and a half hours later,

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00:02:43,238 --> 00:02:47,200

she became the first victim of Jack the Ripper.

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00:02:49,001 --> 00:02:53,204

Wendy Sturges, a BBC reporter, researched the murders.

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00:02:54,405 --> 00:02:58,967

The overcrowding that happened was rife.

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00:02:58,967 --> 00:03:01,329

People didn't normally live in a house.

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00:03:01,329 --> 00:03:05,171

They had a room in a house and possibly five or six people in their family

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00:03:05,171 --> 00:03:06,892

lived in that room.

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00:03:06,892 --> 00:03:10,054

There were times when people didn't earn any money whatsoever.

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00:03:10,054 --> 00:03:15,057

So they would live in what were called DOS houses or common lodging houses,

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00:03:15,057 --> 00:03:16,818

which cost a lot of money.

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00:03:16,818 --> 00:03:19,020

And there, people were drunk.

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00:03:19,020 --> 00:03:20,661

They didn't have any food.

44

00:03:20,661 --> 00:03:21,701

They drank gin.

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00:03:21,701 --> 00:03:26,184

Gin cost a considerable little amount of money for a colossal amount of gin.

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00:03:26,184 --> 00:03:31,267

With your overcrowding and with the drunkenness, there was no privacy.

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00:03:31,267 --> 00:03:35,790

Once you're drunk, you lose all sense of yourself and your own character.

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00:03:35,790 --> 00:03:38,471

You lose your pride, basically.

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00:03:39,472 --> 00:03:43,474

Donald Rumbelow is a member of London's Metropolitan Police Force.

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00:03:43,474 --> 00:03:49,478

The East End at this nightly had something like about 7,000 of these women,

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00:03:49,478 --> 00:03:56,482

either walking the streets or trying to get into the common lodging houses or DOS houses.

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00:03:56,482 --> 00:04:03,486

Even 20 years later, when Jack London came to London,

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00:04:03,486 --> 00:04:08,489

he found that women like this could be bought for a loaf of stale bread

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00:04:08,489 --> 00:04:11,491

or for a penny or tuppence at the most.

55

00:04:11,491 --> 00:04:14,493

They were living below the starvation level.

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00:04:14,493 --> 00:04:18,496

And so, if somebody offered them as little as sixpence or a shilling

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00:04:18,496 --> 00:04:24,499

or even fourpence, which was the price for a bed for the night, they would have gone with him.

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00:04:24,499 --> 00:04:30,503

The deaths of wayward women provided headline fare for London's tabloids.

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00:04:31,503 --> 00:04:34,505

The question that most fascinated the public,

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00:04:34,505 --> 00:04:38,508

how did the killer commit his crimes so easily?

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00:04:40,509 --> 00:04:45,512

Once the Ripper had got them to a quiet place, then it would have been quite an easy matter for him

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00:04:45,512 --> 00:04:50,515

to have strangled them very quickly into unconsciousness.

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00:04:50,515 --> 00:04:56,519

Almost certainly, he would not have used the knife straight away.

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00:04:56,519 --> 00:05:00,521

Women died from the effects of a cut throat,

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00:05:00,521 --> 00:05:05,524

but there was bruising and there were other marks to show

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00:05:05,524 --> 00:05:10,527

that they were probably stunned into unconsciousness, strangled or partly strangled.

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00:05:10,527 --> 00:05:15,530

And then, when they were lying on the ground, only then was the knife used.

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00:05:18,532 --> 00:05:22,534

The press claimed that the killer threatened all of London.

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00:05:22,534 --> 00:05:27,537

In fact, he prowled only within a one and a half square mile area.

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00:05:28,538 --> 00:05:33,541

Eight days after killing Mary Nichols, he began stalking again.

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00:05:33,541 --> 00:05:37,543

Less than ten minutes walk from the first murder site,

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00:05:37,543 --> 00:05:41,546

Annie Chapman would become his second victim.

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00:05:46,549 --> 00:05:51,552

Somehow, the psychopathic needs of the killer were not being satisfied.

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00:05:51,552 --> 00:05:58,556

He then etched himself in history by being the first murderer to send crazed, rambling notes to the press,

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00:05:58,556 --> 00:06:03,559

taunting the police, chiding them, daring them to capture him.

76

00:06:03,559 --> 00:06:10,563

Dear boss, I keep on hearing the police have caught me, but they won't fix me just yet.

77

00:06:12,565 --> 00:06:16,567

I have laughed when they look so clever and talk about being on the right track.

78

00:06:17,568 --> 00:06:21,570

That joke about leather apron gave me real fits.

79

00:06:23,571 --> 00:06:27,574

My knife is so nice and sharp.

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00:06:27,574 --> 00:06:31,576

I want to get to work right away if I get a chance.

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00:06:31,576 --> 00:06:34,578

Keep this letter till I do a bit more work.

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00:06:34,578 --> 00:06:36,579

Then give it out straight.

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00:06:37,580 --> 00:06:41,582

Providing police with clues to his real identity became a game.

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00:06:41,582 --> 00:06:45,585

He began giving all two accurate predictions of his next plans,

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00:06:45,585 --> 00:06:51,588

and finally he invented a name for himself, Jack the Ripper.

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00:06:56,591 --> 00:07:01,594

In the darkened alleys of the East End, Catherine Eddowes made her way home alone.

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00:07:03,596 --> 00:07:09,599

She was not particularly afraid now. Nothing had been heard from the killer in over three weeks.

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00:07:11,600 --> 00:07:17,604

There was no way she could know that on this night, Elizabeth Stride had already been murdered.

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00:07:17,604 --> 00:07:24,608

But apparently because the killer was dissatisfied by some aspect of the act, he needed to murder again.

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00:07:35,615 --> 00:07:38,617

Another example of the way his disturbed mind was working.

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00:07:38,617 --> 00:07:44,620

He began arranging the few meager possessions of his victims in weird patterns at their feet.

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00:07:47,622 --> 00:07:52,625

Was he in some way attempting to hint at his real identity?

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00:07:54,627 --> 00:07:58,629

Stephen Knight authored a book on the historic murders.

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00:07:58,629 --> 00:08:04,633

The greatest clue of all was the only clue to be left by Jack the Ripper,

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00:08:04,633 --> 00:08:11,637

and this was a message chalked on a wall near the fourth murder that of Catherine Eddowes.

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00:08:12,637 --> 00:08:16,640

The hastily chalked message was cryptic and mysterious.

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00:08:16,640 --> 00:08:21,643

Some believed it referred to a secret brotherhood called the Freemasons.

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00:08:22,643 --> 00:08:27,647

It had a very weird effect in that the chief commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Charles Warren,

99

00:08:27,647 --> 00:08:32,650

as soon as he heard about the message rushed to the East End and personally washed it off.

100

00:08:32,650 --> 00:08:38,653

This was incredible behavior. It was the only clue left by the Ripper and he obliterated it.

101

00:08:38,653 --> 00:08:40,654

He never explained why.

102

00:08:41,655 --> 00:08:45,657

Sir Charles Warren was one of the most influential Freemasons in England.

103

00:08:46,658 --> 00:08:54,663

Was there some Masonic clue in the message that motivated Sir Charles, who was also the police commissioner, to erase it?

104

00:08:55,663 --> 00:08:58,665

Did his own Masonic membership force him to do this?

105

00:08:59,666 --> 00:09:02,668

Was it evidence of some sort of cover-up?

106

00:09:03,668 --> 00:09:08,671

Every profession in this country has members who belong to the Masonic Order.

107

00:09:08,671 --> 00:09:14,675

It's very much connected with royalty. They are a secret order, not very much of them is known.

108

00:09:14,675 --> 00:09:17,677

You only know if you talk to any ex-Mason.

109

00:09:18,677 --> 00:09:26,682

Because of its secrecy, it's a sworn, closed brotherhood that help each other in their own careers.

110

00:09:27,683 --> 00:09:32,686

At the same time, they help each other keep secrets in and out of their careers.

111

00:09:32,686 --> 00:09:39,690

And if you have a secret that you wish to be kept, it could not be in safer hands.

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00:09:39,690 --> 00:09:45,694

They are sworn more to each other than they are to their wives and their families.

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00:09:46,694 --> 00:09:51,697

Freemasonry began in the Middle Ages with the establishment of construction guilds.

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00:09:51,697 --> 00:10:00,703

The builders of some of Europe's most magnificent cathedrals, they surrounded themselves in an aura of mystery and religious symbolism,

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00:10:00,703 --> 00:10:03,705

soon attracting followers from other arenas.

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00:10:05,706 --> 00:10:08,708

Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, was a Freemason.

117

00:10:10,709 --> 00:10:14,711

Likewise, the first President of the United States, George Washington.

118

00:10:15,712 --> 00:10:25,718

Even the dollar bill, with its Masonic all-seeing eye of God, reflected how deeply the Masons had penetrated all levels of society.

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00:10:27,719 --> 00:10:34,724

But the honorable Earl of Carnivon, Grandmaster of the United Grand Lodge of England at the time of Jack the Ripper,

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00:10:34,724 --> 00:10:37,725

was perhaps the most powerful Mason of all.

121

00:10:38,726 --> 00:10:45,730

Only he and a few other highly ranked Freemasons knew the true power of the secret organization.

122

00:10:50,733 --> 00:10:54,736

The basic tenet of Freemasonry is secrecy.

123

00:10:54,736 --> 00:11:01,740

And to protect this, Freemasons say in their ritual that they will go to any lengths.

124

00:11:02,740 --> 00:11:07,744

Nobody is really expected to take this seriously. It is basically pantomime.

125

00:11:07,744 --> 00:11:13,747

For instance, in the first degree of Freemasonry, out of the entered apprentice,

126

00:11:13,747 --> 00:11:20,751

an initiate swears to have his throat cut from left to right if he betrays Masonic secrets.

127

00:11:20,751 --> 00:11:29,757

He also agrees to cut the throat of a fellow Mason from left to right if he betrays Masonic secrets.

128

00:11:30,757 --> 00:11:33,759

This is meant to be purely ritual and pantomime.

129

00:11:33,759 --> 00:11:43,765

But in the case of Jack the Ripper, a leading Freemason took the various brutal oaths of Masonry absolutely literally and carried them out.

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00:11:47,768 --> 00:11:50,770

Was Jack the Ripper a high-ranking Freemason?

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00:11:50,770 --> 00:11:56,773

To find the answer, in search of cameras would have to explore the world of English royalty.

132

00:12:00,776 --> 00:12:08,781

The White Chapel of today has changed in many ways since Jack the Ripper's murder spree in the fall of 1888.

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00:12:08,781 --> 00:12:15,785

Street names have been altered, many of the old buildings demolished, and most of the murder sites have disappeared.

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00:12:16,785 --> 00:12:23,790

The interest and fascination with Jack the Ripper lives on, however, despite the absence of most of the physical evidence,

135

00:12:23,790 --> 00:12:29,793

including files that were supposedly tucked safely away in the secure vaults of Scotland Yard.

136

00:12:29,793 --> 00:12:37,798

Dr. J. M. Cameron, chief pathologist of the Home Office, has dealt with the problem of these sketchy files.

137

00:12:38,799 --> 00:12:48,805

Dr. J. M. Cameron, chief pathologist of the Home Office, has dealt with the problem of these sketchy files while pursuing his own personal investigation.

138

00:12:48,805 --> 00:13:00,812

I feel that any police officer nowadays would be disgusted with any of his juniors or the pathologist if they were to submit reports,

139

00:13:00,812 --> 00:13:05,815

as we are led to believe were submitted, in the Jack the Ripper cases.

140

00:13:05,815 --> 00:13:13,820

There have been many views and past as to who it could have been, whether he was a medical man or had medical knowledge,

141

00:13:13,820 --> 00:13:22,825

or whether they had any knowledge as to say a butcher or a fishmonger.

142

00:13:23,826 --> 00:13:32,831

There is no evidence in any of the photographs that I have seen of the victims, which would lead me to believe that he was a doctor,

143

00:13:32,831 --> 00:13:40,836

because if he was, or if he were to be, he should have been struck off the medical register because of his technique.

144

00:13:40,836 --> 00:13:49,842

On reviewing all the cases, it is obvious that the majority of the assaults took place from behind.

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00:13:49,842 --> 00:14:01,849

None were heard to scream other than one. This assault from behind is not uncommon even today, particularly by an impotent male using the knife as a phallic symbol.

146

00:14:01,849 --> 00:14:10,854

Despite all of the theories filling the tabloids, the public was in no way prepared for the description of the killer's last murder.

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00:14:11,855 --> 00:14:28,865

Marie Jeanette Kelly was killed inside her living quarters, and it was obvious to the police who found the body that the barbarity of this particularly vicious act far exceeded anything that Jack the Ripper had previously exhibited.

148

00:14:29,866 --> 00:14:47,877

How could the murders have been committed within potential view and earshot of so many people? What made it possible for the killers to escape so easily, especially with the police on alert in Whitechapel?

149

00:14:48,878 --> 00:15:08,890

If it had been a person, a man, for instance, or a woman from that part of London, a working class person who lived in those overcrowded conditions, there's really little chance that he would have got away with it.

150

00:15:08,890 --> 00:15:17,895

A man roaming the streets covered in blood, going into a common lodging house, would have been seen by his fellow people. It would have been spotted by his own kind.

151

00:15:17,895 --> 00:15:32,904

If you think of it as being a middle class person, then essentially you're up against the same problems because the middle class person would either have come from Whitechapel or the environs or have come outside Whitechapel and would need a transport.

152

00:15:33,905 --> 00:15:43,911

They would have had to hide a Hackney carriage and a Hackney carriage would have had a driver who would have seen a man covered in blood running away from the east end in a hurry.

153

00:15:43,911 --> 00:15:57,919

So we felt it was more than likely to be a moneyed person, an aristocrat, fairly high up in some sort of government who had this ability to remain anonymous, this ability to run away in a hurry.

154

00:15:58,920 --> 00:16:06,925

Nevertheless, Scotland Yard thought John Pizer, an obscure little man commonly called Leather Apron, was a possible suspect.

155

00:16:08,926 --> 00:16:17,931

Also on their list, Dr. Neil Creme and George Chapman, both professional murderers at large with a history of wife killing.

156

00:16:18,932 --> 00:16:28,938

Also, Montague drew it, a near-due well-lawyer and teacher supposedly going insane who came from a long line of medical doctors.

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00:16:30,939 --> 00:16:39,945

And finally, the unstable Duke of Clarence, second in line to the throne who was studying art in Whitechapel at the time of the crimes.

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00:16:40,945 --> 00:16:50,951

Some theorize today that for the murderer to repeatedly escape, there probably was a conspiracy involving Buckingham Palace.

159

00:16:52,953 --> 00:17:03,959

Queen Victoria, the matriarch, the power of England, now sat on an uncertain throne, her monarchy shaken by disloyal colonies and scandals from within.

160

00:17:04,960 --> 00:17:15,967

Her eldest son, first in line to the throne, who would later become King Edward VII, had embarrassed the Queen with his less-than-discreet private life.

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00:17:19,969 --> 00:17:27,974

And his son, the Duke of Clarence, was rumored to be going slowly insane as a result of syphilis, contracted when he was 16.

162

00:17:28,975 --> 00:17:35,979

Some thought one more family scandal would be the last necessary ingredient to bring down the entire empire.

163

00:17:38,981 --> 00:17:41,982

Further evidence supporting the royal family involvement.

164

00:17:42,983 --> 00:17:52,989

Sir William Gull, the personal physician to the Duke of Clarence, was seen rushing along the Whitechapel streets on nights that many of the murders occurred.

165

00:17:53,990 --> 00:17:59,993

Why was the good doctor in the rough east end late at night?

166

00:18:00,994 --> 00:18:12,001

The police questioned nearly everyone, but they were actually searching the area for a well-spoken man of medium build, fair complexion between 20 and 40.

167

00:18:14,002 --> 00:18:18,004

Interestingly enough, the Duke matched that description nearly perfectly.

168

00:18:19,005 --> 00:18:27,010

Was it possible that a man second in line to the throne of England could have been one of the most brutal murderers in history?

169

00:18:30,012 --> 00:18:38,016

Reports indicated that Jack the Ripper invariably wore a deersticker cap and cape on the nights he encountered and later murdered his victims.

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00:18:39,017 --> 00:18:45,021

A tire easily obtainable by the Duke, since he was a proficient hunter on his father's reserves.

171

00:18:49,023 --> 00:18:53,025

Of all the suspects, he was the only free mason.

172

00:18:57,028 --> 00:19:04,032

But the most potent evidence against the Duke did not come to light until nearly a century after the five killings.

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00:19:06,033 --> 00:19:15,039

Sir William Gull, the royal physician to the Duke, maintained a detailed medical history and a diary of his patients entire life.

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00:19:16,039 --> 00:19:25,045

In 1970, the information they contained found its way to the eminent British physician and ranking free mason, Dr. Thomas Stowell.

175

00:19:26,045 --> 00:19:37,052

Although bound by an oath of secrecy, Dr. Stowell charged in a magazine called The Criminologist and during a BBC interview that the Duke of Clarence was indeed Jack the Ripper.

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00:19:38,053 --> 00:19:45,057

Strangely enough, seven days later he recanted in the London Times and within a week he was dead.

177

00:19:46,058 --> 00:19:53,062

Two days later his son reported that the family had burned all the doctors' files in the Jack the Ripper case.

178

00:19:54,062 --> 00:19:59,065

The only real evidence that linked the Duke of Clarence to the crimes had been destroyed.

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00:20:00,066 --> 00:20:06,070

The Duke of Clarence died four years after the Whitechapel murders.

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00:20:07,070 --> 00:20:13,074

These years spent in medical confinement. No public reason for his death was ever given.

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00:20:17,076 --> 00:20:26,082

Today, Englishmen and foreigners alike might find it difficult to believe that the identity of Jack the Ripper was known and covered up for political reasons.

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00:20:27,082 --> 00:20:35,087

Nevertheless, recent evidence suggests this theory of government conspiracy is not beyond the realm of possibility.

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00:20:40,090 --> 00:20:45,093

Jack the Ripper was the first mass murderer to receive international press coverage.

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00:20:46,094 --> 00:20:50,096

Such publicity undoubtedly stimulated his psychopathic needs.

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00:20:51,097 --> 00:20:59,102

Since that time, other violent criminals have been inspired by his ability to capture the attention of the press.

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00:21:00,102 --> 00:21:06,106

Unfortunately, this is the most profound part of the legacy left by Jack the Ripper.

187

00:21:20,115 --> 00:21:22,116

The smashing pins.

188

00:21:25,118 --> 00:21:27,119

The thrilling victories.

189

00:21:28,119 --> 00:21:30,121

And the crushing defeats.

190

00:21:31,121 --> 00:21:33,122

Stories from the Hall of Fame. Bowling.

191

00:21:34,123 --> 00:21:36,124

Tonight at 8 on the History Channel.

192

00:21:50,133 --> 00:21:51,133

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