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[Intro]

Joe-Well hello there. Welcome again to another episode of Thinking Sideways. I'm Joe, joined as always by my cohosts...

D-Devin.

J-And...

Steve-And Steve.

D-Ha ha.

J-All right. So you guys ready to talk about a mystery?

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah.

S-Sweet!

D-I guess. We haven't done it in a while.

J-Yeah. You'll like this one.

S-It's been days.

J-This one's got lots of...yeah...

D-It's been literally days.

J-It has been days. It hasn't even been a week.

D-Nope.

J-Yeah, ok. So this week, we haven't done a nice, bloody one for a while.

D-(Sighs) So you're going to make us do a bloody one?

J-Yep.

D-All right (Steve laughing).

J-We're going to talk about the Atlanta Ripper, a serial killer in the early 20th Century that probably most of you have not heard about.

S-I hadn't beforehand.

J-I didn't hear about this until pretty recently, actually.

D-How did you hear about it?

J-I don't remember...

D-Was it, like, "Mysteries That Will Make You, Like, Poop Your Pants?"

J-Probably something like that.

D-Yeah.

J-I was doing some random Googling just looking for fun, new mysteries...

D-Uh huh.

J-...and I don't remember, to tell you the truth, exactly where I stumbled across this one.

D-Just somewhere.

J-But, yeah, I thought it was kind of interesting.

D-Got it. Ok.

J-Yeah. So the Atlanta Ripper. The Atlanta Ripper murdered a bunch of people, actually young women, in the years 1910 through, some people say 1912. Others say through late 1911. He killed more people than Jack the Ripper, but Jack gets all the glory. Everybody knows who Jack the Ripper is.

S-True.

D-We did an episode on Jack the Ripper.

J-We actually did, yeah.

D-Uh huh.

J-It eventually got big enough to make the national news. The New York Times, May 12, 1912 said, quote, "Jack the Ripper" unquote, "claimed his 20th woman victim in Atlanta sometime last night. The blacks, who are in a state of terror and try to keep their women off the street at night, have offered a large reward for the arrest of the murder." I didn't mention this, the Ripper only killed black women.

D-So they called him "Jack the Ripper," even in Atlanta?

J-In Atlanta they did, yeah.

D-They called him "Jack the Ripper of Atlanta."

J-They did call him "Jack the Ripper."

D-Interesting.

J-Yeah, and eventually, when all this national attention started happening, eventually a lot of the city's leading, leading commerce leaders and politicians and everything, started pressuring the mayor, who started pressuring the police to actually get serious about this. Because apparently the Atlanta police, I mean, it's not like they didn't investigate, but, you know, I kind of doubt they were working as hard as if it had been white women that had been getting killed, probably. You know?

S-I was going to say, this is 1911.

J-Yeah.

S-It's a very racially segregated area, and not even just an area, a time, in this country.

J-Yeah.

S-And so their priorities were very reflective of that.

D-Well, not to, like, spark a political debate, I'm just going to, like, one off say, even now, in America, oftentimes crimes against minorities are not as investigated as crimes against white people.

S-Uh huh. There is a different effort level, it does appear.

D-There is. Yeah.

J-Sometimes at least.

D-Not always.

J-I'm not going to say always either.

D-But sometimes.

J-Yeah.

D-But the fact that it still remains is testament to how, how incredible it must have been, you know, in the early 1900s.

J-Uh huh.

S-And I, that also makes me want to point something out to our listeners, because I know that there are some quotes as we're going to go through this. And some of that stuff is very reflective of the times. So please, if we're, and we'll tell you when we're quoting something, but just be aware of that.

D-We're not saying these words...

S-It's a different language, different time.

D-It's not us.

J-Yeah.

D-Don't worry.

J-Yeah. All right, here's what's known about the Ripper, at least if you go out and look up the Ripper on the web. He killed his victims every Saturday night, like clockwork.

D-Hm.

J-He would bash them over the head, and then he would drag them into the bushes and cut their throats, and then he would...

S-From ear to ear.

J-Yeah, from ear to ear. And he would eviscerate them, cutting out their lady parts like Jack the Ripper.

D-Well, and yeah, it was hard, right? Cause all of the articles from the time are very polite.

J-Yeah, they were...

D-None of them ever say anything explicitly. So they say, you know, "cutting out parts," and you're like, what does that, I don't know what that means. I'm sorry (laughing).

J-Yeah. Well actually sometimes...

D-I think I know what I'm supposed to infer from that, but I don't know.

J-Yeah. But you know, actually, it turns out the Atlanta Ripper didn't slice open his victim and take organs out.

D-Uh huh.

J-Yeah. He just bashed them over the head with a rock and then, or a brick, and then would slit their throats. In one case, this is the last, really confirmed victim, he did actually remove the victim's heart.

S-Yeah.

D-Huh.

J-Yeah, uh...

D-But it was the last case, right?

J-Probably the last case.

D-So likely the highest escalation that we will have seen.

J-Probably, yeah. And we don't actually know how many women he killed. And, oh, besides that, one other thing that's not true, is the killings did not happen on Saturdays, most of the time.

D-Hm.

J-And actually it's really hard to say when some of them did happen, because in some cases the body was not found for a few days.

D-Hm.

J-And uh, back in those days the state of medical science was not such as it is today, you know. And even today it's really vague sometimes.

S-Oh yeah. If a body had been sitting out for several days, it makes it a little more difficult to pin down an exact time of death.

J-Uh huh. Yeah, especially in a hot place like Atlanta.

S-Oh yeah.

D-Hot and muggy place, right.

J-Hot and muggy place, yeah. So we don't really know that all of them were killed on Saturdays. Again, we don't know how many women that the Ripper murdered.

S-So, what's the, what's the...there's a number, here. I know that there's a range that are believed to be committed by the Atlanta Ripper.

J-Yeah. If you talk to the, if you read the papers there's something between 19 and 21.

S-Ok, yeah, cause I remember it being, like, hugely high.

J-Yeah.

S-And I was, how have we not heard of this?

D-Yeah.

J-Uh huh, I know. Yeah, it's a lot more than Jack the Ripper, you know. Of course, Jack the Ripper was killing white people, so maybe that's why, you know, that's still a well known thing.

D-Uh huh.

J-Also, there actually is more documentation about Jack the Ripper than there is about this guy.

D-Yeah. That doesn't really surprise me that much, I guess.

J-Yeah. So, I guess our mystery here is well, who was the Ripper, how many people did he really kill, and did he actually even exist? Cause at the time the killings were happening, this was between late

1910 and mid 1912, a lot of people in Atlanta didn't think there was a serial killer. And all this head bashing and throat slashing was just random murders happening.

D-Hm.

S-Well, and there was a number of cases that were attributed as being Ripper cases that, it was really, there was a lot of assumptions made, to say that the m.o. was the same.

J-Yeah. I think that...

S-Loosely connected, is what I'm trying to say here.

J-Yeah, the press, I think, the Atlanta press started going back and adding people, sort of adding people later.

S-Yeah (laughing).

J-To really juice up the story. But a lot of these 19 to 21 victims were victims of gunshot wounds, and stuff like that, so.

S-There was stabbings, other than bashings and slashings.

J-There were stabbings. Yeah, stabbings, but not throat slitting and all that, so. Which doesn't necessarily mean it wasn't him. Maybe he liked to mix up his m.o. a little bit. I don't know. But at the same time, a big city like Atlanta, murders are going to happen anyway.

D-Yeah, absolutely.

J-Even if you don't have a Ripper on the loose. So anyway, I talked to a guy named Vance McLaughlin, he's a retired professor of criminal justice. And he wrote a paper on the Ripper with Robert Bing III in 2013. You guys have seen that paper, right?

S-Yeah.

J-I sent you the link.

S-Yeah, that study was actually really, really well done.

D-Yeah.

J-It was, yeah. It was. He's a pretty thorough guy. But anyway, he and Bing looked at the 19 victims, and, cause they're...the 21, when you're referring to 21, most of the papers even think that the murders ended in mid 1912, but there are some people who claim that there was another murder in 1913 and another one in 1914. So that's where we start.

S-Generally it's believed that those were just tacked on.

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah.

J-So we're going to start at the number 19. They went through all the information. They went through, like, the newspaper archives, looked at death certificates and all that, and they managed to remove all but eight from the list. Although there's one of them I'm questioning a little bit. I was thinking I might add it back in, but I'm not really sure. I'm kind of on the fence about that. It might be a copy cat killing.

D-Hm.

J-In fact, there's probably a good chance of those.

S-I was going to say, this case, because of the publicity, lended itself to have a lot of copy cats.

J-Uh huh.

D-Well, but not at first.

S-Well, we're talking about in the height of it.

D-Ok.

S-You know. From mid way on...

D-Sure.

S-It would have been such an easy situation for somebody to just do what they thought it was going to be, and it just gets lumped in.

J-Yeah.

D-Sure.

J-But, yeah, there's one person who I'm going to talk to a little later on who actually had the clever idea to go murder a rival. She kind of got busted and didn't succeed in her crime, but I'll tell you about that later.

D-Oops.

J-Yeah. Oopsie. Also, getting back to Professor McLaughlin again, he writes and researches about historic and obscure serial killers, and he's done a lot of research on the Atlanta Ripper. I think more than anybody, really. I managed to track him down and gave him a call, mostly because I wanted to confirm my claim that the Ripper didn't mutilate his victims, and the Saturday night thing, too. And he did confirm that, yeah there was no mutilation, and it wasn't like clockwork, or anything like that. Sometimes there would be months in between killings, and there was a period in mid 1911 where there was, about four murders came along about once a week.

S-That's where, and that's where the every Saturday night thing came in...

J-Yeah.

S-Cause it was about a week apart.

J-Yeah, yeah. Anyway, yeah, the professor was a real nice guy. We had a nice talk, because we both liked to talk about murder and mayhem (S and J laughing).

D-That's true.

J-Yeah, I was...

S-Winning friends and influencing people.

D-Yeah.

J-I know, I know. He was, like, telling me about this crime that, uh...some crime or another, I can't remember now even what the crime was. It's not the Atlanta Ripper, and that reminded me of Jeremy Bamber, so I was like, I was like "Hey, have you ever heard of the Jeremy Bamber case?" He was like "No, tell me about it." You know. So I told him about that. I think he's probably going to check it out (Steve laughing). It's such a juicy case, you know?

S and D-Yeah.

J-Yeah. We were just batting mysteries back and forth like that. Oh, and I also wanted to mention, the professor's written two books. I told him, he didn't ask me to, but I told him I would give him a plug for his books on the podcast.

S-Oh yeah, no, for the help he gave, yeah.

J-Yeah, yeah. So, his two books are about serial killers. One is called "The Postcard Killer." It's about a pedophile and serial killer named J. Frank Hickey. And he was finally arrested in 1912, died in prison in 1922. Why he didn't get strung up is kind of a mystery to me, cause the guy's crimes, I don't know if you've read about this guy or not.

S-I haven't.

D-Uh uh.

J-Yeah. The crime he got caught for is, uh, he lured a seven year old boy with promises of going to the candy store. Took him to an outhouse outside of a saloon...

S-This, I already know this is going to be heinous.

J-Oh, it's heinous. And it gets more heinous. So he rapes the little boy, strangles him, stuffs him down in the outhouse, and then 18 days later, the chief of police in this town gets a postcard basically saying where you can find the body. He sends two cops around to check the outhouse, oh, I forgot to mention, after he murdered the little boy, he went into the saloon and started drinking.

S-Ugh.

J-Now that's ballsy.

S-Yeah.

J-And so anyway, the cops did not see the body down there. Apparently some other people had come along, go figure, 18 days later, and the body was covered with something. You know?

S-Yes.

J-The body didn't get found until a year later. So in the meantime, the little boy's still missing. His parents are, of course, quite anguished about it. He starts sending postcards to the parents, taunting them. Now really...

S-This is a common sentiment with psychopaths.

J-Yeah. Well, actually there's, I can't think of a single case where somebody has sent postcards to the family of their victims.

S-There...

J-They usually send them to the police.

S-There have been a number of things that I have read about where people have been sending stuff to the families.

J-Yeah, anyway.

S-It's a terrible thing.

J-Yeah. I don't understand why he didn't get the death penalty. But anyway, that book is "The Postcard Killer." The other book that he's written is called "The Mail Order Serial Killer." It's about a guy named Harry Powers, who is thought to have killed as many as 50 people. And he did get strung up. He was, uh, let's see, when was he...I think he was caught in 19, late 1931, and put on trial. He was strung up about six, seven months later, in early 1932. They really didn't...

S-So a fair and speedy trial.

J-Yeah, they didn't waste a lot of time back in those days. So anyway, enough of that. I haven't read the books yet. They get good reviews on Amazon, except for one guy. There's one guy who um, ordered "The Postcard Killer." And there's another book out there called "The Postcard Killers," by James Patterson. You know, that guy? Writes a lot of crime novels.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. I guess he wanted to get that book, and he accidentally ordered "The Postcard Killer" (Steve laughing).

D-Whoops!

J-So he orders this one instead, and he posted a one star review cause he was so, he was so...he got the wrong book.

S-Because he ordered the wrong book (laughing).

J-Because, yeah, because he's a bonehead.

D-Whaaaaat? (S and J laughing).

J-Yeah.

S-Oh God.

J-The other reviews are five star reviews.

S-Ok.

J-Yeah, yeah, anyway. Back to our Atlanta killings. McLaughlin and Bing took two of the victims off the list because they died of gunshot wounds.

D-Yeah, that's not really the m.o. Yeah.

J-Yeah, not really. One was, her throat was slashed but she was thrown into the river afterwards. And so that one...

S-That didn't match.

J-Yeah, it doesn't quite match.

S-Cause the m.o. was to bash them in the head, drag them somewhere secluded, and then cut their throats.

J-Yeah.

D-Uh huh.

J-Yeah. Another victim had had her skull crushed, but her throat was not slit. Another one was stabbed in the throat. Four others were eliminated because someone other than the Ripper had been convicted for killing them. Two more were eliminated because they were probable suspects and, but one of them is the one that I was thinking maybe, possibly should be on the list, but that could also be the copy cat killing that I was talking about. So anyway, they narrowed it way down to eight. Still a pretty decent amount of people.

S-It's still quite a number of people for one person.

D-Yeah, absolutely.

J-Yeah, I'd say. It's more than I plan on killing.

S-I was going to say, I haven't gotten to eight killings yet.

J-No, no. Me neither. Yeah.

D-Yeah. Despite all of your hard work.

J-Yep.

S-You know how hard it is to kill people from my office chair? It's really difficult (laughing).

J-Yeah.

S-I don't lift a finger, and they don't die, it's really so...

D-It's crazy. Yeah.

S-(Sighs) This is just not working out.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah. The problem is with committing murders, unless you go out and totally randomly kill somebody, you kill somebody just cause you're highly motivated to murder them. And that kind of points a finger back at you.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. So. Probably why I'm never going to kill anybody. Also, I don't like blood.

D-So.

J-I also didn't mention this, one person saw the Ripper and lived to tell the tale.

D-Oh!

J-Yeah. That was Emma Lou Sharpe. She described him as a tall, black man with broad shoulders, wearing a black suit and a wide brimmed hat. There was one other account that I read said another woman named Mary Yedell had met the Ripper. She had left her employer's place and went out into the alley, and she saw a tall, black man. I think this was right after the reports in the newspaper from Emma Lou Sharpe seeing a tall, black man. She goes out to the alley, sees a tall, black man, and runs back inside and tells her employer. He goes out and confronts the guy. The guy just left.

S-But he had a gun. The employer went out with a gun.

J-Well yeah, and just because he was tall and black doesn't really make him the Ripper.

S-No (Joe laughing).

D-Yeah, not at all.

S-And when you see somebody run into the alley, I think he was in an alleyway, right?

J-Yeah, yeah.

S-Run into the alleyway brandishing a firearm...

J-Yeah, I'm gonna leave.

S-I'm going to leave (laughing).

J-Uh huh.

D-Yeah.

S-In a hurry as well.

J-Yeah.

D-Absolutely.

J-Yeah. So Emma Lou's the only one who saw him and lived to tell.

S-Because she got attacked.

J-She did get attacked. Uh, yeah.

S-She got stabbed in the back.

J-She got stabbed in the back, yeah. So I'll talk about that in a minute here. In chronological order, we'll talk about the murders. First one was October 3, 1910. That was Maggie Brooks, age 23. Walking home from work one night and somebody bashed her on the head and slit her throat. And then months later, Rosa Trice. Her body was found really close to her house, like about 75 yards away.

S-This is what, three, or two months later.

J-Yeah, January 22, 1911. Yeah.

D-Uh huh.

J-About three months later.

S-Just a little over two months.

J-Yeah.

S-Two, three months. Somewhere in there, yeah.

J-Yeah. I'd say more like three and a half months, but you know, whatever. Her husband was arrested for this. He was released for lack of evidence. And it does fit the m.o. pretty well. Next up, May 27, 1911, Mary Walker, age unknown. Her body was actually found in the rear of her home. She had left her job as a cook the previous night, and I'm guess that the Ripper followed her home.

D-Hm.

J-And people say, I'm not sure if these accounts mean that she was in her home, or in the yard behind her home. I'm not totally sure.

S-Every time I read it, I got the impression that she was outside.

J-Yeah.

S-I never got the idea that the Ripper was killing people inside of their homes.

J-Yeah, I don't think so.

D-Yeah, I didn't either.

J-Yeah, I don't think so either.

S-That's a heck of a lot more work than he was up for.

J-Yeah. I think so. So anyway, at this time there's still months going by, but now it sped up a little bit. The next one was June 15, 1911, so, you know, a little over two weeks later. That was Addie Watts. She'd been hit with a brick instead of a rock, and then dragged into the bushes and her throat was cut. Next up, June 24th, only nine days later. Lizzie Watkins. Same m.o. She was hit with a rock, you know, throat cut. And then came Lena Sharpe, that's Emma Lou Sharpe's mother.

S-Mother.

J-Yeah. There are two versions of this. The version you hear most is that Lena had gone to the store, and when she hadn't come back in about an hour, Emma Lou got worried and went looking for her, and went to the store, and she hadn't been to the store. So she's walking back home, frantically worried about her mother, and runs into this black guy. Tall, black guy, broad shoulders and all that stuff. And he said to her "How you feeling tonight?" And she said she was feeling fine, and she tried to walk past him, and he says "Don't be afraid, I never hurt girls like you."

D-And then stabbed her in the back!

J-And then stabbed her in the back.

S-And laughed.

J-And laughed, yeah.

D-What?!

S-That was a great joke.

D-Ha ha ha ha.

J-Ha ha ha ha, yeah.

S-Yeah, no.

D-I don't think that's a joke at all.

S-No, it's...

J-Yeah.

S-It's sick.

J-Yeah.

S-Weirdo.

J-Yeah. And then of course, the body of her mother was found not too much longer after that.

D-Uh huh.

S-Yeah.

J-Now, the second version of, oh, I forgot to mention, but the way, that first story was from the Atlanta Constitution. There were several papers in Atlanta at the time.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. The next version is from the Atlanta Journal. In this version of it, Lena and Emma were out walking and then...

S-Together.

J-Yeah, together. And he jumped out of the bushes, he hit's Lena on the head with a brick, and she's knocked unconscious. So he starts slashing at Emma Lou, who screams and runs, but faints from blood loss, because apparently he did connect a few times

D-Hm.

J-And then she ran off. The Ripper cuts Lena's throat and then follows Emma Lou. She wakes up and finds him standing over her with a knife. But then the sounds of people running, footsteps and everything, people came running and so he took off into the darkness. So, one of two stories, you know.

S-I'm inclined to believe the first one.

J-Uh huh.

S-The second one sounds like it's from a John Gresham [sic] novel.

J-Uh huh.

S-You know, it's just...

D-Grisham.

S-It's just perfect. Oh, the high tension of it all.

J-Yeah.

S-It just sounds like it is a reporter running off his little details...

D-I don't, you don't think him saying "Don't worry, I never hurt girls like you." And the stabbing her in the back and laughing, that's not out of a John Grisham novel? Like, that's not...

S-So...

D-You think that's more believable?

S-I do.

D-Really?

S-Picture Manson saying that as he walks by you on the street.

D-I mean, I just think that the second one sounds more like his m.o.

J-It kind of does.

D-You know, that he, like, bashed her over the head and then was standing over her and she happened to come to.

S-But he never attacked a pair. Of all of the cases that, of...

J-Yeah.

S-This central core eight murders that are believed to be, attributed to him...

J-Yeah, it was always lone women, yeah.

S-They were always alone, so this is a real jump for him.

D-But she was alone too. You mean it was just single a night?

S-By themselves, one at a time, alone, walking down the street.

D-I don't, she was alone walking down the street.

J-No, no.

S-No.

J-They were...two of them.

S-No, it was her and her mother walking together.

D-Oh.

S-In the second version.

D-Oh, in the second version. Yeah, that's true. Yeah, yeah.

S-Which is the one that you're saying you find more plausible.

D-I don't know.

J-Yeah (Steve laughing).

D-I just think the m.o. of that second one sounds more plausible, but.

S-Well, but, ok, but keep in mind...

D-Why not both, Steve?

S-Keep in mind that, Emma Lou is the mother, correct?

J-So, Emma Lou was the daughter.

S-Ok. So it's Lena...

J-Lena.

S-Lena was hit in the head with a rock, and she did have her throat slit.

D and J-Uh huh.

S-And she was drug away from where it appears she was hit. So that's consistent with the m.o.

D-All right. Ok.

J-Yeah. I think that, yeah, the other thing about it is, I don't think he would have stuck around to slit Lena's throat, cause if Emma Lou's running away, there's a witness.

D-Yeah.

J-You're going to go catch her and bash her head in.

D-Yeah.

J-And then you're going to do all the throat slitting part.

S-Right.

J-Yeah. But anyway, after that, after Lena's, or excuse me, after Emma Lou's account hit the papers, and everybody had heard a description of the killer, we had our first confirmed attempt at a copy cat killing.

D-Ooh.

J-Yeah. This is somebody named Katie Cochran. She wanted to murder her husband's girlfriend.

S-Who doesn't?

D-Really.

J-Yeah, I know. Her name was Maddie Alexander. So Mrs. Cochran was tall, so she figured she could pass herself off as the Ripper. So she dressed herself up in a black suit and a wide brimmed Stetson hat, and then...

D-I love that.

J-Yeah (laughing). And then went over to Maddie's house with a straight razor. And by the way, you know, the whole thing about him wearing a black suit and wide brimmed hat. He probably, he didn't necessarily wear the same costume every time.

S-No (laughing).

J-You know? One person saw him one time, and he might have mixed up his wardrobe a little bit.

S-Hopefully.

J-So anyway, she goes over to Maddie's...

D-I...it doesn't matter.

J-Yeah.

D-It doesn't matter.

J-Ok. No, what?

D-I was just going to say, like, in the early 1900s it's not as though people had, like, extensive wardrobes, right?

J-No, that's a good point.

D-Clothes were...it's not as though you had a closet full of clothes. You had diff...I mean, there was a thing, such a thing as having different collar pieces. You would replace the collar on your shirt because that's what would get dirty and sweaty.

S-Uh huh.

D-You would wear the same shirt, the same suit jacket, the same pants, for literally as long as you could.

J-No, that's a good point.

D-So it's not unreasonable...

J-I keep forgetting about that.

D-...to think that he might have had something the same, or even very similar, that were all interchangeable.

J-Uh huh.

S-Well, and the other reason to wear dark clothes, is at night blood doesn't show up on them.

D-No.

J-No, that's a good idea.

D-Well, they just don't show dirt as much.

S-Yeah.

D-Yeah.

S-I'm just thinking about the blood in general, and then kneeling over a victim.

D-Yeah.

J-You want to wear red, probably.

S-Yeah.

J-I'd wear red.

D-No, I mean, black is probably better.

J-Yeah, black works.

S-No, Joe saw "Deadpool" obviously.

J-Yeah, I would...

S-And that joke is coming from.

J-No, I have not seen "Deadpool" yet.

S-Oh.

J-I want to see it, but.

S-I can tell you as a lady who has to deal with blood on a very regular basis, black is the color. It's not red.

J-Ok. All right.

D-Yeah.

J-Well, we were talking about the confrontation between Katie Cochran and Maddie Alexander.

S-Yeah.

J-So she goes over to her house with a straight razor, and her idea was to lure her out of the house and then, kind of kill her. Maddie answered the door but, not surprisingly, refused to leave her house (Steve laughing).

D-What?!

J-Well, because you know, it was out in the news. Maybe Katie Cochran shouldn't have telegraphed her intentions by dressing up like the Ripper, you'd think.

D-That seems silly.

J-Yeah. She also made the mistake of talking about this to a couple of women, one of whom ratted her out (Steve laughing).

D-I love that. "You know what I think I'm gonna do tonight? I think I'm gonna be the Atlanta Ripper."

J-"Yeah, I'm just going to go murder somebody."

D-"I'm just going to go kill somebody. I just don't like her very much, so I'm gonna kill her."

J-"She's screwing around with my husband. I'm gonna go slit her throat." So she got 30 days in jail for that one.

D-30 days!

J-I know.

D-That's it?!

J-Well, I mean, she didn't actually attempt the murder. She...

D-She kind of attempted the murder.

J-Well, she was planning on doing it.

S-She didn't do anything...

D-She didn't actually cause bodily harm.

S-...to harm this woman.

D-All right, that's fair.

J-You know...

S-There's a lot of rulings that are around this case that are so, "27 days in jail."

J-Uh huh.

S-It's like, what?

D-Why?

S-Like today, that would be a five year sentence (laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-At least.

J-Yeah, there was some guy who was arrested and tried for, uh, actually we're going to talk about him in a second anyway.

S-All right.

J-Here he is, yeah. July, 1911, around the same time, a guy named Jim Murphy was put on trial. It wasn't like the trial of the century, cause his crime was threatening to cut his wife's throat.

S-So it's a threat.

J-Yeah. It was a threat. Apparently it was motivated by jealousy, and so he wanted to cut her throat. And at trial somebody mentioned the possibility that Jim Murphy might actually be the Ripper. This is one of the guys who was one of the doubters. The judge at the trial, a guy named N.R. Broyles said, and I'm quoting here, quote, "There is no such thing in Atlanta as a negro Jack the Ripper." Unquote. And he then went on to say, quote, "There are at least one thousand negro men in Atlanta today who stand ready to cut the throats of their wives at the slightest provocation." Unquote.

D-I feel like you could, like, edit that to say "There are at least ten thousand men in Atlanta today who stand ready to cut the throats of their wives" (laughing).

J-Yeah. I mean...

D-Right? (laughing).

J-Yeah, this guy...but anyway, this guy, you know, kind of a skeptic.

D-Didn't we say, wasn't that a quote that we had recently, that was like, "The only thing that makes you a murderer is matrimony." (S and J laughing). That was like a couple months ago...

S-There was something like that, yes.

D-There was something about that.

S-I can't remember which one that was.

D-That sounds vaguely familiar. Yeah.

J-Yeah. So anyway, he was kind of a skeptic about this, and it appears a lot of the white population of Atlanta thought that this was just a case of black people doing what black people do, which in their opinion was just killing each other.

D-Which is kind of a shame.

J-Yeah, it is. It is.

S-Julia Wallace.

J-Julia Wallace.

S-It was Julia Wallace!

D-Uh huh. From a similar time period, in fact.

S-Yes.

D-Yeah.

J-That was right about that time, yeah.

D-ish. Before 1950. That's all the same time period, right?

S-Oh, it's totally.

D-Between 1850 and 1950. Same time period.

J-It's all the same, yeah.

S-Well, according to some people, that era in time was made up, so, you know.

D-That's true.

J-I don't know if it was that particular spot.

D-It wasn't that spot.

S-It wasn't that one (laughing).

J-Yeah, it was a little earlier.

D-Yeah, it was much earlier. That's a different episode.

J-Yeah, yeah. We'll talk about that. That is kind of an interesting theory.

D-Yeah. So most people thought that this was, most of the white population kind of thought it was a hoax, huh?

J-No, I wouldn't even say most, but there was a substantial number of people.

D-The people who maybe you wouldn't want to think it was a hoax, like judges and police officers and sheriffs and stuff.

J-Uh huh.

S-If not a hoax, it wasn't connected.

D-Sure.

S-So, you know, it wasn't one guy doing it all. It just happened to be a bunch of murders that happened to look similar that were not, according to the authorities, done by the same person.

J-Yeah. You gotta, like...

S-Kind of like the Smiley Face Murders.

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah.

J-It's like, yeah, I mean it's entirely possible, I think it's unlikely, but it's entirely possible these were all just random murders. It could be. I doubt it. Oh, another theory that was out there was a local sheriff named Plennie Minor actually said that the killers were probably jealous wives (Steve laughing) who were knocking off their husband's girlfriends. Just, maybe he was inspired by Katie Cochran, I don't know. And of course, we should remember back in those days the whole phrase "serial killer" had not yet been invented. And maybe some people just couldn't wrap their minds around the idea that a single person would go around murdering random people.

S-Well, it took...

J-We take that for granted nowadays.

S-...several serial killers who were quite prolific to be busted and have very concrete evidence brought forward before I think that people would actually accept it. It was like, "Nah, there's no way that guy killed all those people and stuffed them in his basement." And then they haul them all out of his basement and they go, "Huh, that's weird."

J-Uh huh.

D-That's such a weird thing maybe we should, like, investigate at some point.

J-What's that?

D-What, did this thing not exist before this time? Was it way less prevalent? Or was it just not...

S-The concept of a serial killer?

D-Not the concept. Did people just, you know, in, like, 1700s, did people...were there not serial killers?

S-There had to be.

J-You know, I actually, I heard a very...

D-Well, I would assume there had to have been, but were there not as many? Because there weren't as many people, or like what?

J-Well, there's that. But you know...

D-That's such an interesting question to me. Again, for another episode.

J-Well, there...

D-But right now...

J-No, but actually I'll mention that I heard a very interesting theory regarding that. And that is that serial killers have always been with us.

D-Uh huh.

J-And that it's actually quite possibly the genesis of a lot of our monster tales, things like werewolves, and vampires, and things like that. A lot of those superstitions might be from these weird killings that were happening, you know, thousands of years ago. People in a village were showing up disemboweled and cut into pieces and stuff like that. And so people invented monsters. So, maybe.

S-It's an interesting theory.

J-It is. And it's kind of hard to check out if it's true or not.

S-Yeah.

J-Without getting in the Wayback Machine. At this time, of course in Atlanta you can imagine black folks mostly believed in the Ripper's existence because, I mean, he was killing them, obviously.

S-I was going to say, yeah!

J-Yeah, it was as scary time. A lot of people started spending a whole lot more time at home, believe it or not. Especially at night.

S-Which probably, you know, escalated the killing, because "Oh my God, I'm around my family all the time, and I'm gonna kill them" (Joe laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-I know that feel. I know that feel solidly.

J-Those guys are easy to identify. Yeah, anyway, black women were afraid of being murdered and black men were afraid of getting arrested and accused of being the Ripper. Because especially after...

S-It's a total climate of fear, yeah.

J-Well yeah, definitely. And, you know, after the mayor started putting pressure on the police, you can see how the cops might just decide to pin it on somebody, you know.

S-Which they did.

J-Yeah, they did.

S-A couple of times.

J-They at least tried. They arrested some people for it. Let's get back to our victim list. So we're almost done with that. The next murder, number seven, was on July 10, 1911. That was Sadie Holley. Her body was found by some workmen. She'd been bashed in the head with a large stone, which was found nearby, and then she was dragged off and her throat was cut. And in this case her shoes had been cut off her feet, which was kind of an interesting thing.

S-And that was not norm...that was not indicative of...

J-I don't think so, no.

S-Ok.

J-It's indicative of the weird psychology of a serial killer.

S-Right. But it's not something we had seen in the prior six cases that we know of.

J-Yeah.

D-Her shoes had been cut off her feet. Her feet hadn't been.

S-Correct.

J-Yeah, no.

D-Ok. My brain went...

S-This is not the Salish Sea.

D-Yeah. I'm sorry, my brain interpreted that the wrong way.

J-Yeah, yeah.

D-So her shoes were cut off, were her shoes found close to her body?

J-Yeah, pretty close.

D-But they were found.

J-They were found, yeah.

D-Ok.

J-Yeah.

D-So it wasn't as though they were taken as a souvenir.

J-No, no, they weren't.

D-Hm.

J-The next murder I'm going to talk about, this is the one that might be real or it might be a copy cat. This is one of the one's that McLaughlin and Bing took off their list, but I'm going to put it back on, at least for a second here. Her shoes were also removed, and other than that it was the usual m.o. Oh, except for one other thing. This was Minnie Wise, by the way. And her right index finger had been hacked off at the middle joint, which was a little change up in the m.o. I have no idea why that happened. There's no real earthly reason for it that I can think of, although maybe, again, just an escalation.

S-Or it was defensive.

J-Maybe, yeah.

S-She may have seen him coming and put up her hand and he took a swipe at her.

J-Uh huh.

S-And happened to catch a finger.

D-It would've had to have been a 'rull' sharp knife (Joe laughing). To cut through a finger bone in one fell swoop.

S-So some of these, some of these attacks, the bodies are described as "The heads nearly being taken off."

D-Ok, but so, like, just in terms of, like, the physics of cutting a finger off.

S-Oh, I know.

J-Yeah, going through the bone and everything.

D-In the air.

S-He would have to hit it perfectly.

D-It would've had to been perfect.

S-Super sharp and super on target. I get that.

D-Yeah.

S-But I'm just saying, you know, that's the only reason...

D-But so, like, that's a different thing for me. Like, it's pretty easy if you're, I'm sorry for the morbidity of this, but if a victim is laying, you know, on their back on the ground, it's not so hard to shove a sharp knife in and pull it across, to almost sever a head. Versus, like, in the air, my hands are up...

S-Oh, no, I get it.

J-Going through bone, I think he probably deliberately took it off.

D-That's, yeah. It would have to have been, like, she was laying there and, it's not so hard to just (makes 'chk' noise) something off if it's against solid ground.

S-Uh huh.

J-Yeah.

D-Right? That's why we use cutting boards.

J-Yeah.

D-That's why we don't, like, cut carrots in the air.

J-Good point.

D-Right?

S-You don't?

D-I've actually heard that, apparently, fingers are similar to carrots (Steve laughing).

J-Are they really? You talking about flavor, or what? (S and J laughing).

D-In ease of cutting.

J-Oh, ok.

D-That's what I figure.

J-I would think they'd be tougher, cause you've got bone.

D-I would think that that would be the case, but apparently it's, I mean. Carrots, you know, like the really thick ones, they can be pretty hard to cut through.

J-I suppose, yeah.

S-Especially with a dull knife.

J-We will...

D-That's how you cut fingers off. Whoa.

J-Yeah, ok. After the show, as soon as we're done recording, we're going to rochambeau and pick one person...

D-Is it going to be, like, "Four Rooms" all over again, right? With the lighter.

J-Yeah. Oh, I haven't seen that one.

D-You don't know? Oh, ok.

J-Yeah. Ok. What was I talking about?

S-So back to...

J-Yeah, Minnie Wise. Yeah. Minnie Wise, the finger, I'm thinking...

D-She also had a husband, right?

J-She did have a husband. I was thinking with the finger, I was thinking, I wonder if she had a ring on that finger, and it just didn't want to come off.

D-Hm. That's possible.

J-Yeah. Well, anyway, her husband, his name was Bud Wise, which I think is a cool name.

D-Ha ha, that's a good name, yeah.

J-Yeah, I like that. He was arrested. Apparently she was jealous of her, apparently she...

D-No, *he* was jealous of her.

J-He was jealous of her, yeah. She was apparently sort of interested, I don't know if seriously or not, in some other guy, and he had threatened to kill her. And the detectives in this case felt like he was just taking advantage of the whole Ripper thing to camouflage his own murder, and that it was, you know, actually a copy cat murder. But...

D-Which is something Joe thinks about a lot.

J-Yeah, exactly. You know.

D-No, you do. I know you do.

J-Well yeah, I mean...

D-I'm aware that if a serial killer ever comes to light in Oregon, I'm going in hiding for a while (laughing).

J-No, I know, I know exactly. Cause it's time to kill Devin and replace her with somebody else.

D-Uh huh.

S-Just hide in his gun closet. You'll be safe.

D-I don't know about that.

J-She doesn't have the combination (Steve laughing). Yeah. And if possible...

S-"Quick, come in here. You'll be safe!"

J-Yeah, and it's possible that this was a copy cat killing. It's possible that a few of the other ones were copy cat killings, because this is a great time to go settle a score. You just want to be really careful not to get arrested, you know. You go to kill just one person and they all get pinned on you, and so...

S-Yeah.

J-That wouldn't be so good.

S-And that's why so many people, I feel like so many deaths were attributed to the Atlanta Ripper because people were like, "Somebody's out there killing women. I really hate that broad. Perfect opportunity." And just, you know, kill her in some fashion that you know has something to do with cutting the neck, and then it gets lumped on. Like that's why I feel like the number was so, was it 18 was the, or 19...

J-19.

S-Which is just, it was huge.

J-19, yeah, and...

D-Can we just pause to say that that really upsets me?

S-What's that?

D-Just the fact that there are so many dudes out there in, like, that supposition, right? There's so many dudes out there, in Atlanta, who are like, "I really hate this lady. I'm gonna kill her." Within, like, a two year span.

S-But it may...

D-That's a lot of people!

S-...have also have been a lot of women out there thinking...what's her name who got in trouble for dressing up as the Ripper.

D-I'm sorry, I'm going to amend that. There are that many people out there (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-Like, that's actually very upsetting to me. I'm more comforted by the fact that it's one single psychopath who's just, like, killing people at will, that it is that there are 20 or 30 people who are like, "You know what? This person, I don't like them very much. There's a serial killer out there. I'm just gonna kill this person and somebody else will get the credit. That's fine. I have no moral quandary with that at all."

J-Uh huh.

D-That is way more upsetting to me than a serial killer who might have killed 20 people. Way more upsetting.

J-I see what you're saying, yeah. Yeah.

S-Welcome to society.

D-That's the thing, I guess.

S-This is why I don't like people in general. As a rule (laughing).

D-Yeah. That's why I'm much happier with the theories of, like, it was one person. It's fine.

J-Uh huh. Yeah, well if it makes you feel any better, though, as a trend, murder is going down. It's been going down for a while.

D-Yeah, yes. That does make me feel better. I have not yet been murdered.

J-That you haven't. Not yet.

D-So that's good.

J-You've come close a few times (All laughing).

D-Ohh. So, next victim.

J-Yeah, what were we talking about?

D-I don't know.

J-Oh yeah, our last victim, at least according to the professor and his writing partner, murder number eight, Mary Putnam. This is the one that was different. Her body was found in a ditch, and had been covered with some loose dirt, and her heart had been cut out.

S-So, like an attempt to bury it.

J-Yeah. It wasn't a serious attempt. It's just like kicking dirt over it, I think. You know? So...

S-Ok.

D-Yeah, but any attempt to bury it shows some remorse, right? That's the typical, like, that's how people, is that...I'm sorry, you both are looking at me like that's a brand new concept to you.

S-No. No, I don't take that as remorse. I take that as "I normally hide it in the bushes, and there's no bushes. How do I hide it so I can get away?"

J-Shove it in a ditch, yeah.

S-Yeah.

D-Yeah, all right.

J-So that's probably what it was. But this was different in that her heart was cut out. It was laying next to her.

D-Hm.

J-So yeah, that's a deviation.

D-Yeah. And usually you don't see that kind of escalation at the very, right? That kind of escalation continues.

S-Uh huh.

D-Usually. Unless that person is caught.

J-Caught. Arrested.

S-Well, that's the thing, is that as far as we know, the Ripper wasn't caught. Again, it's just like the British Jack the Ripper...

D-Uh huh.

S-Just, this is it. This lady is the last one.

D-But I mean, with the British...

S-It's hits a peak and then it just goes away.

D-With the British Jack the Ripper, I feel like there was a natural peak of, like, that's about the worst thing you could do to a body, kind of.

S-But, again, ok we're going to go down that same rabbit hole, is that it stopped.

D-Right. But, no I mean, that's the thing for me, is like, so if the escalation of the whatever, psychosis that's going on is, this is literally the worst thing you could do to a body, if the worst thing you could do to a body is, like, kind of cut a heart out and, like, leave it next to it, like, that's not true.

S-No, no.

J-You're right. There's lots more you can do.

D-There's so much more, so you would, I, for me, as a total armchair person who I guess has a couple years of experience of reading about cases like this at this point, I would expect that if this person were free, that that, there would be that escalation. Unless we're going to go to Joe's de facto explanation of there was one person in the mix that was the intended target, and everybody else was, just, like to cover up the rest of it.

J-Yeah, there's always that. I think though, if this had been somebody just wanting to kill one person, no need to kill eight people, or nine or whatever.

D-Ok!

J-That's risky. Yeah.

D-So can we go back and rerecord the Jack the Ripper episode because I feel like that was the argument with Jack the Ripper.

S-No. Lord, no (Devin laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-Right? I mean am I crazy? Did you not make that argument there?

J-Yeah, well that's the thing about it. Jack the Ripper murdered five women...

D-Yeah, no need to murder five women. Just murder, like, three.

J-Yeah. Well, the question is, is like, up till the point he started murdering them, why wasn't he murdering them before?

D-Right.

J-And why wasn't he murdering them afterwards? Why?

D-Right. Yeah. Well, I mean, I think that the general assumption is that, you read about people who are serial killers who have been caught, and their parents or people who are close to them say, "Yeah, it was weird. There were mutilated squirrels all over the place."

J-Uh huh.

D-Or, like, "He beat the dog up." And then suddenly he was big enough to...

S-It's known behavior.

D...take it into a human realm and then he was caught, or the escalation finished, or he moved out of that area.

J-Yeah.

D-Or she. I'm sorry. I mean, serial killers are by and large male, but there are some female serial killers.

S-There are.

J-There are, yeah.

D-So I just default to the male pronoun. I apologize.

J-Yeah. Well, actually most murderers are men.

D-Yeah.

S-To all our female serial killer listeners.

D-I apologize to all the female serial killers out there who are like, "Hey, what about me?"

J-Yeah, that's...

D-I apologize.

J-That's why you don't know Devin's last name (Steve laughing).

D-I mean...yeah, that's true. No, I mean that's, but that's that general slope of escalation? What do you want to call that? The general something of escalation. The general path of escalation, maybe.

J-Yeah.

D-Is the word I'm looking for.

J-So, yeah, I mean, there was an escalation here. He cut off a finger on victim number seven.

S-Progression.

J-And the heart, the heart's a big jump, I have to agree.

D-That's a big jump. Yeah.

J-Yeah. And then, if he did stop, why?

D-Right. Well, got caught or moved out of the...

J-Yeah. He moved out of town, maybe. I mean, by this time, it was kind of late 1911, and the police

were really serious about it.

D-Uh huh.

J-And everybody was on edge. Maybe he decided to just move on.

D-Yeah.

J-You know, it's hard to say.

D-Went somewhere else.

J-You know what?

D-Moved to England, man.

J-Well, you know what, too. Life was more dangerous back then. Maybe someone murdered him.

D-Yeah.

J-You know? That's something you don't know.

D-Or died.

S-Or died in a work environment.

D-Yeah. Or of sickness of some kind.

J-Yeah. I mean, we didn't have antibiotics back in those days.

D-Yeah.

J-So yeah, I mean, it's real easy to get done in by just an internal infection.

D-Yeah, absolutely.

J-Yeah. According to the papers, the killings resumed in 1912, and there were five, maybe Ripper murders that year. And then it ended. I did come across one source that claimed there was another one that I mentioned before, in 1913, and another in 1914. This is a guy I don't take very seriously, because he's one of the people that makes the claim that the Ripper mutilated his victims. And as we know, that's not true.

S-And that's based on the death certificates that were looked up, and talk about specifically what was done to the body.

J-Yeah, yeah. Professor...

S-Moriarty?

J-Yeah (laughing). Professor McLaughlin, he said that they almost, just in about all cases got a hold of the death certificates, and so...

D-Hm. But do we believe those five in 1912?

J-I don't think so. So these, the five in 1912, I mean, let me think here. Three of them were eliminated because somebody was arrested and convicted for their murders.

D-Hm.

J-Yeah. And then the other two, another one was stabbed, and another one the m.o. was different.

D-So it was really just the media sensationalizing these?

J-Yeah.

D-The murders. Ok.

J-I mean, once they had this whole spate of killings, you know, obviously these women are showing up dead, obviously the first conclusion you're going to jump to...

D-Is that horrible thing that happened a year ago.

J-Yeah. And this guy too, I don't know if you watched any of that video I sent you the link to. The really awful one.

D-Uh, you in fact advised me to not watch it.

J-I did, after watching a little bit of it, but, if you recall, I told you you should watch at least a few minutes of it.

D-I did watch a few minutes of it.

J-Just to find out how bad that is.

D-Uh huh. Yes.

J-Was it bad, or what?

D-Yeah. I mean, it was not good.

J-No, no.

D-It's hard...there's so many...sometimes I'm tempted to say, "Steve, let's post the link to this thing so that people can understand the hardships that we face when we research our episodes." (D and S laughing).

J-Yeah.

S-And Steve goes, "I can't do that to people!"

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah. No, no, this one was an hour and a half long interview. And I suffered through about an hour of it before I finally gave up.

S-It was a phone interview, right?

J-Yeah. It was like...

S-But it was video.

J-It was her on video facing the camera, and then a picture of the guy...

D-But he was mostly talking, so she was kind of bored the whole time.

J-Yeah, she'd be looking around and just making weird expressions (Steve laughing).

D-But she was also sick.

J-Yeah. She was sick and then coughing and stuff.

D-Yeah, she had, like, runny eyes and, yeah. Runny eyes? Watering eyes. But no, I mean...

J-So that guy that she was interviewing claimed to be an expert on this. And he said another thing that...

D-Also a medium, right?

J-Yeah. And he also said that black serial killers are extremely rare, and that all serial killers, or almost all of them are white.

D-That's offensive.

J-Well, it's complete bunk. I mean, actually, serial killers are very well distributed among the races.

S-Yeah, I was going to say. I'm just, I'm sorry I'm staring, and I know both of you are looking at me like I'm a weirdo, cause I'm just baffled by that.

J-Uh huh.

S-It is not attributed to any race, and while it is to one gender more than another, it's all over.

J-It's pretty well distributed, oh yeah. I mean, in America, obviously it's a majority white country, so obviously the majority of serial killers are going to be white, sure.

S-And that's a demographic thing.

J-Yeah.

D-But percentally, percentally?

J-Percentally?

D-Percentage wise, maybe?

S-Yes, that would be a better way to say it.

D-It's accurately...

J-Yeah, as a percentage of the population, in a given demographic.

D-Uh huh. It's about the same percentage of each demographic.

J-It's going to be roughly the same.

D-Yeah.

J-When you're talking about, you know...

D-Crazy people transcend everything.

J-Yeah, pretty much. Yeah, yeah. You know, it could be that one particular race, I doubt it, is more susceptible to this kind of stuff, but I don't think so. I really kind of doubt that.

S-No, because we hear about this all over the world.

J-Oh yeah, oh yeah. It does happen everywhere.

S-Yeah.

D-They just take different forms. I mean, sometimes, right, you are extra smart, so you figure out how to say, like, "Oh, I'm a witch doctor, so it's ok that I'm murdering all these people." Right?

S-Uh huh.

D-Or, "Oh, hey, I'm a savior, so it's ok that I'm murdering all these people." Or, "Oh hey, I'm the king."

S-Oh yeah, there's, yeah.

D-It just goes on and on. But you find them everywhere.

J-Yeah, pretty much.

D-So are we on theories yet?

J-Yeah, we're going to start theories.

S-Thank goodness.

D-Oh my God. It's so long.

J-Yeah, it's like that, yeah. I know, we usually get to the theories a lot sooner than this.

D-Uh huh.

J-The theories are going to be short, actually.

D-Oh, ok.

J-So our theories are, one, the Ripper did not exist.

S-So wait, this means that every one of these was by a...

J-It was a random...

S-Every unique murder was by a unique perpetrator.

D-And it just happened to be that some of them shared some similarities.

J-Yeah. I think it's fair to say that it's possible that every murder attributed to the Ripper was done by him.

D-But...

J-But I do think, especially in middle 2011, or...

S-1911.

J-Mid 1911, yeah.

D-Dur.

S-The Atlanta Ripper had a time machine (Devin laughing).

J-Yeah. But what do you guys think? Do you buy into the whole Ripper didn't exist thing?

D-No.

S-No.

J-Yeah. All right. So our next theory is that, this was put forward by Sheriff...

S-By that sheriff.

J-Yeah, Plennie Minor, Sheriff. It was black wives murdering their husband's girlfriends.

D-Side girls, please.

J-Yeah.

S-While I know there's a lot of wives who would like that to be the case, I don't think that's it.

D-I also don't think there are that, I don't think that it's that rampant, right? That husbands have girlfriends.

S-Philandering men.

D-Yeah.

S-So, there's the thing. A lot of dudes like to think that they are cool enough and hot enough and suave enough...

D-No, you aren't.

S-...to get a girlfriend. I'm sorry, we're all fat and ugly...

D-You got the one!

S-...and we got lucky with the one (laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-You locked that one down.

S-99% of men can't manage to get, to handle two at once. No, it's not that one.

J-No, it's, it really is hard to keep all your lies straight and everything.

S-Yeah (laughing).

J-Yeah, so it's better just to keep it simple.

S-Yeah.

J-You know, it really is. So, uh, ok.

S-So what's our next one?

J-Well, our next theory is that the Ripper did exist.

D-I agree.

J-Yeah. I think he most likely did. Uh, for one thing, throat cutting, I think, is not a really, it's not a really typical murder method.

D-It's not. It's also a fairly gruesome murder method.

S-It's messy.

J-Gruesome. Messy. Bloody.

D-I think we're saying if we're going to go with the Ripper was just a bunch of black wives murdered husband's girlfriends, like, that's an intense way to do it.

J-Uh huh. Yeah.

S-Well, it's also not, well, I guess...bashing someone over the head hard enough to knock them out...

D-It's pretty hard.

S-...requires a significant amount of physical strength.

D-Yes.

J-Yeah.

D-And then on top of that, the will or guile even to slit someone ear to ear.

S-Yeah.

D-That's intense, you guys. That's really intense.

J-Yeah. I think that most people that get killed with knives are usually stabbed.

D-Yeah.

S-Yes.

D-So I would say, I mean, you know, once, right? You do the one and you're like, "Oh, God, that was..."

S-"Oh, whoops."

D-"I'm glad I don't have to do it again."

J-Yeah.

D-"I don't have to, you know, drag that knife anywhere." So I would say it's one person who that was a thing for.

J-Yeah. And here's the...the thing about stabbing them, is if you stab somebody, if you're strong enough and accurate enough that you can hit a vital organ, and you just, you know...

D-Walk away.

S-Puncture it.

D-Yep.

J-Pull the knife out and there's not going to be that much blood.

S-No.

J-No, nothing...

S-It's internal.

D-Uh huh.

J-Nothing at all compared to the kind of blood you're going to get on you...

D-Yeah.

J-...when you cut somebody's throat. So that's why...

S-It's a literal fountain.

D-Yeah, like when, especially when you slit the jugular.

J-Oh yeah.

D-You're done.

S-It's like a total fountain.

J-It should spray all over the place.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah, I know. And of course, there's always, you know, there's always...I think if this was random people it would be more stabbings and shootings and not throat cuttings.

D-I agree.

J-So I think this was truly a serial killer.

D-The majority.

J-With possibly...

D-There were some outliers.

J-Yeah. With possibly a copy cat in there, but yeah.

D-So who, who was the Ripper?

J-Nobody knows, yeah, nobody knows. Well, there were some guys arrested, there were some suspects.

D-Six, right? There were six guys that were arrested.

J-I saw the names of, like, five, but...

D-They always say there were six people.

J-Yeah. Well, and that's if you count, there were a couple of other people who were arrested for individual murders.

D-Uh huh.

J-Of people that were counted in, they were lumped in with those guys.

S-Got it.

J-So yeah, but I came across four. So there's Todd Henderson, and he was arrested, but he was actually in custody when several murders happened.

D-Oh. So that's not so bad.

S-So that proves that wasn't him.

J-Kind of lets them...

S-For the whole.

J-Either that or he has some really good friends on the outside that went out and murdered people just to give him a good alibi.

D-Oh, that'd be rough.

J-I doubt it.

D-Yeah, I doubt that too.

J-I kind of doubt it. Another guy was Henry Huff. He was arrested for the murder of Sadie Holley, but again it appears that one more murder happened while he was in custody. And so...

D-He was also acquitted maybe?

J-Yeah, they were both tried and acquitted. Next up was Henry Brown. He was put on trial for the killings, but it turns out the Atlanta police had beaten a confession out of him.

D-Hm.

S-That's always solid.

J-So he was acquitted. Yeah (laughing).

D-Yeah.

J-So yeah, so it's doubtful it was him.

D-Probably not him.

J-And then...

S-I'll just say, they figured out, once they figured out that the police had done that, it was because he was willing to say anything. Basically, "Um, you want me to say I have wings? I have wings and I flew from the top of a building and I got 'em."

J-Yeah.

S-"Yeah, is that what you want? Ok, great. No, I'm flinching. Don't come near me!"

J-"Please don't." Yeah.

S-That's how severely they beat this guy.

J-Yeah.

D-To be honest with you, I don't think I would have to get beat that hard to be in that mindset.

J-Yeah.

D-You know? A couple minutes.

S-Oh, me either. It's...

D-With a nightstick, I'd be like, "Yes, I will be literally whatever you want. Yes, I am, I'm Russian. Uh huh." (S and J laughing). Yeah.

J-Yeah, that reminds me of a joke, but I'll tell you guys later.

D-Ok.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. Who else? Charlie Owens was considered. He was arrested for the murder of his wife, Alice Owens, in 1912. And I think this was after the murders stopped. He was sentenced to life. I'm just not seeing him as a suspect because he just had a good motive for murdering his wife.

S-Yeah.

J-Not necessarily other people.

S-If he's murdering people that he doesn't know, that's a weird way to work up to killing your own wife.

D-Yeah.

J-That kind of is, yeah.

D-I don't know. Practice, maybe?

J-Yeah, I guess. Yeah.

S-Maybe. Maybe not.

D-I don't have a wife. You have a wife.

S-I do.

D-You tell me.

S-I've been practicing killing her for a while.

D-I know.

J-Yeah. She's going to kill you first.

S-She is.

D-She absolutely is (laughing).

J-I don't know, you don't know...

S-Yeah (laughing).

J-Yeah. You don't know Steve's wife as well as I do, but she's a lot more intense than he is (laughing).

D-I know.

S-I am a pussycat.

D-Yes, yes. I have met her.

J-Yeah.

D-I have met the Mrs. Steve (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah. Well, that's it for our suspects. It's just about a hundred percent certain we're never going to find out who the Ripper was. I do believe he existed. The only chance is if somebody stumbles across their great-great-uncle's journal, maybe, in some old family papers.

S-Chances are good that if somebody stumbles across that, they're not going to probably want to share

it.

D-I got to be honest, I wouldn't.

J-I don't know. I'd be highly tempted myself. But, you know.

S-There's not that much money in it, though.

J-That's true.

S-Do people think, "Oh, wow, I've got this great sensational story." And one place offers you a little bit of cash, and you're like, "It's gonna be a cash cow!" And they try to tell the world and the world doesn't care.

J-Well, that's exactly it. If you came across the same thing for Jack the Ripper, that's a different story.

S-Yes!

D-I don't know. I mean, like, even for me, though, it's, you know. It's one thing if the cases involved are, like, missing people. If you find a diary of your great-uncle who says, "I murdered all of these missing kids, and here's where I hid the bodies."

J-Yeah.

D-That's a matter of closure for those families. Those families all know.

S-Even a hundred years later, yeah.

D-Right. These families all know, their family members were murdered.

S-Uh huh.

D-For what reason, who knows, and by who, who knows. But I don't think these families, I don't get a sense that these families are searching for some kind of, like, grandiose closure.

J-Yeah, not really.

D-Right? And so like, what good does it do at that point?

J-Well, you know, frankly...

S-It stops idiots like us from talking about it.

D-Pretty much.

J-Yeah, it's probably a pointless discussion really.

D-But realistically there are not that many idiots like us talking about this, so (laughing).

S-I don't know. According to the internet, there is.

J-There's a lot of them. I think it's academic cause it's very unlikely anybody's going to come across anything so.

D-Right. No.

J-If you came across that old journal of your great-uncle's...

D-Send us an email, I guess.

J-...and you read three pages of it and decide your great-uncle was a boring guy and you stop reading it and that's that.

D-Yeah.

J-I don't think it's going to happen. I don't know. Unless one day we go back in the Wayback Machine.

D-We will.

J-Yeah. Cause I know, the thing about it is, I know the dates of the murders, and I know the addresses.

S-Yeah, we've got intersections where the bodies were.

D-And we are white people.

J-Yeah. Exactly.

D-So it would be very easy for us.

J-We'd blend right in, yeah.

D-Yeah. We would.

J-I'm sure. Yeah. So, so much for the Atlanta Ripper.

D-Yeah.

J-But anyway, folks. Now you know a little bit more about one more serial killer that you'd never heard of.

D-Yeah. It's perfect.

J-Yeah.

D-That's why you listen to us, right?

J-Exactly.

S-This is why you shouldn't leave your house, cause they're everywhere.

D-Just stay inside and listen to us.

J-No.

S-Work from home.

D-No. Don't even work.

S-To work from home, call 1-900...oh, sorry, wait (Joe laughing).

D-No, there will be no working from home. Just shut yourself in the basement (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-Build yourself a little bunker that you can live in.

S-Out of cardboard boxes.

D-Sell the house to other people. Live in your bunker in your basement.

J-That sounds good.

D-That's right. It's perfect.

J-Yeah. You guys have any more theories?

S and D-No.

J-Yeah.

D-Unanimously no.

S-No.

J-Ok, well let me hand out a few useful factoids, here. You probably want to know, like, what our website is. Well, our website is thinking sideways podcast dot com, where you can download episodes. You can leave comments, check our links, cause we always post links to the various resources for these mysteries. And of course, you're probably listening to us on iTunes. If you're not listening to us on iTunes, you can subscribe to us there, and also leave us a review. A good review, preferably. And you can stream us from any where. I think every website.

S-Just about.

J-Yeah. Not even streaming websites anymore. It's every website (Steve laughing).

D-Just, you know. Huffington Post. You can find us there.

J-Yeah, exactly. And if you can't stream us from Huffington Post, then just send them a lot of angry emails. Lot's of angry emails (S and J laughing). Next, we are on Facebook, and you can like us and follow us. Join the group, and there's all kinds of fun action in that group. We're on Twitter, thinkin sideways. We left off the 'g' cause we're so hip. And there was a character limit, too. Right?

S-Yep.

J-Yeah, yeah. And our email of course, thinking sideways podcast at gmail dot com. You can communicate with us there. If you just want to tell us how awesome we are, that's cool. Or how not so awesome, or if you, like, have a suggestion, those are nice.

D-That's a good place, you know, uh...I guess I'm just going to go ahead and say it again. Leaving us a comment on, like, iTunes, of, like, why you don't like the show, or, like, the sound quality is bad...

S-Those are all very...

D-Can you email us?

S-Well, the problem is a lot of that is episode specific, and we've been saying that in the last six months, it's in the back catalog, and usually it's folks who have listened to one episode and have made their decision.

D-I just mean...

S-That's a hard one.

D-...if you have something you want to discuss with us, do it in a format that you can discuss with us.

S-Yeah.

D-Send us an email.

S-No, I agree with that entirely.

D-Tweet at us. Do it on Facebook.

J-Yeah.

D-Something that we can interact with you on. Or reddit, you know, we have a subreddit.

J-And frankly, if it comes through our email account we're a lot more likely to see it.

S-Yeah.

D-I don't know. I patrol those other ones pretty heavily.

J-Do you?

S-Well, I mean, there's nothing you can do on things like iTunes.

D-Yeah.

S-That's what you're getting at.

D-That's what I'm getting at.

S-We can't say anything when...iTunes is iTunes and we're done.

D-But if you genuinely don't like us, leave us a bad review on iTunes. I don't care.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. I would prefer you go to the Huffington Post and leave us some nasty comments in the comments section (Steve laughing). But yeah, whatever, if you have to do that, I guess (laughing). We have a subreddit, so go check out the subreddit. I'm not sure, I haven't looked at it for a while, is anything going on out there?

S-It's alive.

D-It is, it's great, yeah.

J-It is? Cool.

D-Yeah.

J-Oh, and last of all, this is the part where the phones start ringing in the background. You can go to patreon dot com if you want to support us. You can actually pledge money, like you know, a dollar an episode, or God knows what. Any amount.

D-Fifty cents an episode.

J-Fifty cents is fine.

D-Two cents an episode!

S-As much or as little as you want.

J-Yeah. As much as...

D-A hundred dollars an episode (Steve laughing)!

J-Absolutely. Strictly optional, folks. You don't have to do it at all. But if you feel like it, and you want to support us, then, you know, that's cool. So that's patreon dot com slash thinking sideways.

S-And we've also got the Paypal, which is also on the website.

J-Oh yeah.

S-If you just want to do a one time.

J-Yeah.

S-Which is awesome. And we've got the merchandise.

D-Uh huh.

J-We've got cool merchandise. Yeah. And so...

S-All of that's available through the right hand panel on the website.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah. Right on. Anyway, that's about it from here. You guys have any more thoughts about the Atlanta Ripper or anything else?

S-No, I'm good.

D-No.

J-Yeah.

D-I just don't know.

J-Yeah, I think he's dead by now.

S-Probably (laughing).

J-Yeah (laughing).

D-It seems likely.

J-It does seem likely, doesn't it? Yeah.

S-Your logic is quite sound in that.

J-Well, I...let me put it another way. I sure as hell hope he's dead.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah. Ok, anyway. So, for this week, I'm signing off. Tootle-oo.

S-Bye guys.

D-Bye?