

# Ted

*by* Ted Ted

---

**Submission date:** 05-Dec-2020 12:21AM (UTC+0500)

**Submission ID:** 1464908078

**File name:** Ted\_Bundy.edited\_1.docx (22.45K)

**Word count:** 1694

**Character count:** 8746

Theodore Robert Bundy

Student name

Institution affiliations.

Date

## TED BUNDY CASE

A serial killer refers to a person who performs a sequence of killings often with no apparent reason and follows a pattern that can be predictable. That is, they commit murders over a long period, often in different places with a specific skill that can identify them. <sup>2</sup> The FBI defined a serial killer as a person who kills three or more people separately with a certain amount of cooling period within the murders (Sharma, 2018). Based on the MacDonald Triad, a person may grow into a serial killer if he or she possesses characteristics such as abusive, frequent bed-wetting cruelty towards animals and other kids, and setting objects to fire frequently than it is expected from a child (Parfitt, 2020). Therefore, this report focuses on analyzing the factors that may lead a person to become a serial killer with a focus on the psychology case study on Ted Bundy. <sup>3</sup> Theodore Robert Cowell commonly known as Theodore Robert Bundy was born on 24<sup>th</sup> November in 1946 in Vermont. He was a Caucasian man with eyes and hard hair, although, over the years, his appearance changed as the FBI kept looking for him. Theodore Bundy was well known for going against the values and beliefs of the societies. This made him well-known as one of the most successful serial killers that ever lived (Terranova, 2020). Theodore Robert was convicted of Aggravated kidnapping, attempted murder, and burglary after his confessions to raping and murdering thirty women and children across seven states within a period of four, that is, 1974 to 1978. He died through electrocution in Florida State prison in the United States of America. In the present day, movies, articles, reports, and documentaries have reawakened his memory about what he did and what may have pushed him to be a serial killer.

The greatest factor that may have led Ted Bundy to become a serial killer is the dysfunctional family he grew up in. For instance, Theodore grew up comprehending that his grandparents were his paternities and his birthmother was his elder sister. His mother had him

when he was young and had no idea about how to be a mother therefore leaving the responsibilities to her parents. Therefore, when Theodore found out about this, he developed a lifelong resentment towards his mother because she never talked to her about who his father was. The thought of being an illegitimate child caused him to develop cruelty towards his family and others. Moreover, the marriage of his mother Louise to Johnie Bundy in 1951 caused a fit of deliberate jealousy, and ended up wetting his pants at Sears in front of everyone. Despite the tension that existed between Ted and Johnie, his stepfather had adopted him and raised him as his own. Moreover, when Louise had four children, Bundy felt like he did not care for enough as the other children because he was a bastard. This ended up creating a sore spot between himself and his mother. Based on research by (Sharma, 2018), factors such as loneliness, lack of belonging, and low self-esteem may be interrelated to serial killing in such a way that aggressiveness, cruelty, and control was the only coping skills they could manage, thus leading them to develop serial killing.

Moreover, Theodore may have become a serial killer due to the psychological gratification he lacked. Psychological gratification refers to the enjoyable reaction of happiness brought from social approval, social affiliations, and mutual recognition. For instance, as a child, Ted Bundy lacked the social skills he would use to make friends since he was frequently made fun of for having a speech impediment. As a youth, he was a loner and liked scaring people by creating tiger traps to hurt them. Based on research by (Haggerty et al, 2019), serial killers tend to refer to fictional <sup>4</sup> movies, television shows, novels, and true crime novels, and video games. As a youth, Ted Bundy enjoyed detective fiction stories with high amounts of depictions of murder and rape. Furthermore, he began breaking the law by performing vandalism, burglary, and spying on strangers. According to (Willmott et al, 2011), psychological and social perspectives of the environment influences the possibility of a person becoming a serial killer. That is, harsh living

conditions, traumatic experiences, and exposure to sexual content led Theodore to develop a sexual drive that may have led to the rape of his victims. Bundy was psychologically traumatized by his illegitimacy. He felt like his cousin had humiliated him when he told him that he was an illegitimate son. Moreover, Ted's grandfather was described as an angry person with a bad temper who may have led to increased psychological trauma on Ted. That is, his grandfather's violent acts were directed at employees, family members, cats, dogs, and other animals. Therefore, Bundy may have experienced bodily and psychological abuse at the hands of his granddad, which may have led to him becoming a serial killer. However, despite these instances, he had a good relationship with his grandfather.

Moreover, Theodore Bundy's inability to deal with rejection also have facilitated him to become a serial killer. He admitted that his first murder was a college girl. At Washington University, he had started dating Dianne Edwards and he had developed a lot of insecurities. For instance, he thought that he did not have enough money to maintain a girl and he generally felt like Dianne was out of his league. Therefore, when Dianne ended the relationship, Ted sought revenge on her. Dianne had described him as an insecure lonely person that wanted other people to pity him. All victims of Ted Bundy's resemble Edwards, that is, they were slim and had dark and long hair, the psychologists and investigators speculated that the end of his relationship with Dianne may have triggered him into the killing. This was after Theodore dropped out of law school and tried to win Dianne back. However, when Dianne became too smart for him, he started hunting down women that reminded him of his first love. He would kidnap them, beat them unconscious, bind them, and rape them before murdering them. According to (Allely et al, 2014), 48 percent of male serial killers become serial killers because they suffer rejection, either from a parent or a romantic partner. That is cases of abandonment, neglect, and dissatisfaction in relationships cause

a person to develop violent behaviors. Therefore, the article argues that being a serial killer develops from both biological and environmental factors.

Furthermore, paraphilic fantasy is considered a basic factor that leads a person to become a serial killer. Paraphilic disorder refers to intense sexual fantasies, behaviors, and urges that involve non-consenting adults, children, or humiliation of a partner with the potential harm. Based on research by (Allely et al, 2014), sexual fantasies increase the risk of murderous and sadistic behaviors. That is since the fantasy supposedly involves a cognitive rehearsal for murder, but as the theory continues, the repetition turns the fantasy to masturbatory power. This leads a person to seek out opportunities and chances to act upon the fantasies. Based on the Theodore Bundy case study, Bundy enjoyed torturing his prey and found it arousing, and that he found murder satisfying. As a youth, Bundy has started focusing on pornography that he accessed from his grandfather while he lived in Philadelphia. The night before his execution, he admits that his love for pornography may have stirred most of his gruesome killings.

Ted Bundy's education may have facilitated him into being a serial killer. That is, the psychology course he took helped him understand how to isolate his victims. He understands which females are the weakest emotionally and psychologically and would be easily charmed. Moreover, his degree in the law allowed him to represent himself in court and avoid bail. According to (Bergerson et al, 2001), serial killers are not usually educated but there exists a few that have a high intellectual quotient such as Ted Bundy that is cold and well-calculated such that they understand when to approach prey and how to perform the murder. However, Ted Bundy's education could not stop him from paying for his crimes with his life.

In conclusion, the life and trial of Ted Bundy were perceived to affect even thirty-one years later after his death. The research of what may lead to the development of serial killers is dependent

on environmental factors of how a person was raised, the social relationships he had with his peers, and the influence of age group and romantic relationships on their psychological status. Moreover, the case of Theodore Bundy caused people to become scared and paranoid. However, it helped society raise awareness of the availability of serial killers within the United States and their increasing numbers over the years. Therefore, understanding what causes a person to be a serial killer as a child may help determine the therapeutic methods to deal with them. Moreover, avoidance of exposing children to hostile behaviors can help them avoid the need for cruelty, hostility, and gruesome.

### References

- Allely, C. S., Minnis, H., Thompson, L., Wilson, P., & Gillberg, C. (2014). Neurodevelopmental and psychosocial risk factors in serial killers and mass murderers. *Aggression and violent behavior, 19*(3), 288-301.
- Haggerty, K., & Ellerbrok, A. (2011). The social study of serial killers: Kevin Haggerty and Ariane Ellerbrok examine the cultural and historical context of serial killing. *Criminal Justice Matters, 86*(1), 6-7.
- Parfitt, C. H., & Alleyne, E. (2020). Not the sum of its parts: a critical review of the MacDonald Triad. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 21*(2), 300-310.
- Ramsland, K. (2006). Inside the Minds of Serial Killers-Why They Kill.
- Sharma, M. (2018). The development of serial killers: A grounded theory study.
- Terranova, N. (2020). Impacts of a Serial Killer: Looking at the Case of Ted Bundy Then and Now.
- Van Aken, C. (2015). The use of criminal profilers in the prosecution of serial killers. *Themis: Research Journal of Justice Studies and Forensic Science, 3*(1), 7.
- Willmott, D., Boduszek, D., & Robinson, R. (2018). A psychodynamic-behaviorist investigation of Russian sexual serial killer Andrei Chikatilo. *The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology, 29*(3), 498-507.

ORIGINALITY REPORT

4%

SIMILARITY INDEX

2%

INTERNET SOURCES

1%

PUBLICATIONS

3%

STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1

Submitted to Florida State University

Student Paper

2%

2

Submitted to Bridgepoint Education

Student Paper

1%

3

Submitted to De Montfort University

Student Paper

1%

4

[www.tandfonline.com](http://www.tandfonline.com)

Internet Source

1%

Exclude quotes On

Exclude bibliography On

Exclude matches Off