



Psychoanalytical View in *The Stranger Beside Me* by Ann Rule

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Abstract

The article focuses on the cause or motivation of a serial killer on the basis of biological, sociological and psychological aspects. The mentioned factors affect general behaviour of a person and influence the particular individual to act like a psychopath. *The Stranger beside me* reveals the real incidents and heinous trail on young adult girls by a psycho killer. The behavioural changes and the abnormalities of the serial killers are due to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) which results into psychotic nature. Psychopaths generally conceal the identity and camouflage with the society. Nature and nurture have influences on serial killing.

Key words: childhood trauma, abnormality, motivation, psychotic nature, psycho killer.

Introduction

In America serial killers are high in numbers. It is due to the economic shortage, drugs, family dysfunction, etc., Most of the serial killers have one common factor: Trauma, which influences to turn their behaviour into a notorious monster. The serial killers are active in the United States of America during 1970's and 1980's (Web).

The true crime writer Ann Rae Stackhouse (Ann Rule), an American writer. She got popular after her first work *The Stranger Beside Me* (1980). Ann worked for True Detective magazine and wrote about 1400 articles related to crime and rape under the pseudonym Andy Stack. Ann's successive novels are *The Lust Killer*, *The Want-Ad* (1983), *The 1-5 Killer* (1984), *Small Sacrifice* (1987), *If you really loved me* (1991). Ann's work creates awareness among people and brings horrific sides of the serial killers to the light. The crime rate in America during 1965 was approximately ten thousand and 5.4% were stranger to stranger sort of murders. In 1981, the serial killing or murders increased to twenty five thousand and the percentage rose to 17.8%. The victims are random and common people in the society who lost their lives due to the senseless act of psychopaths to fulfil their hidden motives and desires.

Ann Rule's novel *The Stranger Beside Me*, Ann express the agony of victims, the readers can visualize the events and share the experience of a shocking friend of a serial killer. In certain aspects, Ann depicts the protagonist as a gratifying character. The author appears as a good, trustworthy friend and remorse for friend's sin. Ann differentiates the camouflage nature of a serial killer through the protagonist. The murders never choose the known persons and usually go with stranger. The first novel of Ann gives confident to reveal the real name. Ann writes under the pen name Andy Stack. Ann proves crime detection is not gender based. The hypothesis of the research is dealt with characterisation of a serial killer and causes of a rise of murderer.

Synopsis

Theodore Robert Bundy (Ted) is an American serial murderer and rapist active during the twentieth century. He confesses that his victims count is 30 but the police believe it would be 138. He begins his killing career in the late 1973 and till 1978 in five different states. He appears normal in his lifestyle, but that is not his real nature. Bundy's charm and social graces hides his psychosexual immaturity. As he gets older he transforms himself in to a very confident and active person. He does not like his step father. Bundy is a man who lives in the world of fantasy and creates his own version of himself. He suffers from low self-esteem and sexual trauma which leads him to begin his murder career. He is obsessed with violent pornography fuels his predatory and murderous behaviour. He shows traits of narcissistic personality disorder and antisocial personality disorder. Bundy's childhood and adulthood shows he is suffering from both personality disorders. He hides his psychopath with his fake portrayal of positive attitudes and prominent young leader of the Republican Party. Serial killer Ted Bundy was arrested in 1975 for having crowbar, handcuff, an ice pick and a mask. Bundy's regular pattern is bludgeon, strangle, rape and sodomize. Bundy was suggested many times in the police department as a possible serial killer. Bundy was executed by the electric chair. In the mean time he defends for himself and marries Carol Ann Boon. He remains fascinating case for all people who interested in crime, he is an unsolved puzzle.

Strain Theory

Strain theories states that certain strains or stressors increase the likelihood of crime. These strains lead to negative emotions, such as frustration and anger. These emotions create pressure for corrective action, and crime is one possible response. Crime may be used to reduce or escape from strain, seek revenge against the source of strain or related targets, or alleviate negative emotions. This theory is linked to a few incidents in *The Stranger Beside Me*. Ted has been apprehended by juvenile authorities on two separate occasions on suspicion of auto theft and burglary. It demonstrates that his parents did not care for him, and the stress caused him to become involved in criminal activity at a young age. So, in order to be in a sophisticated setting, he always lived in a fancy world. Simultaneously, he also started to fall for Stephanie, a girl. Ted viewed her as the pinnacle of his goal and thought she was the most stunning being that had ever existed. He contrasts his lifestyle with that of his partner. She comes from a wealthy family in California and was brought up in a culture that valued wealth and status. Ted, on the other hand, worked low-paying jobs to support himself while attending college. He was a bus boy at the Olympic hotel, a waiter at the upscale Seahawk Yacht Club, a stock boy at a surgical supply store, and a messenger for the legal system. He was working too hard to satisfy both his needs and those of his girlfriend. He became more maniacal after his breakup with Stephanie. These are few strains made him more stressful person and commit crime in his life.

Antisocial Personality Disorder

Antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) is a mental health condition. People with ASPD may break the law or cause physical or emotional harm to the people around them. They may disregard consequences or refuse to take responsibility for their actions. In this instance, the antisocial personality disorder was brought on by his own family. Ted was an illegitimate child; therefore it was obvious that he couldn't spend the rest of his days in his native. The truth about his parentage was known by too many relatives. In the short term, he spent most of his time with his grandfather. He loved, respected, and clung to him in his difficult moments. Despite his grandpa's severe abuse, he had respect for him. Johnnie Bundy and Ted's mother fell in love and got engaged. Despite accepting Ted as his son, Jhonnie Bundy occasionally showed cruelty. Ted therefore reluctantly spent time with his father. These incidents demonstrate their influence on Ted's academic career; he never made friends with his classmates and was subjected to ruthless taunting by other males. He didn't even act casually around boys or take an open shower. He is really shy, and other lads have made fun of and infuriated him. He was highly antisocial when he was younger but later pretended to be normal. Abusive environment made him to maintain certain distance from the fellow human being and stopped to act normally with them.

Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Narcissistic personality disorder, one of several types of personality disorders is a mental condition in which people has an inflated sense of their own importance, a deep need for excessive attention and admiration, troubled relationships, and a lack of empathy for others. But behind this mask of extreme confidence lies a fragile self-esteem that's vulnerable to the slightest criticism. Ted shows some narcissistic traits in his behaviour. Ted sometimes displayed social isolating behaviour and frequently feared women and their control over him. The similar threat from Ted is felt by the author Ann. By adopting this mindset, he subjugates and usurps the power of women. He feels satisfied and becomes more in charge as a result. Another instance Ted picked his victims when they were distraught and despondent. Roberta Kathleen Parks was depressed and upset about her father's illness, Brenda Baker and Kathy Devine were both fleeing their homes at the same time, Lynda Ann Haley had been sick, Donna Manson was depressed, Susan Rancourt was by herself on campus that night, and Georgian Hawkins was very worried about passing her Spanish exam. He brutally abused and killed them. He cut their bodies into pieces and buried it in different places. This shows his narcissistic characteristics.

Conclusion

This paper focuses on the basic characteristics of the protagonist Ted and examines his childhood trauma and adulthood dilemmas. He was not happy in both of his precious period. The element of deception is a core component of Ted's life and one that will ultimately destroy him as well as the society. The oppression of his childhood, abusive days till his fourth year of his childhood which makes an antisocial personality. In his adulthood, his first breakdown due to Stephanie makes Ted to become an aggressive person. The Stephanie's issues activate his traits of narcissist character. It paves him to find out his biological parents and he got disappointed because of his ill legitimate birth. These incidents are the cause which made him to become an evil and sees his victim as an object not a human. The conclusion of the research is that narcissist or psychopath is due to both nature and nurture.

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