

David Berkowitz
“Son of Sam”



Information summarized by Radford University students

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Serial killer researched by Radford University students

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Date	Age	Life Event
06/01/1953	0	Born Richard David Falco to Joseph Kleinman who was a Long Island businessman and Betty Broder Falco, who was a waitress. Was given up for adoption because his father wanted nothing to do with him. He had one ½ sister, Roslyn.
June 1953	2 weeks	Adopted by Nathan and Pearl Berkowitz. Renamed David Richard Berkowitz. He was the couple’s only child.
1958	5	Grew up in the Soundview section of the Bronx with mostly Jewish and Italian families.
		Enrolled in P.S. 77 at Ward Avenue and 172 nd Street in the Bronx. Missed 46 days of Kindergarten.
		Pearl slaps David in the face for coming home with sand on his head, which was poured on him by some girls he was playing with. Hits his friend Lory in the head with a gun.
		Began to take showers with his father, Nathan.
		Went to Shore Haven Beach Club with his adopted parents. His mother bathed him in the shower in the presence of other naked women.
1959	6	Notices the power men have over women when a male entered the women’s side of the bathhouse and all the women shrieked.
February	7	Scored 118 on an IQ test.

1960		
1960		Berkowitz was hit by a car and suffered head injuries. A few months later, ran into a wall and again suffered from head injuries.
1960	7	Very good at baseball, especially throwing the ball.
1960		Parents tell him he is adopted.
1961	8	Hit in head with pipe and received a four inch gash in the forehead. Watched a girl die after being hit by a car.
1962		Berkowitz began to masturbate at this age.
1962	9	Was absent from school 28 days during 4 th grade. He was chubby and teased by his classmates.
1953-1967	10-14	Berkowitz is described as big for his age and was teased in school for his "chubbiness". Was a loner and states that he felt "different and less attractive". Described by neighbors as assaultive to other kids. Saw a boy die from falling from the side of a bus. Didn't have many friends because he didn't know how to react with other children because he had no brothers or sisters.
1963		Sees a girl and her mother die instantly after being hit by a car.
1963	10	Teachers comment that his math skills have improved and he is showing signs of patience. He is bigger than his peers. He deliberately chose younger and smaller playmates so that he could bully them.
1963		Got bit by a dog.
1963		Was given lots of toys by his parents.
1964	11	Teacher described him as a "moody child, can do good work if he wants to, and he is easily upset." Claims monsters were bothering him. Slept with the light on or with his parents. This annoyed and angered them.
1965	12	Enters junior high school (P.S. 123). Begins to set hundreds of fires. Says the monsters stopped bothering him just before his 13 th birthday and then reappeared at a later age.
1966	13	Begins to kill and torture animals. He killed his mother's parakeet "Pudgy" by giving it small doses of cleaning fluid over a period of three weeks. Kills thousands of bugs by burning and gluing them with rubber cement. Sees a boy die after falling from the side of a bus. Bar Mitzvah at Temple Adath Israel. There were no friends in attendance because neither he nor his parents had many friends.
10-5-67	14	Adoptive mother, Pearl, died from breast cancer. Very mad at his father for hiding his mother's illness from him. David's grades begin to slip. He became an avid rock climber.
10-6-67		Father sat Shiva (a 7-day Jewish mourning ritual). David still attended school but could not watch television during the mourning week.
1968	15	Grades that once averaged a B- were now either Fs or low Cs. Teachers state that he showed more strength in understanding than in vocabulary. Therefore, his difficulties in school were thought to be emotionally rooted. Went on a few dates but mostly fantasized and masturbated about girls because he did not have much luck dating.
1969	16	Truant 36 days from tenth grade and failed most of his classes. Formed a volunteer fire department with some friends. David's first experience with oral sex. He preferred oral sex and also enjoyed petting and fondling over regular intercourse.

1970	17	Moved to Co-op City (housing development in the Bronx)
		Engaged in petty vandalism, breaking car windows, setting fires and started to torture animals
1971	17	Father, Nathan, Remarried to a woman named Mary. Mary had a 25 year old daughter. David was unhappy about the marriage.
1971	18	Graduated high school with a GPA of 3.3. He was absent 12 days during his last semester.
6-23-71		Enlists in the Army.
July '71		Passes psychological and physical tests fro the Army. Tests indicate that he would do well in infantry training and was a normal recruit.
Dec '71		Shipped to Korea as a Specialist E4 where he is stationed for 10 months. During his years of service, he uses marijuana, mescaline, amphetamines, and LSD. His peers in the barracks call him "Wolf" because of his abundant body hair.
3-9-72		Is caught stealing food from the mess hall and is cited for two incidents where he refused to move with his unit when ordered to do so. Had a tendency to be tardy. Went AWOL one night because he missed the bus going back to the barracks (fined \$50).
1972	19	Has intercourse for the first time. It is with a prostitute and he contracted a venereal disease.
Jan 1973		Stationed in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Started attending a Baptist church and praying because he felt empty.
3-24-73		Given a general rating of "an outstanding and dependable soldier."
5-13-74	20	Started to set fires again. He was responsible for starting over 1,411 fires, which he kept a detailed journal of.
5-18-74		Changes religion to Baptist, and is Baptized.
6-25-74		Honorably discharged from the Army.
1974	21	Begins working at I.B.I. as a security guard. He was bitten by a guard dog (still has the scar) but worked well with the dogs and was one of the few employees not afraid of the dogs.
1974		Enrolls at Bronx Community College
1974		Starts job as a cab driver.
1974		Discovers his real name is Richard Falco
9-28-74		Begins to set a series of fires in New York.
Jan 1975		Moves into an apartment at 2161 Barnes Avenue
03-02-1975		Shoots a German Shepherd
May 1975		Found his birth mother Betty Falco and sent her a Mother's Day card. Subsequently, they begin a relationship. David started to drive a taxi cab and enrolled in Bronx Community College.
June 1975		Set more fires. Hired as a security guard at JFK airport. Claimed to hear voices from the dogs that accompanied him during his shifts.
Fall 1975		Quits his security job and begins to work as a duct worker for an air conditioning company.
November 1975	Wrote a letter to adoptive father admitting to feelings of deep depression. Starts listening to voices and starts attacking.	
12-23-1975	Set the last of 1,488 fires (he kept a log of his fires in three notebooks)	
12-24-1975	Attempted to kill two young women with a knife. The first victim was unidentified but wasn't seriously hurt and was able to fight back. The second victim was Michelle Forman and he attacked her as she crossed a bridge. She also survived.	

January 1976		Stopped visiting birth mother and sister. Moved into a two-family home in New Rochelle owned by Jack and Nann Cassara. Signed a two-year lease and put down a \$200 deposit.
Jan 76		Receives his rifle permit and purchases a Commando Mark III semi-automatic rifle for \$152.50 and four boxes of ammunition.
03-15-1976		Started working for the Postal Service for \$13,000 a year.
April 1976		Moved from the Cassara's to escape the howling from the demons. Moved into an apartment at 35 Pine St. in Yonkers. One of his neighbors was 63-year old Sam Carr.
May '76	22	Made a Molotov cocktail to kill Sam Carr's dog, but it did not work.
June 1976		Bought a .44 caliber Charter Arms Bulldog handgun while visiting an old army buddy (Billy Dan Parker) in Houston.
07-29-1976		At 1a.m he fired five shorts into a parked car. Killed Donna Lauria (18) with a shot to the neck. Jody Valenti (19) was shot in the hip and survived.
09-22-1976		Wrote a poem entitled "Mother of Satan"
10-23-1976		At 2:30 a.m. fired five shots into a parked car wounding Rosemary Keenan and Carl Denaro. Carl underwent major head surgery and survived.
11-27-1976		He shot Donna DeMasi (16) and Joanne Lamino (18) while pretending that he needed directions. Both survived, however, Joanna was paralyzed from the waist down her spine shattered when the bullet hit it.
01/30/1977		Shot John Deil and Christine Freund (26). Christine died after being shot in the head at the hospital; John survived and ran for help.
03/08/1977		Shot Virginia Voskerichian in the face as she returned home from classes at Barnard College. She was killed instantly.
03/10/1977	23	Police released information concerning the use of a .44 caliber gun being used in all the killings. Linked the murders of Donna Lauria and Virginia Voskerichian.
04/10/1977		Sam Carr receives anonymous letter complaining about his Labrador Retriever, Harvey. The letter is signed, <i>A Citizen</i> .
April 1977		Hired at Post Office near his home.
04-17-1977		Valentina Saurani (18) died instantly and Alexander Esav (20) died at the hospital. Left a note for the police stating, " <i>Come and get me. Son of Sam.</i> " Berkowitz receives traffic summons for driving a car with no insurance.
04-19-1977		Operation omega, a task force, was assembled under the leadership of Timmy Dowd and included 75 detectives and 225 uniformed officers.
04-19-1977		Sam Carr receives a second letter stating, " <i>I can see that there will be no peace in my life, or my family's life, until I end yours.</i> " Carr is so shaken that he takes the letter to the Yonkers police.
04-29-1977		Carr's dog was shot but survived.
May 1977		A psychological profile of the killer is released describing him as , " <i>neurotic, schizophrenic, and paranoid</i> " and " <i>probably shy and odd, a loner inept in establishing personal relationships, especially with women.</i> "
06-01-1977	24	Writes a letters to <i>Daily News</i> reporter Jimmy Breslin.
06-06-1977		Sends his downstairs neighbor, Craig Glassman, a threatening letter stating, <i>True, I am the killer, but Craig, the killings are at your command.</i> "
06-07-1977		Failed to answer court summons so his driver's license is automatically suspended.
06-10-1977		Jack Cassara receives a get-well card for falling off his roof. He never fell and did not know Sam & Francis Carr, the couple who supposedly sent the

		letter.
06-18-1977		Craig Glassman receives another threatening letter.
06-26-1977		Shot Judy Placido in the neck, temple, and shoulder and shot Salvatore Lupe. Both survived.
07-29-1977		Quits his job at the post office on the one-year anniversary of Donna Lauria's murder.
07-31-1977		Stacy Moskowitz and Robert Violante were shot. Stacy died; Robert was blinded. David parked next to a fire hydrant and received a ticket. Cassara family phoned the cops about Berkowitz doing the killings, but they didn't believe them.
08-06-1977		Set a fire with 20 .22 caliber bullets in it on Craig Glassman's front door.
08-10-1977		Detectives tracked down David's car in Yonkers and arrest him.
08-23-1977		Arraigned for two murders and five attempted murders.
08-24-1977		Arraigned for three more murders and one additional attempted murder.
08-24-1977		Berkowitz undergoes psychiatric testing at Kings County Psychiatric Center
08-30-1977		Judge Gerald Held reads the psychiatric report stating that Berkowitz was insane.
10-20-1977		First competency hearing. Dr. Abrahamsen evaluated David's sanity and stated "While defendant shows paranoid traits, they do not interfere with his fitness to stand trial".
April 78	24	Second competency hearing. His IQ was 115 (verbal=117, performance =110). Doctors agree that he was a psychopathic personality with malingering concomitant paranoid and hysterical traits.
05-08-1978		Berkowitz pleads guilty to the six shootings.
05-22-1978		Was to be sentenced at 11 a.m. Berkowitz entered the courtroom in a state of hysteria and panic chanting, " <i>Stacy is a whore, Stacy is a whore, I'll shoot them all.</i> " The judge postponed sentencing pending additional psychiatric reports.
06-12-1978		Is sentenced to 365 years in prison.
06-13-1978	25	Taken to Ossining Correctional Facility (Sing Sing Prison) and then to Clinton Correctional Facility near Dannemora, NY, where is undergoes a series of psychiatric tests.
07-07-1978		Transferred to Central New York Psychiatric Center in Marcy NY. He stays here for 6-8 weeks before being transferred to Attica Prison.
Feb 1979	26	Admits to F.B.I. agent Robert Ressler that he did not hear voices from his neighbor's dog, but had fabricated this so that he would be found insane. He claims to have skilled because of " <i>resentment toward his mother and his inability to establish good relationships with women.</i> "
July 1979		Attacked in Attica Prison. Required 58 stitches and has an eight inch scar as a result.
1987	34	Berkowitz accepts Christ as his personal savior and rededicates his life.
July 2002	49	First parole meeting. Parole was denied.
June 2004	51	At this time, he will be up for parole hearing once again.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	
Religion	Raised Jewish, later converted to Baptist
Number of victims	15 total, only 6 died
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	New York
Childhood Information	
Date of birth	June 1, 1953
Location	Brooklyn, NY
Birth order	Second of 2, Grew-up as an only child due to adoption.
Number of siblings	1
XYX?	No
Raised by	Adoptive parents.
Birth category	Youngest, but raised as only child.
Parent's marital status	Adoptive father remarried after death of wife.
Family event	Death of adoptive mother.
Age of family event	14
Problems in school?	Yes, he was big for his age and less attractive. Had been violent towards younger students. During Kindergarten he missed 46 days.
Teased while in school?	Yes, at age 9, because he was fat.
Physically attractive?	Neutral, neighbors stated that he was a nice-looking boy.
Physical defect?	Dragged feet when he walked.
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Age 7, Hit by car, suffered head injuries. Age 7, Ran into wall and suffered head injuries. Age 8, Hit in the head with a pipe, 4-inch gash in forehead.
Physically abused?	None Documented
Psychologically abused?	Father told him that he was a mistake. Age 10, he would sleep in mother and fathers bed, while they has sex.
Sexually abused?	None Documented
Father's occupation	Biological father-Long Island Businessman
Age of first sexual experience	Age 9 started masturbation. Age 16 first encounter of oral sex.
Age when first had intercourse	19, with a Korean prostitute, contracted a venereal disease.
Mother's occupation	Biological mother-waitress.
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	12
Highest degree	Diploma, with some Community College
Grades in school	Usually not very good, very truant.
IQ	At age 7—118. Age 21—110.
Work History	
Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Army
Type of discharge	Honorable
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	Yes, Joined a police department when he was in school.
Worked in law enforcement?	Security guard
Fired from jobs?	No
Types of jobs worked	Postal Employee and Cab Driver

Employment status during series	Employed as a Cab Driver.
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Hetero
Marital status	Single
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	Self
Triad	
Animal torture	Killed his mother's parakeet, burned bugs.
Fire setting	Burned Bugs, started over 1400 fires during 1974 to 1977.
Bed wetting	Not documented
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Used marijuana, amphetamines, LSD, Mescaline while in the Army
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	Paranoid Schizophrenic
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes, arson
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	15 total, but only 6 died.
Victim type	Random women and man. Usually couples
Killer age at start of series	23
Gender of victims	One male and five women killed
Race of victims	Caucasian
Age of victims	Between 15 and 20 years old.
Method of killing	Shot, used a .44 caliber Bulldog
Type of serial killer	Organized Power
How close did killer live?	Drove to crime scene.
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	Killer brought with him
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No

Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Yes
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	August 10, 1977
Date convicted	June 12, 1978
Sentence	365 Years
Killer executed?	No
Name and state of prison	Attica Prison in New York
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	Still Alive

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