

**Robert Black**  
*"M1 Maniac"*



Serial killer researched and summarized by  
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Date	Age	Life Event
04-21-47	0	Grangemouth, about 20 miles from Edinburgh, on the Firth of Forth
October, 1947	6 months	Was in care before being fostered to Jack and Margaret Tulip in the Highlands. Tulips lived in Kinlochleven, near Glencoe in the West Highlands. Robert lived here for the next eleven years, the majority of which were spent in the care of Margaret Tulip.
1952	5 yrs.	Jack Tulip died. Black claims to have no memory of him, indeed, no memories at all before the age of five. Although locals remember how Robert Black was frequently heavily bruised as a boy, Black himself cannot recall how he got these injuries. He recalls no abusive behavior from Jack, though he does remember how Margaret used to lock him in the house as a punishment for bad behavior, or alternatively, pull down his trousers and underwear and spank him with a belt. At nights Robbie was scared that there was a monster under his bed waiting to get him, and used to suffer from a recurring nightmare featuring a "big hairy monster" in a cellar full of water. When he awoke he frequently found that he had wet the bed, which invariably provoked a beating.
		To his classmates at primary school Robert - or 'Smelly Robbie Tulip' as he was known - is remembered as having been an aggressive and slightly wayward boy.
		Having said this, in the period that he was living with the Tulips, Robert never really got himself into any serious trouble: he had childish fights, played up at school, and bullied the younger children, yet he seemed to avoid anything more serious than a rebuke from Williams for swearing in front of ladies.
		His first sexual experience, which is one of his first memories, was when he was only five. Black vividly recalls himself and a little girl undressing and looking at each other's sexual parts
1954	7 yrs	Highland Dance classes, he remembers being far more interested in lying on the floor and looking up the girls' skirts than dancing.
1955	8 yrs	While looking after a neighbor's baby, he took off her nappy to look at her vagina. Both vaginas and anuses fascinated him, and he was obsessed with discovering how big they were, how much they could hold.
1958	11 yrs.	Margaret Tulip died. Once again deprived of a mother. Although a local couple offered to take him in, it was decided that Black would go to the Redding Children's Home near Falkirk, close to the place of his birth.
1959	12 yrs	Black made his first inept attempt at rape.

		He told Ray Wyre: "Me and two other boys went into a field with a girl the same age. We took her knickers off, lifted her skirt and all tried to put our penises in." Finding that they couldn't complete the act of penetration, the boys contented themselves instead with touching the girl's vagina. When asked if she was consenting to this, Black told Wyre: "I was forcing her, like, you know?" The incident was exposed and the authorities decided that Black would be better suited to a home with stricter discipline, not to mention an all-male environment.
1959-1962	12 yrs. to 15 yrs.	Red House in Musselburgh. For at least a year, possibly two, out of the three that Black was at the Red House, a male member of staff - now dead - regularly sexually abused him.
		During this time Robert had obtained a place at Musselburgh Grammar School.
		Slightly above average academically, but it was sport that he was really interested in, especially football, swimming and athletics.
Summer 1962	15 yrs.	His time at the Red House was up. With help from authorities, Black got a job as a delivery boy and found a room to rent in a boys' home in Greenock, outside Glasgow. Later admitted that while he was doing delivery rounds, molested 30 or 40 girls.
1963	16 yrs.	Convicted for lewd and libidinous behavior with a young girl: should have been for attempted murder.
1964	17 yrs.	Approached a 7-year-old girl in the park, asking her if she would like to go with him to see some kittens. Girl trustingly followed him as he led her to a deserted building. Choked her until unconscious and raped her. Left after he was done. She was found later wandering the streets: bleeding, crying and confused. Case was brought to court and astoundingly Black was given an admonishment, a verdict particular to Scottish law, which is effectively no more than a warning to be on good behavior in the future.
		Lost job. Moved to Kinlochleven
March 1967	20yrs.	Found guilty of three counts of indecent assault and sentenced to a year of Borstal training to be served at Polmont, near Grangemouth.
1970s	Early 20's	Moved to London. Poor eyesight put a career in professional football beyond his reach.
		Obsession with young girls was growing, fuelled by his discovery of child pornography. Discovered that magazines such as <i>Teenage Sex</i> and <i>Lollitots</i> were clandestinely available.
		Favorite job was that of swimming pool attendant, where he was sometimes able to go underneath the pool and remove the lights to look at little girls as they swam.
		At night, he used to break into the baths and swim lengths – with a broom-handle lodge up his anus.
		Black became the subject of a complaint from a girl who claimed that he had touched her. The police were called but luck was on Black's side and despite his record, he was not charged with any criminal offense, although lost his job.
1972	25 yrs.	Met Eddie and Kathy Rayson in a pub in Stamford Hill. Raysons' let Black live in their attic.
		Kathy said that Black seemed like a "big softie." After Black's conviction in 1994, Eddie Rayson remembered Black as "a perfect tenant." "He always paid the rent on time and never caused any problems."
1976	29 yrs.	Began to work for a firm called Poster Dispatch and Storage (PDS) as a driver. His job was to deliver posters to various depots around England and Scotland.
		Worked for PDS for the next ten years until his employers were forced to dismiss him as he was constantly getting involved in minor car accidents and costing the company a fortune in insurance payments
		Luckily for Black, shortly after his dismissal, two employees bought out PDS and gave him his job back.
		Black frequently did the London to Scotland run, often stopping in the Midlands on his way back to see the Raysons' son John and his new family.

July 1982	35 yrs	11-year-old Susan Maxwell was abducted. Maxwell's lived in a farmhouse outside Cornhill on Tweed, a small village on the English side of the English-Scottish border. Found body in a ditch next to a lay-by on the A518 road at Loxley, just outside of Uttoxeter in the Midlands, 250 miles from where Susan had been abducted, two weeks later.
8 July 1983	36 yrs	5-year-old Caroline Hogg was abducted. Lived in the seaside resort of Portobello on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Body found on 18 July in a lay-by at Twycross in Leicestershire near to the A444, the road that goes from Northampton to Coventry. Body was left some 300 miles from where she was abducted.
		Susan and Caroline's bodies were found within just 24 miles of each other.
26 March 1986	39 yrs.	10-year-old Sarah Harper abducted. Lived in Morley, Leeds, which was further south than the two other girls, but still in the north of England. Body found on 19 April 1986 floating in the River Trent. Determined that Sarah had been put in the river at around junction 24 of the M1 when she was still alive. Sarah's assailant had violently explored both her vagina and her anus.
		All the victims were young girls who had been skillfully abducted from public places for a sexual purpose. They were all driven south and murdered, their bodies dumped in the Midlands, within 26 miles of each other.
07-14-90	43 yrs	6-year-old Mandy Wilson abducted. David Herkes watched her approach a van with its passenger door open. Herkes had the presence of mind to take the van's registration number then called police. Robert Black was caught. He had sexually assaulted Mandy Wilson, tied her hands behind her back, covered her mouth with Elastoplast and shoved her into a sleeping bag.
May 1991	44 yrs	Police submitted their report to the Crown Prosecution Service
April 1992	45 yrs	Black was served with ten summonses.
04-13-94	46 yrs.	Opening arguments started.
05-17-94	46 yrs.	Jury began deliberations.
05-19-94	46 yrs.	Jury agreed upon a verdict. Black was found guilty on all counts. Sentenced him to life for each of the charges. Eligible for parole in 2029 when he's 82.
July 1994	46 yrs.	Meeting was held in Newcastle to consider the possibility of Black's involvement in similar murders. As well as possible murders in France, Amsterdam, Ireland and Germany, there were up to ten unsolved abduction and murder in England which bore Black's MO: April Fabb, abducted in Norfolk, 1969; 9-year-old Christine Markham, abducted in Scunthorpe, 1973; 13-year-old Genette Tate, abducted in Devon, 1978; 14-year-old Suzanne Lawrence, found dead in Essex, 1979; 16-year-old Colette Aram, found strangled and sexually assaulted in a field in Nottingham, 1983; 14-year-old Patsy Morris, found dead near Heathrow, 1990, and Marion Crofts and Lisa Hession.
04-20-05	58 yrs.	Arrested on suspicion of the murder of a 13-year-old schoolgirl who has been missing for 27 years. Police in Devon and Cornwall confirmed that Black was being interrogated for Genette Tate who vanished near her home in 1978.

### General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	Convicted of murdering 3 young girls Possible suspect in several other unsolved cases
Country where killing occurred	England and Scotland
States where killing occurred	Cornhill on Tweed (England), Portobello (Scotland), and Leeds (England)
Type of killer	Disorganized lust
Height	6'2"

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	April 21, 1947
Location	Grangemouth, Scotland
Birth order	1 <sup>st</sup> of 5 (Biological)
Number of siblings	4 Half-siblings that were never told they had a half-brother.
XYY?	No
Raised by	Foster Parents, Jack and Margaret Tulip
Birth category	The Tulips had fostered previous children, but there were none living with them when they adopted Robert.
Parent's marital status	Adopted Parents were married Biological Parents were not married
Family event	Margaret died.
Age of family event	11 years old
Problems in school?	Robert bullied younger children and got into childish fights. However he did not get into major trouble.
Teased while in school?	Robert was called names in school like Smelly Robbie Tulip during primary school.
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	None reported
Physically abused?	Margaret locked Robert out of the house as punishment for his bad behavior. She would also pull down his pants and spank him with a belt. Robert often had unexplained bruises and would be beaten when he wet the bed.
Psychologically abused?	None reported
Sexually abused?	Yes. While living at the Red House in Musselburgh, possibly 2 male staff members sexually abused Black by forcing Black to put their penis in his mouth and touch him.
Father's occupation	Biological father – Unknown Adoptive father – Foster parent, other employment unknown
Age of first sexual experience	5 years old Robert and a little girl took their clothes off and looked at each other's genitals.
Age when first had intercourse	12 years old Attempted rape
Mother's occupation	Biological mother – Factory worker Adoptive mother – Foster parent, other employment unknown
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Biological father – Unknown Adoptive father – No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Biological mother – No Adoptive mother – No
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	10
Highest degree	Diploma, GED, associates, bachelors
Grades in school	Slightly above average
IQ	Unknown
<b>Work History</b>	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	N/A
Type of discharge	N/A
Saw combat duty	N/A
Killed enemy during service?	N/A
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No

Fired from jobs?	Yes
Types of jobs worked	Delivery person, life-guard, swimming pool attendant, and delivery driver
Employment status during series	Employed as a delivery driver for Poster Dispatch and Storage (PDS)
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	0
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	N/A
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	Yes
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	Drank, but not heavily
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	N/A
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	Convicted of killing 3 girls; highly suspected of being involved in disappearances of at least 8 to 11 other girls.
Victim type	Young girls
Killer age at start of series	35 years old; possibly younger
Gender of victims	Female
Race of victims	Caucasian
Age of victims	Between the ages of 5-16
Method of killing	Strangulation
Type of serial killer	Disorganized thrill.
How close did killer live?	He drove a delivery van to kidnap each victim.
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No.
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No.
Weapon	There was no information to indicate a weapon he used to strangle his victims.
<b>Behavior During Crimes</b>	
Rape?	Yes.
Tortured victims?	Yes; Sarah Harper was the only of the three victims to have enough lack of decomposition at the time she was discovered to find any forensic evidence—her vagina and anus had been violently explored pre-mortem.
Stalked victims?	No.
Overkill?	Yes. Black violently explored Sarah Harper's vagina and anus.
Quick & efficient?	No. Black drove the victims to a location that was up to 300 miles from where he took them, which would have been very

	time consuming.
Used blindfold?	No.
Bound the victims?	Yes. When arrested, he had attempted to kidnap Mandy Wilson. She was found in the back of his van and was bound and gagged (with Elastoplast).
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	No.
Left at scene, hidden	No.
Left at scene, buried	No.
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes. Sarah Harper was found in a river; Caroline Hogg and Susan Maxwell were found in ditches or lay-bys. All of the victims were found within 26 miles of each other and all of them were 300 miles away from where they had been taken. There was no real attempt to hide the bodies.
Moved, buried	No.
Cut-up and disposed of	No.
Moved, too home	No.
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	July 14, 1990; Black was seen attempting to kidnap Mandy Wilson and was caught before he could do anything more than tie her up, gag her and put her in a sleeping bag. He was tried on this charge, convicted and given a life sentence. He then was charged with the three murders.
Date convicted	May 19, 1994
Sentence	10 life sentences.
Killer executed?	No.
Did killer plead NGRI?	No.
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Wakefield Prison, Leeds, England
Killer committed suicide?	No.
Killer killed in prison?	No.
Date of death	N/A

## References

Crime Library: Criminal Minds and Methods

[http://www.crimelibrary.com/serialkillers/predators/black/violence\\_1.html](http://www.crimelibrary.com/serialkillers/predators/black/violence_1.html)

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Wikipedia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Black\\_\(murderer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Black_(murderer))