

Joel Rifkin



Information researched and summarized by
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Date	Age	Life Event
01-20-1959	0	Born in New York
1959	3 weeks	Was adopted by Bernard and Jeanne Rifkin, a childless couple from upstate New York, named him Joel David Rifkin.
1962	3	Parents adopted another child, a girl they called Jan.
1965	6	Moved to Garden Street in East Meadow.
		Joel was enrolled into Prospect Avenue Elementary School
		From day one Joel experienced problems, was teased in school for his slouching posture and nicknamed "the turtle"
		Started to collect things such as sandstone, basalt, limestone, clay, and coal.
1967	8	Enjoyed photography & doing handy-craft.
1970	11	His parents told him he was adopted.
1977	18	Graduated high school.
		Had intercourse for the first time
1984	25	Went to Nassau Community College and dropped out with earning only 12 credits.
1987	28	Father committed suicide by overdose of barbiturates due to the pain of prostate cancer.
August 1987		Arrested in Hempstead for soliciting sex from an undercover policewoman
1988	29	Enrolled in a 2-year horticulture study program at the State College of Technology in Farmingdale, NY. Made straight A's for two consecutive semesters. For his good work, he was rewarded an internship at the Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, NY.
1989	30	Picked up a girl named "Susie" who was a drug addict, had sex with her but she kept requesting more drugs, Rifkin grew angry and repeatedly hit her over the head with a howitzer shell. He finally killed her by strangulation or smothering. Dismembered her body and placed in garbage bags and then drove to New Jersey and discarded the remains in the woods, and some in the river in Manhattan.
03-05-1989		Remains of Susie were found by an individual playing golf.
1990	31	Picked up Julie Blackbird (WF) and had sex with her, later he hit her on the head with a table leg, left her in the basement and the next day bought cement

		and a knife and dismembered her body and placed it in the cement, then he dropped it into different parts of the Hudson River. Her remains were never found.
07-13-1991	32	Brought home Barbara Jacobs (31) for sex, when she fell asleep he clubbed her with the same table leg used on Julie Blackbird, he then disposed of her body in the Hudson River. She actually fought back. She was found hours later, but her death was blamed on a drug overdose.
09-01-1991		Mary Ellen Deluca (WF, 22) was picked up by Rifkin, rushed through sex with him and he asked her if she wanted to die and she said yes, so he strangled her to death, she never fought back. He left her body at a rest stop outside Cornwall. She was found on October 1 st .
September-1991		Rifkin picked up Yun Lee (AF, 31), a prostitute he had been with before. He failed to perform and struck her on impulse, strangling her to death, she was dropped into the East River. Found on September 23 rd .
12-26-1991		Lorraine Orvieto (HF, 28) was strangled by Rifkin. Her body was placed in an oil drum and thrown into Coney Island Creek to hide the evidence. Her body was recovered 6 months later.
01-02-1992		Rifkin found Mary-Ann Holloman (WF, 39) walking along the street late one night and picked her up. He then strangled her and placed her body in an oil drum once again.
April 1992	33	Met Iris Sanchez (HF, 25), a crack addict and prostitute. Strangled her during sex. Covered her body with an old mattress and dropped her fully clothed body in a field near JFK International
05-25-1992		Met Anna Lopez (HF, 33), a cocaine addict and prostitute. Picked her up, paid her for sex and then strangled her. Dropped her body off in the woods in Putnam County off I84 in Brewster.
1992		Met prostitute Violet O'Neill (WF, 21). Took her to his mother's house, strangled her, and dismembered her in the bathtub. Threw her remains in the waters surrounding Manhattan. Torso was later recovered in the Hudson River.
July 1992		No-Name #1, they call her the "Jane Doe" victim." Again, Rifkin picked up her along the side of the road, slept with her, and then strangled her around the neck. Her body was placed in an oil drum and dumped into Netown Creek.
July 1992		Holloman's body found in Coney Island Creek, the same location as Lorraine Orvieto. Her body was recovered 2 days before Orvieto's.
1992		No-Name #2 was picked up by Rifkin, had sex with her, and then strangled her. He placed her body in an oil drum and dumped into the Harlem River.
10-02-1992		Picked up Mary Catherine Williams (WF, 31), whom he had previously dated. Smothered her in the car after trying to strangle her while passed out.
11-16-1992		Killed Jenny Soto (HF, 23). Traces of cocaine were found in her body. She fought for life by kicking and scratching so hard that she broke all 10 fingernails clawing at him. She had taken a long time to die, so Joel had to snap her neck. Police think she was killed at about 2 a.m. He dropped the body over a rocky cliff, landing at the edge of Harlem River at the foot of Lincoln Ave. Discovered at 8:00 am wearing only a red and orange striped shirt. Her large gold shell earrings and wallet full of pictures of her boyfriend were missing. Her panties and drug syringe were found in Joel's room after he was arrested. Two days after the body was identified, the police resigned the case. Astonished by Jenny's fight for life, Joel took a break for 15 weeks before killing his next victim.
12-21-1992	Body of Mary Catherine Williams was found.	

02-27-1993	34	Killed Leah Evans (WF, 20) who had two children and was out working the streets for drugs. She had dark brown hair and was 95lbs and 4'9. Joel offered her \$40.00 for sex, and when it was over, he strangled her. Dug a shallow grave in Hidden Hill Farm in Northampton. Joel had taken her Drivers License and employee ID card.
04-02-1993		Killed Lauren Marquez (HF, 28) who was a tall, thin 28 years old from Tennessee. He admitted that he does not remember taking a souvenir. Immediately after starting sex he grabbed her neck and strangled her. After she died, he deposited her body in the Suffolk County Pine Barrens.
05-09-1993		Koreans looking for herbs in a field saw a hand sticking out of the ground, which later proved to be Leah Evan's body.
06-24-1993		Killed Tiffany Brescani (WF, 22) who was a heroine addict from Louisiana. She was his second hooker of the night, and drove her to a parking lot and strangled her at 5:30 a.m. After he killed her, he headed home and stopped along the way to buy rope and tarp of which he wrapped her in and put her in the truck of his mother's car. After the scare that his mother would discover the body when she went on a 30 minute shopping trip, he put her body in a wheelbarrow in his garage where it laid for 3 days.
06-27-1993		Officers Sean Ruane and Deborah Spaargaren noticed Joel's truck had no license plate and attempted to pull the driver over. Joel got nervous and tried to outrun the police, and eventually crashed into a tree. When the officers got to the truck to meet the driver, they noticed Tiffany Brescani's body in the back of his truck underneath a tarp.
06-28-1993		Interrogation began at 8:25 a.m. Rifkin supposedly asked for counsel but was denied by interrogators. Admitted to all 17 murders and gave descriptive details of the events and locations. All testimony was presented in court.
06-29-1993		Led police to the body of Iris Sanchez.
11-08-1993		Hearing began to be heard by Judge Ira Wexner.
05-09-1994	35	Found guilty of nine murders and sentenced to 203 years to life.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	Confessed to 17, convicted of 9
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	New York
Type of killer	Organized lust
Height	6'2"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	January 20, 1959
Location	New York
Birth order	First
Number of siblings	1, sister
XYY?	No
Raised by	Adoptive Parents
Birth category	Oldest
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	Death of father
Age of family event	28
Problems in school?	Yes, had a slouching posture and slow gate, lacked athletic

	ability and confidence.
Teased while in school?	Yes, ever since age 6, because of his posture, nicknamed "the turtle"
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	Slouched and walked slow
Speech defect?	Dyslexia, would stutter when first starting to talk
Head injury?	None documented
Physically abused?	None documented
Psychologically abused?	Yes, by father, father was very athletic and tried to get Joel to join in but Joel could not play sports, that left Joel feeling incompetent
Sexually abused?	None documented
Father's occupation	Structural Engineer at Brookhaven National Laboratory
Age of first sexual experience	Not documented.
Age when first had intercourse	1977, senior year of high school, after parents bought him a car.
Mother's occupation	Stay-at-home mom, until her children were older and then she became a Recreational Therapist
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	Graduated high school, went to college but dropped out in 1984.
Highest degree	High school diploma
Grades in school	Did poorly in school
IQ	128 or 130
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	
Type of discharge	
Saw combat duty	
Killed enemy during service?	
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Yes, from Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, NY
Types of jobs worked	Odd jobs around Long Island, Landscaping, Horticulturalist
Employment status during series	Employed at Dunhill Temporary Systems
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	Mother and sister
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No

Diagnosis	N/A
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Was arrested for soliciting sex from an undercover policewoman in August 1987.
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	Admitted to 17, only convicted of 9
Victim type	Prostitutes
Killer age at start of series	30
Gender of victims	Female
Race of victims	9 White, 5 Hispanic, 1 Asian
Age of victims	20, 21, 22(2), 23, 25, 28(2), 31(3), 33, 39
Method of killing	Strangled, and used blunt objects
Type of serial killer	Organized lust
How close did killer live?	Drove and picked up the prostitutes, then buried them in the close area.
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes, a few were in his mother's house
Weapon	Used his hands and blunt objects
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?	Yes
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	Yes, found 228 items in his room taken from the victims
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	No
Moved, buried	Yes
Cut-up and disposed of	Yes
Moved, too home	Yes
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	June 27, 1993
Date convicted	1994
Sentence	203 years to life
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	Yes

Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Name and state of prison	Clinton, NY correctional Facility
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	Still alive

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