

**Stephen Griffiths**  
*“The Crossbow Cannibal”*



Information researched and summarized by  
*Amber Patton, Jennifer Carter, & Hillary Dolloff*

Department of Psychology  
 Radford University  
 Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
12/24/1969	0	Born in Batley West Yorkshire
08/1972	3	His sister Caroline was born
1974	5	Father had successful promotion and bought a private property
02/1976	7	His brother Phillip was born
01/1982	13	His parents divorced
1982	13	His parents pooled their money and sent him to the private, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield
1986	17	Stephen left Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
1987	18	Stephen distances himself from his family
Spring 1987	18	He is caught shoplifting and slashes the manager across the face
6/1987	18	He is sentenced for three years in youth custody
1988	19	He is released from custody and left his family
1988	19	He was given a flat in Manningham and enrolled in psychology at Bradford College
9/1989	20	Was brought before the Bradford Court for possession of an air pistol and sentenced to 100 hours of community service
5/1991	22	He was sent to Rampton Hospital where he was diagnosed with a personality disorder
1991	22	He was diagnosed to be a sadistic, schizoid psychopath
1/1992	23	He was sentenced to two years in Leeds prison
09/12/1992	23	Yvonne Fitt's body is found in a shallow grave at Northwood Edge with her body bound and stabbed to death. One of Griffiths' suspected murders
Spring 1993	24	He was released from his sentence at Leeds

5/1994	25	Dawn Shields's body is found in a shallow grave in Derbyshire strangled to death. Another of Griffiths' suspected murders
Autumn 1997	28	Griffith begins his Bachelor of Science degree at Leeds University
1994-1998	Late 20's	He begins a relationship with Leigh Miller and ends it eight months later. Difficulty in their sexual life.
1998	29	He meets Zeta Pinder and they date for the next two years. He lies about where he is living. Had difficulty in their sexual life.
1999	30	He is in a relationship with Amanda Judson that lasted until 2001
5/2000	31	Gemma Simpson disappeared near Leeds after a rowing trip with her sister. Griffith is suspected of kidnapping and killing her.
2/2000	31	He begins a relationship with Kathy Hancock.
2/2001	32	He and Kathy's relationship ended. He begins to mentally and physically torture her.
Spring 2001	32	Kathy finds out she is pregnant and a few months later finds out she is going to lose the baby.
04/26/2001	32	Rebecca Hall's body is found beaten to death two weeks after she disappeared. Griffith is suspected of this murder.
11/2001	32	Michaela Hague's body is found stabbed to death in Sheffield City Centre. Griffith is suspected of her murder
2001-2009	Mid thirties	He begins to drink heavily, take cocaine and amphetamines, and download violent pornography from the internet
2003	34	Griffith earns a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Leeds University
Autumn 2004	35	He enrolls at the University of Bradford for a Ph.D.
1/2009	39	Griffith is given a conditional discharge from Wakefield for harassment
06/22/2009	39	The last time Susan Rushworth is seen in Manningham (First in his series). Her body was never found
04/26/2010	40	The last time Shelley Armitage is seen in Bradford (second victim in the series).
05/21/2010	40	Suzanne Blamires (third in the series) disappears from Allerton. Griffith is caught on tape killing her and shows off afterwards.
05/26/2010	40	Griffith is taken into custody for questioning on the murders.
05/27/2010	40	Body parts of Blamires and Armitage are confirmed after being found in the river. Griffith is charged with the murders of Rushworth, Blamires, and Armitage
12/21/2010	40	Griffith pleads guilty to three murders and is sentenced to life in prison

### General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	3 convicted, at least 5 others suspected
Country where killing occurred	England
States where killing occurred	Wakefield
Cities where killing occurred	Bradford
Type of killer	Hedonist
Height	6'0"

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	12/24/1969
Location	Batley, West Yorkshire
Birth order	1 <sup>st</sup> of 3
Number of siblings	4 - 2 of which are half siblings
XY??	Unknown
Raised by	Both parents until parents divorced, then just his mother
Birth category	Oldest child
Parent's marital status	Married but divorced while young

Did serial killer spend time in an orphanage?	No
Did serial killer spend time in a foster home?	No
Was serial killer ever raised by a relative?	No
Did serial killer ever live with adopted family?	No
Did serial killer live with a step-parent?	
Family event	Divorce
Age of family event	13
Problems in school?	Yes
Teased while in school?	Yes
Physically attractive?	Yes
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	
Physically abused?	
Psychologically abused?	Yes, he watched his mother have sex with multiple men in their garden that was in the backyard of their home and in plain sight
Sexually abused?	
Father's occupation	Frozen food salesman
Age when first had intercourse	Late 20's
Mother's occupation	Telephonist
Father abused drugs/alcohol	
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Yes
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	
Highest degree	Attended Bradford College, degree in Psychology at Leeds University, working on a PhD in criminology at the University of Bradford with a focused study on homicide and serial killers at the time of arrest
Grades in school	
IQ	
Source of IQ information	
<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?	No, never had a job
Types of jobs worked	None
Employment status during series	Unemployed
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	One but was lost in miscarriage
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	Alone
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	Yes, skinned and tortured birds in order to harm them
Fire setting	No

Bed wetting	No
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	Yes
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)?	
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	Yes, in Waddiloves Hospital, Rampton Special Hospital, and as an outpatient at Newton Lodge Hospital
Diagnosis	Yes, sadistic schizoid psychopath, but possibility of a personality disorder
<b>Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spent time in jail?	Yes
Spent time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	Did not admit to murders, but is suspected of them
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims (suspected of)	At least 8
Number of victims (confessed to)	3
Number of victims (convicted of)	3
Victim type	Prostitutes, women with alcohol or drug problems
Killer age at start of series	39
Killer age at end of series	40
Date of first kill in series	June 22, 2009
Date of final kill in series	May 21, 2010
Gender of victims	Female
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	Women in the series: Rushworth (43), Armitage (31), and Blamires (36) Women suspected of murdering: Hague (25), Hall (19), Simpson (24), Shields (19), Fitt (33), and Lawrence(36)
Type of victim	Prostitutes, drug addicts
Method of killing	Used a crossbow for the women in the series. The women that Griffiths' is suspected of killing before the series consist of being stabbed to death, beaten to death, strangled to death, or bound and stabbed to death
Weapon	Crossbow, knife, items to strangle, bare hands
Was gun used?	No
Type	
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	
Sex of partner	
Relationship of partner	
Type of serial killer	Organized
How close did killer live?	Walking distance to crimes in the series (chose the location of his flat to be near red light areas)
Location of first contact	
Location of killing	Suspected to be inside his flat
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Abducted
<b>Behavior During Crimes</b>	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	

Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes
Quick & efficient?	
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	One of the suspected victims
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	Yes
Ate part of the body?	Yes, admitted to cooking the flesh of the first two victims and eating it but then ate the flesh of the third victim raw
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	Yes, suspected to have placed one of the victims to fondle her buttocks and wrote sex slave on her back
Took totem – body part	
Took totem – personal item	
Robbed victim or location	
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, hidden	Yes
Moved, buried	Suspected of hiding a body under the pavement outside of his flat
Cut-up and disposed of	Yes, parts of the body
Burned body	Suspected to have burned one victim's body
Dumped body in lake, river, etc.	Yes
Moved, took home	
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	May 26, 2010
Date convicted	December 21, 2010
Sentence	Life in prison
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Did serial killer confess?	Yes, to the 3 murders in his series
Name and state of prison	Wakefield Prison
Killer committed suicide?	Attempted multiple times in prison
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	Still alive
Cause of death	N/A

## References

- Unknown Author. (2011). Crossbow Cannibal Stephen Griffiths 'skin and bones' following hunger strike. *The Telegraph*. Retrieved 5 Oct 2011.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8238729/Crossbow-Cannibal-Stephen-Griffiths-skin-and-bones-following-hunger-strike.html>
- Dixon, Cyril (2011). *The crossbow cannibal: The Definitive Story of Stephen Griffiths-The Self-Made Serial Killer*. London, England: John Blake Publishing Ltd.
- Dalrymple, Theodore(2011). Murder Most Academic: A British Ph.D. candidate puts "homicide studies" into practice. *City Journal*, 21(2), (1-4).
- Stokes,Paul & Rayner Gordon(2010). Crossbow cannibal: killer diagnosed as a psychopath 19 years ago: Questions remain over how many victims Stephen Griffiths may have claimed as self-confessed serial killer. *The Telegraph*. Retrieved 21 September 2011.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8218550>
- Bath, R. (2010) Stephen Griffiths trial: Shadow of the ripper. *News Scotsman*. Retrieved 30 Sept 2011.  
<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/Stephen-Griffiths-trial-shadow-of.6329074.jp>
- Brooke, C., Tozer, J., & Narin, J. (2010) 'My Shelley's mutilated body is probably in that rucksack': Father of Crossbow Cannibal victim tells of trauma after seeing CCTV killer. *Daily Mail*. Retrieved 27 Sept 2011. <http://dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1340673/corssbow-cannibal-Stephen-Girffiths-told-officers-intended-muder-women.html>
- Author Unkown.(2010)'More human remains found in river near 'crossbow cannibal' Stephen Griffith's flat. *Daily Mail*. Retrieved 21 September 2011. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1282420>
- Carter, H. (2010). Stephen Griffiths: The self-styled demon who drew inspiration from serial killers. *The Guardian*. Retrieved 13 Sept 2011. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/2010/dec/21/Stephen-Griffiths-Crossbow-Canibal-Profile>
- Taylor, Alastair (2010). Crossbow Cannibal: I've killed loads more. *The Sun*. Retrieved 21 Sept 2011.  
<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/331359>
- Photo: <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/3315484/Cops-fear-Crossbow-Cannibal-Stephen-Griffiths-toll-of-murder-victims-may-be-14.html>