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JEFFREY

DAHMER

Serial Murder,

Necrophilia,

and Cannibalism

On September 26, 1988, twenty-eight-year-old Jeffrey Dahmer went hunting on the streets of Milwaukee. His quarry? A teenage boy he could sexually molest and perhaps kill. After a number of street-wise youths spurned Dahmer's offer of fifty dollars for the chance to take nude photographs of them in his nearby apartment, one youngster, Anoukone Sinthasomphone, a thirteen-year-old Laotian boy, agreed to the deal.

Once in the tiny apartment, Dahmer persuaded him to remove some of his clothes and pose on the bed. Dahmer took Polaroid photos, fondled the boy's penis, kissed his stomach, and offered him an alcoholic drink laced with a powerful prescription sleep medication. Though drugged and incoherent, the boy managed to get out of Dahmer's apartment and find his way home, where his parents noticed his condition and took him for medical care.

Before long, Anoukone explained what happened and identified Dahmer as his abuser. Dahmer was arrested early the next morning and charged with second-degree sexual assault and enticement of a child for immoral purposes. After entering a plea of not guilty, Dahmer was released on \$10,000 bail to await further proceedings.

Over the next several months, while Dahmer was on bail, authorities had a chance to get to know him better. His criminal record revealed that six years earlier he had been charged with lewd and lascivious behavior for masturbat-

ing publicly in front of a group of children at the Wisconsin State Fair. Though Dahmer claimed that he was simply urinating, he was convicted, fined, and sentenced to one year of probation. Authorities also learned that, earlier in 1988, an Illinois man had complained to the police that he had met Dahmer in a gay bar, gone home with him, been drugged, and awakened to find his money and jewelry missing. This time no charges were brought because the police bought Dahmer's explanation: the man had simply gotten too drunk to go home and had slept off his intoxication until Dahmer courteously walked him to a bus stop and gave him a dollar for the fare.

Though Dahmer eventually pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting and enticing Anoukone Sinthasomphone, he never really admitted to any sexual contact with the thirteen-year-old victim. He claimed he had no idea that Anoukone was a minor, denied touching his penis or kissing him, and claimed that the drugging must have occurred accidentally when the boy drank out of a cup Dahmer had earlier used to take sleep medication but failed to clean thoroughly. As Dahmer told it, he had simply paid a young man fifty dollars to pose for some photographs.

Prior to sentencing for this offense, Dahmer was evaluated by three psychologists, all of whom concluded that Dahmer was a manipulative alcohol abuser who lacked insight and motivation for treatment.¹ One concluded that Dahmer might suffer from a schizoid personality disorder, the hallmarks of which are "detachment from social relationships and a restricted range of emotional expression."²

Another psychologist, however, was monitoring Dahmer while on bail and felt that the accused sex offender was making some progress. According to this psychologist, Dahmer had "begun to come out of his shell" and was "more verbal, amiable, and relaxed . . . less lethargic . . . more willing to interact . . . instead of staying home constantly."³

In May 1989, Dahmer was finally sentenced for the September 1988 assault and enticement. The prosecution asked for a prison sentence, arguing that Dahmer preyed on children, was likely to re-offend, and suffered from "extreme emotional instability" that was not amenable to treatment outside of prison.⁴ Dahmer's defense attorney argued for leniency, acknowledging that Dahmer was "sick" and needed treatment but arguing that "the kinds of things that Jeff Dahmer needs are more available through the probation department with a very strong prison sentence withheld and a very long period of probation."⁵ Dahmer, himself, begged the judge to "please spare my job . . . please don't destroy my life."⁶ Responding to the prosecutor's argument that he was not motivated to change and would likely re-offend if not locked up, Dahmer told the judge: "I do want help. . . . This one incident had

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jolted me like nothing else. . . . I desperately want to change my conduct for the rest of my life."⁷

By the time he passed sentence on Jeffrey Dahmer, Judge William Gardner knew that Dahmer was a long-time alcohol abuser with at least two sexual offenses against children, that several mental health experts had examined Dahmer and seen little if any hope that he could be turned around, and that Dahmer's own father had asked the court to lock him up at least until he could receive adequate treatment for his alcohol and sexual problems. What neither the judge nor anyone other than the defendant knew was that the charges stemming from the 1978 assault on Anoukone Sinthasomphone were only the tip of an ever-growing iceberg of sex crimes committed and to be committed by Jeffrey Dahmer.

Not knowing that Dahmer had already sexually assaulted and killed five men (ages fourteen to forty-eight) over the preceding eleven years, including one man Dahmer murdered just two months earlier while on bail awaiting this sentencing, Judge Gardner ignored the psychological findings, said he could see no reason to send Dahmer to prison, and told the budding serial killer: "You'd come out [of prison] probably worse than you are right now."⁸ Dahmer faced a combined maximum sentence of ten years in prison, but on the sexual assault charge the judge imposed a sentence of only five years' probation plus one year in a work-release program. Under this order, Dahmer would sleep in a jail dormitory for twelve months but be allowed to continue working at his night-shift job in a local candy factory. For enticing a child for immoral purposes, the judge imposed a sentence of three years probation, to run concurrently with the five-year probationary term imposed for the assault.

Ten months later, Dahmer was released from all confinement and told to see a probation officer weekly, seek counseling, and stay away from minors. Within a few months of his release, Dahmer would resume his killing ways, embarking upon a yearlong string of at least a dozen more sex killings. In each of these murders, Dahmer's modus operandi was essentially the same. Meeting his male victims (who ranged in age from fourteen to thirty-three) in gay bars, bathhouses, and other homosexual gathering places, Dahmer would invite the men to his apartment, offering them money in exchange for sex or photographs. Once there, the men would be drugged (with five or six sleeping pills crushed and stirred into drinks), sexually molested, killed, further sexually abused post-mortem, and finally cut into pieces which were either stored in the apartment or cooked and eaten by the serial killer.

Amazingly, Dahmer was able to successfully carry out these killings without even becoming a suspect until he was arrested in July 1991. Only

once in the course of killing a dozen men after serving his work-release sentence did Dahmer even come close to being apprehended. On May 27, 1991, Dahmer lured fourteen-year-old Konerak Sinthasomphone to his Milwaukee apartment. Ironically and tragically, Konerak was the younger brother of Anoukone Sinthasomphone, the thirteen-year-old Laotian boy Dahmer had sexually assaulted three years earlier.

With both Sinthasomphone brothers, Dahmer's modus operandi was the same. Like his brother, Konerak was lured to Dahmer's apartment with a promise of money if he would pose for photographs. Konerak, who already had a juvenile record for prostitution, followed Dahmer without question. Konerak posed for Dahmer in his bikini briefs, watched a video, and passed out after consuming a drink laced with sedatives. Satisfied that his young victim would be unconscious for awhile, Dahmer left the apartment to buy beer. While Dahmer was gone, however, the Laotian boy revived and fled the apartment. Neighbors who spotted Konerak on the run immediately contacted the Milwaukee police.

Officers responded with a patrol car and an ambulance to find the boy bruised, naked, drugged, and incoherent. By the time they arrived, however, Dahmer was back and standing at Konerak's side. Dahmer explained that Konerak was staying with him, had too much to drink, and had started to act irrationally. As Dahmer put it, "He's nineteen. We live together, right here at 924. We're boyfriends, if you know what I mean."⁹ Dahmer showed legitimate identification to the officers, who concluded that this was a "domestic situation" requiring no further police action.¹⁰

Over the protests of neighbors who complained that Konerak was "just a boy" and "badly hurt,"¹¹ the officers escorted Dahmer and his victim back to Dahmer's apartment, where they found Konerak's clothing neatly folded. Apparently to prove that he actually had a sexual relationship with Konerak, Dahmer boldly showed the police the photos he had just taken, Polaroid pictures of the fourteen-year-old posed in his bikini underwear. The police officers never bothered to check to see if Dahmer had any criminal record. Nor did they follow up on the foul odor emanating from the bedroom of Dahmer's two-room apartment, where the three-day-old corpse of his latest victim lay decomposing.

Once the police left, Dahmer strangled Konerak Sinthasomphone, sodomized his corpse, took additional photos, and then dismembered the boy's body. Sadly, when Dahmer's neighbors called the police again about an hour later to inquire about the child's safety and whereabouts, an officer told them that Konerak "wasn't a child" but "an adult" and that he had been returned to his "boyfriend."¹² When the caller persisted, the officer added, "I can't do any-

thing about somebody's sexual preference of the disappearance of Konerak Sinthasomphone in the newspaper, the same neighbor would report her belief that Konerak was the brother of the boy who lived with Dahmer. Neither agency took any action.

Two months and four murders later, Dahmer's killing spree came to an abrupt end, not through the part of the police but quite by chance. A money-for-modeling pitch to Tracy Edwards agreed and readily accompanied Dahmer on his usual successful routine of sedating his victims. He suddenly handcuffed one of Edwards's victims and showed him a human skull, and told him that he would be held for a week. After about four hours of being held at Kerner Plaza, he was punched and a kick that enabled him to flee a passing police car.

Two officers listened to the strange tale, handcuffed him, and then accompanied him back to his apartment to see for themselves whether he was exaggerating. When they looked around, the officers almost immediately saw horrors: drawers full of photos of mutilated victims, pornography featuring these victims, and a severed human head and a severed hand in drawers, closets, and coolers jammed with drawers, and other body parts; and a shelf lined with more body parts.

Charged with multiple counts of murder, Dahmer admitted killing seven victims, including a fifteen-year-old man he killed, dismembered, and ate. He told one agent, like filet mignon.

Authorities suspected that Dahmer was the son of John Walsh, creator of the television show *America's Most Wanted*. Adam Walsh was just six years old when he disappeared in 1981 from a Hollywood, Florida mall.

was known to have been in the area at the time of this killing. In fact, one witness claimed to have seen Dahmer at the mall the very day Adam was kidnapped. Questioned at length, Dahmer denied this killing or any others, except the seventeen to which he had already confessed.

Even taking Dahmer at his word, why would he have committed such a gruesome series of crimes—homicides in which he not only drugged and killed his victims, but also had sex with, dismembered, and even ate portions of their dead bodies? That question was, of course, immediately on the minds of the police investigating Dahmer's crimes, but it also became a national puzzle when media across the country began reporting on the exploits of the "Milwaukee Cannibal." The need to answer that question took on even greater urgency for Gerald Boyle, who had been Dahmer's defense attorney in the Anoukone Sinthasomphone case and would now represent the accused serial killer.

As the police, defense counsel, media, and the public at large would soon learn, Jeffrey Dahmer's background had given perhaps some clues that he might one day become a violent sex criminal but, for the most part, there was little in his development to suggest that he was destined to become one of America's worst serial murderers.

Dahmer grew up the older of two boys in an apparently normal middle-class family in a suburban home set on a couple of acres near Akron, Ohio. His father was an engineer with a doctorate who earned a good living. His mother may have suffered some emotional problems but, if so, they were minor in nature. A probation report would later say that Dahmer had been sexually abused by a neighbor at the age of eight, but both he and his father vehemently denied that claim. Most who knew him growing up regarded Dahmer as a normal youngster, though in retrospect some recalled him as a bit "weird."¹⁴ For instance, as a boy he reportedly collected insects and preserved them in jars of formaldehyde, may have demonstrated cruelty to small animals, possibly started several fires, and was regarded as the class clown. But the single definitive youthful predictor of future trouble emerged only once Dahmer had reached high school. By then, though he never posed any disciplinary problems, it was clear to many that Dahmer already had a serious alcohol abuse problem, a growing obsession exacerbated by his parents' divorce when he was a senior.

What observers of Dahmer's youth did not know, however, was that from about the age of thirteen on he struggled with the growing realization that he was gay and that, by the time he left home for college, he was already a murderer. At age seventeen, Dahmer had picked up a hitchhiker of roughly the

same age, lured the young man to his home, then dismembered and buried his remains.

Not long after his first killing, Dahmer dropped out of college. Failing as a college student, his university. Failing as a college student, his Dahmer dropped out of school and joined the Army after a series of alcohol-related incidents as an untreatable alcoholic.

Dahmer started his post-military career on one occasion drinking blood at a party. In 1981, after a year he was laid off and began his career in Milwaukee. He was hired at the State Fair in 1982. At the fair, Dahmer found work as a mixer at a Milwaukee bar. He would maintain steadily for years, even long after beginning this job, Dahmer continued to expose himself and masturbation and probation carried with it an onerous record. He merely went through the motions as to what was to come.

Steadily employed and with little else to do, Dahmer frequented gay bars in Milwaukee and committed his second known homicide. This man, whom he met in a gay bar and for sex, Dahmer always claimed he could not remember carrying the man's body to his grandmother's house in a large suitcase. He dumped the body, skinned and dismembered it, and threw it in the trash.

Two months later, Dahmer began luring men to his apartment by offering them sex. What would be the first of another fifteen men, Dahmer and dismembered a Native American teen at the Milwaukee bus station.

And so it went for the next three and a half years, which began slowly, escalated rapidly, especially in the last months before he was arrested, Dahmer killed four of whom he killed within a span of a few days.

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same age, lured the young man to his home, beaten and strangled him, and then dismembered and buried his remains in the back yard.

Not long after his first killing, Dahmer began attending Ohio State University. Failing as a college student, his drinking getting beyond his control, Dahmer dropped out of school and joined the Army. Less than two years later, after a series of alcohol-related incidents, Dahmer was discharged from the Army as an untreatable alcoholic.

Dahmer started his post-military career as a phlebotomist, drawing (and on one occasion drinking) blood at a plasma center in Milwaukee. Within a year he was laid off and began his career as a criminal defendant after exposing himself at the State Fair in 1982. After several years of unemployment, Dahmer found work as a mixer at a Milwaukee chocolate factory, a job he would maintain steadily for years, even while becoming a serial killer. Not long after beginning this job, Dahmer found himself in trouble again, once more exposing himself and masturbating in public. Though his 1986 conviction and probation carried with it an order that he undergo psychotherapy, he merely went through the motions and few if anyone could have foreseen what was to come.

Steadily employed and with little else to occupy his time, Dahmer began frequenting gay bars in Milwaukee and Chicago. In November 1987, he committed his second known homicide. Though Dahmer later admitted killing this man, whom he met in a gay bar and accompanied to a nearby hotel room for sex, Dahmer always claimed he could not recall how the man died. Dahmer did, however, remember carrying the man's body from the hotel room to his grandmother's house in a large suitcase. There, he told authorities, he masturbated over the body, skinned and dismembered it, and deposited the remains in the trash.

Two months later, Dahmer began his longstanding modus operandi of luring men to his apartment by offering them money to pose nude for him. In what would be the first of another fifteen similar slayings, Dahmer strangled and dismembered a Native American teenager he had met earlier outside the Milwaukee bus station.

And so it went for the next three and a half years. Dahmer's killing spree, which began slowly, escalated rapidly, especially toward the end. In the last six months before he was arrested, Dahmer took the lives of eight men—the last four of whom he killed within a span of about twenty days.

Faced with trying to understand the unfathomable (how any sane human being could possibly murder seventeen men and boys, then sodomize, dismember, and, in some cases, eat parts of their dead bodies), the attorneys

charged with prosecuting and defending Jeffrey Dahmer looked to mental health professionals for answers and assistance. What they got from a team of three psychologists and four psychiatrists was a classic "battle of the experts": some opining that Dahmer had clearly been insane (unable to appreciate the wrongfulness of his conduct or unable to conform his conduct to the requirements of law) when he killed his victims while others concluded that he did not even suffer from a major mental illness, much less legal insanity.

Dr. Kenneth Smail, a Milwaukee court psychologist who spent more time than any other expert examining Dahmer, concluded that Dahmer was competent to stand trial but did not offer an opinion at trial regarding Dahmer's sanity or lack thereof. Smail reportedly saw Dahmer as a man whose "sensory functioning was not impaired . . . [who] could think logically . . . [showed] no gross impairment in his emotional functioning [and] could delay gratification, set goals and problem solve with relative effectiveness."¹⁵ While such a finding would not be consistent with a conclusion that Dahmer had been insane, according to one expert who did testify at trial, Smail had written that his testing of Dahmer revealed "the possibility of a major mental illness, either of the quality of a schizophrenic disorder or a major affective disorder."¹⁶

The expert who quoted Dr. Smail's report was a Chicago psychiatrist, Dr. Carl Wahlstrom, who was retained by and testified for the defense. Wahlstrom found Dahmer to be a man "with a long history of serious mental illness which was essentially untreated."¹⁷ He testified that Dahmer had performed a primitive sort of brain surgery on a number of his victims in an effort to "create a zombie to keep him company" and "remain his personal friend and possession."¹⁸ One of his victims, Dahmer had said, actually survived for two days after this "operation." As Dahmer explained to the psychiatrist: "I wanted to induce a permanent zombie-like state to make them pliable, obey my wishes, so they would be permanent, always with me, never leave my apartment. If they had their own thought processes they might remember that they had to leave, or (that they) lived somewhere else."¹⁹

According to Wahlstrom, Dahmer believed that eating parts of his victims' bodies would keep "them closer to him for a longer period of time" and kept their bones because he felt they "could endow him with magical powers."²⁰ Dahmer, he testified, also had explained that he wanted to build a temple to his victims in order to help him "get financial gain, perhaps success in the real estate market."²¹ Such thinking Wahlstrom characterized as "psychotic," part of a "bizarre delusional" system, and symptomatic of a borderline personality disorder, an illness sometimes characterized by transient psychotic episodes.²²

Two other mental professionals, booked for the defense. Dr. Fred Berlin, a psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins University, testified from necrophilia, a paraphilia or fetter for corpses. Other paraphilias include, for example to prepubescent children), exhibitionism (exposing one's genitals to others), transvestitism (cross-dressing), and voyeurism (sexual arousal from watching others nude, disrobing, or engaging in sexual acts).

As Berlin testified, paraphilias are recognized in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Calling necrophilia a "paraphilia," Berlin testified that Dahmer had "overpowering urges to kill and tried very hard not to give in to these urges."²³ "This is a love sickness," Berlin testified, "and it is a relationship with these people."²⁴

Also testifying for Dahmer was Dr. J. Michael Wetzler, a psychologist from the University of Arizona. Wetzler testified that Jeffrey Dahmer killed his victims because he was sexually aroused by sexual acts with either a total corpse or a living person.²⁵

While not unique, Becker told the jury that Dahmer's behavior was unusual. Citing 122 documented cases of necrophilia, fifteen of them, including Dahmer's, involved necrophilia. Becker added that Dahmer's penchant for necrophilia was a unique paraphilia that might be related to the Greek word for coma.²⁶ In any event, Becker testified that Dahmer was insane and that, while necrophilia is not fully treatable, it would be a "misdiagnosis" rather than a mental hospital where he would have spent his life.²⁷

The testimony of Wahlstrom, Berlin, and Becker, along with that of four other experts, two testified for the defense and two appointed by the court.

Dr. Frederick Fosdal, a psychiatrist in Milwaukee, testified as a frequent expert witness in the courts of Wisconsin. He testified that Dahmer had "a mental disease" but that this illness did not conform his conduct to the requirements of

ending Jeffrey Dahmer looked to mental assistance. What they got from a team of psychiatrists was a classic "battle of the experts": early on, some concluded that he had already been insane (unable to appreciate the consequences of his conduct to the requirements of the law) while others concluded that he did not have a mental illness, much less legal insanity.

Dr. Smail, a court psychologist who spent more time evaluating Dahmer, concluded that Dahmer did not offer an opinion at trial regarding his mental state. Smail reportedly saw Dahmer as a man whose judgment was impaired . . . [who] could think logically in his emotional functioning [and] could not solve problems with relative effectiveness."¹⁵ Inconsistent with a conclusion that Dahmer was insane, an expert who did testify at trial, Smail had previously revealed "the possibility of a major mental illness such as schizophrenic disorder or a major affective disorder."

Dr. Wahlstrom's report was a Chicago psychiatrist, Dr. Fred Berlin, who testified for the defense. Wahlstrom reviewed the history of serious mental illness which Dahmer had performed a primitive act on the bodies of his victims in an effort to "create a relationship with them that would remain his personal friend and possession." Wahlstrom had said, actually survived for two days after being killed. Wahlstrom explained to the psychiatrist: "I wanted to make them pliable, obey my wishes, and be with me, never leave my apartment. If they ever leave, they might remember that they had to be with me." ¹⁹

Dr. Wahlstrom believed that eating parts of his victims was a way for him to "create a relationship with them that would remain his personal friend and possession" and that they "could endow him with magical powers." Wahlstrom had explained that he wanted to build a relationship with Dahmer to help him "get financial gain, perhaps such as a relationship with Wahlstrom characterized as a 'parasitic' system, and symptomatic of a borderline personality disorder sometimes characterized by transient

Two other mental professionals, both experts on sexual disorder, testified for the defense. Dr. Fred Berlin, a psychiatrist who directed the sexual disorders clinic at Johns Hopkins University, diagnosed Dahmer as suffering from necrophilia, a paraphilia or fetish that involves sexual attraction to corpses. Other paraphilias include, for example, pedophilia (sexual attraction to prepubescent children), exhibitionism (deriving sexual satisfaction from exposing one's genitals to others), transvestism (deriving pleasure from cross-dressing), and voyeurism (sexual arousal from the surreptitious observation of others nude, disrobing, or engaging in an act of sex).

As Berlin testified, paraphilias are recognized as mental illnesses in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Calling necrophilia a "cancer of the mind," Berlin testified that Dahmer had "overpowering urges to kill to have sex with dead bodies" and tried "very hard not to give in to these urges" but was "beaten by the disease."²³ "This is a love sickness," Berlin added. "[Dahmer] wanted to sustain a relationship with these people."²⁴

Also testifying for Dahmer was Dr. Judith Becker, a clinical and research psychologist from the University of Arizona and a former member of the U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. Becker agreed that Dahmer had killed as a result of a mental illness he was unable to control: "I believe that Jeffrey Dahmer killed his victims because he is interested in engaging in sexual acts with either a total corpse or body parts of someone who is not living."²⁵

While not unique, Becker told the jury, Dahmer's case was extremely unusual. Citing 122 documented cases of necrophilia, she noted that only fifteen of them, including Dahmer's, involved actually killing sex partners. Becker added that Dahmer's penchant for having sex with comatose individuals was a unique paraphilia that might be described as "kumaphilia" based upon the Greek word for coma.²⁶ In any event, the psychologist testified that Dahmer was insane and that, while necrophilia does not appear to be successfully treatable, it would be a "miscarriage of justice" to send him to prison rather than a mental hospital where he would, in her view, spend the rest of his life.²⁷

The testimony of Wahlstrom, Berlin, and Becker was countered in whole or part by four other experts, two testifying for the prosecution and two appointed by the court.

Dr. Frederick Fosdal, a psychiatrist in private practice in Madison and a frequent expert witness in the courts of Wisconsin, testified that Dahmer had "a mental disease" but that this illness did not interfere with his ability to conform his conduct to the requirements of law or to appreciate the wrongfulness of his acts.

ness of his conduct. Thus, Fosdal concluded that Dahmer had not been insane at the time of the murders.

On cross-examination by Dahmer's attorney, Fosdal acknowledged that Dahmer said he drilled holes into the skulls of some of his victims and poured a chemical into the holes in a failed effort to "keep them around longer by making them zombie-like."²⁸ But the psychiatrist defended his opinion by stating that neither Dahmer's proposed altar nor his eating of various body parts reflected delusional thinking. Indeed, amazingly, Fosdal did not even regard Dahmer's effort to create a "zombie" as delusional:

[*Defense counsel:*] What about his desire to create a zombie? Do you consider that to be delusional thinking?

[*Dr. Fosdal:*] No, it was a very practical and reasonable attempt to achieve his aim.²⁹

Also testifying for the prosecution was Dr. Park Dietz, a forensic psychiatrist from California who had years earlier made his reputation by testifying in the trial of John W. Hinckley, Jr. (who had been charged with attempting to assassinate President Ronald Reagan). Dietz, a well-known and frequent witness for prosecutors across the country, testified that Dahmer suffered from several paraphilias, including necrophilia, but refused to say whether Dahmer suffered from an "abnormal condition of the mind."³⁰

Dietz downplayed the significance of Dahmer's necrophilia, telling the jury that neither necrophilia nor any other paraphilia would have rendered Dahmer unable to appreciate the wrongfulness of his acts or stop himself from committing them: "What the paraphilias do affect are sexual interests. But mental processes, the ability to think clearly and use logic, are untouched by the paraphilias."³¹

As the psychiatrist further explained his view of the matter, "Most paraphiles never act on their paraphilia in a criminal way. The paraphile is as free as any other human being to choose whether to commit a crime to gratify his wishes."³²

Dietz also argued that Dahmer's paraphilias, including necrophilia, had not driven him to commit his crimes. "There was no force pushing him to kill," Dietz testified. "There was merely a desire to spend more time with the victim."³³ Moreover, Dietz expressed the opinion that, in any event, "The intensity of his sexual urges at that point was less than many teenagers experience in back seats with their girlfriends."³⁴

Finally Dietz said that his opinion regarding Dahmer's sanity rested upon Dahmer's apparently calculated behavior. For example, Dietz observed, Dahmer committed all of the killings in private; used condoms when having sex

with the corpses; gave up on the idea of the cost of the necessary equipment; crushed his victims before luring them back to ultimately to destroy the evidence of his obliterate the various body parts he had c

Dr. George Palermo, a psychiatrist Health Center appointed by the court t the serial killer was "a sick person" but "Dahmer was suffering from "a very seri but was "not legally insane."³⁶ Palermo c and liar who may well have embellished as the mutilation and cannibalism, descri actually occurred.

Still, Palermo was not without a mod psychiatrist testified that "Jeffrey Dahme wanted to kill the source of his homosex gratified from the killing. He was afraid th such a bad person, even though he did w think he should receive treatment."³⁷

The other court-appointed expert, kee psychologist, agreed that Dahmer s disorder, which he characterized as a me Dahmer's killings were part of an effort i victims. Like his court-appointed colleag sympathetic to Dahmer's plight, telling t and pleasant to be with, courteous, with handsome and charming in a manner" an young man."³⁸ Also, like Palermo, Friedm mer: "I hope that something can be done certainly has the assets of youth and in however, the psychologist also concluded time of the killings.

Just as the experts split on Dahmer's : day of deliberations, it became clear that th verdict. Ten of the jurors were convinced i when he killed; two others opted to find hi Under Wisconsin law, Dahmer was thus i At sentencing, a polite, contrite, and artic lengthy apology by telling the judge, "I k rible, but I deserve whatever I get because

concluded that Dahmer had not been insane

Dahmer's attorney, Fosdal acknowledged that he had the skulls of some of his victims and poured acid on them in an effort to "keep them around longer by making them look like they were still alive." The psychiatrist defended his opinion by saying that Dahmer posed no danger to himself or others, nor his eating of various body parts. Indeed, amazingly, Fosdal did not even refer to Dahmer as a "zombie" as delusional:

It is not his desire to create a zombie? Do not think of it as delusional thinking? It is a practical and reasonable attempt to

testify that the opinion was Dr. Park Dietz, a forensic psychiatrist who earlier made his reputation by testifying in the defense of a man (who had been charged with attempting to commit necrophilia). Dietz, a well-known and frequent witness in the courtroom, testified that Dahmer suffered from necrophilia, but refused to say whether Dahmer was sane or insane at the time of the mind.³⁰

In the case of Dahmer's necrophilia, telling the jury that any other paraphilia would have rendered his acts or stop himself from committing the paraphilias do affect are sexual interests. Paraphilias, which think clearly and use logic, are untouched

explained his view of the matter, "Most paraphilias are not in a criminal way. The paraphile is as free as a bird to decide whether to commit a crime to gratify his

paraphilias, including necrophilia, had no mental illness. "There was no force pushing him to commit a crime, merely a desire to spend more time with the dead." Dietz expressed the opinion that, in any event, "The point was less than many teenagers experience with their friends."³⁴

The opinion regarding Dahmer's sanity rested upon his behavior. For example, Dietz observed, Dahmer was very private; used condoms when having sex

with the corpses; gave up on the idea of freeze-drying the corpses due to the cost of the necessary equipment; crushed the sleeping pills used to debilitate his victims before luring them back to his apartment; and had made plans ultimately to destroy the evidence of his crimes by using acid to completely obliterate the various body parts he had collected.

Dr. George Palermo, a psychiatrist at the Milwaukee County Mental Health Center appointed by the court to examine Dahmer, concluded that the serial killer was "a sick person" but "not psychotic."³⁵ In Palermo's view, Dahmer was suffering from "a very serious" antisocial personality disorder but was "not legally insane."³⁶ Palermo described Dahmer as a sexual sadist and liar who may well have embellished certain details of the murders, such as the mutilation and cannibalism, describing his fantasies rather than what actually occurred.

Still, Palermo was not without a modicum of sympathy for Dahmer. The psychiatrist testified that "Jeffrey Dahmer killed these people . . . because he wanted to kill the source of his homosexual attraction. . . . He was not really gratified from the killing. He was afraid they might abandon him. . . . He's not such a bad person, even though he did what he did. . . . Wherever he goes, I think he should receive treatment."³⁷

The other court-appointed expert, Dr. Samuel Friedman, a Milwaukee psychologist, agreed that Dahmer suffered from a severe personality disorder, which he characterized as a mental disease. He also testified that Dahmer's killings were part of an effort to maintain a relationship with his victims. Like his court-appointed colleague, Dr. Palermo, Friedman seemed sympathetic to Dahmer's plight, telling the jury that Dahmer was "amiable and pleasant to be with, courteous, with a sense of humor, conventionally handsome and charming in a manner" and that "he was, and still is, a bright young man."³⁸ Also, like Palermo, Friedman saw a glimmer of hope for Dahmer: "I hope that something can be done to reconstruct this individual, who certainly has the assets of youth and intelligence."³⁹ In the final analysis, however, the psychologist also concluded that Dahmer had been sane at the time of the killings.

Just as the experts split on Dahmer's sanity, so did the jury. After only a day of deliberations, it became clear that the jury could not reach a unanimous verdict. Ten of the jurors were convinced that Jeffrey Dahmer had been sane when he killed; two others opted to find him not guilty by reason of insanity. Under Wisconsin law, Dahmer was thus guilty of fifteen counts of murder. At sentencing, a polite, contrite, and articulate Jeffrey Dahmer concluded a lengthy apology by telling the judge, "I know my time in prison will be terrible, but I deserve whatever I get because of what I have done. Thank you,

your honor, and I am prepared for your sentence, which I know will be the maximum. I ask for no consideration."⁴⁰

Dahmer was right on both counts. The judge sentenced him to 99 years in prison, and prison was much worse than perhaps even he could have imagined. After serving less than two years in a maximum-security prison, Dahmer was brutally murdered by a mentally ill inmate who crushed Dahmer's skull with a steel bar, later telling authorities "God told me to do it."⁴¹

13

WOODY ALLEN

AND

MIA FARROW

A Swing of King

Solomon's Sword

The story of King Solomon tells of two women who claimed to be the rightful mother of a child. The king, a wise king, who was asked to determine which woman was the true mother. Presented with equally compelling arguments, he drew his sword and declared that he would give the child to each woman. One woman quickly demanded the child, while the other woman, for she was indeed the true mother, gave the child to the woman who had stolen it. After all, only the true mother would be able to live with that child.

When married couples divorce, a number of legal issues, including who should have custody of the children and the financial effects of a divorce on children are not always resolved. If the parties cooperate with one another in parenting after divorce, they can negotiate the terms of the divorce privately. Unfortunately, many divorcing couples attempt to resolve these matters in court, and the result is often a highly contested custody battle that forces judges to apply the legal standard of doing what is in the best interests of the children, as King Solomon did.