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[Intro]

Devin-Hey guys. Welcome to another episode of Thinking Sideways, the podcast. Uh, I'm Joe, as always, joined by...

Joe-Devin.

D-And...

Steve-Steve.

D-Who doesn't get to change his name, apparently.

S-Nope.

J-Nope. Sorry.

D-Nope. Sorry. Just kidding. I'm actually Devin, and that's Joe and that's Steve.

J-Now I'm confused.

D-Yeah (Steve laughing). This week we're going to talk about a murder...

J-Not just one.

S-A series of them.

D-A series of, a serial of murders if you will. We've done Jack the Ripper. We've done the Atlanta Ripper. Now we're going to do Jack the Stripper.

S-This is not Jack the Stripper that you throw the dollar bills at though.

D-Yeah, it's not the fun kind of stripper.

J-Yeah.

S-Not that kind of stripper.

D-It's like, actually, the opposite of the fun, sexy way of stripper.

S-Yeah, there's nothing fun or sexy about this whole thing.

D-I would agree. Yeah. It's, this case is also often referred to as the Naked Murders, or sometimes as the Hammersmith Murders. And it was suggested originally by Emily, so thanks Emily.

J-Hey, thanks.

S-Yeah.

D-These murders took place between 1964 and 1965 in London, England. Jack the Stripper, we're just going to call him Jack, you know, friendly terms.

S-Yeah.

D-Sorry. He was the alleged perpetrator of six, maybe eight, murders in London, as we said. Kind of in the same little area.

S-Yeah, they were in the same district.

D-Yeah. Same district area. And his modus operandi was similar to Jack the Ripper which...

J-Well, except he didn't, like, you know, carve them open.

D-He did not carve them open, no. But it did help kind of lean him towards the name with Jack the Stripper, that was one of the comparisons there.

S-It's easy to, we've talked about this often, like before. Is that it's funny to me that everybody becomes a Jack as soon as they kill at least three hookers, maybe two, and then immediately that designation gets thrown on.

J-Yeah, no, the Atlanta Ripper.

D-Prostitutes, please.

S-Yes, they are prostitutes.

D-Not hookers.

S-Sex workers.

D-Prostitutes.

J-Prostitutes.

D-We don't want to offend anyone.

S-No.

D-No.

J-Well.

D-Jack did murder prostitutes only. Their naked bodies were found around London or in the Thames. Quick note, I'm apparently only doing mysteries in London now, so that everybody can be annoyed at

how I pronounce things, so (S and J laughing).

J-Yeah, I know. That's your new specialty.

D-Just so everybody's ready. And then also as a quick note, if you haven't already realized, this is going to be one of those shows that if you have any issues with sexual trauma or anything like that...

S-Kids are around.

D-The kids are around, maybe this is not the one, cause we're going to start talking about details. Also, if you're squeamish this might not be the one either.

J-It's not as, it's not really as gory as a lot of the ones we've talked about.

D-No, but there's a lot more, kind of potential for actual triggers to happen.

S-Yeah. And this is more cerebral instead of slash, slash, slash, bloody, bloody, bloody. These are things that you start thinking about.

D-Yeah.

S-And they really bother some folks, so please be aware.

D-Yeah. Ok, did you turn it off? No. You weirdo.

J-You still with us?

D-You weirdo. Ok, you guys ready?

S and J-Yeah.

D-Let's start talking about this. So Jack killed his victims by asphyxiation, but it was kind of a unique form of asphyxiation.

S-It was.

D-Basically he strangled his victims by forcing them to perform very deep throat fellatio (clears throat). Ew.

J-Yeah.

D-His victims were found without their underwear, often until it was discovered, like, deep in their throats, as gags.

J-Hm.

D-Not all of the victims, but more than one of the victims, their underwear was found, her underwear, their?

J-Lodged deep in their throat.

D-Very deep in their throat. And they were often missing front teeth, just one or two, but they were still missing front teeth.

J-Uh huh.

D-And as with most serial killers, the episodes that we do about serial killers, we're just going to, like, run through the victims here real quick. I'm going to do all eight in order of discovery, even though you usually see the six they call "confirmed," and then the two at the end, even though actually one of the unconfirmed ones was discovered before.

S-Uh huh.

D-So I'm going to do them in chronologic order instead.

J-Ok.

D-Is that cool with you guys?

J and S-Yeah.

D-Cool. All right, first victim, unconfirmed victim...

J-Yeah.

S-Of Jack.

D-Of Jack.

J-I'm not sure she was actually part of the whole series.

D-Yeah, I'm not sure either, it's hard to tell.

S-Yeah, I would agree with that.

D-Uh, was a woman by the name of Elizabeth Figg. She was 21 years old. She was found dead of June 17, 1959, so a good five years before the actual serial murdering started. She was found near the river Thames. Her death was considered by some to bear a lot of similarities to the other victims, namely the location and the fact that she was strangled to death.

J-Hm. And who gets strangled, right?

D-Yeah, really. I mean, that never happens, ever.

J-Yeah, no.

D-Yeah. Never. So the next victim, which is the first official victim, was Hannah Tailford. She was 30, and she was found dead on February 2, 1964. Also near the river Thames. Or really in, kind of, near, on

the shore.

J-I thought she was kind of bobbing in it.

S-Yeah, she was near a dock, I thought.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah, that's what I was thinking.

D-So near the shore.

J-Yeah.

S-Yeah. So near the shore, in the water.

D-Yeah, yeah. And she was very close actually to the Hammersmith Bridge. She had been strangled. Several of her teeth were missing, and her underwear was forced down her throat. Really deep down her throat.

J-That sounds unpleasant.

D-Sounds really unpleasant. The next vic...ok, so all of the rest of the victims except for the last one are official victims of this serial...

S-Right. So it's the first and the last in this list...

D-Are the two...

S-...are suspected but not...

D-Uh huh, yeah.

S-Ok.

D-Irene Lockwood was the second official victim. She was 26. Her body was found on April 8, 1964, also on the river shore, not far from where Hannah was found. And that really made police think that, you know, "Oh gosh, there's a serial killer on the loose." She was also missing some teeth. She had also died of..

S-Asphyxiation.

D-...asphyxiation. Also found without underwear on.

J-Well, she was naked. I mean, she must have...

S-Uh no, she still had her stockings on. I think she's the one who still had her stockings.

J-Ok.

S-It was her or Hannah, one of the two, I remember, and they all would have some, maybe one or two little bits of clothing on.

J-Ok.

D-Uh huh. Many of them with their stockings, like, rolled down to their ankles, which is kind of weird because they were also missing their panties, and that's like a very, that's a hard transition to make, just as a...yeah.

S-True.

D-Except for, well I guess in the '60s it's possible they were all still wearing, like, thigh highs.

S-They were thigh highs.

D-Yeah.

S-Yeah, I was going to say is I think they were all thigh highs.

D-Like actual stockings, yeah.

S-So there is the ability for one to come off without dislodging the other.

D-Uh huh.

S-Um, now, I want to ask you real quick, and I know that this will be important later on in the story, is she was, uh...so we were just talking about Irene.

D-Uh huh.

S-And she was found on the 8th, but we don't know exactly when she disappeared, correct?

D-Yeah. Many of these...

S-And that's the same with all of these?

D-Yeah, unless we, there's one victim that we know when she disappeared, or we think we know when she disappeared. Again, like, there's actually not a way to a hundred percent confirm that this is when she disappeared, but with all the other victims, it's hard, you don't really know when they were reported missing, cause they weren't really reported missing, cause they were prostitutes and that was just kind of the sort of thing.

J-Yeah.

D-I think most of the people who knew these women just assumed they moved on to other things or other places.

S-Well, that's been one...I mean, I don't know if you guys have ever done any reading on this, but that's one of the giant dangers for people who are sex workers, is that you don't, because of that lifestyle, you

don't make any close bonds.

D-Uh huh.

S-So therefore nobody knows if you're not around.

J-Yeah. Nobody's going to miss you. Yeah.

S-And so nobody realized you're gone, and there's a lot of groups that are working on things like that to try and help that, but that's one of the giant dangers.

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah, absolutely.

J-Yeah, and it's also possible, again, that they might have just gone off for a couple of weeks to work a different part of town.

D-Yeah, I mean, that's...but that's the whole thing is that...

J-And nobody would have known, yeah.

D-With this one exception, which I think is likely, we do know when this person, when this girl disappeared. The rest of them we don't really know.

S-Yeah.

D-We just know when their bodies were found.

S-Yeah. You've got to, yeah...

D-And they were all, we should say it didn't look like they had been floating for weeks, you know? They were relatively recently dumped.

S-Uh huh.

D-And probably relatively recently murdered.

S-Fresh bodies.

D-Fresh bodies, not, you know, like crawling and gross.

S-Not in the water for weeks on end, yeah.

D-Yeah. But that is important to point out, thank you for bringing that up.

S-Yeah.

D-Yeah, we don't know when they disappeared, yeah.

S-Yeah.

D-Next victim was Helen Barthelemy. She was 22. She was originally from Blackpool, if that interests anyone.

J-Not me (D and S laughing).

D-She was found dead on April 24, 1964 in an alleyway in Brentford. And this was actually, so she was the first one, I don't know if you've been keeping track of this or not, but she was the first body that wasn't found in the river or near the water.

S and J-Uh huh.

D-So she was the first one the police could actually gather physical evidence that might have been left behind by the killer.

J-Cool.

S-Cause she was in an alley, right?

D-She was in an alleyway, yeah. There was no water, yeah.

S-Yeah. Which, obviously, people find bodies in alleys much quicker cause people are going through there, then they do on the edge of the river bank.

J-Oh yeah.

D-Right. But also, there was no, the water had not washed...even Irene's body, being on the shore of the river, it was, she, it was presumed she was dumped in the river and then washed on shore.

S-Right.

D-So that the water would have washed away any kind of residue or anything like that.

J-Uh huh.

D-Which was actually important because Helen's body did actually have some interesting things on her. They found flecks of paint used in motor car manufacturing or, like, repainting.

J-Yeah.

S-Automobiles.

D-Uh huh.

J-Yeah. And a source that I found, they actually found coal dust.

D-Uh huh.

J-On her body and I think on all the subsequent victims.

D-Yeah.

J-They found coal dust, they found red, black, and white paint flecks, or little droplets. Predominantly black, and I presume that's why they came to the conclusion that it was involved with cars.

D-Uh huh.

J-Because back in this time cars in Britain were mostly...

S-Primarily.

D-Black.

J...black, so.

D-Yeah. So they found those flecks, and the police felt that it was, you know, from the killer's work place. First they started speculating that the killer was actually, like, a paint sprayer in the motor industry of some kind, whether it be in a body shop or in manufacturing or whatever.

S-Worked in a paint booth all day.

D-Yeah. They thought, and particularly pertaining to the auto industry.

S-Uh huh. Well yeah, that's the thing, is that, people may not realize this, but certain applications may require certain kinds of paint. And paint that you put on a car is very specific, because it's got to withstand the elements for a long period of time.

D-Yeah.

J-Uh huh, very true.

D-Yep. The next victim was Mary Fleming. She was 30, originally from Scotland. She was found in a sitting position in the entrance to a garage on July 14, 1964.

S-And it was a residential, the garage, it was a residential garage.

D-Uh huh.

S-It wasn't like it was just some random work place.

D-Yeah, no.

S-It was some guy's house.

D-Yeah. This was in Chiswick, where the police presence was actually the heaviest. They were really heavily patrolling that area. There were, again, paint flecks on her body, and the coal dust as well. Locals reported that they thought they heard a vehicle backing down the street just before the body was

discovered, and the police suspected it was a car, obviously. But since nobody had seen it they actually couldn't confirm that it was a car.

S-Yeah...

D-They thought it probably, you know, people said they thought it sounded like a car. I am inclined to believe it probably was a car.

S- I am too, but what the weird thing about a car backing away is when you get into residential neighborhoods in London, they, it, you know, it's the front sides, and then the alleys have the back side with the garages. Typically, in my experience anyway. And those are usually one way streets.

D-Uh huh.

S-So it's really weird that somebody would be backing down it, because that means they'd have to back out into traffic.

J-Well, I'm...

S-I mean, granted, it may have been super, it was super early in the morning, but it's still just odd.

J-Well the thing that puzzles me is how somebody could hear it and conclude they were backing up as opposed to just driving slowly forward.

D-Yeah.

S-Uh, old cars, you put them into reverse and reverse always had a high pitched whine.

D-That's true.

J-Yeah, I suppose there's that.

S-There was always that really typical high pitched gear...

D-I can hear it in my head.

S-When reversing at speed it would happen.

J-Hm.

S-That's why I think that people were like "Oh, somebody's backing up really fast. That's weird."

D-Well I, but I almost wonder if the killer was backing down the alley, dropped the body, and then pulled out so that it would look normal. You know what I mean?

S-Could be.

D-Like, back down the alley, even though it's a one way, back down the wrong way.

S-Uh huh.

D-So that they would pull out into traffic the right way.

J-Or he could have driven down the alley the wrong way to begin with.

S-And realized it.

D-Yeah.

J-So he's driving...

S-Because that's happened to family.

J-Well yeah, but no, I'm thinking he drives slowly down the alley the wrong way, dumps the body and continues on, and people hearing him, they hear him going, and they conclude that he must be backing up since otherwise that means he would be driving the wrong way down a one way street.

S-That's a good point.

D-That's a good point.

S-There's a lot of ways this could have gone.

D-Yeah, absolutely.

J-It doesn't really matter (Steve laughing).

D-And it's hard, again, cause nobody really saw it.

J-It's a pretty tiny little clue anyway, so let's not worry about it anymore.

D-Yeah. Actually, so the next body that was found...Frances Brown is the next victim, the one that we find the most about. She was 21 at the time and she was last seen by fellow prostitute and friend Kim Taylor, and Kim last saw her on October 23, 1964, but Frances' body wasn't discovered until more than a month later, November 25, 1964. Lucky for investigators, though, Kim thought that she had seen the man that Frances was picked up by and she thought that that was the last...she thought that that was Jack, basically. She thought that that was probably the last person that Frances had ever seen for whatever reason.

S-And they got a sketch of that person.

D-They got an identikit.

S-Which was a really terrible sketch.

D-Really bad sketch.

S-Really very, I wouldn't say terrible. Very generic.

D-Uh huh. But they also got a description of the car.

S-Uh huh.

D-And they thought the car was either a Ford Zephyr or Zodiac, neither of which we have in America.

S-We didn't. They were a British, Ford of Britain only...I was curious, so I looked it up.

D-I did too.

S-They shipped some of them to the US on a kind of novelty basis.

J-Yeah.

S-But they were, they didn't have...you know it's funny is that a lot of cars have a international companion, so there's one name here, and one name there. This car didn't appear to be...

D-They look very British, these cars (laughing). I mean...

S-They look like 1950s Britain cars. Little squat round fenders.

D-Yeah.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. Didn't they also make these in Australia?

S-Uh, no, I...well, I didn't see anything about this particular line being in Australia, but it could have been. I just didn't see anything.

D-They were UK only.

J-Only for some reason I was thinking Dr. Bogle and Mrs. Chandler had one or something like that.

D-I don't think so.

S-You know, but the thing is, because the car lines would be used in one country only, they could take the name, and they did sometimes, put them in other places. I'm pretty sure that the Zephyr actually got used in the States, like five or eight years later, on a different line. It was like a model for a very brief time. So they would hop from continent to continent that way, but it's a weird thing that they get away with.

J-Yeah, there was definitely a Zephyr, I think, made in the US, but it didn't look anything like the British one.

S-No, no. And it was the predecessor to the Ford Granada.

J-Yeah.

S-Yeah. So, which is a totally different car, but it was also, you know, it was ten years later.

J-Well...

S-And Devin is now bored by Joe and Steve have Car Talk.

J-Yeah, yeah.

D-I'm just checking out my nail polish (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah, well I just want to say how can you not use Zephyr, because it's a cool name.

D-It's a great name, I know.

J-It is.

D-I actually, I really wish that it's the Zodiac so that we at least have a connection to another serial killer.

J-I know.

S-Yeah, if they, you know what? If they ever make the Zodiac car again, people are going to be getting that Zodiac symbol on the hood all the time.

D-I'm a hundred percent sure they will never do that ever again.

S-No, they won't.

D-Probably for that reason.

S-But yeah, well.

D-So...

J-Oh yeah, back to our mystery.

D-Yeah.

S-Well no, it's a killer car. Oh god, it was a good...oh, ok.

D-It wasn't even a little bit of a good one.

S-(Sighs) You guys are just too serious today.

J-Yeah.

D-So that's, uh, that's Frances Brown and she...like I said, she was found a month later. Or, yeah, a little over a month.

S-Just over.

D-Since she had been seen last. And again, it's hard to tell. I think, the sense I had was that investigators thought that Kim and Frances were good enough friends that had Frances been free and alive, Kim would have seen her in that time frame.

J-Yeah.

D-You know, I almost got the sense of them, like, living together or something.

J-I, yeah. And I think that, if I'm remembering correctly, I think Frances Brown, when they found her body, it was significantly deteriorated.

D-Yeah.

J-So she had been probably dead the entire month.

D-Yeah. The next victim was Bridget O'Hara. She was 28 years old, and she's the last official victim. She was found behind a storage shed. She had the same...

J-And by the way, I think, if I have this right, in another source this was a shed that actually had two transformers inside it.

D-Yes.

J-Yeah.

D-I was about to talk about that, actually.

J-Oh, you were? Ok, sorry.

D-So she had (laughing), she did have the same paint flecks on her body. They were identical to all the other paint flecks that had been found. And they were actually identical to paint flecks also on a transformer that Joe mentioned.

J-Yeah.

D-Bursting my bubble yet again.

J-Sorry (Steve laughing).

D-The transformer was found just a couple yards away. It also appeared that her body had been kept warm. So it was in good condition.

J-Yeah.

D-So they thought maybe it had been kept cool, but again it's hard, since we don't know when...

S-People also say it might have been mummified in a transformer.

D-Right. Yeah. So that was the thing, that was the thing.

S-Somebody, I think...when we say a transformer, what we're talking about is a big, metal box, you know.

D-Uh huh.

J-Yeah.

S-Several feet by several feet that you could actually, somebody could actually climb into. It's large enough.

D-Right.

S-So. Not the things that are up on poles.

D-Yeah. Yeah, yeah. And so that's a bit of a question, and I've read some places that it was mummified. I've read some places that it was in good condition and looked like it hadn't been dead for very long. I've read in some places that they thought her body was kept cool for a period of time.

J-Yeah, like kept in a refrigerator or something like that.

D-Uh huh. So it's hard to tell. Again I don't know.

S-Like somebody hung out and watched telly with the body for a couple of weeks in the cooler...

D-Yeah.

S-And then realized the conversation was really droll and were...yeah.

D-Yeah. You're just pulling all of those really fun English words out, aren't you?

S-I am. I've been watching a lot of English TV.

D-Uh huh.

J-I'm just waiting to say boot and car park (Steve laughing).

D-Not going to happen, yeah.

J-Yeah.

D-So Bridget's body was actually found on February 16, 1965, so there's a bit of a gap there.

S-Well yeah, that's three months from, or almost three or four months from the prior body.

D-Uh huh.

S-He kind of did. It was a hopscotch.

D-It's kind of weird, yeah. Cause the first, let's see, the first bodies were found within, like, a week or two of each other. April 8th and April 24th.

S-Right. The first body was February, right? Hannah was the first official victim?

D-Oh yeah. Sorry. I'm looking at the wrong things. So Elizabeth was, like, four years before, or five years before.

S-Right, so I'm ignoring her.

D-So Hannah was found in February, and then nothing until April, and then two in April.

S-Uh huh.

D-And then nothing again until...

S-July.

D-July.

S-With Mary.

D-Uh huh. And then November and then February again.

S-October and November.

D-Well, yeah.

S-Oh, you're right.

D-Yeah.

S-She disappeared, we think, in October.

D-Uh huh. So yeah, there were some...it's weird, cause you think there would be that pattern of escalation. There were two real quick right after each other, and then nothing for a while.

S-Uh huh.

D-So you almost wonder if maybe he actually had to just be more careful, cause after, you know, it was after that second...after the third body, I guess, was found. After the second one in April was found...

S-Oh yeah.

D-The police started saying "Hey, we know there's a dude out there killing ladies. Like, stop."

S-They ramped it up big time.

D-Yeah.

J-They actually, they poured tons of cops into the area.

D-So many.

J-And they had surveillance vans, like concealed surveillance vans all over the place.

D-Yeah.

S-Police women dressed up as prostitutes.

J-Yeah. So they, they definitely took it seriously.

D-Yeah, oh yeah.

J-And that might be one of the reasons the whole thing stopped.

D-It's possible.

J-Because it makes it a little hard to get away with these crimes when there's thousands of cops hanging around.

S-Yeah, they really get in the way of your hobby.

J-Yeah, they do.

D-Uh huh. They really do.

J-It's time to go off and become, like, the Yorkshire Ripper or maybe the, you know...

S-Or just write the great British novel.

J-Or yeah, find a different hobby.

S-Yeah.

J-There's always that.

D-Yeah. So there's one last victim. Again, it's an unofficial victim, and it was Gwyneth Rees, and she was 22. She was found on November 8th, 1963, which is obviously later than 1965 I'm realizing at this particular time.

S-You mean earlier?

D-No, I meant later (Steve laughing).

J-Uh huh.

D-So she should be in there earlier. She should actually have been at the beginning too, I'm sorry everyone.

S-But again, she's...

D-She's another outlier, yeah. She I can see more than the other one, Elizabeth. I think I see Gwyneth a little bit more. She was 22. She was found near the river Thames. She died of strangulation, but with ligature marks, so that was inconsistent with Jack's favorite way of just killing women. But she did also have broken teeth, so.

S-You know, the other thing we haven't talked about that was consistent among all of these women, besides the manner of death and their occupation, is that I remember looking at some stuff and coming across the fact that all but one was dark haired.

D-Uh huh.

S-And all of them, they were all of, I believe it's described as short stature.

D-Uh huh.

S-Which means that they were 5'3" or under.

D-They all looked very similar.

S-Yes. And the one that's a blonde, I can't remember the name in the list of which one it is that was the blonde, I just remember the picture.

J-She looks a little different.

S-She actually is much different than the others.

J-Yeah.

S-The others all looked to me like they could have been related in some way. So this guy definitely had a type.

D-Oh yeah.

S-He was after a certain kind of lady. That was really his thing.

D-Oh yeah, absolutely. And you know, again, the reason that I would argue that I think Gwyneth is probably part of this is that I think there is some escalation. I would be willing to say that Gwyneth is the first victim, that he...

S-The first actual victim.

D-The first actual victim. That he strangled her with her stockings, which I believe is how she died. Those were the ligature marks they thought were from, instead of, you know, choking her with fellatio, and that it just escalated from there. Because she does, she looks a lot of like...

S-Uh huh.

D-It looks a lot like something that could have been escalated into his actual m.o.

J-Uh huh.

D-But that would just be my personal argument.

S-Uh huh.

J-Yeah. It might be your first time around, and for somebody just for straight up strangulation, and then he sort of develops a new technique after that.

D-Uh huh, yeah.

S-Yeah. So the one other thing that I want to bring up, just briefly, cause I don't want to get into too much gory detail here, but I know that a lot of people are going to be saying "Well, wait a minute. If fellatio is the way that he's strangling them, why don't these women simply bite down?"

J-Bite it off, yeah.

S-Well I mean, the easy answer is, if you're in a higher position than somebody, and you put a thumb in the back of somebody's jaw, it locks it open.

D-Uh huh.

S-And therefore, you incapacitate that ability. So I just want to head that off at the pass, cause I don't want a lot of people like, "Well, I would just do this." You can't.

D-Here's the other thing, I don't know...hm.

S-It's...

D-I'm trying to think of a sensitive way to say this, but when there's something stuck in the back, like really wedged in the back of your throat, it's hard to, your jaw muscles don't work like you think they're going to.

S-And that's the last thing you're thinking about.

D-Yeah.

S-You're trying to breathe.

D-Yeah. Oh yeah.

S-Yes. You want to breathe, and I understand that there is that gasp and gag reflex of "I've got to get air. I've got to get air."

D-Yeah.

S-Not "Oh, well I'm going to go on the offensive."

D-Yeah. It's also possible that they didn't, I mean we don't know what the situation was. It's not as though their bodies showed great signs of struggle or anything like that. I mean aside from missing teeth. So you also don't necessarily know what the situation was that they didn't realize they were going to die until it was too late.

S-Uh huh.

D-You know? That their Jack said “ You know, ok, this is what we're going to do.”

S-”And I like it rough, so just be ready.”

D-And they're like “Oh, ok, I guess. You're paying me a lot of money, or you're offered me a lot of money.” And then before you realize it, you aren't breathing and you're thinking “Well surely,” (Devin laughs).

J-”Surely he's going to pull out sometime.”

D-”He's going to pull out sometime.” (Joe laughing). And then you realize and then you're just...

S-It's too late.

D-It's panic, yeah.

J-I'm still kind of surprised though that at least a few of them didn't grab some other certain part of his anatomy and give a good squeeze.

S-Yeah.

D-Well but there's also, frankly there's no way to know that didn't happen maybe.

J-That's true.

D-There are people who are into that.

J-That's true.

S-And that's the other thing. I think, correct me if I'm wrong, but the big reason that we think that this is the “tool” that he used to strangle them with is because semen was found in their stomachs.

D-Yeah.

S-That is what has led people to believe that that was how they were killed. But we don't know that for sure. It could be that, after the fact, he grabbed their underwear, shoved it in their mouth, and crammed it down there. And, in some way, that's what they choked on. I mean, we don't know that for sure.

J-Uh huh.

D-Uh huh. Oh yeah, totally.

J-Yeah. It could be, yeah.

D-Yeah. Again, it could be one of those things where we, like, we don't know who this guy actually is, so there is no way to know.

J-And actually, now that you mention it, in the cases of the underwear in the throat...

S-That definitely had to have been done after the fact.

D-Right.

J-It would have had to because, obviously, yeah, she's not going to just sit there "Oh yeah, go ahead and cram that down my throat and pack it in there with your thing."

D-Uh huh.

J-Yeah (laughing).

S and D-Yeah.

J-She's not going to consent to that probably.

D-Yeah, probably.

S-Yeah, that's why I bring...there's a lot of questions about...

D-Uh huh.

S-...that particular mode of death.

D-Oh yeah. Yeah. And I mean, you know, the other part, too, is that there were no ligature marks, so there had to have been an obstruction of the airway.

S-Right.

D-So I guess the other thought is not all of them were found with their underwear shoved down their throats, so you know, how else does one strangle someone without ligature marks?

J-Yeah, good question.

S-Uh, um...we really need to get off this line of topic...

D-Yes.

S-...but the only other thing that I thought about is, I was trying to figure out what had been used, and something akin to like a ball gag.

D-Uh, I don't think so, because of the amount of tightness that you would have to achieve to actually strangle someone with a ball gag would likely leave marks on their face.

S-I don't mean the official, the kind you can buy at Adam and Eve.

D-Oh, you mean just like you shove a ball down their throat?

S-Just something like that that was used as a gag, is what I'm getting at.

D-Yep. Why not a plunger?

S-Or a super ball, or something like that. I mean, something that's large enough to go in, but that's...

D-But then you have to have a way to get it back out.

S-Heimlich. But let's move on (laughing).

D-Self Heimlich.

J-You tie a string to it.

D-Yeah.

S-Yeah.

D-Just like a coin.

S-Yeah.

D-Right?

S-Yep. A paddle ball (Devin laughing).

D-Ew.

S-"Pak-pak-pak-pak."

D-Yeah. Ok, so let's move on, talk about the investigation a little bit.

S-Yes, let's do that.

D-The lead investigator on the case was Chief Superintendent of Scotland Yard at the time. That was John Du Rose. And it's reported that the investigative team interviewed 7,000 suspects. The population of London at the time was about eight million, so that's like almost one percent of the population.

J-Yeah. That's a lot of people.

D-Almost.

S-Yeah.

D-That's a lot of people.

S-It really is (laughing). They really didn't like having to investigate that many people.

D-They really didn't.

S-They were really peeved.

D-So out of the 7,000, they identified 20 actual suspects, and then they halved that, and finally they whittled it down to three people, they thought. But Du Rose had a favorite suspect, and he talked about that in the media. And we'll talk about that in the suspects slash theories. And one quick note to mention before we really get too far...

S-Yeah. Oh yeah.

D-...into theories slash suspects is Kenneth Archibald. He was a 50 year old caretaker. And he actually confessed to the murder of Irene Lockwood almost three weeks after she was found. But his confession was pretty much dismissed because the police thought that there were a lot of inconsistencies with his version of the events. And then also, they found a third victim.

S-Oh no, they started to take him to trial.

D-They did, and then they started, and then this other victim showed up, and then they actually listened to what he was saying and thought, "Wait, that doesn't make sense."

S-Yeah. "That doesn't match up."

D-And just totally dismissed it. So we won't take him into serious consideration, but that's the sort of thing that you'll see around. And then I guess the other, like I don't understand the mindset of that, really.

J-Confessing to crimes you didn't commit?

D-Yeah. Especially one like that. It's not as though, I don't, it's not my understanding that police, like, looked at him and they were like, "Oh, it was definitely you" and pressured him into a confession. My impression is he just kind of came forward.

S-There are a lot of people who do that and there is a myriad of reasons that they confess, whether it be to, you know, cause they have some mental affliction, that they've convinced themselves, or they just want the attention, or they want a place with three squares and a warm blanket.

J-There's always that.

D-Well he was a caretaker. I mean he had a job and a family.

S-Well maybe he didn't like his job and this was easier, you know?

D-That's possible. Yeah.

S-Going and sitting in the pokey is much easier.

D-Yeah.

J-Well maybe...

D-As a serial killer, actually it turns out, no, because if you're over 16 and you get convicted of, like, more than two murders, you get put to death.

J-Oh ok.

S-Not in Britain.

D-Yeah in Britain.

J-Not today, probably.

D-Not today, but in the '60s.

S-Ok, I was going to say, the Brits don't kill anybody.

D-In the '60s, there was still a hangman's noose, yeah.

S-Ok.

J-Yeah.

D-They still killed people.

J-It's also possible this guy did actually kill her.

D-I mean, yeah, it's possible.

S-He also could have been one of her johns...

J-Uh huh.

S-...and had some connection to her, but this is pure speculation.

D-Yeah, absolutely.

S-The point is he's not responsible.

D-No. He's definitely not.

J-Yeah. I said it before, but the key to being a good murderer is to go around confessing to murders you didn't commit until you just develop this reputation as a crank. Yeah. And then...

S-And then go on a spree (Devin laughing).

J-And then go kill somebody and confess to it, and they'll just roll their eyes and show you the door (S

and J laughing).

D-Yeah. "Oh, this guy again."

J-Yeah.

S-"Oh great, it's Joe again."

J-Actually, pretty soon they'd get fed up and they'd just throw me in the pokey for one of the murders, and say "I don't care if he committed it or not, I'm locking this guy up."

D-"You sure did now!"

S-Uh yeah, I'm sure there'd be some crime they would convict you of, if nothing else of obstruction of justice or something.

J-Yeah.

S-I mean, some random, old school law of getting in the way.

J-Yeah.

D-Ok, so, theories? Suspects? Everything.

J-Oh yeah, theories.

D-Yeah, I mean, there's like 7,000 suspects, so we'd better get started.

J-Uh huh.

S-Oh boy.

D-I mean, you know, we're, like, forty minutes into this show.

S-Yeah, boy.

J-You'd better settle in, folks. Go to the bathroom, get yourself another drink.

D-Yeah. All right. 7,000, you guys ready?

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. Let's hear it.

D-Just kidding.

S-I have the Stadium Pal, I'm ready.

D-All right, so let's start with Chief Inspector Du Rose's favorite, who he called "Big John."

J-Yeah, not his real name.

D-Not his real name.

S-No.

D-Actually, like, nothing to do with his real name at all.

S-I'm pretty sure that the name John is in reference to being a john.

D-Yeah. I think that's probably true. Big John's real name was Mungo Ireland. Du Rose revealed that Ireland had been identified as a suspect shortly after the murder of Bridget O'Hara. The paint flecks that were similar to those found on most of the bodies were found on Mr. Ireland. I believe that he was actually the security guard for, at the painting facility garage.

J-Actually, what I read is he actually was a security guard who drove around in a van and checked on various businesses.

D-Right. Sorry.

J-Yeah.

D-I should have clarified that he was a security guard for many of these places.

J-Including the place where they...and also, he kept his car in a garage too.

D-Uh huh.

J-His shift, by the way, was ten pm to six am, if I recall right.

S-So he's working the late shift? Third shift?

J-The late shift, yeah.

D-Uh huh.

J-And apparently all these women disappeared between eleven pm and one am

D-Uh huh.

J-And their bodies were dumped between five and six.

D-Uh huh.

J-AM

D-Uh huh.

J-That's one reason he looked really good as a suspect.

D-Yeah. And because he had access to a lot of the places and it was kind of on his beat.

J-Yeah.

D-And there was the interview that, from that book...what was the book called?

J-Oh, "Jack the Jumper" or something like that?

D-Yeah, "Jack the Jumper."

J-Yeah.

D-And there was that interview with Ireland.

J-Yeah.

D-Where he, I mean, he had a car. One of the places that he did security was that garage, that the name is escaping me, I'm really sorry.

J-I've heard it described...oh, the Wimpy Autos?

D-Yeah, that was also a club, kind of, maybe.

J-I don't think it was really a club...

D-Hard to tell.

J-But I think certain activities went on in there from time to time.

D-Uh huh.

J-They did actually, some of the people who worked there actually were known to go back there with prostitutes, at least once.

D-Yeah. So it was kind of a shady business, and he admitted to having connections there, and being friends with some of the people who owned it, maybe or, I think he said he'd gone around for tea every once in a while, or something.

J-Yeah. And I think some of the other stuff is that, besides the paint flakes and all that stuff, is according to the police his car's registration number was among those that were seen by the police in the area where the murderer picked up his victims.

D-Uh huh.

S-Cause they had been, they'd been putting up road blocks.

D-Yeah.

J-Oh yeah.

S-Cause there's only a certain number of roads that went in and out of the area that the bodies were showing up...

D-Yeah.

S-So they were counting cars coming in and out and recording them.

J-Yeah.

S-If you went in and out, you know, went in and came back out over a certain time frame at night, they'd put you on a red list.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah.

D-Which is, I mean, you know, it's, uh, that one's hard because he was a security guard. He did technically have legitimate business in that area.

S-That's what his job was.

J-Sure.

D-That's what his job was, but also that's suspicious, I guess.

J-Yeah, I know.

S-But, you know, the thing that I want to point out that Joe brought up, is that, ok well we believe that the women were picked up between a certain amount of time, and that the bodies tended to be dumped around a certain amount of time. But that's really thin.

D-Uh huh.

J-Hm.

S-Ok, they are working the streets at night, so we know that they're picked up at night, but the bodies could have been dropped in a number of these locations at midnight, or at five in the morning.

J-Oh yeah.

S-So that's, but that's one of the things that they use to tie it to Ireland, and to, to, not John, Mungo.

J-Mungo.

S-And, I was about to call him John Ireland, which is wrong.

D-Yeah.

S-He's Big John.

D-Yeah.

S-Mungo Ireland. So, to Mungo, is that because of this time frame, but that's not really all that strong.

J-Well, no. The thing about it is, is Mungo is a really good suspect, and that's why John Du Rose, you know, was convinced that it was him.

S-Yeah.

J-Also because after his suicide, the killings stopped.

D-Shh! Spoilers!

J-Oh, sorry (laughing).

D-Ok.

J-But anyway, yeah, they were never conclusively able to tie the murders to him at all. I mean, they were never able to prove a thing.

D-Yeah.

S-Ok, let's, wait, let's talk about his suicide.

D-Yeah, let's talk about his suicide.

J-Yeah.

D-So he...

S-And I want to know when it was.

D-It was 1965, right after...I don't have an exact date.

S-Ok, I was going to ask if either of you found that, cause I...

D-No.

S-...never could find.

J-No, I have not found it either.

D-No. You know, I mostly see it as "right after the discovery of Bridget O'Hara's body." But then other places I see it, "right before the discovery of Bridget O'Hara's body." So I don't know.

S-Ok.

J-I heard that it was actually the precipitating event for it was that they had been making, the police had apparently been making some inquiries, and apparently they had examined the garage where he kept

his car or van or whatever, and found all those things, you know, like paint, coal dust, you know, and stuff like that.

S-Because they went through the place where they believed it was all originating from.

J-Yeah, and so when he apparently found out that they had been to that garage and made a very minute examination of it, and when he found that out, he realized that it was kind of near the end for him.

D-But, I mean, the thing is it's all speculation.

J-It is.

D-His suicide note, I will read what it said...

J-It was not too specific.

D-It was not specific at all, and it's total speculation that we're just foisting on this guy. His suicide note to his wife, he actually, ok so he committed suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning.

S-He sat in the garage with the window down and the car going.

D-Yep.

S-And went to sleep.

D-And he said, quote, "I can't stick it any longer. To save you and the police looking for me, I'll be in the garage." Unquote. And actually one of the other big issues with the idea that it was maybe Ireland is that they actually thought that maybe he was in Scotland when Bridget O'Hara was being murdered, not actually in London, which that obviously would be a problem.

J-That would be a problem.

S-Yeah. If you're not in the country (laughing).

D-Yeah.

S-That's a big issue.

D-Yeah.

J-Well, again, and according to "Jack the Jumper," and I'm not saying this guy's omniscient, but apparently the police inquiries had established that he was in London during every period when somebody was murdered.

D-Yeah, again, it's hard to tell.

S-Yeah, I was going to say...

D-Yeah, they never, they were never able to question him because he killed himself before they were

able to question him, except for that one small interview.

S-As we said before, though, we also don't know exactly when they disappeared.

D-Uh huh.

S-So maybe the guy, you know, the author of "Jack the Jumper" decided "Well, this person had to have been kidnapped beforehand."

D-It's hard to tell.

S-It's speculation.

D and J-Yeah.

D-I mean, I guess the other...there's always, with all these serial murders, it's always possible that at least one or two of them are the work of a copycat.

J-Oh yeah.

S-Uh huh.

D-Especially with one that was so, it's, they weren't exactly withholding details in the press...

J-Uh huh.

D-...about this and how the women were murdered, so it's certainly possible that, you know, Ireland was responsible for some of them and not all of them, or whatever. But he was the Chief Inspector? Chief Superintendent's, Du Rose, he was his favorite suspect.

J-And he's a good suspect, I must admit, but it's far from proven.

D-Ok.

J-All right, ok.

D-Next up, Freddie Mills. Do you guys know who Freddie Mills is?

S-I do now.

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah. Freddie Mills was the world light heavyweight champion in boxing from 1948 to 1950. I guess I didn't realize that light heavyweight was a thing.

J-Yeah (laughing).

S-I was going to say, am I the only one who's confused by that name?

D-I looked it up. I actually looked it up and it's the lightest division of the heavyweight champion.

S-I understand it...

D-So I think it's 150 to 170 pounds or something like that.

S-How many stones is that?

D-I don't know.

S-Ok.

J-That's like 27 stone (J and S laughing).

D-That's like at least 200 stone.

S-Yeah, ok (laughing).

J-How big are the stones?

D-Yeah, I don't know. What, are they pebbles? Are they like giant things? I don't know.

S-I love antique British weight systems. Sorry.

J-Yeah.

D-So he was a pretty prominent figure at the time. You know, he was the boxing champion, world boxing champion. He owned a club that had previously been a restaurant, in case anybody's going to, you know, freak out about that. And he actually began acting a little bit, too. He hosted some TV shows.

S-He was kind of an up and comer.

D-He, um, he did some walk-ons, you know. He was kind of, he was doing his thing.

S-It was very similar to, say...

D-Donald Trump.

S-...OJ Simpson, in the, at the end of his football career.

J-That's true.

S-He started coming on.

J-He made a couple of movies.

S-Made a couple of movies, he was in TV shows.

D-I would say more like Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson.

J-Yeah. And then, yeah, that's a good one.

S-Well, but he actually made it.

D-Shh...

J-Well, yeah, the difference, yeah...and then OJ got framed for murder by the LAPD. You remember that? (Steve laughing).

D-I remember that (Joe laughing). Yeah. They definitely haven't found anything from his house recently or anything like that.

J-No. Not at all.

S-By the time this episode comes out that's going to be old news, and I'm going to be like “Obviously it was *beep*.”

D-Yeah. The nightclub that he owned was frequented by some fairly seedy people. Most notably the Kray twins...

S-Yeah, these guys.

D-...who were Ronnie and Reggie. And I actually wasted a stupid amount of time doing some research on them. They're super interesting. Could even be a subject of their own podcast maybe, someday.

S-I was going to say, so well...

D-There are some unsolved mysteries around them.

S-Are there?

J-I've heard of the Kray twins. I can't remember what...their name is definitely familiar.

S-Oh yeah, they're very familiar, and there's a movie that came out recently about them.

D-There is, yeah.

S-I haven't seen it yet.

D-And actually we literally just got a suggestion today about somebody who was like “I was doing some research on the Kray twins, and...” and I was like “Yeah, I know! It's crazy.” (All laughing). And I guess if you have, again, without going too far into it, I guess I would say they were like twin Al Capones. They were famous for being gangsters.

S-They were brothers. Yep.

D-You know? That was, like, their thing.

J-Yeah.

S-They were the beginnings of organized crime in Britain.

D-In Britain.

J-I don't know if they were the beginnings of it.

S-Well, they were, they were the ones who were the best in organization.

D-Yeah.

S-In terms of, like, they're, like they weren't just running around rampant.

D-Al Capone, I'm telling you. They were like Al Capones.

S-They had things together, and they were all over the place.

D-Yeah.

J-Uh huh.

D-Yeah. They were like...

S-Every pie.

D-Yeah. Anyway, Freddie was friends, quote unquote, with the Kray twins, kind of. And things kind of, predictably, went down hill. It's reported that he suffered from headaches later in his boxing career that continued on after he quit. Shocking.

S-Not uncommon for guys who were in that profession.

D-Totally shocking. Who get hit a lot in the head and face. Yeah, I don't know why that might happen. But he was really in debt to his quote unquote "friends," the Krays. And that of his family. He had a wife and two daughters. So Freddie Mills committed suicide, which seems accepted, but...

S-You say that as if we don't know if he really did it...

D-Well...

S-...himself or without help or under duress.

D-It's hard, so it's hard for me because, and again, I didn't, like, research too much because I didn't want this show to be about the suicide of Freddie Mills...

S-Yeah.

D-But, he went out back of his club to take a nap in the car, which he did a lot, apparently. And also he had been borrowing a not working rifle from a friend that got repaired, apparently. So it was working.

And it was found outside of his car.

S-Uh huh.

D-And the police said, "Oh no, this gunshot wound is consistent with a self-inflicted wound from this rifle." But without reading too much into it, I don't, I'm not satisfied by that.

S-I'm not even going to...

J-How long was the barrel on the rifle?

D-I have no, I don't know. I have no idea. Like I said, I didn't do that much research on it.

S-Yeah, that's not the topic. Ok. I'm really curious...

D-But it was my general impression that I did not off handedly, immediately accept it, that it was a suicide.

S-Ok.

J-Yeah.

D-But the reading of all of the research that I did didn't necessarily explicitly say, like, "a contested suicide." They just said he committed suicide.

S-Ok. So why is Freddie on this list?

D-Yeah. Well, if you'd stop interrupting me, I'd tell you (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah, come on, let her talk.

D-Yeah. Jeez.

S-As you're blathering on about a rifle.

D-Hmm. So actually, it wasn't until after his death in 1965 that these negative rumors started to circulate about him. There were a lot of negative rumors that started to circulate about him, but a lot of them actually were kind of collected in this book that came out in 2002.

J-About Freddie exclusively? Or about the Krays, or about who?

D-It was about Freddie. Well, it was actually, it's about Jack the Stripper, but it was the one to, like, make the connection, to say that they thought that maybe it was Freddie.

J-Ah.

D-But I have a lot of problems with this. But to say some of the allegations, one of the allegations was that Freddie had been actually in a homosexual relationship with Ronnie Kray...

J-Not that there's anything wrong with that.

D-Not that...who was openly bisexual. Not that there's anything wrong with that, but it would add a layer of complexity to that relationship.

S-Especially in that time frame.

D-Uh huh. It also started to be rumored that Freddie had killed eight women and that he was about to be exposed as the Stripper, so he killed himself instead. But this all comes from this one book from 2002, and it doesn't seem like there's any historic research to back it up.

J-No, I don't see it, yeah.

D-It doesn't seem like anybody thought that that was a thing.

S-I have a question. Eight women? Is it the eight women in question for the Jack the Stripper, or is this a separate eight women?

D-It's just an amorphous...so the report was that the Krays said that Freddie had told them that he had killed eight women, and the author of this 2002 book said "so obviously that must have been these eight women."

S-Got it.

J-And of course he died in '65, which is when the murders stopped.

D-Yeah, so.

J-Yeah, but still, pretty thin, I'd say.

D-I agree. And you know, the other thing too, is that I, in my reading about Freddie, though he had a brutal profession of boxing, I did not get the impression that he was overly brutal outside of the boxing ring. And it also didn't even seem like his boxing technique was that brutal. So I didn't get the sense that he was really prone to violence, so I don't, I just don't buy it.

J-Well, the thing about it is, is Jack the Stripper was a guy that had some weird sexual predilections.

D-Well, but so I think that's the reason that I bring up the whole homosexual thing...

J-Well..

D-Is that if you're, you know, there's that commonly said thing where if you're trying to suppress a part of you, it'll come out in these really weird messed up ways. I don't buy it, especially if he was in a homosexual relationship with someone. He's not denying it. He's in a relationship with someone.

J-Yeah. But the point...

D-Even if it's outside of marriage.

J-But the point that I'm making is that if you have violent, kinky sexual predilections, and if you're a guy who owns a nightclub, is a famous boxer and celebrity, you're going to get a lot of you know what with women, probably.

D-Yeah.

S-There's going to be a lot of people coming in who would be happy to satisfy your desires.

D-Yeah.

J-Well, it's not just that, but also at some point, if somebody made these allegations, some women or another are going to come up and say "Yeah, he tried to ram it down my throat and choke me to death one time. I had to grab his nards and squeeze them as hard as I could to get him to back away."

D-Uh huh.

J-You're going to get people like that.

D-Yeah, totally.

J-If he had a predilection for sexual violence then, you know, there would be other people.

D-Yeah. Also, I mean, you think that his wife would have probably brought it up.

J-You think she would have.

D-He was, I mean, after his death she probably would have said "Yeah, he was kind of horrible."

J-Yeah.

D-Cause there's no, I mean there's no fear of retribution at that point.

S-I am going to disagree with that.

J-Ok.

S-Because there are, there are many many examples of people who, after an unhappy relationship has ended tragically, in this example he's killed himself supposedly, even though he may have been a bit of a bastard, it was "I'm going to protect his legacy, because suddenly that's the only thing I have left to cling to, and I've convinced myself that that's the right thing to do." I mean, this happens.

J-Sure, or if you've got kids, you know, obviously.

S-Yeah. People do that especially for their children.

D-Yeah, the daughters.

J-Then again...

S-So no, she may not have just turned around and said “Oh yeah, he had this thing about my uvula.”
You know?

D-Yeah.

S-It doesn't necessarily...

D-I like that you keep going back to the uvula.

J-Yeah.

S-I like the uvula.

D-Apparently you do.

S-Because I figured out what it was a couple of years ago (Devin laughing).

D-Like, you mean a month ago?

J-Yeah. You thought it was something down here, right?

S-No (laughing).

J-Yeah, no, it's up here.

S-It's a Farside comic that I figured out what it was from. I've been reading Farside a lot lately.

D-Ohh. Yeah, let's go ahead and move on.

S-Uh, yes please.

J-Oh yeah, next suspect.

D-Next suspect I actually think this is...

J-This guy looks like a possibility.

D-This is my favorite suspect.

J-Yeah.

S-Eh. I don't think so.

D-Favorite as in I like him for the crime, not I like him as a person, or think he has any redeeming qualities.

S-You don't want his trading card?

D-No.

S-Ok.

D-No. This is Harold Jones. Listeners who are into true crime may be familiar with Harold Jones, given that he was a convicted murderer. At the age of 15!

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah.

J-Nice and young.

D-Yeah. And he is another one that could have an entire episode on him if this were true crime, not unsolved mysteries.

S-Uh huh. Yeah, that's a big difference.

D-Jones was convicted of rape and murder at 15. His victims were 8 and 11 years old.

J-Nice guy.

D-Yeah. And he served at, quote, "His Majesty's pleasure," unquote, from 1921 till 1941, when he was released.

S-Oh, His Majesty's cause there was a king at the time. Got it.

D-Yeah, yeah. There's a bit of a thing here in that he confessed to his crimes, like, just before he turned 16, because it turns out, in the '20s, the Teens, in England, if he had been 16 instead of 15 when he was convicted of the murders he would have been hanged, likely.

J-Uh huh.

D-It's not a hundred percent, but it's very likely that he would have been hanged, instead of just...

S-Strong probability.

D-...twenty years in jail.

J-So a smart thing to do, but if I had been in a position of authority back then, I would have just quietly arranged to have his birth certificate modified by like six months or a year.

D-Or just, you know, find a reason to put the trial off for a little while.

J-Yeah, there's that too (laughing).

D-Yeah.

S-"Sorry, we got a continuance." "What is that?" "It's this thing I'm using to delay things. Shut up."

D-"I'm making it up, but it's fine."

J-"It's a really cool thing, you're going to love it."

D-Yeah (Steve laughing). So Jones lived until 1971, so he was alive, and I believe living in London at the time of the Stripper murders.

J-I heard he was.

S-It's believed that he was.

D-Yeah, yeah. There's not, again, there's not good records really.

S-Apparently he had a wife and children.

D-Uh huh. Oh God, ugh.

S-He did marry.

D-Yeah. So he was a really brutal child. He raped and murdered, and strangled actually, raped and strangled, two young girls. And granted, you know, he was young at the time too, but 8 and 11 is still pretty young when you are 15.

J-Uh, I'd say so.

D-So yeah, I mean, he...the only problem that I have, actually the biggest problem I have with this is he's another one that, like, in 2007 somebody said "Hey, hey I bet actually Harold Jones has something to do with those."

J-Yeah.

D-With the Jack the Stripper murders. I mean, it would be reasonable to me to assume that he could have easily been the person who did them.

J-But except, no evidence, really.

D-But there's not really evidence.

S-I was going to...have you ever seen any kind of physical descriptions or personality descriptions of him? What I found was very, very scant.

D-No, it's all, it's really vague.

S-Ok. Because I can...the reason that I ask that, is if somebody does something that brutal at that young of an age, they would continue with brutal behavior, and I almost wonder if it's a situation where either he's falsely, he was falsely accused and convicted...

J-Yeah?

S-Or it wasn't also unheard of for people who had some, um, who is, let's say, developmentally delayed or stunted, you know, he may be young. He may be the same age mentally as these girls and so he may

or may not have been involved, and then he's an adult, so he's still a child as an adult, so he's not going to be prone to that same kind of behavior. I mean, this happens.

D-It does. He, that was not his case. He was, um, he lured these girls because he worked in a shop as a 15 year old...

S-Uh huh.

D-...and they were visiting the store, and he lured them away. He, there's, I haven't read anything about, and I did actually read a fair amount about him, because I have this huge, morbid curiosity about stuff like this.

S-Ok, see, that's what I was asking about, because I didn't find a whole lot. But I didn't, I kind of disregarded him just because of when he was brought up, and I was just suddenly curious about that. Ok, so, that was, what I'm going on was not the case at all. Ok. Onward and upwards.

D-So this is Harold Jones.

S-Yep.

D-And this is Jack the Stripper.

S-I remember his picture.

D-But the drawing is like, you can't...

J-Well, I...can I see the picture of Harold Jones again?

S-It's a pencil drawing that is, I'm sorry, but any British guy...

D-Literally any white dude could look like this.

S-...with any jowly, cheeky feature at all, so.

J-Yeah.

D-So it's hard to tell.

J-Yeah. I'm inclined to say that at that point in time he was kind of nearing the end of his life, cause when was he born?

D-Uh, 19...well, he was 14, or he was 15 in 1921, so he was...

J-Oh, ok, so he would have been fairly old.

D-I think it was in '09.

J-Yeah. I guess he still would have been young enough to overpower somebody and, you know, and all that.

S-He'd been in his 50s.

D-Yeah. But, like I said, since he wasn't brought up as a suspect until, like, 2007, that feels so much like this thing we see a lot that we try to cut through, where it's somebody saying, like trying to make a big revelation.

S-"I may know, I wrote a book."

D-Yeah. It's not only "I made a book," but it's, you know, "Oh God, this guy lived in kind of the same area and was convicted of things that were kind of similar, so (gasp)."

J-Yeah. I know.

D-"Oh my God, it could be him. It's probably him."

J-I saw somebody...

D-So that's hard for me.

J-I saw somebody on Reddit claiming that several of the bodies were found within a couple of blocks of where he lived in London.

D-I have no idea how anyone would know that.

J-No, it's just absolutely not true. Because if you look at the maps of where the bodies...

S-The bodies are all over.

D-They're not even found within a couple blocks of each other.

J-Now, the two bodies, yeah, the two bodies that were closest to each other were found a mile and a half apart. Yeah.

D-Yeah.

J-Those were the closest ones. And so yeah, there's no way more than one body was found a few blocks from his house.

D-Yeah. So, that's all the suspects...I know there's some other suspects that I have willfully ignored.

S-Willfully denied. [I believe this is what Steve says. It was hard to understand.]

D-Yeah.

J-Well, I'll talk about one, if you don't mind.

D-Yeah, that's fine.

J-Yeah. There was a Detective Superintendent William Baldock who really didn't like Du Rose's theory about the security guard, Mungo.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah. His belief that it was a former London policeman who had committed the murders.

D-Yeah. I didn't like this theory very much.

J-Yeah, but just let me spell it out just a little.

D-Yeah, absolutely.

J-Just a little bit why he liked it so much. So this guy, we're going to call him, what are we going to call him? Officer Jones, let's call him that.

D-How about Jack, Officer Jack?

J-Officer Jack? Ok. Officer Jack was a cop, but he was not that well liked by his coworkers. Apparently a lot of them felt that they didn't really trust him. And he sort of, it turns out he wasn't that trust worthy because eventually he got arrested for committing a series of burglaries. And he was eventually, of course, convicted and sentenced to a year, and of course he was booted off the police force in London.

S-Uh, yeah.

J-Yeah, yeah.

S-Shocking.

J-Yeah.

S-Surprise.

J-So, he got out of prison after he served a year. Got out in June 1963. Took a job as a car salesman. And the reason Baldock started liking this guy...

S-Cause nobody trusts a car salesman?

J-Exactly, that's a good reason. This guy was a smooth talker, he was especially good with women. It's actually true (Steve laughing). But Baldock was looking at a map, and he noticed that the bodies were being dumped in different police subdivisions in London. Five out of the six bodies were dumped in subdivisions that Officer Jack had worked in, and there are many, many subdivisions, police subdivisions in London.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. And so five out of the six, and number six, Irene Lockwood, was found on the bank of the Thames, and may have actually been dumped where this guy used to work.

D-Hm.

J-And drifted there from somewhere else. Anyway, so this guy, as I said, was sentenced to a year in prison. At his trial he said that he committed the crimes not so much because he wanted to steal but because he liked the idea of doing something that his fellow cops would have to work on but would not be able to solve.

S-So he felt better than them.

J-Yeah. Yeah. And just to frustrate them, because he felt like, you know, I guess he felt a little that he'd been mistreated or something like that. And so he thought he'd screw them, you know. And so that's another reason why Baldock thought that this guy was a good fit for the murders.

D and S-Uh huh.

J-Uh, but again, that's just his theory.

D-Right.

J-And there's no proof whatsoever.

D-Yeah.

J-And of course, he was never actually able to name this guy's name, actually, as opposed to Mungo Irish [sic], so we won't know who he is.

D-Yeah.

S-Ireland. Not Irish. Ireland.

D-Yeah.

J-Mungo Ireland, I mean (J and S laughing). I apologize. But anyway.

S-He wasn't Irish.

J-But I thought it was an interesting theory and at least worth mentioning, even though, well, you know, that's about it.

D-Yeah, that's the frustration with this one, right?

J-Yeah.

D-I feel like we hit this point on a lot of these cases where we think, eh.

J-London's a big town. There's a lot of people.

D-Like I said, 7,000. One percent of the population could have done it.

S-Uh huh. Yeah.

J-Yeah.

D-Who knows? Not me. I don't know.

J-I don't know.

D-I'm sorry. I'm sorry to tell everyone I don't know.

S-I have no idea.

J-Yeah, I don't either. Well, we'll never know. I think it was some guy named Jack. That's all we know.

D-Yeah, probably. Yeah. Well, if you want to see some of the research that we've done or listen to the episode, cause apparently you don't know where to get it, or (Steve laughing) anything like that. If you want to leave a comment on this you can do that on our website. The website is thinking sideways podcast dot com. If you're listening to us on iTunes don't forget to leave a comment and a rating. That's how people find us. I'm feeling pretty good about those comments and ratings these days. You can stream us pretty much anywhere. You know, it's kind of silly that we're still telling you how to find the show cause obviously you've made it through an episode, but sure. If your streaming service lets you do comments and ratings and all that stuff, just do that for us too, thanks. You can find us on social media.

S-We're there a lot.

D-We have the Facebook group and page, so you can like us and follow us. Join the group. It's not follow us, it's join the group.

S-Yeah.

D-Like the page, follow the group. Join the group?

S-Join the group.

D-Yeah. Follow us on Twitter. It's thinkin sideways. You can see some really awesome pictures of me if you want (S and J laughing). You can find us on Reddit. We have a subreddit, it's r/thinkingsideways, it's not the thinkingsidewayspod one. If you go there, you will be very sad. It's just like four random things. You can also get swag-like stuff if you want. That link is on our website on the left sidebar.

S-And we've been adding some new content to that.

D-Uh huh.

J-We have new swag?

S-Yeah.

J-Cool.

D-Also on the left sidebar is the link to Paypal if you are so inclined to do a one time donation, but also a link to Patreon if you are inclined to make a recurring donation. That's per episode, so maybe, I mean, if you want to I'm not going to tell you don't donate fifty dollars per episode, but please take that into consideration.

S-Please pay attention to your personal budget needs.

D-Yeah, cause we don't want to, like, make you feel like you're paying us a lot of money. We appreciate every single cent that we get.

S-Absolutely.

J-It does come in handy.

D-Totally. We think we're going to be able to afford that server upgrade just any minute now.

S-Yeah.

D-And then, if you have feedback for us, if you have suggestions, if you're an expert, if you just want to tell us how much you love us, you can send us an email. The email address is thinking sideways podcast at gmail dot com. I'm pretty sure that's all the business. Did I forget anything? We good?

S-Not that I can think of.

J-No.

S-I'm not holding a list though.

D-Yeah. Well, I'm not either cause I don't need it anymore.

S-I know. I saw you crumple it up. It was weird.

D-Yeah. All right, well, um...

S-She hates that list, Joe. Why did you write it? (Devin laughing).

J-I think it was her idea.

D-On that note, we're going to get out of here, so talk to you guys next week, or maybe tomorrow. Who knows.

J-You never know. Ok, bye-bye, everybody.

S-Let's head down to the Strip.

D-Ok. Bye.