

What if Charles Manson was raised in Glencoe?
A Blog Post

In the middle of the night on August 9th, 1969, four adults—one pregnant—were murdered in a Beverly Hills home. Blood covered each victim's body as well as the walls of the house, forming the word "Pig." The next day, police found a couple dead in their LA home; written on the walls in their blood were the words "Death to Pigs." Although the LAPD initially made no connection between these two crimes, one man and his devoted followers were directly responsible: Charles Manson.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio to an irresponsible 16 year old, Manson was doomed from the start. His mother did not have the means or the desire to care for him, so he had to constantly move between the homes of his extended family. In one account, Manson's mother actually sold Charles in a café for a pitcher of beer; he remained missing for days before his uncle found him to bring him home. Manson's unstable and unsafe childhood fostered a burning desire to receive attention and feel love—could he only attract this attention through murder? If born to a different mother under different circumstances, could Manson have evaded his future as a serial killer?

I have absolutely no idea how to answer this question, which sparked my desire to do some research and write this week's blog post on the nature—or instead, nurture—of serial killers. If Charles Manson grew up in my home in Glencoe, a small and arguably too sheltered suburb of Chicago, would he have manifested into one of this country's most famous killers? Did his need for the affection and unending loyalty from his followers stem solely from his less than ideal childhood?

When I started researching to figure out why killers kill—if it's where they grew up or the genes in their DNA or a little of both—I was stunned to discover that abusive or neglected childhoods are not inherent in the making of a serial killer. Take Ted Bundy, for instance...

THOUGHTS:

Talk about Bundy—attractive, confident, (semi) normal family... what's his excuse? Girlfriend (she dumped him). But a lot of people get dumped; they don't start murdering everyone who looks like their ex...

SELF REFLECTION:

I don't really know where I'm going with this. I thought I'd get instantly inspired and not be able to stop writing—didn't happen. I also don't think I'm going to keep the title because I don't know if it represents the blog post well enough.

http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/notorious/manson/2.html

INCLUDE: Pictures of Manson, Pictures of the words, Picture of my family