

Evil 101

Where true crime meets terrific fiction

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For the next hour, I'd like to welcome you into my world to take a glimpse at what real life can teach us about the villains who hide in the shadows and behind masks of normality....and who might very well be your next-door neighbor.

While many writers dream of the day when success takes them away from the day job, I am an author who finds the day job an infinite source of lessons into the human condition. After eighteen years with the federal judiciary, I still find surprises around every corner.

Let us begin.

I. Test your recall.

Notes

Where the evergreens grow...

- (1) Ted Bundy
- (2) Robert Yates
- (3) Gary Ridgeway
- (4) Kenneth Bianci

In the movies...

- (1) Silence of the Lambs
- (2) Murder by the Numbers

II. Everything I ever needed to know about creating realistic villains I learned in my own backyard:

[Contrived or Coincidence?](#)

The case of a bank robber and a really bad day.

The United States of America v. Ronald Duke Kelly

Notes:

[Not So Pretty Poison](#)



Photograph by Sheri Lewis Wohl

The case of a merit badge gone awry.

The United States of America v. Kenneth R. Olson

Notes:

[Pushing Up Daisies](#)



The Spokane River – one dumping ground of Robert Yates
Photograph by Sheri Lewis Wohl

The case of a serial killer and his flower garden.
Spokane County v. Robert Lee Yates

Notes:

[Evil in the Face of a Friend](#)



The Thomas S. Foley U.S. Courthouse – Spokane, WA
Photograph by Sheri Lewis Wohl

The case of a friendly façade.
Stevens County v. Carole Ann DeLeon

Notes:

“Nothing is easier than to denounce the evil doer; nothing is more difficult than to understand him.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky

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Sheri Lewis Wohl is a writer/author who lives and works in Northeastern Washington State. She received her BA from Eastern Washington University and MA from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She has worked for the federal judiciary since 1991. For more information on Sheri and her upcoming appearances and releases, please visit her at www.sherilewiswohl.com

RESOURCES

Federal Courts:

U.S. Courts

www.uscourts.gov

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington

www.wawd.uscourts.gov

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington

www.waed.uscourts.gov

U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon

www.ord.uscourts.gov

Local Courts:

King County

www.metrokc.gov/kcsc

Spokane County

www.spokanecountry.org

Stevens County

www.co.stevens.wa.us/distcourt/index.htm

SUGGESTED READING

Mind Hunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit. John Douglas & Mark Olshaker
Pocket Books, August 1, 1996, ISBN 0671528904

Journey Into Darkness. John Douglas & Mark Olshaker
Pocket Books, August 1, 1996, ISBN 0671528904

The Human Predator. Katherine Ramsland, Ph.D.
Berkley Books, October, 2005, ISBN 042520765-X

The Stranger Beside Me. Ted Bundy: The Classic Case of Serial Murder. Ann Rule
W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. 2000, ISBN 0739413163

Chasing the Devil: My twenty year quest to capture the Green River Killer. David Reichert
Little, Brown & Company, July 28, 2004, ISBN 0316156329

Murder in Spokane. Mark Furhman
Avon, April 30, 2002, ISBN 0061098736