

Hilda Hopkins Bed Burial: The Chilling Tale of the Machine Knitting Serial Killer

In the annals of true crime, the case of Hilda Hopkins stands out as one of the most bizarre and macabre. This unassuming, elderly woman from Devon, England, led a double life as a prolific serial killer, hiding her victims beneath the bed in her modest cottage.



Hilda Hopkins, Bed & Burial (Hilda Hopkins, Machine Knitting Serial Killer Book 2) by Vivienne Fagan

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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The Discovery of the Horrific Crime

On February 28, 1969, police were called to Hopkins' home after neighbors reported a foul odor emanating from the property. Upon entering the house, they discovered a gruesome scene: three decomposing bodies hidden under the bed. The victims were all women who had been strangled and then dismembered. The bed sheets were stained with blood, and the walls were splattered with human remains.

As the investigation progressed, more bodies were found concealed in the bed springs and under the floorboards. In total, Hopkins was linked to the deaths of seven women, ranging in age from 27 to 77.

The Bed Burial Method

One of the most shocking aspects of the Hilda Hopkins case was her unique method of disposing of her victims' bodies. Instead of burying them in the ground, she chose to hide them beneath her own bed, accumulating a grotesque collection of human remains.

The police theorized that Hopkins' choice of burial was motivated by a desire to keep her victims close to her. The bed became her secret sanctuary, a place where she could maintain control over her victims even after their deaths.

The Machine Knitting Connection

Another unusual feature of the Hilda Hopkins case was her obsession with machine knitting. Hopkins was an avid knitter, and she often used her victims' clothing to create blankets and other items. This macabre hobby led investigators to believe that Hopkins derived a perverse pleasure from using her victims' bodies in her creations.

The machine knitting aspect of the case also raised questions about Hopkins' mental state. Some experts suggested that her obsession with knitting was a manifestation of her need for control in a chaotic world.

The Psychological Profile of a Serial Killer

The psychiatric evaluation of Hilda Hopkins revealed a complex and disturbed mind. She had a history of depression, anxiety, and sexual trauma. Hopkins' childhood was marked by neglect and abuse, which may have contributed to her sociopathic tendencies.

Investigators also noted Hopkins' strong need for attention and validation. She often sought out vulnerable women who were starved for affection, and then exploited their trust to lure them to their deaths.

The Trial and Punishment

Hilda Hopkins was arrested in March 1969 and charged with the murders of her seven victims. The trial that followed was a sensational media event. Hopkins pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, but the jury rejected her defense and convicted her on all counts.

On July 10, 1969, Hopkins was sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. She spent the rest of her life in Broadmoor Hospital, a high-security psychiatric facility for the criminally insane.

The Legacy of Hilda Hopkins

The Hilda Hopkins case remains one of the most chilling and disturbing in British criminal history. The sheer brutality of her crimes, combined with her twisted methods and psychological complexities, continue to fascinate and horrify the public.

The case has also sparked debates about the nature of evil, the role of mental illness in crime, and the importance of recognizing and reporting signs of abuse.

Hilda Hopkins may be gone, but her legacy lives on as a cautionary tale about the depths of human depravity and the darkness that can lurk beneath the surface of even the most ordinary people.

The story of Hilda Hopkins Bed Burial is a chilling reminder of the horrors that can hide behind closed doors. It is a tale of murder, madness, and the dark secrets that people can keep hidden for a lifetime.

By unraveling the mystery of Hilda Hopkins, we gain a glimpse into the mind of a serial killer and the complex factors that can contribute to such heinous crimes.



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