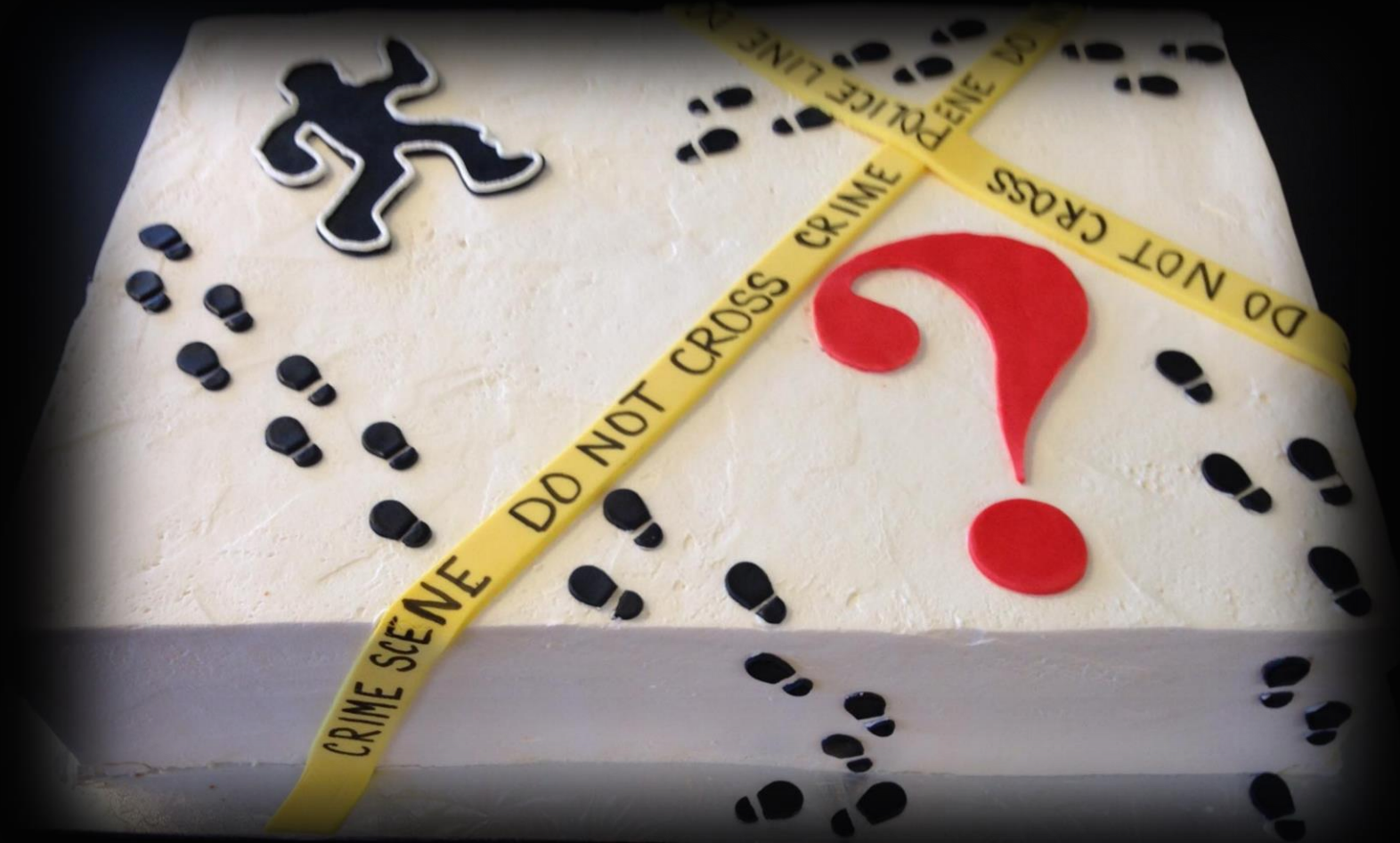


Curiosity:

Why is it that some people seek to marry a person who is on Death Row?



Marrying People on Death Row

The Facts:

- Far more women (relative to men) are attracted to inmates
- This is not only a US phenomenon
- In 2002, Reuters reported about European women who wanted to marry US men on death row.
 - ↳ Mostly from Germany and the Scandinavian countries
- There are not too many studies to offer statistics on this.

What type of women seek to marry convicts?

- They are neurotic
- Have intimacy issues – they feel they can't have a real-life normal relationship
- Low self-esteem
- Not love; infatuation is more likely
- They have a need for attention
- Many women lead ho-hum lives; they feel they've missed their moment for excitement. Here's a chance to become famous.

Examples of who we are talking about...

Married while on death row



Ted Bundy - Serial murderer (kidnapped/raped/murdered 36+ women)

Carole Ann Books – worked for emergency services

Met in 1974 when Carole (recently divorced) was working with Emergency Services and Bundy (not yet a suspect) was helping police locate his victim's bodies. Bundy arrested and convicted. Relationship continued. Convicted to death in two trials. At third trial he proposed in the courtroom, and she agreed.

Bundy executed in 1986

Boone changes her name four times and relocates so people could not find her. Dies in Washington state in 2018



Richard Ramirez “Night Stalker” – murdered 14, harmed dozens more

Doreen Lioy – magazine editor

During the 1986 trial, she was writing to Ramirez on a daily basis. 1988 he proposes. Married 1996 at San Quinton. Her family disowns her.

Their marriage lasted seven years until Doreen eventually left Ramirez in 2009, after DNA confirmed he had beaten/raped/stabbed a 9 year old in San Francisco in 1984.



Manuel Ovante – age 35, double murderer in Arizona (in prison since 2008)

Rebecca Short – age 25, trainee dental nurse in England

In April 2022, Rebecca told family she was going to the US for vacation, even posting photos from the Golden Gate Bridge and Disneyland. Really, she went to Arizona to marry Ovante.

They met on a convict penpal site. Friend says that Rebecca was “obsessed” with watching documentaries on serial killers on Netflix.

After the wedding, Rebecca met his parents, siblings, and young daughter. The cake (which she ordered) reads “’til death do us part”

Other Relationships and Outreach, but not married



Charles Mason – 83 years old at death, cult leader and serial killer

Afton Burton – 19 years old, from in town about the size of Phoenix OR

Manson commented on physical similarities between Burton and Susan Atkins (who followed Manson's orders to kill in 1960s).

Burton, raised Baptist and “forcefully excommunicated from my friends for my teen years”, says Manson is “the most famous guy in the world” and her interest in him stemmed from his commentary on the state of the environment. Believed Manson was falsely imprisoned.

Manson continuously wavered on the marriage. Died in prison at 83 in 2017.

Burton was hoping to secure the legal rights to display his corpse in a glass crypt.



Casey White – already serving a 75 year sentence, murder trial upcoming

Vicky White – assistant director of corrections (last name coincidence)

Vicky is 18 years older. Divorced after 4 years marriage in 2006 due to husbands' alcohol and drug abuse, but she stayed close to his family.

Vicky gave favors (like extra food) to Casey for years. In the month prior to her last day at work she sold her house at significantly under-value.

Vicky helped Casey escape. After weeks on the run, they were seen 275 miles away. Car chase. Vicky suicide. May 2022

NOTE: In the weeks following their capture, the specific motel room in which the two hid/stayed during their escape became highly sought after, with a waiting list for the room reaching 60 bookings.



Susan Smith – killed children fabricated a racial kidnapping

In 1994, now serving a life sentence. In response to a personal ad posted in a website, over 1 million emails and letters arrived to her.

Age 23 at time of murders

*Eligible for parole in late-2024



Scott Peterson – killed pregnant wife in 2003

Death sentenced, later changed to life arrested near Mexico border with \$10,000 On first day at San Quinton, 40+ women had telephoned to offer their support / encouragement and 2 said they wanted to marry him.

*Sentenced to life without parole

Other recent examples

Richard Glossip – on Oklahoma’s death row – has married in prison twice



Inmate

Marriage 1

Marriage 2

Glossip – age 59 (in 2022) – convicted of ordering the January 1997 murder-for-hire killing of his employer. His execution has been delayed three times already, twice within hours of it happening. A 2015 Supreme Court case is named after him, as he challenged unsuccessfully lethal injections.

Newest (9th) execution date: not yet set, still on death row (Sept.23)

Marriage 1 to **Leigha Jurasik** of New Jersey:

↳ age 21 (in 2018, when married). They met when Leigha, training to be a funeral home undertaker, read about him and sent a letter. Married in 2018. She visited him every 3 - 4 months since, then he petitions for divorce in 2021 and the court orders her to pay him a \$5,000 alimony award and \$3,500 for Glossip's legal fees. (She claims she never got the court summons). She writes “he sees me as an easy target, he saw a 20 year old confused and insecure girl and he used that to manipulate me. He isolated me from friends and family making me believe it was ‘us against the world’. I believed in the fantasies he was feeding me.”

Marriage 2 to **Lea Rodger** of Florida:

↳ age 32 (in 2022) she is a paralegal who has spent over a decade advocating for an end to capital punishment. she added Glossip to a list of inmates she sends Christmas card to every year, and he wrote back. She is now a law student

Marrying People on Death Row

Why might women want to marry me on Death Row? There are a few dynamics to this phenomenon we see.

1. The women have a fear of commitment

2. “Bad Boy Syndrome”

↳ Women are attracted to not-so-nice guys out of low self-esteem or rebellion

3. Some women feel special because these inmates – who are obviously capable of hurting others – do not hurt them.

4. ‘Damsel in Distress Syndrome’ or ‘Rescuer Syndrome’ advocated by Professor Wayne Myers of Cornell University:

While women have been known to start romances with murderers and other hardened criminals because of the danger aspect of it, the case for men being attracted to women behind bars is an entirely different matter.

It’s playing to the stereotypical gender role of rescuing the fallen woman, the damsel in distress. Men in this role seek to rescue the women from the state she has fallen to, and bring her back to respectability.

5. Vulnerable women are engrossed with daytime soap operas and cheesy romance novels.

Men behind bars have time to write long letters, and other romantic rituals which have largely been lost in modern courtship.

Inmate pen-pals aren't after casual physicality; they're less likely to judge someone by their looks.

↳ For these women, prison dating is 'Romance with a capital R'
Everyday is a cliffhanger – is he guilty? Was he falsely accused? Will he be able to call tonight or will there be a lockdown? A fight? A riot?" It's a rollercoaster ride.

6. In US culture, something seems to make celebrities out of murderers and rapists. We do revere, respect and admire power, and criminal behavior can be seen as a form of power.

7. Defense Mechanisms reveal some neurotic needs

➤ Projection (he's not guilty; he needs comfort)

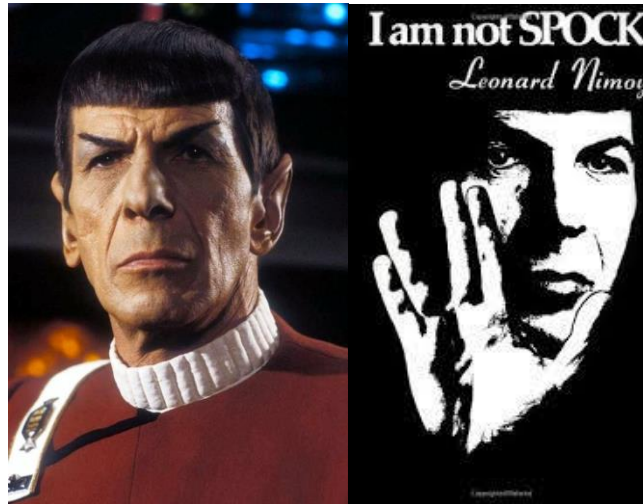
➤ Fantasy (since she has not met him, her fantasy is that he would respond in certain ways; appreciation or indebtedness, for instance)

8. “ParaSocial Relationship”

- ↪ one-sided relationships, where one person extends emotional energy, interest and time, and the target of their thought is completely unaware of the other's existence. Parasocial relationships are most common with celebrities, organizations (such as sports teams) or television stars.
- ↪ Where people develop a relationship with someone they see on television / because of television, they become familiar, which makes people sympathetic.



“Lt.Col. Henry Blake”
M*A*S*H



“Spock”
Star Trek



“Rachel”
Friends