Beverley Allitt
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Criminal Justice
Background Information

People around the world believe that angels are amazing beings that come to Earth to provide support and help, but this killer is the last angel that one would hope to come to their rescue. Most serial killers are not prone to having a fulfilling childhoods, and Beverley Allitt was no exception. Born on October 4, 1968 in Britain, Ms. Allitt was born with Munchausen's syndrome. This mental disease negatively affects many emotional traits of an individual who has it. These individuals tend to act as if they have a physical or mental disorder to receive attention when in reality they are not sick or hurt. Young Beverley was known to wear bandages and casts over cuts and bruises to gain attention from those around her. There was even occasions where she went to hospitals to get treatments for illnesses she did not have. This later lead to the unnecessary removal of her appendix.

Later in her adolescence, she would go on to become an outcast. Ignored by others and in desperate need to be noticed, Allitt would cut herself in attempt for someone to finally gratify her necessity. This unusual behavior would follow her into her later years when she would commence her nurse training. During this time she would skip training sessions and would even spread human waste over the nursing rooms. Outside of her nursing time, she would violently act against her boyfriend and would even falsely claim that she was pregnant and raped. Much time passed and surprisingly she was accepted into a six month temporary program at Grantham and Kesteven Hospital in 1991. The greatly understaffed hospital was in need of workers and so Beverley was assigned Ward 4. That department is where her killing spread would begin and where four young kids would face the Angel of Death.
Crimes Commit

Lim Taylor a seven month old child would be the first to perish under the wrath of Beverley Allitt. Liam was taken to the hospital due to a chest infection and was unfortunately signed into Ward 4. Seeing that his parents were a mess, Nurse Allitt went out and told them to go home and get some rest, that their beloved child was in the right hands. Having faith in her, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor went home. During that night Liam somehow had a serious respiratory failure, but survived. Then, he would go on to have another attack once left alone with Beverley over the night. Red patches began to appear on his face after his skin had turned extremely light. Once seeing this, Allitt called for the hospital emergency team to come and provide extra support due to Liam’s condition. The team was able to keep the child living, even though he had suffered brain damage, with the use of LS machine; but after a couple of days, with the parents permission, he was taken off of life support and died of heart failure. Liam died on February 21, 1991.

Then came Timothy Hardwick only a few weeks on March 5, after Liam’s passing. This eleven year old child was admitted into Ward 4 due to an epileptic fit; this was a result of Timothy’s cerebral palsy, which is a variety of illnesses which attack an individual's muscle control. Once being under Ms. Allitt's supervision, young Timothy's condition worsened over time. This would later lead to his death despite the efforts of the hospital staff. His cause of death was undetectable. He would come to be the oldest victim of Beverley as well as the last individual who actually pass away.

Her next attempt to kill would be Kayley Desmond only 5 days after her previous casualty. She was taking to Grantham Hospital due to a chest infection. Again, a couple of days
Crimes Committed Cont.

after being under the Angel of Death’s monitoring, she went into cardiac arrest, but was able to be revived by the “crash” team. After, she was quickly transferred into a nearby hospital in the same city. She was able to recover, but a small perforation was found under her armpit and in addition, air bubbles were found close by. Although this was unusual, it was deemed to have been an accidental infection.
Physiological Profile

One could wonder, how can anyone be so cold hearted as to take the lives of vulnerable children? And many serial killers could hold various different answers, but Allitt’s purpose was simply for attention. As we know from her childhood, she was diagnosed with Munchausen syndrome. Also, she was known to be an outcast at her young age through middle and high school. All these factors came into play when she was older to push her to find the desired spotlight. This is why during her nurse training courses she would act strange, skip class, and claim to her boyfriend at the time that she was pregnant. All of these acts brought her attention from those around her which filled that missing piece of her “puzzle”.

Her past was the perfect equation to form a monster that would kill for noticement and thrive off of the fear of those around her. Yet at the sametime unaware that what she was doing was wrong. Her mental disorder played a crucial role in the actions that Ms. Beverley took during her life which included targeting young kids. She watched the lives of her victims fade from their bodies; no emotions, no concern. But how was she able to do this with no feelings whatsoever? Health Psychology Consultancy writers, have the same questions and have written in their article, “Making of a Monster: Beverley Allitt” that her decisions were fed by her mental disorder.

At the core of the disorder is a need for attention, often gained through orchestrating a situation where they are seen to be a martyr. This is what I was doing when she deliberately harmed children in secret in order to portray a very different image of a caring woman who nursed these children during illnesses that she would exacerbate or cause. BA was able to watch children dying because the children were merely a means for getting her own needs met; she had no emotional attachment to them other
than the role they played in gaining her attention and praise. (www.healthpsychologyconsultancy.com)

She had the thirst to fulfill her needs and she came to find that through the deaths of others, she was able to find the attention that she wished for. The disorder that she had detached her from the emotions of fear, happiness, remorse. This makes the Angel of Death extremely unpredictable and dangerous. Additionally, this would come to put her on a higher ranking on the scale of evil due to the fact that her mental disability kept her from realizing that the actions she committed were horrible. She was a true threat.
Motive and Conclusion

Ms. Beverley Allitt’s motive to commit these crimes was clearly under the category of, “Medical Professionals.” Killers who have this motive are known to be labeled as being “Angels of Death.” According to Mark Townsend (2014), “Criminologists studying the traits of healthcare professionals who became multiple murderers found that most craved attention,.. had disciplinary problems and liked to talk about death or exhibited “odd behaviour when someone dies.” (www.theguardian.com) As we can see, research has come to find that many serial killers under this motive of medical practices, are killing mostly for attention, lacked discipline, and reacted differently then others when it came to death. These were all characteristics that were shown in the behavior of Allit during her time of kills.

Finally in July 26, 1991 Law enforcement had enough evidence against Allitt to make an arrest. It took a while for her to be completely charged of her crimes; this was done four months later. During the trial she showed a very relaxed state while being questioned. Throughout this, she refused to admit that those murders were done by her, but she went on to be charged with four accounts of murder and eleven attempted murders. She was trialed at Nottingham Crown Court on February 15, 1993. There overdoses of insulin and potassium in the victims were all connected to Beverley as well as puncture wounds and taking them off of the oxygen machine. Her trial lasted for two months, but due to her mental disorders she only attended 16 days.

She then was given thirteen life sentences on May 23, 1993 and this came to be the harshest punishment given to a women. She was put into Rampton Secure Hospital in Nottingham which is a facility that holds those criminals who have mental problems. Even in
prison, Allitt’s behavior remained the same. Seeking once more some attention she was found to
eat grass off of the yard to get medical assistance and pour scorching liquids on her hands.

Due to her actions she was placed the home office list of individuals who are unqualified
for parole. Even after her incarceration, her actions still impacted the community where she
lived. Grantham & Kesteven Hospital was soon shut all at once due to her influence. Due to this
she will remain one of the crulest killers in England’s history.
References


