

The Murder of Christina Grimmie

https://youtu.be/3nTPRddMV-o?si=pfl_NFQCELXnuBLm

<https://youtu.be/WMJFXmm7Ba8?si=k9YKEj5bSqEoOFZ->

https://youtu.be/2E8_gOvnE0U?si=G2ZegiovtGzr9Qw9

<https://youtu.be/vhGj9ngMBfl?si=wMRdXtlvY5kCvd4D>

<https://youtu.be/7PDOT9vsYaM?si=YBNLYSNaYX0gAvyx>

[0:33-0:34](#) [1:30-1:37](#) [Christina Grimmie](#) ([pronunciation 0:4-0:05](#)) was a 22-year-old American singer and internet personality, who began her career at 15 by posting song covers on YouTube ([0:37-0:43](#)). Over the course of a few years, she grew her audience to more than 3 million subscribers, competed on the popular talent show *The Voice*, and released her first and second studio albums in 2013 and 2016, respectively.

Christina always maintained an open and friendly relationship with her fans ([Christina having a meet and greet with fans 22:41-22:56](#)). She often posted interactive videos and updates online, and in addition to YouTube, she had thousands of followers on both Twitter and Facebook. Her approachable and communicative nature made fans feel connected to her in ways that went far beyond just listening to her songs.

Most of her fans were teenagers and young adults who had fallen in love with her through her musical journey and her brief stint as a host on Disney's web show *Power Up*. But in the second half of 2015, Christina's talent and charm attracted the attention of a man who was described by most of his acquaintances as socially awkward and quiet.

Before discovering Christina, [Kevin James Loibl](#) ([pronunciation 0:50-0:51](#)) spent his free time playing video games, particularly *World of Warcraft*. He struggled to interact with people, and even at home, he stayed holed up in a dark room with heavy curtains and aluminum foil covering the windows.

Kevin lived with his father and brother in a modest suburban home in St. Petersburg, Florida. After dropping out of college and searching endlessly for a job, he was able to find work with Best Buy's Geek Squad. Early on, he was moved from one department to another because he wasn't good at interacting with customers. Eventually, he was placed on the Geek Squad team, where he didn't have to interact with people and spent his work hours repairing computers. Soon after discovering Christina, Kevin became fixated on her. He binge-watched all her videos and every post she made on social media. According to Cory Dennington, Kevin's only friend

and co-worker, he didn't have any social media accounts of his own, but he somehow stayed up to date on everything Christina posted or that mentioned her.

Cory began to notice several changes in Kevin. He went on a vegan diet and lost about fifty pounds. But that wasn't all. He also whitened his teeth, had LASIK eye surgery, and got a hair transplant.

He also started talking about Christina to his colleagues and even told Cory that she was his soul-mate. He claimed that, even though he had been an atheist all his life, she had helped him see the world differently, and that if there were a God, he saw it in her.

Christina had always been outspoken about her Christian faith, and by adopting her faith, Kevin was excited to have one more thing in common with her. So far, they both enjoyed playing video games. Christina even had a Twitch profile where she occasionally streamed while gaming, and she was a known fan of The Legend of Zelda. Her [YouTube username, zeldaxlove64](#), was a clear homage to the series. Kevin had even bragged to his colleagues that he had played online with her once, although that claim remains unverified, and there's no evidence that Christina ever interacted with him online.

Cory grew concerned that Kevin was becoming dangerously fixated with Christina. So, he brought his concerns to their boss, but no action could be taken because Kevin's behavior didn't affect his work performance.

Kevin's colleagues often saw him watching videos of Christina or staring at her pictures and were aware of his fixation on her. They would even tease him about his intense infatuation with a famous singer. His family, on the other hand, knew nothing about it.

Whenever Cory pointed out how unlikely it was for them to ever end up together, Kevin would get visibly angry and defensive and would even threaten to end their friendship. He was determined to make it happen and wouldn't entertain comments from naysayers.

But then [pictures of Christina and Stephen Rezza](#), a producer and musician she worked closely with, started circulating online, and to Kevin's dismay, he was rumored to be her boyfriend.

He had kept himself for her, going as far as dieting, adopting her religion, and spending thousands of dollars to change his appearance, and there she was, publicly dating someone else.

So on May 25, 2016, he bought a Glock 26, which he picked up after the five-day waiting period. But he decided he needed more firepower, and on June 1, he purchased a Glock 19 from a different gun store, which he [picked up six days later](#).

On June 5, he returned items he had borrowed from Cory, told him he loved him, and said he was tired and ready to ascend. Later that day, [he printed a ticket for a concert](#) by the pop band

Before You Exit, scheduled for June 10 at The Plaza Live in Orlando, where Christina would be performing as the opening act.

And on June 9, Kevin left his house in a taxi. His father saw him getting into the cab but didn't imagine that he was taking a [two-hour trip to Orlando](#).

By 1:30 p.m., he arrived at the [Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Orlando](#), just two miles from The Plaza Live, where Christina was performing the next day. While checking in, the hotel manager thought Kevin was acting strangely, but didn't think much of it.

On the day of the concert, Kevin strapped himself with the two guns he had purchased, a hunting knife, and a fully loaded magazine as he headed to The Plaza Live. Although he was nervous about being discovered at the entrance, security was more focused on searching bags and confiscating snacks, and did not pat down attendees. Once inside, he [positioned himself at the very back](#) (video of Kevin standing at the concert hall [0.04-0.12](#)), standing and watching Christina intently throughout her performance (video of Christina performing at Before You Exit's concert [23:34-23:42](#)).

After the concert, it was time for Christina's fans to meet her in person. The lobby was filled with excited teenagers and young adults. While Christina spent one-on-one time with her fans, her older brother Marcus, who was also her guitarist and road manager (video of Marcus playing the guitar at the concert [20:38-20:41](#)), was in charge of the merchandise table.

[Marcus and Christina weren't just siblings](#); they [were best friends](#), business partners, and he even referred to her as his partner for life. Having attended countless meet-and-greets with her, Marcus immediately noticed Kevin standing among the fans. He found it unusual that someone his age would attend a meet-and-greet with his sister, especially since most of her fans were much younger. Fans who stood behind Kevin would later recall that he looked nervous and uneasy as he waited in line to meet Christina.

When it was finally Kevin's turn in line, Christina reached out with a welcoming hug. While she was still smiling at him, Kevin pulled out a gun and shot her three times, once in the head and twice in the chest.

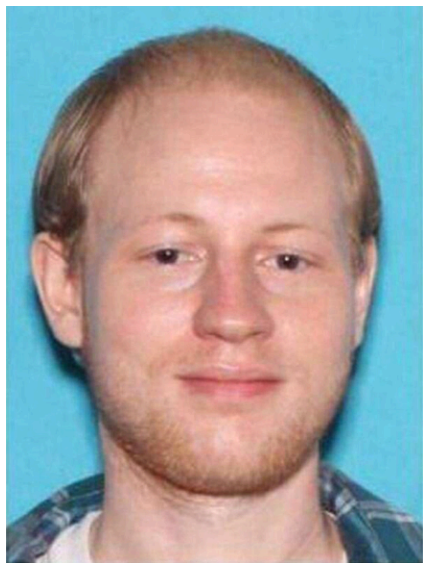
The lobby, which moments before had been filled with excited voices, erupted into chaos as people screamed and ran for safety. All but one person immediately fled in the opposite direction of the gunfire. Without hesitation, Marcus ran toward Kevin and tackled him to the ground, preventing him from continuing the attack. In that moment, all he could think about was saving his sister, who lay motionless in a pool of her own blood. While Marcus focused on protecting Christina, Kevin backed up against the wall. He had aimed for her head and chest,

two fatal locations. With that thought in mind, he pulled out his second gun, aimed it at his head, and pulled the trigger.

By the time first responders arrived at the scene, Kevin was already dead. Christina, however, still had a pulse, so they rushed her to the hospital. Shortly after arriving at the hospital, she was pronounced dead.

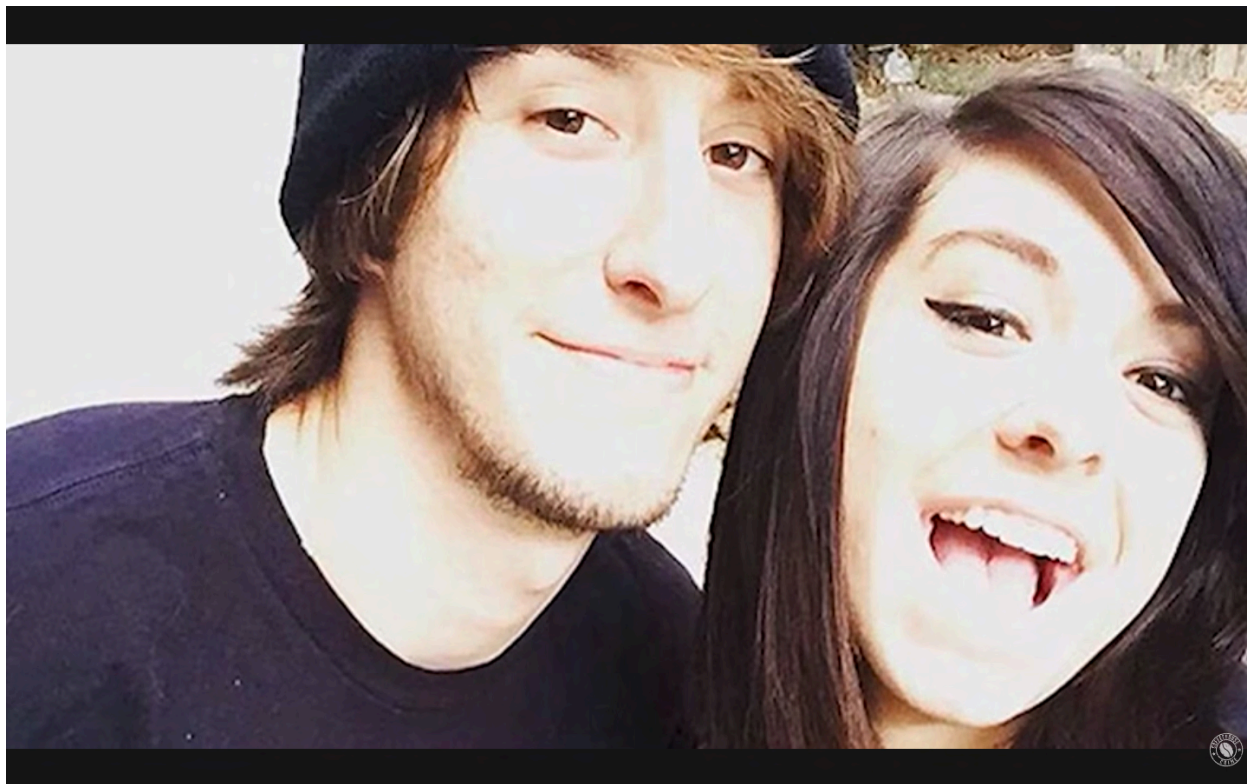
When police searched Kevin's hotel room, they found a flyer for a burial service that offered to spread a person's remains around the base of a tree. The same flyer was later found in Kevin's pocket at the scene of the shooting. He had also encrypted his phone and removed the [hard drive from his laptop](#) before leaving home, preventing the police from accessing his files and digital footprint. While the police were unable to access Kevin's files, a search of Christina's phone and digital records confirmed that she never had any personal interactions with him. In the wake of the tragedy, a note was left on the front door of the Loibl's family home in St. Petersburg, Florida, expressing the family's condolences to Christina's family and loved ones: ["Deepest sorrow for the loss to the family, friends, and fans of the very talented, loving Christina Grimmie. No other comments."](#)

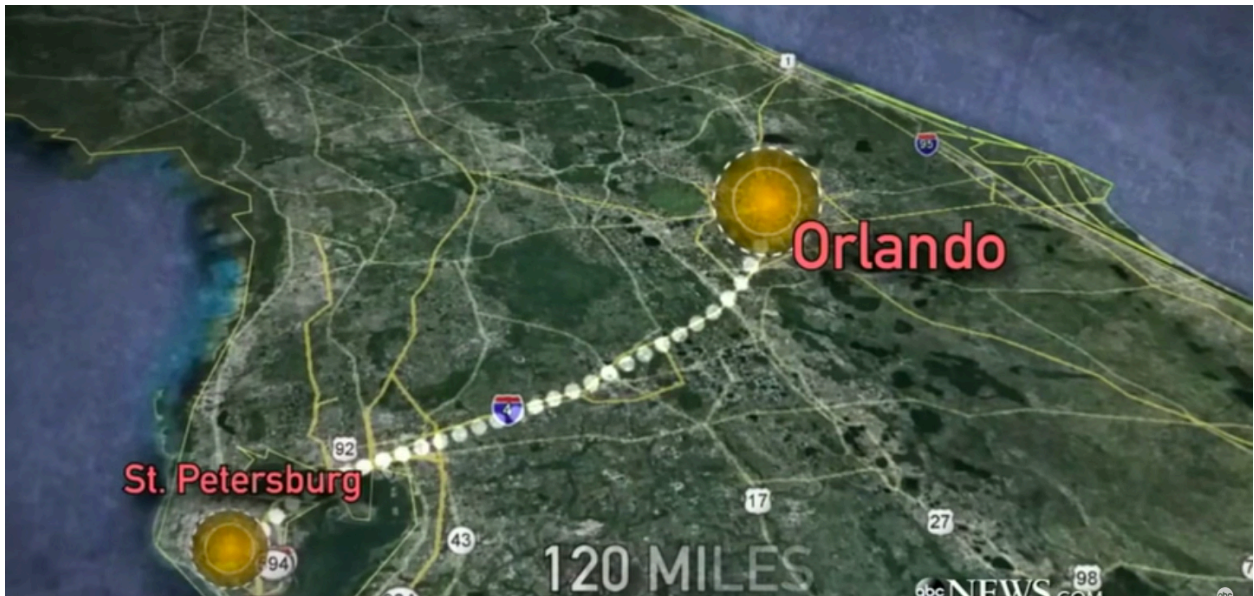
















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