

The Story of Hannibal the Cannibal



While the actual story of Dr. Hannibal Lecter might be a fictional one, it draws inspiration from numerous gruesome murderers over the past century that have much more in common than you'd think. While sources tell us that Hannibal was based on only a single character, experts of the source material might suggest otherwise. The similarities between numerous heinous murderers throughout modern history are slated to be inspirations that bring the sadistic psychiatrist Lecter to life.

Andrei Chikatilo (On screen, no VO)

This is Andrei Romanovich Chikatilo, a Soviet serial killer nicknamed The Butcher of Rostov, The Rostov Ripper, and The Red Ripper who sexually assaulted, murdered, and mutilated at least fifty-two women and children between 1978 and 1990 in the Russian SFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, and the Uzbek SSR. Thomas Harris, the author who brought Hannibal Lecter to existence, might have taken inspiration from Chikatilo's heinous deeds and applied it to Lecter's character.

Chikatilo confessed to fifty-six murders and was tried for fifty-three of them in April 1992. He was convicted and sentenced to death for fifty-two of these murders in October 1992, although the Supreme Court of Russia ruled in 1993 that insufficient evidence existed to prove his guilt in nine of those killings. Chikatilo was executed by gunshot in February 1994.

Chikatilo was called the “Rostov Ripper” and the “Butcher of Rostov” because he killed most of his victims in the Rostov Oblast of the Russian SFSR. He was born in Ukraine in 1936 and had a hard childhood, experiencing both World War II and the Soviet famine.

Originally a teacher, Chikatilo was fired in 1981 after many complaints of child molestation. He then worked as a supply clerk for a factory in Rostov, which allowed him to travel throughout the Soviet Union.

His first known murder occurred in 1978 when he killed a nine-year-old girl. He would approach young people at bus or train stations and offer them alcohol or food, then lead them to a secluded area where he would attack and kill them. His victims were known to be mutilated, including the cutting off of their nipples and genitals. Many have reported that he was a cannibal.

Chikatilo was finally caught in 1990 when police used DNA evidence to identify him and his suspicious behavior at a train station. He was arrested and eventually admitted to all of his murders. He said that he felt sexually inadequate and wanted to get sexual satisfaction through violence. In April 1992, Chikatilo’s trial began, and he was found guilty of 52 murders and sentenced to death. He was executed by firing squad in February 1994.

Chikatilo’s case had a significant impact on the Soviet criminal justice system, resulting in changes in police procedure and the adoption of forensic technologies such as DNA testing. It also made people more aware of the problem of serial killers in the Soviet Union.

▶ Pure Evil: Andrei Chikatilo – The Red Ripper of Rostov (Serial Killer Docu...

▶ Execution day of Andrei Chikatilo.

▶ Andrei Chikatilo. Interview with English subtitles.

▶ Последнее слово Чикатило [документальный фильм] [1/2] Chikatilo i...

Robert John Maudsley (On screen, no VO)

This is Robert John Maudsley, an English man convicted of multiple murders. Maudsley is also referred to as an inspiration for Lector's character. Maudsley killed four people, with one of the killings taking place in a psychiatric hospital and two in prison after receiving a life sentence for a murder.

Initial reports incorrectly stated that he ate part of the brain of one of the men he killed in prison, which earned him the nickname Hannibal the Cannibal among the British press and "The Brain Eater" among other prisoners.

According to the autopsy reports, national newspapers were advised that the allegations were untrue by the Press Complaints Commission. Maudsley is the longest-serving British prisoner in solitary confinement. Robert Maudsley was one of 12 children who were born in Speke, Liverpool. He spent his early years in a Catholic orphanage in Crosby.

When Maudsley was eight years old, he was retrieved by his parents and subjected to routine physical abuse from his father until he was eventually removed from their care by social services. Maudsley later said that his father had raped him as a child, and this early abuse had left deep psychological scars.

Maudsley was a sex worker in London as a teenager in the late 1960s, using his income to support his drug addiction. He was forced to seek psychiatric help after several suicide attempts. It was during his conversation with doctors that he claimed to hear voices telling him to kill his parents. He is quoted as saying *"If I had killed my parents in 1970, none of these people would have died."*

In 1974, Robert Maudsley strangled and killed John Farrell in Wood Green, London. Farrell had picked him up for sex and reportedly showed him pictures of children he had sexually abused. Maudsley surrendered to the police, stating he needed psychiatric care. He was deemed unfit to stand trial and sent to Broadmoor Hospital.

In 1977, Maudsley, along with another resident, David Cheeseman, locked themselves in a cell with a third patient, David Francis, who was a convicted child molester. They tortured him to death for nine hours in retaliation for a “homosexual attack” on one of their friends. Maudsley was convicted of manslaughter and sent to Wakefield Prison, where he killed two fellow prisoners in one day in 1978.

The first victim was Salney Darwood, who Maudsley had been giving French lessons to. Maudsley invited him to his cell, where he strangled and stabbed him before hiding his body under the bed. Maudsley then attempted to lure other prisoners into his cell but was unsuccessful.

He then hunted for a second victim and eventually stabbed prisoner William Roberts to death in his bed. Maudsley claimed that his victims were rapists, pedophiles, or sex offenders and that he is only a threat to sex offenders.

Maudsley was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation that he never be released. He has spent most of his life in solitary confinement, with limited human contact and access to only books and TV. He has been dubbed the “Hannibal the Cannibal” of Britain due to his killings and his desire to eat the brain of one of his victims, although there is no evidence that he actually did so. Maudsley's mental health has been a point of concern throughout his imprisonment, with various diagnoses being suggested, including schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, and psychopathy.

Maudsley's extreme violent tendencies led prison authorities to construct a special two-cell unit in the basement of Wakefield Prison in 1983 to contain him. In light of his history of violence, he is escorted by at least four prison officers whenever he leaves his cell.

In March 2000, Maudsley made an unsuccessful plea to relax the terms of his solitary confinement. He also requested permission to take his own life with a cyanide capsule, which was denied. Additionally, Maudsley requested a pet budgerigar, but this request was also turned down.

▶ Robert John Maudsley - 'cannibal' killer set to die in underground glass b...

▶ Robert Maudsley - Caged Misery

▶ The Scandalous case of Robert J Maudsley

▶ Britain's Most Dangerous Prisoner? The Chilling Tale of Robert Maudsley

James Coyner (On screen, no VO)

This is Alonzo Robinson, also known as James H. Coyner, an American grave robber, murderer, cannibal and suspected serial killer, who is also proposed to be an inspiration for Hannibal Lector.

Robinson was suspected of killing and decapitating 4 women while he was living at a house in Ferndale, Michigan, but there was not enough evidence to convict him. Eventually, he was sentenced to death and executed for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Aurelius B. Turner in his hometown of Cleveland.

Robinson was born into an impoverished family in Cleveland, Mississippi, and was arrested by his hometown authorities in 1918 for mailing obscene letters to local women. He was able to escape while en route to the jail, sustaining a bullet injury to his shoulder in the process.

Robinson moved to Ferndale, Michigan, using the alias of "James H. Coyner" sometime in 1926. Around this time, the bodies of decapitated women had started turning up around the city, with the authorities immediately suspecting Robinson.

By 1927, he had been convicted and imprisoned at the Indiana State Penitentiary in Michigan City for stealing a girl's corpse from a local graveyard. While imprisoned, he was questioned by Ferndale authorities about the case, but he simply stated, *"I could tell you a lot of things you'd like to know, a lot of things about murders and murderers, but I'll die first."*

After being released on parole in June 1934, he returned to Cleveland and continued to write obscene letters. One of these items was mailed to a woman in Indianapolis, and while postal inspectors were investigating, Robinson had already murdered two more people.

On December 9, 1934, Robinson broke into the Cleveland home of Aurelius B. Turner and his pregnant wife. While Mr. Turner was sitting in a chair and reading a newspaper, Robinson hit him with an axe before shooting him.

Mrs. Turner was then hit with the axe about five times, and he mutilated both of their bodies and kept some of the women's flesh. According to reports, he struck one of the Turners children over the head and left the child for dead, but did not harm the other child, who was sleeping in a crib.

Shortly after the murders, Robinson was arrested on January 12, 1935, by authorities in Shaw, Mississippi after they were able to trace his letters to his post office box. He was capable of grabbing his gun instinctively, but the deputies quickly overpowered him and he surrendered.

The policemen then searched Turner's pockets and found more letters and Mr. Turner's pocket watch. They also found a packet of human hair in Mrs. Turner's color and pieces of human flesh with bite marks. Following his arrest, Robinson was moved to a jail in Hinds County. While there, he was questioned for several hours in his cell by District Attorney Greek Rice, along with Sheriffs E. R. McLean and John Roberts. He freely confessed to killing the Turners because he had an impulse to kill someone.

Furthermore, he was questioned about the trunk with the missing women's heads found in Ferndale, as requested by authorities in Pontiac, and although Robinson claimed that the trunk was indeed his, he denied killing the women, and instead claimed that they were trophies from various grave robberies.

Robinson was brought to court for his trial after his confessions. Heavy patrols were placed both in the streets and in the courtroom due to the gruesome nature of his crimes. He was quickly convicted and sentenced to death by the judge following a one-day trial, subsequently being sent to a jail in Jackson for safekeeping with an escort of 200 National Guardsmen.

The Bolivar County jail was guarded by between 200 and 300 troops on March 5, 1935, as Sheriff McLean was preparing the prisoner for the execution. Grinning broadly as the black hood and noose were pulled over his head, Alonzo Robinson was executed by hanging on the jail's scaffold.

<https://youtu.be/tLnkJY3HdV8>

Alfredo Balli Trevino (On screen, no VO)

This is Alfredo Ballí Treviño, a Mexican surgeon and alleged killer known as the “Real Life Hannibal Lecter.” Thomas Harris has revealed that Trevino, otherwise known as Dr. Salazar, is a direct inspiration for Lector’s character.

Author Thomas Harris had released a new edition of “The Silence of the Lambs” in commemoration of its 25th anniversary, in which he reveals for the first time the real-life doctor who inspired the infamous character of Hannibal Lecter.

Harris referred to the doctor as “Dr. Salazar,” but the information he provided matched the peculiar case of Dr. Alfredo Ballí Treviño, a medical intern who was sentenced to death for the murder of his sentimental partner, Jesús Castillo Rangel, in the early 1960s.

However, his sentence was commuted to 20 years at the Topo Chico Penitentiary in Nuevo León, where he was known for offering medical services to other inmates and performing minor surgeries. Despite the crime he committed, some inmates respected him for his attitude, and he never lost his sense of style, wearing light-colored ensembles, white shoes, dark shades, and a golden Rolex that he carried everywhere.

Ballí Treviño was born in Méndez, Tamaulipas, in 1931 and was the second of five children. His parents always encouraged their children to study and become successful, which is why Alfredo and two of his brothers went to medical school. He had a strict character like his father and carried a gun around, but he wasn't allowed a weapon in prison. He died in his sleep from prostate cancer in February 2009 when he was 77 years old.

After his release from prison, Ballí Treviño continued to practice medicine at the same place where he had killed his victim. His patients were mostly senior citizens, whom he didn't charge or suggested a symbolic contribution. He had children and grandchildren, and his firstborn died from cancer in 2010. Ballí

Treviño remarried a woman named Cristina after his first wife Dolores Montiel died while he was still imprisoned.

When Harris was publishing the novel, Ballí Treviño did not give it much importance, but when the movie “The Silence of the Lambs” was released, he found out that he had been the inspiration behind Hannibal Lecter. His family started making fun of him, and they called him “Hannibal” or “Doctor Lecter.” According to a family friend who requested anonymity, Ballí Treviño found it funny that they called him that.

Although some people thought that Ballí Treviño might have killed more than one person, no evidence was found to support this claim. His crime was categorized as a “crime of passion” because his victim was allegedly his boyfriend, but he married Dolores Montiel before going to jail. Despite his crime, Ballí Treviño continued to practice medicine and even offered medical services to other inmates in prison.

▶ Alfredo Ballí Treviño - The Real Story Behind the Silence of the Lambs

https://youtu.be/z_mK_RpHoUM

▶ The real-life serial killer that inspired Hannibal Lecter | The Reel Story

▶ Alfredo Ball Trevio: Killer Doctor Inspired Hannibal Lecter | US News | Ne...

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[Alfredo Ballí Treviño: The Killer Doctor Who Inspired the Character Hannibal Lecter](#)

[Hannibal Lecter's Real-Life Inspiration Is Scarier Than Silence of the Lambs](#)

[The Real-Life Inspirations Behind Hannibal Lecter](#)

[Robert Maudsley - Wikipedia](#)

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[Alonzo Robinson - Wikipedia](#)

[Unmasked: doctor who was real life Hannibal Lecter](#)

[Dr. Alfredo Balli Trevino Knew He Was The Real 'Hannibal' And Other
Unknown Details Of His Life](#)