

Gary Ridgway – America’s Most Prolific Serial Killer - Washington State, 1980s–2001

(169 words per minute)	Audio /	On- screen text/ Video
Cold Open 0:00 – 1:00	(Archival video montage)	(ARCHIVAL VIDEO MONTAGE)
169 words	(Gary Ridgway confession)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlbJkNVnAV0 0:00 - 0:14 1:07 - 1:19
	<p>July 15, 1982. The Green River flowed lazily under the South 212th Street bridge, its waters warmed by weeks of sun. A group of boys skipped stones, competing to see who could make the biggest splash. Then, one stone didn't bounce. It landed with a heavy 'thunk' against something pale just beneath the surface.</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old <u>Wendy Lee Coffield</u> 'floated there, her hair fanning out like seaweed, her own jeans wrapped so tightly around her neck they had to be cut away at the autopsy table.</p> <p>Within weeks, four more young women would be pulled from these same waters.</p> <p>None of them knew each other, but all of them knew the same stretch of Pacific Highway South. And all of them were seen alive for the last time getting into a truck.</p>	<p>(GARY RIDGWAY CONFESSION)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y4NN13YBUK 42:40 - 43:15</p>

- Comentado [1]:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlbJkNVnAV0>
0:00 - 0:14
1:07 - 1:19
- Comentado [2]:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y4NN13YBUK>
3:46 - 3:50
28:22 - 28:30
- Comentado [3]:** Manhunt Live! Search for the Green River Killer, Lbs Entertainment, fair use
- Comentado [4]:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y4NN13YBUK>
42:40 - 43:15
- Comentado [5]:** The Confessions of Gary Ridgeway, True Lives, fair use
- Comentado [6]:** 1. Wendy Coffield (Count I), p. 47
https://murderpedia.org/male.R/images/ridgway_gary/reports/summary.pdf
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¹ “Gary Ridgway | Victims | Murderpedia, the Encyclopedia of Murderers.” Murderpedia. Accessed May 28, 2025. <https://murderpedia.org/male.R/r/ridgway-gary-victims.htm>

<p>Intro & Disclaimer 1:00 – 2:00</p> <p>169 words</p>	<p>This episode contains graphic descriptions of violence against women. Listener discretion is strongly advised.</p> <p>What you're about to hear isn't just a true crime story.</p> <p>It's the story of how a man walked among us for twenty years completely unnoticed - painting trucks by day, trolling highways by night. It all started 40 years ago, and it's not over yet: <u>3 women are still missing</u>² and at least 6 have never been identified.</p> <p>Now, without a single warning to the victims' families, Gary Ridgway—the Green River Killer—is being moved again. This transfer marks the latest twist in the saga of America's most prolific convicted serial killer.</p> <p>We begin where Gary did: on a stretch of road where way too many women lived in prostitution, forgotten by society and ignored by those who passed by.</p> <p>This isn't just history. For some, it's still an open wound.</p>	<p>DISCLAIMER (PLEASE READ): By watching this video, you confirm that you are 18 years or older and understand the following:</p> <p>This video may include explicit language, graphic descriptions, and sensitive content. Viewer discretion is advised.</p> <p>The content is educational, informational, and entertainment-based. Some scenes or events may be dramatized or fictionalized for storytelling purposes.</p> <p>Any objects resembling weapons, drugs, or hazardous materials are props or simulations. All actions shown are performed by trained individuals — do not attempt to recreate.</p> <p>We do not promote hate, illegal activity, extremism, or disrespect toward any individual, group, government, or institution. All opinions shared are personal and may not reflect those of the producer or platform.</p> <p>REAL FOOTAGE NOTICE: Some content in this video may include real footage sourced from news reports, public records, or social media. All such materials are used under fair use (U.S.) / fair dealing (where applicable) for the purpose of reporting, documentation, and commentary.</p> <p>We strive to treat all victims and individuals shown with dignity and respect. If you are featured in this video and wish to request removal, please contact the channel directly.</p>
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² "Green River Homicides Investigation." King County, Washington. Accessed May 28, 2025. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/sheriff/courts-jails-legal-system/sheriff-services/investigations/green-river>.

		<p>LEGAL NOTICE: This video does not provide legal, medical, or professional advice. It may contain copyrighted materials used under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Act (Fair Use).</p>
<p>Victim Discovery Phase 2:00 – 7:00</p> <p>845 words</p>	<p>The Green River killings began not with a confession, but with a lie, one Gary Ridgway would cling to for decades.</p> <p>Even after admitting to 49 murders, he could never clearly recall his first victim. <i>'Might'a been Wendy Coffield,'</i> he'd say. <i>'Might'a been someone before that.'</i> The truth was buried somewhere in the fog of his pathology, lost between the women he claimed 'walked away' and the ones he knew for certain he'd killed.</p> <p>But Wendy Coffield's death was undeniable. <u>On July 15, 1982,</u>³ two boys biking across the Peck Bridge spotted her body caught in the river's current, pale and lifeless, her own jeans knotted tightly around her neck. Sixteen years old. A foster kid. A girl who slipped through the cracks long before Ridgway strangled the breath from her.</p> <p>And then the floodgates opened.</p> <p>By August, four more bodies surfaced in the same stretch of river. <u>Debra Bonner, 23,</u> found naked and tangled in a logjam.</p> <p>Marcia Chapman, 31, a mother of three, pinned under rocks in the current.</p>	<p>(GARY TALKING ABOUT STABBING KID) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoqfYYLx8kk</p> <p>3:17 - 4:01</p>

³ CNN. "Gary Ridgway Pleads Guilty to Green River Murders." *CNN Live Event/Special*, November 5, 2003. <https://transcripts.cnn.com/show/se/date/2003-11-05/segment/04>.

Comentado [8]: [https://murderpedia.org/male.R/images/ridgway_gary/reports/summary.pdf](https://murderpedia.org/male/R/images/ridgway_gary/reports/summary.pdf)

p. 47 - 48

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	<p>Cynthia Hinds, 17, her pimp's last memory of her stepping into a black Jeep.</p> <p>Opal Mills, just 16, posed almost delicately on the riverbank, as if resting.</p> <p>Some were hidden. Others left in plain sight. A few were even staged—propped up against trees, limbs arranged. As if he wanted them found... but not too quickly.</p> <p><i>“And then they⁴ had these experts come in and say it was, uh, for the last supper. And it was just, it was, uh, basically, uh, just a, uh, you know, the woman I killed, put clothes back on her and, uh, posed her. It was, uh, it was basically a posing.”</i></p> <p>Ridgway would later claim these women were his 'first', but detectives knew better, because in 2003, he casually mentioned another possibility: a woman he killed in the 1970s, back when he lived in Maple Valley.</p> <p><i>'Somethin' went wrong with the date and I killed her.'</i> No name. No body. Just another ghost in his ledger.</p> <p>But the most telling clue to Ridgway's beginnings wasn't a murder at all. It was a stabbing, one he described with eerie detachment.</p> <p>At 16, he lured a six-year-old boy into the woods near their school. The child, dressed in cowboy boots and a toy holster, thought they were playing.</p> <p>Ridgway stabbed him through the ribs, puncturing his liver. <i>'I always wanted to know what it felt like to kill somebody,'</i> he told the</p>	
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⁴ King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. *Prosecutor's Summary of the Evidence: State of Washington v. Gary Leon Ridgway*. Seattle: King County Superior Court, 2003. Accessed May 28, 2025. https://murderpedia.org/male.R/images/ridgway_gary/reports/summary.pdf.

	bleeding boy, then laughed as he walked away.	
	(INSERT VIDEO ABOUT THE BOY)	
	<p>The victim survived.⁵Forty years later, he recounted the attack in chilling detail to detectives:</p> <p><i>“Then he started walkin’ down that knoll and he was laughin’, you know, kinda puttin’ his head in the air, you know, and laughin’ real loud.”</i></p> <p>But... by then, Ridgway had long since graduated from stabbing to strangulation, going from one victim to dozens - from little boys to young girls.</p>	

- Comentado [14]:** STABBING KID - 3:17 - 4:01
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y4NN13YBUk>
- Comentado [15]:** The Confessions of Gary Ridgeway, True Lives, fair use
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⁵ King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. *Prosecutor's Summary of the Evidence: State of Washington v. Gary Leon Ridgeway*. Seattle: King County Superior Court, 2003. Accessed May 28, 2025. https://murderpedia.org/male.R/images/ridgway_gary/reports/summary.pdf.