

INTRO

[INSERT VIDEO 3]

When the police stepped inside Ed Gein's lonely home in Plainfield in 1957 they found human bones stacked like trophies. Skulls turned into bowls. Masks made of real faces. A bodysuit made from the parts of dead women. They saw a body dressed out like a deer carcass, strung upside down by her ankles, her torso split open.

Who was this man, really? To neighbors, Ed Gein was shy, quiet, even helpful. He babysat children, did small jobs around town, and rarely raised his voice. How did such a meek figure become one of history's most infamous killers? To understand what happened to Ed Gein, we need to go back to the beginning.

[INSERT PHOTO 2]

Intro v2

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THE GEIN FAMILY

Ed Gein was born on **August 27, 1906**, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. His dad, George Gein was an alcoholic who drifted from job to job, failing at everything. When he got home drunk, he would beat the living daylights out of his sons.

His mother, Augusta Wilhelmine Gein, married George when she was 22. She grew up seeing the world as a place full of sin and punishment, and La Crosse, where she lived, was worse. So, she decided to move her family to an isolated farmhouse near the rural town of Plainfield.

[INSERT PHOTO 17]

There, she could protect her sons from the evils of the world... And maybe stop them from turning just like George.

Augusta believed most of humanity was corrupt. To her, everyone was weak and a failure, but women were worse. Every woman was a temptress sent by the devil to corrupt men. The only virtuous role for a woman was being a mother.

Augusta restricted her sons' activities: the boys were not allowed to leave the farm, except to attend the nearby grade school.

She taught her sons that friends were unnecessary distractions, and every day she gathered Henry and Ed to read passages from the Bible, focusing on verses about death, divine punishment, and the moral decay of mankind.

Even the Gein farm itself reflected Augusta's personality. The 155-acre isolated farmland was away from "corrupting influences", and soon it became a fortress of isolation. It kept the family cut off, ensuring Augusta's control remained absolute.

[INSERT PHOTO 18]

Augusta warned her sons about alcohol, about sex, about women, about the evils of society.

[INSERT VIDEO 4 - 7:44 - 7:51]

And it wasn't just words... Augusta would beat her sons too. ~~Once, she saw a 12-year old Ed masturbating in the bathtub and grabbed his genitals, saying they were the "curse of man."~~

Ed's mother discovered him in the bathroom during a private moment. She reacted with harsh judgment, seizing him and immediately declaring that his body was 'the curse of man.'

¹She even told him that sexual contact would lead straight to damnation, and demanded that both sons remain virgins for life.

¹ Laura Hensley, "The Truth About Ed Gein's Obsession with His Mother," *Grunge*, March 18, 2021, <https://www.grunge.com/372470/the-truth-about-ed-geins-obsession-with-his-mother/>.