

Jack the Ripper is the best-known name for an unidentified serial killer generally believed to have been active in the largely impoverished areas in and around the Whitechapel district of London in 1888. The name "Jack the Ripper" originated in a letter written by someone claiming to be the murderer that was disseminated in the media. The letter is widely believed to have been a hoax and may have been written by journalists in an attempt to heighten interest in the story and increase their newspapers' circulation. In both the criminal case files and contemporary journalistic accounts, the killer was called "the Whitechapel Murderer" and "Leather Apron".

Attacks ascribed to Jack the Ripper typically involved female prostitutes who lived and worked in the slums of the East End of London whose throats were cut prior to abdominal mutilations. The removal of internal organs from at least three of the victims led to proposals that their killer had some anatomical or surgical knowledge. Rumours that the murders were connected intensified in September and October 1888, and letters were received by media outlets and Scotland Yard from a writer or writers purporting to be the murderer. The "From Hell" letter received by George Lusk of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee came with half of a preserved human kidney, purportedly taken from one of the victims. The public came increasingly to believe in a single serial killer known as "Jack the Ripper", mainly because of the extraordinarily brutal nature of the murders, and because of media treatment of the events.

Extensive newspaper coverage bestowed widespread and enduring international notoriety on the Ripper, and the legend solidified. A police investigation into a series of eleven brutal killings in Whitechapel up to 1891 was unable to connect all the killings conclusively to the murders of 1888. Five victims—Mary Ann Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes, and Mary Jane Kelly—are known as the "canonical five" and their murders between 31 August and 9 November 1888 are often considered the most likely to be linked. The murders were never solved, and the legends surrounding them became a combination of genuine historical research, folklore, and pseudohistory. The term "ripperology" was coined to describe the study and analysis of the Ripper cases. There are now over one hundred hypotheses about the Ripper's identity, and the murders have inspired many works of fiction.

1. Victim – Mary Ann Nichols

Five teeth were missing, and there was a slight laceration of the tongue. There was a bruise running along the lower part of the jaw on the right side of the face. That might have been caused by a blow from a fist or pressure from a thumb. There was a circular bruise on the left side of the face which also might have been inflicted by the pressure of the fingers. On the left side of the neck, about 1 in. below the jaw, there was an incision about 4 in. in length, and ran from a point immediately below the ear. On the same side, but an inch below, and commencing about 1 in. in front of it, was a circular incision, which terminated at a point about 3 in. below the right jaw. That incision completely severed all the tissues down to the vertebrae. The large vessels of the neck on both sides were severed. The incision was about 8 in. in length. The cuts must have been caused by a long-bladed knife, moderately sharp, and used with great violence. No blood was found on the breast, either of the body or the clothes. There were no

injuries about the body until just about the lower part of the abdomen. Two or three inches from the left side was a wound running in a jagged manner. The wound was a very deep one, and the tissues were cut through. There were several incisions running across the abdomen. There were three or four similar cuts running downwards, on the right side, all of which had been caused by a knife which had been used violently and downwards, the injuries were from left to right and might have been done by a left handed person. All the injuries had been caused by the same instrument.

2. victim – Annie Chapman

Bruise over the right temple - old; 2 man's thumb-sized bruises on top forepart of chest - old; 3 scratches below the lower left jaw, 1 1/2"-2" below left ear lobe, going in opposite direction of throat wounds - recent; Bruise on right cheek - recent; Bruise corresponding with the scratches - recent; Abrasion on head of proximal phalanx of ring finger; Marks of rings on same finger; Upper eyelid bruised; Limbs very stiff, but left side more stiff than right side; Bruise on middle part of bone of right hand; Scar on left of frontal bone - old; Fingers of left hand partly closed; Little food in stomach; No sign of fluid; No sign of alcohol consumption; Lungs diseased; Brain membranes diseased; Signs of deprivation; Front teeth perfect on top and bottom as far as the first molar; The shortest throat incision ran from the front of the throat and terminated on the right side between the lower jaw and the breast bone; The longest throat incision completely encircled the throat, running along the line of the jaw; The incisions ran from victim's left to right; 2 clean and distinct cuts on the left side of the spine which were parallel to each other and were 1/2" apart; Missing were the womb, upper part of vagina, greater part of bladder, and part of the belly wall that included the navel.

3. victim - Elizabeth Stride

An abrasion of the skin about an inch and a quarter diameter, apparently slightly stained with blood, was under the right clavicle. The throat was deeply gashed: in the neck was a long incision which exactly corresponded with the lower border of her scarf; the incision commenced on the left side, 2 1/2" below the angle of the jaw, and almost in a direct line with it, nearly severing the vessels on that side, cutting the windpipe completely in two, and terminating on the opposite side 1 1/2" below the angle of the right jaw, but without severing the vessels on that side.

4. victim - Catherine Eddowes

Rigor mortis well marked; green discoloration over abdomen; body not quite cold; no traces of recent connection; recent bruise, size of a sixpence, on left hand between thumb and first finger; left eyelid cut; deep cut on bridge of nose; cut on right cheek; tip of nose detached; 2 abrasions on left cheek under left ear; throat cut nearly ear-to-ear, dividing all tissues down to the bone; frontal abdominal walls cut open from the pubic area to the breast bone; liver was stabbed; left of the groin, a stab wound; cuts made between the thighs and labium on both sides; stomach contained very little food or fluid; intestines had been detached; right kidney bloodless and pale; gall bladder had bile; pancreas was cut; left kidney removed; uterus lining was cut; womb was cut through leaving 3/4" of a stump; womb was removed; bladder was healthy.

5. victim – Mary Kelly

The thighs were stripped; the abdomen was removed, abdominal cavity was empty; the breasts were cut off; arms were mutilated; Facial features were removed; the neck

was severed down to the spine; left femur split from the hips downward, exposing the marrow cavity. The uterus, kidneys, and one breast were placed under the head; The other breast was by the right foot; The liver was placed between the feet; Intestines lay by the right side of the body; Flesh removed from the abdomen and thighs were placed on the table; The heart was absent from the room. Bed clothing and the right corner of the bed were saturated with blood; About two square feet of blood was below the bed; The wall by the right bedstead had several splashings of blood. The face was cut in all directions; Numerous cuts across all features; The neck was cut down to the vertebrae; The cuts showed distinct ecchymosis; The breasts were removed by quasi-circular incisions; Associated muscles attached to the breasts; Thorax visible through the cuts; Abdomen and costal arch to pubes removed; Front right thigh skinned down to the bone; Left thigh stripped of skin and muscle as far as the knee; The left calf had a long incision running from the knee to 5" above the ankle; Both arms and forearms had extensive jagged wounds; The right thumb had a 1" superficial cut, extravasation of the blood in the skin and several abrasions on the back of the hand; Lower part of the right lung was broken and torn away; Left lung intact; Pericardium was open and the heart absent; Partly digested food found in the abdominal cavity and in the stomach remains.

laceration of the tongue – laceratio (f.) linguae

a bruise running along the lower part of the jaw on the right side of the face – contusum prope/iuxta partem inferiorem mandibulae lateris (latum n.) dextri faciei

circular bruise on the left side of the face – contusum circularis faciei sinistrae/ l.sin.

left side of the neck, below the jaw – latus/pars sinistra colli, sub mandibulla (position) below the ear – sub auri (f./position)

The large vessels of the neck on both sides – vasa (vas,n) magna colli **l.utrq.**

the lower part of the abdomen – pars inferior abdominis (abdomen, n)

Bruise over the right temple – contusum **super/supra** tempus (temporis, n.) dextrum

3 scratches below the lower left jaw – tria vulnere sub mandibulla sinistra/l.sin.

Bruise on right cheek – contusum buccae dextrae

Abrasion on head of proximal phalanx of ring finger – abrasio capitis phalangis proximalis digiti annularis/quarti

Bruise on middle part of bone of right hand – contusum partis intermediae ossis manus dextrae

womb, upper part of vagina, greater part of bladder, and part of the belly wall – uterus (m), pars superior vaginae, pars major vesicae urinariae, pars parietis ventris (venter, m.)

main artery on the left side of the neck – arteria principalis lateris sinistri colli

absence of mutilations to the abdomen – sine vulneribus abdominis

An abrasion of the skin – abrasio cutis (f)

under the right clavicle – sub clavicula dextra

in the neck was a long incision – incisura longa in collo/colli

below the angle of the jaw – sub angulo mandibulae

below the angle of the right jaw – sub angulo dextro mandubulae

The left kidney and the major part of the uterus – **ren sinister** et pars major uteri

green discoloration over abdomen – color (m.)/decoloratio viridis super/supra abdomen

deep cut on bridge of nose – incisura profunda regionis superioris nasalis/ apicis (apex, m.) nasi

2 abrasions on left cheek under left ear – abrasiones due buccae sinistrae sub auri sinistra

frontal abdominal walls – parietes abdominis frontales

cuts made between the thighs and labium on both sides – incisurae inter femores et labium **l.utrq.**

right kidney bloodless and pale – ren **sinister** sine sanguine et **pallidus**

gall bladder had bile – vesica fellea cum bili (f., bilis)

uterus lining was cut - incisura marginis uteri

bladder was healthy – vesica sana

disembowelled body – corpus evisceratus

The uterus, kidneys, and one breast – uterus (m), renes, una mamma/mamilla under the head – cub capite

breast was by the right foot – mamilla prope pedem (m) dextrum

The liver was placed between the feet – hepar (atis) inter pedibus (posita)

Intestines lay by the right side of the body – Viscera prope partem dextram corporis Numerous cuts – incisurae multae

The neck was cut down to the vertebrae – incisura colli (usque) ad vertebram

Thorax visible through the cuts – thorax visibilis per incisuras

Abdomen and costal arch – abdomen et arcus costarum

Front right thigh skinned down to the bone – femur frontalis dextra cutita ad ossam

Left thigh stripped of skin and muscle as far as the knee – femur sinistra cutita ad genum

The left calf had a long incision – incisura longa **surae** sinistrae

several abrasions on the back of the hand – abrasiones multae dorsi manus

Lower part of the right lung was broken – fractura partis inferioris pulmonis dextri

Left lung intact – pulmo (m.) sinister integer/intactus

Pericardium was open – pericardium apertum

in the abdominal cavity – in cavitate abdominis