

What Do You Know
About Real Killers?

KILLER IQ: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

INTRODUCTION

A warning- As a culture, we are inundated with killing everywhere we turn. This can lead to de-sensitization to violence, and people may need increasing levels to find a story interesting. As a psychiatric nurse for 50 years, that worries me. Not for the adults with life experiences to put it in perspective, but for kids who grew up with too much screen time as their reality. I grew up playing cops and robbers and read mysteries that were a lot 'cleaner' before my career led me to grittier portrayals. I know I'm writing fiction.

An Admission- That said, I write to suit myself and I like a certain amount of adult content too. My books are for adults who can handle adult themes and keep them in perspective. I write about imperfect people doing imperfect things, and I use my knowledge of the human mind to make it as real as possible.

A Thank You- Thank you for signing up for my email list. Now let's test your **Killer IQ.**

QUESTION #1

Most murders
are hard to
solve

- A- Agree
- B- Disagree
- C- Beats me

ANSWER # 1

- **No! They are not complicated. The answer is B.**
 - Most murders are straight-forward and understandable. Gangs, drugs, and other crimes account for most murders and they have clear rationale.
 - Real mysteries are *unusual, and they are usually portrayed inaccurately*. We see them solved on TV in an hour! True crime shows are more realistic, with the detectives needing months before they can make an arrest- even if they are sure who did it.

QUESTION #2

Most killers are
schizophrenic or
have multiple
personality disorder

- A-False
- B- True
- C- Can't decide

ANSWER #2

- **No! The answer is A**
- I'm speaking simply without a lot of jargon, so let me say *there's 'crazy' ... and then there's 'crazy'*.
- Schizophrenics or people with splintered personalities (which is actually a very RARE condition) have a medically treatable disease of the brain and are RARELY violent. When they are, it's usually directed at themselves.
- Killers can be anyone provoked to do so, but they are most likely legally sane, with no medically treatable psychiatric condition.
- Serial killers have a unique place in psychiatry that I'll mention later.

QUESTION #3

**Who is most likely to kill
you?**

A- A serial killer

B- A stranger

C- Your significant other

ANSWER #3

- **C- Your significant other**
 - Statistically, we are not likely to be hurt or killed by a stranger. I'm reminded of Hannibal Lector in *Silence of the Lambs*, when he tells Clarice that we 'covet what we see'. To get upset enough to kill, most of us would need extensive personal exposure.
 - Unless we stumble into a crime in progress, buy drugs on the street, or challenge someone with road rage, we are most likely (70%) to be killed by someone who knows us. (Here's a good reason not to abuse, belittle, or aggravate someone constantly, lol)

QUESTION #4

Choose the profile of the person most likely to commit murder

A- Male, age 20-40, married with kids. He seeks fulfillment of his unusual sexual cravings by using prostitutes, having a mistress, or going to sex clubs. His wife is viewed as a Madonna who is above those base activities. He has a high-paying job with excuses to travel.

B- Female, age 40+. Unmarried, lives with a parent for whom she is responsible. She has a care-taking job as well. She resents people who had families as that opportunity seems to pass her by.

C- Male age 20-40. Probably not married but might have a long-term relationship with a submissive woman. Probably has a technical job but isn't at the top or the bottom of the organizational chart. Quiet, unassuming, good-looking but subdued.

ANSWER #4

- **Answer- Any of them!** Don't get bogged down by conventional wisdom.
- 'Stereotypes' and 'old wives' tales' are true more often than untrue, so use them, but don't get tunnel vision

QUESTION #5

Is a killer more likely to be male or female?

A- Female

B- Male

C- Either

ANSWER #5

It Depends on how you interpret the word 'killer'.

Most likely a **serial killer** is a male- but:

'Angels of Mercy' are more often female. There are no stats on those deaths because medical professionals sometimes use medication overdoses to mimic natural death when patients are suffering. Some may feel that's a 'slippery slope' to being a killer.

ANSWER #5 (CONT.)

Although testosterone makes men more prone to settling problems with violence, the right amount and type of trauma could make a woman become a killer

13 states allow assisted suicide- does that count? It depends on your opinion

The abortion controversy adds to the idea of who is a killer

QUESTION #6

How many serial killers are operating in the US right now?

A- 1-10

B- 10-20

C- 25-50

ANSWER #6

- Serial Killers don't get checked off on a national census, so don't bet your life on it- but the answer is C.



SERIAL KILLER 101

- **ODDS**

- Your odds of be a victim of a serial killer sound high at 1/18,000-32,000 but put another way, serial killers account for <1% of all murders.
- Your odds of being just plain murdered are 1/157 (but that's variable based on gender and location*)
- Odds are that you will cross paths with a serial killer 7-36 times in your life, depending on where you live

All good reasons to be nice to everyone you meet!

Overall, given the population size of the country, the FBI considers serial murder a very rare occurrence.

Fiction is Fiction!

SERIAL KILLER 101

- Serial killers are certainly 'sick' but most are legally sane
- They understand right and wrong, but they don't feel rules apply to them
- Don't worry about labels like narcissism, sociopathy, or psychopathy. Labels are for professionals to define treatment and for billing purposes. Everyone else should just consider behavior and risk
- Serial killers almost all start out as abused children
- Many serial killers seem to lack the ability to form basic human connections and learn to mimic feelings with their behavior and facial expressions
- Serial killers evolve and often see their work as their craft to perfect
- Serial Killers are not really all brilliant, as portrayed in fiction

TRUST YOURSELF

Things to Watch For

- A smile that never touches the eyes;
- The feeling that 'no one is home' when you talk to them;
or
- Invading your space and missing other social cues.

Things to Do

- Follow all the well-known safety precautions, and
- If you feel uncomfortable with someone, always trust that feeling.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF SERIAL KILLERS
AS FAR AS THE VICTIM IS CONCERNED:
THE KIND THAT YOU DON'T SEE BEFORE
THEY POUNCE ON YOU AND THE KIND
YOU SEE AND DON'T EXPECT TO POUNCE
ON YOU.

PAT BROWN



CONCLUSION AND THINGS²⁰ TO CONSIDER

- *Anyone* could kill with the right provocation.
- *Under what circumstances would you kill?* What kind of pressure would we have to apply to make you kill?
 - In *Greetings From the Wallflower*, I took a perfectly sane soccer-mom and turned her into a revenge killer.
 - In Part One of the *Psychopathic Desires Trilogy*, the heroine killed someone who was harming her.
 - In *Mountain Madness*, a cartel was responsible for many murders.

Killing and Killers Come in Many Forms

ROBIN'S WRITING CHALLENGE

“The most fascinating part of writing books about murder is to find the feelings, pressures, and behaviors that normalize violence and humanize murderers. Bad guys are not all bad and good guys are not all good. Otherwise, characters would be boring!”

THANKS, AND KEEP
READING!

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