

Evil Lives Here

Evil Lives HereGenreDocumentaryDirected by

- J. Tom Pogue
- Joe Pincosy
- Phoebe Kwong
- Justin Lee Stanley
- Bryan C. Marsh
- Colin Herlihy

Theme music composerJohn CongletonOpening theme "What's So Amazing About Grace?" by The Paper ChaseComposerJohn CongletonCountry of originUnited StatesNo. of seasons12No. of episodes110 + 2 specialsProductionExecutive producers

- Stephen Dost
- Kevin Fitzpatrick
- Jonathan Santos

Producers

- Jacinda A. Davis
- Joe Carmina
- Jaime Hanaway
- Chris Sgueglia
- Andrea Calmon

Running time42 minutesProduction companyRed Marble MediaReleaseOriginal networkInvestigation DiscoveryOriginal releaseJanuary 17, 2016 –present

Evil Lives Here is an American documentary television series on Investigation Discovery that debuted on January 17, 2016. This 60-minute true crime show spends each episode interviewing a family member of the highlighted murderer.

On August 23, 2020, Season 8 kicked off with a 90-minute episode called "I Killed Dirty John", on which Debra and Terra Newell recount their experiences with "Dirty" John Meehan. The format is featured on the spinoff series, Evil Lives Here: Shadows of Death, in which both investigators and families of victims discuss the impacts murders had on their lives. Unlike its predecessor, the culprit isn't revealed right away in some episodes.

Premise[edit]

What if the person closest to you, were a devil in disguise. Would you see the signs?

– Onscreen text of the premise during the show's opening sequence

The premise of the show depicts the stories of people who shared a home and a life with a loved one who would become a killer whether it be a parent, sibling, extended family member, or even an offspring. Reenactments blended with police footage, family photographs, videos and interviews give the audience a view of the murderer as told through the eyes of someone close to them.[1]

Most episodes are done solo with only one close person to the suspect who committed heinous acts telling the story, though there are a few with two people featured. The producers are sometimes heard in the background asking questions to the person or persons being interviewed. Every episode depicts the person looking at pictures of themselves and or the suspect to reminisce on certain moments in their lives whether it be good or bad.

Episodes[edit]

Season 1 (2016)[edit]

Season 2 (2017)[edit]

Season 3 (2018)[edit]

Season 4 (2018)[edit]

Season 5 (2019)[edit]

Season 6 (2019)[edit]

Season 7 (2020)[edit]

Season 8 (2020)[edit]

- Two specials aired during this season which are included at the end of the list. They are not included in the show's official episode count.

Season 9 (2021)[edit]

Season 10 (2021)[edit]

Season 11 (2022)[edit]

Season 12 (2022)[edit]

Evil Lives Here: Shadows of Death[edit]

Evil Lives Here: Shadows of DeathGenreDocumentaryDirected by

- J. Tom Pogue
- Joe Pincosy
- Phoebe Kwong
- Justin Lee Stanley
- Bryan C. Marsh
- Colin Herlihy

Theme music composerJohn CongletonComposerJohn CongletonCountry of originUnited StatesNo. of seasons4No. of episodes26ProductionRunning time42 minutesProduction companyRed Marble MediaReleaseOriginal networkInvestigation DiscoveryOriginal releaseOctober 29, 2020 –present

A spinoff series titled Evil Lives Here: Shadows of Death debuted on October 29, 2020. Whereas the parent show Evil Lives Here showcases a person being interviewed on a family member who is a murderer and how the situation has affected them, this show features mostly the associates of the victims and law enforcement themselves being interviewed on how they were affected by the culprit's actions or culprits if there was more than one.[57]

Evil casts a shadow. That shadow spreads outward for years, even decades, after a crime. It consumes everyone in its path, pulling them into darkness.

– Onscreen text of the premise during the show's opening sequence[58]

As of 2021, the actors of the show must be vaccinated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.[59][60][61]

Premise[edit]

Some episodes do favor the original show's format featuring family member culprits, but the stories are told by two or more people of the family (often joined by a police officer assigned to the case), as opposed to just one person the whole way through which is a main element of the original show for most of the episodes. With Shadows of Death, it is the reversal where solo interview storytelling is rare.

Episodes[edit]

Season 1 (2020)[edit]

Season 2 (2021)[edit]

Season 3 (2022)[edit]

Season 4 (2022)[edit]

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External links[edit]

- Evil Lives Here at IMDb

Richard Paul White: ID's 'Evil Lives Here' Tells Story Of Sister Of Colorado Serial Killer Who Buried Victims In Backyard

Richard Paul White, the Colorado serial killer who buried two people in his yard over a decade ago, will have his story told by his sister on the next episode of Evil Lives Here, a new crime documentary series that debuted last week on Investigation Discovery, according to TV Ruckus. Evil Lives Here is an hour-long television series that holds interviews with the family members of those who've committed acts of murder. The show is quite different from most of Investigation Discovery's program line-up. On Sunday night's episode entitled "My Brother's Secret," Investigation Discovery viewers will learn that serial killer Richard Paul White murdered at least five people in Denver, Colorado. Four of his victims were Annaletia Maria Gonzales, Victoria Lyn Turpin, Torrey Marie Foster, and Jason Reichardt. For his atrocities, he was sentenced to three life terms in a Colorado correctional facility.

Article continues below

Not much is known about the female victims, and not many articles were written about them at the time that they disappeared back in 2002. One thing is certain: the 6-foot-tall, red-haired man must have looked like a devil to them as they took their last breath. Annaletia, whose father called her Angel, never got over her death. And he never got over his daughter's death. She was found strangled to death in the back of a plastic bag.

Friends who remember Jason Reichardt say that he was a nice g

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Episodes

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Details

1. 1. Something About Robbie

January 16, 2016

44min

TV-14

Subtitles

Subtitles

English, Français

Audio languages

Though Ronald Hawkins and Candace Sims knew that their son Robbie was different from an early age, they were unprepared for the heinous crime that he would eventually commit.

2. January 23, 2016

44min

TV-14

Subtitles

Subtitles

English, Français

Audio languages

Danyall White tells the gripping true story of her brother Richard. Danyall always thought he was a prankster who told violence stories. But she slowly realized that her brother was hiding a monstrous secret.

3. January 30, 2016

44min

TV-14

Subtitles

Subtitles

English, Français

Audio languages

Cathy thought she had found the man of her dreams in Peter Tobin. But by the time she discovered his dark secret, it was too late. Now, she has to keep herself and her son alive long enough to escape.

4. February 13, 2016

44min

TV-14

Subtitles

Subtitles

English [CC], Français

Audio languages

To Kevin Currie, Mormon prophet Jeffrey Lundgren was more than a spiritual leader, he was a brother. But before long, Kevin realized that this Man of God was really a devil in disguise with an evil plan.

5. In Love With The Devil

February 20, 2016

44min

TV-14

Subtitles

Subtitles

English [CC], Français

Audio languages

Bernadette was 17 when her boyfriend, Brian Sugrim, told her he had murdered someone. But she didn't believe him. Only years later would she realize the true evil that Brian was capable of.

6. February 27, 2016

44min

TV-14

Subtitles

Subtitles

English, Français

Audio languages

Sheila Janutolo dreaded being alone with her husband Jim Cruz. Over the years, she had learned to fear him and his fierce temper. But when she got a call that he'd been arrested for a ghastly crime, she had doubts about his guilt.

Customers also watched

Cast and Crew Powered by

Phoebe Kwong - director

More details

Reviews

1. 46% of reviews have 5 stars
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3. 0% of reviews have 3 stars
4. 0% of reviews have 2 stars
5. 40% of reviews have 1 stars

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Richard Hamlin gets life in prison

Judge says the former prosecutor ‘inspired by pure evil’

Even after his family testified how they fear him, loathe him and have disowned him, Richard W. Hamlin, the former Sacramento prosecutor and defense attorney convicted of torturing his wife and abusing his children, shook his head in denial as he was sentenced Friday to life in prison.

“I’m numb inside. I started to become angry. I’m just really depressed,” said Hamlin’s 14-year-old son.

The boy told the judge that his 46-year-old father, who has been in custody for the past two years, is still a danger to the family.

“If he gets out, it will not be him sitting in that chair. It will be me,” the boy said, looking at his father with an icy stare.

Hamlin was convicted in January of torturing his wife by punching her, stabbing her with writing pens, cutting her with a sword and pistol-whipping her over a nine-month period beginning in June of 2003 and ending Feb. 28, 2004, with his arrest in El Dorado County.

In a bizarre scheme involving mind-control, satanic cults, child molestation and extortion, Hamlin turned his children against their mother telling them she was evil and that he had to beat the demons out of her.

One night in the family van after Hamlin pistol-whipped his wife with a derringer, their two boys pointed paint-ball pistols at their mother’s head, trial evidence showed.

Hamlin, who was a Sacramento County deputy district attorney for four years and well-known defense attorney for an additional 13 years, lived a lavish lifestyle before his arrest, rubbing shoulders with judges, politicians and U.S. attorneys.

He and his wife, Susan, herself a lawyer, lived in a million-dollar mansion in El Dorado Hills. Then the couple, who were often seen at expensive restaurants and popular midtown nightclubs, vanished from Sacramento’s night life. Hamlin began to miss his court appearances.

He declared bankruptcy in his \$700,000-a-year law practice, and his home was in foreclosure when he concocted a plan to extort a fortune from his then 71-year-old Fresno father-in-law by threatening to sue him for molesting Susan Hamlin when she was a child, according to El Dorado County Deputy District Attorney Vicki Ashworth.

Richard Hamlin, who has since surrendered his license to practice law, represented himself in the three-month-long trial. Hamlin argued that he was a victim of a plot hatched by his father-in-law, an agricultural researcher, whom Hamlin described as a leader of a satanic cult.

Hamlin would spend hours with his wife attempting to get her to talk about and chronicle her “repressed memories” of sexual abuse, the jury was told.

Defense witnesses testified that Susan Hamlin confessed her role in a murder plot in minute detail to relatives, friends and a family pastor and to sheriff’s detectives.

On Friday, Susan Hamlin, who has been giving interviews focusing on domestic violence since her former husband’s conviction, said she lied to others to survive.

“Victims of domestic violence don’t live to tell their story; they turn up dead — their voices forever silenced,” she said.

“I did not die. I did whatever I had to do to stay alive and save my (children). I am a survivor,” Susan Hamlin said in a halting voice as she read her prepared statement.

“What terrified me the most was the sword,” she said. “Rick waved the sword around wildly, lunged at me with the sword pointed at me, pinned me to the wall with the tip of the sword to my chest.”

Also speaking at the sentencing hearing was the Hamlins’ 11-year-old daughter, who described graphic details of the beatings.

“I remember one time when my father was in my room, I saw him drag my mom by her hair,” the girl said, avoiding eye contact with her father.

“I think my father should go to prison because he was such a bad parent,” she said.

The Hamlin’s 8-year-old daughter, who came to court with a doll tucked under her arm, walked up to the witness stand to testify accompanied by her mother. But when it came time to speak, she said she couldn’t. Her mother read her statement for her.

“My dad hurt us. Now I am still afraid to go to sleep because I’m afraid he is going to come back,” the girl wrote.

"He told us he was going to get rid of our mom and get us a new mom," the girl's letter said.

The victims' impact statements lasted about 30 minutes. Most of the nearly four-hour sentencing hearing was devoted to Hamlin attempting to convince Judge Eddie T. Keller that he deserved a new trial or that the life term on the torture count amounted to cruel and unusual punishment.

Hamlin and his co-counsel, public defender Robert Banning, argued that the torture count shouldn't stand because the jury acquitted Hamlin of about half of his 18 charges.

One of the jurors who convicted Hamlin of torture, who sat in the audience, wrote the judge earlier saying she thought life in prison was too harsh and that she felt pressured by other jurors during the nine days of deliberation.

In rejecting the defense requests, Keller said he "seriously questioned" the credibility of the juror who claimed that today she would not convict Hamlin of torture.

The judge said the punishment fit the crime because Hamlin's domestic violence was "inspired by pure evil" and though he "inflicted the nightmare upon his four children," Hamlin was neither remorseful nor contrite.

Hamlin will be eligible for parole in about seven years.

But their younger daughter said in her letter to the court she doesn't want to see her father again.

"All I ever wanted was a daddy that loved me. I wanted two parents that loved me, but I only got one. Please don't let my daddy come back," she said.

The Bizarre Case of Richard and Susan Hamlin - by Robert T. Carroll - The Skeptic's Dictionary

a tale of torture, murder, rape, incest, satanic cults, snuff films, death threats, pistol whipping, the CIA, Ted Gunderson, mind control, Stockholm syndrome, depression, child abuse, infidelity, bankruptcy, the rise and fall of a couple of rich lawyers, and the destruction of a family

January 11 (updated September 30), 2006. A very strange criminal trial concluded in Sacramento yesterday (Jan. 10) with the conviction of former prosecutor and defense attorney Richard W. Hamlin, 45, on several charges, including that of torturing his wife, Susan Hamlin, 49, also an attorney. She formerly worked at one of the largest law firms in Sacramento. The torture conviction may get him life in prison. (update, September 29, 2006: Judge Eddie T. Keller sentenced Hamlin to life in prison and told him that his violence was "inspired by pure evil." The judge didn't elaborate on his theological presumption, though it seems to have been put forth to support the length of the prison sentence. Under California's inscrutable sentencing laws, however, Hamlin will be eligible for parole in about seven years.)* The legal proceedings began on February 26, 2004, when Hamlin and his wife, Susan, walked into the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and she claimed that she was a member of a satanic cult led by her 71-year-old father. She claimed that the cult planned to kill Richard as a "Christian trophy" at midnight on March 1. She also claimed that the cult was planning to murder her husband because "if he were allowed to live he would cause problems for the Satanists" and that by killing him she would become a High Priestess in the cult. She also claimed that she had been molesting her four children for several years and that she had been raped by her father when she was a young girl and that he "passed her around to whoever else wanted to rape her."* She named her father, Dr. Sydney Siemer, as a child molester and satanic cult leader. She claimed that a Howard Mily not only had been molesting her since she was 15, but that she had witnessed Mily torture and murder a young girl in 1982. She claims she was "strung up on a pegboard" by Mily for three weeks and kept in cold storage and that she was brought out to witness the murder. Her father, she said, keeps snuff films and pornography at his home in Fresno.

When she confessed to these bizarre happenings, she had signs of physical abuse. She told officers that another Satanist named Rock Clum had punched her in the face a couple of days earlier in a Starbucks parking lot where she had gone to meet Lisa Clum to talk about the plot to kill Richard.

After Deputy G. Murphy and detectives Hoagland and Lensing heard this bizarre tale, they had the children placed in protective custody but let Susan and Richard leave with no charges being filed "pending further investigation."* Whatever that further investigation consisted of, it did not involve charging or arresting Susan Hamlin, Siemer, Mily, the Clums, or Richard Keehn (who was also named as a conspirator in the plot to kill Richard). It was just two days later that Susan changed her story and claimed that the confession was made because she was afraid of her husband. He was the one who had punched her in the face and cracked her ribs, she now claimed.

Richard, on the other hand, claims that Susan was in emotional turmoil because of her difficulties in dealing with recovered memories of sexual abuse by her father. Richard was arrested and eventually eighteen charges were filed against him for assault, assault with a deadly weapon, spousal abuse, child abuse and endangerment, making death threats, false imprisonment, and torture. He was found guilty of torture, four counts of spousal abuse, one count of making death threats against his wife, and two counts of child endangerment. If he doesn't get the convictions overturned on appeal, Hamlin may be sentenced to life in prison on the torture conviction alone.

No charges were filed against Susan Hamlin or the others that she named as murderers, kidnappers, sexual abusers, and rapists. The prosecution claims that she was a victim of mind control. It is alleged that Richard used violence and the threat of violence over a period of several years to get her to agree that she had been abused by her father, that she and her father were abusing their children, and that she and her father planned to kill him.

Hamlin's children testified that he hurt their mother and told them that he had to do it to beat the devil out of her. Their 18-year-old son testified that

he thought his father was going to shoot his mother during a Feb. 11, 2004 trip to Placer County.

Ryan Hamilton told of his father dragging Susan Hamlin into a field near a business complex in the Roseville area. Ryan said he and his younger brother put on headgear in the vehicle to muffle the sound if their father used a derringer he'd brought.

"We thought my dad was going to shoot my mom," the 18-year-old testified.

The couple and their two sons had driven in the family van from their El Dorado Hills home to Placer County because Richard Hamlin, 45, planned to kill a Granite Bay woman he said was involved in a murder plot to kill him, Ryan Hamlin testified.

When Susan Hamlin couldn't find the home of the woman, Richard Hamlin pistol whipped her and drove to the business complex, his son testified. (Ryan McCarthy, McNaughton News Service)

Susan Hamlin testified that Richard beat her, stabbed her, pistol-whipped her, threatened her with a sword, and punched her with increasing frequency over a four-year period.

There are a few facts that are undisputed in this case. Both Richard and Susan are graduates of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, the school where U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy taught before being nominated to his post by President Ronald Reagan. Hamlin had worked for seventeen years as a prosecutor and defense attorney. He was very successful and had no criminal record, making about \$700,000 a year in private practice before he abruptly quit about six years ago. He says he quit work to help his wife with her repressed memories of sexual abuse by her father and her father's friends. The Hamlins lived in a million-dollar hilltop mansion in El Dorado Hills before going bankrupt. Susan was charged with child neglect and endangerment in 1999.* She kept a diary with details of cult activity and abuse, although she now claims she was forced to write those accounts by her husband. Some of her accounts detail her desire to uncover repressed memories of abuse.

Hamlin told a detective that one of his wife's friends tried to lure her into becoming a prostitute at Starbucks.* In 2003, Richard sent a beheaded doll and shredded children's

books to Siemer, who had sent them as gifts to the Hamlins' children ("Trial told of torn-up doll: El Dorado Hills lawyer beheaded gift to daughter from her grandpa, sister-in-law says" by Ramon Coronado, Sacramento Bee, December 4, 2005*). In April 2003, Susan wrote a long letter to her father, accusing him of child abuse and of being the cause of her many physical and psychological problems. In June, 2003, Richard gave fliers to Siemer's neighbors, notifying them that Siemer molested Susan when she was a child.

Siemer hired the Fresno law firm of Gromis & Aguirre. The following letter was sent by Aguirre to the Hamlins on June 26, 2003, about ten days after Hamlin had passed out his flier:

Dr. Sidney Siemer has retained this office in reference to the accusations you and Susan Hamlin have made concerning Dr. Siemer's alleged past behavior.

Before responding to the accusations, Dr. Siemer sought expert, professional advice on the best method of responding. While he strongly denies the accusations, he is deeply troubled by the underlying cause of the complaints and did not want to take any step that would adversely affect Susan. We hoped to learn more about why Susan is experiencing these false "memories." We needed to know whether a truthful denial would have adverse psychological affects [sic] on Susan. Is the best approach simply to ignore the allegations? All of these questions needed to be addressed before responding and professional help was utilized to determine the best manner in which to respond.

Your recent conduct has made it impossible for Dr. Siemer to ignore the allegations. Your recent letters, fax communications, telephone calls and threats have placed the Siemers in an untenable position. While Dr. Siemer does not want to take any action that will have an adverse effect on Susan, he also does not want the allegations to go unanswered. He also wants to remain safe. Your statements on Father's Day to Denise Kiewer that you "want to go up and just kill the son of a bitch," are truly frightening. Dr. Siemer believes that you may take action to harm him. Consequently, he has asked me to request a court order enjoining you and Susan from contacting him and the members of his household. I have submitted the appropriate application for such an order and will provide you with copies once it has been processed.

After consultation with professionals we have determined that it is best to address the allegations directly. To that end, Dr. Siemer has asked me to inform you that the accusations made as a result of Susan's "repressed memories" are false. The incidents described simply did not occur.

Dr. Siemer hopes that Susan recovers and recognizes that these "memories" are imagined. We suggest that she receive prompt psychiatric and/or psychological care. If necessary, and if recommended by Susan's treating psychiatrist/psychologist, Dr. Siemer will participate in appropriate therapy with Susan. His decision to do this is solely out of his concern and love for his daughter. Dr. Siemer knows that the events described by Susan did not occur and he will work, with her therapists, to help her discover that the memories are indeed imagined. (McCullough)

Susan responded with an angry letter in August, but in September the Hamlins and Dr. Siemer came to an agreement not to contact or communicate with each other in any way. But within two months Siemer's lawyer once again wrote Hamlin to ask him to cease and desist from making molestation allegations against Dr. Siemer. Hamlin's response was a letter referring to Siemer as a rapist and demanding \$300,000 "in lieu of proceeding with a filing of a complaint that will allege his child rape and molest [sic] of his daughter."

The Hamlins, now divorced, had been married for about 20 years and lived a lavish lifestyle before the trouble began about five years ago. Rock and Lisa Clum are friends of Susan who tried to counsel her on spousal abuse. Lisa Clum testified at Richard's trial that the thought of his wife being molested "drove him nuts."

Richard had a website to tell his story. (The story is posted here.) He hired Ted Gunderson—who is a book-length story in himself (see pro and con)—as his private investigator. Several conspiracy sites have taken up the satanic ritual abuse angle: Rigorous Intuition is worth a read. Virginia McCullough has written a few articles about the case on NewsMakingNews, including one where she cites "individuals who wish to remain unidentified" who claim that "Dr. Sid Siemer is a high ranking member of a CIA sanctioned child molestation ring called "The Finders" and also a senior member of the Order of the Trapezoid, consisting of worshippers of the Temple of Set."

On his website, Richard claimed that he hired investigators to check out Goat Rock State Beach on the Sonoma coast because Susan claims that many satanic molestations took place there. He writes:

Our investigative team has interviewed witnesses familiar with Goat Rock Beach and its surrounding area. Multiple witnesses have said that this particular territory is well known for "Satanic activity." They site the remoteness of the beaches and the many coves and caves that allow secrecy. They also state the reputation is longstanding.

Hamlin even thinks that it more than just coincidence that two young people were each shot in the head in their sleeping bags on a beach not far from Goat Rock in the summer of 2004. He thinks that since the couple were Christians and had a Bible with them that the murders may well be satanic. The only thing we know for sure is that the murders are unsolved and they didn't occur at Goat Rock.

I've been to Goat Rock many times over the past thirty years. The beaches there are not any more remote than other beaches on the Sonoma coast and there are not many coves and caves that allow secrecy, as you can see from aerial photos taken by Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman. Goat Rock is near the mouth of the Russian River and is home to a colony of harbor seals. The beaches are sandy and easily accessible. There are picnic tables and restroom facilities. The park has usually been crowded with visitors whenever I've been there, but a quick call to the State Park rangers should be able to answer the question of longstanding reputation for satanic activity. The only unusual thing I've seen at Goat Park was a seagull swallowing a large starfish whole.

In case you are wondering: the sanity of Richard Hamlin was not an issue at trial. Richard testified that Susan had panic attacks and was treated for depression with "mood-altering drugs." A prosecution mental health expert testified that Susan Hamlin was a victim of Stockholm syndrome. As far as I know, nobody brought up the possibility of drug abuse. Many of us reading newspaper accounts of the events have no doubt wondered if one or the other or both of them are mentally ill. Was this a case of folie à deux? Did her claims—whether delusional or real—of child abuse drive him mad? Many would question Richard's judgment to be his own defense attorney. Richard's brother, Bradley, wrote on EZBoard.com (later deleted): "I can tell you factually that Richard is as sane as he's ever been." Maybe so, but Bradley also wrote:

I did not see my brother at all or speak to him in any way during his problem period: 2000 to 2004. I got a call that he landed in jail and went to see him. I had my own falling out with Richard. Sibling stuff, not related to his case. Susan talked about writing a book about her abuse. She wrote many detailed letters that would make no sense to anyone but her. A handwriting expert has also signed off on the fact that the letters were not written under duress. I know someone who was abused in very much the same way that Susan described and she (Susan) shows ALL of the signs of a molest victim.

Deputy District Attorney Vicki Ashworth stated at trial that Susan was acting "like an abused and battered woman." In any case, the handwriting expert was Marcel Matley, the same expert Dan Rather used to verify the signature of George W. Bush's former squadron commander in the National Guard.

At trial, Kim Dubach, Richard's former legal secretary, testified that in November 1999 Susan Hamlin told her that she suspected she (Susan) had been molested as a child. Susan based her belief on a memory she had had when she was 16, said Dubach. A friend spent the night and Susan saw her father touching her friend's breasts, which triggered the memory of her own abuse years earlier. Susan's sister testified that while their father was not a great dad, he didn't do anything sexual to them. The sister testified that she worked for her father for 23 years. For good measure, Ashworth accused Hamlin of having an affair with Dubach.

I hesitate to speculate as to what the truth might be in this case. We know that some sort of emotional crisis occurred about five or six years ago in the Hamlin household and that Susan and Richard both began exploring the idea that she had been molested by her father some thirty or forty years earlier. Richard certainly became convinced of this and of satanic cult and mind control activities. Did she abuse her children, as she says she did? Are the things she wrote in her diaries to be taken as the truth, the confabulations of a disturbed mind, or the fantasies forced upon her by her husband's sick mind? Is there any truth at all to Richard's version of what happened? Was Susan abused as a child by her father and others? Did she witness a torture and murder of a young girl? The only thing I feel confident speculating about is that others won't hesitate to speculate as to what really happened and they will have their books and movies out by summer. (update: I was wrong. Summer has come and gone and this story is still ripe for the plucking. update: ABC's Primetime took up the story in February 2007.)



Since Richard's conviction, Susan Hamlin has become a spokeswoman for victims of domestic violence. She says she told lies to survive. At her ex-husband's sentencing she said: "Victims of domestic violence don't live to tell their story; they turn up dead -- their voices forever silenced. I did not die. I did whatever I had to do to stay alive and save my (children). I am a survivor."* She also read a statement she said was composed by the Hamlin's 8-year-old daughter: "He told us he was going to get rid of our mom and get us a new mom."

On May 30th, I received an email allegedly from Richard Hamlin, claiming he had read my "coverage" of his case and that he wanted to express his "appreciation" for my reporting. The letter seems authentic but without much understanding of what I had written. Perhaps I have become such a fair and balanced writer that I did not reveal my skepticism about mind control, repressed memories, and satanic ritual abuse. In the letter, Hamlin maintains his claims that his wife and their children were ritually abused by her father who used mind control techniques to get his way. The writing in this letter indicates that he may sincerely believe this. He thinks his family is just the tip of the iceberg in a vast conspiracy of abusers and mind controllers. As absurd as it sounds, he says he did what he did "to get help for those children who have been violated so that they can begin on the road to health." Half the letter outlined all the reasons he thought he would win a new trial and get the torture conviction overturned. He invited me to meet with him to discuss anything I wanted. Was he motivated by "pure evil" as the judge claimed? Is he delusional? Did his wife's mental breakdown lead to his own mental breakdown? I don't know, but I do know that I am not competent enough to evaluate mental illness, if that is what is involved here. That is partly why I did not respond to his email. Another reason is that it was clear from what he wrote that either he did not read what I wrote about his case or he read it but interpreted it to fit his own delusions.

I do wonder, though, if this case had gone to trial prior to 9/11, would Hamlin have been charged with torture? And if this case had gone to trial twenty-five years ago, during the height of the satanic ritual abuse panic, would Susan's father be the one going to jail rather than her husband? Would she be in jail, too, and the Clums? And anyone else that was accused?

I also wonder why the national media haven't covered this story. Too busy covering Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie or whether some recovered drug addict's memoir was a true story? A day after Hamlin's sentencing, a search of Google News found only the Sacramento Bee and one Sacramento television station's website with a report on it.

Sadly, this story is not over. As noted above, Hamlin will be eligible for parole in about seven years. At the sentencing hearing, Hamlin's 14-year-old son told the judge: "If he gets out, it will not be him sitting in that chair. It will be me."

On Monday, February 9, 2009, the Third District Court of Appeal upheld the conviction of Richard Hamlin on all counts brought back by the El Dorado County jury on January 10, 2005.

further coverage

Brainwashed by Her Husband - ABC News - February 6, 2007 with video for a Primetime

Lawyer arraigned in abuse case The Sacramento Bee, Mar. 4, 2004 by Niesha Gates, Bee Staff Writer

Lawyer facing case of his life The Sacramento Bee, Feb. 10, 2005 Ramon Coronado, Bee Staff Writer

Sacramento attorney found guilty of torture in spousal abuse case The Sacramento Bee, Jan. 10, 2006 Ramon Coronado, Bee Staff Writer

Richard Hamlin gets life in prison The Sacramento Bee, Sep. 30, 2006 Romon Coronado, Bee Staff Writer

The case of Richard Hamlin, Susan Siemer Hamlin, and Sydney Siemer by Diane Vera

The Hamlin Case: Satanic Ritual Abuse in Sacramento by S.M. Elliott (blog: Speak of the Devil)

Last updated 12/09/10

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Evil Lives Here

- Cast & crew
- Episode aired Apr 8, 2018
- TV-14TV-14
- 42m



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