

Marybeth Tinning

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Period 4

Crime Layout

- Premeditated and done with intent
- The death of her third child Jennifer, is thought to have triggered her need to kill
- Also the lack of attention she received as a child affected why she murdered her children
- Forensic teams believe that Tinning was Munchausen by Proxy
 - She killed her children to gain attention and sympathy from those around her and in her community



Timeline

05/31/1967 24 Barbara, Marybeth's first child, is born

01/10/1970 27 Joseph, Marybeth's second child, is born

12/26/1971 29 Jennifer, Marybeth's third child, is born

01/03/1972 29 Jennifer dies, only 8 days old, from hemorrhagic meningitis and multiple brain abscesses from birth

01/20/1972 29 Joseph dies after being rushed to the hospital; death attributed to cardiopulmonary arrest

03/01/1972 29 Marybeth rushes Barbara to the hospital, claiming she had gone into convulsions

03/02/1972 29 Barbara dies, after being in a comatose state for several hours; death attributed to Reye's Syndrome Summer

11/21/1973 31 Timothy, Marybeth's fourth child, is born

12/10/1973 31 Marybeth takes Timothy to the emergency room, but he is already dead; death attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome



Timeline (continued)

1973 31-32 Marybeth admitted to a coworker that she was pregnant again, told her not to tell anyone, and told the coworker that “God had told her to kill this one, too”

03/30/1975 32 Nathan, Marybeth’s fifth child, is born

09/02/1975 32 Nathan dies in the car while out with Marybeth

08/03/1978 35 Marybeth adopts her sixth child, Michael, shortly after he is born

10/29/1978 36 Mary Frances, Marybeth’s seventh child, is born

01/20/1979 36 Marybeth rushes Mary Frances to the hospital, unconscious; Mary Frances is revived, hospital reports “aborted SIDS”

02/20/1979 36 Marybeth returns to the hospital with Mary Frances in full cardiac arrest; she is revived, but has irreversible brain damage

02/22/1979 36 Mary Frances dies, after Marybeth finally agrees to take her off of life support

11/19/1979 37 Jonathan, Marybeth’s eighth child, is born

03/24/1980 37 Jonathan dies, after being kept on life support in Albany, NY for four weeks

03/02/1981 38 Marybeth takes Michael to the doctor’s office when he won’t wake up, he dies

08/22/1985 42 Tami Lynne, Marybeth’s ninth child, is born

12/20/1985 43 Tami Lynne dies from being smothered

Details of the Crime

- Smothered her baby Tami Lynne with a pillow less than three months after she was born
 - Richard E. Nelson who was a Schenectady Police Chief, contacted forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Baden. He asked him if it was possible that nine children in one family could die of natural causes. Dr. Michael Baden told him that it was not possible. Baden explained to the chief that children who died of SIDS do not turn blue. They look like normal children after they die. If a baby was blue, he suspected it was caused by homicidal asphyxia meaning the only way they could have died was if someone had smothered them.
 - If the baby was blue, that is evidence of the lack or deprivation of oxygen whereas SIDS is just the sudden and probably unexpected death of an infant.



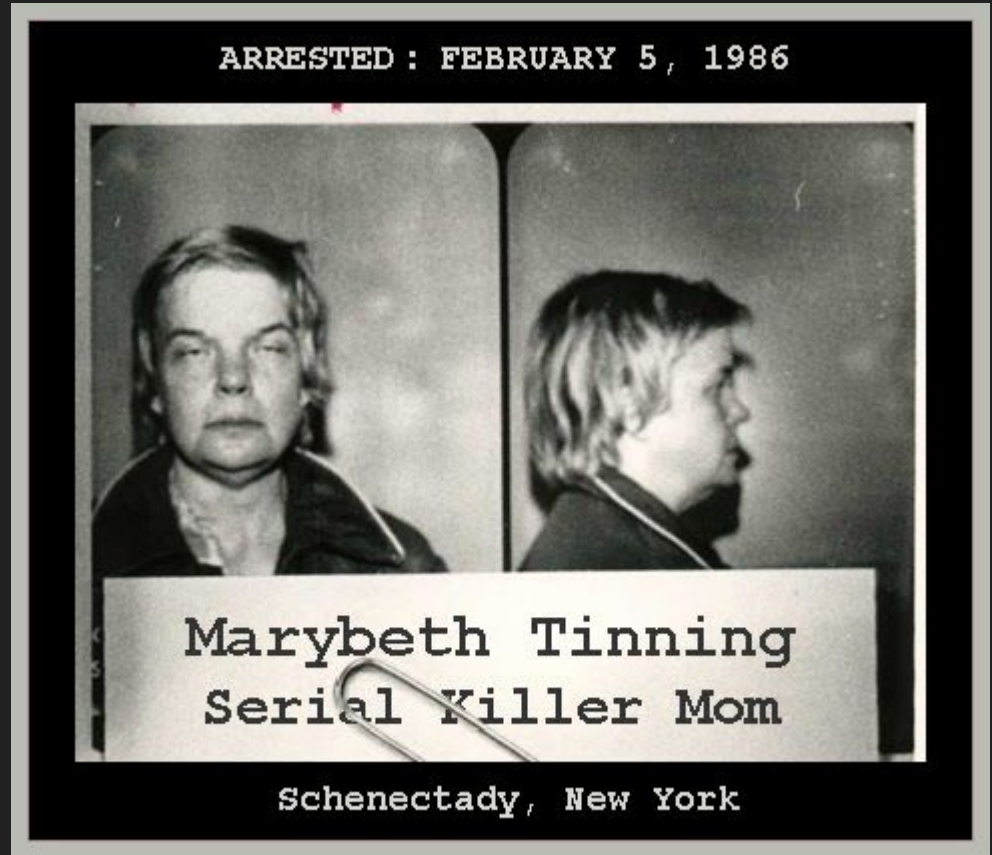
Evidence

- Blue skin of children after being asphyxiated
- Tinning confessed to the murder of three of her children, which she later denied
- All of her children never lived past the age of 4
- She was the only person around her children when they died



Finding the Suspect

- Covered up her crimes by saying her children died or natural causes or disease
- Used the excuse “I’m not a good mother,” as a way to justify her actions



The Trial

The murder trial of Marybeth Tinning began in Schenectady County Court on June, 22, 1987. Most of the trial centered on Tami Lynne's death. She was found guilty of second-degree murder of Tami Lynne Tinning.

The prosecuting attorney, John Poersch, had been working on this case for a long time.

The defense experienced a lot of difficulty proving her innocent, as Tinning had signed a confession before.

Her Sentence

Although she signed a confession before, Tinning still strongly plead innocent and denied doing any of the malicious acts she confessed to do doing.

She was only convicted of the murder of one of her children, Tami Lynne.

She was sentenced to 20 years to life and was sent to Bedford Hills Prison for Women in New York.

She has tried many times to get on parole, but each time she tried, she was denied.



Other Info

Through new techniques and discoveries, science now could have given a more definitive cause of death.

This would have greatly affected this case by determining the real cause of death of her children earlier and putting an end to her crimes earlier.



Our Opinion

I believe she is guilty because she did sign a confession stating that she murdered at least three of her kids.

I believe her life sentence is fair as she murdered her own children in an attempt to gain sympathy and attention for herself.

Works Cited

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