

At 6:00 am, Detective Miller was called to a downtown alley to investigate a death. When (s)he arrived, accompanied by Patrick/Patricia Danvers, they found the man's left abdomen had erupted, leaving a gaping hole about the size of a basketball. The man's identification named him as Bertram Allen Meyers, aged 26.

Myron Hayes, a homeless man living in a tent in the same alley, was the only witness. He stated "I woke up because I heard a guy crying, really hard. I came out of my place to help him and he look bad, real bad. His side was all wet and slimy, and it was swollen like you wouldn't believe. Then he started screaming, I mean *really* screaming. The swelling started squirming and then it just busted open, blood and guts everywhere. Then spiders came pouring out of him, hundreds of them, thousands, and they was all black widows—real tiny ones all the way to some with bodies the size of golf balls, shiny black with that red hourglass."

Miller and Danvers accompanied the body to the Medical Examiner's office, where Karl/Karla Wilson declared the cause of death to be severe physical trauma caused by the eruption of a massive infection and that the internal organs had been in a slow process of liquidation for several hours before death.

(S)he also noted Meyers' ribs were torn loose and unhinged by the eruption and his spine had been slowly but severely bending to the right, causing gaps between the vertebrae.

When Detective Miller ran Meyers' address, he recognized it as the same as Ronald/Ronnie's, so he rounded him/her up as a potential source of street information. Miller also discovered Meyers was on ten years probation from a plea agreement on charges of sexually assaulting 15 year-old Trisha Ortiz two years ago.

Handout #1

This reminds you of a situation at the Pleasant Valley Nursing Home. Soon after an elderly lady passed away, her room was infested with black widow spiders, which also spread into the hall and some adjoining rooms. Your assumption was that a large nest had birthed the spiders.

Those must be all females. Adult male black widows are half the size of the females, and are usually gray or brown rather than black and red; while they may sometimes have an hourglass marking on their ventral abdomen, it is usually yellow or white, not red.

Handout #2

Handout #3

Though you don't know Mary Witherspoon, you were two years ahead of her in college. She showed no interest whatsoever in forming relationships of any kind and was very intense in her studies.

Handout #4

You hear several female voices chanting in unison. Mary, Cassie, Carol, Susan and Trisha can be found in a room furnished very comfortably. The chant is as follows:

“As the Mother spins,
The bridge grows near completion,
And on that glorious day,
She and Her Daughters shall be free to walk the earth.”

If any are ever asked about this, they will say it is a daily affirmation which helps them “achieve and maintain clarity.”

Handout #5

Advice From Amy Weaver: “Listen, those people are crazy. They’re some kind of all-female cult.

I don’t know what they’re into but a lot of people die around them, including their parents.

Everybody stays the hell away from them and you better too.”

La Duke’s skills are those of a talented student but are not at all up to black belt standards.

Handout #7

A lot of street people live at The Horizon, an abandoned Hotel. You can get two adjoining rooms for a couple of nights.

One of the residents has set up the building so the electric and water work.

Handout #6

This is the girl you didn’t recognize who was chanting at Daughters of Hope

Handout #8

Handout #9 (Optional)

Cassie Black: Parents Michael and Patricia Black died two years ago. They fell from a cliff on a camping trip.

Carol Cardiff: Parents Harold and Francine Cardiff died two years ago. They were stabbed during an apparent home invasion. The house was then set ablaze with a large amount of accelerant

Susan Tanner: Parents Andreas and Kathy Tanner died two years ago. Their bodies were found in an alley, stabbed to death. Her purse, his wallet and all their valuables were missing.

Trisha Ortiz: Parents Luis and Anna Ortiz died two years ago. Their bodies were found washed up along the Chicago River.

Handout #10