

Jeffrey Dahmer

The Wendy Tapes

Jeff's interview bits from episodes 1, 2, 3, in the order
they appear in the Netflix docu series
"Conversations with a Killer: The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes"
(2022)

Here: "Tape 1, 2, 3" means
"Episode 1, 2 and 3"
respectively

02:16 TAPE 1

Wendy puts the recorder on the table and turns it on.

WENDY

This is... This is okay, Jeff. I mean, don't be embarrassed about it.

(a beat)

Am I... Am I making you feel uncomfortable?

JEFF

No. It has to be faced, so...

(a beat)

It's just so bizarre, isn't it?

02:26 TAPE 1

JEFF

It's not... It's not easy to talk about. It's something that I've kept buried within myself for many years, and it's... Yeah...

(a beat)

It's like trying to pull up a two-ton stone out of a well.

10:18 TAPE 1

WENDY

Jeff, tell me what you were thinking.

JEFF

I had wondered why I was compelled to do all the murders. What I was searching for that would fill the emptiness that I felt. The murdering someone and disposing of them right away gives no great lasting pleasure or... a feeling of fulfillment. And yet, I still felt the compulsion to do it throughout these years.

11:13 TAPE 1

JEFF

I didn't seem to have the normal feelings of empathy.

WENDY

Did you ever think to yourself, "Why don't I have feelings that normal people have?"

JEFF

I did wonder about it. It started with fantasies, fantasizing. It always started with fantasizing, and then... eventually it seemed the fantasies, uh, came to be.

12:15 TAPE 1

JEFF

What triggered it all?.. I wish I could give you a good, straightforward answer about that. If there's any area that is, uh, to really blame, it's my own twisted thinking. I haven't been thinking normally for years.

13:29 TAPE 1

MALE LAWYER

What was the problem growing up between your mom and dad?

JEFF

Ugh.

(a beat)

They just couldn't seem to get along, especially on my mom's side.

MALE LAWYER

Any violence?

JEFF

Just the slapping and hitting.

MALE LAWYER

Who was hitting who?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

Um,
(a beat)
Mom hitting Dad.

MALE LAWYER

Whose side were you on?

JEFF

I was trying not to be on anyone's
side.

15:23 TAPE 1

WENDY

How long had you known at that
point that you're a homosexual?

JEFF

Uh, since I was 13, I'd say.

15:52 TAPE 1

WENDY

What did you do?

JEFF

Just kissing. Laying together, in
the tree house. I was about 14 or
15. And that was consensual.

16:46 TAPE 1

WENDY

When was the first time you thought
about doing these things to a
person?

JEFF

Uh...

WENDY

I mean just fantasy.

JEFF

Yeah. Probably around when I was
18.

20:03 TAPE 1

WENDY

When did your parents separate?

JEFF

When I was 18. In 1978.

20:27 TAPE 1

JEFF

Mom and Dad, they had their problems. There was nothing I could do to change the situation, so I just tried to find some happiness my own way, which was obviously the wrong way.

21:34 TAPE 1

WENDY

The day she left to Chippewa Falls you never talked to her again?

JEFF

Right.

WENDY

How did it make you feel at that time?

JEFF

Depressed. Lonely and bored. Confused, I would say. No one was at home. I saw this guy hitchhiking. I thought it would be nice to... have someone around to talk with, someone that I wanted to be with for uh... sex.

22:37 TAPE 1

JEFF

That's what attracted me. The physique. Just the muscular physique. That's... That's the motivation.

23:23 TAPE 1

WENDY

You hadn't done anything with him,
had you?

JEFF

No.

(a beat)

I just got the sense he wasn't
interested in that at all after a
while. So, I don't believe I asked
him, no.

WENDY

Okay.

23:51 TAPE 1

JEFF

It was the first time, uh... I did
have the desire to control. Lustful
feelings.

(a beat)

So, I guess, I decided to do it
whether he was gay or not. It
didn't really matter.

24:32 TAPE 1

JEFF

I don't know exactly why I hit him,
except I wanted to stay with him...
longer.

24:46 TAPE 1

JEFF

I thought how amazing it was that I
was actually doing it to another
human being. It shocked me that I
got to that point. And that was a
feeling of excitement, control, but
mingled with a lot of fear.

WENDY

What did you do with his body?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

Nothing. Just laid right under the... under the house in the crawl space area.

WENDY

Did you go down and look at him?

JEFF

I did, yeah. Once. But just looked at him.

WENDY

What was going through your mind as you were looking at him?

JEFF

Hm... A sort of morbid curiosity as to... what a dead person looked like. Curiosity mixed with a lot of fear.

25:59 TAPE 1

JEFF

I started dismembering him and everything. There's something about him that I remember. Cutting the legs off and then the arms and head.

WENDY

Did you touch anything?

JEFF

I... I probably did. Liver and the heart.

26:23 TAPE 1

WENDY

Did it concern you at all as to why you felt such satisfaction at that time, when you were 18 years old, by using him to masturbate?

JEFF

I'm not sure I even know why now. I got, uh, an exciting feeling out of doing that. But I did it.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Okay.

(a beat)

How long did you keep him in the house with you?

JEFF

Um... Round about six hours.

29:27 TAPE 1

JEFF

Dad was living at the hotel, so I was pretty much by myself for a couple months.

WENDY

During the time your father was at the hotel, how many times a day would you speak with him?

JEFF

Maybe once or twice a week.

30:04 TAPE 1

WENDY

After that, you said you went to Ohio State?

JEFF

For about three months. Did a lot of drinking there, so grades weren't very good.

30:31 TAPE 1

JEFF

They sent me to basic training. Then field medic training.

30:52 TAPE 1

JEFF

I was drinking heavily near the end so I had to move back to Ohio with the folks.

31:53 TAPE 1

About the hitchhiker murder.

JEFF

I was troubled about that.

WENDY

How did it manifest itself
that you were troubled by it? What
were you feeling?

JEFF

A lot of guilt.

(a beat)

Indecision over whether I should
confess to it. But I just never had
the courage to.

WENDY

What were you thinking?

JEFF

Well, I knew how horribly wrong it
was. And how I never wanted to have
anything like that ever happen
again.

34:16 TAPE 1

JEFF

It's difficult dredging up these
feelings and motivations, you know.

WENDY

I know it's real hard. I don't...
if it gets too difficult, tell me.
But you realize why...

JEFF

It does, it... it...

(a beat)

Talking about it and analyzing it
shows me just how warped my
thinking was.

35:00 TAPE 1

WENDY
You ever try to develop a
relationship?

JEFF
Uh... No, I can't say that I did.

WENDY
Why not?

JEFF
Well, it was because of the home
situation. I couldn't carry on a
long-term relationship where I was
staying.

35:59 TAPE 1

JEFF
I had moved up in... to here, up in
Wisconsin to help my grandma out.

36:52 TAPE 1

JEFF
Uh, I helped her with the yard work
and various chores.

37:23 TAPE 1

JEFF
I really made a sincere effort to
change the way I was living, change
my desires to get rid of homosexual
feelings any sinful thoughts and
trying to stifle any sexual
feelings that I had.

38:06 TAPE 1

JEFF
My grandma was going to church
every Sunday.

WENDY
What denomination is she?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF
Protestant.

38:31 TAPE 1

JEFF
I was walking around Southridge [mall] and, uh, saw this mannequin that sort of caught my eye. I wanted that mannequin, so I... went in the store. There's nobody in there. Stayed there until closing time.

WENDY
And no alarms went off?

JEFF
(chuckles)
No, nothing. I got the mannequin undressed, got a taxi back home, and stored it in the garage at, uh, Grandma's house. And I used to play around with after... dressing it up and undressing it. Pretending it was real.

39:27 TAPE 1

JEFF
After a week or two, Grandma happened to stumble across it. She was hanging up some clothes that she'd washed for me.

WENDY
She did?

JEFF
Yeah. She asked me what was it. Where did I get it. I gave her some story that I picked it up at... they had extra mannequins that they were selling. I think she told my dad, so I figured I better get rid of it. Took it down to the basement and, uh, smashed it up, and threw it out in the garbage.

41:05 TAPE 1

A man dropped him a note that said: "Meet me in the bathroom, I'll give you a blowjob."

JEFF

I was in the West Allis library...
(sniffs)
just sitting in a chair, reading a book. It was the last thing I expected, you know? I just laughed it off to myself. I thought, uh, "There's a that's an awful feeble, uh, attempt to get me to stumble", you know? I never saw his face or anything.

WENDY

You'd put the compulsion to rest when you went to church with Grandma and it came back stronger, didn't it?

JEFF

That's what triggered it, I guess.

42:24 TAPE 1

JEFF

I at least had a job that paid halfway decent. I could look forward to free time. Privacy. Started drinking again, going to the bookstores. Uh... Found out where the gay bars were and started going to them. What I was looking for was some live companionship. Someone to spend the night with. A man I had complete control over and to be able to do with as I pleased. Something real, uh, instead of fake, with the mannequin. That was my fantasy. Little by little, I started falling away... I just, uh, gave up trying to resist.

46:55 TAPE 1

WENDY

What kind of sleeping pills did you use?

JEFF

Uh, Halcion.

WENDY

Why did you get that prescription?

JEFF

For trouble sleeping. I worked third shift.

WENDY

That gave you a feeling of control?

JEFF

Uh... Well, I could keep them there longer. I could, uh, just lay around with them without feeling pressure to do anything that they wanted to do. Uh... There just wouldn't be any... They wouldn't make any demands on me. Uh, I could just enjoy them the way I wanted to.

WENDY

Did you think about at all how they might have felt?

JEFF

Yeah, I think I did, but at that point I didn't much care. I just wanted to do what I wanted. So, I didn't care.

48:52 TAPE 1

WENDY

Did any of that satisfy you? I mean, as far as really getting any true satisfaction?

JEFF

It didn't. I didn't have control over them. I... I wanted all of them, you know. And, uh, couldn't get it that way.

50:09 TAPE 1

The Ambassador Hotel.

WENDY
You totally blacked out?

JEFF
Yeah.

WENDY
You had no idea that you'd done anything?

JEFF
No. Not until I woke up in the morning. I couldn't believe it.

50:24 TAPE 1

JEFF
Shocked. Uh... Panicked. And, uh... very sorry that it happened because I had no intention of anything like that happening.

WENDY
How'd you know he was dead? You check his pulse?

JEFF
Right. And there was blood coming out of the mouth. Apparently, I had beaten him with my fists on the chest.

53:25 TAPE 1

WENDY
So, how did you feel after that time at the Ambassador?

JEFF
Horrified... that it started again, you know. And how I never wanted to have anything like that happen again.

WENDY
How did you feel that it came forth even though you were unconscious?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

Uh, confused.

WENDY

Did you feel you'd started to lose control?

JEFF

Yeah, I knew I had. Yeah.

54:08 TAPE 1

JEFF

The Ambassador did something... It triggered something. I wanted more. I don't know what it triggered, but it triggered something.

54:29 TAPE 1

JEFF

It just gave me a sick pleasure. It dominated my thoughts, doing these things.

55:08 TAPE 1

JEFF

The compulsion was stronger than any... anything else. It was a single-minded, driving force. My... desires, uh, were bestial, obviously.
(scoffs)

01:20 TAPE 2

JEFF

People go to these gory horror movies to... to get a glimpse of the... of what they show in the movies. The only difference is I did it for real.

02:32 TAPE 2

WENDY

So at what point in time did you totally give in to these feelings altogether and not try and change anything?

JEFF

After the Ambassador. That really got things in full swing.

11:07 TAPE 2

JEFF

Yeah, I always kept my feelings completely to myself. And, uh, so this is a sort of learning experience for me.

WENDY

It feels like you've been very open with me.

JEFF

Mhm... It gets easier as you practice.

WENDY

Can you answer for me just what was it that caused you to wanna kill them?

JEFF

The underlying force, I think, was obviously a warped sexual drive.

(a beat)

Just a constant feeling of emptiness, and not being able to find anything in life that really gave me a sense of happiness, peace, or fulfillment. I was always searching for something more.

12:07 TAPE 2

JEFF

One night I went out, and I met this... I guess he's Indian. And he was standing there. Said he was waiting for the bus.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Do you remember what his name was?

JEFF

No, I don't.

12:48 TAPE 2

WENDY

Where was Grandma?

JEFF

She was upstairs, sound asleep. And I asked him, you know, "How late can you stay in?" And he said uh, "Not later than early morning." And it was already approaching early morning.

WENDY

Okay. What was going through your mind?

JEFF

I just... ..wanted to keep him. I guess, that's the best way to describe it.

13:27 TAPE 2

JEFF

My thoughts obviously weren't, uh... the thoughts of a sane person at the time. Uh, I would've rather he'd stayed alive, but... but strangling seemed to be the way to keep him.

15:23 TAPE 2

JEFF

This whole situation has forced me to take a different look at how I've lived my life and what my thoughts...

WENDY

You never saw that at the time?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

I may have seen it, but I chose to ignore it, bury it. Submerge it under the compulsion that was driving me.

17:02 TAPE 2

JEFF

It was a morbid interest, obviously.

WENDY

Alright. And what did you start with?

JEFF

Uh... just, uh, roadkill, dogs, uh possum.

17:24 TAPE 2

JEFF

In ninth grade, I dissected a baby pig. After we were done with dissection, took the pig's head home and took the flesh off, and kept the skull for a while. Why, I don't know.

18:11 TAPE 2

JEFF

I'm not even sure whether or not I was capable of a real... sense of love, even back then. Not even sure if I am now.

WENDY

You don't know that you know how to love. Is that what you're saying?

JEFF

I'm not sure I do, no. The person who can love, I don't think would do these things.

20:07 TAPE 2

JEFF

Saw this, uh, Eurasian guy walking down the street in the afternoon. Asked him if he wanted to make some money, \$50. He said, "Yes."

"For pictures." We went back. He stripped down to his underwear. I took two pictures of him, one on the bed and one standing up, I think.

And I was drinking some coffee with Irish Cream Mist in it. And I gave him some, and it had sleeping pills in it.

And, uh, he drank some. The whole time, he stayed there maybe an hour at the most. Said he had to be going. I paid him the \$50. And he left.

WENDY

Why did you let him go?

JEFF

'Cause I had no knife. I had no intention of... of injuring him. I just wanted to stay with him and... and, uh, lay with him for a while.

24:56 TAPE 2

WENDY

Okay, still living at Grandma's at this time?

JEFF

Right, right.

WENDY

Okay.

25:07 TAPE 2

JEFF

Two months before I was to go into the work release center, it was closing time at La Cage.

WENDY

Was it one of your regular bars?

JEFF

Mhm.

And struck up a conversation with this, uh, black guy. I think his name was Tony. I think. That's what he told me his name was anyway. Tony.

27:30 TAPE 2

JEFF

He had a friend, a white man, with him. And his friend had a car. And then during the car ride, he's very affectionate, apparently very drunk. And we drove to 57th and Lincoln.

28:12 TAPE 2

WENDY

When you did go out that night, though, and you met this guy, and you decided he seemed like a kinda nice guy.

JEFF

Mhm.

WENDY

What came into your mind at that time, and why then ask him back? Did you become fearful in any way that it was gonna happen again?

JEFF

Mmm...

No. I... I thought that it would just be a regular night. My

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JEFF (cont'd)
judgment isn't always so good when
I'm drinking, especially when I
drink a lot.

28:48 TAPE 2

JEFF
And we went up to the bedroom and
laid around. He was getting...
making some comments about it
getting to be early, and he'd have
to leave. I went down, made a cup
of coffee with the pills. He fell
asleep and that's when I uh...
strangled him.

29:30 TAPE 2

WENDY
Did it ever get into your mind at
that time that in fact, you had
lost him rather than keeping him?

JEFF
Hmm...
I suppose that that realization did
hit me, yeah, but--

WENDY
When?

JEFF
After they were dead.

WENDY
How did that feel?

JEFF
Unfulfilling. Felt like a waste.

29:56 TAPE 2

JEFF
He had a nice-looking face, so with
the head, I... I cut that off, put
it in a large white barrel, filled
it up with acetone, and that
preserved the head.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Why did you do that this time?

JEFF

Well, just branching out into different variations.

30:51 TAPE 2

WENDY

You kept the genitals and you kept the head?

JEFF

Mhm.

WENDY

Did you still feel as though you had your companion?

JEFF

This all is so bizarre sounding now to me.

WENDY

You think you loved Tony?

JEFF

Yeah, I could say that if I knew how to love, I would have loved him. It was a matter of trying to preserve what I had left of him.

WENDY

What were you hoping for?

JEFF

Um...
I hoped he would just dry out and stay looking like he did in life, but... it didn't work out that way because by that time, it was fairly obvious that it didn't look like Tony anymore.
It was just all shriveled up.

WENDY

Okay.
But did it still excite you?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

No, not as much. The excitement was wearing off.

36:58 TAPE 2

JEFF

After I got out of the work release center, I moved out of Grandma's and into this apartment.

I was looking for an apartment that looked halfway decent, saw the Oxford Apartments and, uh walked in. They had a "for rent" sign in front and uh... I moved in in May of '90, I guess.

Had the movers bring my TV, and uh... and a big chest that I had with all my possessions in it.

WENDY

The things you had at Grandma's house?

JEFF

Mhm.

In my mind, I had my own place, someplace nice and private where I could just take someone back, drug them, and then strangle them.

41:16 TAPE 2

WENDY

Is this the first person you took pictures of after they were dead?

JEFF

Yeah, yeah. The nickname was "Cash D," I think. I don't know his real name.

WENDY

What did you use to take the pictures? You had a camera?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

It was a Polaroid. A Polaroid camera.

42:13 TAPE 2

WENDY

How long did this last?

JEFF

About an hour.

WENDY

Of just taking photographs?

JEFF

Mhm.

42:53 TAPE 2

JEFF

It just felt like a waste to me to destroy someone that looked so nice. But by that time, I had no choice, I mean...

He was dead, and I had to find some way to dispose of the remains.

43:20 TAPE 2

JEFF

A day or two later, I went out and bought this large, 80-gallon kettle from one of the restaurant's supply.

43:50 TAPE 2

WENDY

That's why you got a huge barrel? So you could put the acid in for the bones?

JEFF

Yeah, that... It was a trash barrel... was...

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

And so you put the bones in there,
and it would just...

JEFF

Turn into a slush that then could
be scooped out into the toilet and
flushed down.

WENDY

And so what did you do with the
skull?

JEFF

Kept that.

WENDY

Where'd you keep it?

JEFF

In the closet area.

53:33 TAPE 2

JEFF

With the deaf-mute guy, I wanted to
keep him with me,
so I gave him the drink with the
pills in it. He fell asleep, and I
wanted to see if I could, uh, think
of a way to keep him with me
without actually hit-, you know,
killing him.

54:07 TAPE 2

JEFF

And so, uh... I had a drill at home
and, uh... This is gonna sound bad,
but... Should I say it or not?

I took the drill while he was
asleep, drilled a small hole in his
skull, to see if I could, uh, make
it so that he would uh... just
sorta be like, uh, in a zombie
state.

55:02 TAPE 2

MALE VOICE
(probably the shrink, Dr.
Smail)
Jeff, where did you get that idea?

JEFF
Uh, it came from my own thoughts.
Just in my own thinking that I
thought maybe it would work,
because I didn't wanna keep killing
people and not have anything left
except the skull.

58:18 TAPE 2

JEFF
I went out and bought a five-foot
square freezer.

WENDY
What made you think that you wanted
to do this?

JEFF
Because I was preparing for more.

03:09 TAPE 3

JEFF
There were a few where I tried the
drilling technique. And I did the
drilling with him too.

SHRINK
You did?

JEFF
Mm-hmm.

SHRINK
At what point?

JEFF
Uh...

SHRINK
Before the officers came or after?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF
Yeah, before the officers came.

03:55 TAPE 3

SHRINK
How far down you think you
penetrated with the drill there?

JEFF
All the way to the brain.

SHRINK
Two or three inches?

JEFF
Yeah.

SHRINK
And you went straight down?

JEFF
Right, right.

WENDY
Nothing came out?

JEFF
Emm-emm.

SHRINK
No fluid of any kind?

JEFF
No fluid that I could see. And no
bleeding, either.

04:18 TAPE 3

JEFF
He was groggy and everything. He
wasn't dead or anything, and he
talked. And I thought maybe I'd be
able to keep him that way.

07:55 TAPE 3

WENDY

And what did you put in?

JEFF

Konerak.

I filled a syringe with muriatic acid. I used the acid again in a lesser dosage, but it was still too much, the second time after I injected the second amount in.

10:59 TAPE 3

JEFF

The Eurasians, it's just amazing they were brothers. It's incredible. I can't believe it.

WENDY

Are you saying it's his brother?

JEFF

Mm-hmm.

WENDY

You know what his name was?

JEFF

No. Sure don't.

15:42 TAPE 3

JEFF

An hour before I had to go to work, I was trying to decide whether to strangle him then, or keep him alive during the night.

And I chose the latter and missed work. And was fired that Sunday. And that was the domino. The first domino that started the whole chain reaction falling.

17:27 TAPE 3

JEFF

When I was dismembering him in the tub, I didn't finish the job in one night. I was in too much of a rush to get it done.

18:20 TAPE 3

WENDY

Did it excite you or..?

JEFF

Yeah, it did. Yeah, just to see the inside [of him].

18:55 TAPE 3

JEFF

I almost got in trouble because that smell apparently alerted neighbors.

20:22 TAPE 3

WENDY

Did they ever come and inquire?

JEFF

Yeah, they did.

WENDY

What happened?

JEFF

I told them it's just the freezer that went on the blink.

20:59 TAPE 3

WENDY

Did you select what you decided to keep? How did you select that?

JEFF

Just the meatiest-looking parts. The parts with the least amount of fat.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY
So it would've been the biceps,
thighs...

JEFF
Right.

WENDY
...calves?

JEFF
Mhm.

21:33 TAPE 3

WENDY
So you took out the heart and the
liver, and you preserved that and
his thigh.

JEFF
Mhm.

WENDY
What did you do with the rest of it
then?

JEFF
I kept about 50 pounds, the rest
went in the trash.

WENDY
How many pounds would you estimate
you've eaten?

JEFF
Total, about... ten.

22:08 TAPE 3

WENDY
So, If anybody looked in the
freezer, it looked like you just
stocked up in the market, right?

JEFF
Yeah, so it looked just like
supermarket meat. I froze it for a
while, maybe a month.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

And?

JEFF

Or not that long. A couple weeks.

28:44 TAPE 3

JEFF

I had this pedestal, black pedestal. And I had a, uh, black, round top on top of it, and I had the skulls set up on top of that, around it. And it's just, uh, a remembrance of, uh... the people. A keepsake of each one of them.

It was my own, yeah, private little world. Yeah.

I had complete control. That's about the ultimate control you can have.

29:43 TAPE 3

WENDY

Did you feel by keeping the skulls, and if you would've actually accomplished this shrine, that you would've felt less lonely, like you were being kept company with the fact that they were there?

JEFF

I think that must have, yeah, been, uh, my thinking.

41:28 TAPE 3

JEFF

I dunno what the prison systems are like.

I just have a picture of a very dreary, gray place.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JEFF (cont'd)

I was thinking maybe that in prison, they'll maybe let me do something with growing some type of plant. Uh, I've always had an interest in growing plants. I had plants at the apartment.

49:11 TAPE 3

WENDY

Did it enter your mind at all that it seemed a waste to destroy somebody who looked so nice while they were still alive?

JEFF

Yeah, it did.
I felt that it was... a waste that I couldn't keep them longer without having to kill them, but I didn't know any other way to make them stay and to control them.
I had no choice in the matter.

WENDY

Did you, uh, feel emotions of any kind?

JEFF

I felt a lot of... a great deal of remorse.