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Mysteries: The Cecil Hotel

Introduction:

I'm Jennifer and I'm Mandy.

We met while we attended the ESL classes. When we touched this topic at the first time, we both instantly thought about the Cecil Hotel in LA. Because we went to LA together before, during the vocation. But we had never seen this hotel. Furthermore, *American Horror Story*, the famous television series' last season was named *Hotel* is based on the Cecil Hotel. Most of the program's characters were created using inspiration from real events and people.

Background:

The Cecil Hotel was opened in 1925. The history of the Cecil Hotel is so dark and gory that some say all 600 rooms are cursed. We all know this Hotel is most famous for the place where Elisa Lam was mysteriously found dead in the rooftops water tanks. It also has encounters, murders and suicide happened in this hotel.

Personal life:

Elisa Lam, also known by her Cantonese name, Lam Ho Yi, a 21-year-old Canadian student at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, was recovered from a water tank atop the Cecil Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles on February 19, 2013.¹

Elizabeth Short, best known as "the Black Dahlia," was born on July 29, 1924, in Boston, Massachusetts, the third of five daughters born to Cleo and Phoebe Mae (Sawyer) Short. Cleo Short abandoned the family when Elizabeth was 5 years old. At a young age, Short developed a strong affinity for cinema. By her teens, she had set her sights on becoming an actress.²

Elisa Lam:

On January 27, 2013, 21-year-old Elisa Lam stepped off a train from San Diego in downtown Los Angeles, gathered her belongings, and walked to a hostel on Main Street. She Choose the Cecil Hotel and planned to stay four nights, checking out on January 31 to head to the next stop on what she'd been calling her "west coast tour."³

After five days of sightseeing, Elisa was scheduled to check out and continue her journey to Santa Cruz. On this day though, her parents did not receive their daily phone call from their daughter. Finding this uncharacteristic of Elisa, they contacted the L.A. police to report her disappearance.

¹ Biography

² Black Dahlia

³ Calgary's 'epicentre

Hotel staff said she was alone on the morning of her disappearance, and the manager of a nearby bookstore, the last person to report seeing her alive, described her as “outgoing, very lively, very friendly,” having come in to buy gifts for her family.⁴

Police proceeded to search the hotel with scent-tracking dogs, but were unable to search the building to a thorough extent, due to the absence of any probable cause a crime had been committed.

They found nothing.

On the 6th of February, the LAPD posted flyers around the neighborhood, urging anyone with any information to come forward.⁵ A week passed with no new leads, and then the case took its first sharp turn towards the bizarre.

On February 16, the LAPD released a surveillance video from the hotel, taken on the 1st of February. The unsettling video depicts Elisa in one of the hotel’s elevators, acting in an extremely bizarre manner.⁶ It shows her peeking in and out of the elevator, hiding in the corner, pressing multiple buttons and erratically gesturing and dancing in the hallway outside the elevator. She then exits the elevator, and the door slides closed and open several times before the video ends.

It was about this time that guests of the hotel began to complain of strange tasting, discolored water and low water pressure in their rooms. Employees began to investigate the plumbing of the building. This led them to a gruesome discovery in the water tanks on the roof of the building.⁷

⁴ American Horror Story

⁵ Calgary's 'epicentre

⁶ Calgary's 'epicentre

⁷ Elisa Lam and Her Bizarre Death

Black Dahlia

By the mid-1940s, Elizabeth Short was living in Los Angeles, California, working as a waitress to support herself while dreaming of catching her big break into Hollywood's acting scene. Her chance at stardom, however, would never come. In January 1947, a horrific tragedy occurred: At the age of 22, Short was brutally murdered in Los Angeles, her body cut in half and severely mutilated. Her body was found, nude and posed, by a local female resident on January 15, 1947, in a vacant lot near Leimert Park, on the 3800 block of L.A.'s South Norton Avenue.⁸ It was pretty gruesome, I just can't imagine someone doing that to another human being. In addition to dissecting and mutilating her body, The killer had drained her corpse of blood and scrubbed it clean. The case quickly became heavily covered by the media.

An in-depth, lengthy investigation by the L.A.P.D. ensued, leading to a number of false reports—including several false murder confessions—and ultimately leaving detectives grasping at straws. The sole witness of the murder had reported seeing a black sedan parked in the area in the early morning hours, but could provide police with little else. The combination of faulty witnesses and a lack of hard evidence surrounding the case greatly hindered its progress, and, despite numerous allegations and leads over the years, the Black Dahlia's killer was never found. Today, the Black Dahlia murder remains one of the oldest cold case files in L.A., as well as the city's most famous.⁹

⁸ Black Dahlia

⁹ Black Dahlia

Serial killer & suicides:

For starters, the hotel was once home to the American serial killer Richard Ramirez. Ramirez known as the nightstalker who terrorized Los Angeles in the 1980 and He was convicted of 13 murders. During his murderous period, he lived in a 14 dollar a night room on the top floor of this Cecil Hotel. After slaughtering his victims, he would dump his bloody clothes in the hotel's dumpster. Another serial killer Jack Untermyer stayed at the hotel in 1991 for 5 weeks and during this time he murdered 3 prostitutes. By strangling them with their own bra straps. ¹⁰

In 1964, Goldie Osgood also known as pigeon women due to a love of feeding birds. She was found stabbed raped and strangled. In a ransacked room at the hotel, and to add to the hotel's reputation, her murder still remains unsolved. ¹¹

As well as murders the hotel has also been associated with suicides. In 1962, Pauline Otton threw herself to the death from 9th floor and landed on a passing pedestrian killings him instantly.¹²

Conclusion:

Talk about the most interesting part of those stories. Why interested.

¹⁰ The Serial Killers Who Haunted The Cecil Hotel – Josh Dean – Medium

¹¹ The Suicide

¹² The Serial Killers Who Haunted The Cecil Hotel – Josh Dean – Medium

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