

Sinner V.



■ American Murder Song : The Seven Deadly Sinners ■

Messrs. Storm and Tender

UNMERCIFULLY **THWACK**

an

■ American Murder Song ■



■ The Seven Deadly Sinners ■

THIS HOUSE IS LIKE A FUCKING PRISON



The barely tolerable Borden home, 1892

TIME OF DEATHS MORNING, AUGUST 4TH, 1892

FALL River, Massachusetts: "The #1 Textile-Manufacturing Town" in Cain's America, boasting over 500,000 fabric spindles. In this hilly riverfront community, affectionately called "Spindle City" by its residents, the name Borden is synonymous with the development of its dominant industry, and with immeasurable wealth.

Fall River, however, is a neighborhood divided. Up on The Hill reside the well-to-do men and their society wives. Below, in The Flats, live the immigrants, the poor, and **rich**, 8th-generation Borden man and his family, subsisting well below their means, and well below their cousins up on The Hill.

The houses of the town's elites all boast modern conveniences, but the antiquated Borden family home has a pump instead of running water and kerosene lamps instead of electricity. The walls are thin. It is bitterly cold in winter and oppressively hot in summer.

As the sun rises on a sweltering Thursday morning, the house becomes unbearable, and the Borden name becomes synonymous with something else altogether: **MURDER.**

"Go for Dr. Bowen as soon as you can. I think father is hurt."

~ LIZZIE BORDEN TO HER FAMILY'S SERVANT, MAGGIE

THE RIP-ROARIN' WRATH OF Lizzie Borden

1 In the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, Lizzie Borden picks up a hatchet.

2 Her Sin: Wrath.

3 Her Mark: Getting away with Murder.

2 Lizzie Borden is born on July 19th, 1860, in Fall River, Massachusetts. She is the youngest daughter of Andrew Borden and Sarah Morse. Her sister, Emma Borden, is nine years her elder.

2 Four months before Lizzie's third birthday, the girls' mother dies, painfully, from uterine congestion and disease of the spine.

3 Just two years later, their father remarries, and scowling Abby Gray, thirty-seven, the daughter of a poor pushcart peddler, becomes the new Mrs. Borden.

3 As the director of several textile mills, Lizzie's father, following in the footsteps of his prosperous namesake, has amassed a small fortune.

2 But Mr. Borden does not like spending his earnings, preferring to "pile" his money in his bedroom safe instead.

3 They live in a simple clapboard house in The Flats on Second Street.

4 The house is unfashionable, lacking many of the luxuries that young Lizzie knows her father can afford.

4 In respectable society, unmarried women must

remain in their father's home. By 1887, Lizzie Borden, aged twenty-seven, is spouseless, as is her big sister Emma.

2 Being years beyond marriageable age, the siblings fear they may never leave the Borden nest. Mr. and Mrs. Borden suspect the same, a posture that Lizzie is growing to resent.

3 Hoping to instill in his daughters a community spirit, Mr. Borden rents a pew at a nearby church. But Lizzie refuses to attend services there, telling her father she'll be huffing up to The Hill to attend a more upscale and progressive house of worship instead.

4 She declaims that she prefers to spend her days praying amongst the gentry, rather than pinching pennies in The Flats.

5 But every time Lizzie has to make the tiresome trek back down, down from The Hill, her resentments towards her father and his religious and fiscally conservative ways rise.

6 When Mr. Borden abruptly buys property for Mrs. Borden, Lizzie's rancor turns to fury, as does Emma's.

7 Believing their stepmother is after their inheritance, they demand he buy them property, too!

8 Witch!

9 Lizzie refuses to call Abby Borden "Mother" any longer, thenceforth referring to her only as "Mrs. Borden."

5 Four years pass. Lizzie's tolerance thins.

2 She is of the belief, nay, the conviction that a Borden belongs in an upper-crust home on The Hill.

3 A Borden should have lots of money to burn.

4 A Borden should be able to take whatever she wants.

5 Lizzie begins shoplifting.

6 On June 24th, 1891, on a day when Mr. and Mrs. Borden are away, the house is robbed.

7 Lizzie, Emma, and servant Maggie are present. All claim to have seen nothing.

HERE I COME, PAPA

THE DEATH OF MR. ANDREW JACKSON BORDEN, WHOM LIZZIE LOVED

"I DID NOT SEE HIS
FACE BECAUSE HE
WAS ALL COVERED
WITH BLOOD ...
IT MADE ME AFRAID."

~ LIZZIE BORDEN TO THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY DURING
AN INQUEST HEARING ON
THE MURDERS



At 9:15 AM, a miserly Andrew Borden, 69, goes collecting rents on his various properties and checking in on his local investments. At 10:45 AM, he returns home, only to find the front door bolted from the inside. He hollers for servant Maggie, who, after fumbling with the 3 door locks, lets him in. When she does, Lizzie Borden giggles at the top of the stairs.

Lizzie promenades down the steps and greets her father, who asks of her stepmother's whereabouts. She tells him Mrs. Borden's "gone out to visit a friend."

Mr. Borden settles in for a nap on a settee in the 1st floor sitting room. As he sleeps, a hatchet descends upon his head, 1 time, 2 times, 10 times. His skull collapses and his eyeball is split in 2. It is 11:00 AM.

When Mr. Borden's body is found, upon his wedding finger is a ring Lizzie gave him. It's the only ring he ever wore after Lizzie's mother's death.

LIZZIE'S MESSAGE FINALLY GOT THROUGH HER FATHER'S THICK SKULL



LIZZIE BORDEN. HOTTY-TOITY. 2 YEARS BEFORE THE MURDERS

