

Nature Attacks! (I Survived True Stories

Lauren Tarshis

Stories #1: Five Epic Disasters was released in 2014, followed in 2015 by *I Survived True Stories #2 Nature Attacks!*, and by *I Survived True Stories #3*

Lauren Tarshis is an American author of children's books, with several series of fiction, non-fiction and historical fiction works found in thousands of libraries and translated into several languages.

She is the author of the New York Times bestselling series *I Survived*. The books, fast-paced historical fiction for kids in grades 3–5, focus on historical disasters from the perspective of a boy or girl who lived to tell the tale.

She is also the author of *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree*, a Golden Kite honor book for fiction and Oprah's Book Club pick, and the sequel *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love*. The books are on many state lists and are often used by schools as part of anti-bully programs.

Tarshis is SVP editor-in-chief and publisher of the Classroom Magazine Division at Scholastic, Inc., which includes *Storyworks* magazine, a language arts magazine for children in grades 3-6 that she has edited for several years.

October 7 attacks

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The October 7 attacks were a series of coordinated armed incursions from the Gaza Strip into the Gaza envelope of southern Israel, carried out by Hamas and several other Palestinian militant groups on October 7, 2023, during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah. The attacks, which were the first large-scale invasion of Israeli territory since the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, initiated the ongoing Gaza war.

The attacks began with a barrage of at least 4,300 rockets launched into Israel and vehicle-transported and powered paraglider incursions into Israel. Hamas militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier, attacking military bases and massacring civilians in 21 communities, including Be'eri, Kfar Aza, Nir Oz, Netiv Haasara, and Alumim. According to an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) report that revised the estimate on the number of attackers, 6,000 Gazans breached the border in 119 locations into Israel, including 3,800 from the elite "Nukhba forces" and 2,200 civilians and other militants. Additionally, the IDF report estimated 1,000 Gazans fired rockets from the Gaza Strip, bringing the total number of participants on Hamas's side to 7,000.

In total, 1,195 people were killed by the attacks: 736 Israeli civilians (including 38 children), 79 foreign nationals, and 379 members of the security forces. 364 civilians were killed and many more wounded while attending the Nova music festival. At least 14 Israeli civilians were killed by the IDF's use of the Hannibal Directive. About 250 Israeli civilians and soldiers were taken as hostages to the Gaza Strip. Dozens of cases of rape and sexual assault reportedly occurred, but Hamas officials denied the involvement of their fighters.

The governments of 44 countries denounced the attack and described it as terrorism, while some Arab and Muslim-majority countries blamed Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories as the root cause of the attack. Hamas said its attack was in response to the continued Israeli occupation, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements, rising Israeli settler violence, and recent escalations. The day was labelled the bloodiest in Israel's history and "the deadliest for Jews since the Holocaust" by many figures and media outlets in the West, including then-US president Joe Biden. Some have made allegations

that the attack was an act of genocide or a genocidal massacre against Israelis.

Avicii

following day through Spotify and iTunes. On 26 September, Bergling announced "Stories – Megamix" on Spotify. Stories was released on 2 October 2015 alongside

Tim Bergling (8 September 1989 – 20 April 2018), known professionally as Avicii, was a Swedish DJ, remixer, and record producer. At age 16, he began posting his remixes on electronic music forums, which led to his first record deal. He rose to prominence in 2011 with his single "Levels". His debut studio album, *True* (2013), blended electronic music with elements of multiple genres and received generally positive reviews. It peaked in the top 10 in more than 15 countries and topped international charts; the lead single, "Wake Me Up", topped most music markets in Europe and reached number four in the United States.

In 2015, Bergling released his second studio album, *Stories*, and in 2017 he released an extended play, *Avicii (01)*. His catalog also included the singles "I Could Be the One" with Nicky Romero, "You Make Me", "X You", "Hey Brother", "Addicted to You", "The Days", "The Nights", "Waiting for Love", "Without You", "Lonely Together" and "SOS". Bergling was nominated for a Grammy Award for his work on "Sunshine" with David Guetta in 2012 and "Levels" in 2013. Several music publications credit Bergling as among the DJs who ushered electronic music into Top 40 radio in the early 2010s.

Bergling retired from touring in 2016, after several years of stress and poor mental health. In 2018, he died by suicide while on holiday in Muscat, Oman. His third and final album, *Tim*, was released posthumously in 2019.

Peter Kürten

confessed that many of his later strangulation victims had only survived his attacks because he had achieved an orgasm in the early throes of the assault

Peter Kürten (German: [ˈpɛʔtɐ ˈkʏʁtn̩]; 26 May 1883 – 2 July 1931) was a German serial killer, known as The Vampire of Düsseldorf and the Düsseldorf Monster, who committed a series of murders and sexual assaults between February and November 1929 in the city of Düsseldorf. In the years before these assaults and murders, Kürten had amassed a lengthy criminal record for offences including arson and attempted murder. He also confessed to the 1913 murder of a nine-year-old girl in Mülheim am Rhein and the attempted murder of a 17-year-old girl in Düsseldorf.

Described by Karl Berg as "the king of the sexual perverts", Kürten was found guilty of nine counts of murder and seven counts of attempted murder for which he was sentenced to death by beheading in April 1931. He was executed via guillotine in July 1931, at age 48.

Kürten became known as the "Vampire of Düsseldorf" because he occasionally made attempts to drink the blood from his victims' wounds; and the "Düsseldorf Monster" both because the majority of his murders were committed in and around the city of Düsseldorf, and due to the savagery he inflicted upon his victims' bodies.

True Detective season 1

supernatural theology of "Carcosa": "Both ... are stories. Stories people tell themselves to escape reality. Stories that violate every law of the universe."

The first season of *True Detective*, an American anthology crime drama television series created by Nic Pizzolatto, aired in eight episodes between January 12 and March 9, 2014 on the premium cable network HBO. Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson lead a five-actor principal cast as Louisiana State Police homicide detectives Rustin "Rust" Cohle and Martin "Marty" Hart. Each *True Detective* season

follows a self-contained story, characterized by distinct sets of characters, settings, and events with shared continuity.

Framed as a nonlinear narrative, True Detective season one explores Cohle and Hart's recollection of their investigation of the murder of Dora Lange from 1995 to 2002. In their personal lives, Hart's infidelity jeopardizes his marriage to Maggie (Michelle Monaghan), while Cohle grapples with the burden of his troubled past. The detectives must revisit the investigation ten years later, as new evidence implicates the perpetrator in a slew of other unsolved murders and disappearances.

Pizzolatto initially conceived True Detective as a novel, but pursued a television concept because of the story's shifts in time and perspective. Cary Joji Fukunaga directed the episodes, each funded with a \$4–4.5 million budget and tax subsidies from the Louisiana state government. Filming for the season began in January 2013 and finished that June. True Detective season one has been read as work that examines philosophical pessimism, Christianity, and masculinity. Further discourse addresses the story's comic and horror fiction influences, the show's artistic merits under the framework of auteur theory, and its depiction of women.

True Detective season one received highly positive reviews in the media. Critics praised the show as one of the strongest dramas of the year, but occasionally criticized some aspects of the writing such as characterization. It was a candidate for numerous awards, including a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Drama Series and a Golden Globe Award for Best Miniseries or Television Film, and won several other honors for writing, cinematography, direction, and acting.

Sexual and gender-based violence in the October 7 attacks

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The extent of sexual violence perpetrated by militants, and whether it was planned and weaponised by the attackers, has been the subject of intense debate and controversy. Initially said to be "dozens" by Israeli authorities, they later clarified they could not provide a number. The militants involved in the attack are accused of having committed acts of gender-based violence, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Hamas has denied that its fighters committed any sexual assaults, and has called for an impartial international investigation into the accusations.

In January 2024, it was reported that several victims of sexual violence from 7 October and captivity in Gaza had come forward. A number of initial testimonies of sexual violence were later discredited, while Israel has accused international human rights groups of downplaying assault reports. As of January 2025, the former head of the security cases division in Israel's Southern District prosecutor's office said that no case was being filed due to a lack of evidence and complainants, which she said could be due to victims being dead or unwilling to come forward.

The UN's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten reported in March 2024, with the "full cooperation" of the Israeli government, that there was "clear and convincing information" that Israeli hostages in Gaza had experienced sexual violence, and that there was "reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks". The report was not a full investigation, but designed to "collect and verify allegations", and the team stated that their conclusions fell below the legal threshold of being 'beyond a reasonable doubt'. The UN Commission of Inquiry (CoI) subsequently published a legally mandated report in June 2024 that stated there was "a pattern indicative of sexual violence by Palestinian forces during the attack", but that it was unable to independently verify allegations of rape due to Israel's obstruction of its investigation. It also found some of the allegations to be

false and "no credible evidence" that Palestinian militants received orders to commit sexual violence.

On 12 April 2024, the European Union sanctioned military and special forces wings of Hamas and the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad due to their responsibility for the alleged sexual violence on 7 October. The EU said the two groups' fighters "committed widespread sexual and gender-based violence in a systematic manner, using it as a weapon of war." On 23 April 2024 the annual UN Secretary-General's report included Patten's findings, but excluded Hamas from the "black list" of state and non-state parties guilty of sexual violence in 2023 due to the lack of what it deemed to be credible evidence, and called on the Israeli government to allow access to "relevant UN bodies to carry out a fully-fledged investigation into all alleged violations." In August 2025, UN General-Secretary António Guterres announced his intentions to add Hamas to the UN blacklist of organizations and countries that had committed sexual violence. However, he had warned Israel could also be similarly blacklisted the following year unless it takes "necessary measures to ensure immediate cessation of all acts of sexual violence."

San Ysidro McDonald's massacre

Minutes in Hell; *. Delivered From Evil: True Stories of Ordinary People Who Faced Monstrous Mass Killers and Survived*. Beverly, Massachusetts: Fair Winds

The San Ysidro McDonald's massacre was an act of mass murder, which occurred at a McDonald's restaurant in the San Ysidro neighborhood of San Diego, California, on July 18, 1984. The perpetrator, 41-year-old James Huberty, fatally shot 22 people, including an unborn baby, and wounded 19 others before being killed by a police sniper approximately 77 minutes after he had first opened fire.

At the time, the massacre was the deadliest mass shooting by a lone gunman in U.S. history, being surpassed seven years later by the Luby's shooting. It remains the deadliest mass shooting in California.

Capsized: Blood in the Water

network stated that basing the film on a true story, was congruent with the program's educational nature. Staying true to the historical events, featuring

Capsized: Blood in the Water is an American biographical natural horror-survival film, based on a true story from 1982. Roel Reiné directed the film, from a script written by Stephen David, with the story co-written by David, Tim K. Kelly and Jonathan Soule. The film plot centers around a small boat crew aboard a private yacht who are stranded in shark infested waters, following a storm that overturns their vessel. Debuting as the first scripted Discovery's Shark Week feature film, Capsized: Blood in the Water was released on July 31, 2019 as an exclusive to the network's week-long yearly event.

The movie was met with mixed reviews praising its realism and special effects, while criticizing its changes to the true story. Some critics questioned Discovery Channel's addition of the film to their schedule, due to the program's usual stance on disproving sharks as monsters of the ocean.

Zodiac Killer

agree on four confirmed attacks by the Zodiac Killer in California. Five victims were killed during these attacks, and two survived: David Arthur Faraday

The Zodiac Killer is the pseudonym of an unidentified serial killer who murdered five known victims in the San Francisco Bay Area between December 1968 and October 1969. The case has been described as "arguably the most famous unsolved murder case in American history," and has become both a fixture of popular culture and a focus for efforts by amateur detectives.

The Zodiac's known attacks took place in Benicia, Vallejo, unincorporated Napa County, and the City and County of San Francisco proper. He attacked three young couples and a lone male cab driver. Two of these victims survived. The Zodiac coined his name in a series of taunting messages that he mailed to regional newspapers, in which he threatened killing sprees and bombings if they were not printed. He also said that he was collecting his victims as slaves for the afterlife. He included four cryptograms or ciphers in his correspondence; two were decrypted in 1969 and 2020, and two are generally considered to be unsolved.

In 1974, the Zodiac claimed 37 victims in his last confirmed letter. This tally included victims in Southern California such as Cheri Jo Bates, who was murdered in Riverside in 1966. Despite many theories about the Zodiac's identity, the only suspect authorities ever named was Arthur Leigh Allen, a former elementary school teacher and convicted sex offender who died in 1992.

The unusual nature of the case led to international interest that has been sustained throughout the years. The San Francisco Police Department marked the case "inactive" in 2004 but re-opened it prior to 2007. The case also remains open in the California Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the city of Vallejo, as well as in Napa and Solano counties.

Jersey Shore shark attacks of 1916

The attacks forced ichthyologists to reassess common beliefs about the abilities of sharks and the nature of shark attacks. The Jersey Shore attacks immediately

The Jersey Shore shark attacks of 1916 were a series of shark attacks along the coast of New Jersey, in the United States, between July 1 and 12, 1916, in which four people were killed and one critically injured. The incidents occurred during a deadly summer heat wave and polio epidemic in the United States that drove thousands of people to the seaside resorts of the Jersey Shore. Since 1916, scholars have debated which shark species was responsible and the number of animals involved, with the great white shark and the bull shark most frequently cited.

Personal and national reaction to the fatalities involved a wave of panic that led to shark hunts aimed at eradicating the population of "man-eating" sharks and protecting the economies of New Jersey's seaside communities. Resort towns enclosed their public beaches with steel nets to protect swimmers. Scientific knowledge about sharks before 1916 was based on conjecture and speculation. The attacks forced ichthyologists to reassess common beliefs about the abilities of sharks and the nature of shark attacks.

The Jersey Shore attacks immediately entered into American popular culture, where sharks became caricatures in editorial cartoons representing danger. The attacks became the subject of documentaries for the History Channel, National Geographic Channel, and Discovery Channel, which aired 12 Days of Terror (2004) and the Shark Week episode Blood in the Water (2009).

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