

Bizarre Theories About Idaho College Murders Put to Rest

BY SHANNON COOK

ON NOVEMBER 13, 2022, four University of Idaho college students were murdered in their shared home. Three of the girls, Madison Mogen, Kaylee Goncalves, and Xana Kernodle, lived together, while Xana's boyfriend, Ethan Chapin, was visiting. Nearly six weeks passed with the Moscow, Idaho police keeping their progress on the case under wraps. This is a common tactic among law enforcement individuals, so as not to tip off anyone they may suspect. While this sometimes, and oftentimes, turns out to be the best strategy to catch the killer, it also comes with its own kickbacks. What the Moscow Police Department didn't (or possibly, did) expect was the world of social media, particularly TikTok and Reddit, to be breathing down their throats and, ultimately, come up with their own wild theories about the case.

It is truly amazing how a completely fabricated and false story created by a random Reddit or TikTok user can take hold among a group of people who are in the dark about a subject. It almost seems as though once a post reaches a certain amount of likes or hits,

it is automatically assumed to be the truth—and who would doubt something that has reached 10,000 upvotes on Reddit? Surely, if so many people believe it, it must be true. Among the most popular, and most unfounded, theories about the Idaho college murders were: the victims were tied and gagged before being killed (disproved by police investigation), the killings were committed by a University of Idaho professor (a conclusion determined by a Tarot card reading that was disproved by police and, ultimately, ended in a defamation lawsuit), and the killing were connected to another death in Moscow, Idaho, in February of 2022 (also proved false by police investigation).

While some people view internet theories such as these as harmless or inevitable, it is unclear how much damage they can cause, though we see some of it in the instances listed here. A University of Idaho college professor was accused of murdering the four students, an allegation brought to light by a Tarot card reading performed by another student of the college. The professor later ended up suing the student for defamation, and will likely have the fictional story

told by those oh-so-magical cards haunting his career for months or even years to come. Similarly, with the families of the four students completely devastated and on edge, one would assume they may be vulnerable to further emotional damage and susceptible to any sense of hope for catching a killer—even those false stories created by Internet personas who know absolutely nothing about the actual story, evidence, or investigation. Nonetheless, all of the various theories have been put to rest recently, as a suspect has been taken into custody, charged, and is awaiting trial.

Moscow police say they had been watching this suspect for weeks, and simply did not want to divulge any information to the media or families of the victims, lest they tip off their suspect. It seems this method of investigation was indeed successful, as the suspect was arrested in a relatively peaceful manner. However, Moscow police did their best to debunk all theories strewn at them by social media users during the process of their investigation nonetheless, despite how wild or over-the-top they were.

Why Have Harry and Meghan Captured the Hearts of America?

BY MEGHAN O'HARA

Harry and Meghan have emerged as one of the world's most well-known examples of the forbidden love trope.

PRINCE HARRY AND Meghan Markle, who are former royals, have become extremely popular in the last few months despite having left royalty in 2020. Why now have they won over so many Americans' hearts, and what makes the two so popular amongst the people in the United States? Well, it is a simple answer to such a complex question. To put it simply, it is because of their honesty about the royal family. Although, one could also say it is also because of the U.S. and U. K.'s long-standing rivalry.

This whirlwind started on January 8th, 2020, when both Harry and Meghan decided to step down from their royal duties. This caused an uproar for the people of the United Kingdom, leading them to question why the two decided to step down. It was not until March 7th that the two did an interview with Oprah revealing some of the reasons why they stepped down. For example, some of their reasons for leaving the royal family were racism, censorship, and the toxic media that Meghan was facing. Nevertheless, this resulted in a Netflix documentary series about the two released on December 8th.

The series called "Meghan & Harry" caused many viewers in the U.K to be upset. In the documentary the two explained the struggles and hardships they had to go through as royals. This led many British people to feel disrespected regarding the examples the two exposed in the series. People in the U.K. felt as though Meghan was a fraud, narcissist, and a coward. However, American's felt compassion and empathy for the two.

After America watched the series, many felt as though the U.K. mistreated Meghan for being a mixed-race woman. Many also felt that the two did the right thing by leaving royalty. This fascinated the people in America— who doesn't enjoy royal drama, after all? I believe the two are trying their best to give their two children, Archie and Lilibet, a good life without all the royal family shenanigans, along with many other Americans. Monarchy in general does not make sense. Why do people believe that their blood and genetic pool gives them power? If the U.K. thinks Meghan is a narcissist, would not the British royal family be deemed as narcissist's as well?

The royal family are regular people like everyone else in the world. The only thing that makes them powerful is mass media, money, and fancy names such as king, queen, prince, and princess. I call myself a "queen" every day, why am I not getting special treatment from my peers? Why does the royal family feel as though they are powerful enough to

ruin not only their own blood, but the blood of their families' loved ones? After watching the Harry & Meghan documentary, the two seemed like genuine, hardworking people who have not only been bullied by their people, but also by their families.

This documentary led a lot of Americans to understand the reality and horror of being a royal. This led them to become completely immersed in the flashy and crazy life that Harry & Meghan live. Americans are now watching the royals like they watch the Kardashians every Thursday night hoping for a new update from either Harry & Meghan or the royal family to get a glimpse of what goes on inside of Kensington Palace's doors.

