

Malevolent Maine

Episode 34: The Son of Adam

Malevolent Maine is a horror podcast, and may contain material not suitable for all audiences. Listener discretion is advised.

INTRO:

TOM: A carnivorous lake. A story of a horrible curse at sea. And a mill that is producing an unexplained substance. These are the stories coming your way in the next few weeks.

Hey everyone, it's Tom. It's crazy to think this is episode 34. When we started this podcast we had no idea how big it would grow. Thank you to everyone who has listened and supported us. Make sure to follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and now we're on Threads! If you can, consider becoming a member of the Malevolent Mob over on Patreon for all of our extra goodies. And just keep reaching out to us with your stories. We're working on compiling a lot of these user submitted stories into something special, so if you'd like your story to be included, send it to us. We believe you. Thanks and enjoy!

The ceiling is low and you have to duck a little. The cement walls give the air a musty chill, and it feels like you could be miles underground. The walls around you are covered with graffiti, strange names and odd symbols you only kind of recognize. As you get closer, you see a group of about six, gathered around a Coleman lantern set on the floor. One of the men is talking about something you can't follow yet in excited tones and waving a large knife around in the air. Suddenly you notice another man, nearly completely concealed in the shadows cast by the dim light. He's leaving against the wall and when he notices you looking at him he smiles. It's a cold, bitter smile that goes all the way to your soul. It's a dangerous smile. And the man in the shadows, he's holding something, a rope of some

kind or a leash. Is that a dog? And now he's dragging it to the center of the room. And everybody's holding knives.

This is Malevolent Maine.

Guys, what was that?

I saw it with my own eyes

No, seriously, what was that?

It's just not scientifically possible.

I can't explain it.

Oh my God. Oh my God. Oh my God.

This stuff is wild, man. It's real wild.

But... what was that?

Better wear your sunblock for this one, MMers. Our story today deals with some of Portland's darkest and scariest times. It was a time when people were afraid to go out on the streets and paranoia ripped through the southern portion of the state. Unlike many of our stories, this one has a very real, very human face: Matthew Locke, the so-called Son of Adam killer who ravaged the state from 1985-1986. However, as we'll uncover, there was perhaps something more than a crazed gunman prowling the shadows.

Portland is Maine's largest city. It has a population of just over 68,000 people, but close to half a million live in the surrounding metropolitan area. Situated on Casco Bay, Portland is the second largest tonnage seaport in New England. With robust tourism, a lively music scene, and an active commercial fishing scene, Portland is quickly becoming one of America's best small cities.

In 1985, however, Portland was rocked by the shocking death of one of its own. On July 6th, 1985, at 11:30 PM, Amy Camire was smoking a cigarette outside of a popular bar on Fore Street. A man walked up to Camire and fired a single round of .38 Special into the back of Amy's head. Then he ran off into the night. There were only a few witnesses, and none of them got a good look at the shooter. Amy Camire was pronounced dead at the scene.

In 1984 Maine had 20 murders for the entire year. With a population of 1.1 million, this number is not insignificant by any means, but it is still relatively low. Maine had its share of violent deaths, but most of them came from drunken disputes or an angry spouse. Mainers weren't ready for the spree of violent killings they had unknowingly just witnessed the beginning of.

Six weeks later, on August 16th, the killer struck again. This time his victims were twenty-two year old Paul St. Cyr and his girlfriend, twenty year old Christine Bouchard. They were shot in the head while sitting in St. Cyr's car parked outside his apartment on Cumberland Ave. Christine Bouchard was killed instantly. St. Cyr was taken to Maine Medical Center where he died the next day due to his injuries. Again, there were few witnesses and no positive identification could be made. However, one witness, who had been smoking a cigarette on their porch claimed to have seen a man run by wearing a black leather jacket with either a yellow patch or pin on it depicting the symbol for an atom.

We have all seen this symbol before. Three overlapping oval loops with a dot in its center. It is a mainstay of high school science textbooks and science fiction. The dot represents the atom's nucleus or positively charged center, while the ellipses represent the orbits made by electrons around that core.

This symbol wasn't unknown or unique, and during a time when nuclear power protests were a more common thing this wasn't

exactly an identifying feature. Still, it gave the police something to look for, though at this point, they had very little. They did know the victims were most likely killed by the same person, as the gun and the manner in which they were shot - in the head, unsuspectingly - seemed to indicate a singular criminal.

Just a few weeks later, on August 30th, two young women, Jennifer Lachance and Lily Whitten, were shot as they walked home from a party. The same .38 special was used as in the previous two slayings and Portland police had to admit they were dealing with a serial killer.

The city went into a panic. All of the killings up to this point had taken place between midnight and two AM, so police concluded that this was someone prowling the bars, seeking out unsuspecting victims. Officials urged young people, especially young women, to avoid the streets at night. The mayor did his best to assuage the fears of the citizens, but by the end of summer everyone was on edge.

A sixth victim, 24 year old Kimberly Malley, was shot on September 10th while she sat in her car, after leaving a restaurant just after midnight. She was shot once in the neck and a second time in the head. This time the police found a letter from the killer left at the scene, placed in the victim's lap. It was written in small capital letters, and the paper was stained with the victim's blood. We've asked Lucas to read the letter:

LUCAS: YOU THINK YOU UNDERSTAND ME, BUT YOU DO NOT. I AM THE DARKNESS. I AM THE TOOTHY GRIN IN THE NIGHT. I AM THE ORIGINAL SON OF ADAM. YOU ARE WRONG ABOUT ME. I KILL BECAUSE I HAVE TO. BECAUSE I CARE. THE WHORES AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES MEAN NOTHING. ONLY THE BLOOD. ONLY THE SACRIFICE MATTER. WHEN OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN DEATH COMMANDS, I MUST OBEY.

YOU CANNOT FIND ME. YOU CANNOT SEE ME. I AM THE BEAST WITH
A THOUSAND FACES. I AM THE MORNING STAR FADING AWAY. WHEN I
LOOK AT MY WINDOW AND I SEE WHAT YOU HAVE MADE OF THIS
WORLD, I AM SICK. I WILL REMAKE THE WORLD IN MY IMAGE.
BLOOD AND CHAOS.

THE SCREAMS ARE THE LULLABY TO MY MOTHERS EARS. MOTHER
MARY. MOTHER LILITH. MOTHER MAY I. SHE DANCES AND SWAYS TO
THE MUSIC I MAKE. IF I MAKE HER SMILE SHE WILL LET ME OUT
TO PLAY.

I AM NOT DONE. I AM ONLY BEGINNING. DO NOT STOP ME.
PORTLAND IS MY INSTRUMENT AND I AM THE COMPOSER. THE
SYMPHONY IS NIGH. MOTHER WILL SING AND I WILL KNOW HER
GRACE.

I AM WITHIN AND WITHOUT.

I AM WITHIN AND WITHOUT.

SINCERELY,

MR. DEATH DEALER

The letter was riddled with spelling errors, though whether these were intentional or not, the police were unaware. The paper came from a notebook which would have been bought at any drugstore and the pen appeared to be a generic ballpoint black pen. There was nothing traceable or identifiable about the letter, despite its strange message.

There were biblical allusions in the reference of Jesus' Mother Mary, and Adam the first man. There was also a reference to the morning star, which can mean Mary, Jesus himself, or the planet Venus. It can also, and this was the conclusion officials came to at the time, an allusion to Lucifer, the Devil himself.

In the 1980s, a Satanic Panic was spreading across the country. Numerous claims of ritual abuse were touted in newspapers,

television talk shows, and courtrooms, though many of these claims were unsubstantiated and later dismissed or overturned. Heavy metal music, role playing games like Dungeons and Dragons, and horror movies were all seen as tools by secret cabals of Satanic cults to indoctrinate young people to their evil ways. The nation was on high alert for Satan's influence, and Maine was no different.

When Sam Wentworth, a journalist at the Portland Press Herald revealed a partial transcript of the killer's letter and subsequently dubbed him the Son of Adam, he unleashed this demonic fear on the newspaper's readers. Maine was suddenly convinced a Satanic serial killer stalked amongst their midst.

It was only made worse when two more young women, Beverley Lyons and Annemarie Wilcox were killed separately, bringing the total dead up to eight. Again, the killings took place late at night, with the same gun, in the same manner. In Beverly Lyons case, the police believed the killer stepped out of an alley behind Lyons, followed her for a block before putting the gun against the back of her head and pulling the trigger. They believed Annemarie Wilcox was surprised as she turned a corner onto Spring Street.

As was the case with the previous murders, there were few witnesses. Still, police released several sketches of the shooter to the public, but differences in these sketches became apparent and speculation began that there might be multiple shooters.

On December 11, 1985 Sam Wentworth received a letter from the so-called Son of Adam killer addressed to him at the Press Herald. Here's Lucas again to read it:

LUCAS: HELLO SAM!

I AM THE SON OF ADAM BUT I AM NO CAIN. HERE AMONG THE DIRT AND THE FILTH I WATCH. AND WAIT. AND DREAM...

...I KILLED THEM. KILLED THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE HARLOTS. BECAUSE THEY WERE WRONG. I WILL KILL AGAIN. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN...

...IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME, TRY TO FIND ME I WILL KILL YOU. KILL YOU ALL AND DANCE ON YOUR CORPSE. I WILL DRINK YOUR BLOOD AND EAT YOUR FLESH. SO GIVE UP NOW. BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU. FOR YOUR MOTHER. YOUR FATHER. YOUR SON. YOUR DAUGHTER. YOUR WIFE.

-SON OF ADAM

When first Christmas, then New Year's came and went without any further killings, the collective paranoia Portland had been experiencing began to ease up. Many young women had feared they would be the next victim. Bars and restaurants began closing earlier in hopes of keeping their patrons safe. And the police doubled their presence in the city. By Valentine's Day, however, many began to believe the killer had moved on or gotten caught for another crime or died in a car crash. People began to relax, slowly at first, but soon life began to look like it had before the killings.

That all changed On March 12, when the Son of Adam shot Stephenie Berger as she sat in her car outside her boyfriend's house. She had just dropped him off after a night out when the killer approached the car and fired a single shot before running off. The bullet struck her in the top of the head, but surprisingly, Berger survived. She was unable to give the police any information as she hadn't seen anything and had very little memory of the incident aside from recalling a loud bang like thunder from right inside her car.

Three more victims in total were killed in the weeks that followed First Allison Roberts on April 4th, then Jessica Humphrey and her boyfriend Marcus Woods on April 12th.

At the time, the police still had no clear suspect. Several of the eyewitness descriptions seemed to be of the same man, but several others were completely different. Different faces. Different builds and heights. It was like the Son of Adam killer was a complete chameleon able to take on different appearances and shapes.

LUCAS: Sam Wentowrth, the journalist who would covered the Son of Adam story and would later go on to write the definitive book on the killer: *Adam Raised a Cain: The Year of Terror in Portland*. He was teaching a class in journalism where I went to college and I was fortunate enough to take a class with him. I grew quite close to Professor Wentworth and we talked a lot about the Son of Adam -what he believed then, what he believes now. He said even at the time, many people involved in the case believed that there must be multiple shooters. They were using the same gun, but it made no sense that so many witnesses were describing the killer so vastly different.

Then there was the black leather jacket with the atomic symbol on it. After being reported at the second shooting, several other witnesses had come forth claiming to see it. Whoever the killer was or perhaps whoever *they* were, the same jacket was being worn each time.

It was fifty-two year old Eleanor Hopkins who finally gave the police the lead they needed. Eleanor lived next door to a young man named Matthew Locke. Ealeanor had been out walking her dog one afternoon when she saw Locke park in front of the apartment building they shared. He was balling something up to stick under his arm before he went inside the building. She waved to him and he waved back. For just a moment as he struggled with the object in his hand, she could see in bright yellow against the black of the object, what appeared to be three ovals with a circle in the middle: the symbol for an atom.

Eleanor Hopkins called the police from a friend's house that evening. She told them she was too afraid to call from her own home because the walls were thin and she was afraid her neighbor would hear. She told the police she thought Matthew Locke might be the Son of Adam, and described what she believed to be the leather jacket he had tried to smuggle into his home.

The next day, June 27, 1986, the police arrested Matthew Locke as he left his apartment. He went quietly, without any trouble, just sitting in the back of the police car and smiling to himself.

It took several more hours before police were granted an official warrant to enter Locke's apartment, but when they did, they were shocked by what they found.

A quick word on Matthew Locke. In the summer of 1986, at the time of his arrest, Locke was twenty-six. He was a high school dropout and worked for the U.S. Postal Service motor pool as a mechanic. He was friendly with his neighbors, though they never saw him with friends, and they believed he had never had a girlfriend. Despite his rocky youth, many who knew him thought he was a hard-working young man who was slowly making a life for himself.

The inside of his apartment told a different story.

Police discovered the two room apartment to be in shambles. There was a broken kitchen table, leaning on just two legs, covered with trash and the remains of meals. A dirty and stained mattress lay uncovered on the floor of the bedroom, ripped in several places. Dirty clothes, dirty dishes, ripped magazines and comic books, broken lamps, and a smashed radio were strewn about the place. Locke had covered the walls in graffiti, some of it written in pen and marker, others with paint. Much of it was references to Satan, Lucifer, and the Devil. The number 666 appeared multiple times, and a crude drawing of the Devil standing over what appeared to be several dead women was in a prominent place on one wall. The atom symbol was everywhere.

In a closet, hidden beneath a bag that contained either ruined clothes or perhaps regular ones - it was difficult to tell one from the other - police found the black leather jacket with the atom symbol painted on the back. They also found the .38 special that had been used to kill eleven people

Matthew Locke formally confessed to the crimes the day after his arrest. At his trial Locke told the jury that Satan had made him do it. The Devil talked to him through the paintings and pictures and told him when and who to kill. He would eventually be found guilty of eleven counts of second degree murder, each carrying the maximum sentence of life in prison. He was also found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon and attempted murder for his attack on Stephenie Berger that left her barely alive.

It had been one of the scariest, bloodiest times in Maine's history, but it was finally over. The monster had been caught and imprisoned. The people of Maine were safe once more and for a long time the people of Maine slept comfortably knowing the Son of Adam was rotting away in the Maine State Prison in Thomaston.

That all changed in 1998 when Sam Wentworth, the man who had followed the story closely for the Portland Press Herald, woke up to find a second letter addressed to him by the Son of Adam.

LUCAS: The letter was handwritten on prison stationery in the cramped handwriting of someone unaccustomed to it. In it, the Son of Adam killer wrote that he would be interested in speaking with Wentworth again; that he had no information he would be willing to share. It was signed by Matthew Locke. Even though thirteen years had passed since Wentworth received his first letter, and while this one found him in a much different time in his life, it still chilled him the way the first one had.

Wentworth agreed and set up an interview. He made the drive to Thomaston and sat across from the man dubbed the Son of Adam in a small interview room at the prison. Locke had aged some in the twelve years since his face had been plastered over nearly every newspaper and news report in the country, but not much. He looked mostly the same, his hair a little thinner, a few lines around his eyes that hadn't been there, but very much the same man who had smiled while police had arrested him for the most brutal serial killings in Maine history.

Locke indicated during their interview that he had not acted alone during the killings. In fact, Locke alleged there had been at least three other people who had actually pulled the trigger, plus several others who had helped plan and organize the attacks - one of them a Portland police officer. Locke took responsibility for personally shooting Amy Camire, Kimberly Malley, Jessica Humphrey and Marcus Woods. He claimed he had helped organize and map out the others, but that someone else had fired the gun. When Wentworth pressed, Locke wouldn't provide any names. He stated he was worried about the safety of his family.

Matthew Locke was born in Brewer, Maine in 1960. His father, Andrew died when Matthew was three. His mother, Susan had remarried in 1969, but divorced after only three years. Susan and her second husband had a son. Both his mother and his half-brother, Gregory, were still alive though estranged from the jailed killer when Locke spoke with Sam Wentworth in 1998.

Was Matthew Locke worried that an angry relative of one of his victims might seek out his remaining family members and punish them? It doesn't seem likely. His surviving family was no secret. Was he worried they might be attacked in order to discover the names of his alleged accomplices? Again, this seems like a flimsy excuse.

LUCAS: The only conclusion that makes any sense, is that Locke was concerned that the other shooters might seek out

his family in retaliation for Locke sharing their names. That's what Professor Wentworth believed, anyway.

Locke would go on to tell Wentworth that he had been part of a group that had met regularly in Deering Oaks Park starting in the summer of 1984. He said he and several others would meet in an old pumping station, and he gave Wentworth directions to it.

The old concrete structure wasn't very large. Wentworth figured it would be a tight fit for more than six people. Still, he could see the appeal. It was cool and dark, shielded from the eyes of the rest of the park's visitors. The area was off limits, but even in 1998, the lock was worn out and more for show than to actually keep people out.

Inside Wentworth said the walls were covered with graffiti. Much of it was the normal names and vulgar phrases, but there, mixed in with the nicknames and curses were Satanic imagery and references. It was old and slightly faded, and of course Wentworth had no way of knowing when the graffiti was made, but it seemed to imply at least some sort of Satanic group presence in the pumping station.

He also found painted with yellow spray paint the familiar symbol for an atom.

LUCAS: Wentworth began putting together a theory, one that he would devote much of the remaining years of his life to proving. He believed that Matthew Locke had been part of a Satanic cult. He believed they met in the pumping station and that together they orchestrated the Son of Adam killings.

This would explain the various eyewitness reports of the killer's appearance. If each killing was done by a different member of this group, it would make sense that the official drawings looked so completely different, and that only a few of them resembled Matthew Locke. It would also connect back to the Satanic imagery all over the walls of Locke's apartment.

Several months after his visit with Locke, Sam Wentworth received a book in the mail from Matthew Locke. The book was *The Secret Lore of Magic* by Idries Shah, a collection of black magic and Satanic grimoires first published in 1957. It details ceremonies and rituals on how to perform magic, a how-to book for the aspiring conjuror.

At first Wentworth was confused by the book. Yes, it did seem to confirm his suspicion that Matthew Locke was practicing Satanic or black magic, but there was little in it that related to the Son of Adam.

That is, until he found the handwritten note tucked into a margin on page 162. There in Matthew Locke's almost childish handwriting was the phrase, "Sun (s-u-n) not son (s-o-n)." On page 197, Wentworth found the drawing of the atom that had become the Son of Adam's unofficial logo, only this time, the nucleus in the center had been replaced by a cross.

In language, homophones are words that sound the same when pronounced aloud, but have different meanings, spellings, or origins. Words like to, too, and two or there, their, and they're are homophones - the ones people on social media constantly use the wrong version of.

Wentworth began to consider the possibility of the dual meanings of the name the killer had given himself. Son, as in the male child, yes, but also sun as in the bright ball of gas in the sky. And Adam, the first man in Christianity, but also atom, the small particle of matter.

This may sound confusing to our listeners, but Wentworth began to consider whether it was the Son of Adam or perhaps the Sun of Atom, or any of the other various combinations. Eventually this led him to an organization called the Church of the Atomic Sun.

LUCAS: The Church of the Atomic Sun, or CAS as it was sometimes referred, was a group who dedicated themselves

mastering the secrets of the occult. They believed that the Apocalypse was coming but any survivors would find themselves in a new age of enlightenment. They believed that the Apocalypse was going to be an all out war between all the people of Earth and that only the strong and pure would survive the nuclear holocaust that would ensue. The cult was founded some time in the early Eighties by a man named Randall Perry. Born in 1959, Perry started his group by bringing together several other young people who were interested in the occult. At its peak, there were perhaps twenty to twenty-five members. They would meet in part of Deering Oaks Park late at night. They would drink wine, smoke marijuana, and practice black magic rituals. By 1984, Matthew Locke had joined CAS. Sam Wentworth was able to corroborate this with several members of CAS who had since reformed their ways. Many of them were unwilling to speak on the record about their involvement in the group.

One who did, however, was Bryce Harriman. Harriman had been a senior in high school during 1984 and claimed he would often go to the park to hear Randall Perry preach to his group. The Church of the Atomic Sun's purpose was to bring about the Apocalypse. They would play the part of Satan, who in their mind was a counterculture figure meant to represent the struggle against the oppressive society that had created such tension. They believed they could usher in the new era by instigating random acts of violence. This, they believed, would trigger a war between the races, which would eventually lead to the Last War, a nuclear war that would destroy the world and prepare it for those who would come next.

Harriman positively identified Matthew Locke as being a member of CAS.

"It was all fun," he told Wentworth in 2000. "At first, I mean. We'd get together, drink, get high. Perry would talk about magic and ripping back the veil of the world. We all had code names based on Bible or Satanic stuff, you know? You know, the kind of stuff that an angsty teenager would find cool."

Harriman said his code name had been Dagon, which he had thought cool because it was the name of an eldritch being in the works of H. P Lovecraft. He said Matthew Locke's name had been Abbadon, which means the Destroyer. He told Wentworth Randall Perry's codename had been Cain, the firstborn son of Adam.

Harriman said he stopped attending CAS meetings when Perry and another man he didn't know brought a dog to the park. He said that together, several members of CAS - most he didn't know by name - but including Perry and Matthew Locke sacrificed the dog, and painted Satanic symbols on the walls and floor of the pump house with its blood. This was a month before the first Son of Adam killing.

Based on new information, an arrest warrant was issued for Randall Perry. Police now believed he was at least connected to the Son of Adam killing. In September of 2000, Randall Perry, now living in Vermont, was arrested and brought back to Maine. It was clear to see that Perry resembled one of the early police sketches of Son of Adam. This, combined with the information Bryce Harriman gave to police, led Perry to be charged with murder. The belief was that Perry had radicalized Locke and together they had perpetuated their crimes in order to sew chaos and terror. Before the case could go to trial, however, Randall Perry was found dead in his jail cell of an apparent suicide. He was found hanging by a bed sheet.

For the police, this new arrest and subsequent suicide wrapped everything up nicely. They had caught the evil-doers; no one could escape the long arms of the law. But Sam Wentworth keenly recalled how Locke had told him there were four shooters. Matthew Locke and Randall Perry accounted for two of them, but that still left two others - a man and a woman - at large. He was convinced that there must be others - former members of CAS - that knew their identities.

In February of 2002, Bryce Harriman was found dead in his apartment in Auburn of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

There was some suspicion that Harriman's death was actually a homicide, though no evidence of this was ever presented to the public. A symbol had been carved on Harriman's chest that some believe had a sinister connection. The symbol appeared to be a backwards capital P overlapping a lowercase b. PB is the atomic symbol for lead, as in a bullet, which could perhaps indicate or *implicate* the Church of the Atomic Sun. Others believe the symbol is a stylized S for Satan, or perhaps even Son of Adam.

Wentworth would dedicate the next fifteen years of his life to uncovering what he claimed was the true story behind Son of Adam. He was convinced there was someone else involved in the Church of the Atomic Sun. From the people he spoke with who knew Locke and Perry - none of whom would go on the record - Wentworth came to believe that it wasn't Randall Perry that was the head of CAS at all. He thought there was someone else, some shadow figure that had pulled all the strings.

Sam Wentworth passed away in late 2017. He left behind copious notes. He believed he was closing in on the mastermind behind the Son of Adam killings, even as Matthew Locke remained locked up for the crimes. We have to admit that much of what comes next is pure conjecture based on Wentworth's beliefs and from numerous interviews he conducted. Many of his colleagues and peers believed Wentworth was losing his own grip on reality, going deeper and deeper down rabbit holes. One former detective who was familiar with the case even went as far as to say, "Sam was going places I just don't think the evidence pointed to. He was looking for a specific, predetermined answer. He wanted this grand Satanic cult story. He tried to drag in killings in other states, in other times, claiming they were all related. It was interesting stuff if you were looking for a story, but the evidence just didn't hold up under much scrutiny."

LUCAS: Wentworth went back over every scrap of information he had accumulated. He looked at photographs he had taken of the pumping station where the CAS used to meet. He looked at pictures of the walls of Matthew Locke's apartment. He went over the letters both the original he

had received in 1985 and the more recent ones. A line from one of those letters stuck out to him. The Son of Adam's first letter, the one found in Kimberly Malley's lap, mentioned Mother Mary, a reference many believed to be the Virgin Mother Mary, Jesus' mother, though some believed could be a reference to The Beatles' song, "Let it Be." In the past Matthew Locke had admitted he considered himself a big fan of the Fab Four. Wentworth thought there might be more to the reference than just that, however.

Digging into not just Matthew Locke's, but also Randall Perry's pasts, Wentworth discovered that Perry had an aunt, coincidentally enough, named Mary Adams. Mary, a single mother, had one son, a year older than Randall Perry: Daniel Hunter.

Daniel Hunter had little digital footprint for Wentworth to follow. There was a report of an arrest in 2001 for shoplifting, but that was all he could find. Still, it felt a little too close to home to just dismiss. Hunter was the literal son of Adams, his mother's maiden name which she retook after separating from Hunter's father, John. Wentworth became convinced that Daniel Hunter was the other man Bryce Harriman had mentioned, the one who had brought the dog to Deering Oaks for the sacrifice with his cousin, that he might be the mastermind behind the Son of Adam killing spree.

Daniel Hunter had dropped off the grid entirely. Mary Adams, his mother, had died in 2000 after a battle with breast cancer. Wentworth was able to track down Hunter's father, John Hunter. John was a banker, now living in Ohio. He hadn't had any contact with his son since Daniel had been twenty in 1977.

"Things didn't end too well with me and his mom," John Hunter said in an interview with Wentworth in 2007. "I didn't see Dan too much after that. Maybe once a month at first, then less and less. I'd get a card from him on Christmas, send him one on his birthday, that kind of stuff. When I moved to Ohio, that was really the end of it."

John Hunter went on to say that his son had always been a smart boy. He was charismatic and people seemed to gravitate towards him. John mentioned that his son had been a good writer; that he had wanted to make comic books.

When asked about his nephew Randall Perry, John Hunter said that Randall had always been a good kid. Quieter than Daniel. He said Daniel was more of the leader and Randall the follower.

Sam Wentworth came to believe that it was Daniel Hunter who had been the mastermind of the Church of the Atomic Sun all along. Perhaps Bryce Harriman had misremembered, or all of the secret code names had been to distract everyone from the real leader. Either way, Wentworth believed that it was Hunter who had been behind all of the killings.

This was only reinforced when John Hunter sent him a scanned image of one of the comic books that his son Daniel and Randall Perry had made when they were eleven years old. It was a superhero story, a Superman-style hero, who used the power of nuclear energy to fight evil. The name of the comic? ATOMIC SON, s-o-n.

That was all that Wentworth needed. It was the final piece of proof in his mind about the truth about CAS. Daniel Hunter and Randall Perry had created the Church of the Atomic Sun to radicalize disenfranchised youth in order to cause death and destruction, either to bring about the nuclear war they claimed to believe in, or because they just wanted violence. He believed that Hunter, or some associate, had found a way to silence Harriman when he started talking too much in the late 90s, and perhaps he had even killed his own cousin in jail to avoid his own identity being revealed. Unfortunately, this wasn't enough to reopen the investigation again. The Maine State Police insisted that Locke and Perry had been the only two working together. They considered the Son of Adam case closed.

Sam Wentworth passed away in 2017 from lung cancer. He went to his grave believing that the true evil had somehow escaped

justice. There were dark forces at work, he believed, and that true evil still lurked somewhere in the shadows. Many accused him of pushing a narrative that he wanted, as opposed to going where the evidence led him, but Wentworth never strayed.

Matthew Locke remains in custody in the Maine State Prison. In 2012 he was attacked by an inmate and stabbed three times in the neck and chest. He survived. He refuses to speak with journalists. He has released several videos, claiming he has reformed, renounced Satan, and is an avowed atheist. He will be eligible for parole in the year 2136, long after his death.

There has never been any evidence or suggestion about the identity of the supposed female accomplice. No names, no descriptions. If she existed at all, she is little more than a ghost.

Daniel Hunter, if he is still alive, remains at large. His whereabouts are unknown. To this date no evidence has connected Daniel Hunter to the Son of Adam killings.

LUCAS: John Hunter died in 2009, but I was able to study the scans of the homemade comic books Sam Wentworth believed tied Daniel Hunter to the Son of Adam killings. This particular one would have been made some time around 1968 or 69. The hero character, the Atomic Son, is a typical superhero with the same atom symbol found drawn all over Matthew Locke's walls and in the pumping station in Deering Oaks Park as the hero's logo. Interestingly enough, John Hunter had also sent Wentworth some other artwork his son had done, though not complete comics. In one of them, done when Daniel Hunter was 19, the symbol on the Atomic Son has been changed. It's no longer the three orbital ellipses around the center nucleus. Now it's the center dot with three concentric circles around it. I've seen that symbol before, associated with an esoteric group called the Hermetic Brotherhood of the Cardinal Court. Three circles would seemingly indicate that the person was a level three member of the organization. Is it possible Daniel Hunter

became affiliated with the HBCC? Could they somehow be behind the Son of Adam killings? I'm going to look deeper into this.

This might be one of the more bizarre cases in Maine's history: a serial killer, a Satanic cult dead set on bringing about the end times, a possible connection to an ancient occult group, and maybe a killer still on the loose after all these years.

Stay safe out there, Maine.

Malevolent Maine is Lucas Knight, Tom Wilson, and myself, Chris Estes.

If you'd like to read more about our investigations check out our website at malevolentmaine.blogspot.com/

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Thank you for listening to Malevolent Maine.

And as always, stay safe out there, Maine.