

(0:00) Ramirez was born on February 29, 1960 in El Paso, Texas, to his parents Julian and Mercedes Ramirez. (0:09) It is also said that Julian, Richard's father, was a man prone to violence and anger, (0:16) which often led him to be violent with his wife, Mercedes, and his children. (0:22) Mercedes, on the other hand, worked in a shoe factory and was constantly exposed to various toxins, (0:29) to the toxic fumes emanating from the glue and from the materials used in this factory.

(0:36) As a result, Mercedes was exposed to these toxic substances throughout Richard's pregnancy. (0:45) Many are convinced that the fact that his mother inhaled these toxic substances throughout pregnancy (0:50) has caused damage to little Richard, damage that has been aggravated by other events that we will see later. (0:59) Clearly this is just a theory, as we know, we have always tried to find a motivation, (1:06) an explanation for the behavior of serial killers, and as far as Ramirez is concerned, this could be one of the explanations.

(1:14) Growing up, Richard becomes a very lonely child, he has serious difficulties in socializing with others, (1:21) also because, rumor has it, at school he was often bullied.

(1:27) Strange, this seems to be really the thing that all the serial killers in the world have in common. (1:34) Despite this, however, Richard is a very calm child, with a calm temperament, (1:39) and he was particularly attached to his sister Ruth, who practically always took care of him, (1:48) as his parents were often absent.

(1:51) There is another interesting element of Richard's childhood, which, in addition to bullying, (1:56) is an extremely common element in many serial killers. (2:00) Richard, as a child, at the age of only two, received a bad blow to the head, (2:06) and this was not the only blow to the head of his life. (2:09) In fact, at the age of five, while he was on a swing, at some point he fell, (2:15) and even here he hit his head, causing a head trauma.

(2:20) Now, this too remains a theory, that is, it is not mathematical that if you hit your head as a child, then you become a serial killer. (2:26) However, it is interesting to know that many of those who have become ferocious serial killers as adults (2:33) have reported one or more head traumas as children, which, according to friends and relatives, (2:39) have really changed their behavior. (2:43) Richard crashes, but his family situation does not improve.

(2:46) His parents are absent, and when they are there, it is even worse, (2:50) in the sense that Julius's father is extremely violent, both with Richard and with his brothers. (2:57) It seems that his father, Julian, in turn, was a victim of violence, (3:04) by both his father and his grandfather, which is not very surprising, (3:09) in the sense that all carnivores, or almost all, in turn, have been victims. (3:15) Julian's children suffer the consequences of this toxic family climate.

(3:19) In fact, one of Ruben's brothers is arrested for stealing a car and developing a substance addiction. (3:26) And another brother of Richard, Robert, also develops a substance addiction. (3:33) Even Richard, clearly at home, was not well and was terrorized by his father, (3:38) and as easy to imagine, he tried to spend as little time as possible.

(3:41) Until the age of 12, when his cousin Miguel returns from the war, (3:47) and once back, Richard begins to spend all his time with him. (3:51) This is a cathartic point in Richard Ramirez's life, a point of no return. (3:57) His relationship with his cousin Miguel is undoubtedly an element that plays a very important role (4:03) in the development of his character and in the birth of the serial killer we know today.

(4:10) His cousin Miguel was a green beret, so he had fought the war in Vietnam. (4:15) But, as easy to imagine, the experience in Vietnam had deeply marked him and changed him.

(4:22) In Vietnam he had seen and done himself terrible things, (4:27) all the things he had started to tell his 12-year-old cousin Richard.

(4:33) He had also told him in detail all the torture he had inflicted on the poor victims. (4:39) It seems that he also showed Richard the polaroids he had taken while raping those poor women, (4:48) before and after mutilating them. (4:51) He also shows him photos in which he held the heads he had cut.

(4:58) Richard saw Mike, despite all this, as a cool guy, (5:03) because he was his older cousin, he was a war hero. (5:07) In short, Richard looked at Mike with adoration and hung anything he said from his lips. (5:15) In addition, at this point Richard was 12-13 years old and, let's say, he was starting to have his first sexual interests.

(5:22) And it seems that while his cousin told him these atrocious stories of violence against those women (5:29) and showed him these photos, he, Richard, seemed to get excited.

(5:35) So, unfortunately, Richard, who is at a delicate age, (5:40) is starting to associate violence, death and mutilations with sex. (5:46) I think that, however, Richard, who is 13 years old, (5:50) is also learning that men can be violent without ever paying the consequences.

(5:58) However, from this event Richard begins his slow but inexorable evolution.