

Janie Lou Gibbs

- **Criminal Name:** Janie Lou Gibbs
- **Background:**

Born December 19th, 1932.
Died February 7th 2010 at age 77.
She lived in Georgia all of her life. Lived in the town of Cordelle.
She was very religious and spent a lot of time helping out the church. The church would support upon her families deaths.
Family- husband, 3 sons, and a grandson.
Husband's name was Marvin Gibbs married 18 years before he passed away from liver disease.
Son Marvin Jr. died at age 13 from same liver disease. Lester and son died at age 16 from Hepatitis. Third son Roger and his son died on the same day.
Sent to medical institute, then jail and then she was medically released due severe Parkinson's disease.

Crime and evidence

Crimes Accused of Committing:

Janie never had any other offenses before the one in 1966.

Committed her first offense in 1966. Supposedly poisoned her husband Marvin Gibbs using Arsenic.

*Offense means crime. Arsenic is rat poison. Received a life sentence.

Second offense: she was accused of poisoning her 1st son Marvin Jr. with Arsenic. Received a life sentence.

Third offense: Accused of poisoning her 2nd son Lester using Arsenic. Received a life sentence.

Fourth offense: Accused of killing her 3rd son Roger and his new born son. Received a life sentence.

She was convicted of these crimes between the years 1966-1976. *Most Recent

Accused of 5 cases of poisoning and murder. Faced 5 life sentences. *Sentences are how long someone has to stay in jail after they commit a crime.

Evidence Brought against Criminal:

The severity of the charge against Janie was that she was the only person in the family not dying. It seemed suspicious to everyone, especially the doctors, all the other members of the family were dying, except her. Every death that took place was after the victim ate a meal. It was coincidental that Janie did all the cooking in the household. Some of the deaths that occurred like Marvin, Marvin Jr. and Lester seemed to the doctors to be food related. Lester's case was especially fishy because he died due to Hepatitis which in some cases can be strictly food related. Janie seemed to be obsessed with life insurance policies. She made sure every member of the family had one. After every death she would give some of the life insurance policy to the church and keep the other half for herself.

Sentence, quote, & name

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Sentence:

Found guilty of poisoning and murdering her 5 family members in May 9th, 1976.

She received 5 sentences for life for each one of the 5 murders.

Checked into a State Mental Hospital in 1976.

She was moved to a local nursing home due to Parkinson's disease.

Quotes:

“Psychopaths extended beyond the image of grease cake weirdoes in a Boris Karloff movie and stepped off the set onto the streets of the world.” –Crime Library.com

Nickname: The Georgian Black Widow and the Black Georgia Peach.

Application

- **Application: The theory the best explains Janie's deviant behavior, is the anomie theory. The anomie theory is when norms are either absent or conflicting. In the anomie theory there is a strain between culturally defined goals and legitimate opportunities available to attain the deviant persons set goals. For the anomie theory to apply, the person has to stay committed to reaching their deviant goals. Majority of the time, the deviant person lacks the resources to meet their goals. The deviant person could lack resources, such as, family, time, or even the money needed to commit the crime. The criminal can adapt to their lack of resources in 5 ways: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, or rebellion. In Janie's case, her goal was to get rich quick by killing of her family and then stealing the money from their life insurance policies. Even though it may be a social norm to have the desire to be wealthy, Janie's act is considered conflicting with social norms, because she murdered her family to get wealthy. It took her about 8 years to kill off all of her family, but she didn't allow time to deter her from her set goal. Janie had a lack of money to execute her crime, but she made up for that by adapting. She used the adaptation techniques like conformity, by turning to organized crime, and she used the adaptation technique of ritualism, by going about her daily life as a mother. She kept a good reputation with the community and used innovative killing techniques with her use of cheap cyanide to commit her deviant acts.**