

SILENDE RMAN

THE REALITY

SLENDER MAN

THE REALITY

HIS FACE WAS VERY
LONG AND PALE
...HE WAS VERY TALL.
HE WAS WEARING A BLACK
THREE-PIECE SUIT
AND I KNEW RIGHT AWAY THAT HE WAS NOT A
HUMAN BEING.

- Stephen King,
"The Man in the Black Suit"

Who is Slender Man?





It wasn't until recently that people began to realize that Slender Man is an actual being, though he is mentioned by various cultures under various different names he has been assumed to be nothing more than a myth. The invention of photography and video cameras however has made this elusive creature come to light, confirming he's more than just a superstition.

The Slender Man is a seemingly immortal being, or otherwise part of a race of humanoids stretching back thousands of years. He's not known for being violent (at least not recently, though much older accounts would suggest this may not have always been the case), and instead prefers to stalk his victims until they one day simply disappear.

Though he doesn't actively attack people that doesn't mean he isn't harmful to humans, as exposure to the Slender Man causes many side effects. Whether this is purposeful or natural human reaction is still unknown.

His appearance has changed very little over the many years, and the little it has changed seems to be in order to blend in better with his surroundings.

He resembles a tall human, though his skin is completely white and his face is featureless. He is also sometimes seen with long tentacle like limbs, though these he seems to be able to hide and extend at will. He appears, in recent years, to be wearing a black suit and tie.

What he wants is unknown, but his number of victims is increasing.

Slender Man in Art

Der Ritter.





Slender Man seems to have existed for thousands of years, if the art of various cultures and people is anything to go by. Record of him stretches back through time, with his likeness appearing in cave paintings and Egyptian hieroglyphics. Images of towering humanoids and people being terrorized by a being with extra limbs. Is this the same being stalking various people currently, or is the Slender Man one of many, a race as old as our own?

Not all mentions of the Slender Man in art are ancient however, he has been depicted by much more recent artists. A 16th century woodcut by German artist Hans Freckenberg seems to depict the Slender Man. *Der Ritter, 'The Knight'*, (dated around 1540) was discovered in Halstberg Castle in 1883. The woodcut depicts a knight in battle being killed by a skeletal like figure. At first the image might simply seem like a representation of death, but a closer look shows the being has extra limbs and that it's face is rather featureless.

A second woodcut by Freckenberg shows a very similar looking being, again with extra limbs, stealing a child away from it's family. The Slender Man is known for following children, and it seems this is something that has been going on for hundreds of years.

Hans Freckenberg disappeared only a few years after these woodcuts were made, is it possible this too was caused by the Slender Man?

Another depiction of Slender Man, from around the same time period, was only just discovered in 2003 because although the painting itself was already known about, the image of Slender Man had been obscured.

Hans Baldung's painting *Three Ages of Woman and Death* depicts the image of another skeletal figure, holding an hour glass over the heads of three woman. In 2003 the painting underwent x-raying and it was discovered the artwork had been altered early in it's existence. The x-rayed version of the painting showed the skeletal figure was originally painted with several extra limbs, much like the creature in Hans Freckenberg's work.

Baldung dies only a few years after Freckenberg's disappearance. Perhaps the two artists were being pursued by the Slender Man for their depiction of him, much like the people that catch him on film today, and Baldung tried to correct his work in order to appease the angered being.

Slender Man In Mythology





Many myths from various different cultures that have been studied since the Slender Man's existence came to light. Though the interpretations are slightly different, it seems likely Slender Man is the being referenced in all the following myths.

Schlankwald

Schlankwald is a German poem translated by researcher James Rossi. The title translates to 'Slim Forest' in English, and the poem describes the guardian of the forest that takes children and hunts anyone who enters the woods. The original writer and time period is unknown.

Der Großmann

Der Großmann (The Great Man) is a 16th century German myth. The Great Man was often said to be a fairy of the Black Forest, who would stalk children that entered the forest at night and take them away.

Fear Dubh

Fear Dubh is a Scottish legend of a spirit that haunts forests and footpaths. The being was originally thought to be the devil, but characteristics (taking children that wander out at night) suggest it could have been the Slender Man.

The Clutchbone

The Clutchbone was the story of a seven-foot monster, dated to the 1800's in Northern England. Its skin was a black leather like texture, and its head was made up of a lit torch within a raised collar of rawhide. The Clutchbone seems to be a lot more violent than the modern day Slender Man, however. Accounts include disappearances, burnings, and dismemberment of victims. The Clutchbone often appeared after sightings of balls of lightning created by severe weather conditions, which lends credence to the idea that Slender Man is from a different dimension, as this could be a side effect to crossing dimensions.

Hupia/Op'a

In the Taíno culture the Hupia (or Op'a) was a faceless humanoid creature that stalked and paralyzed its victims and drove them insane. The Hupia was considered to be the spirit of the dead.

Alû

The Alû was a Babylonian legend of a half-man, half-demon creature without a face. The Alû would creep into victim's bedrooms and torture them in their sleep. It was said to cause loss of consciousness and speech, and its victims would become fixated with it.

Powers & Appearance





The Slender Man is a very hard creature to completely define, because we don't know everything about him just yet. Everything we know about him is through the recording of his victims, and since the more a person is exposed to him the more unstable they seem to become even they aren't always 100% accurate.

He is a tall thin humanoid, though he seems to be able change his height at will. This is done either by extend his limbs, or by extra spider-like legs that can grow from his back at will. Because of this he seems to favour forest settings, his thin black limbs blend in well with branches.

He's not known for actually attacking people and being violent, rather he seems to simply follow people and at some point they just disappear. It's clear he has an effect on them passed the expected paranoia of being followed, however. He causes what has been dubbed 'Slender Sickness' in his victims. The sickness gets steadily worse and includes coughing fits, vomiting exhaustion, and amnesia. In some cases this can escalate to coughing up blood, trouble breathing, extended periods of memory loss, and signs of radiation exposure.

It is a large theory that Slender Man is of another dimension, which is what allows him to appear inside people's home and vanish without a trace. This is also what makes him radioactive and causes sickness after extended periods of exposure.

Originally he was known for stalking children and causing them to disappear but this seems to have evolved over the years with Slender Man following people for longer periods of time, into their teens or even adulthood. It only seems to be when they become aware of his presence that the stalking becomes more aggressive and they eventually disappear.

Slender Man Today





(Top) Description posted with photo manipulation: "We didn't want to go, we didn't want to kill them, but it's persistent silence and outstretched arms horrified and comforted us at the same time..." - 1983, photographer unknown, presumed dead.

Thanks to the advance in technology following Slender Man's activities has been a lot easier to do in recent years. If it wasn't for the invention of the camera it's no doubt he would still be assumed to be just a myth. And perhaps even with photographic evidence his existence could still be widely unknown if not for the invention of the internet.

The internet has given people all over the world the ability to share information and experiences and to begin understand Slender Man and his effects on people.

Some of the first images to attracted attention online are both from the 1980s, posted online by a man named Victor Surge who later went on to provide more images and accounts he'd managed to collect during his investigation. The images show the Slender Man looming in the background around children, and both photographers seem to have mysteriously vanished or perhaps even died after the events.

The interest in the photographs led to others coming forward and sharing their own. Soon this moved past only photographs and outsiders offer information. Victims of the Slender Man began to share their own stories.

Channels such as Marble Hornets and Tribe Twelve began to appear on YouTube, people keeping record of their encounters with the Slender Man. It's startling to see the effect he has first hand, watching people become extremely paranoid and go mad from exposure. In the case of EverymanHYBRID, a series of videos about keeping fit while on a budget, we were able to see right from the start what kind of thing can attract the Slender Man. After the presenters of the show placed fake Slender Man images in the back of their videos they soon came under attack from the real thing.

If it weren't for the internet no one person would know as much about Slender Man as we do today, but despite the amount of resources and collective knowledge no one has been able to find out how to stop or kill the Slender Man so far.

What's Next?



So far there has been no success in finding a way to kill the Slender Man.

Some believe he is a Tulpa, a being that has manifested from our thoughts, and that we are what gives him his power.

Perhaps his story becoming more widespread is what had made his power even greater, since the number of victims he has seems to only be increasing. If this is the case then maybe all we need to do is decide how he can be killed and that will become effective. If he is real because of legend then all we need to do is make his death legendary too.

He seems to have been around just as long as human being however, so perhaps we did not create him at all. Maybe he's part another race that evolved alongside our own, maybe he's an alien, or maybe the things that go bump in the night just really do exist.

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