

Audrey Marie Hilley
“The Black Widow”



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Date	Age	Life Event
01/18/1932		Marie’s parents, Huey and Lucille Frazier, were married
06/04/1933	0	Born as Audrey Marie Frazier in Anniston, Alabama to Huey and Lucille Frazier. Because her parents worked long hours, she spent most of her childhood being raised by her two aunts.
		Her parents denied her nothing and enforced little to no discipline. She was described as throwing violent tantrums whenever anyone tried to admonish her. Her parents allowed her to sleep in their bed “well past the age where children learn to sleep through the night in their own beds” (McDonald, 1986).
1946	12	Attended Quintard Junior High School and was elected as the “prettiest girl” in the school. Began a contentious relationship with Frank Alfred Hilley, a junior in high school.
05/08/1951	17	Married Frank Hilley while he was on leave from the Navy.
1952	18	While Frank was in Guam, he sent her every one of his paychecks for her to save. She spent the money without telling him.
		Moved briefly to California with Frank. When he was discharged from the Navy, they moved back to Anniston. Described time in California as the happiest in her life.
		Marie gets a job as a secretary and Frank found work as a shipping clerk.
11/11/1952	19	After being in labor for almost two days, Marie gave birth to Michael D. Hilley.
05/17/1955	21	Followed the trial of Nancy Hazel Doss, a.k.a. The Giggling Granny, who had killed her 4 husbands, 2 children, 2 sisters, mother, grandson, and nephew by slowly poisoning them with arsenic.
1959		Began to privately taunt Frank with letters she claimed were love letters from other men. She showed him the letters, but refused to let him read them. Then she tore them up in front of him, but left the remains where he could find them. Frank found that she had written them all herself. When confronted, she confessed that she had done it because she was afraid he didn’t love her anymore.
		Spent more than twice her monthly take-home pay from her job as a secretary on clothes and luxury items. Checked the mail early and hid the bills away from Frank, who was very fiscally responsible.
1959		While pregnant with Carol Hilley, often wandered around aimlessly in the front yard at night.
01/14/1960	26	Gave birth to Carol Marie Hilley.
		Marie was openly disappointed in Carol’s plain looks and unwillingness to wear the dresses she bought for her.
1962		Insisted upon moving to a house on McClellan Boulevard, closer to the houses belonging to the wealthier residents of Anniston.
		Huey and Lucille moved in with the Hilleys.
12/11/1965		Huey died of cancer in Anniston, AL, at the age of 57. Lucille continued to live with Marie until her own death.
		Evidence of a possible extramarital affair, according to her sister-in-law. (Marie suddenly asked to live

		with her. While she was there, she was observed leaving with a strange man.)
1971		Son, Michael, graduates from high school
1972		Marie purchased a \$25,000 life insurance policy for Michael, of which she was the sole beneficiary.
		After Michael went to college, she and Frank fostered a child named Maria Alexander, for whom the county paid a monthly stipend. Objects around the house began to vanish with no explanation (e.g., cuts of meat from the freezer, appliances, small household items)
1973		Marie suspected that that her daughter, Carol, was a lesbian. Prone to sudden, violent rages at Carol's female friends. Began to refuse to allow Franks friends to talk to him on the telephone. (Probably began lacing Frank's food with arsenic at this point.)
05/19/1975	41	Frank called Michael (who was living in Florida) and said he needed to tell him something that was too important to talk about over the phone. They agreed to meet in Georgia the following weekend. Marie had eavesdropped on the conversation via an extension. Frank's symptoms worsened severely immediately afterward.
05/19/1975	41	Frank Hilley goes to see his doctor, complaining of nausea.
05/22/1975	41	Dr. Earl Jones prescribed a medication in capsule form to reduce stomach spasms for what he believed to be Frank's viral stomach infection. Marie told Frank's sister, Freeda, that he had prescribed medication to be delivered via injection and authorized her to administer it.
05/23/1975	41	Frank Hilley is admitted to the Regional Medical Center.
05/25/1975	41	Frank Hilley (45) succumbed to arsenic poisoning while at the Regional Medical Center. The autopsy stated that he had died of infectious hepatitis.
		Following Frank's death, filed a claim for \$31,140 in life insurance of which she was the sole beneficiary. Bought a series of lavish purchases such as a car, a motorcycle, and new furniture for the entire house.
1976		Michael and his wife, Teri, moved in with Marie in order to help care for Lucille, who had become ill.
		The household began to receive anonymous, threatening notes written in crude, childish handwriting. The notes stated that horrible things would happen to the Hilley family if they did not leave Anniston. The neighbor, Doris Ford, received similar notes. Marie reported numerous cases of vandalism to her insurance company and collected payments. She was later found to have written the notes and committed the vandalism.
1976		Probably poisoned Teri, causing her to lose her baby. (Her symptoms matched those of Marie's other confirmed poisoning victims.) Michael and Teri moved out.
09/05/1976	43	House caught fire while no one was home. Sued the Alabama Gas Company for \$75,000. Lost the lawsuit, but collected insurance.
	43	Lucille Frazier's health worsened. Marie offered to help administer painkillers via injection. Evidence suggests that Marie had been poisoning her. (Four times the safe amount of arsenic was found in her liver when she was exhumed in the investigation of Frank Hilley's death.)
01/04/1977	43	Lucille Frazier succumbed to a widespread, aggressive cancer. (Arsenic is a known carcinogen.) Marie collected \$600 from a small burial policy.
		Vandalism of the Hilley and Ford homes escalated to window-breaking and screen-cutting. Both began receiving telephone calls consisting of nothing but heavy breathing. Marie blamed the 18-year old son of one of her neighbors. She claimed that he had stolen nine pieces of valuable jewelry, two gold candlestick holders, a revolver, a tear gas gun, and a hairdryer. She just happened to have pictures of every piece of jewelry stolen, which she used when filing the insurance claim.
		Contacted the Anniston Police Department almost daily for the next two years, complaining of harassment, vandalism, burglary, and eventually extortion attempts. Accused neighbors, friends of Carol, and former employers. A trace on her phone line showed that at least one of the calls came from a telephone booth across the street from her house. During this time, Marie experimented on the detectives involved in her case by bringing them cakes and cookies laced with varying doses of arsenic.
06/17/1977	44	Marie contacted Detective Gary Caroll of the Anniston Police Department reporting smelling gas fumes at her house. He described her as very polite, soft-spoken, religious, and vulnerable. An investigation by the gas company found that there was a valve underneath her house which would release gas if depressed.
	44	Detective Caroll noticed that the harassing calls would stop whenever the trace was on, and start again as soon as it had been taken off. Marie told him she suspected that someone at the phone company was involved.
	44	Claimed that one of her former employers attempted to force her to have oral sex with him, and put forth the idea that he was responsible for the harassment. Told Detective Donnie Williams that two men had

		come by her house shortly after Frank's death, demanding \$30,000 or \$40,000 in payment for gambling debts. Marie told Detective Carroll that the harassment was to get them to move because K-mart was building a store on their street. No phone calls occurred while Carol was at home.
	44	Later calls made to Doris Ford were traced to the Jenkins Manufacturing Plant, where Marie was working as a secretary.
07/22/1977	44	An early morning fire broke out in the Hilley house. It was found to have been set in a closet facing Carol's bedroom door. A similar fire broke out in the closet of the Ford home a short while later, while Marie and Carol were staying there. Marie accused Doris Ford's boyfriend of starting the fires (even though he couldn't have gotten into the Hilley house without breaking in).
	44	Sold her house for a much smaller amount than it was worth so that she could close the sale with cash. Moved with Carol to an apartment and obtained an unlisted phone number
08/03/1977	44	Informed Detective Carroll that she was still getting calls even though she had only given her new phone number to Doris Ford, Freeda Adcock, and one of Carol's friends.
	44	Detectives Williams and Carroll began to feel uncomfortable about Marie's constant calls, and suspected that she might be fabricating things. They concluded amongst themselves that the Hilleys didn't seem to be in real danger anymore.
	44	Investigators traced three of the calls Marie reported to the home of one of Carol's friends. Marie stated that she'd "had problems" with her in the past, and that the calls were all made to Carol. Marie angrily accused her of trying to start a lesbian affair with her daughter. The detectives stopped returning her calls.
11/11/1977	44	Carol's car was stolen from the parking lot of the Oxford Mall. It was found 2 hours later, abandoned and in flames. Marie collected an insurance claim on the car.
	44	Moved again, to a house on Orchard Street. The stated reasoning was that the house had a fenced yard for Carol's dog. However, Freeda Adcock suspected that Marie had done it to avoid creditors.
05/22/1978	44	Carol had driven her mother's car to school, and someone smashed the windshield while she was in class.
06/1978		The day after Carol graduated from high school, she and Marie moved in with Michael and Teri in Pompano Beach, Florida. They stayed for fewer than two months then moved back to Anniston. According to Michael, Marie was having "great financial difficulty." He also reported that she had an unhealthy fixation with his son Joshua, who was less than a month old. He lived in fear that Marie would steal him and disappear.
		Moved in with (and probably poisoned) Carrie Hilley, her mother-in-law. Agreed to split the utility bills with Carrie, but when Carrie gave Marie her half, she kept the money. When the overdue bills arrived, Marie hid them.
		Marie insisted upon sleeping on the living room couch, even though a guest bedroom was available at Carrie's house. Kept a crowbar and a rope underneath the couch, and a loaded .38-caliber revolver on the mantelpiece. While Marie was out, Carrie would often hide the revolver, but it always ended up back on the mantelpiece.
		Often disappeared after dinner, to return late at night with rolls of \$100 bills; as many as \$800 to \$1,200 worth. Told her family that she got it from typing jobs, but they suspected that she was gambling. Carrie feared Marie to the extent that she could no longer sleep at night.
07/27/1978	45	Purchased a \$25,000 life insurance on Carol, and listed herself as the sole beneficiary.
04/1979	45	Began poisoning Carol on the night of her senior prom.
05/06/1979	45	Wracked by violent nausea, Carol had to be taken to the emergency room. She was kept at the hospital for three days, but doctors could reach no conclusive diagnosis.
05/08/1979	45	Carol returned from the hospital only to become violently ill again the next morning. Doctors still could find no physical cause, and suspected that the illness was psychosomatic. According to Dr. William Wallace, Marie showed nothing but complete concern for her daughter, and expressed a desire to cooperate in any way she could do find out what was wrong with her.
	45	Poisoned nearly everything she brought Carol at the hospital. Carol's weight dropped from 107 lbs. to 87 lbs.
	45	Told Carol that she had discovered money from Frank's stock investments. Promised her \$10,000 to buy a car. However, whenever Carol tried to go get the car, Marie gave her another dose of arsenic so that she was forced to return to the hospital. There was no stock, and no money with which to buy a car.
05/1979	45	Depressed and frightened, Carol engaged in a half-hearted suicide attempt by overdosing on extra-strength Tylenol tablets. Marie used the incident to quietly reinforce the idea that Carol's illness was all in her mind.

06/01/1979	45	Insured the furniture in Carrie's house for \$3,000. Later that month, a fire started in Marie's sleeping bag, which had been left atop the washing machine near a leaky gas-powered water heater. Marie had removed the batteries from the smoke detector a few days before.
		Shortly after the fire, Michael visited her. He challenged her about her finances. She insisted that Frank had left her stock in the company he used to work for, but for whatever reason she couldn't collect on it. They made plans to go to the bank right after breakfast to get everything sorted out. Marie poisoned Michael's breakfast so that he would be too sick to go anywhere.
		Attempted to frame one of her former employers for extortion.
		Carol decided, over Marie's objections, to rent her own apartment. Once she had moved in, Marie appeared to relent and bought over \$2,000 worth of furniture for the apartment. She began to insist upon spending the night with Carol. Carol caught her disconnecting her telephone. Carol suspected that she was trying to avoid creditors. They had begun to call Carol in their efforts to find Marie.
08/1979	46	The manager of the store where Marie had purchased the furniture contacted Michael and told him that Marie's check had bounced. That same month, Marie sold a car she had purchased in Michael's name without first paying it off. She began using Carol's illness to solicit money from friends, relatives, co-workers, and employers.
	46	In addition to putting arsenic in her food, Marie injected Carol with arsenic under the guise of giving her anti-nausea medication. A few days later, Carol's toes went numb and she was having trouble climbing stairs. Carol was admitted to the Regional Medical Center four times that summer.
08/1979	46	On Dr. John Elmore's advice, Marie placed Carol in the psychiatric ward of Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham. By this point the arsenic was attacking the nerves in Carol's hands and feet. By the time she was admitted to Carraway, she could no longer stand or walk.
	46	Marie told friends and relatives that Carol had leukemia. Wouldn't let anyone visit her.
	46	Began administering Carol injections in secret under the premise that they would help her walk again. Despite her promise to keep them secret, Carol called her friend Eve Cole about them. Concerned, Eve alerted the rest of Carol's family. When it came to the attention of the doctors at Carraway that Marie was giving Carol unauthorized shots, they forbade her from visiting.
09/18/1979	46	Dr. Elmore told Marie that he suspected Carol's symptoms might be the result of heavy metal poisoning. Marie abruptly checked Carol out of Carraway later that same day, against the advice of the doctors. Her stated reasons for doing so were that Carol wasn't improving, and that she felt the nurses hadn't been sufficiently careful with her.
	46	Told Carol that they would go back to Anniston, over her protests that they didn't have a car. Insisted that she had in fact bought a car, and that the seller would pick them up. The next morning, Marie fell violently ill with the same symptoms as Carol and Frank.
09/19/1979	46	Went to University Hospital under the pretense of needing help for her nausea, but admitted Carol instead. After Dr. Michael Thompson called Dr. Elmore, he looked for signs of poisoning in Carol. He found Aldridge-Mee's lines under her fingernails, signs of arsenic accumulation. Her hair was found to contain one hundred times more arsenic than found in normal human hair. While this was going on, Marie was arrested in the waiting room for passing worthless checks totaling \$6,502.98. The hospital never advised the police about the poisoning.
1979	46	Tests for arsenic poisoning in Carol Hilley test positive. Shortly after, Frank Hilley's body was exhumed and tested. He also tested positive for arsenic poisoning. Police also discovered that there were significant amounts, though not fatal amounts, of arsenic in the bloodstreams of Lucille Frazier and Carrie Hilley at the time they died.
10/25/1979	46	Marie was indicted at Calhoun County Jail for the murder of her husband Frank and for two bad checks (equal to more than \$6000). She was also charged with the attempted murder of her daughter, Carol Hilley.
11/18/1979	46	Marie made bond and fled the state of Alabama from the hotel in Birmingham, Alabama that she had been staying in.
1979	46	Marie's car is found in Marietta, Georgia with no sign of her. The FBI continues her search. It is speculated that the car was left at a bus stop by a black male.
1980		Met John Greenleaf Homan III at a bar in Florida. Hilley told Homan that her name was Robbi Hannon and she had lived in Florida her entire life
05/29/1981	46	John Homan and "Robbi Hannon" get married after dating for a few months (Source, Florida Marriage Collection, 1822-1875 and 1927-2001). They move to Marlow, New Hampshire.
1981-1982		Robbi gets a job at Keene Screw Company in Keene, N.H. as a secretary.

1982		Robbi Homan goes to visit her "twin sister" in Texas
1982		Three months later, a woman using the name, Teri Martin, arrives at the home of John Homan. She informs him that Robbi had died and had come to live with John. She had dyed her hair blonde and was thinner.
1982		Teri Martin and John Homan place an obituary in <i>The Keene Sentinel</i> for Robbi Homan and claim that her body had been donated to science. According to Teri, her body was donated to the Medical Research Institute in Texas. This institute never existed.
01/12/1983	48	Police track down "Teri Martin" in Brattleboro, VT. Martin confesses to being both Robbi Hannon and Marie Hilley. She confesses that she is wanted in Alabama (though only for bad checks).
1983	49	Marie Hilley enters plea of innocent to all charges of murder and attempted murder. She is placed in Calhoun County Jail for \$320,000 bond.
1983	49	Marie Hilley was convicted of murdering her husband and attempting to murder her daughter by a jury in the state of Alabama. She received a sentence of life in prison and began her stay at the Tutwiler State Women's prison in Wetumpka.
02/1987	53	Marie Hilley is released on a weekend furlough. She met up with John Homan in Anniston, Alabama. She never returned to prison.
02/24/1987	53	Homan calls the police and informs them that Marie has disappeared. She left a note claiming that she will not return to prison and is fleeing to Canada with a friend she called "Walter".
02/26/1987	53	Sue Craft phones the Saks police to report a strange woman sprawled out on her porch. Police and an ambulance determine the woman to be Marie Hilley. She is transported to the Regional Medical Center in Anniston, Alabama.
02/26/1987	53	Marie was conscious when she was found by police but suffered convulsions and became unconscious. When she arrived at the hospital, she entered cardiac arrest. She was pronounced officially dead at 5.06 p.m. of exposure and hypothermia. She had been out in the cold and rain for four days and was most likely crawling around the woods. She was reportedly delirious when she had been found.

General Information

Sex	Female
Race	White
Number of victims	1 confirmed, one attempted, 4 probable
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Alabama
Cities where killing occurred	Anniston
Counties where killing occurred	United States
Type of killer	Black Widow
Height	5'1

Childhood Information

Date of birth	06/04/1933
Location	Anniston, Alabama
Birth order	1 st
Number of siblings	0
XYY?	No
Raised by	Both parents and aunt.
Birth category	Only child
Parent's marital status	Married
Did serial killer spend time in an orphanage?	No
Did serial killer spend time in a foster home?	No
Was serial killer ever raised by a relative?	Yes, parents would often leave her with her aunt for days at a time.
Did serial killer ever live with adopted family?	No
Did serial killer ever live with a step-parent?	No
Family event	No
Age of family event	N/A
Problems in school?	No
Teased while in school?	No

Physically attractive?	Yes. Voted "Prettiest Girl" in high school.
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	No
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Mill worker
Mother's occupation	Mill worker
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	
Highest degree	
Grades in school	
IQ	
Source of IQ information	
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	
Type of discharge	
Saw combat duty	
Killed enemy during service?	
Applied for job as a cop?	N/A
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Yes, multiple times.
Types of jobs worked	Secretarial work
Employment status during series	Employed as a secretary in multiple states
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married, widowed, remarried
Number of children	2
Lives with her children	Yes, until fleeing the state
Living with	Spouse, children, mother, mother-in-law
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	Yes
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)?	No
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	No
Diagnosis	
Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes, convicted of writing bad checks
Spent time in jail?	No
Spent time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	

Number of victims (suspected of)	2
Number of victims (confessed to)	1
Number of victims (convicted of)	1 murder, 1 attempt
Victim type	Family
Killer age at start of series	41
Killer age at end of series	45
Date of first kill in series	05/25/1975
Date of final kill in series	05/25/1975
Gender of victims	1 male, 1 attempted female
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	19 (attempt), 45
Type of victim	Family
Method of killing	Arsenic Poisoning
Weapon	Arsenic
Was gun used?	No
Type	
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	
Sex of partner	
Relationship of partner	
How close did killer live?	Home
Location of first contact	Home
Location of killing	Home
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	No
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	Not exactly, poisoned slowly
Intentionally went out that day to kill?	Slow, planned
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Died in hospital
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, hidden	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Burned body	No
Dumped body in lake, river, etc.	No

Moved, took home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	10/25/1979, again in 02/1983
Date convicted	1983
Sentence	Life in Prison, 1983
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Did serial killer confess?	Not to murders, only to bad checks
Name and state of prison	Tutwiler State Women's Prison in Wetumpka, Alabama
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	02/26/1987
Cause of death	Exposure/Hypothermia
Victim 1	
Name	Frank Hilley
Date killed	05/25/1975
Date body was found	05/25/1975
Gender	Male
Race	White
Age	45
How killed	Arsenic Poisoning
State killed	Alabama
City killed	Anniston
County killed	Calhoun
Type of target	Family - Husband
Did killer confess to this murder?	No
Was killer convicted of this murder?	Yes
Victim 2	
Name	Carol Hilley
Date killed	N/A
Date body was found	N/A
Gender	Female
Race	White
Age	19
How killed	Attempted Arsenic Poisoning
State killed	Alabama
City killed	Anniston
County killed	Calhoun
Type of target	Family - Daughter
Did killer confess to this murder?	No
Was killer convicted of this murder?	Yes

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Black Widow book. Read 4 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Marie Hilley was a charming wife and model mother who never could have m...
Marie Hilley was a charming wife and model mother who never could have murdered her husband, poisoned her mother-in-law and daughter, and abandoned her son--or could she? Get A Copy. Amazon. Audrey Marie and Frank Hilley married in May 1951. The next year they welcomed their son, Michael. Many people who knew the couple thought they were happy but noted that Marie (Audrey's chosen name) pushed her husband to work more and bring in extra money. One FBI agent described her this way, "She was a lady that liked to spend a lot of money. She was very meticulous in her dress." Eight years after Michael was born, Marie gave birth to a baby girl. It was a time of great joy for the Hilleys. Marie and Frank seemed to be more in love than ever, and the money kept rolling in. Just before she was due to return to prison, the black widow made a run for it. Despite being in the south, the weather was terrible. There was a lot of rain and lower than usual temperatures. We discuss the case of Audrey Marie Hilley of Anniston, Alabama. sources and photos <http://www.truecrimeoutloud.com>. Listen Listen again Continue Playing Audrey Marie Hilley (née Frazier; June 4, 1933 - February 26, 1987) was an American murderer. Her life and killing spree are the subjects of the 1991 telefilm *Wife, Mother, Murderer*. Audrey Marie Frazier was born on June 4, 1933, in the Blue Mountain area of Anniston, Alabama, to Lucille (née Meads) and Huey Frazier. She married Frank Hilley on May 8, 1951, which produced two children, Mike and Carol. Despite Frank's well-paying job and Audrey's secretarial employment, the couple had little money set Audrey Marie Hilley (June 4, 1933 - February 26, 1987) was an American murderer. Her life and spree are the subjects of the 1991 telefilm *Wife, Mother, Murderer*. The movie starred Judith Light in the title role, with Whip Hubley and David Ogden Stiers. Because the symptoms closely resembled those of hepatitis, no tests for poison were conducted. The cause of death was listed as infectious hepatitis. Frank Hilley had maintained a moderate life insurance policy that his widow redeemed for \$31,140. Slightly over three years later, she took out a \$25,000 life insurance policy on her daughter, Carol. A \$25,000 accidental death rider took effect in August 1978.