

- On this episode of mystery Mondays we will be talking about the unsolved murder of Amber Hagerman
- Now, if we think about it, the amber alert system, it is something we all know of and not everyone knows how it was created and how it got its name, this is the case that created the Amber alert
- (sfx of amber alert sound)
- Intro
- Welcome back to mystery Mondays let's continue on with our case of Amber Hagerman
- On the afternoon of January 13 1996, 9 year old Amber Hagerman was riding her bike (tricycle bell ring) in a parking lot of a grocery store when she was ripped off of her bike and driven away in a blue truck.
- There was widespread national attention given to this little 9 year old and her family to help find her, yet nothing helped until a dog walker came across her body 4 days later floating in a creek near the grocery store where she was abducted. Her throat was slit (knife sfx?)
- After her body was found and autopsy was performed. The autopsy revealed that Amber was kept alive for 2 days after her kidnapping and was sexually assaulted multiple times. Then her throat was cut and thrown into the creek where she was found.
- This case had just turned 20 years old and every day before the day of her disappearance her family and law enforcement hold a conference asking anyone to release facts.
- Conference audio
- Commentary on police certainty with finding the killer and how sad her family still is

- With the background information given, let's get into some theories and suspects behind this case
- There is only one real theory in this case: Amber was kidnapped by a stranger. 78-year-old retired machinist Jim Kevil witnessed Amber's abduction from his backyard.
- Amber was riding her bike alone in the parking lot when the opportunistic killer jumped out of his black or dark blue pick-up truck and grabbed the little girl. Jimmie stated Amber "screamed once and was kicking" when she was hauled into the truck.
- Jimmie described Amber's kidnapper as "a white or Hispanic male aged 25-40, under 6 feet tall, [with a] medium build."
- After Jimmie called the police, they were on the scene in a matter of minutes. Even though Amber's family, members of the community, and the authorities searched frantically for Amber, they were unable to locate her in time. Stranger abductions are extremely rare and difficult to solve, as there is usually little information to go on.
- Unfortunately, forensics are of little help in this case. When Amber's body was found, she was naked except for one sock, and the running water in the creek washed away critical forensic evidence. Mike Simonds, the investigative sergeant who was in charge of Amber's case at the time, explained, "There had been a very large storm and Amber was not only in water but in running water in a creek bed, so there had been a tremendous amount of water flow over her body which obviously made it hard in terms of trace evidence."
- It wouldn't surprise me if Amber's killer has committed similar crimes. Although it's unlikely, I hope he's already in prison and just hasn't been linked yet to Amber's murder due to the absence of forensic evidence.

- Commentary
- No doubt many of you have already heard of the AMBER Alert Program. But did you realize it was named after Amber Hagerman?
- After Amber's murder, a Fort Worth mother who had never met Amber, contacted a local radio station and questioned why broadcasters sent out severe weather warnings but did not alert the public when a child was abducted.
- commentary
- They say that Perhaps if the community had known Amber had been abducted and was aware of the suspect and vehicle description, Amber could have been located before she was killed. The idea became what is now known as the AMBER Alert Program.
- The program is currently being used in all 50 U.S. states,, and 26 other countries. And according to the website AMBER Alert Program's, as of November 2017, the system has resulted in the recovery of 897 children.
- Donna Williams, Amber's mother, calls the AMBER Alert Program "bittersweet."
- Insert audio of donna friends being helped by the system
- Like i had mentioned earlier the case has had roughly 8000 leads. And 50 police officers and federal agents, but Amber's case remains unsolved.
- The police, however, refuse to give up on finding Amber's killer. They insist that someone knows something that can aid in finding her killer
- Anyone with information about Amber's murder is asked to contact Detective Ben Lopez at 817-459-5373. There is a \$10,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest and Grand Jury indictment of the suspect. Tipsters who want to remain anonymous should contact Tarrant County Crime Stoppers at 817-469-TIPS.

- You're listening to 91.3 whje and this has been another episode of mystery mondays