

**THE BLURRING OF FACTS & FICTION**  
**Just some of the interesting tidbits I wove into the fabric of**  
***Now is the Time of Monsters* by A.G. Mock**

1. The Gemini himself was inspired by two real-life sources:
  - San Francisco's Zodiac killer who operated throughout the late 60s and early 70s
  - The serial killer in *The Exorcist III* directed by William Peter Blatty, which serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer was purportedly obsessed and would watch specific scenes repeatedly, often before he lured his next victim
2. The Gemini's boots are known as wing-walker boots, and were alleged to have been the footprints found at more than one crime scene of the real Zodiac killer.
3. The street address of Sheila McCabe's house—8213 West Summerdale—does not exist in San Francisco. It is, in fact, the actual Norwood Park Township, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago) street address of real-life serial killer, John Wayne Gacy.
4. The name of my character, Detective Douglas Ressler, is a nod to both John Douglas and Robert Ressler, retired Special Agents of the FBI and pioneers in criminal profiling and analysis at the Behavioral Science Unit (BSU), now known as the Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU). They are also the inspiration behind the popular Netflix series, *Mindhunter*. Beyond the mash-up of their names, there is no other basis for my character's personality or background. His surly, no-nonsense approach which masks a heart of gold is based more upon Clint Eastwood's portrayal of Inspector "Dirty Harry" Harold Francis Callahan in the Dirty Harry franchise.
5. When Ressler hums the same 5 abstract notes when he is deep in thought or uncomfortable, this is based upon me!
6. Hannah's Ford Galaxie convertible is inspired by the actual car driven by real-life monster, convicted serial killer Edmond Kemper, who murdered eight women and girls in Santa Cruz County (south of San Francisco) between 1972 and 1973. His victims included his mother, her best friend, and six female students. The Ford Galaxie 500 was also featured in *Dirty Harry* and driven by fictional detective, "Dirty Harry" Callahan.
7. The decapitations, dismemberments and even perverse interactions with the corpses or body parts are common 'depersonalization' traits amongst convicted killers Ed Gein, Jeffrey Dahmer, Ted Bundy, Edmond Kemper and many more. (Liberty is taken with certain dates in the novel, particularly when referencing Edmond Kemper).
8. The term 'serial killer' was coined by FBI Special Agent Robert Ressler, but in my novel I have taken liberty with the timing/date of such when mentioned by my fictional character, Siobhan Jacobs, Psychiatrist and Head of San Francisco County's Forensics Department.
9. Cassie's "Little Zapples" are borrowed from the story of real-life serial killer Edmond Kemper who stated that this is what he called his urge to kill.
10. Around mid-book, Cassie is described as having a 'fractured mind.' This is just one of many clues hinting at her Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID).
11. The alter personality of Janice Wynn was created by Holden (aka Cassie) to both manage his intense feelings regarding Hannah's murder, and to act as a charismatic lure to help him gain the trust of potential victims—something the monstrous and barbaric alter of Solomon is incapable of doing.
12. Cassie's friend Patty mentions 'people in our situation.' Although Cassie is not a member of the LGBTQ community, Patty is, and she believes the same holds true for Cassie. Patty has known all along that Cassie is male by birth. She is not aware, however, that Cassie is an alter created by Holden as a coping mechanism for his intense childhood traumas. Patty is also not aware that Bill (Cassie's common-law husband who Patty has never actually met)

does not exist: Bill is a figment of Holden's fractured mind to help flesh out the story his psyche has created in the form of his alter, Cassie.

13. The Gemini's wordsearch is inspired by real-life convicted serial killer, Dennis Rader, aka the BTK Killer (a moniker Rader created for himself with the letters being shorthand for Bind, Torture and Kill). Rader sent wordsearch puzzles to the media in which such information as some of his victims' name were included, and even his own home's street address.
14. The Gemini's Halloween card featured in my novel is [the actual card sent by the real-life Zodiac killer](#) to *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter, Paul Avery. I then altered the actual image and phrasing within the card to reflect the purposes of my fictional Gemini killer.
15. When the Gemini killer is described as sexually assaulting the head of one of his victims, this is a direct reference to Edmond Kemper who is alleged to have done so with the decapitated head of his own mother as a way to humiliate the women he so abhorred.
16. Cassie's (Holden's) VW bug is the same as used by real-life serial killer, Ted Bundy.
17. Rosalie Sherwood is abducted from Mount Diablo park in the same way Ted Bundy was known to lure his victims: by feigning an injury. This both preyed upon the sympathy of women as well as to make himself appear more vulnerable and less of a threat to draw his victims near.
18. The mention of how Holden was drafted into service in Vietnam for a 12-month tour by lottery method is accurate. Liberty is taken with the timing, however. The draft lottery did not commence until December 1965...not when Holden was drafted several years earlier.
19. "Catcher" and "Holden" are nods to one of the most iconic novels in American literary history: J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*. Like Salinger's main character, Holden Albrighton (aka Cassie) is deeply disillusioned with life. Unlike Salinger's character, in the case of mine, Holden's way of dealing with his repeated and intense trauma was for his mind to fracture his personality into separate and distinct alter identities, each serving a unique purpose and role in his coping mechanism.
20. When Siobhan Jacobs proposes to Holden that if he confesses, the FBI will relocate him to Barrow Moor—a psychiatric institution "back east"—this is a three-fold reference. First, she says it would be a matter of *quid pro quo*: "They help you; you help them."
  - Firstly, this is a nod to the iconic Thomas Harris novel, and film by the same name, *Silence of the Lambs* in which Dr. Hannibal Lecter explains his expectations to FBI agent Clarice Starling;
  - Secondly, it is a nod to the FBI's BSU/BAU innovative profiling program of the 1970s in which Robert Ressler and John Douglas interviewed notorious serial killers incarcerated across the country; and
  - Thirdly, Barrow Moor is a fictional psychiatric institution I created in my 'New Apocrypha' trilogy of books: *The Little Woods*, *Disciple*, and *Shadow Watchers*.