

How The Internet Shattered Teen Souls

Intro Clips:

(Clips of teens scrolling through their phones, laughing, filming reels and TikTok videos. Bright colors, upbeat music—then slowly starts glitching. The sound dulls. The smiles fade. Phones glow in dark rooms. Eyes empty.)

Narrator (voice: warm at first, gradually turning cold and haunting):

"The internet—a space where we meet, connect, and explore. A place to learn, laugh, escape. From school assignments to viral dances, everything's just a click away. But for some... it became something else. A curse. A doorway they walked through—and never came back."

Hook:

"One wrong tap. One friendly message. One private chat. And what happened next... cost their lives."

(Tone shifts to bold, gripping):

"Today, we're uncovering stories they never got to finish. Real pain. Real victims. And a digital reality that might just make you think twice before you reply to a random text again."

- **Segment 1: Miranda Corsette**

(Clips of a quiet Florida neighborhood, a slow zoom on a photo of Miranda smiling. Gentle background music that slowly darkens.)

Narrator (calm, gradually dipping into tension): "Miranda Corsette... just 16 years old. Living in Gulfport, Florida with her grandma after losing both her parents. Homeschooled, fragile, carrying the weight of trauma, addiction, and pain far beyond her years. And if that wasn't already heavy... she was a mother. To an 11-month-old baby. Let that sink in."

(Cut to a phone screen scrolling through Grindr, soft notification sounds.)

Narrator (with a shift in tone – cautious, building suspense): "She met a man online. Through Grindr. Yeah... a dating app not meant for a teenage girl. But Miranda wasn't just any teen. She was vulnerable. Easy to manipulate. Easy to lure."

(Footage of Valentine's decorations, couples, roses — then cut to a car driving into a dim-lit neighborhood.)

Narrator (sharper, ominous): "February 14, 2025. Valentine's Day. That 35-year-old man, Steven Gress picked her up. Said he wanted to spend the day with her. He took her to his place. She went. Spent the day... and left. But the very next day... she came back. And she stayed."

(Show blurred images of Steven Gress and Michelle Brandes on screen with ages in bold text.)

Narrator (stern, unsettling): "Gress wasn't alone. He lived with his girlfriend, 37-year-old Michelle Brandes. And that house — it wasn't a home. It was a trap."

(Background shifts to cold, dim Clips — empty rooms, handcuffs, shadows.)

Narrator (tense and dark): "Around February 20, things turned brutal. They accused Miranda of stealing a ring. But guess what? It was all a lie. Brandes did it all out of jealousy, rage, whatever twisted mess she carried, made that up."

(Cut to flashes of bruised faces, blurred disturbing photos, slow flashes of Miranda's name.)

Narrator (cold, emotional): "They held her captive. Beat her. Every day. Photos of her torture were sent by Gress to his mom, and others. And they said nothing. No one stepped in. Not even his own mother."

(The screen slowly darkens, no Clips, only words: "Suffocated. Murdered. Dismembered.")

Narrator (voice haunting, quiet rage): "Miranda was killed. Not quick. Not peaceful. Michelle shoved a billiard ball in her mouth, wrapped her head in plastic... until she stopped breathing. Then they dismembered her body. Tossed her like trash... into a dumpster."

(Flash: Date – February 24, 2025 – "Missing" alert shown.)

Narrator (cutting tone): "She was reported missing on February 24th. No one knew where she was—until March 6, when a witness finally spoke. Just a day later, on March 7, police found what was left of her body. Both Steven Gress and Michelle Brandes, were arrested and charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping in connection with Miranda's brutal death."

(CCTV footage flashes. Slow zoom on the crime scene.)

Narrator (final line of this segment — bold and chilling): "One app. One match. One mistake. And a girl who had already lost everything... lost her life too. Miranda Corsette. Manipulated. Abused. Erased."

(Black screen. Faint heartbeat sounds fading out.)

- **Segment 2: Alicia Navarro**

(Clips: A cozy suburban neighborhood in Glendale, Arizona. A teenage girl's bedroom, adorned with video game posters; a computer screen glowing in the dark.)

Narrator (calm, gradually building tension): "Alicia Navarro, a 14-year-old girl from Glendale, Arizona, diagnosed as high-functioning on the autism spectrum, found solace in the structured worlds of online games. But the internet, while offering an escape, also harbored unseen dangers."

(Clips: A handwritten note on a desk, reading: 'I ran away. I will be back, I swear.')

Narrator (somber tone): "On September 15, 2019, Alicia left this note for her family and disappeared into the night. For four years, her whereabouts remained a mystery, leaving her family in a state of perpetual anguish. Her mother believed that she was lured by someone she met online."

(Clips: A map tracing a path from Arizona to Montana, interspersed with news clippings and missing person posters.)

Narrator (with a hint of hope): "Then, in July 2023, a breakthrough. Alicia walked into a police station in Havre, Montana, over 1,400 miles from home, seeking to remove herself from the missing persons list."

(Clips: A courtroom sketch of Edmund Davis, a middle-aged man with a stern expression.)

Narrator (firm tone): "Investigations led to Edmund Davis, a 38-year-old Montana man with whom Alicia had been living. Authorities discovered child sexual abuse material on his electronic devices, leading to his conviction and a 100-year prison sentence, with 50 years suspended. He won't be eligible for parole for 25 years."

(Clips: Police officers searching an apartment; a cellphone being retrieved from a trash can.)

Narrator (serious tone): "During the search of Davis's apartment, officers observed him attempting to hide his cell phone by throwing it into a trash can and covering it with other items. Forensic analysis revealed over 80 images of child sexual abuse material, including images of infants and toddlers."

(Clips: Alicia Navarro's family embracing; a community vigil.)

Narrator (reflective tone): "While the full extent of Alicia's experiences during her time away remains unclear, her return has provided some closure to her family. Her story serves as a stark reminder of the potential dangers lurking in the digital world and the importance of vigilance in protecting our youth."

- **Segment 3: Patricia Alatorre**

(Clips: Sunset over Bakersfield. Kids laughing, TikToks playing, a phone screen lighting up in the dark.)

Narrator (soft, nostalgic tone): "Patricia Jocelyn Alatorre. Just 13 years old. Bakersfield, California. A girl who loved TikTok, makeup, and making people smile. The kind of girl who lit up every room she walked into. But none of that saved her from what was waiting on the other side of her screen."

(Clips: Instagram DMs, a suspicious older male profile, screen glitches as the Clips get darker.)

Narrator (shifting to serious, haunting): "She met him online. 24-year-old Armando Cruz. A grown man sliding into a child's DMs. And not just for small talk. He groomed her—asked

for explicit photos, sweet-talked her, manipulated her. He didn't want a conversation—he wanted control."

(Clips: The clock shows 11 PM. Patricia quietly leaves the house. Street lights flicker. A white pickup truck pulls up.)

Narrator (chilling calm): "July 1st, 2020. Patricia left her house late at night. She climbed into that white truck. That moment right there—was the last time her family ever saw her alive."

(Clips: Quick flashes—an isolated area, shadows, silence. The truck drove away. Flames in the distance.)

Narrator (voice cracking slightly): "He took her somewhere remote. Assaulted her. Strangled her. Then... tried to erase what he did. He burned her body. Like she was nothing. Like she didn't matter."

(Clips: Bakersfield PD headquarters, search parties, candlelight vigils, crying parents holding up her photo.)

Narrator (firm, steady tone): "But she did matter. Bakersfield wasn't about to let her vanish without answers. They tracked his phone. Found the footage. Within five days—on July 6—Cruz was arrested in Inglewood."

(Clips: Courtroom doors slamming shut. Gavel pounding. Cruz sitting behind bars, emotionless.)

Narrator (tight, cold tone): "After the arrest, the truth came flooding in. Cruz was hit with 12 felony charges—murder, kidnapping, rape, sexual assault of a minor, lewd acts with a child, and producing explicit material involving a minor. He wasn't just some predator. He was a monster who planned it all."

(Clips: News headlines flashing, people protesting outside the courthouse: "Justice for Patricia.")

Narrator (with quiet fury): "He didn't fight it. He pleaded guilty. And the court gave him what he deserved—life in prison without the possibility of parole. Patricia's family will never get her back, but they made sure her killer will never breathe free air again."

(Clips: A mural of Patricia. Her favorite TikToks playing. Her siblings placing flowers at a memorial.)

Narrator (soft, emotional close): "Patricia was only 13. She didn't get to grow up. All because of a stranger behind a screen. This is the dark side of social media—the side no one warns you about, until it's too late."

- **Segment 4: The 10-Year-Old Girl**

(Clips: A soft morning scene—a school bag on a chair, a kid's room filled with plush toys and Roblox merch. Bright and innocent.)

Narrator (gentle, almost whispering):

"She was just 10 years old. A child. Like any other—playing Roblox, chatting on Discord, living in her own little world of games and cartoons. But the internet, while offering an escape, also harbored unseen dangers."

(Clips: A shady Discord server, dark profile icons, blurred chats—messages sliding in, emojis hiding something sinister underneath.)

Narrator (tone growing darker, steady):

"He was 27. Matthew Macatuno Naval. A predator. Hiding behind a screen name, pretending to be another kid. He found her on Roblox. Then moved her to Discord. That's where it started. The grooming. The manipulation. The lies."

(Clips: Chat messages. Sweet words, games, promises. Then—threats, fear, silence.)

Narrator (stern, sharp tone): "He tricked her. Convinced her to leave home. On April 12, 2025, she walked out... and vanished."

(Clips: Parents crying, police searching, flyers everywhere. A clock ticking fast—panic rising.)

Narrator (fast-paced, intense): "Just hours later, she was found. The very next day, law enforcement traced her whereabouts. They found her with him—Matthew Macatuno Naval. In his car. Over 250 miles away from where she lived."

(Clips: Police arriving, flashing lights, taking the predator into custody. The girl is carefully taken by officers, her parents already waiting.)

Narrator (cut throat calm): "She was rescued. She was safe. But not unscathed. Naval had manipulated her, exploiting her trust. What was meant to be an innocent game turned into something dark and sinister."

(Clips: Courtroom. Mugshot of Matthew Macatuno Naval, looking cold and indifferent.)

Narrator (emotional but cold): "Matthew Macatuno Naval was arrested, charged with kidnapping, enticement of a minor, and producing child sexual abuse material. He's now facing the consequences of his actions."

(Clips: A child psychologist's office. The girl, drawing quietly, surrounded by her loving, supportive parents.)

Narrator (heavy pause, then soft close): "She was 10. Playing a game. And she almost didn't come home. This is the internet we trust our kids with. The same screen we hand them to keep them distracted."

(Text on screen: "To protect the victim's privacy, her name has not been disclosed.")

Ending:

(Clips: A family gathered together, a child on their phone with a parent by their side, looking over their shoulder to check in.)

Narrator (slow, deliberate, heartfelt): "In this world, the internet connects us all—bringing people closer, opening doors to endless opportunities, and offering ways to learn, share, and grow. But, just like anything, it has its dark side. A side that can tear lives apart in an instant."

(Clips: Quick flashes of happy moments—then contrasting images of danger, like shadowy figures behind screens, unsettling messages, and untrustworthy encounters.)

Narrator (serious tone): "Whether you're a child or an adult, we all face risks online. It's not just about what we share or who we talk to—it's about being aware. Knowing who's on the other side of the screen, who's waiting to connect with us, and who we trust. It's about being cautious, setting boundaries, and keeping open communication with the ones we care about."

(Clips: Parent talking to child about online safety, a family dinner with everyone putting their phones down, a moment of trust.)

Narrator (calm, but firm): "We may never fully control the dangers out there, but we can always control our awareness. We can choose to be careful, to protect ourselves and those we love. Both online and in the real world, safety matters. And so does trust."

(Clips: The child smiles, looks up at the parent, and nods, understanding the importance of staying safe.)

Narrator (gentle, concluding): "Because the internet, just like life, has its good moments—and its dark ones. What matters is knowing how to navigate it, and how to protect the ones we hold dear. Stay safe. Stay aware."

(The screen fades to black, with a message: "Safety Starts With Awareness. Stay Vigilant.")