

The Strange Story of the Watcher House

This video is going to be a bit different. I love making video essays and researching different topics so I have decided I am going to make some content surrounding mysteries and bizarre conspiracies within history.

And in this video we are going to be looking at one that is incredibly bizarre called The Watcher House. If you guys have any more bizarre mysteries and conspiracies you want me to create videos on please let me know down below and I will look into them. Just for some clarity too, the letters are all a bit bizarrely organized since the official letters were never released and have been open to different interpretations throughout the time this has been circulating the internet.

What is the Watcher House?

The year was 2014 and a new family was moving to Westfield in New Jersey. This family was the Broaddus Family. Maria and Derek Broaddus moved into their new home which was 657 Boulevard in Westfield, New Jersey. They bought a 6-bedroom house which they deemed to be their 'dream house' and was mere blocks away from Maria's childhood home in one of the safer cities within the US.

Before this family had bought what is known as The Watcher House, the family was just your run of the mill family living in the suburbs. Located about 45 minutes outside of New York City, the town of Westfield, New Jersey was just blocks away and was a really quiet town where the only big gossip of the town was the collapse of a local Trader's roof.

The neighborhood is listed as one of the safest communities in America and as of 2019 had a median household income of \$159,000 dollars. However, the affluent suburb was the scene of some horrors in the past. Back in 1970, a man named John List infamously slaughtered his wife, mother and three children in their home. However this was a distant memory and the community of Westfield was completely safe and people felt secure.

Derek had grown up in Maine to a working class family. He was not from wealthy roots but was able to work his way up to be a senior vice president with a Manhattan insurance company. In June of 2014, after Derek had celebrated his 40th birthday, the couple closed the deal on their new house 657 Boulevard.

The Broaddus family cleared the sale and within 3 days of closing the sale, before they had even begun to move in they received a letter into their mailbox at their new property. This letter was simply addressed to "The New Owner" and was in big clunky handwriting.

The letter however had a bizarre message that came with it. The letter read:

'Dearest New Neighbor at 657 Boulevard,

Allow me to welcome you to the neighborhood

657 Boulevard has been the subject of my family for decades now and as it approaches its 110th birthday, I have been put in charge of watching and waiting for its second coming. My grandfather watched the house in the 1920s and my father watched in the 1960s. It is now my time. Do you know the history of the house?

Who am I? There are hundreds and hundreds of cars that drive by 657 Boulevard everyday. Maybe I am in one. Look at all the windows you can see from 657 Boulevard. Maybe I am in one. Look out any of the many windows in 657 Boulevard at all the people who stroll by each day. Maybe I am one.

You have children, I have seen them. So far there are three that I have counted. Once I know their names I will call them.'

While this is not the full letter, this was the majority of it that was creepy to the Broaddus family and it definitely creeped them out. There was one line within the letter that proved too creepy for the Broaddus family however and that was a line that said:

'I asked the Woods to bring me young blood and it looks like they listened.'

The Woods were another family who used to own the house and were actually the people who were selling the house when the Broaddus family purchased it. And the Woods said that they had only ever received one letter from someone claiming to be the watcher right before they moved out but they decided to simply throw it away and as such eventually in 2016, the Broaddus family sued the Woods family for not disclosing the information, although this was ruled out.

The Woods family and the Broaddus family decided to go to the police and they advised that they do not tell anyone about this as everyone was now a potential suspect.

After this letter came in Derek Broaddus had decided to give a tour of the renovations to a couple of neighbors and one of the neighbors suddenly said, it will be nice to have some young blood in the neighborhood. Which evidently gave Derek complete chills throughout his body.

There was one suspect throughout this time period and that was Michael Langford. Langford was originally assumed to be the main culprit of this. This was due to how he would interact with people who were moving to the neighborhood.

But this only got worse when a second letter came in weeks later:

'The workers have been busy and I have been watching you unload carfuls of your personal belongings. The dumpster is a nice touch. Have they found what is in the walls yet? In time they will. I am pleased to know your names now and the name of the young blood you have brought to me. You certainly say their names often.

657 Boulevard is anxious for you to move in. It has been years and years since the young blood ruled the hallways of the house. Have you found all of the secrets it holds yet? Will the young blood play in the basement? Or are they too afraid to go down there alone? I would be very afraid if I were them. It is far away from the rest of the house. If you were upstairs you would never hear them scream.

Will they sleep in the attic? Or will you all sleep on the second floor? Who has the bedrooms facing the street? I'll know as soon as you move in. It will help me to know who is in which bedroom. Then I can plan better.

All of the windows and doors in 657 Boulevard allow me to watch you and track you as you move through the house. Who am I? I am the watcher and have been in control of 657 Boulevard for the better part of two decades now. The Woods Family turned it over to you. It was their time to move on and kindly sold it when I asked them to.

I pass by many times a day. 657 Boulevard is my job, my life, my obsession. And now you are too Broaddus family. Welcome to the product of your greed! Greed is what brought the past three families to 657 Boulevard and now it has brought you to me.'

After they received this letter the Broaddus family was completely creeped out by this and they began to try and figure out what was going on. Initially they suspected it was a disgruntled neighbor who was irritated by having kids next door or the house renovations and since the neighbors had lived in the neighborhood for over 50 years at this point it can be seen why. These neighbors also had a good view of the Broaddus family home.

They did also suspect that it could also be someone who wanted the house during the bidding war and had become angry from losing this.

Derek decided to set cameras up all around the house and even stayed up late, mapping out the neighborhood and noting when families had moved in. He was also checking for cars that would drive by and whether they were suspicious or not, however this was quite a busy road.

The couple gave up after 6 months and decided to sell the home, however, due to the news going around the town of the house and these letters, it would not sell so they decided to simply rent it out.

The police finally conducted a DNA analysis on the letters that this house had already received and they found that DNA appearing on the letters was traced back to a woman. They decided to look at the neighbors, one of whom was a woman, but the DNA did not match up and therefore the neighbors were ruled out.

Some people started to speculate that the letters were actually coming from the Broaddus family however when they tested the DNA of the letter to Maria's DNA it was not a match.

Desperate for answers, the Broaddus family enlisted multiple FBI agents and a real life FBI agent of whom the character Clarice Starling in *Silence of the Lambs* was based off. And one of these agents called Robert Lenehan did a threat assessment on the letters and his analysis shows that the writer was most likely an older person based on the vocabulary and their habit of double spacing after a full stop or period.

They also hired the security firm Kroll to look for handwriting matches to the envelopes but none emerged. The family was still desperate for answers and they hired a forensic Linguist called Robert Leonard to scour local forums to find language patterns similar to the watcher's notes. But all of this was to no avail.

There was a media storm surrounding this bizarre mystery and as such the house was frequently visited by news outlets who were trying to get the scoop or maybe even catch a car stopped outside the house or someone posting a letter to the house.

They received another letter in 2016, when the Broaddus family were making a brief effort to tear the house down and this came in 2016.

They had planned to tear the house down and turn it into 2 different properties; however this was blocked by legal teams for the neighborhood due to the size of the properties.

This next letter was addressed to 'The Vile and Spiteful Derek and his wench of a wife Maria - which read as this:

'You wonder who the Watcher is? Turn around idiots. Maybe you even spoke to me, one of the so-called Neighbors who has no idea who the watcher could be. Or maybe you do know me and are too scared to tell anyone. Good move. I walked by the news truck when they took over my neighborhood and mocked me. I watched as you watched from the dark house in an attempt to find me... Telescopes and binoculars are wonderful inventions. 657 Boulevard survived your attempted assault and stood strong with its army of supporters barricading its gates. My soldiers of the Boulevard followed my orders to a T. They carried out their mission and saved the soul of 657 Boulevard with my orders. All hail the watcher.

Maybe a car accident. Maybe a fire, Maybe something as simple as a mild illness that never seems to go away but makes you sick day after day after day after day after day. Maybe the mysterious death of a pet. Loved ones suddenly die. Planes and cars and bicycles crash. Bones break. You are despised by the house and The Watcher won.'

And that was it. No more letters. No more police and the case was essentially deemed a cold case despite no massive crime being committed bar harassment. In 2019, the family successfully sold the house but took a \$440,000 loss on the house. But every cloud has a silver lining with Netflix buying the rights to their creepy tale in 2019. Which is due to release later this year as a limited series.

There is so much more in these letters than what I have outlined in this video however the letters are so long and so full of statements that it would be impractical to read the entire letters to you on this video. I did mention that there were a couple of these letters, however, there were actually considerably more but most of them were not anything to particularly mention or were too disorganized and conflicting when I looked into this topic.

There were many people who were rumored to be the watcher. However, they were all eventually debunked, maybe the watcher never existed and it was always a hoax by the Broadus family. There were so few actual suspects. Or maybe there was something creepy about this house. I will let you guys decide.

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