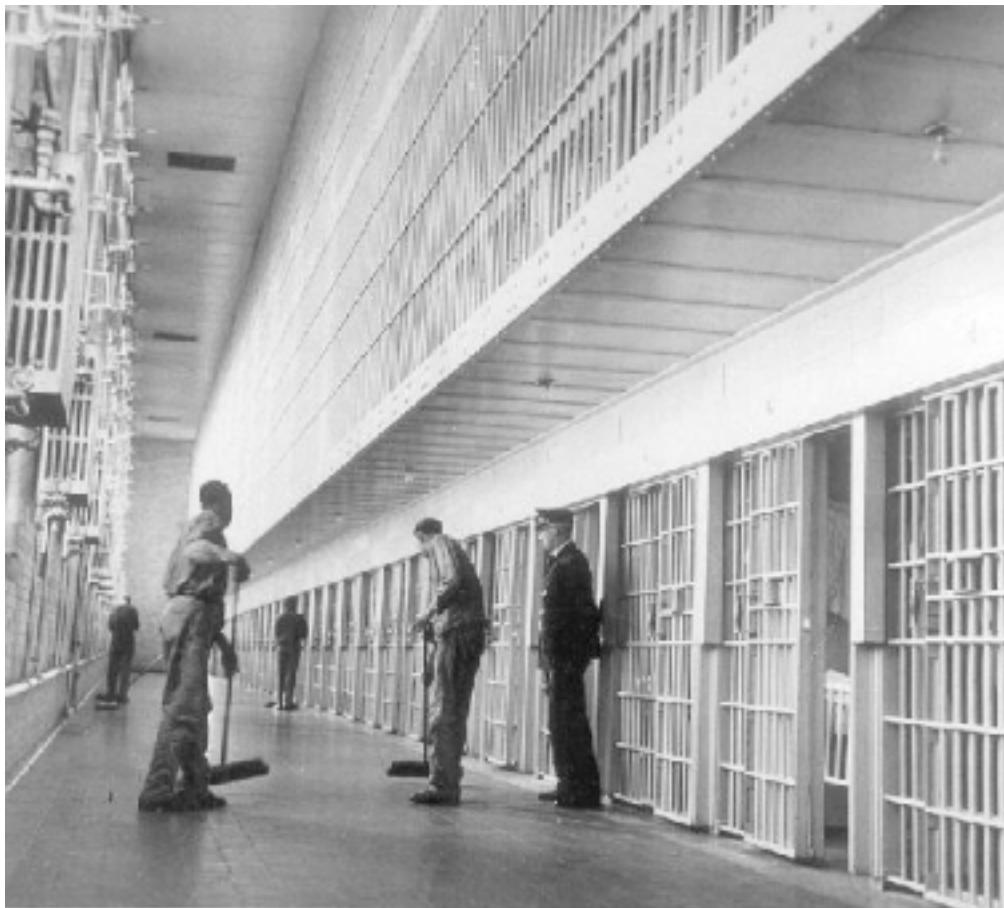


The sociopath

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They have been called many things over the years. The dysocial personality, the asocial, the sociopath, the psychopath, the antisocial personality. That group of people who are generally seen to have very little conscience. They are seen to lack a moral system or a value system. Some of them end up in trouble with the law sooner or later. The other smarter ones do not. Most psychopaths are male.

Whatever you do, don't marry one or fall in love with one! Unfortunately women have a habit of doing that. I am not sure what it is but the 'bad' boys seem to have an attraction to many women. Maybe they think they can tame them or change them into good boys if they just love them enough. Maybe the mother comes out in these women as these men are often quite child like in their thinking and behaving.

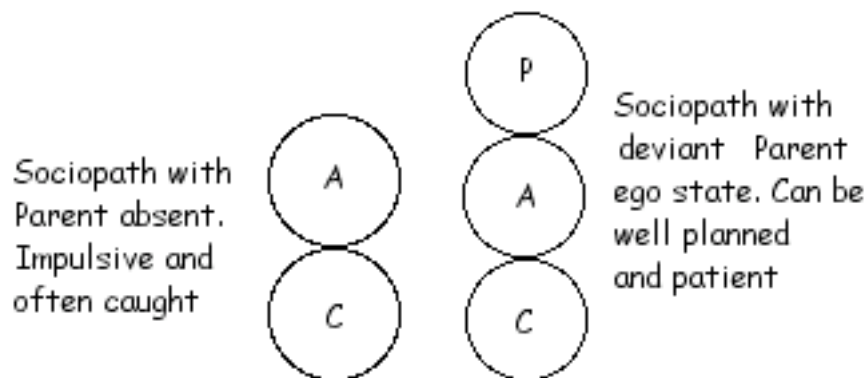


The other thing about such antisocials is that they tend to have a lack of anxiety. Well at least reactive anxiety, just like teenagers do. In fact considerable research has been done on comparing the teenager personality profile to the criminal personality and there is quite a deal of similarity.

Reactive anxiety is anxiety in reaction to something. They lack anxiety about things that most of us would feel anxious about. Such as driving at high speed or taking drugs that are unknown, or car 'surfing', and so forth. Dysocials often have a narcissistic quality about them and part of that is that they feel special and like they are indestructible. "I won't get hurt because I am unique", is the thinking.

So when they take a 'risk' they are not actually taking a risk because they do not perceive the risk applies to them. So they can sometimes become war heroes. The soldier who storms the machine gun post. He did not understand the risk when he did it and he was lucky enough not to die. They can be cool under extreme stress because they don't feel stressed as the "I am always going to be all right" is the faulty thinking.

It is only some of them that actually lack a conscience. Some have a conscience, it's just that it involves a value system that is significantly different from mainstream society. So we have two types of psychopaths those with very little Parent ego state and these ones tend to be particularly childlike. Then there are others who have a strong Parent ego state.



Some antisocials never develop a fully formed Parent ego state, for whatever reason. This can occur in reaction to significant abuse in childhood. So these people operate in society with no personal value system. That means you can do just about anything you like as there is no sense of good and bad. Instead there is just a sense of pleasure and the frustration of pleasure. Some rapist are particularly of this kind. Pleasure seeking people with a very low frustration tolerance. They are often in trouble with the law as they lack the ability to plan for the longer term. So their crimes often leave lots of 'leads' as they are not well thought out. They tend to be the spontaneous crimes and so they are not all that hard to catch.

Then we have the sociopath who has a strong moral code. As we know the Parent ego state is where one's values and morals reside. We get our Parent ego state by

copying our parent figures in childhood. So if one grows up in an environment where the parent figures openly engaged in illegal activity, illicit drug use, obvious sexual behaviour then that child will take that on as an acceptable code of behaviour in their Parent ego state. So when they become adults they will operate by their moral code which is quite different from mainstream society's moral code.



If such a person is intelligent then they can be very difficult to catch. They can be quite successful in commerce or politics for long periods of time. The impulsivity, short term thinking and the low frustration tolerance is not there. I saw a recent TV interview with a policeman who was involved in dealing with the bikies. He stated that one of the main problems in dealing with the bikies is that they can be patient. If one of their own is killed then they don't react for 12 to 18 months. That is very difficult to police and they will then be well planned when they do act.

The vagaries of the Parent ego state are a delight are they not?