

EXCLUSIVE: Nashville mass school shooter Audrey Hale was rejected by her Christian parents who 'couldn't accept' she was gay and trans – as cops reveal she also planned to shoot relatives

## **Description**

Twisted school shooter Audrey Hale was at odds with her devout Christian parents because they 'couldn't accept' she was gay and transgender, DailyMail.com can exclusively reveal.

Church coordinator Norma, 61, and her husband Ronald, 64, refused to let Hale – who had recently adopted the name Aiden and used he/him pronouns – dress as a man in their home.

The 28-year-old loner would instead wait until she left their \$700,000 Nashville property to change outfits, according to a well-placed source.

'You only see what you want to see. Their religion does not allow them to accept homosexuality,' the source told DailyMail.com.



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Posing sweetly with a bow in her hair, Audrey Hale was the picture of innocence in her eight-year-old yearbook photo from The Covenant School, the school she attacked yesterday



Ronald and Norma Hale told police they did not know Audrey still had any weapons

'She was Audrey at home but when she left the house she changed clothes. They did know about it, they just didn't accept it.'

Neighbors in the tree-lined suburban street where the family lived for three decades said they were clueless about Hale's apparent transition and remembered her as a 'skater, tomboy type.'

'She introduced herself about a year and a half ago as Audrey,' said one.

'I treated her like a female and she didn't correct me. She seemed artistic, quiet, and well-mannered.'

Police now say Hale planned to carry out more attacks – including against her own family.

'We've talked to the father and the mother. We searched the home and found two more weapons there and some more maps, pertaining to thinking about some other incidents.

'We strongly believe there were going to be some other targets, including family members, and one of

the malls here in Nashville and it just did not happen,' Chief John Drake told CBS this morning.

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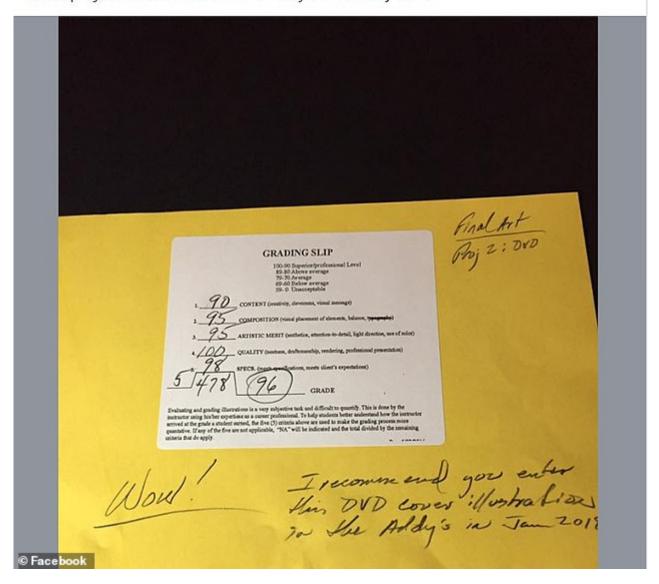
Audrey was transitioning to become Aiden. Shown above with mother Norma and brother Scott



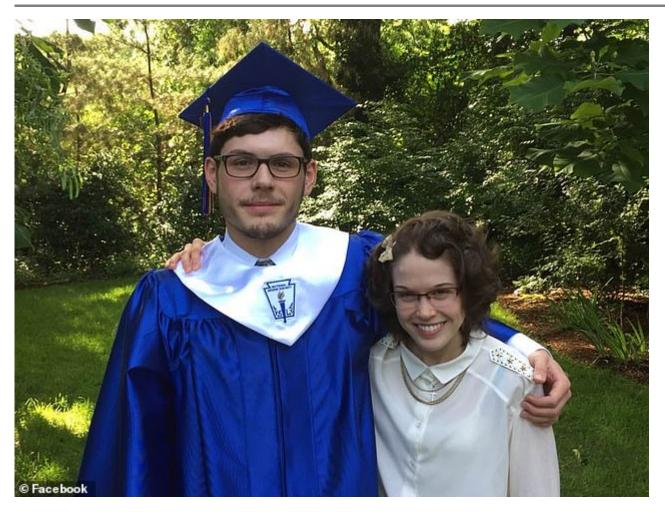
Norma posted proudly on Facebook about Audrey's love of God. This post from 2019 describes loaning her a 'devotional book'



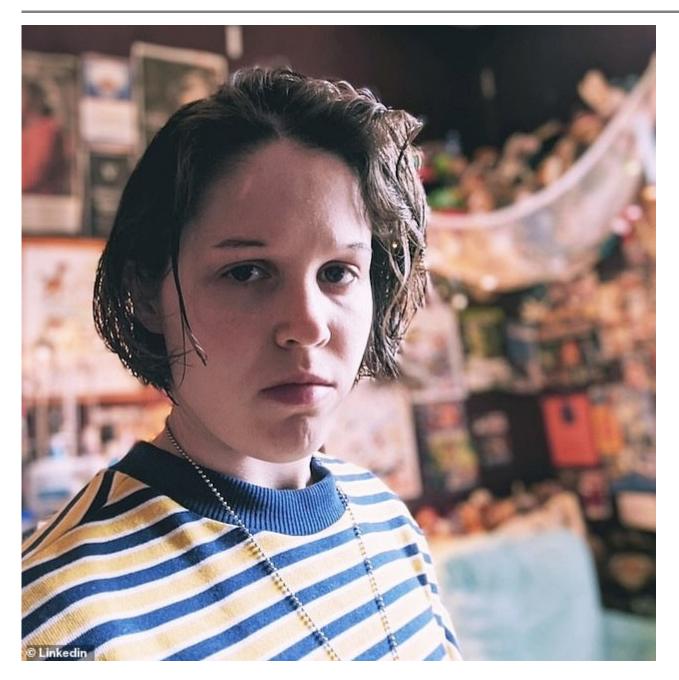
So proud of Audrey! Her art professor at Nossi College of Art recommended her latest project be submitted in the Addy's in January 2018!



By 2017, Audrey was enrolled at Nossi Art College and was flourishing



Hale with her older brother Scott, who has not commented on the shooting. Neighbors say Hale was 'sweet' and 'quiet'



Audrey in a more recent LinkedIn photo. The shooter left a manifesto describing her plans

Twenty years later, after being rejected by her Christian family when she came out to them as gay, Hale had turned into a killer.

Yesterday, she murdered three innocent children and three staff members at the very school where her photo was taken as a child.

It's unclear why she targeted that facility.

Police also say she planned to attack a mall and family members, but she was shot dead at Covenant before she could murder any more.

There is still little known about how Hale transformed from a the 'sweet' girl described by neighbors, to

a murderous shooter with two rifles and a handgun, who penned a killing manifesto and even drew a cartoon about how she planned to attack.

Police say she was being treated for an 'emotional disorder', and that her parents believed she no longer had any weapons.

They knew that at one time she had one firearm, but thought she had sold it.

In reality, Audrey was stockpiling her arsenal. She visited five different stores, buying a total of seven weapons.



Pictured: Community members from the Brookdale Senior Living home lay flowers at the front entrance to Covenant Presbyterian Church in Nashville

By BEN ASHFORD IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

## Category

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