

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:24,600

What caused the two-hour bombardment of apples from the sky which terrified the occupants

2

00:00:24,600 --> 00:00:26,600

of this house?

3

00:00:27,600 --> 00:00:32,600

Fifty miles from the coast, how did sea fish come to fall on this man's garden?

4

00:00:35,600 --> 00:00:41,600

Can science identify the mystery goo which appeared from out of the blue on a Washington farm?

5

00:00:43,600 --> 00:00:50,600

Mysteries from the files of Arthur C. Clarke, author of 2001 and inventor of the communications satellite.

6

00:00:50,600 --> 00:00:55,600

Now in retreat in Sri Lanka, he ponders the riddles of this and other worlds.

7

00:01:27,600 --> 00:01:32,600

Here in Sri Lanka, missiles regularly rain down on us.

8

00:01:32,600 --> 00:01:38,600

They bring injury and even death to anyone unfortunate enough to find themselves in the firing line.

9

00:01:38,600 --> 00:01:45,600

They seem to come from out of the blue, but a closer look up into the palm trees reveals the truth.

10

00:01:46,600 --> 00:02:00,600

Though I'm always on the lookout for killer coconuts, one of them almost brained a member of my film crew a few years ago,

11

00:02:00,600 --> 00:02:05,600

I'm far more interested in stranger aerial bombardments.

12

00:02:05,600 --> 00:02:10,600

For example, showers of fish, rains of frogs and the falls of weird jelly.

13

00:02:10,600 --> 00:02:12,600

Where do they come from?

14

00:02:12,600 --> 00:02:15,600

Well, it's a question I've tried to answer before.

15

00:02:16,600 --> 00:02:24,600

Just before she hit it, the fish fell down on the ground in front of us and then we looked up in the sky and suddenly

16

00:02:24,600 --> 00:02:29,600

hundreds of fishes falling in an area of about a hundred yards.

17

00:02:29,600 --> 00:02:32,600

I saw the fish, saw the fish fall out of the sky.

18

00:02:32,600 --> 00:02:41,600

I kept driving, I was very amazed and when I got here, at this location here, the yard was just absolutely covered with fish.

19

00:02:41,600 --> 00:02:46,600

Looking around, we found they were in the middle of a shower of hazelnuts coming from the sky.

20

00:02:46,600 --> 00:02:51,600

They were dropping on the cars, falling in the gutter and I said,

21

00:02:51,600 --> 00:02:55,600

think there would be as many as we saw, about 350 of them.

22

00:02:56,600 --> 00:02:59,600

It sounded like the ceiling all fell in on my house.

23

00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:09,600

We looked up the ceiling and we saw insulation and ice falling down on the floor, which flew all over us.

24

00:03:09,600 --> 00:03:13,600

We had no idea where it came from but it was sure and a hurry to get here.

25

00:03:13,600 --> 00:03:21,600

That first investigation reached no definite conclusions so I make no apology for returning to this intriguing subject.

26

00:03:23,600 --> 00:03:30,600

More than half a century after the most extraordinary experience of his life, Ron Newton is still haunted by the day

27

00:03:30,600 --> 00:03:34,600

thousands of fish fell on him and his girlfriend.

28

00:03:34,600 --> 00:03:45,600

I was about 15 year old and my girl, Ivy Crouch, she was 16 and as we were walking down the chase,

29

00:03:45,600 --> 00:03:50,600

we saw this cloud that size of a billiard table to us.

30

00:03:50,600 --> 00:03:53,600

It came lower and lower.

31

00:03:53,600 --> 00:03:58,600

We run under a big old tree and by the tree was a cottage.

32

00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:08,600

We hadn't been under the tree long and there was a rattly noise up in the branches and there was fish coming down.

33

00:04:08,600 --> 00:04:16,600

At the size of the sticklebacks, white bait, inch to three inches long.

34

00:04:16,600 --> 00:04:24,600

But they were coming down on the cottage roof and sliding down the roof and falling off onto the path.

35

00:04:24,600 --> 00:04:34,600

Well Ivy was crying about it because of the poor little fish were flipping about helpless and we found an old shoebox.

36

00:04:34,600 --> 00:04:40,600

But there were too many fish for the shoebox. The rescue attempt overwhelmed them.

37

00:04:40,600 --> 00:04:44,600

Suddenly a romantic walk had turned into something sinister.

38

00:04:44,600 --> 00:04:50,600

Amidst the flapping fish, Ron and Ivy struggled to make sense of what was happening to them.

39

00:04:50,600 --> 00:04:55,600

There were so many thousands of fish on the ground all round.

40

00:04:55,600 --> 00:05:03,600

What we did wouldn't notice so we gave it up and we were scared about it.

41

00:05:03,600 --> 00:05:06,600

We didn't know quite what was going to happen.

42

00:05:06,600 --> 00:05:21,600

In the heart of the south of England, Derek Gosling's home in Surrey stands in a county far from the sea.

43

00:05:21,600 --> 00:05:28,600

His garden is his pride and joy but one morning he was startled to discover a mystifying crop.

44

00:05:28,600 --> 00:05:35,600

It had been a very stormy night and I came out the following morning to see what damage had been done.

45

00:05:35,600 --> 00:05:42,600

I noticed fish on the pathway which was rather puzzling.

46

00:05:42,600 --> 00:05:48,600

I looked around and I saw more on the ground and two on the roof of the lean too.

47

00:05:48,600 --> 00:05:56,600

Various fish spread about the garden, two in the rose bushes just hanging in the rose bushes.

48

00:05:56,600 --> 00:06:03,600

More scattered on the lawn and under the bushes. I couldn't make out where they had come from.

49

00:06:06,600 --> 00:06:14,600

I looked round to the other gardens to see if they had anything because I thought someone was having a joke at the time.

50

00:06:14,600 --> 00:06:21,600

I couldn't see any more and it was rather puzzling so I called the wife and she came out and had a

look.

51

00:06:21,600 --> 00:06:24,600

She was as puzzled as I was.

52

00:06:26,600 --> 00:06:33,600

I must say that they were smelling at that time so they must have been out of the water for a few hours at least.

53

00:06:33,600 --> 00:06:41,600

There are no major rivers from the south west and I can only assume that they come from the sea.

54

00:06:43,600 --> 00:06:50,600

I've always suspected that tornadoes or waterspouts may be the main causes of such weird falls.

55

00:06:50,600 --> 00:06:58,600

For example, when a tornado passed through the Ramaputra district of India in March 1875

56

00:06:58,600 --> 00:07:04,600

a cow was found in the branches of a tree about 30 feet from the ground.

57

00:07:04,600 --> 00:07:14,600

After a storm in America in 1943 dozens of chickens were found sitting in a row entirely stripped of their feathers.

58

00:07:14,600 --> 00:07:18,600

But my favorite comes from 1896.

59

00:07:18,600 --> 00:07:22,600

At St. Louis a whirlwind lifted a carriage into the air.

60

00:07:22,600 --> 00:07:31,600

It was carried along for a hundred yards before floating back to earth so gently that the coachman's hat stayed firmly on his head.

61

00:07:31,600 --> 00:07:38,600

And in more recent times tornadoes and whirlwinds have continued to play extraordinary tricks.

62

00:07:41,600 --> 00:07:51,600

America's West, here where Texas joins Oklahoma and the wide open spaces seem to run on forever, they call it Tornado Alley.

63

00:07:53,600 --> 00:08:00,600

More tornadoes like this one in 1957 are born here than anywhere else on earth.

64

00:08:00,600 --> 00:08:06,600

And the tricks they play can be devastating, ripping whole communities from their roots.

65

00:08:06,600 --> 00:08:12,600

Sometimes they sweep everyone in their path high into the tempestuous sky.

66

00:08:12,600 --> 00:08:17,600

Today Kenneth Harrell is returning to his childhood home as a grown man,

67

00:08:17,600 --> 00:08:22,600

a stark contrast to the strange and dangerous journey he once made here as a baby.

68

00:08:22,600 --> 00:08:27,600

40 years on his older sister Jean Stray waits for him full of memories.

69

00:08:27,600 --> 00:08:30,600

Hello, Jean. How you doing?

70

00:08:30,600 --> 00:08:32,600

Long time.

71

00:08:32,600 --> 00:08:34,600

Long, long time.

72

00:08:35,600 --> 00:08:37,600

Honey, this is where it took place.

73

00:08:37,600 --> 00:08:38,600

So this is it?

74

00:08:38,600 --> 00:08:40,600

This is it.

75

00:08:40,600 --> 00:08:42,600

47 years ago.

76

00:08:43,600 --> 00:08:45,600

47 years ago.

77

00:08:47,600 --> 00:08:52,600

Kenneth was the baby of the family. He and his sisters had enjoyed a quiet day at home.

78

00:08:52,600 --> 00:09:01,600

It was in the afternoon about 6 or 6.30 and mother was cooking dinner on this great big wood burning stove.

79

00:09:01,600 --> 00:09:05,600

And all of a sudden there was a loud roar.

80

00:09:05,600 --> 00:09:08,600

About that time I was standing behind mother and I saw the grove of trees.

81

00:09:08,600 --> 00:09:13,600

And the tornado and the trees just being picked up like toothpicks and laid down.

82

00:09:13,600 --> 00:09:17,600

The tornado was about half a mile to the horizon.

83

00:09:17,600 --> 00:09:24,600

Mother then got us all, all four of his children into where the bed area was because we lived in one room.

84

00:09:24,600 --> 00:09:31,600

Put us on the mattress, me, my sister, my other sister, and then put Kenny on my tummy.

85

00:09:31,600 --> 00:09:34,600

Tucked the covers in underneath us.

86

00:09:34,600 --> 00:09:39,600

And by the time the tornado had hit the house, we were losing our oxygen.

87

00:09:39,600 --> 00:09:43,600

And our memory was standing over us and I said, mother quit moving the bed.

88

00:09:43,600 --> 00:09:45,600

She said, honey, I'm not moving the bed.

89

00:09:47,600 --> 00:09:52,600

At that moment the tornado struck. The whole family was lifted into the sky.

90

00:09:54,600 --> 00:09:57,600

And when I came to, I was underneath these tree branches.

91

00:09:58,600 --> 00:10:02,600

And the girls I saw over there by the fire coming pulled me out.

92

00:10:02,600 --> 00:10:05,600

And I looked and looked and called for Kenny.

93

00:10:05,600 --> 00:10:09,600

I'm sure that I was screaming his name, Kenny, where are you?

94

00:10:09,600 --> 00:10:13,600

And it was about a hundred yards away.

95

00:10:13,600 --> 00:10:15,600

It's where I found him, one of the beds did.

96

00:10:16,600 --> 00:10:19,600

He was like a little mud ball that I'd picked up from underneath the gate.

97

00:10:19,600 --> 00:10:22,600

He was unconscious and blood everywhere.

98

00:10:22,600 --> 00:10:25,600

And the mud was in his hair and his eyes and his face.

99

00:10:25,600 --> 00:10:27,600

You could hardly make him out as a baby.

100

00:10:28,600 --> 00:10:34,600

The tornado roared on, shattering the nearby communities of Glacier, Canadian and Higgins.

101

00:10:34,600 --> 00:10:39,600

Back on the ground, seven-year-old Jean was frantically searching for the rest of her family.

102

00:10:40,600 --> 00:10:43,600

The tornado must have carried us a hundred feet in the air.

103

00:10:43,600 --> 00:10:49,600

And just the mattress turned over and just let us come down together like a parachute.

104

00:10:50,600 --> 00:10:54,600

And not being able to find mother was the most terrifying thing of all.

105

00:10:54,600 --> 00:10:59,600

Early the next morning, they found mother at the horizon.

106

00:11:00,600 --> 00:11:10,600

She had fell on one of the tree stones that was uprooted and broke her back, all of her ribs, her arms, broken up body.

107

00:11:11,600 --> 00:11:17,600

Miraculously, Jean's mother did survive, but the village itself was virtually blown off the map.

108

00:11:18,600 --> 00:11:26,600

Glacier was completely destroyed and as was Higgins, there was nothing there. It was leveled.

109

00:11:26,600 --> 00:11:32,600

And the only thing that survived was, looked like a 9 by 12 cement jailhouse.

110

00:11:34,600 --> 00:11:41,600

Such tales don't in themselves solve the mystery of these peculiar falls, though they do provide valuable leads.

111

00:11:42,600 --> 00:11:51,600

Proof that whirlwinds are responsible demands eyewitness evidence that fish can be sucked out of ponds like this one and blown across the country.

112

00:11:51,600 --> 00:11:56,600

I found reliable reports impossible to obtain until now.

113

00:11:56,600 --> 00:12:05,600

One of the most convincing accounts of a lift off from a pond comes from a man in the north of

England who was out one day for a walk with his children.

114

00:12:06,600 --> 00:12:13,600

New houses today fill the space once occupied by a fish pond.

115

00:12:13,600 --> 00:12:21,600

Every time Ernie Singleton walks past, he relives the moment when he feared all that he loved would be snatched from him.

116

00:12:22,600 --> 00:12:28,600

I was walking along with my two children going home, just where these houses are, though.

117

00:12:28,600 --> 00:12:36,600

And I felt a wind blowing up. It was quite strong, very blowing up the road.

118

00:12:36,600 --> 00:12:40,600

And I thought, it's funny, it's time of the year, very wind blowing.

119

00:12:40,600 --> 00:12:43,600

And I walked a bit further, he got stronger and stronger.

120

00:12:45,600 --> 00:12:49,600

And it started going a little bit dark. I thought, the devil's happening here, is it me?

121

00:12:49,600 --> 00:12:54,600

And the kid says, what's the matter, dad? I said, no, nothing, it's all right.

122

00:12:54,600 --> 00:13:02,600

And then I reached this spot, and where the houses are, there was a big pond which had been a clay pit.

123

00:13:03,600 --> 00:13:11,600

And the wind was so strong that I was afraid of it blowing the children into the road, so I pushed them on the floor and lay on top of them.

124

00:13:12,600 --> 00:13:17,600

And I clung onto the fence with one hand and over the kids with the other.

125

00:13:17,600 --> 00:13:23,600

And as I looked to the pond, all the water was going out of the pond and going upwards.

126

00:13:23,600 --> 00:13:27,600

It was spiraling up into the air, and all going black and dark.

127

00:13:29,600 --> 00:13:35,600

I was terrified. I could feel it tugging at my clothes, because I only had summer clothes on which were loose.

128

00:13:35,600 --> 00:13:41,600

There must have been thousands and thousands of gallons went up out of the pit because it was almost empty.

129

00:13:42,600 --> 00:13:48,600

And as I got up, little bits of things lying on the road here, and it was so, the fish is out of the pit.

130

00:13:49,600 --> 00:13:55,600

It wasn't till later that day that the community discovered where their pond and its contents had made land for.

131

00:13:55,600 --> 00:14:00,600

A mile away, the cricket ground was awash with water, weeds, fish and frogs.

132

00:14:00,600 --> 00:14:07,600

Ernie Singleton had witnessed the awesome power of a localised whirlwind. He had seen the lift off of an entire pond.

133

00:14:07,600 --> 00:14:12,600

Oh, it was the talk of the town. It was buzzing for about nine days, or nine days wonder.

134

00:14:12,600 --> 00:14:17,600

The fish were no good. They were all dead, of course. But they were used as manure.

135

00:14:20,600 --> 00:14:25,600

Where falls of fish are concerned, I'm quite happy with the whirlwind explanation.

136

00:14:25,600 --> 00:14:31,600

But can the same apply to the showers of frogs reported from all over the world?

137

00:14:31,600 --> 00:14:35,600

I think that for these, there may be a different answer.

138

00:14:37,600 --> 00:14:40,600

No one knows more about frogs than Dr. Richard Griffiths.

139

00:14:40,600 --> 00:14:46,600

From his university at Canterbury in Kent, Griffiths travels the world in search of slimy specimens.

140

00:14:46,600 --> 00:14:53,600

He's studied their habits and their habitats, and he's investigated reports of weird showers of frogs and toads.

141

00:14:53,600 --> 00:14:58,600

He believes eyewitnesses are seeing a rarely observed natural phenomenon.

142

00:14:58,600 --> 00:15:02,600

It appears paranormal, but it can be explained by science.

143

00:15:03,600 --> 00:15:10,600

A number of species, particularly the common toad which we have in this country, are what we call explosive breeders.

144

00:15:10,600 --> 00:15:14,600

And they breed very quickly in a very short period of time on mass.

145

00:15:14,600 --> 00:15:21,600

Very often warm damp weather acts like a switch, and you get a mass, what we call a mass metamorphosis,

146

00:15:21,600 --> 00:15:25,600

a very young individual leaving the pond. And they emerge from their hiding places,

147

00:15:25,600 --> 00:15:31,600

and you can see again very large numbers of tiny little frogs or toads wandering around on land.

148

00:15:31,600 --> 00:15:35,600

So literally, a lot of people might live in an area where there are many frogs and toads,

149

00:15:35,600 --> 00:15:41,600

and not see any one day, but if the weather conditions change, the following day there may be very large numbers around.

150

00:15:42,600 --> 00:15:46,600

Frogs live in communities of huge numbers, up to 15,000.

151

00:15:46,600 --> 00:15:53,600

When rain triggers them, they emerge from their hiding places, and often seem to have fallen with the raindrops.

152

00:15:53,600 --> 00:15:58,600

But Dr. Griffiths also has another explanation for the falling frog phenomenon.

153

00:15:58,600 --> 00:16:02,600

I had an interesting experience when I was on a field trip in Austria.

154

00:16:02,600 --> 00:16:06,600

We were doing some work around a lake, and we decided to break for lunch.

155

00:16:06,600 --> 00:16:12,600

And I was sitting under a tree eating my sandwiches when literally a frog fell into my lap.

156

00:16:12,600 --> 00:16:17,600

When I picked it up, I looked at it and this turned out to be a European tree frog.

157

00:16:17,600 --> 00:16:20,600

And in this particular area, this species was actually very, very abundant.

158

00:16:20,600 --> 00:16:24,600

So if you're in that sort of situation, very often, if you've got them jumping around above you,

159

00:16:24,600 --> 00:16:26,600

they may appear to fall out of the sky.

160

00:16:27,600 --> 00:16:34,600

I think that many of the stories of frogs falling from the sky can probably be explained by conventional reasons.

161

00:16:34,600 --> 00:16:41,600

In other words, they can probably be explained simply by the natural breeding migrations of adults moving into ponds en masse

162

00:16:41,600 --> 00:16:49,600

and possibly young individuals leaving ponds en masse, rather than any other curious phenomena that we don't understand.

163

00:16:50,600 --> 00:16:58,600

Just when I'm satisfied that I have some answers, one of the immutable laws of my mysterious universe comes into play.

164

00:16:58,600 --> 00:17:05,600

Solve one mystery, and there's always another to remind us that we don't have all the answers and probably never will.

165

00:17:07,600 --> 00:17:16,600

Seattle, Washington. In this city, at the laboratories where a farmer from out of town hopes to find the answer to a problem which has mystified her.

166

00:17:16,600 --> 00:17:23,600

Dottie Hearn has been troubled ever since she found tiny globules of goo covering her farm buildings and land.

167

00:17:23,600 --> 00:17:29,600

She hopes that a small sample she froze will yield its secrets to the scientists.

168

00:17:30,600 --> 00:17:35,600

Are there any birds that you have in the area that may have flown over and dropped some feces?

169

00:17:35,600 --> 00:17:38,600

I have birds, but I haven't seen any feces.

170

00:17:38,600 --> 00:17:42,600

And what exactly are we looking at, the liquid or what is it?

171

00:17:42,600 --> 00:17:46,600

There's little tiny blobs in there, they're crystal clear.

172

00:17:46,600 --> 00:17:50,600

Is this one that we're looking at here with the little white one?

173

00:17:50,600 --> 00:17:59,600

To try to determine what this is, we can look for E. coli, which is a bacteria that's found in the intestinal tract of warm animals.

174

00:17:59,600 --> 00:18:02,600

We should have the results in about two days.

175

00:18:02,600 --> 00:18:03,600

Okay.

176

00:18:03,600 --> 00:18:04,600

Thank you very much.

177

00:18:04,600 --> 00:18:05,600

And thank you.

178

00:18:06,600 --> 00:18:12,600

Dottie Hearn knows every acre and every tree on her farm near the Oregon border.

179

00:18:12,600 --> 00:18:15,600

I keep a daily log.

180

00:18:15,600 --> 00:18:23,600

I've been doing this for years and it's about the life on the farm and anything that happens, about the weather and so on and so forth.

181

00:18:23,600 --> 00:18:30,600

Well, this is about August 7th and on this day, it began to rain about 3 p.m.

182

00:18:30,600 --> 00:18:33,600

and after the rain had stopped, I put the dogs out.

183

00:18:33,600 --> 00:18:37,600

I found a jettleton-like substance on top of the wood box.

184

00:18:37,600 --> 00:18:39,600

It was clear and in chunks.

185

00:18:39,600 --> 00:18:43,600

Sonny, my daughter, went out and scooped up some into a plastic bag.

186

00:18:43,600 --> 00:18:46,600

Also, there was blobs in other places too.

187

00:18:52,600 --> 00:18:53,600

It was everywhere.

188

00:18:53,600 --> 00:18:54,600

It was on the grass.

189

00:18:54,600 --> 00:18:56,600

It was on the floor of the porch.

190

00:18:56,600 --> 00:18:58,600

It was on the hand railings.

191

00:18:58,600 --> 00:19:04,600

The reason I keep mentioning the wood box is because it showed up the most there.

192

00:19:04,600 --> 00:19:06,600

It was soft and gelatinous.

193

00:19:06,600 --> 00:19:07,600

It was clear.

194

00:19:07,600 --> 00:19:09,600

There was no color to it or odor.

195

00:19:09,600 --> 00:19:14,600

The blobs cropped up again on Dottie Hearn's farm several days later.

196

00:19:14,600 --> 00:19:19,600

By now, even more puzzled, she decided to approach the government for help.

197

00:19:19,600 --> 00:19:22,600

One possible cause was suggested by the Pentagon.

198

00:19:22,600 --> 00:19:29,600

The military and Air Force and Navy have said that the practice bombing out at sea

199

00:19:29,600 --> 00:19:31,600

10 to 25 miles out.

200

00:19:31,600 --> 00:19:35,600

They said they blasted a school of jellyfish sky high.

201

00:19:35,600 --> 00:19:38,600

We are about 50 miles from the ocean.

202

00:19:38,600 --> 00:19:41,600

The jellyfish thing sounds a little far-fetched.

203

00:19:41,600 --> 00:19:46,600

At the laboratories, the scientists have spent two days testing the goo.

204

00:19:46,600 --> 00:19:48,600

Dottie Hearn is about to get some answers.

205

00:19:48,600 --> 00:19:49,600

Hi, chair.

206

00:19:49,600 --> 00:19:50,600

Hello, Dottie.

207

00:19:50,600 --> 00:19:51,600

What did you find now?

208

00:19:51,600 --> 00:19:54,600

Well, this is our control plate.

209

00:19:54,600 --> 00:20:02,600

As you can see, the coli colonies are the shiny green colonies on this plate.

210

00:20:02,600 --> 00:20:05,600

This is our control plate, like I said.

211

00:20:05,600 --> 00:20:07,600

This is your sample.

212

00:20:07,600 --> 00:20:12,600

As you can see, there aren't any bacteria on this plate at all.

213

00:20:12,600 --> 00:20:21,600

So at this point, we've determined that it is not associated with birds or bird droppings.

214

00:20:21,600 --> 00:20:26,600

That's the conclusion that we've come to with this test.

215

00:20:26,600 --> 00:20:30,600

The goo has also been tested under the microscope.

216

00:20:30,600 --> 00:20:33,600

There is debris in there.

217

00:20:33,600 --> 00:20:35,600

It's unrecognizable.

218

00:20:35,600 --> 00:20:39,600

We can't distinguish exactly what it was originally.

219

00:20:39,600 --> 00:20:42,600

I think the freezing may be at fault.

220

00:20:42,600 --> 00:20:47,600

It seems that it's caused decomposition.

221

00:20:47,600 --> 00:20:52,600

As far as identifying it goes, it is not possible with what we have received.

222

00:20:52,600 --> 00:20:54,600

We would need a better sample.

223

00:20:54,600 --> 00:20:59,600

For now, Dottie's sample goes into cold storage, but not the problem itself.

224

00:20:59,600 --> 00:21:04,600

She's determined that one day she will find out just where the mysterious goo came from.

225

00:21:04,600 --> 00:21:08,600

I've never seen anything like it before in my life.

226

00:21:08,600 --> 00:21:13,600

If somebody else would have told me about this, I don't think I would have believed them.

227

00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:17,600

I'm as baffled as I could be about it.

228

00:21:17,600 --> 00:21:20,600

I guess the mystery still goes on.

229

00:21:30,600 --> 00:21:36,600

Akrington in the north of England enjoys the reputation of being a down-to-earth industrial Lancashire town.

230

00:21:36,600 --> 00:21:42,600

But one night the place played host to the strangest visitation from the heavens.

231

00:21:42,600 --> 00:21:45,600

It was a very quiet still night.

232

00:21:45,600 --> 00:21:51,600

I was awakened by the strange noise and then I heard it on top of the roof,

233

00:21:51,600 --> 00:21:54,600

thudding, frightening thudding noise.

234

00:21:54,600 --> 00:21:59,600

So I put my dressing gown on and came downstairs, opened the front door,

235

00:21:59,600 --> 00:22:02,600

and there was nothing there.

236

00:22:02,600 --> 00:22:07,600

I went to the back door. All these apples was coming down.

237

00:22:07,600 --> 00:22:11,600

As far as I could see, they were just coming straight from the sky.

238

00:22:11,600 --> 00:22:14,600

That's all I heard.

239

00:22:14,600 --> 00:22:19,600

I was down at the velocity, but nothing coming from a great height.

240

00:22:19,600 --> 00:22:21,600

They gathered the momentum they were coming out.

241

00:22:21,600 --> 00:22:25,600

There was bouncing off the shed all over the place.

242

00:22:25,600 --> 00:22:29,600

And I was just terrified just watching this for ages.

243

00:22:29,600 --> 00:22:31,600

And it was that fright, I shut the window shut,

244

00:22:31,600 --> 00:22:35,600

but I had feelings and visions of them coming through the pain at me.

245

00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:37,600

It carried on falling, falling, falling.

246

00:22:37,600 --> 00:22:40,600

It just went down for two hours.

247

00:22:40,600 --> 00:22:46,600

The Haythorn whites were so terrified they spent the rest of the night awake and fearful.

248

00:22:46,600 --> 00:22:55,600

When dawn broke they realised just what the fusillade of fruit had brought into their lives.

249

00:22:55,600 --> 00:22:59,600

When we came out in the morning, I've never seen nothing like it.

250

00:22:59,600 --> 00:23:02,600

There were so many apples in the garden.

251

00:23:02,600 --> 00:23:06,600

I just couldn't understand where they'd come from.

252

00:23:06,600 --> 00:23:11,600

And there was just a few in the next doors, but it bounced.

253

00:23:11,600 --> 00:23:15,600

They were just littered, peppered all over.

254

00:23:15,600 --> 00:23:18,600

Really ankle deep. I had to wade through them myself to get through them.

255

00:23:18,600 --> 00:23:22,600

They were embedded in the garden, eight to ten inches deep.

256

00:23:22,600 --> 00:23:26,600

But you realise I've lanced through the garden since.

257

00:23:26,600 --> 00:23:30,600

There must be hundreds under there somewhere, probably rotted away by now.

258

00:23:30,600 --> 00:23:36,600

Across the way their neighbour Joan Cork had also been woken up by the avalanche of apples.

259

00:23:36,600 --> 00:23:42,600

I heard this noise. It was a thud, thud, thud.

260

00:23:42,600 --> 00:23:45,600

And I thought, somebody digging.

261

00:23:45,600 --> 00:23:50,600

And so I got out of bed and I came to this window.

262

00:23:50,600 --> 00:23:56,600

And I pinpointed it as coming from Adrian's over there.

263

00:23:56,600 --> 00:23:59,600

And I thought, what on earth is she doing now?

264

00:23:59,600 --> 00:24:05,600

Is she having a party at this time of the night because it was about half past one?

265

00:24:07,600 --> 00:24:11,600

After listening to the barrage for half an hour, Joan went back to bed.

266

00:24:11,600 --> 00:24:15,600

The next morning she rushed to investigate.

267

00:24:16,600 --> 00:24:22,600

At the shock of my life, apples seemed to be thousands of them.

268

00:24:22,600 --> 00:24:24,600

They were only in her garden.

269

00:24:24,600 --> 00:24:26,600

Only in her garden.

270

00:24:26,600 --> 00:24:30,600

And there were brambles, there were coxies.

271

00:24:30,600 --> 00:24:33,600

Some were whole, some were embedded.

272

00:24:33,600 --> 00:24:37,600

I've never, never come across anything like that before.

273

00:24:37,600 --> 00:24:41,600

And it was a bit frightening, you know.

274

00:24:41,600 --> 00:24:47,600

The Hatheln whites have spent long hours racking their brains about that strange and terrifying night.

275

00:24:47,600 --> 00:24:49,600

It was long past the apple harvest.

276

00:24:49,600 --> 00:24:52,600

There was no apple tree for miles around.

277

00:24:52,600 --> 00:24:55,600

They're still mystified by the baffling bombardment.

278

00:24:55,600 --> 00:25:01,600

It could have been a wind what brought them, but it wasn't windy that night or it wasn't raining.

279

00:25:01,600 --> 00:25:08,600

And there was no aircraft recorded at that particular time in the morning.

280

00:25:08,600 --> 00:25:12,600

So we just, just couldn't understand where they'd come from.

281

00:25:12,600 --> 00:25:17,600

I've heard of a lot of things, but seeing is actually believing.

282

00:25:17,600 --> 00:25:20,600

And I'll never forget it.

283

00:25:20,600 --> 00:25:23,600

It must be an explanation, a logical explanation.

284

00:25:23,600 --> 00:25:26,600

But who knows?

