

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:26,520

Has this weeping stone brought misery and misfortune to the owners of this Scottish castle?

2

00:00:26,520 --> 00:00:37,720

And this American baseball team blamed 50 years of defeats on the malevolent influence of the goat they banned from the ballpark.

3

00:00:37,720 --> 00:00:47,720

When archaeologists descended to the sacred tomb of Tutankhamun, did they unleash the curse of the pharaohs?

4

00:00:47,720 --> 00:00:55,240

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

5

00:00:55,240 --> 00:01:00,880

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

6

00:01:17,720 --> 00:01:34,120

Elephants are now protected here in Sri Lanka, but that wasn't always the case.

7

00:01:34,120 --> 00:01:38,360

In the 19th century, they were hunted almost to extinction.

8

00:01:38,360 --> 00:01:44,200

The greatest bag of all was claimed by colonial surveyor Major Thomas Rogers.

9

00:01:44,520 --> 00:01:50,040

He boasted that he shot more than 1300 before losing count.

10

00:01:50,040 --> 00:01:57,080

One day in 1845, an old Buddhist priest, sickened by the slaughter, pronounced this curse,

11

00:01:57,080 --> 00:02:00,440

White Sahib, thine hour is drawing near.

12

00:02:00,440 --> 00:02:08,680

Thou shalt be consumed by the lightning of heaven before thou canst raise thine accursed weapon again.

13

00:02:08,760 --> 00:02:14,760

Terrified, the Major gave up hunting, but he couldn't contain his bloodlust for long.

14

00:02:14,760 --> 00:02:20,360

On the way to shoot one more elephant, he was struck by lightning and killed instantly.

15

00:02:20,360 --> 00:02:25,320

The priest's curse was even said to have blighted the Major's tomb.

16

00:02:25,320 --> 00:02:31,400

Over the years, it was the only one in the cemetery repeatedly struck by lightning.

17

00:02:31,400 --> 00:02:36,280

But new curses placed on buildings and things rarely work.

18

00:02:36,280 --> 00:02:40,440

Do they have the power to harm and even to kill?

19

00:02:40,440 --> 00:02:44,840

Generations of owners of Fivv Castle in Scotland believe that they do.

20

00:02:44,840 --> 00:02:49,800

In the 13th century, they lived in fear of a prophet of doom called Thomas the Rimer.

21

00:02:49,800 --> 00:02:53,880

He travelled the country casting curses on houses and families.

22

00:02:53,880 --> 00:03:00,200

For a year before his arrival, Fivy's gates were left open in a misplaced gesture of welcome.

23

00:03:00,200 --> 00:03:06,200

He arrived on the lawns outside the castle and as soon as he got there, a tremendous storm blew up.

24

00:03:06,520 --> 00:03:10,840

The trees began to bend, the boughs creak, twigs snapped,

25

00:03:10,840 --> 00:03:16,520

but Thomas was in the very centre of the storm and not one breath of wind caught his hair

26

00:03:16,520 --> 00:03:18,360

or a whisker of his beard was moved.

27

00:03:19,240 --> 00:03:24,760

And then as the wind was howling around the turrets of Fivy, the great gate went slam in his face.

28

00:03:25,640 --> 00:03:30,440

And so angry was he by this ill reception that he placed the curse on the house.

29

00:03:31,400 --> 00:03:37,400

To lift his curse, Thomas decreed that three stones must be collected together and thrown off the property.

30

00:03:37,400 --> 00:03:41,400

One lay under water and the other two in the castle itself.

31

00:03:41,400 --> 00:03:48,200

The stones were said to weep, but only one has ever been found and is carefully preserved in a bowl.

32

00:03:48,200 --> 00:03:53,640

The curse is in a sense unbreakable and Thomas himself said of the three stones,

33

00:03:53,640 --> 00:03:57,640

one is in the oldest tower unidentified, one is in my lady's bow,

34

00:03:58,280 --> 00:04:01,640

which used to be in the 18th century and the 17th century, the room above here.

35

00:04:01,640 --> 00:04:05,400

And then for the last hundred years or more, the stone has actually been resided in this room,

36

00:04:05,400 --> 00:04:07,560

the charter room, and here it is next to me.

37

00:04:08,200 --> 00:04:14,040

And the third stone is in the bottom of the river Eithem, which is a boulder-strewn riverbed.

38

00:04:14,040 --> 00:04:17,560

And as Thomas says, it is impossible to get, we can't find it.

39

00:04:17,560 --> 00:04:20,040

So they can never be brought together and thrown off the property.

40

00:04:21,640 --> 00:04:27,560

And the interpretation is difficult and the popular belief is that the elder son

41

00:04:27,560 --> 00:04:29,080

of the family will not inherit.

42

00:04:31,160 --> 00:04:36,760

The Forbes Leith family who owned this house, it's curious that within their ownership of the house,

43

00:04:36,760 --> 00:04:40,120

every single generation has been affected by this.

44

00:04:40,760 --> 00:04:47,400

Lord Leith, he had two children, a son and a daughter, and the son died of enteric fever

45

00:04:47,400 --> 00:04:50,840

in the Boer War in 1900, so that the daughter inherited.

46

00:04:50,840 --> 00:04:58,200

And she had two sons and the eldest one, Arthur Forbes Leith, was claimed in 1914 in the First War,

47

00:04:58,200 --> 00:05:00,600

so that the second son inherited.

48

00:05:01,240 --> 00:05:08,280

And that second son, Sir Ian, had two sons of which the eldest died in Malayan campaign in 1949.

49

00:05:10,920 --> 00:05:15,480

The owner of FIVE is the one who is supposed to be under this curse,

50

00:05:15,480 --> 00:05:18,680

but the house is no longer owned by a single life.

51

00:05:18,680 --> 00:05:21,080

It's in fact owned by a National Trust of Scotland.

52

00:05:21,720 --> 00:05:25,560

And therefore there is no elder son or any such thing.

53

00:05:25,560 --> 00:05:29,080

So I wonder whether this has finally in fact turned the tables on Tamas himself.

54

00:05:37,240 --> 00:05:42,200

At Wrigley Field Baseball Ground, the home team, the Chicago Cubs, has no such luck.

55

00:05:42,760 --> 00:05:44,440

In fact, they've no luck at all.

56

00:05:45,160 --> 00:05:49,640

For 50 years, they've suffered the effects of a curse imposed by a disgruntled fan.

57

00:05:59,160 --> 00:06:03,560

The Cubs have consistently failed to get to the final of the World Series.

58

00:06:03,560 --> 00:06:06,440

In Major League Baseball, there's no worse fate.

59

00:06:07,160 --> 00:06:13,400

The curse began in 1945 during the World Series between the Cubs and the Detroit Tigers.

60

00:06:13,480 --> 00:06:18,680

William Billy Goatsianus, a tavern owner in Chicago, had a mascot goat.

61

00:06:18,680 --> 00:06:22,680

And he bought tickets for both himself and the goat to attend the World Series.

62

00:06:22,680 --> 00:06:27,160

Once he got to the ballpark, the ushers would not let in this so-called smelly goat

63

00:06:27,160 --> 00:06:30,200

and offend the sensibilities of the well-heeled fans.

64

00:06:30,200 --> 00:06:39,400

So William Billy Goatsianus put a curse on the Cubs that they would not win until they let his goat

in.

65

00:06:39,400 --> 00:06:43,560

The Cubs then ended up losing the World Series to the Detroit Tigers

66

00:06:43,560 --> 00:06:45,960

and have not been back to the World Series ever since.

67

00:06:47,320 --> 00:06:50,600

Every time the Cubs get close, something goes wrong.

68

00:06:50,600 --> 00:06:53,720

A pitcher gives up a home run for the wrong batter.

69

00:06:53,720 --> 00:06:55,560

A fielder makes an error.

70

00:06:55,560 --> 00:06:58,920

Once the entire pitching staff got injured at the same time.

71

00:06:59,640 --> 00:07:02,440

Well, every time a player come on the field, he want to give his best.

72

00:07:02,440 --> 00:07:03,640

He want to give 100 percent.

73

00:07:03,640 --> 00:07:05,560

But I think deep down within their mind,

74

00:07:06,440 --> 00:07:11,320

they know that not winning a World Series, not playing good baseball here at times,

75

00:07:12,120 --> 00:07:13,480

it's because of the goat.

76

00:07:16,200 --> 00:07:19,880

Well, the odds on a team like the Cubs somehow avoiding a World Series

77

00:07:19,880 --> 00:07:24,280

and for the better part of 50 years are just astronomical.

78

00:07:24,280 --> 00:07:26,600

No Las Vegas odds maker would post them.

79

00:07:26,600 --> 00:07:30,520

I did talk to one of the top odds makers in Las Vegas two years ago,

80

00:07:30,520 --> 00:07:32,840

and he said the odds are a million to one.

81

00:07:33,400 --> 00:07:34,440

One million to one.

82

00:07:34,440 --> 00:07:35,480

Unbelievable.

83

00:07:35,480 --> 00:07:37,880

Something should have happened during that period of time

84

00:07:38,440 --> 00:07:42,520

to have allowed the Cubs to get a lucky break and get into a World Series.

85

00:07:44,040 --> 00:07:47,960

Whenever things get desperate, the Cubs invite a goat to Wrigley Field.

86

00:07:48,600 --> 00:07:50,840

The first year they tried it, they won the division.

87

00:07:51,560 --> 00:07:56,280

When they lost 13 home games in a row, the goat was persuaded back.

88

00:07:56,280 --> 00:07:58,920

The team won that day, but it didn't last.

89

00:08:00,520 --> 00:08:03,880

If we're about 10 games from winning the division,

90

00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:08,120

we're going to bring the goat out because we don't like to think about

91

00:08:08,120 --> 00:08:11,080

if the goat's not here, we won't win the World Series.

92

00:08:13,720 --> 00:08:17,080

So if we're that close, we're going to make sure because everybody knows

93

00:08:17,080 --> 00:08:21,080

that we can't win a World Series unless we let the goat in the ballpark.

94

00:08:21,080 --> 00:08:24,760

We're going to have that goat right here eating the grass out here in Wrigley Field.

95

00:08:26,040 --> 00:08:29,720

The Cubs' loyal fans like to drown their sorrows whenever they lose a game.

96

00:08:30,280 --> 00:08:34,440

It was from this bar that William Billy Goatsianis set out for Wrigley Field

97

00:08:34,440 --> 00:08:40,680

on that fateful day in 1945. The rejected goat's baleful eye keeps a watch on proceedings.

98

00:08:41,320 --> 00:08:46,120

I feel like Chicago Cubs couldn't buy worse luck. Ever since the curse in 1945,

99

00:08:46,120 --> 00:08:50,280

they haven't had a decent team. In fact, I could pitch better than some of the people

100

00:08:50,280 --> 00:08:53,560

they put on the team right now. They're never going to lose the curse because

101

00:08:53,560 --> 00:08:57,320

the goat is dead. There's only one goat and they blew it.

102

00:08:58,280 --> 00:09:04,040

I'll support them forever, but it's kind of like cheering for a horse with a bad leg right now.

103

00:09:11,160 --> 00:09:15,560

There is no more glorious landscape in Northern England than these rolling acres.

104

00:09:18,360 --> 00:09:23,560

Yet the Bagot family of Leavens Hall live for generations under a shadow cast by an

105

00:09:23,560 --> 00:09:26,440

unthinking act of cruelty against a needy visitor.

106

00:09:30,040 --> 00:09:36,200

A lady who was destitute came to the front door of the house and she begged for food

107

00:09:37,560 --> 00:09:41,960

and she was told that people at the first station should go around to the back door

108

00:09:41,960 --> 00:09:47,640

where she would be fed. She went and did as instructed and she went down the back drive

109

00:09:47,640 --> 00:09:54,440

around towards the back door and expired on the back drive of hunger.

110

00:09:55,560 --> 00:10:03,320

And she said in her dying breath presumably that the house would never have a male heir

111

00:10:04,440 --> 00:10:10,920

not until a white form is born in the park and we have black fallow deer, so that's unusual.

112

00:10:12,200 --> 00:10:15,960

And also that the river Kent at the bottom of the garden would freeze.

113

00:10:16,920 --> 00:10:20,120

And neither of those things happened for 200 years.

114

00:10:21,800 --> 00:10:27,400

The house and lands passed down the female line. The ladies of Leavens were not empowered to

115

00:10:27,400 --> 00:10:33,960

improve the estate so it languished in limbo. Amazing coincidences finally broke the curse.

116

00:10:33,960 --> 00:10:39,320

The family have always kept scrapbooks from a long way back. The cuttings are here,

117

00:10:40,280 --> 00:10:47,320

which go on about the great frost which happened in 1895 and there are photographs of the

118

00:10:48,040 --> 00:10:53,720

gardens under snow. Records confirm this was the coldest year for half a century.

119

00:10:53,720 --> 00:10:58,920

Locals were able to skate on Lake Windermere. For the baggots the great freeze brought a miracle.

120

00:10:58,920 --> 00:11:05,320

The river Kent froze over. That same year the herd of black fallow deer in the park produced a

121

00:11:05,320 --> 00:11:11,000

single white form. The proof is glued firmly into the pages of the baggots scrapbook.

122

00:11:11,960 --> 00:11:18,040

They were so excited that in fact they shot it. It says the woods of Leavens hail the white

123

00:11:18,040 --> 00:11:25,720

form's birth herald and symbol of the gift of God. The gift of God duly appeared in the shape of the

124

00:11:25,720 --> 00:11:33,480

longed-for son and heir. Alan Desmond Baggot was born in that year and his picture eventually

125

00:11:33,480 --> 00:11:38,920

features in this scrapbook with his mother and a little dog and there it is.

126

00:11:43,080 --> 00:11:48,600

Ancient Egyptians used curses to protect their departed loved ones. As a matter of course,

127

00:11:48,600 --> 00:11:54,440

tombs were inscribed with dire warnings. The oldest curse of all is being cleaned.

128

00:11:54,440 --> 00:12:03,160

We can see the first curse inscription ever occurred. It occurred by someone who was a draftsman.

129

00:12:03,880 --> 00:12:11,240

Someone who did the technical work. And if we look here now we can see the whole inscription.

130

00:12:12,120 --> 00:12:19,560

The man is saying here listen all of you. I never did anything wrong in my life. Everything I do

131

00:12:19,560 --> 00:12:27,160

is perfect. That's why the gods likes me. If anyone will disturb my tomb what's going to happen to him.

132

00:12:27,720 --> 00:12:35,800

The crocodile, the hippopotamus and the lion will eat you. But in the other side his wife

133

00:12:35,800 --> 00:12:44,440

left the same inscription exactly but she added her more and she said the snake and the scorpion

134

00:12:45,320 --> 00:12:53,080

will eat you. The curse of Tutankhrauman is the most famous of all. It was said to have caused

135

00:12:53,080 --> 00:13:00,200

the whole spate of sudden and inexplicable deaths after the young king's tomb was discovered in the 1920s.

136

00:13:08,920 --> 00:13:14,040

At this theme park near Cairo tourists can do ancient Egypt in one day.

137

00:13:14,520 --> 00:13:22,760

The high spot is a visit to a replica of King Tutankhamun's tomb. It's laid out just like the

138

00:13:22,760 --> 00:13:32,120

real one on the day it was opened. And here we have the great sarcophagus of Tutankhamun, the splendor

139

00:13:32,120 --> 00:13:41,000

that was 3,500 years ago. One of the things that is a legend about the tomb of Tutankhamun

140

00:13:41,720 --> 00:13:48,920

is the fact that it was said that whoever went into the tomb or touched this tomb would die.

141

00:13:49,960 --> 00:13:55,480

And there was nothing that was found in the tomb that would say that but that was the legend.

142

00:13:57,480 --> 00:14:04,120

King Tutankhamun's tomb was found in 1922 by archaeologist Howard Carter. He told his sponsor

143

00:14:05,080 --> 00:14:12,200

in England, Lord Knaven, of his wonderful discovery. Knaven rushed to Egypt at once to examine the

144

00:14:12,200 --> 00:14:18,520

treasure. But warning voices sounded. After Weigel, who was covering the story for the daily mail,

145

00:14:18,520 --> 00:14:27,080

told Knaven he would be dead within six weeks. Just over six weeks later Knaven was indeed dead.

146

00:14:27,080 --> 00:14:33,240

He had long suffered from ill health but the cursed story took a firm hold. The family

147

00:14:33,800 --> 00:14:37,160

seat of Highclare is now lived in by his grandson.

148

00:14:39,880 --> 00:14:46,840

My grandfather died in Cairo as a result of cutting himself with the razor.

149

00:14:47,880 --> 00:14:54,440

The wound became infected. He got septicemia and alas died about three o'clock in the morning.

150

00:14:55,400 --> 00:15:00,520

All the lights in Cairo went out which was a strange phenomenon because when my

151

00:15:00,520 --> 00:15:07,720

father went next morning to see Lord Allenby, Lord Allenby apologized

152

00:15:08,920 --> 00:15:13,000

for all the lights going out in Cairo and he'd asked the chief royal engineer

153

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:17,240

to investigate it but they never got to the bottom of that problem. So that was one of the things.

154

00:15:17,880 --> 00:15:23,800

And then at the same time as my grandfather died in Cairo, lying for the time difference,

155

00:15:24,440 --> 00:15:31,720

his Jack Russell Terrier gave a short growl and died in the housekeeper's room in this house.

156

00:15:33,320 --> 00:15:37,080

Lord Knaven was not the only one said to have been killed by the curse.

157

00:15:37,800 --> 00:15:42,760

American railroad tycoon Jay Gould died of pneumonia shortly after visiting the tomb

158

00:15:43,320 --> 00:15:48,200

and only months after seeing the find this Egyptian prince was shot dead by his wife.

159

00:15:48,760 --> 00:15:54,200

But the most likely candidates were unscathed. Howard Carter was first into the tomb and lived to

160

00:15:54,200 --> 00:16:01,320

64. Of the other experts who even ate lunch in Pharaoh's tombs, only one died young of natural causes.

161

00:16:02,040 --> 00:16:08,360

So much for King Tut. In fact a recent study suggests that the people who visited the tomb

162

00:16:08,360 --> 00:16:14,600

actually had a greater life expectancy than normal. I hope that's true because I've been there myself.

163

00:16:15,480 --> 00:16:21,320

However, scientists have discovered that some tombs do indeed harbor a threat to life,

164

00:16:21,320 --> 00:16:24,120

which has nothing to do with paranormal powers.

165

00:16:31,320 --> 00:16:36,040

Dr. Nazri Iskander is curator of mummies at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

166

00:16:36,920 --> 00:16:42,120

Studying methods to preserve them has given him unique insights into the legendary curses.

167

00:16:45,080 --> 00:16:46,600

Yes.

168

00:16:57,960 --> 00:17:05,400

I myself, when I enter any tomb, I prefer to wait for some time outside the tomb

169

00:17:05,400 --> 00:17:14,120

after just opening the door slowly. And then I prefer to check with small instruments.

170

00:17:14,200 --> 00:17:23,080

The percentage of oxygen inside the tomb before I enter and work in it. And to monitor all the time

171

00:17:23,080 --> 00:17:29,640

during our working in it and to be all the time on the safe readings. This is very important.

172

00:17:31,480 --> 00:17:40,600

This mummy is 4,500 years old. And this is the oldest mummy in our Egyptian history now.

173

00:17:41,400 --> 00:17:47,480

And it's well preserved. You can see here the features of the face in a very good condition

174

00:17:48,200 --> 00:17:56,280

and also all of his organs. During the years of closing, there is always a reduction of the

175

00:17:56,280 --> 00:18:03,160

percentage of oxygen in it and is also responsible for stopping or reducing the activation of these

176

00:18:03,160 --> 00:18:09,000

microbes and bacteria and viruses. And when you just open it for the first time,

177

00:18:10,120 --> 00:18:17,000

then who is will enter first. They are going to breathe all of the air without oxygen, but

178

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:23,720

with the microbes and bacteria and viruses. These viruses will start to activate directly and

179

00:18:23,720 --> 00:18:27,800

immediately in the lungs of the first one entering the tombs.

180

00:18:40,360 --> 00:18:45,720

The picture postcard English village of Titchbourne kept a curse at bay for 600 years.

181

00:18:46,120 --> 00:18:51,400

But one slip up cost the lords of the manor their original mansion and also their family name.

182

00:18:52,120 --> 00:19:01,640

The curse has blighted the Titchbourne family because one of their ancestors was cruel to his dying wife.

183

00:19:02,280 --> 00:19:14,680

This is the field around which Mabella Titchbourne, my ancestor,

184

00:19:14,680 --> 00:19:23,400

crawled just before she died in about 1188 when her husband refused her dying request

185

00:19:23,960 --> 00:19:30,200

to give out bread to the poor of the parish. It was a long time ago, so they were quite poor in

186

00:19:30,200 --> 00:19:36,520

those days. And he said that he would give the produce off as much land as she could crawl

187

00:19:36,520 --> 00:19:42,440

around while a burning torch still glowed in her hand. So she got up off her deathbed and crawled

188

00:19:42,440 --> 00:19:53,080

around this, I think, 23 acres. And then I suppose the torch went out and she died. She said that she

189

00:19:53,080 --> 00:19:58,920

wished the bread off the land to be given to the people every year in her memory on Lady Day,

190

00:19:58,920 --> 00:20:06,360

the 25th of March, the day she died. And that this must go on if there was ever a break and the

191

00:20:06,360 --> 00:20:12,920

Titchbourne's stopped giving out this bread. She laid a curse on the family. She said that there would

192

00:20:12,920 --> 00:20:18,680

be a generation of seven sons followed by seven daughters, the house would fall down and the name

193

00:20:18,680 --> 00:20:28,360

would die out. In 1794 one reckless Titchbourne stopped the doll for a year. Since then his

194

00:20:28,360 --> 00:20:33,240

descendants have done their best to repair the damage by faithfully performing the ceremony.

195

00:20:36,600 --> 00:20:41,560

During the Second World War, anonymous friends kept the doll going by donating their flower

196

00:20:41,560 --> 00:20:47,000

coupons. The head of the family was so relieved that he wrote to the Times to thank them, but it

197

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:53,720

was all to no avail. I think you do have to believe in the curse, in the face of the evidence

198

00:20:53,800 --> 00:20:59,160

that's been presented even over all these years. The house did fall down, there were seven sons,

199

00:20:59,160 --> 00:21:02,200

there were seven daughters and there are now no ours.

200

00:21:06,280 --> 00:21:11,000

In New England the dark deeds ascribed to the witches of Salem are now history.

201

00:21:11,800 --> 00:21:17,320

But behind the town's cheerful facade an ancient evil may still weave a sinister spell.

202

00:21:19,240 --> 00:21:21,800

This man believes it nearly cost him his life.

203

00:21:24,120 --> 00:21:36,040

He allies the remains of George Corwin Esquire, born in England, AD 1610, died in Salem, AD 1665.

204

00:21:37,880 --> 00:21:42,760

Other descendants of the Corwin family are buried here including George Corwin Jr.

205

00:21:43,640 --> 00:21:49,080

who was the old sheriff of Essex County during witch times, the fellow that caused me all my

206

00:21:49,080 --> 00:21:55,800

problems here in Salem as well many years later. Rob Cahill was proud to be elected sheriff of Essex

207

00:21:55,800 --> 00:22:02,280

County. He had a team of dedicated lawmen until he was forced from office by a mysterious disease.

208

00:22:03,480 --> 00:22:09,960

While I was in the hospital I had a long time to think and I of course thought about where on

209

00:22:09,960 --> 00:22:16,040

earth could this terrible disease have come from, why me, even the doctors didn't know what it was.

210

00:22:16,040 --> 00:22:21,640

And so I did think of certainly a curse and a curse that could very well have gone back to

211

00:22:22,280 --> 00:22:30,040

to the original curse of Sheriff George Corwin. During the trials in 1692 many innocent people

212

00:22:30,040 --> 00:22:36,440

were done to death. One victim was Giles Corrie. For defending his wife from the witch hunt he

213

00:22:36,440 --> 00:22:42,520

himself was accused. Sheriff Corwin personally imposed the cruelest punishment. Corrie was

214

00:22:42,520 --> 00:22:48,840

pressed to death beneath enormous rocks. At one point his tongue came out of his mouth and the

215

00:22:48,840 --> 00:22:55,480

cruel sheriff of Essex County, George Corwin, took his cane and poked the tongue back in again.

216

00:22:55,480 --> 00:23:01,720

And these are from eyewitnesses who are at the scene. Finally as he was dying under the pressure

217

00:23:01,720 --> 00:23:09,160

of the rocks Giles Corrie spit out a curse and he cursed the sheriff himself and he said I curse

218

00:23:09,160 --> 00:23:16,040

Salem and I curse you Sheriff Corwin and he died. Sheriff Corwin got his just desserts.

219

00:23:16,760 --> 00:23:22,760

Shortly after the curse was laid he died an early death. The disease that killed him has plagued

220

00:23:22,760 --> 00:23:30,360

his successors ever since. The sheriff before me really died of a blood disease. The sheriff before

221

00:23:30,360 --> 00:23:35,240

him his father died of a heart attack in office. The sheriff before him died of a heart attack not

222

00:23:35,240 --> 00:23:41,800

in office but shortly thereafter. There's something to the curse and nobody knows that any better than

223

00:23:41,800 --> 00:23:48,040

I do. I survived which I think is terrific but I went through a lot of hell and still do. Oh and I

224

00:23:48,040 --> 00:23:52,840

was at death's door. One of the valves in my heart is replaced every 10 years with a pigs valve.

225

00:23:54,040 --> 00:24:00,600

The present sheriff he looks kind of a scant at me. We joke about the curse sometimes but it was very real to me.

226

00:24:00,680 --> 00:24:09,000

Rob's wife Sandy is glad that his time as sheriff of Essex County is now over.

227

00:24:10,680 --> 00:24:17,320

I strongly believe in the curse. I've seen it happen. I don't want it to happen again.

228

00:24:18,760 --> 00:24:25,640

If one of my family were to even think about running for the office of sheriff of Essex County

229

00:24:25,640 --> 00:24:32,440

I would do everything in my power to convince them not to run. Even a friend of mine especially

230

00:24:32,440 --> 00:24:38,680

family members. I believe that strongly in the curse. I'm usually not very superstitious but I've

231

00:24:38,680 --> 00:24:44,200

gone through a lot of hell and a lot of sickness and there's no explanation to this sickness.

232

00:24:45,800 --> 00:24:51,880

I would not want to see any member of my family or any good friend of mine go through what I went

233

00:24:51,880 --> 00:24:56,920

through and I would just say no don't run stay away from it.

234

00:24:59,400 --> 00:25:04,520

Much as I enjoy these spooky tales they don't really bear serious investigation.

235

00:25:05,480 --> 00:25:10,920

Proclaiming that there's a curse on a tomb to keep robbers away might seem a good idea

236

00:25:11,480 --> 00:25:17,800

though it certainly didn't work for most of the pharaohs. I suspect that coincidence and

237

00:25:17,800 --> 00:25:23,480

imaginative revision of the facts by later storytellers accounts for the other cases

238

00:25:24,520 --> 00:25:33,720

but if you ever do find yourself in a place with a curse on it don't hang around.

239

00:25:47,800 --> 00:25:53,720

So