

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:27,280

There was a blue flame coming from his stomach, about four inch slit in his stomach, and it

2

00:00:27,280 --> 00:00:31,800

was making a noise like a blow lump.

3

00:00:31,800 --> 00:00:37,800

Did this fireman witness a case of spontaneous human combustion?

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00:00:37,800 --> 00:00:42,480

For more than 40 years this American physician has been trying to discover the truth about

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00:00:42,480 --> 00:00:44,600

his mother's death.

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00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:49,560

How was Mary Risa reduced to ashes?

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00:00:49,560 --> 00:00:55,360

This log cabin remained unsinged while inside a retired fireman was consumed by flames.

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00:00:55,360 --> 00:01:00,360

Charles George Mott also a case of spontaneous human combustion.

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00:01:00,360 --> 00:01:06,800

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

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00:01:06,800 --> 00:01:08,240

satellite.

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00:01:08,240 --> 00:01:15,240

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

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00:01:39,240 --> 00:01:44,560

There's one mystery I'm asked about more than any other.

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00:01:44,560 --> 00:01:46,720

Spontaneous human combustion.

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00:01:46,720 --> 00:01:52,480

Fires of course are all too common, but occasionally regaids like this one near my home in Colombo

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00:01:52,480 --> 00:01:57,480

are called out to deal with cases which baffle even the experts.

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00:01:57,480 --> 00:02:02,320

Apparently for no reason people have suddenly burst into flames.

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00:02:02,400 --> 00:02:09,400

Their bodies are almost totally consumed yet amazingly their surroundings are barely singed.

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00:02:10,280 --> 00:02:16,400

When I first investigated spontaneous human combustion the explanations seemed even more

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00:02:16,400 --> 00:02:19,080

fantastic than the facts.

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00:02:19,080 --> 00:02:25,200

However new evidence has now emerged so I'm returning rather reluctantly to this most

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00:02:25,200 --> 00:02:30,200

gruesome of mysteries.

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00:02:32,320 --> 00:02:38,120

And it still is a mystery.

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00:02:38,120 --> 00:02:44,720

We talk about the case today just like we did 20 years ago when I first started and

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00:02:44,720 --> 00:02:49,240

even in 1951 when the incident occurred.

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00:02:49,240 --> 00:02:54,680

A great deal of speculation, a great deal of conjecture, everybody has an angle but nobody

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00:02:54,680 --> 00:02:57,000

has the answer.

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00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:04,120

The bizarre death of this man's mother has kept Florida talking for 40 years.

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00:03:04,120 --> 00:03:10,360

In the bedroom of her wooden bungalow on that fateful summer night in 1951 Mary Reeser

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00:03:10,360 --> 00:03:15,080

kissed her son Richard goodbye.

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00:03:15,080 --> 00:03:24,080

To the young physician everything seemed normal.

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00:03:24,080 --> 00:03:30,720

At eight o'clock I remember the landlady who called me and said that there had been

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00:03:30,720 --> 00:03:32,600

a terrible accident.

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00:03:32,600 --> 00:03:37,240

She didn't go into details and that I was to come right down.

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00:03:37,240 --> 00:03:44,240

And across the way when we came down there were painters painting the house across the

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00:03:44,240 --> 00:03:45,520

street.

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00:03:45,520 --> 00:03:51,480

Then they were totally unaware that anything had happened in the apartment.

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00:03:51,480 --> 00:03:57,720

I was prevented from going in the room by I believe the fire chief who said that I shouldn't

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00:03:57,720 --> 00:04:01,400

see what is inside so I didn't go in.

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00:04:01,400 --> 00:04:12,680

Of course I later saw what it was, what the picture was from photographs and descriptions.

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00:04:12,680 --> 00:04:17,560

My recollection is that I entered the apartment at the fire scene with a hand pump which is

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00:04:17,560 --> 00:04:22,440

a small tank of water that is maneuverable by hand.

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00:04:22,440 --> 00:04:25,200

Of course interior extinguishment.

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00:04:25,200 --> 00:04:29,800

And noticing a pile of debris in the center of the room I started to squirt it and was

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00:04:29,800 --> 00:04:34,800

stopped immediately by other people who had preceded me into the room.

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00:04:34,800 --> 00:04:42,080

It turns out that it was not just debris but part of a corpse of the lady who had been burned

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00:04:42,080 --> 00:04:43,800

to death unbeknownst to me.

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00:04:44,440 --> 00:04:47,880

It was just her foot and a shoe.

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00:04:47,880 --> 00:04:51,040

All that I recall seeing ever there.

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00:04:51,040 --> 00:04:58,840

It was an incredible, unexplainable thing to me then and is still now.

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00:04:58,840 --> 00:05:03,640

She was consumed almost completely.

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00:05:03,640 --> 00:05:12,280

Just what remained was a heel of her left foot and just a piece of the skull.

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00:05:12,280 --> 00:05:15,480

Just a little ash remains of her body.

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00:05:15,480 --> 00:05:20,000

Everything had been consumed.

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:30,040

The room was covered with a sort of a smoky, oily ash up to the level of about four feet

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00:05:30,040 --> 00:05:32,480

completely around.

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00:05:32,480 --> 00:05:33,760

But that was it.

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00:05:33,760 --> 00:05:42,080

The bed that had been turned down was undisturbed and ready as if it were ready to be slid.

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00:05:42,080 --> 00:05:52,200

The piece leapt in and the clock that was nearby had stopped running at about 4.20 in

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00:05:52,200 --> 00:05:53,400

the morning.

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00:05:53,400 --> 00:05:57,120

I believe Ms. Reeser was known to be a smoker.

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00:05:57,120 --> 00:06:02,080

So there was some speculation that possibly she dozed off or dropped a cigarette on her

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00:06:02,080 --> 00:06:04,800

clothing which initially started to fire.

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00:06:04,800 --> 00:06:11,160

But that still doesn't speak to how this total consumption occurred.

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00:06:11,160 --> 00:06:16,360

We have had many, many cases where people have fallen asleep smoking, burned their clothes,

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00:06:16,360 --> 00:06:20,760

in fact burned themselves and unfortunately succumbed to the fire, but never anything

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00:06:20,760 --> 00:06:21,880

like this.

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00:06:21,880 --> 00:06:26,720

I believe there probably was some type of external ignition source.

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00:06:26,720 --> 00:06:30,800

Now what that was, I couldn't begin to speculate.

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00:06:30,800 --> 00:06:38,360

But I think in my mind what happened, Ms. Reeser's body began to burn much like when

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00:06:38,360 --> 00:06:39,840

we cook food.

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00:06:39,840 --> 00:06:45,080

And you can essentially cook food down to nothing by applying the proper amounts of

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00:06:45,080 --> 00:06:48,720

heat over the proper period of time.

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00:06:48,720 --> 00:06:54,960

Unusual as that may seem, I think the human body in this case actually became a fuel for

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00:06:54,960 --> 00:07:01,160

fire as opposed to just the recipient of heat-related injury.

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00:07:01,160 --> 00:07:09,280

The possibility of it being a spontaneous combustion arose and was written.

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00:07:09,920 --> 00:07:17,120

All kinds of theories were brought out such as even lightning that came through an open

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00:07:17,120 --> 00:07:18,240

window.

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00:07:18,240 --> 00:07:32,440

But there was nothing concrete and the fire people here had no explanation for it.

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00:07:32,440 --> 00:07:34,600

No one had any explanation.

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00:07:34,600 --> 00:07:41,800

And in looking back, I just think that no one ever knows how a person of her size and

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00:07:41,800 --> 00:07:55,160

weight, she weighed about 170 pounds, could be totally consumed by a fire that only involved

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00:07:55,160 --> 00:08:03,280

a portion of her room, the chair, which was of course completely burned.

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00:08:03,280 --> 00:08:11,000

All that was left were some springs that were found near the ashes of her body.

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00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:14,240

Yes.

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00:08:14,240 --> 00:08:20,720

Like Richard Reeser, this man, Jack Stacey, is still gripped by a fire from the past.

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00:08:20,720 --> 00:08:26,120

On this spot in Lambeth, South London stood Auckland Street, the scene of the strangest

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00:08:26,120 --> 00:08:31,040

sight of his 30 years as a fireman.

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00:08:31,040 --> 00:08:38,920

The memory has brought him back to search the records at the Fire Brigades Museum.

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00:08:38,920 --> 00:08:46,760

We got the call at about 20 plus five in the morning and when we arrived, two or three

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00:08:46,760 --> 00:08:53,480

minutes down the embankment, there were about half a dozen office cleaners outside this

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00:08:53,480 --> 00:08:55,880

Dillek building.

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00:08:55,880 --> 00:09:00,520

And they were pointing to the first floor and said, we think there's a fire in there

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00:09:00,520 --> 00:09:06,160

and sure enough, there was a flickering blue flame coming from the upstairs window.

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00:09:06,160 --> 00:09:11,560

Well, when we got up the ladder onto the first floor, there was a man's body laying on the

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00:09:11,560 --> 00:09:23,640

stairs and there was a blue flame coming from his stomach, about four inch slit in his stomach

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00:09:23,640 --> 00:09:28,120

and it was making a noise like a blow-lump.

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00:09:28,120 --> 00:09:29,600

And it was about eight inches long.

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00:09:29,600 --> 00:09:32,280

That was the first thing we saw.

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00:09:32,280 --> 00:09:36,400

A man came up the ladder with the hose reel and we actually put the hose reel inside the

100

00:09:36,400 --> 00:09:37,400

man's body.

101

00:09:37,400 --> 00:09:39,440

It was actually, he was burning from the inside out.

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00:09:39,440 --> 00:09:43,640

It was the most bizarre thing I've ever seen at a fire.

103

00:09:43,640 --> 00:09:46,400

I think this is why I remember it so vividly.

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00:09:46,400 --> 00:09:53,520

I've seen bodies in fires before, but we've always been able to say, this happened or that

105

00:09:53,520 --> 00:09:56,080

happened or we know how this started.

106

00:09:56,080 --> 00:10:01,840

But this one, I'm afraid we didn't know and we still don't know and the cause of the fire

107

00:10:01,840 --> 00:10:03,880

is still unknown.

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00:10:03,880 --> 00:10:07,960

The official cause of death by the coroner was the inhalation of fire films, suffocation

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00:10:07,960 --> 00:10:10,920

due to inhalation of fire films.

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00:10:10,920 --> 00:10:13,760

I have my doubts about that.

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00:10:13,760 --> 00:10:15,960

I have my doubts about that.

112

00:10:15,960 --> 00:10:23,440

I think it is one of these human spontaneous combustion mysteries which we'll never solve

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00:10:23,440 --> 00:10:24,800

at the moment.

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00:10:24,800 --> 00:10:28,840

The moment the fire starts, the evidence is destroyed.

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00:10:28,840 --> 00:10:32,320

Firemen are used to things igniting spontaneously.

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00:10:32,320 --> 00:10:38,280

For example, haystacks can generate enough heat by fermentation to catch fire.

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00:10:38,280 --> 00:10:43,240

And I've even heard of a case in Britain of a laundry which was raised to the ground

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00:10:43,240 --> 00:10:48,960

when a pile of very dirty washing apparently went up in smoke on its own accord.

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00:10:48,960 --> 00:10:53,920

But people spontaneously combusting is quite another matter.

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00:10:53,920 --> 00:11:00,160

In earlier centuries, that old scapegoat, alcohol, was blamed by investigators and popular

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00:11:00,160 --> 00:11:02,360

novelists.

122

00:11:02,360 --> 00:11:07,400

The idea of spontaneous human combustion fascinated the Victorians.

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00:11:07,400 --> 00:11:14,520

In Bleak House, Charles Dickens chose it to dispose of a troublesome character.

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00:11:14,520 --> 00:11:19,320

Popular belief linked the phenomenon with excessive drinking and improving text-worn

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00:11:19,320 --> 00:11:22,880

drunks that they ran the risk of spontaneous combustion.

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00:11:22,880 --> 00:11:25,240

Mysterious research was scarce.

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00:11:25,240 --> 00:11:29,960

One sober report from Dr Mackenzie Booth in Aberdeen, Scotland couldn't explain how

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00:11:29,960 --> 00:11:32,960

a soldier was found burned up in a hayloft.

129

00:11:32,960 --> 00:11:36,960

Yet straw inches away was untouched by the flames.

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00:11:36,960 --> 00:11:43,840

Despite increasingly lurid reports, science stood back until the 1960s.

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00:11:43,840 --> 00:11:49,200

Professor David G., then a young pathologist, was called in to investigate the mysterious

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00:11:49,200 --> 00:11:51,320

death of an old person.

133

00:11:51,320 --> 00:11:55,120

She had fallen in the grate and been reduced to a pile of ashes.

134

00:11:55,120 --> 00:11:57,480

She had burned almost completely.

135

00:11:57,480 --> 00:12:00,360

Only a fragment of flesh and bone remained.

136

00:12:00,360 --> 00:12:04,360

Professor G. wanted to discover how this could have happened.

137

00:12:04,360 --> 00:12:08,320

He published an account of his audacious experiment.

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00:12:08,320 --> 00:12:15,760

I thought if I made a model that in one sense reproduced a body by using a glass test tube

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00:12:15,760 --> 00:12:21,760

which would provide a sort of central firmness and then wrapping it around with some human

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00:12:21,760 --> 00:12:28,360

fat and then putting around that a number of layers of cloth, perhaps five or six layers

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00:12:28,360 --> 00:12:35,560

to reproduce several different layers of clothing and ignited one end of it with a gas Bunsen

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00:12:35,560 --> 00:12:43,040

burner, it then burnt with a rather smoky flame and it took about three quarters of

143

00:12:43,040 --> 00:12:47,120

an hour to burn down about six inches of model.

144

00:12:47,120 --> 00:12:54,640

What was left was a very blackened charred remains that looked very similar to the body

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00:12:54,640 --> 00:12:56,680

that I had been examining.

146

00:12:56,680 --> 00:13:01,280

That it was like a candle only instead of having as candles do a wick down the middle

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00:13:01,280 --> 00:13:07,600

with the wax on the outside, this was really a candle with a wick on the outside and the

148

00:13:07,600 --> 00:13:09,600

combustible material on the inside.

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00:13:10,600 --> 00:13:18,600

Today Dr. Siva Loganathan leaves his local butchers with a bag full of pork.

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00:13:18,600 --> 00:13:25,600

It's the material he needs to carry on experimenting where Professor G. left off.

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00:13:25,600 --> 00:13:35,080

The question Dr. Siva wants to solve is why do the victims' surroundings not burn as

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00:13:35,080 --> 00:13:37,200

they do?

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00:13:37,200 --> 00:13:41,840

I've taken some pork with a little muscle and some fat.

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00:13:41,840 --> 00:13:47,480

I've rolled it into a cylinder and then covered it with a cloth.

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00:13:47,480 --> 00:13:55,120

Now the idea being that the rolled up piece of meat would represent a human body and the

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00:13:55,120 --> 00:13:58,880

cloth would then represent the clothing on it.

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00:13:58,880 --> 00:14:05,440

When the fat melts it would then soak into the cloth and then that would continue to burn

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00:14:05,440 --> 00:14:10,840

exactly like a candle, excepting in this case the wick is on the outside of the fat as opposed

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00:14:10,840 --> 00:14:12,720

to being in the middle.

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00:14:12,720 --> 00:14:22,160

The bodies are found burnt and almost ashed with very little burning in the surroundings

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00:14:22,160 --> 00:14:29,040

and perhaps a little bit of the leg is left behind with almost a fairly well marked line

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00:14:29,040 --> 00:14:31,400

of demarcation.

163

00:14:31,400 --> 00:14:35,520

We want to know why the rest of the surroundings didn't go up in flames.

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00:14:35,520 --> 00:14:40,960

We want to know why this progressive burning occurred.

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00:14:40,960 --> 00:14:46,400

This gives you as a fairly good working model as to how this whole process occurs.

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00:14:46,400 --> 00:14:54,800

The slowness of the process, the lack of violence of the flames proves to us that this is quite

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00:14:54,800 --> 00:14:58,480

a feasible explanation for this phenomenon.

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00:14:58,480 --> 00:15:03,440

I think essentially we'll find that when the body is burned in this sort of situation it

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00:15:03,440 --> 00:15:10,920

is only the melted fat that's burning and therefore the melted fat most likely would

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00:15:10,920 --> 00:15:14,320

continue to burn just about this same sort of level.

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00:15:14,320 --> 00:15:18,120

So the flames are not splurting out all over the place.

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00:15:18,120 --> 00:15:23,800

It is fairly well localized to a few inches around the body.

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00:15:23,800 --> 00:15:25,800

That's what's happened.

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00:15:25,800 --> 00:15:32,440

That's the skewer that I'm keeping in order to keep it stiff.

175

00:15:32,440 --> 00:15:35,320

I don't think there's anything miraculous about it at all.

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00:15:35,320 --> 00:15:39,640

I think it's perfectly logically explainable.

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00:15:39,640 --> 00:15:42,400

So this experiment just shows that it is possible.

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00:15:42,400 --> 00:15:46,720

I haven't really done a complete body but this is the principle by which this whole

179

00:15:46,720 --> 00:15:52,120

phenomenon occurs.

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00:15:52,120 --> 00:15:57,000

In the British Medical Journal comes a further clue in a report on a stomach operation by

181

00:15:57,000 --> 00:15:58,880

Jonathan Earnshaw.

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00:15:58,880 --> 00:16:02,320

He was using electrical cutting equipment.

183

00:16:02,320 --> 00:16:07,680

When I opened the stomach with the electrocortry device there was an explosion and the gaseous

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00:16:07,680 --> 00:16:12,800

contents of his stomach ignited and splattered stomach contents all over the ceiling light

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00:16:12,800 --> 00:16:15,760

and on those who were surrounding the operating table.

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00:16:15,760 --> 00:16:20,600

It was all rather frightening at the time and there was a blue flame and a sort of thump

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00:16:20,680 --> 00:16:25,400

and in fact the flame lasted for a second or two and then stopped.

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00:16:25,400 --> 00:16:28,720

As you can imagine it's a pretty frightening sort of thing to happen to you when a patient

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00:16:28,720 --> 00:16:34,040

explodes on the operating table and there was a stunned silence initially and we then

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00:16:34,040 --> 00:16:38,360

checked and we checked the patient, we checked all his vital signs and we checked the inside

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00:16:38,360 --> 00:16:42,720

of the stomach but in fact because the gaseous had been coming out of the stomach under pressure

192

00:16:42,720 --> 00:16:46,960

when they'd ignited fortunately there was no damage to the patient and we carried on

193

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:50,680

with the operation and the patient did very well afterwards.

194

00:16:50,680 --> 00:16:54,760

But when we published this paper in the British Medical Journal I then got a whole sheaf of

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00:16:54,760 --> 00:17:00,560

letters from other doctors, particularly elderly doctors who'd seen this occurrence on several

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00:17:00,560 --> 00:17:06,400

occasions in the past and there are some lovely letters here from surgeons and GPs, from a

197

00:17:06,400 --> 00:17:11,560

soldier who was under my care in 1941 who was rude enough to belch whilst lighting a cigarette

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00:17:11,560 --> 00:17:15,560

and the resulting flash and explosion seriously disturbed his comrades.

199

00:17:15,560 --> 00:17:20,280

So obviously it's like a lot of things in medicine we were only rediscovering what people

200

00:17:20,280 --> 00:17:22,600

had known about in the past.

201

00:17:22,600 --> 00:17:26,920

Organisms can proliferate and produce methane which is obviously flammable.

202

00:17:26,920 --> 00:17:31,880

If you then ignite it with a spark like I did then that's not spontaneous combustion,

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00:17:31,880 --> 00:17:34,080

that's ordinary combustion.

204

00:17:37,920 --> 00:17:42,560

John Hamer developed his own theory about spontaneous human combustion while he was

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00:17:42,560 --> 00:17:46,400

a Scenes of Crime officer with Gwent police in Wales.

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00:17:46,400 --> 00:17:52,080

Two deaths, only three weeks and 15 miles apart inspired him.

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00:17:52,080 --> 00:17:55,400

It was the coincidence that the two cases got me really going.

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00:17:55,400 --> 00:17:59,000

You had the same pile of ashes, the burning was the same and the burn line went straight

209

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:00,560

across from one leg to the other.

210

00:18:00,560 --> 00:18:07,280

That's what got me interested and started me on actually investigating other cases.

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00:18:07,280 --> 00:18:13,320

In the first case in January 1980 at Ebu Vale, Sergeant Terry Russell was called to

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00:18:13,320 --> 00:18:19,800

a house where a 73 year old man had died in a fire.

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00:18:19,800 --> 00:18:28,200

My immediate thoughts on seeing the deceased was that this was not an ordinary death.

214

00:18:28,200 --> 00:18:33,040

There was no external damage, there were no windows broken.

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00:18:33,040 --> 00:18:36,240

We entered a living room of the premises.

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00:18:36,240 --> 00:18:41,000

It was a site that will never ever really leave me.

217

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:43,720

I found it totally fascinating.

218

00:18:43,720 --> 00:18:48,800

All law to the relatives it must have been really devastating and gruesome.

219

00:18:48,800 --> 00:18:57,560

Well as you see here is a sketch I made just after the event actually which shows the lack

220

00:18:57,560 --> 00:19:01,840

of damage to other materials in the room.

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00:19:01,840 --> 00:19:08,120

This was the remains of a 73 year old man who had been reduced to ash on the floor of

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00:19:08,120 --> 00:19:09,120

his living room.

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00:19:09,120 --> 00:19:16,280

A pair of glasses were lying on the edge of the grate, totally undamaged and perfectly

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00:19:16,280 --> 00:19:17,280

clean.

225

00:19:17,280 --> 00:19:21,920

The fire was out in the grate, the dead coals tidy.

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00:19:21,920 --> 00:19:28,280

I had heard the term spontaneous human combustion but never really given it much thought.

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00:19:28,280 --> 00:19:34,080

When seeing the site that I saw on that day I now believe that this kind of thing is a

228

00:19:34,080 --> 00:19:40,280

possibility and there are certainly some questions which haven't been answered to my satisfaction

229

00:19:40,280 --> 00:19:45,920

in relation to that death.

230

00:19:45,920 --> 00:19:53,360

The next case, only 27 days later, came at Newport, the county town.

231

00:19:53,360 --> 00:19:59,920

This time an old woman had died, Inspector Colin Durham investigated.

232

00:19:59,920 --> 00:20:07,320

There was a report of fatality as a result of fire at a house in Corporation Road and

233

00:20:07,320 --> 00:20:19,400

this poor old lady, she was reduced to ashes except for two lower parts of both legs and

234

00:20:19,400 --> 00:20:26,000

this was amazing to me to see a body in such a condition.

235

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:30,520

The most abnormal thing about it was that there was nothing in the room damaged.

236

00:20:30,520 --> 00:20:37,480

There's no doubt that it was a case of a human body catching fire and it was called spontaneous

237

00:20:37,480 --> 00:20:38,480

human combustion.

238

00:20:38,480 --> 00:20:40,640

I have no doubt at all.

239

00:20:40,640 --> 00:20:48,000

But I eventually started thinking about it and the difficulty was that your bodies laden

240

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:54,040

with water, the average ten stone body contains ten gallons of water being reduced to ashes

241

00:20:54,040 --> 00:20:59,120

in circumstances where normal combustible materials cease to burn.

242

00:20:59,120 --> 00:21:02,280

That is an impossibility but it happened.

243

00:21:02,280 --> 00:21:08,400

I realised that the water must be the source of the fuel.

244

00:21:08,400 --> 00:21:14,320

John Hamer believes that by some as yet unknown alchemy, water in the body can be split into

245

00:21:14,320 --> 00:21:19,840

oxygen and hydrogen to concoct a highly flammable mixture.

246

00:21:19,840 --> 00:21:26,440

Now hydrogen burning in oxygen burns with a fierce blue flame and will cut through steel

247

00:21:26,440 --> 00:21:29,720

and steel melts at 1500 degrees centigrade.

248

00:21:29,720 --> 00:21:35,640

Now that sort of flame could indeed reduce a corpse to ashes without releasing enough

249

00:21:35,640 --> 00:21:40,840

oxygen to sustain burning elsewhere in the room and it will also explain a lack of water.

250

00:21:40,840 --> 00:21:46,920

Now I have no belief in spontaneous human combustion as a paranormal or supernatural

251

00:21:46,920 --> 00:21:48,240

event.

252

00:21:48,240 --> 00:21:54,360

It is an entirely natural event, the mechanism of which we do not yet understand.

253

00:21:54,360 --> 00:22:00,280

The scientists rather stomach churning experiments show that most of these cases do have a rational

254

00:22:00,280 --> 00:22:01,280

explanation.

255

00:22:01,280 --> 00:22:06,840

There's usually some source of ignition near the victim, perhaps a cigarette or a faulty

256

00:22:06,840 --> 00:22:09,080

electrical appliance.

257

00:22:09,440 --> 00:22:15,440

Some cases still seem to defy explanation and leave me with a creepy and very unscientific

258

00:22:15,440 --> 00:22:16,440

feeling.

259

00:22:16,440 --> 00:22:24,520

If there's anything more to SHC, I simply don't want to know.

260

00:22:24,520 --> 00:22:29,720

In Ticonderoga in New York, the men of the volunteer fire brigade are still baffled by

261

00:22:29,720 --> 00:22:36,360

the untimely death of one of their number.

262

00:22:36,480 --> 00:22:42,640

George Mott was a non-smoker, famously cautious about fire, yet he burned to nothing in his

263

00:22:42,640 --> 00:22:48,920

log cabin in the woods in 1986.

264

00:22:48,920 --> 00:22:52,360

Kendall Mott used to get a call from his father every day.

265

00:22:52,360 --> 00:22:56,520

When the phone didn't ring, Kendall went to check on him.

266

00:22:56,520 --> 00:23:00,240

The door handle was warm when I grabbed the door handle, it was unlocked.

267

00:23:00,240 --> 00:23:05,520

So I knew right then I opened the door I could tell it wasn't whole inside the house

268

00:23:05,520 --> 00:23:06,520

was black.

269

00:23:06,520 --> 00:23:11,320

Of course there was no lights because electricity was out, it would burn out.

270

00:23:11,320 --> 00:23:15,040

So I knew something would happen but you couldn't see anything.

271

00:23:15,040 --> 00:23:19,560

So we went and called the state troopers, Dickel Valley, come down.

272

00:23:19,560 --> 00:23:26,280

The first room that we walked into was nothing too much out of the ordinary other than I

273

00:23:26,280 --> 00:23:36,320

couldn't help but notice as I looked around that the walls were slightly brownish colored

274

00:23:36,320 --> 00:23:41,360

and appeared that the place had been subjected to intense heat.

275

00:23:41,360 --> 00:23:47,040

The TV was melted, the guns on the wall were all charred, the refrigerator was all black.

276

00:23:47,040 --> 00:23:52,360

Everything was black, it was just like it had really been hot but hadn't quite burnt.

277

00:23:52,360 --> 00:24:03,800

In the bedroom itself there was a single bed with a dresser adjacent to it as I remember

278

00:24:03,800 --> 00:24:13,520

and the mattress had been burned through and the floor which was wooden structure below

279

00:24:13,520 --> 00:24:22,840

the bed was burned through and there were some fragments of bones and possibly a skull

280

00:24:22,840 --> 00:24:26,360

as I remember lying on the floor beneath the bed.

281

00:24:26,360 --> 00:24:30,280

He hadn't smoked for quite a while and there was a sign on the door that said no smoking

282

00:24:30,280 --> 00:24:35,920

in the house because he had lost the use of one of his lungs a long time ago.

283

00:24:35,920 --> 00:24:41,160

All the signs indicated that there had been an extreme amount of heat but nothing had

284

00:24:41,160 --> 00:24:48,800

caused anything to ignite and the only thing that had burned itself was George Mont's body.

285

00:24:48,800 --> 00:24:58,360

There was the theory of the spontaneous combustion theory that possibly the body may have ignited

286

00:24:58,360 --> 00:25:06,840

itself for whatever reason and consumed itself through extreme heat.

287

00:25:06,840 --> 00:25:13,320

Other than that, putting that aside I don't think that there's too many other plausible

288

00:25:13,320 --> 00:25:15,240

explanations for it that I can think of.

289

00:25:15,240 --> 00:25:20,000

Well he was a fireman for quite a while, he was pretty picky as to you know, letting

290

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:27,440

and leaving things around you know, but I don't know, I don't think it was fire, I just

291

00:25:27,440 --> 00:25:30,640

think it was like they said spontaneous combustion, I don't see any other answer for it.

292

00:25:36,840 --> 00:25:37,840

Thank you.

293

00:25:37,840 --> 00:25:38,840

Thank you.

294

00:25:38,840 --> 00:25:39,840

Thank you.

295

00:25:39,840 --> 00:25:40,840

Thank you.

296

00:25:40,840 --> 00:25:41,840

Thank you.

297

00:25:41,840 --> 00:25:42,840

Thank you.

298

00:25:42,840 --> 00:25:43,840

Thank you.

299

00:25:43,840 --> 00:25:44,840

Thank you.

300

00:25:44,840 --> 00:25:45,840

Thank you.

301

00:25:45,840 --> 00:25:46,840

Thank you.

302

00:25:46,840 --> 00:25:47,840

Thank you.

303

00:25:47,840 --> 00:25:48,840

Thank you.

304

00:25:48,840 --> 00:25:49,840

Thank you.

305

00:25:49,840 --> 00:25:50,840

Thank you.

306

00:25:50,840 --> 00:25:51,840

Thank you.

307

00:25:51,840 --> 00:25:52,840

Thank you.

308

00:25:52,840 --> 00:25:53,840

Thank you.

309

00:25:53,840 --> 00:25:54,840

Thank you.

310

00:25:54,840 --> 00:25:55,840

Thank you.

311

00:25:55,840 --> 00:25:56,840

Thank you.

312

00:25:56,840 --> 00:25:57,840

Thank you.

313

00:25:57,840 --> 00:25:58,840

Thank you.

314

00:25:58,840 --> 00:25:59,840

Thank you.

315

00:25:59,840 --> 00:26:00,840

Thank you.

316

00:26:00,840 --> 00:26:01,840

Thank you.