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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,000

I'll be right back.

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00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:15,000

Tonight, an infamous cold war, cold case.

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00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:22,000

Nine hikers found mutilated on a remote mountain slope.

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00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:28,000

Their injuries and the facts don't seem to add up.

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:29,000

You can't help but wonder.

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00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:33,000

Who would be capable of doing this?

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00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:41,000

It looks like a murder scene from a super graphic horror movie.

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00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:49,000

Now, we uncover the top theories surrounding a place that's been called Russia's Area 51.

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00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:55,000

There's a number of people in Russia who believe that Yeti is the culprit in this case.

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00:00:55,000 --> 00:01:01,000

This looks and feels a lot like a cover-up.

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00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:05,000

Can new evidence finally bring us closer to the truth?

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:10,000

The bodies all appear withered and some of them have third-degree burns on them,

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:15,000

which is a sign of radiation poisoning.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:24,000

What really happened at Russia's notorious Dyatlov Pass?

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:40,000

The Soviet Union.

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:47,000

1959. As the cold war between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. intensifies,

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:55,000

so do conspiracy theories about covert experiments, secret weapons, and spies.

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00:01:55,000 --> 00:02:00,000

And on February 26, high up in Siberia's Ural Mountains,

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00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:04,000

something equally nefarious will be discovered.

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:13,000

On that day, three cross-country skiers spot a solitary tent, partially collapsed by snow.

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:19,000

What was unusual was the entrance was fastened closed, but the outside had been slashed open.

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:28,000

They looked inside and they found nobody was there, but they did find some footprints leading down the hill.

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00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:32,000

When they get to the end of that trail, they make a horrible discovery.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:36,000

They find corpses in the snow.

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:44,000

Warning. The images you are about to see are disturbing.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:47,000

Close your eyes and try to picture the scene.

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:51,000

Imagine you're going through the snow.

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:54,000

You come across these bodies.

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00:02:54,000 --> 00:03:00,000

It looks like a murder scene from a super graphic horror movie.

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00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:04,000

It just keeps getting worse and worse.

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:10,000

The first thing the investigators found were two members of the team lying underneath a cedar tree,

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:14,000

and neither of them were wearing winter clothes. They were just in their underwear.

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00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:19,000

One has burns on his head and foot. There's lots of cuts and bruises on his body.

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00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:28,000

He has some dried blood on his face and also strange gray foam is found on his cheek.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:34,000

It looks like this could be foul play. The second body has similar cuts and bruises.

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:40,000

He's missing the tip of his nose and his knuckles are bruised and swollen. It's a very strange scene.

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00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:46,000

Several yards away, another body.

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00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:51,000

This third body is found lying face up in the snow. He's hugging a branch.

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:56,000

He also has cuts and bruises on his knuckles and dried blood on his face.

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:04,000

And he's facing back towards the tent, suggesting he's trying to make a desperate attempt to return.

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00:04:04,000 --> 00:04:10,000

So naturally the skiers rush to report this and a bigger search party is put together.

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:16,000

And this bigger search party starts combing the area to try to find clues as to what happened to these three men.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:21,000

But before they can figure that out, several more bodies turn up.

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:25,000

Next, they discover a young woman.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:31,000

She has a lot of bruises on her face and her hair is in disarray.

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:38,000

She has this long red bruise on the side of her torso and on top of that her fists are clenched.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:43,000

So it looks like maybe there was some sort of scuffle, some sort of fight that might have went down.

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:49,000

You also have to remember this is Siberia. You've got freezing temperatures, you've got blinding snow.

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:59,000

So all this work that the search party is trying to do to locate all of this evidence make the work very, very slow and very, very difficult to perform.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:05,000

After a week, a fifth corpse is found further up the slope.

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00:05:05,000 --> 00:05:10,000

It's another young male victim and this one has a fractured skull.

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:14,000

Perhaps more evidence that there was some violent altercation.

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00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:23,000

What's interesting about this victim is he had one sock on one foot and it felt boot on the other, suggesting something took him by surprise.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:28,000

Six weeks later as the snow starts to melt, the mystery deepens.

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00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:37,000

Members of the Monsi, a local indigenous tribe, approach the police and lead them to a makeshift snow shelter.

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:41,000

250 feet from where the first two bodies were found.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:52,000

These searchers, they start to dig below the surface and they find this snow den with these branches all lined up next to each other forming some type of floor.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:56,000

Additionally, they're also finding some torn pieces of clothing.

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00:05:56,000 --> 00:06:02,000

There's a pair of sweatpants with the right leg just cut off completely.

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00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:07,000

Likewise, there's also only the left half of a woman's sweater.

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00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:13,000

So there's more and more evidence that's starting to build that something violent may have happened here.

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00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:19,000

Investigators excavate around the snow shelter, revealing four more victims,

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00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:23,000

bringing the death toll to nine.

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00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:30,000

These four bodies are lying somewhat closely together in the bed of a rocky stream at the bottom of a ravine.

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:33,000

It looks like a dumping ground.

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00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:38,000

It looks like just someone or something may have dropped them there.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:44,000

Compared to the other victims, these bodies have even more ghastly injuries.

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00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:51,000

One corpse is a male victim with a severely twisted neck.

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Another young female has a crushed rib cage and it's such a brutal injury that her ribs actually punctured her heart.

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:02,000

And horrifically, her eyes and tongue are missing.

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00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:09,000

Another young male has a massive fracture to the side of his skull that would have almost certainly knocked him unconscious.

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00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:17,000

It looks more and more like the injuries are from brutal beatings from some heavy, blunt object.

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00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:26,000

Investigators soon identify the dead as members of an expedition sponsored by the Ural Polytechnic University.

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00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:31,000

They were reported missing after failing to complete their trip.

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00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:35,000

Once you know who these victims are, it's even more tragic.

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00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:40,000

These students were among the best and the brightest from the Ural Polytechnic University.

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00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:50,000

They were very experienced, mountaineers and well respected members of the sports club of the Ural Polytechnic Institute.

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00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:55,000

The group's leader is 23-year-old engineering student Igor Dyatlov.

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:58,000

The tragedy bears his name.

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00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:04,000

The Dyatlov Pass is named in memory of Igor Dyatlov.

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00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:11,000

He designed this expedition to be as challenging as possible so they could all get certified as Grade 3 outdoorsmen.

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00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:15,000

This was the highest category in the Soviet Union at the time.

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00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:23,000

In January, the group leaves their home of Yekaterinburg and travels to the village of Vizhai.

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00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:27,000

From Vizhai, they go off-grid and head off into the wilderness.

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00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:33,000

They have a compass and all the gear they think they need, but they don't have any radio communication equipment with them.

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:40,000

The trip was supposed to cover 200 miles over 16 days, but they only make it halfway.

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00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:55,000

What frustrates friends and family of these hikers the most is that they say that they are way too smart and way too experienced to have ended up accidentally freezing to death in the outdoors.

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00:08:55,000 --> 00:09:02,000

The lead investigator in the case, Lev Ivanov, says he knows the cause of death.

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00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:15,000

There are signs of a struggle at the scene and no one can ignore the bruises and cuts to the face and the body and the missing pieces of flesh.

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00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:20,000

But who could be capable of such a violent crime here?

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00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:24,000

The potential suspect list is incredibly short.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:33,000

The mountain where the tent was abandoned is called Haight 1079, is a mostly uninhabited area and it borders the Siberian wilderness.

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00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:37,000

Almost nobody lives there. Almost.

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00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Except for the fact that this region is home to many of Stalin's infamous gulags.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:55,000

Stalin built lots of gulags.

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00:09:55,000 --> 00:10:06,000

You don't know what a gulag is. It's this insane labor camp where political prisoners were sent. They were forced to do hours upon hours of manual labor.

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00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:10,000

This is where you have some of the most hardened criminals in the Soviet Union residing.

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00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:20,000

So investigators are thinking, maybe one of these prisoners got out and encountered those nine hikers.

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00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:27,000

Especially when they learned that the Yvdel gulag is only a few miles from the site of the attack.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:34,000

Police check with the Yvdel gulag to see if there are any prisoners or missing, but no, they're all accounted for.

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00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:42,000

They also doubt any escaped prisoners might have done this because no provisions or belongings were stolen from the tent.

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00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:45,000

So the escapee theory doesn't go anywhere.

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00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:50,000

So investigators start to ask, okay, it seems like it's a very personal crime.

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00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:55,000

So they start to wonder, could this have been connected with anyone that was affiliated with that group?

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:58,000

And one name pops up.

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00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:05,000

The name? Yuri Yudin, a 10th hiker with the group and the sole survivor.

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00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:13,000

Is it possible that members of the Dyatlov expedition were killed by one of their own?

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00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:26,000

It's a mystery that's gripped the world.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:31,000

Nine Russian hikers, dead in a remote mountain pass.

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00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:34,000

Police are certain it's murder.

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00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:39,000

And among their top suspects is fellow hiker Yuri Yudin.

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00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:44,000

So Yuri Yudin is a fourth year engineering student who is part of that same group of hikers.

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00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:48,000

In fact, he's the 10th member of that group.

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00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:57,000

But apparently Yudin left early and instead of ending up dead, he's now the sole survivor.

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00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:00,000

Therefore, we can assume one of two things.

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00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:07,000

Either Yudin is incredibly lucky or he's the killer.

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00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:17,000

When Communist Party officials question Yudin, he tells them he backed out of the trek long before the murders.

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00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:24,000

Yudin claims to investigators that his back started to hurt when he was making his way up the mountains, which caused him to quit the expedition.

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00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:32,000

He says that he left the group on January 28th at 11.45 a.m. at a location known as the second northern.

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00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:38,000

And when he leaves, the rest of his group are all still very much alive, very much breathing.

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00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:45,000

But as investigators are questioning Yudin, they start to notice he becomes a bit more panicked, a bit more nervous.

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00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:48,000

They're certainly skeptical.

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00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:55,000

Still unsure of Yudin's story, investigators ask him to help analyze the crime scene.

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00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:57,000

And this has to be traumatic for him.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:12:58,000

Think about it.

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:07,000

He was supposed to be on that expedition with them, but because of his bad back, he ends up going back and now he's the only one alive of all of his friends.

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00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:15,000

So when he gets to that crime scene, he acts with genuine shock and surprise.

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00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:24,000

Uri notes there's something the police couldn't have, that some of the clothes found on the bodies of those in the ravine belong to some of the other students.

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00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:29,000

It's another bizarre detail in a case full of them.

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00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:34,000

The clothing is sent to a laboratory for analysis.

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00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:40,000

While they await results, investigators try to verify Yudin's alibi.

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:43,000

Yudin's story of a bad back checks out.

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00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:49,000

Yudin was in his native village of Emelya Shevka with his family on February 1st and February 2nd.

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00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:53,000

The same dates that investigators calculate as the time of death.

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00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:58,000

If Yudin's not the killer, who else could be?

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00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:03,000

The only other known group of people in the area are the Mansi.

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00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:06,000

The Mansi have helped with the investigation.

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00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:10,000

They're the ones that pointed the investigators to the four bodies in the ravine.

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00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:20,000

Despite that, Lev Ivanov starts looking into the group.

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00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:37,000

So Ivanov thinks that the Mansi are upset that a group of outsiders set up camp on height 1079, also known as Kola Shackle, which roughly translates to Dead Mountain.

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00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:41,000

The explorers are violating sacred Mansi territory.

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00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:45,000

And even more sacrilegious, there are two women in the group.

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00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:51,000

And for the Mansi, women are forbidden to even step foot on sacred land, let alone look at it.

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00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:56,000

Maybe that's why the eyes are removed from a couple of corpses.

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00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Even off interrogates multiple tribe members.

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00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:04,000

While they deny involvement, they offer a new detail.

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00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:13,000

Several people tell the same crazy sounding story that the Mansi saw lights in the sky or burning fireballs in the sky on the very night that the hikers died.

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00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:20,000

Police recovered a camera from the campsite and the last photo on this camera had an image they didn't understand.

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00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:24,000

It looks like flares or streaks in the night sky.

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00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:30,000

It's hard to tell, but could this corroborate the lights in the sky that were supposedly seen that night?

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00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:32,000

There are no timestamps on the photo.

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00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:39,000

And if this is the last thing the hikers photographed, you can't help but wonder if this has something to do with the incident.

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00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:47,000

Without a confession or any evidence that points to the Mansi, Ivanov has no proof.

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00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:50,000

So that's where things remain for a while at a standstill.

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00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:56,000

No new evidence and no new suspects, nothing to explain what happened to the nine hikers.

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00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:01,000

Until several weeks later, when laboratory results come back.

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00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:13,000

And just when you thought it was done, here's a new chance to find some new leads and to keep investigators moving forward.

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00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:22,000

The analysis of the ripped clothing that was found in the ravine comes back and it reveals an incredible new clue.

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00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:28,000

The analysis shows there's some unusually high levels of radioactivity on some of the items.

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00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:38,000

But how could clothes from alleged murder victims be radioactive?

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00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:44,000

The answer could turn the course of the investigation in an entirely new direction.

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00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:52,000

But that's not what happens. Instead of following this new lead and getting to the bottom of the mystery, authorities go ahead and do the exact opposite.

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00:16:53,000 --> 00:17:03,000

On May 28, 1959, three months into this investigation and after finding this new evidence, Lev Ivanov abruptly closes the case, unsolved.

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00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:10,000

The Soviet government seals off the entire area known as the Dyatlov Pass and prohibits anyone from going there.

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00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:14,000

Ivanov's report marks a change.

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00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:23,000

He now states that all nine deaths were caused by an unknown elemental force which they were unable to overcome.

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00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:31,000

But while Lev Ivanov seems to want this to be the final word, it won't be.

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00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:47,000

When nine hikers die under mysterious circumstances during the Dyatlov expedition, the public is eager to find out why.

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00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:54,000

But lead investigator Lev Ivanov abruptly closes the case after three months.

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00:17:54,000 --> 00:18:01,000

Just as he receives shocking evidence, the victim's clothing shows radioactivity.

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00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:09,000

This is a crazy detail that definitely deserves some digging. So as soon as a case like this is shut down, people immediately think that it's a cover-up.

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00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:15,000

The question is, why?

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00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:24,000

The USSR wants to be the dominant superpower. So they're doing a lot of covert things at this time.

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00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:29,000

They're doing research experiments. They're doing military experiments. They have spy operations going on.

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00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:33,000

Government cover-ups are happening every day.

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00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:45,000

Soviet population understands that there are secret tests, but also they accept the rule of the government that this is secrecy they cannot know about.

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00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:54,000

I mean, it's not hard for people to put two and two together. You've got the Dyatlov deaths and now the appearance of unusually high levels of radiation on some of the clothes.

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00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:56,000

People are starting to think that this is linked to the military.

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00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:05,000

At the victim's funerals, friends and family remark that the cadavers have an unnaturally orange appearance.

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00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:13,000

The bodies all appear withered and some of them have third-degree burns on them, which is a sign of radiation poisoning.

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00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:24,000

The family of group leader Igor Dyatlov say they are certain the military was somehow involved. But

exactly what are they covering up?

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00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:29,000

Don't forget, the Monsi said that they saw fireballs in the sky that night.

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00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:36,000

So one idea is that it's a case of a weapons test that goes wrong.

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00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:48,000

The rocket fails to go into orbit and lands really close to where the Dyatlov hikers are camped out for the night and it sends shockwaves which frightens them and has them running out of the tent.

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00:19:49,000 --> 00:20:01,000

There are different hypotheses. Something that it was the Soviet government through its military that killed them because they witnessed something that they were not supposed to have witnessed.

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00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:13,000

And there's one other little detail that seems to prop up this cover-up theory. It's presumed that one of the hikers was actually a KGB spy and his name was Semyon Zolotaryov.

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00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:27,000

Zolotaryov is the only person on the expedition who is not a student. In fact, he's 38 years old and mysteriously added to the group by communist officials at the last minute.

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00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:35,000

A lot of things about Zolotaryov are a bit unusual. For one, he's single, which is kind of weird in Russia at this time.

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00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:48,000

Additionally, he's got all these very cryptic tattoos on his body. And at the start of the journey, this older gentleman tells the students to call him by a fake name, Sasha.

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00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:59,000

We do know that Zemonsolotaryov is not who he pretends to be. There's too much in his biography that is not consistent.

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00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:15,000

Even when he talks about his service in World War II, he mixes up dates when he served in one unit or another. And in my opinion, having studied this case, he was a top-notch KGB operative.

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00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:28,000

So the theory is that the KGB is spying on the Russian military to see what is going on in these mountains. And unfortunately, these hikers just got caught in the middle of an interagency conflict.

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00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:42,000

So Zolotaryov is found out to be a spy agent on behalf of the KGB. So the group, although innocent, are killed because of him.

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00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:56,000

When Zolotaryov's body is recovered, the film in his camera has been destroyed by water damage. His motivation and his potential KGB ties remain a mystery.

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00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:13,000

Whether the KGB was connected to the case or not, we don't know. But the idea of the military being involved in the whole mess is very much popular. And one of the top hypotheses in this Dutloff-Bass incident.

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00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:20,000

Even the university, the Euro Polytechnic Institute, which sponsored the hike, thinks this is what happened.

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00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:27,000

And in 1990, another familiar voice joins the chorus claiming a cover-up.

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00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:46,000

They've even published an article with a strange title, The Mystery of the Fireballs. And he hinted that he was under pressure to close the case and not to continue to look into the cause of the

death.

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00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:57,000

Communist party officials were incredibly worried that these reports would leak out to foreign nations. And on top of that, Ivanov believes that it's these secret tests that ultimately leads to the deaths of these hikers.

200

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:11,000

Sol survivor Yuri Yudin also believes the government was involved and reveals a key piece of evidence before his death in 2013.

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00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:35,000

Yudin says that when he was helping the investigators with the inventory of the items left by the hikers, things didn't add up. He found things that did not belong to anyone like a military cloth, a pair of glasses, also an extra pair of skis. And his good feeling was that this was staged.

202

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:51,000

Even Boris Yeltsin thinks authorities are hiding something. When he's made president of Russia after the fall of the USSR in 1991, he promises to investigate the Dyatlov Pass incident.

203

00:23:52,000 --> 00:24:03,000

He was very much interested in the case as well because he was himself a graduate of the same institution, Euro Polytechnic, and because people appealed to him.

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00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:11,000

He uses all of his political power to try to find information, things that happened in 1959 that can shed light on this event.

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00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:20,000

Now the closest missile launch site to the Dyatlov Pass is actually located in Kazakhstan and it's called the Baikonur Cosmodrome.

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00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:30,000

Yeltsin's investigators dig into the records of Baikonur to see if there were any missile launches in 1959 during that window of the hiker's death.

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00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:36,000

He assured people that there were no rockets during the day when the hikers perished.

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00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:46,000

It's tough to know if he actually did look into this, but if what he's saying is true, there were no missile tests that happened in the area during that time.

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00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:55,000

Whatever Yeltsin's involvement with the case was, it didn't bring us any closer to finding the truth.

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00:24:55,000 --> 00:25:06,000

Yeltsin's findings seem to end the cover-up theory, but they don't stop the public from asking questions and a shocking new one is about to emerge.

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00:25:25,000 --> 00:25:34,000

It's a very interesting and intriguing photo taken by one of the hikers and it leads to a shocking new theory and a surprising suspect.

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00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:47,000

There's a number of people in Russia who believe that Yatya or Snezhnichalovik in Russian is the culprit in this case.

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00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:57,000

In one of the photographs found at the site, there is a very unusual creature that was depicted in the photograph and it's very interesting.

214

00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:13,000

This was the last frame of the photographs Nikolai Tibo took at the site and I don't think he had enough time to think what he photographed, but it's there historical evidence.

215

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:28,000

What you see in the picture is a humanoid like being, it's big, it's about 10 feet, it's hulking, much like the Yatys or Snowmen and it looks like it's looking at the group observing them.

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00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:43,000

There were so many stories coming from different parts of the Soviet Union and this photograph could definitely serve as a proof that the Yatys are out there.

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00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:56,000

The Yatys are huge beings, about 10 feet in size, people are afraid of them because they could crush with their arms and legs a human being and do it very quickly.

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00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:03,000

Even the Dyatlov students themselves make reference to a Yeti prior to their trip.

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00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:13,000

Before they hike into the mountains, the students, the hikers published a satirical newspaper and they write a headline that reads,

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00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:19,000

Science, in recent years there has been a heated debate about the existence of the Yeti.

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00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:25,000

Latest evidence indicates that the Yeti lives in the northern Urals near Mount Otartiny.

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00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:39,000

It's quite possible that while they wanted to express themselves and show no fear by placing jokes in that newspaper, they knew that something was out there and it could be Yeti.

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00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:56,000

Supporters of the Yeti theory also point to photos of the bodies that show what appears to be abject terror with clenched fists ready for a fight.

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00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:05,000

Of course, seeing a horrible creature like a Yeti by their tent, that would frighten them.

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00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:12,000

But that's not the only creature that could get such a reaction.

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00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:28,000

We have to account for many predators that live in the area that could have attacked the hikers and among them are bears, wild dogs, wolverines, even the Siberian tiger.

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00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:33,000

But the most likely culprit in the animal attack theory is a brown bear.

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00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:44,000

The autopsy report listed fractured skulls, broken chest, scratches and cuts and even missing flesh. A brown bear would be capable of doing this.

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00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:50,000

But the problem with the brown bear theory is that they were in hibernation around this time.

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00:28:50,000 --> 00:29:00,000

That's all the more reason if a bear wakes up early and is hungry, it would seek out nine campers that just happen to be in that area.

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00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:19,000

After decades of public speculation about animal attacks, homicide, cover-ups and much more, in 2019, public fascination with the Dyatlov case prompts Russian authorities to finally reopen the file.

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00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:24,000

A young prosecutor, Andrei Kuryakov, takes the lead.

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00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:32,000

Andrei Kuryakov sits down with a list of 75 theories. Thanks to the growing public interest, this case has just gone bigger and bigger.

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00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:39,000

Not sure if the Yeti has made the list, but Kuryakov certainly has his work cut out for him, but it seems he's up for the task.

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00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:46,000

As Kuryakov starts researching, he notices a detail that leads to a new theory.

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00:29:55,000 --> 00:30:01,000

It turns out that the weather on the 1st of February in 1959 is pretty extreme for that mountain.

237

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:11,000

It winds up to 65 miles an hour and temperatures down to 30 degrees. And this has Kuryakov thinking, could it be an avalanche?

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00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:19,000

Andrei Kuryakov organizes a 2020 expedition to the Dyatlov Pass to test his theory.

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00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:27,000

And he's about to find one key piece of evidence that the original investigation got wrong.

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00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:44,000

60 years after the Dyatlov tragedy, prosecutor Andrei Kuryakov returns to the crime scene with new technology, hoping to prove the killer was an avalanche.

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00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:54,000

So they use photogrammetry to really pinpoint the location of the tent.

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00:30:55,000 --> 00:31:02,000

And then they take photos of the current landscape and compare them with the old ones, and they notice a huge discrepancy of what they originally investigated.

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00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:10,000

The location where the tent was pitched in 1959 is actually several hundred feet away from where they originally thought it was pitched.

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00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:19,000

The location of the tent is the number one factor in determining if an avalanche took place, and it looks like the original investigation might have made a mistake.

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00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:27,000

The risk of an avalanche depends on the degree of incline. On average, it takes a 30 degree incline to trigger one.

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00:31:28,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Using the old incorrect data, investigators prior to 2019 thought that the slope above the tent was about 15 degrees, so they've ruled out the avalanche theory this entire time.

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00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:46,000

The newly calculated location has a much steeper slope of around 28 degrees.

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00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:51,000

It's still not 30 degrees, and avalanche still may not be possible.

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00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:56,000

But with the right weather conditions, it's much more likely.

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00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:02,000

When they analyze the weather conditions, they find that there's a special phenomenon here called catabatic winds.

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00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:12,000

Catabatic winds travel at hurricane speeds. In effect, they act as a huge snow plow.

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00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:24,000

These winds can take tons and tons of snow, and it's very likely that these winds could have deposited huge amounts of snow above the hiker's tent.

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00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:33,000

And that's when they become even more confident in their avalanche theory. They think that this mountain is a death trap, just waiting to spring.

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00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:39,000

Once the weather expedition is complete, Andrei Kuryakov presents his findings to the public.

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00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:46,000

Kuryakov theorizes that at some time after the tent was set up around 7pm, a windstorm kicks off into high gear.

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00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:54,000

Sometime between 1.30 and 5.30 am, a small avalanche is triggered above the tent where they had cut into the slope.

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00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:06,000

That new snow up above is too heavy and it crashes down onto the tent. After that initial snow dump, the hikers fearing Morris to come cut their own way out of the tent and run to a rocky ridge 150 feet away.

258

00:33:07,000 --> 00:33:17,000

This is at the time standard avalanche protocol. The idea of being able to find a way out of the tent is to find a way out of the tent.

259

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:28,000

This is at the time standard avalanche protocol. The idea of being able to find a safe place behind a high rocky ridge that would redirect the snow away from them.

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00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:33,000

But here Kuryakov's theory takes an interesting twist.

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00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:40,000

He doesn't actually think a bigger avalanche ever hit. He thinks that they hurried out of the tent but it never came.

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00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:46,000

And the problem is that the hikers got disorientated and they couldn't find their way back to the tent.

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00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:56,000

So the investigator tests his theory. He blindfolds a man and a woman, makes them walk 90 feet away from the tent and then challenges them to find their way back and they can't.

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00:33:57,000 --> 00:33:59,000

And what about their strange lack of clothing?

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00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:09,000

Kuryakov thinks that some of them were partially undressed when they fled the tent. But he thinks the others may have suffered from a phenomena called paradoxical undressing.

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00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:18,000

This is where people in their final stages of hypothermia feel as if they're burning hot, which leads them to take their clothes off.

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00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:28,000

According to Kuryakov, sometime between 4.30 and 7.30 am, the hikers freeze to death.

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00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:33,000

The two young men found in their underwear under the cedar tree died first.

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00:34:33,000 --> 00:34:39,000

The other members of the group cut the clothes off of their dead friends in a last ditch to survive.

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00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:47,000

At some point the group splits up and three of them, Dyatlov, Komagorova and Slopadan head back towards the tent.

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00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:51,000

Sadly they freeze to death before making it back.

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00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:56,000

But what about the final four?

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00:34:57,000 --> 00:35:02,000

And this is where the theory gets really weird. You can never believe this group had such bad luck.

274

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:10,000

The last four dig down a snow shelter, basically a snow chamber where they can hide from the elements and share body heat.

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00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:19,000

But the one spot they decide to dig in is above a stream through a hollowed out icy tunnel. They dig down and the tunnel collapses.

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00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:24,000

They fall into the icy stream and are buried under 15 feet of snow.

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00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:35,000

As he concludes the press conference, Kuryakov declares that the Dyatlov past mystery is finally solved.

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00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:43,000

The Russians are outraged at Kuryakov and loudly reject his theory. The families of the dead are especially critical of him.

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00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:53,000

Let's be clear the public case, the Avalanche theory. It doesn't account for so many key facts and details of the case.

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00:35:54,000 --> 00:36:01,000

People were making fun of it and disregarded it because they know this is another set of cover-ups.

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00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:21,000

The Dyatlov past incident has spawned many theories over the years. But in a case full of strange details and unusual twists, none have fully aligned with the facts.

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00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:32,000

You can say maybe it's a bear attack but the bears are hibernating. You say it's an Avalanche. But what about their clothes testing positive for radiation?

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00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:42,000

What about the Monsi tribe's testimony of fireballs in the sky? What about Samyon Zolotaria, the possible KGB agent that was planted among the hikers?

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00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:51,000

There are just so many details to account for and there isn't just one theory that makes total sense.

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00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:54,000

But what if there is?

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00:36:54,000 --> 00:37:14,000

So theory after theory after theory comes out and after a while people just stop looking at all the evidence one piece at a time and they just say to themselves, what if it's not just one thing? What if all of these theories are partially right?

287

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:25,000

So in other words, it's an Avalanche and it's a murder and it's a cover-up and it's an animal attack all in one.

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00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:36,000

If you start with the fireballs reported by Monsi during the time, it could be part of a nuclear experiment. We don't understand.

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00:37:37,000 --> 00:37:46,000

Maybe a new type of nuclear weapons that the KGB of course did not want to leak out to its enemies in the west and they covered it up.

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00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:55,000

Apart from Samyon Zolotaria of the other students, the poor students did not know they were heading into this special testing area.

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00:37:56,000 --> 00:38:01,000

This could explain the radioactivity that was found in their clothing.

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00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:07,000

The nuclear test may also explain the Avalanche.

293

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:17,000

Those nuclear weapons emit shock waves. Those shock waves are the catalyst for the Avalanche to collapse on the tent and it could have caused those blunt force injuries on their own.

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00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:24,000

So in the span of an instant, the explosion startles the hikers. It starts the Avalanche. It showers them in radiation.

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00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:33,000

The shock waves hit them with the force of a speeding truck which causes injuries and it causes them to rush and escape down the side of a mountain.

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00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:37,000

From there, the cover up.

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00:38:38,000 --> 00:38:49,000

If any of the hikers would have survived, the military would have taken care of them because they didn't want eyewitnesses to something that is a stop secret.

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:39:03,000

And even if they were dead, the lead investigator, Lev Ivanov, was forced to close short the investigation so nothing is leaked out.

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00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:18,000

And finally the animal attack theory of course accounts for injuries that hikers had sustained because the animals had access to the bodies for a period of time and they did what animals do.

300

00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:21,000

They ate into the hikers' cadavers.

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00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:29,000

What if it's a combination of all of these things that could have happened to these nine hikers? That's what the Soviet authorities are trying to cover up.

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00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:39,000

No matter how the hikers died, if there was a cover up, their blood is on the hands of the Soviet government.

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00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:49,000

The Seattle of Pass incident is the greatest mystery and unsolved case in Russia.

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00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:55,000

But the government doesn't make any more efforts to solve it.

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:06,000

So it is all up to us now, amateur researchers and investigators from all over the world to uncover what really happened.

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00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:23,000

In 2020, the Dyatlov Group Memorial Foundation published a letter in support of the All in One theory for the families of the students killed on the mountain that night.

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00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:27,000

That small vindication will have to suffice for now.

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00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:34,000

Because when it comes to the truth of this mystery, the secrets are buried incredibly deep.

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00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:41,000

I'm Lawrence Fishburne. Thank you for watching History's Greatest Mysteries.