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

As atomic fear grips the world and the Cold War ramps up,

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

a well-dressed man is found dead on an Australian beach.

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

There's no clear cause of death, nothing to identify him.

4

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

Who is this guy? What was he up to?

5

00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:22,000

Could he have been a criminal or a secret agent or worse?

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

Neither the FBI nor Britain's MI5 are the ones who have been killed.

7

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

Neither the FBI nor Britain's MI5 know who he is.

8

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

Tonight, the top theories surrounding a mystery

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00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:39,000

that's obsessed an army of sleuths for 70 years.

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00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:41,000

Is he a spy?

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00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:44,000

Was it self-inflicted or was he poisoned?

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

Was he part of a criminal organization?

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

The whole thing reads like a movie script.

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00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:53,000

Can new evidence solve the case?

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00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:59,000

To finally answer, who is the Summerton man and how did he die?

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:18,000

Just three years after the end of World War II,

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:22,000

tensions between the Soviet Union and its former allies

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00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:26,000

lead to a blockade of all land routes to West Berlin

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:31,000

and an all-out effort to airlift supplies to its stricken citizens.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:35,000

People in the West are shocked and frightened by this.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:38,000

Communist countries like the Soviet Union in Eurasia

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:42,000

and Mao Zedong in China seem scarily aggressive.

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00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:46,000

Will there be another war, another nuclear attack?

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:49,000

In response, stories about spies,

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:52,000

traitors, double agents spring up everywhere.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:57,000

The small city of Adelaide, Australia is no different.

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:02,000

Situated just 500 miles from the nation's top-secret atomic testing site,

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

the city is quietly on alert.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,000

At first, nothing seems unusual.

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:13,000

When 16-year-old Neil Day and a friend

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:18,000

spot a man who appears to be napping by a cliff on Summerton Beach.

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:21,000

Now, in Australia, it's the southern hemisphere,

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:25,000

so it's summertime in the wintertime months here.

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,000

And so this is nothing new.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

It's hot out, a lot of people will sleep on the beach,

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

so they continue on their ride.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:37,000

But as the pair pass by again, they notice something alarming.

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00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:40,000

The man isn't moving.

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00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:43,000

He's still in the same position, so they dismount,

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:45,000

they go up to check him,

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00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:48,000

and then at that point they know he's dead.

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:52,000

Another bystander comes up, Jack Lyons.

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00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:53,000

He's a local jeweler.

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:56,000

Jack takes control of the situation, and he says,

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00:02:56,000 --> 00:02:58,000

I'll take care of this, I'll notify the police,

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00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:00,000

and that's exactly what he does.

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

And that's about 6 a.m. to 6 30 in the morning.

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00:03:03,000 --> 00:03:05,000

So when the police arrive at the scene,

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:10,000

they do a cursory inspection of the crime scene and the body.

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

And they notice that this man is lying in the beach,

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00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:17,000

but sitting up with his back leaned against the seawall.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:19,000

They see that he's well-dressed,

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00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:22,000

there's no evidence of alcohol or drugs around,

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00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:25,000

and there's no obvious signs of wounds or violence.

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00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:28,000

Most often when we find a body on the beach,

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:30,000

it's a victim of drowning.

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,000

The body is washed ashore, and that's not the case.

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

He was completely dry, his shoes were dry.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:37,000

It looks like he just maybe laid there to take a rest

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00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:39,000

and didn't wake up.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:42,000

The next step would be to identify the man

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:44,000

and then notify the next of kin.

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:46,000

But in this case, they can't do that

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00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:49,000

because he has absolutely no ID on him at all.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:51,000

He has no wallet of any kind.

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:53,000

And moreover, and this is where this case

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:56,000

initially gets very strange right from the beginning,

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:59,000

all of the labels on his clothing were intentionally removed

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00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:01,000

as if they were clipped out.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:05,000

At this point, the investigators are asking,

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:07,000

who is this guy?

72

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:09,000

They have no answers on his identity.

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00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:13,000

With little to go on, police catalog the man's belongings.

74

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:17,000

They find a unused train ticket.

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:21,000

They find a bus ticket from Adelaide to Summerton Beach.

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

They find a pack of chewing gum, a pack of matches,

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:30,000

a comb, and they find a box of Army Club cigarettes.

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:33,000

So all of these things are ordinary things

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:35,000

that you would find on any person.

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:37,000

But the pack of cigarettes are interesting

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:39,000

because Army Club is a very cheap brand.

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:41,000

And inside the box of cigarettes

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:44,000

were seven cigarettes of a much more expensive brand

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:46,000

called Conceitas.

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:50,000

The body is taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:52,000

for further examination.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:56,000

So a Dr. Barley Bennett

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,000

performs a post-mortem on the body.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:01,000

It's an initial look through

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:04,000

without going too deep into taking samples

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00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:07,000

and opening the body up to find the cause of death.

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:10,000

Back then, not everybody has an autopsy.

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:13,000

The initial examination of his body

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:15,000

reveals some things about him.

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:18,000

He's about 5'11".

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:21,000

He weighs about 165 to 175.

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:23,000

And he's between 40 and 50 years old

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:25,000

in incredibly good shape.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:30,000

Also, his hands are not calloused in any way,

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00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:33,000

suggesting that he wasn't a manual laborer.

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00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:37,000

One of the other things they notice right away

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:40,000

is that he's got these extremely large calves

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:42,000

and the muscles are high.

104

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:45,000

Like a ballet dancer, he's got tuned legs.

105

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:49,000

Nothing seems strange,

106

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:51,000

and there's no obvious sign of foul play.

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:54,000

So their theory is that he went to lay down,

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:56,000

maybe didn't feel well,

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00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:59,000

laid up against the rocks and passed away in his sleep.

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:02,000

Preliminarily, the cause of death

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00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:04,000

is thought to be heart failure.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:12,000

But after six weeks, authorities still can't ID the corpse,

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

and that raises questions.

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00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:17,000

Detectives suspect that there may be a lot more

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00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:20,000

to learn about this man and the way he died.

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00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:22,000

They start to wonder,

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:25,000

is he from someplace outside Australia?

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00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:28,000

And if so, why is he here?

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:31,000

All English-speaking countries

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,000

are given a post-mortem photo and a set of fingerprints,

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00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:36,000

but nobody can find a match.

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:38,000

There's no police records for this man,

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:40,000

there are no military records for this man.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:42,000

Nothing matches.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:46,000

In fact, J. Edgar Hoover, who's the director of the FBI at the time,

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:48,000

sends a memo back to Australia police

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00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:51,000

telling them that they have no match for those fingerprints.

128

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,000

Police appeal to the public

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00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,000

for help identifying the body.

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

At this point in the investigation,

131

00:07:00,000 --> 00:07:03,000

the locals have given this man a nickname,

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00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:07,000

the Summerton Man, referencing the beach where he was discovered.

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00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:11,000

An eyewitness comes forward.

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

He and his wife claim that they were walking on the beach

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

the night before on November 30th,

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00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:19,000

and they observed him about 7 p.m. lying on the beach.

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00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:22,000

The Summerton Man supposedly raised his right arm

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00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:24,000

as if to light a cigarette or wave,

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:26,000

and then it fell back to the beach.

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00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:31,000

And then there's another couple that saw the man.

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00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:33,000

Although they didn't really see his face,

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00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:35,000

one thing they did notice, though,

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00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:37,000

is that he seemed to have polished nice shoes,

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:39,000

and they didn't seem like shoes

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:42,000

that belonged to somebody who'd be walking along the beach.

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00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:49,000

A timeline of the man's final hours slowly starts to form.

147

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:51,000

Because of the tickets in his pocket,

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00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,000

we know that he arrived around 11 a.m. in Adelaide.

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

Then he took a bus to the Summerton area,

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

where he's seen again by our witnesses at 7 p.m.

151

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

So there's a large part of his afternoon

152

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:06,000

and his whereabouts that are not accounted for.

153

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:09,000

As an investigator, it's very frustrating

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:12,000

to have this collection of clues and evidence

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00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:15,000

and eyewitness accounts and really be no closer

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00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:17,000

to any substantive answers.

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:20,000

At this point, they don't even know who this man is.

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00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:23,000

But then the investigators catch a huge break.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:28,000

On January 14, 1949,

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00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:31,000

authorities at Adelaide Railway Station realize

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00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:34,000

a suitcase has been there for weeks.

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00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:37,000

The suitcase was checked in on November 30th

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00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:39,000

and remained unclaimed.

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:42,000

They give it over to the police who start looking through it,

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00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:44,000

and that's when they find some additional clues,

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00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:47,000

which now makes them think that maybe there's some connection

167

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:49,000

to the Summerton man.

168

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:53,000

What's inside the suitcase is odd and alarming.

169

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:56,000

The labels on all the clothing inside the suitcase

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00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:59,000

have also been removed, just like the Summerton man,

171

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:01,000

with the exception of one yellow shirt

172

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:05,000

that still had the tags on it, as if it had just been purchased.

173

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:08,000

There's a quantity of orange linen thread.

174

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:12,000

The same type of orange thread was used to sew on his buttons

175

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:14,000

and mend a pocket inside his trousers.

176

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:16,000

And the thread that was in the case, they believe,

177

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:19,000

is the same one used to repair the jacket.

178

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:22,000

This makes a direct connection to the Summerton man

179

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:25,000

and the suitcase that was found.

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00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:29,000

The suitcase also raises additional questions.

181

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:32,000

This orange linen thread was not available in Australia

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00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:33,000

at the time.

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00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:35,000

It was available in the United States.

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00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:38,000

So this poses the question, was the man American

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00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:41,000

or did he at least travel through America at one point?

186

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:43,000

Also discovered inside the suitcase

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00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:46,000

was an electrician screwdriver, a table knife,

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:48,000

a pair of scissors,

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:51,000

and also charting and stenciling tools.

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00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:54,000

That which you would find aboard a ship.

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00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:59,000

To stencil cargo or to help with navigation.

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:03,000

But the most important clue of all may be a name.

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00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:06,000

There are a couple of items inside the suitcase

194

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

that are inscribed T-keem.

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00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:13,000

So this gives the police something to go on, a name at least.

196

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:17,000

And that name is keem, K-E-A-N-E.

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:20,000

Finding T-keem won't be easy.

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00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:23,000

And perhaps that's deliberate.

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:29,000

Police are starting to build a profile of this guy

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00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:31,000

and perhaps a story why he was there.

201

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:34,000

Who is this keem?

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00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:38,000

Anchovies find no missing persons by the name of Keem.

203

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:41,000

And so now they think that maybe this might be an alias.

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00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:43,000

At this point, there's a name that doesn't match up.

205

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:44,000

No one's missing.

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00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:46,000

It could be a ruse.

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00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:49,000

The police had a suitcase full of clues

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,000

and they have some evidence,

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:55,000

but there is nothing there that really ties to the reason

210

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

why the Somerton man was visiting Adelaide.

211

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:04,000

Increasingly suspicious, police call for a detailed autopsy.

212

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

Once they started the autopsy, they do come across

213

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:12,000

some things that are unusual and shocking for them.

214

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:15,000

This enlarged spleen that's three times larger

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00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:19,000

than what it should be, they find his liver is congested

216

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:23,000

and he's got blood in his stomach.

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00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:25,000

Because of the conditions of the organs,

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00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:27,000

pathologist John Dwyer suspects that this man

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00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:29,000

could be the victim of poisoning.

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00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:38,000

They think it's poison because this man has no outside injuries.

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00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:41,000

He's got all this internal trauma going on.

222

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:42,000

What caused that?

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00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:46,000

If he had been hit by something, he'd have an external bruise.

224

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:49,000

Also in his stomach, aside from the presence of blood,

225

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:54,000

is also a pasty, which is sort of like an Australian meat pie.

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00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:57,000

They can tell what it was and the meat's not digested,

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00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:01,000

which implies that he ate that and died shortly after.

228

00:12:01,000 --> 00:12:04,000

If it turns out this is a poisoning, that's a huge red flag.

229

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:07,000

This is not your everyday manner of death.

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00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:10,000

And what it suggests is this guy could have been up to something nefarious.

231

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:16,000

When the lab results come back, they show no evidence of poisoning

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00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:20,000

and no evidence of poisoning in the Australian meat pasty.

233

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

His organs are in terrible condition, post autopsy,

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00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:26,000

and the police know that they're going to have to do a lot more digging

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00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:31,000

to find out what happened to this person, who is he, and how did he die?

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00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:36,000

Investigators next take a closer look at the man's clothing.

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00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:39,000

Deep down inside the man's watch pocket,

238

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:42,000

they found a tiny rolled-up piece of paper.

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:45,000

It had to be extracted with tweezers because it was so far down,

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

which is why they didn't find it the first time.

241

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:50,000

But when they unroll it, there are some words on it,

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:51,000

and the words are,

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00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:53,000

tamam shun.

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00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:57,000

That's stopped the press's time.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:01,000

We got to find out what this is, what does this mean?

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00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:05,000

They contact local librarians and researchers to just ask around

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00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:08,000

if anybody knows what this means.

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00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:12,000

One of the librarians mentions that, yes,

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00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:15,000

it is the last word in a book called

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

The Rubaiyat of Omar Kayal.

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00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:25,000

The rubaiyat is a book of love poems.

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00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:30,000

The phrase tamam shun translates into, it is finished.

253

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:35,000

It's not normal for someone to walk around with a line of poetry

254

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:38,000

that says it is finished in their pocket.

255

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:40,000

This is something that was placed there.

256

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:42,000

Now, whether it was by the Summerton man

257

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:44,000

or by someone who wanted him dead,

258

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:46,000

that's what's worth exploring.

259

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:49,000

But who might want him dead?

260

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:51,000

And why?

261

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:53,000

Looking at his belongings,

262

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:56,000

stenciling tools, maps,

263

00:13:56,000 --> 00:13:58,000

his clothing is clearly from America,

264

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

which they see based on the stitching.

265

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:02,000

And an alias potentially,

266

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:04,000

taking all of these clues together,

267

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:07,000

it's not unreasonable to think that he may have been involved

268

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:10,000

in the black market as a smuggler.

269

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:13,000

And if so, did he become problematic for some other criminals

270

00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:15,000

that want to see him gone?

271

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:20,000

Armed with new evidence,

272

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:23,000

authorities begin an official homicide inquest

273

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:27,000

on June 17th, 1949.

274

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:29,000

An inquest is sort of like a trial.

275

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:33,000

There are witnesses, experts, and doctors that will come and testify,

276

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:37,000

and a judge or jury will determine a cause of death.

277

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

So they're revisiting the possibility of him being poisoned.

278

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:44,000

One of the experts that testifies in this inquest

279

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:46,000

is Sir Cedric Hicks.

280

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:48,000

He's a professor of pharmacology and human physiology,

281

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:52,000

and to his knowledge, whatever toxin was there,

282

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:54,000

it evaporated quickly.

283

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:56,000

It left no trace.

284

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

But he has an idea of two untraceable toxins

285

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:02,000

that may be the cause here.

286

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:06,000

He's so afraid to say these poisons out loud during the inquest

287

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:10,000

because they're so dangerous that he writes them down on a piece of paper

288

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:12,000

and delivers it to the judge.

289

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

Later on, these two toxins become known,

290

00:15:15,000 --> 00:15:19,000

and they are digitalis and strophanthin.

291

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:21,000

Hicks believes it's strophanthin.

292

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:23,000

It's derived from an African plant

293

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:26,000

so Mali tribes would use it to poison their arrows with.

294

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:29,000

Despite Hicks' testimony,

295

00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:32,000

on June 21st, the inquest concludes

296

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:35,000

without determining a cause of death.

297

00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:37,000

They just don't have enough evidence to say

298

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:40,000

if he was poisoned by himself or someone else.

299

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:42,000

They don't know who this man is.

300

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:45,000

They can't determine if he was a smuggler or not,

301

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:48,000

or if he's tied to some other greater mystery.

302

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:50,000

And so they're stuck in a quandary.

303

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:52,000

Back at square one,

304

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:55,000

police revisit the cryptic piece of paper

305

00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:57,000

found in the man's pocket.

306

00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:00,000

The most mysterious clue is the phrase,

307

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

Ta-mam should.

308

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:04,000

It's torn from a book that was very popular at the time.

309

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:07,000

If investigators can find the man's original book,

310

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:09,000

they may find more clues.

311

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:11,000

We know it's not in his possession.

312

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:13,000

We know it wasn't at the crime scene.

313

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:15,000

We know that it's not in his suitcase

314

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:17,000

that was discovered at the Adelaide railway station.

315

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:21,000

Investigators search every library and bookstore in the area.

316

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:25,000

They begin looking at publishing companies.

317

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:27,000

They begin searching internationally

318

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:30,000

anywhere that they can think to find this copy

319

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:33,000

in this edition of The Rubaiat.

320

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:36,000

In a last-ditch effort, they'd call upon the public

321

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:39,000

to see if anybody has seen this copy of the book.

322

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:42,000

There are hundreds of thousands of copies of the book

323

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:44,000

floating around the world.

324

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Trying to find the copy that was used in this case

325

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

is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

326

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:54,000

That is until July 22nd, 1949.

327

00:16:56,000 --> 00:17:00,000

An unidentified man walks into the police station.

328

00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:04,000

This man lives very nearby to Summerton Beach.

329

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:11,000

He remembers that somebody had thrown a copy of a book

330

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

in the backseat of his car on November 30th.

331

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:19,000

He puts two and two together, he retrieves the copy of the book,

332

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:22,000

and he brings it into the police station.

333

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:25,000

Police attempt to match the torn scrap of paper

334

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:28,000

to the book's damaged back page.

335

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:32,000

When the police examine the book,

336

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:35,000

they can tell that the tear from the book

337

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:37,000

matches exactly with the rolled-up piece of paper

338

00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:39,000

in the Summerton man's pocket.

339

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:42,000

They can tell microscopically by the fibers

340

00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:44,000

it's the copy that the Summerton man had.

341

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:47,000

It's a very easy match, that they know for sure now.

342

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:50,000

And just as investigators had hoped,

343

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:53,000

the book is about to provide an incredible new clue

344

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:56,000

to the Summerton man's identity.

345

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:03,000

Finding the actual book that belonged to the Summerton man

346

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:07,000

is a miraculous twist of fate in this case,

347

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:10,000

because they're able to begin piecing some new clues together

348

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:13,000

that they had no idea even existed before.

349

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:16,000

There are notes written in the book,

350

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

and then most interestingly, perhaps,

351

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

there is a series of letters in the back of the book,

352

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:24,000

capital letters that seem to be some sort of code.

353

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:27,000

When you look at the coded message in the book

354

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:31,000

and all other factors surrounding the Summerton man's case,

355

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

it then leads to the big question,

356

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:35,000

is he a spy?

357

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:39,000

At the time, Australia is wrapping up

358

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:41,000

their own nuclear testing,

359

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

so the idea is entirely plausible.

360

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:46,000

Using books to deliver hidden codes

361

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:49,000

seems like it's next level spying.

362

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:52,000

But the truth is, this was quite common,

363

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:53,000

especially in 1948.

364

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:56,000

The CIA did it to KGB, Israeli intelligence.

365

00:18:57,000 --> 00:18:59,000

So what happens is that the sender,

366

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:02,000

they'll take the words out of the book on certain pages,

367

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:06,000

and they use that to compose the message they want to send.

368

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:12,000

The receiver will have a card that will have holes cut out,

369

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:15,000

basically acting as a template

370

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:17,000

that they can put over the desired page,

371

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:19,000

and that will reveal the message underneath

372

00:19:19,000 --> 00:19:22,000

in the words and the order that they're supposed to be received.

373

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:26,000

Authorities send the code to various intelligence agencies

374

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:31,000

around the world, hoping someone will recognize it.

375

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:33,000

They send it to the U.S. Naval Intelligence.

376

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:35,000

They send it to British Intelligence.

377

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:37,000

They publish it in newspapers,

378

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:40,000

hoping that an amateur sleuth might be able to solve this.

379

00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:42,000

The code is only four lines,

380

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:46,000

but the best code breakers in the world can't figure this out.

381

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:49,000

You don't even need to really figure out the code

382

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:53,000

to indicate that there is some sort of larger espionage going on.

383

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:55,000

If we are to believe that he's a spy,

384

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:58,000

that very well could be what caused his death.

385

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:04,000

He was clearly a careful guy,

386

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:07,000

which is evidenced by the fact of the removal of his clothing labels,

387

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:09,000

the fact that he uses an alias.

388

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:13,000

But according to experts, the most important proof is

389

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:16,000

where and how the man died.

390

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:20,000

So there's two really important locations in Australia

391

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

which make this even more interesting.

392

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:27,000

One is Rumara, which is home of an advanced rocketry program

393

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:31,000

involving the United States as well as Australian military authorities.

394

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:37,000

The other is Radium Hill, which is home to a uranium processing facility.

395

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:42,000

The location of the Summerton man's body close to these facilities in Australia

396

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:44,000

isn't coincidental, in my view.

397

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:49,000

The UK is also preparing to start atomic testing in Australia,

398

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:51,000

800 kilometers from Adelaide.

399

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:56,000

And there's some evidence that secrets are already being leaked from Australia to the USSR.

400

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:59,000

There's a top secret intelligence program called a VENONO.

401

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:02,000

It's a joint American British operation,

402

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:04,000

and it's designed to do counterintelligence.

403

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:10,000

In 1947, the VENONO project was able to pick up evidence

404

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:14,000

that Russian intelligence operations were taking place in Australia

405

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:16,000

through its embassy in Canberra.

406

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:20,000

So we have a code that suggests the man may have been a spy.

407

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:24,000

We have the location, which certainly suggests that the man may have been a spy.

408

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

And most interesting to me is the fact that he appears to have died from an exotic poison,

409

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:32,000

which is absolutely spycraft.

410

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:38,000

And certainly suggests the possibility of this being what's referred to as a wet op.

411

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:43,000

Mokradel in Russian, which is a kind of time-honored tradition by Russian intelligence

412

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:46,000

to get rid of people by means of assassination

413

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:49,000

without leaving any kind of obvious hallmarks.

414

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:56,000

Could a seemingly insignificant piece of evidence be the key to cracking this case?

415

00:21:56,000 --> 00:21:58,000

The cigarette clue is a fascinating one,

416

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:02,000

where they discover in his possessions, his cigarettes,

417

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:06,000

there's a different kind of cigarette brand in the box of his cigarettes,

418

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:09,000

which seem to indicate that someone had replaced them.

419

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:14,000

This is a cheap box of cigarettes, and inside the box are an expensive brand.

420

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:16,000

So why would anyone want to do that?

421

00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:18,000

Is it possible that the man was poisoned

422

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:22,000

and that the delivery system for the poison was the cigarettes?

423

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:29,000

Unfortunately, the Australian police discard the cigarettes before they can be analyzed.

424

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:33,000

And that's a real shame, because the cigarettes could have provided the quintessential detail

425

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:35,000

that may have solved this case.

426

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:40,000

If the cigarettes were tested, and we could prove that there was poison in the cigarettes,

427

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:44,000

explaining why there were different cigarettes in the box,

428

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:48,000

it would certainly support a theory that he was involved in spycraft,

429

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:50,000

and he was murdered for that.

430

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:56,000

But if the Summerton man is a spy, who was he working for?

431

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:00,000

There is some speculation out there that he was not just anybody,

432

00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:04,000

but that he was a particular agent named Pavel Fidesimov.

433

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:07,000

Fidesimov was known as Stepan, that's his code name.

434

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:09,000

He was known to British and American intelligence.

435

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:15,000

Fedosimov was identified as a KGB spy during Operation Venona.

436

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:19,000

Fidesimov was stationed at the Russian Embassy in the United States.

437

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:24,000

And we know for sure that the Summerton man had at least traveled in the United States.

438

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:28,000

The US was tracking Fidesimov, and they followed him,

439

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:31,000

and they know that he theoretically leaves the country on a ship

440

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:34,000

bound for Odessa and Ukraine in 1948.

441

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:41,000

And some people have placed Fidesimov in Australia, although the evidence is very scant.

442

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:46,000

After the Summerton man's body is found on December 1, 1948,

443

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:49,000

Fidesimov is never seen again.

444

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:55,000

Can you say that Fidesimov and the Summerton man are one and the same?

445

00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:57,000

You can't rule it out, that's absolutely true,

446

00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:01,000

but I don't think there's enough evidence to say that conclusively.

447

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:05,000

But there may be another way to identify the Summerton man.

448

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:09,000

There's one more clue in that book that might be even more important.

449

00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:13,000

And it could lead police straight to his killer.

450

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:23,000

A dead body, a book of poetry, an unsolvable code.

451

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:30,000

After eight months of investigation into the Summerton man, police have little else to go on.

452

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:38,000

But in his copy of the Rubaiyat, there is one more clue, a pair of handwritten phone numbers.

453

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:43,000

Can this finally lead investigators to answers?

454

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:51,000

The other clue is what appears to be two phone numbers written inside the book.

455

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:54,000

The police decide to call these two phone numbers.

456

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:56,000

The first is to a bank, which is a dead end.

457

00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:00,000

The second number belongs to a woman who lives nearby, in fact,

458

00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:05,000

only 400 yards from where the Summerton man was found on the beach.

459

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:11,000

Police visit the woman and try to find out what she knows.

460

00:25:13,000 --> 00:25:17,000

And she agrees to cooperate, but she wants to remain anonymous.

461

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:20,000

She tells the police that she does not know the Summerton man,

462

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:23,000

but she does admit that she owned a copy of the Rubaiyat

463

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:26,000

that she gave to a male acquaintance some years earlier.

464

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:32,000

She was training as a nurse in 1945 in Sydney when she met someone named Al Boxhall.

465

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:35,000

They became friendly. She gave him a copy of the Rubaiyat.

466

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:38,000

She inscribed it with her nickname, Justin.

467

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:40,000

But she hasn't spoken with him in years.

468

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:44,000

Could Boxhall be the Summerton man?

469

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:48,000

So, of course, the authorities think,

470

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:51,000

perhaps this acquaintance of hers who received the Rubaiyat,

471

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:53,000

maybe that's the Summerton man.

472

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:56,000

However, a few days later, they follow up on the lead

473

00:25:56,000 --> 00:25:58,000

and they find that he's alive and well.

474

00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:04,000

The plot really thickens when one looks at Boxhall's background.

475

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:08,000

During World War II and afterwards, from 1945 to 1948,

476

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:11,000

Boxhall is involved in Australian intelligence.

477

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:18,000

I think the intrigue is even greater when the two stories of Justin and Boxhall

478

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:19,000

are put side by side.

479

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:22,000

Justin says that they met one another in the Army Hospital

480

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:25,000

and, according to Boxhall, the exchange of the book happens

481

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:28,000

at the Clifton Gardens Hotel over drinks.

482

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:33,000

To investigators, that location sounds familiar.

483

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:38,000

What's interesting is that if we're to believe Boxhall's version of the story,

484

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:43,000

where the book is exchanged at the Clifton Garden Hotel in August of 1945,

485

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:46,000

just two months earlier in June of 1945,

486

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:50,000

the body of George Marshall is found with a copy of the Rubaiyat,

487

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:53,000

a short walk from that very hotel.

488

00:26:55,000 --> 00:26:57,000

Not only is the copy of the Rubaiyat there,

489

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:02,000

but he's also found near a bottle of lemonade and some mysterious powder.

490

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:06,000

Which leads some people to think that it may have also been a poisoning.

491

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:11,000

And that's too similar for a coincidence between the Summerton Man and Marshall's death.

492

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:15,000

Two bodies found dead on Australian beaches,

493

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:20,000

both tied to the same book and, possibly, the same woman.

494

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

Police decide to question the mysterious Justin once again.

495

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:30,000

This woman really was a quintessential part of the investigation.

496

00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:34,000

And what's particularly interesting about all the great work they did in the case

497

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:36,000

is that before the Summerton Man is buried,

498

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:40,000

they make a plaster cast of him to preserve the way he looks before decomposition.

499

00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:45,000

They bring in Justin to view the cast.

500

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:49,000

Initially, when she looks at it, she claims that she doesn't recognize the cast,

501

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:52,000

when all of her body language suggests otherwise.

502

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:56,000

When Detective Sergeant Lean showed the woman the plaster bust,

503

00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:00,000

his reaction was that she looked like she was completely taken aback.

504

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

Like she appeared to be about to faint.

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00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:09,000

In fact, some reports say that he was standing behind her, ready to catch her if she did.

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00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:14,000

So then this begs the question, did she have any involvement in his death?

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

Justin convinces police not to release her name publicly.

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00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:24,000

So why didn't she want her name out in the open?

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00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:30,000

It's very possible that she didn't want her relationship with Boxwell to be known by her husband.

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00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:34,000

But I think there's another factor at play here, which is pretty basic.

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00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:39,000

In 1949, many people didn't imagine that women could be involved in espionage.

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00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:43,000

So they honor her request for animinity in the process,

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00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:49,000

kind of passed by the whole possibility that she's involved in more ways than one.

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00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:53,000

It isn't until years later that the woman's identity is revealed.

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00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:59,000

For decades, people have referred to her as Justin, which is the nickname used in the police records.

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00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:05,000

It took decades worth of sleuthing, both by police who were involved in the case and by some amateurs,

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00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:09,000

to put two and two together and to figure out the real identity.

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00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:14,000

After her death in 2007, we learned that upon her initial interview,

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00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:19,000

she gave her name as Jessica Thompson, but even that wasn't her real name.

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

She was born Jesse Harkness in Sydney and she goes by the name Joe.

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00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:32,000

When she passes away in 2007, she's gone her entire life insisting that she knows nothing about this case.

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00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:37,000

But Thompson's secrets don't end with her death.

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00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:44,000

In 2013, Joe's daughter Kay Thompson gives an interview for Australian 60 Minutes,

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00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:47,000

where she makes two very important claims that may relate to this case.

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00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:51,000

One, that her mother did admit to her that she knew the Summerton man.

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00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:57,000

And two, that she spoke Russian and she taught it to Russian immigrants in Australia.

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00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:06,000

And that fueled the fire that the Summerton man may in fact be a KGB operative or KGB associate of some sort.

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00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:12,000

And that's led to, since 2013, a whole bunch of questions again about the identity of the Summerton man.

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00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:22,000

There are a number of theories about who the Summerton man was, the spy theory, the black market trader theory.

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00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:27,000

But I think there are clues that take us away from those theories.

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00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:31,000

Abbott's theory begins in his classroom.

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00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:40,000

My students are well-versed in coding theory and so I gave it as a cool exercise to them to look at this code,

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00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:46,000

check out what were the codes in World War II that were known at the time,

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00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:51,000

and eliminate one by one which codes it couldn't be.

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00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:56,000

And statistically it shows that it's really not a code.

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00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:01,000

It's just the first letters of words in the English language.

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00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:03,000

So what could that be?

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00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:09,000

It could just be a dim memoir, somebody just jotting down the first letters of words to remember something.

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00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:18,000

But the interesting thing is there's four lines of them and it's in a book of love poetry where every verse was in four lines.

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00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:23,000

So it makes you wonder whether he was just trying to pen his own verse.

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00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:32,000

Was he being romantic towards a young lady who lived five minutes walk from where the man was found dead and he had her phone number.

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00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:37,000

Joining the dots there, there perhaps was a connection between the two.

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00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Perhaps this is a love story.

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00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:44,000

Or something entirely different.

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00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:53,000

In the case of the Summerton man, it could very well be that they had a relationship.

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00:31:53,000 --> 00:32:03,000

She gave him this book which has very romantic poems and it poems about seizing the day, about being together while the world is so difficult and they're in love.

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00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:05,000

But their relationship ends.

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00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:13,000

And then many years later the man shows up in 1948 looking to rekindle or somehow address his relationship with her.

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00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:21,000

She doesn't want anything to do with it and heartbroken decides to end his life by poisoning himself on the beach.

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00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:28,000

But if the Summerton man committed suicide by self poisoning, the question is why?

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00:32:29,000 --> 00:32:38,000

Back in 1948, Joe Thompson was involved in a relationship with a man named Prosper Thompson, her soon to be husband.

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00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:42,000

And they had a 16 month old child named Robin Thompson.

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00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:44,000

But here's the interesting part.

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00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:53,000

Joe Thompson becomes pregnant in 1946 and a true timeline can not be established as to when Joe and Prosper Thompson met.

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00:32:53,000 --> 00:33:04,000

It appears that in 1946 when she became pregnant in Sydney, she was in nursing quarters training as a nurse in a hospital.

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00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:09,000

Prosper Thompson was living a few hundred miles away from the Sun.

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00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:16,000

So this timeline raises questions about the lineage of Robin Thompson.

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00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:20,000

Some would suggest that it was a twisted triangular relationship.

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00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:23,000

The whole thing reads like a movie script, frankly.

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00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:32,000

Abbott believes that Robin could be the key to proving the Summerton man's identity and providing a motive for his death.

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

The interesting thing about Robin Thompson is he was a professional ballet dancer.

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00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:53,000

I recalled that one of the people that had examined the Summerton man's body in the mortuary had noted that the Summerton man had extremely strong calf muscles that were high up the leg, like that of a ballet dancer.

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00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:56,000

And the similarities don't end there.

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00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:06,000

So only about two percent of the population have what they call hyperdontia, where they're missing teeth because of genetics.

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00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:10,000

Well, the Summerton man is missing two incisor teeth.

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00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:14,000

And we know that they're missing naturally because the other teeth filled in.

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00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:18,000

Also, I noticed something strange about his ears.

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00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:24,000

The upper hollow of your ear is called the Simba and the lower hollow is called the caven.

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00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:30,000

And your Simba is usually very narrow and small and the caven is big.

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00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:35,000

But with the Summerton man, it's the other way around. His ears are inverted.

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00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:40,000

Robin Thompson shares both rare genetic traits.

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00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:49,000

So what are the odds of them having the same ear shapes and sizes and the same missing two front teeth, the lateral incisors?

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00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:52,000

What are those odds? They're one in ten million.

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00:34:55,000 --> 00:35:02,000

So the obvious question this all raises is, is the Summerton man the father of Robin Thompson?

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00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:15,000

We just got to look at the facts. He had a book of love poetry with the phone number of a lady who had a child with genetic features very similar to his.

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00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:22,000

Perhaps it's not something sinister, but it's a matter of the heart.

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00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:30,000

It does seem possible, maybe even likely that he comes back into town to reignite an old flame.

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00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:33,000

And he visits Joe Thompson.

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00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:37,000

However, he finds out that she's now in a relationship.

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00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:44,000

She's got a 16 month old son that is possibly his child and putting two and two together.

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00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:49,000

Maybe it's a reason why she didn't want him in her life anymore. He's rebuffed.

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00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:53,000

And at this point, maybe he had nothing else to live for.

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

In fact, when the Summerton man was found, they found a tiny rolled up piece of paper that said, Tammam should.

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00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Well, the English translation of it means it is finished or it is done.

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00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:10,000

And could this then be a suicide note?

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00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:14,000

But proving this theory will be difficult.

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00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:21,000

There's a big question mark over his death, but where we can find answers is through the man's DNA.

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00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:29,000

So in an effort to identify the Summerton man, they did a casting of his head.

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00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:35,000

Dr. Abbott went to examine that casting and sees that there's actually some hairs.

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

This got me excited because I realized that this could be a source of DNA that could crack this case.

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00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:47,000

Next, he tries to find Robin Thompson.

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00:36:48,000 --> 00:36:57,000

But Robin Thompson died a couple months before and he was cremated, so there's no remains to get the DNA to see if he was related to the Summerton man.

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00:37:00,000 --> 00:37:04,000

So I thought to myself, well, has Robin Thompson got any descendants?

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00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:09,000

I did some detective work and I tracked down one of his daughters.

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00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:15,000

Her name is Rachel Egan, the daughter of Robin Thompson and Roma Egan.

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00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:19,000

They toured together in a ballet company.

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00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:22,000

And she kindly donated her DNA.

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00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:31,000

I was able to subtract her DNA and her mother's DNA to basically reconstruct Robin Thompson's DNA.

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00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:38,000

I was excited that Rachel agreed to give me her DNA, but I got a lot more than that.

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00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:44,000

Abbott and Rachel began dating in 2010 and married just a few months later.

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00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:53,000

Sadly, there's not enough DNA material on the hair shafts to figure out if the Summerton man is Robin Thompson's father.

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00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Without a DNA match, the case remains unsolved.

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00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:05,000

Unfortunately, a lot of the evidence was later thrown out or destroyed.

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00:38:06,000 --> 00:38:14,000

The cigarettes, the suitcase, and perhaps the most important thing that's missing is the Summerton man's copy of the Rubaiat.

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00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:19,000

If we had this copy of this book, we might be able to run DNA testing on it.

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00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:23,000

We might be able to find new information inside the pages.

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00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:27,000

But ultimately, that evidence is gone now.

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00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:36,000

If Abbott and his family and the public have any chance of closure on the Summerton man case, the only way forward is to exhume the body.

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00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:42,000

The people of Australia want an answer who was the Summerton man.

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00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:45,000

So the stakes are high to get this solved.

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00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:53,000

Now that Rachel and I are together and we have a family, it kind of illustrates the importance of finding the DNA of the Summerton man.

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00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:59,000

If his DNA shows that he's a Russian, maybe that will bring the spy theory back alive again.

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

If he's unrelated to us, it gives some other family some closure, then connect him back to his family.

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00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:11,000

And if he is somehow related to us, it will also give us closure.

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00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:17,000

Investigation into this mystery is continuing.

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00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:25,000

The Summerton man's body was exhumed in May 2021 in Australia and DNA analysis is ongoing.

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00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Even if Rachel Egan is the Summerton man's granddaughter, it doesn't fully answer what happened on November 30th, 1948.

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00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:44,000

But proving the link between the man and Joe Thompson could be a crucial step in finally closing this case.

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00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:50,000

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

