

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,360

Tonight, a series of unexplained deaths near Chicago in 1982 starts a nationwide panic.

2

00:00:11,360 --> 00:00:17,780

The victims are connected by one frightening detail.

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00:00:17,780 --> 00:00:23,100

It looks like all these people took Tylenol and died that day.

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00:00:23,100 --> 00:00:28,300

Every hospital in every home in America probably had Tylenol in their cabinet.

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00:00:28,300 --> 00:00:35,960

Now we uncover the top theories surrounding an ongoing FBI investigation.

6

00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:38,820

What if these people weren't killed at random?

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00:00:38,820 --> 00:00:43,360

Whoever had done it had just been dormant for things to quiet down.

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00:00:43,360 --> 00:00:47,520

He looks very similar to Ted Kaczynski, the unipower.

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00:00:47,520 --> 00:00:52,580

Can the elusive killer finally be identified and brought to justice?

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00:00:52,580 --> 00:00:59,900

It's really a race against time to try and figure out who's doing this and why.

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00:00:59,900 --> 00:01:04,100

Who actually committed the Chicago Tylenol murders?

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00:01:04,100 --> 00:01:21,940

September 29th, 1982.

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00:01:21,940 --> 00:01:29,500

At 6.30 a.m. in the Chicago suburb of Schomburg, 12-year-old Mary Kellerman awakens with a

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00:01:29,500 --> 00:01:31,340

sore throat.

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00:01:31,340 --> 00:01:35,100

Mary Kellerman wakes up and tells her parents she's not feeling well.

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00:01:35,100 --> 00:01:43,420

She has sniffles, she's coughing, and to alleviate her symptoms, she takes a Tylenol.

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00:01:43,420 --> 00:01:49,420

Her dad is downstairs and he hears a thud, runs back upstairs, and Mary is sprawled

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00:01:49,420 --> 00:01:51,140

on the bathroom floor.

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00:01:51,140 --> 00:01:53,300

They rush Mary to the hospital.

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00:01:53,300 --> 00:01:58,300

When she finally gets there, Mary was pronounced dead at Alexian Brothers Medical Center in

21

00:01:58,300 --> 00:01:59,300

Elk Grove Village.

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00:01:59,300 --> 00:02:09,420

A few hours later in nearby Arlington Heights, 27-year-old postal worker Adam Janis collapses

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00:02:09,420 --> 00:02:12,180

after complaining of minor chest pains.

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00:02:12,180 --> 00:02:16,180

He's rushed to Northwest Community Hospital.

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00:02:16,180 --> 00:02:18,100

Adam arrives in critical condition.

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00:02:18,100 --> 00:02:24,860

Shortly thereafter, he dies of what doctors thought was heart failure.

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00:02:24,860 --> 00:02:31,980

In shock, Adam's brother Stanley and sister-in-law Teresa return home from the hospital and take

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00:02:31,980 --> 00:02:35,140

Tylenol for headaches.

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00:02:35,140 --> 00:02:39,660

That same day, they also collapse and die.

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00:02:39,660 --> 00:02:40,660

The police are baffled.

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00:02:40,660 --> 00:02:44,220

They have three victims in the same family in the same house.

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00:02:44,220 --> 00:02:47,340

They initially suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

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00:02:47,340 --> 00:02:50,940

They called the technicians but no carbon monoxide was detected.

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00:02:50,940 --> 00:02:55,140

So the police called the public health department looking for some medical guidance and they

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00:02:55,140 --> 00:02:58,900

sent nurse Helen Jensen to the Janis family.

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00:02:58,900 --> 00:03:05,420

Jensen finds a bottle of extra strength Tylenol with six capsules missing.

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00:03:05,420 --> 00:03:08,140

Three doses taken from a bottle, three people dead.

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00:03:08,140 --> 00:03:13,340

So Jensen takes this bottle back to the medical center to get it tested because she feels

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00:03:13,340 --> 00:03:16,220

that this could be something of importance.

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00:03:16,220 --> 00:03:22,340

Police at Northwest Community Hospital turn it over to law enforcement.

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00:03:22,340 --> 00:03:26,260

Helen Jensen suspects the Tylenol from the beginning.

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00:03:26,260 --> 00:03:28,900

She actually says this to the investigating officers.

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00:03:28,900 --> 00:03:31,780

I think it's something in the Tylenol.

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00:03:31,780 --> 00:03:37,460

The Janis family having no idea what has killed three members of their family so far, they're

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00:03:37,460 --> 00:03:39,020

terrified.

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00:03:39,020 --> 00:03:43,740

So they're brought to the hospital, put under observation and official documents so far

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00:03:43,740 --> 00:03:48,900

as to give them their last rights because they didn't know what was killing these people

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00:03:48,900 --> 00:03:52,060

and they didn't know if they were next.

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00:03:52,060 --> 00:03:57,980

While the Janis family remains under watch, 18 miles away in the suburb of Winfield, Mary

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00:03:57,980 --> 00:04:00,300

Reiner arrives home.

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00:04:00,300 --> 00:04:04,700

She's recently given birth and wants pain relief.

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00:04:04,700 --> 00:04:10,420

Soon after taking extra strength Tylenol, Mary Reiner collapses.

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00:04:10,420 --> 00:04:15,020

Police rush to the hospital and she also dies soon thereafter.

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00:04:15,020 --> 00:04:19,860

Five fatalities, each an apparent mystery.

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00:04:19,860 --> 00:04:21,940

Authorities are confounded.

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00:04:21,940 --> 00:04:27,540

The Janises and Mary Kellerman all died in Cook County, which meant they all ended up

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00:04:27,540 --> 00:04:28,980

in the same morgue.

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00:04:28,980 --> 00:04:31,340

There were also two bottles of Tylenol.

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00:04:31,340 --> 00:04:37,380

The Tylenol bottle that was used by the Janises and the Tylenol bottle that Mary Kellerman

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00:04:37,380 --> 00:04:39,900

got her Tylenol from.

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00:04:39,900 --> 00:04:46,420

Both bottles have the same lot number, which is MC2-880.

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00:04:46,420 --> 00:04:51,100

They also have another weird thing in common.

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00:04:51,100 --> 00:04:55,820

They both had the distinctive smell of bitter almonds and they're trained professionals who

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00:04:55,820 --> 00:05:01,500

know about poisons and contaminants and that bitter almond smell could only mean one thing,

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00:05:01,500 --> 00:05:03,620

cyanide.

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00:05:03,620 --> 00:05:04,620

It's a real mystery.

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00:05:04,620 --> 00:05:06,060

Who would do this?

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00:05:06,060 --> 00:05:07,500

Why did this happen?

69

00:05:07,500 --> 00:05:08,500

Why cyanide?

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00:05:08,700 --> 00:05:11,540

Police have tons of questions.

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00:05:11,540 --> 00:05:17,460

What cyanide does is blocks the cells in your body from absorbing and transporting oxygen

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00:05:17,460 --> 00:05:19,340

and it does it very quickly.

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00:05:19,340 --> 00:05:23,500

It's a very fast-acting, very dangerous poison.

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00:05:23,500 --> 00:05:28,700

Tests performed on capsules confirm the investigator's fears.

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00:05:28,700 --> 00:05:34,980

Not only were the Janises and Mary Kellerman killed with cyanide, but it was a dose of

76

00:05:34,980 --> 00:05:40,940

cyanide that was about a thousand times more potent than what you would need to kill a

77

00:05:40,940 --> 00:05:42,660

person.

78

00:05:42,660 --> 00:05:48,460

Authorities are panicked because they don't know how far this is going to go.

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00:05:48,460 --> 00:05:50,540

Is it just in Chicago suburb?

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00:05:50,540 --> 00:05:51,620

Is it nationwide?

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00:05:51,620 --> 00:05:53,140

They don't know.

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00:05:53,140 --> 00:05:59,060

While authorities struggle to connect the dots, there's another incident.

83

00:05:59,060 --> 00:06:04,940

At around 3 a.m., a woman named Mary McFarland was working at her telephone company.

84

00:06:04,940 --> 00:06:05,940

She was doing a pretty good job.

85

00:06:05,940 --> 00:06:09,380

Not feeling great, so she took a Tylenol.

86

00:06:09,380 --> 00:06:14,740

And almost immediately, she passes out and has to be rushed to the hospital where she

87

00:06:14,740 --> 00:06:15,740

died.

88

00:06:15,740 --> 00:06:22,500

After Mary McFarland collapses, they're looking to see, is this another victim?

89

00:06:22,500 --> 00:06:28,220

And sure enough, there are poison pills in there, just like the others.

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00:06:28,220 --> 00:06:32,740

That morning, Deputy Medical Examiner Edmond Donahue addresses the public.

91

00:06:32,740 --> 00:06:36,020

It's definitely some of the campers with the capsules, but we have no idea of where

92

00:06:36,020 --> 00:06:37,020

that occurred.

93

00:06:37,020 --> 00:06:41,900

Donahue hits the airwaves, letting everyone know that if you have Tylenol from this certain

94

00:06:41,900 --> 00:06:46,180

lot number, whatever you do, do not take that Tylenol.

95

00:06:46,180 --> 00:06:48,940

Remember, it's 1982.

96

00:06:48,940 --> 00:06:50,660

There's no social media.

97

00:06:50,660 --> 00:06:52,420

There's three networks.

98

00:06:52,420 --> 00:06:56,340

To get the word out, police were even going around with loudspeakers making announcements

99

00:06:56,340 --> 00:07:01,500

in the streets to make sure people would not be taking Tylenol from this lot number at

100

00:07:01,500 --> 00:07:02,500

this time.

101

00:07:02,500 --> 00:07:06,900

This is a huge deal because Tylenol is probably the number one pain medicine in the country

102

00:07:06,900 --> 00:07:08,220

at the time.

103

00:07:08,220 --> 00:07:13,780

Every hospital in every home in America probably had Tylenol in their cabinet.

104

00:07:13,780 --> 00:07:22,020

Johnson and Johnson moved quickly to recall 4.7 million capsules from lot number MC2880

105

00:07:22,020 --> 00:07:24,380

had all been manufactured in Pennsylvania.

106

00:07:24,380 --> 00:07:26,980

At this point, they're treating it like a homicide.

107

00:07:26,980 --> 00:07:31,740

They just have no idea how to figure out who's doing it.

108

00:07:31,740 --> 00:07:36,780

The next day, authorities form a coordinated multi-agency task force.

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00:07:36,780 --> 00:07:43,260

Chicago PD is involved and it ends up being something like 140 law enforcement officials

110

00:07:43,260 --> 00:07:46,860

who are involved, including the FBI.

111

00:07:46,860 --> 00:07:51,940

Not only were they investigating multiple homicides, but they were also trying to figure

112

00:07:51,940 --> 00:07:56,860

out are there any more bottles on the shelves out there, which was key.

113

00:07:56,860 --> 00:08:02,940

Before this task force can even mobilize and hit the streets, there's another incident.

114

00:08:02,940 --> 00:08:10,460

In Old Town Chicago around 5 p.m. that day, a woman named Paula Prince is found dead on

115

00:08:10,460 --> 00:08:17,420

the floor of her home and there is an open bottle of Tylenol on her bathroom counter.

116

00:08:17,420 --> 00:08:20,180

But this bottle is different.

117

00:08:20,180 --> 00:08:25,740

It was actually manufactured in Texas and the number on that particular bottle was

118

00:08:25,740 --> 00:08:27,900

1920 M.D.

119

00:08:27,900 --> 00:08:33,500

Now we have a different lot number that's been tainted with cyanide and of course now

120

00:08:33,500 --> 00:08:35,900

all the red flags go up.

121

00:08:35,900 --> 00:08:38,540

They now know that this isn't contained to a single lot.

122

00:08:38,540 --> 00:08:43,460

It is spread and they don't know how far it might go.

123

00:08:43,460 --> 00:08:50,460

Tonight Mayor Jane Byrne orders all Tylenol removed from Chicago shelves.

124

00:08:50,460 --> 00:08:52,860

People of course were panicked so they were calling up.

125

00:08:52,860 --> 00:08:56,540

I just took a Tylenol, am I going to die?

126

00:08:56,540 --> 00:08:59,660

Emergency responders on the other end would say, well if you're able to call, you're

127

00:08:59,660 --> 00:09:03,220

gonna be okay, but don't take any more.

128

00:09:03,220 --> 00:09:07,180

The first problem for police is where do you start?

129

00:09:07,180 --> 00:09:09,700

Is it just a random lunatic?

130

00:09:09,700 --> 00:09:11,300

Is it a serial killer?

131

00:09:11,300 --> 00:09:17,540

The obvious first place to look is to see if maybe it's something that happened in the

132

00:09:17,540 --> 00:09:22,580

supply chain.

133

00:09:22,580 --> 00:09:27,260

Investigators start with the Chicago offices of Johnson and Johnson.

134

00:09:27,260 --> 00:09:32,540

Police interview several current and former Johnson and Johnson employees looking for

135

00:09:32,540 --> 00:09:36,140

anyone bearing a grudge.

136

00:09:36,140 --> 00:09:40,580

Johnson and Johnson put out a hundred thousand dollar reward for any tips that might lead

137

00:09:40,580 --> 00:09:42,900

to whoever was doing this.

138

00:09:42,900 --> 00:09:44,100

Nothing came of it.

139

00:09:44,100 --> 00:09:48,900

They're also concerned about if there are other pills still.

140

00:09:48,900 --> 00:09:54,460

Their interviews with employees don't get them anywhere so a drastic step has to be

141

00:09:54,460 --> 00:09:56,500

taken.

142

00:09:56,500 --> 00:10:03,100

On October 5th Johnson and Johnson recalls all Tylenol products nationwide.

143

00:10:03,100 --> 00:10:10,620

A total of 31 million bottles valued at more than a hundred million dollars.

144

00:10:10,620 --> 00:10:12,140

They were able to test them.

145

00:10:12,140 --> 00:10:14,220

50 pills were contaminated.

146

00:10:14,220 --> 00:10:16,540

Those 50 pills were only in eight bottles.

147

00:10:16,540 --> 00:10:20,180

Two of the bottles had been returned in the recall.

148

00:10:20,180 --> 00:10:26,420

One other bottle was found after the fact still on a shelf, but hadn't been sold yet.

149

00:10:26,420 --> 00:10:30,260

They're lucky somebody else didn't buy those three bottles.

150

00:10:30,260 --> 00:10:36,020

They know these tainted pills were only produced in Pennsylvania or Texas in these two lot

151

00:10:36,020 --> 00:10:37,100

numbers.

152

00:10:37,100 --> 00:10:45,140

One thing they don't find is any evidence of pills that are tainted with cyanide outside

153

00:10:45,140 --> 00:10:48,700

the Chicago metro area.

154

00:10:48,700 --> 00:10:54,780

And while Johnson and Johnson is testing all of this they make another huge breakthrough.

155

00:10:54,780 --> 00:11:02,860

A chemist at J&J discovers that when you put cyanide inside a Tylenol capsule it degrades

156

00:11:02,860 --> 00:11:05,500

within 24 hours.

157

00:11:05,500 --> 00:11:12,020

Which means these crimes had to happen locally because the amount of time it takes for that

158

00:11:12,020 --> 00:11:16,980

pill to dissolve after you put the cyanide in it doesn't allow for shipping it out from

159

00:11:16,980 --> 00:11:20,140

a factory and waiting until it hits store shelves.

160

00:11:20,140 --> 00:11:21,940

You gotta act fast.

161

00:11:22,100 --> 00:11:26,580

This time pill bottles didn't have tamper proof seals on them.

162

00:11:26,580 --> 00:11:32,100

So anyone could open a medicine bottle without detection, virtually anywhere.

163

00:11:32,100 --> 00:11:38,220

If it's not an inside job this case becomes much more difficult.

164

00:11:38,220 --> 00:11:46,740

Now they have to canvas the entire Chicago area for any suspect.

165

00:11:46,740 --> 00:11:50,020

Early October 1982.

166

00:11:50,020 --> 00:11:56,820

Media coverage of the Chicago Tylenol murders is constant and frenzied.

167

00:11:56,820 --> 00:11:58,540

This is a huge story.

168

00:11:58,540 --> 00:12:00,380

Mass hysteria breaks out.

169

00:12:00,380 --> 00:12:07,300

It's like the Kennedy assassination in the coverage and the way it just captivates America's

170

00:12:07,300 --> 00:12:08,300

attention.

171

00:12:08,300 --> 00:12:13,620

There was somewhere in the area of 100,000 different newspaper articles that were done

172

00:12:13,620 --> 00:12:16,100

on this particular case.

173

00:12:16,100 --> 00:12:21,460

The scariest thing is that seven days have passed and they still have no viable suspects.

174

00:12:21,460 --> 00:12:28,820

Then on Wednesday October 6th investigators finally receive what they hope will be a clue.

175

00:12:28,820 --> 00:12:35,380

A ransom letter arrives at the Johnson and Johnson offices and this letter claims to

176

00:12:35,380 --> 00:12:40,140

be from the person who is poisoning these Tylenol pills.

177

00:12:40,140 --> 00:12:44,820

So finally police have a suspect.

178

00:12:44,820 --> 00:12:51,260

In the letter the Tylenol killer appears to be bragging about his prowess.

179

00:12:51,260 --> 00:12:54,460

It only takes him 10 minutes to contaminate a bottle.

180

00:12:54,460 --> 00:12:57,980

He's only spent \$50 to kill all of these people.

181

00:12:57,980 --> 00:13:02,140

And hey Johnson and Johnson if you don't want the killings to continue you better wire a

182

00:13:02,140 --> 00:13:07,380

million dollars to this bank account and don't tell the FBI.

183

00:13:07,380 --> 00:13:09,220

And the tone is so creepy.

184

00:13:09,220 --> 00:13:14,780

He says it's so easy to get buyers to swallow the bitter pill.

185

00:13:14,780 --> 00:13:18,540

It's a sociopath.

186

00:13:18,540 --> 00:13:20,020

This is not a smart crime.

187

00:13:20,020 --> 00:13:25,860

If this is a genuine ransom letter the person who sent it put their actual bank account

188

00:13:25,860 --> 00:13:28,740

number in the letter.

189

00:13:28,740 --> 00:13:33,220

The account belongs to a man named Frederick Miller McKay.

190

00:13:33,220 --> 00:13:37,180

Could the Tylenol killer finally have a name?

191

00:13:37,180 --> 00:13:43,220

So investigators follow the trail and speak to Frederick Miller McKay and he's an heir

192

00:13:43,220 --> 00:13:46,420

to the Miller brewing fortune.

193

00:13:46,420 --> 00:13:50,740

Clearly he's not likely to be the Tylenol killer.

194

00:13:50,740 --> 00:13:55,940

So they analyze this letter and police find a fingerprint and it traces back to a man

195

00:13:55,940 --> 00:13:58,500

named Robert Richardson.

196

00:13:58,500 --> 00:14:07,380

In October 13th 1982 police issue a warrant for his arrest over extortion charges.

197

00:14:07,380 --> 00:14:10,900

There's a big big man looking for this Robert Richardson.

198

00:14:10,900 --> 00:14:15,820

They have over a hundred law enforcement officers but at this point he's in the way and he's

199

00:14:15,820 --> 00:14:16,820

ghost.

200

00:14:16,820 --> 00:14:21,380

A few days later the alleged killer makes contact again.

201

00:14:21,380 --> 00:14:26,540

A second threatening letter shows up this time at the White House.

202

00:14:26,540 --> 00:14:28,940

This letter matches the handwriting of the first letter.

203

00:14:28,940 --> 00:14:33,660

It also includes a death threat to President Reagan.

204

00:14:33,660 --> 00:14:40,180

In the letter he demands a taxation overhaul or else the killers will continue.

205

00:14:40,180 --> 00:14:43,460

Within days a third letter arrives.

206

00:14:43,460 --> 00:14:49,620

This time to the Chicago Tribune but unlike the other letters this one is an attempt to

207

00:14:49,620 --> 00:14:51,540

clear his name.

208

00:14:51,540 --> 00:14:57,860

And he basically identifies himself as James Lewis, sends a thumb print and copy of his

209

00:14:57,860 --> 00:14:59,140

driver's license.

210

00:14:59,140 --> 00:15:02,260

Everything's there for law enforcement to identify who he is.

211

00:15:02,260 --> 00:15:09,540

Lewis' thumb print is a match and investigators find out that Robert Richardson is an alias.

212

00:15:09,540 --> 00:15:12,860

And he says you know I was just being opportunistic.

213

00:15:12,860 --> 00:15:15,060

I have nothing to do with this.

214

00:15:15,060 --> 00:15:20,340

It was really a crime of opportunity not a mass murdering at least as far as he was

215

00:15:20,340 --> 00:15:22,380

concerned.

216

00:15:22,380 --> 00:15:26,140

So James Lewis is now at the top of the FBI's most wanted list.

217

00:15:26,140 --> 00:15:29,220

They take his photo and they circulate it nationwide.

218

00:15:29,220 --> 00:15:32,860

They have a massive, massive man looking for this Lewis.

219

00:15:32,860 --> 00:15:37,060

And they arrest him on December 13th of 1982.

220

00:15:37,060 --> 00:15:39,420

So he's in custody at this point.

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00:15:39,420 --> 00:15:44,740

The next day his wife Leanne turns herself in to the Chicago police.

222

00:15:44,740 --> 00:15:48,220

Her bail is also set at five million dollars.

223

00:15:48,220 --> 00:15:53,700

They were probably relieved that they had a really strong suspect in custody.

224

00:15:53,700 --> 00:15:59,460

It didn't seem that more people were dying of the same ailments.

225

00:15:59,460 --> 00:16:05,180

Lewis admits to sending the ransom letters but he denies any involvement in the murders.

226

00:16:05,180 --> 00:16:08,340

He was simply trying to frame a key because he felt he was crooked.

227

00:16:08,340 --> 00:16:12,540

And he was trying to get the FBI to look at him and hopefully that they would look into

228

00:16:12,540 --> 00:16:15,340

any of his financial activities.

229

00:16:15,340 --> 00:16:20,380

Now Lewis is being interviewed multiple times and he basically sticks to a story that he

230

00:16:20,380 --> 00:16:22,500

didn't have anything to do with it.

231

00:16:22,500 --> 00:16:29,500

Tainting of the pills, we find out that Lewis' wife who's in custody worked for a McKay-E.

232

00:16:29,500 --> 00:16:35,900

There was a falling out, apparently the wife's last check which was in the area of five hundred

233

00:16:35,900 --> 00:16:38,300

and eleven dollars bounced.

234

00:16:38,300 --> 00:16:43,980

So for five hundred and eleven dollars this guy goes after this individual McKay-E and

235

00:16:43,980 --> 00:16:49,420

basically implicates him in the Tylenol murders.

236

00:16:49,420 --> 00:16:56,980

Is Lewis simply inventing an elaborate defense or could his story actually be true?

237

00:16:56,980 --> 00:17:03,420

To defend himself, Richardson slash Lewis says, you know, this would be really easy to do.

238

00:17:03,420 --> 00:17:05,340

Let me show you how.

239

00:17:05,340 --> 00:17:12,820

And he talked them through opening up capsules, replacing the powder inside with cyanide,

240

00:17:12,820 --> 00:17:13,820

closing it back up.

241

00:17:13,820 --> 00:17:15,620

See, it's so simple.

242

00:17:15,620 --> 00:17:16,620

Anyone could do it.

243

00:17:16,620 --> 00:17:22,100

It wasn't the smartest move because now police were really feeling comfortable that this was

244

00:17:22,100 --> 00:17:23,660

their guy.

245

00:17:23,660 --> 00:17:30,220

And what's crazy about this whole thing is you start looking at Lewis' background and

246

00:17:30,220 --> 00:17:35,580

at one point in time he actually had some involvement in the pharmaceutical industry.

247

00:17:35,580 --> 00:17:43,620

He also had a short-lived business venture where he was importing pill making machines

248

00:17:43,620 --> 00:17:45,540

from India.

249

00:17:45,540 --> 00:17:50,180

Lewis' criminal record also gets investigators' attention.

250

00:17:50,180 --> 00:17:52,060

James Lewis had a troubled past.

251

00:17:52,060 --> 00:18:00,020

He had committed assaults as a teenager, chased after his stepfather with an axe, tried to

252

00:18:00,020 --> 00:18:02,020

kill himself.

253

00:18:02,020 --> 00:18:06,500

He would later say that he did those things to try to get out of the Vietnam War draft,

254

00:18:06,500 --> 00:18:09,140

but a lot of people questioned that.

255

00:18:09,140 --> 00:18:15,460

He also served two years for tax fraud, but he was very prolific.

256

00:18:15,460 --> 00:18:20,820

Investigators have all they need to prosecute Lewis for extortion, including a confession.

257

00:18:20,820 --> 00:18:25,620

Now they need to prove he's a murderer.

258

00:18:25,620 --> 00:18:29,140

So law enforcement starts to build a timeline of this guy's whereabouts.

259

00:18:29,140 --> 00:18:34,140

The months before the poisoning, they find out that this guy was running from law enforcement

260

00:18:34,140 --> 00:18:37,380

in Kansas City back in December of 1981.

261

00:18:37,380 --> 00:18:42,980

When he left Kansas City, this is when he started using the alias of Robert Richardson

262

00:18:42,980 --> 00:18:47,380

and his wife also used the same Richardson alias.

263

00:18:47,380 --> 00:18:52,780

James Lewis' main alibi for not committing the Tylenol murders is that he wasn't anywhere

264

00:18:52,780 --> 00:18:55,100

near Chicago when the killings occurred.

265

00:18:55,100 --> 00:19:02,700

In early September 1982, he and his wife booked cash tickets on Amtrak, left Chicago,

266

00:19:02,700 --> 00:19:07,820

for New York City, using the alias is William and Karen Wagner.

267

00:19:07,820 --> 00:19:11,940

They lived there in Manhattan for weeks at the same time these Tylenol killings were

268

00:19:11,940 --> 00:19:14,740

happening.

269

00:19:14,740 --> 00:19:21,940

Investigators confirm the couple did indeed rent a New York hotel room, but suspicion remains.

270

00:19:21,940 --> 00:19:25,860

You've got to figure out, okay, he's in New York on September 4th.

271

00:19:25,860 --> 00:19:30,100

Could he possibly have come back to Chicago, tainted the pills and then went back to New

272

00:19:30,100 --> 00:19:31,100

York?

273

00:19:31,100 --> 00:19:37,300

The problem is no one can prove that hypothesis because we didn't have the technology back

274

00:19:37,300 --> 00:19:39,580

then that we have now.

275

00:19:39,580 --> 00:19:42,500

There aren't cameras on every streetlight.

276

00:19:42,500 --> 00:19:50,980

But there is one camera that might hold the answer.

277

00:19:51,100 --> 00:19:57,540

Now two and a half months after the Chicago Tylenol murders, police have a potential suspect,

278

00:19:57,540 --> 00:20:00,620

James William Lewis in custody.

279

00:20:00,620 --> 00:20:03,900

But can they prove he's the killer?

280

00:20:03,900 --> 00:20:06,700

Police have James Lewis on extortion.

281

00:20:06,700 --> 00:20:08,780

I mean, he's confessed to it.

282

00:20:08,780 --> 00:20:11,180

It's a pretty open and closed case.

283

00:20:11,180 --> 00:20:16,780

But he is adamant that he had nothing to do with the poisonings and they cannot place

284

00:20:16,780 --> 00:20:17,940

him in Chicago.

285

00:20:17,940 --> 00:20:20,860

His alibi is really pretty strong.

286

00:20:20,860 --> 00:20:24,580

Still new evidence surfaces.

287

00:20:24,580 --> 00:20:30,500

When Paula Prince bought her bottle of Tylenol, there actually was surveillance video.

288

00:20:30,500 --> 00:20:35,140

And this is a key part of this investigation because they're able to go back and find

289

00:20:35,140 --> 00:20:40,220

that she purchased her Tylenol on September 28th of 1982.

290

00:20:40,220 --> 00:20:44,900

And what's interesting here is they actually have security camera video and it's at the

291

00:20:44,900 --> 00:20:48,740

register where she's paying for her Tylenol.

292

00:20:48,740 --> 00:20:50,260

This was huge.

293

00:20:50,260 --> 00:20:56,380

There's a gentleman a couple feet behind her who looks an awful lot like James Lewis.

294

00:20:56,380 --> 00:21:01,020

So if he's there during the time that Paula Prince bought her tainer bottles, then that's

295

00:21:01,020 --> 00:21:02,020

it, right?

296

00:21:02,020 --> 00:21:04,940

You think he would have enough to close this case.

297

00:21:04,940 --> 00:21:10,660

Unfortunately, the video isn't clear enough for a positive ID.

298

00:21:10,660 --> 00:21:15,700

Lewis presents himself as an opportunist, as a con man, as a hustler.

299

00:21:15,700 --> 00:21:18,220

But he says he's not a killer.

300

00:21:18,580 --> 00:21:20,900

It's not in his repertoire.

301

00:21:20,900 --> 00:21:26,540

But when police dig deeper, they discover Lewis isn't quite as innocent as he claims.

302

00:21:26,540 --> 00:21:32,180

As police unfold his background, they find that he actually had been charged with murder

303

00:21:32,180 --> 00:21:34,500

before.

304

00:21:34,500 --> 00:21:40,260

In the mid-70s, Lewis was running a little tax and bookkeeping firm with his wife, Leanne,

305

00:21:40,260 --> 00:21:42,140

in Kansas City.

306

00:21:42,140 --> 00:21:48,500

And one of their favorite clients was an elderly guy named Raymond West.

307

00:21:48,500 --> 00:21:52,740

On July 23, 1978, Raymond West disappears.

308

00:21:52,740 --> 00:21:58,180

His friend Charles Banker goes to Raymond West's house to see how he's doing, see if

309

00:21:58,180 --> 00:21:59,260

he's turned up.

310

00:21:59,260 --> 00:22:02,540

There is a letter on Raymond's door.

311

00:22:02,540 --> 00:22:09,260

Ray is out of town for further call Jim and it's on the Lewis and Lewis stationery.

312

00:22:09,260 --> 00:22:11,340

That's pretty weird.

313

00:22:11,340 --> 00:22:12,580

He's talking to his friend.

314

00:22:12,580 --> 00:22:17,140

So you know, Ray doesn't go out of town, certainly not without telling him about it.

315

00:22:17,140 --> 00:22:18,140

Banker calls police.

316

00:22:18,140 --> 00:22:22,180

When the police come, they enter the house.

317

00:22:22,180 --> 00:22:23,180

Police look around the house.

318

00:22:23,180 --> 00:22:25,700

They don't see anything strange.

319

00:22:25,700 --> 00:22:27,940

So they leave.

320

00:22:27,940 --> 00:22:33,100

Three weeks passed and Charles Banker came back to Raymond's house.

321

00:22:33,100 --> 00:22:39,420

On August 14, 1978, when he opened the door, there was a terrible odor.

322

00:22:39,420 --> 00:22:43,980

He went and got the police who were experienced enough that they knew from the smell what

323

00:22:43,980 --> 00:22:45,780

they were dealing with.

324

00:22:45,780 --> 00:22:55,300

So police in the basement, they find a bloody lawn chair, rope, and a garbage bag containing

325

00:22:55,300 --> 00:23:00,420

his toupee, eyeglasses, and a blood stain sheet.

326

00:23:00,420 --> 00:23:07,060

Upstairs, officers notice a stain running from the ceiling to the wall.

327

00:23:07,060 --> 00:23:11,780

In the attic, they find a body with its legs dismembered.

328

00:23:11,780 --> 00:23:17,860

There's white rope around the remains, bags covering parts of his body, and the decomposition

329

00:23:17,860 --> 00:23:20,460

is tremendous.

330

00:23:20,460 --> 00:23:22,780

They knew it was the work of a killer.

331

00:23:22,780 --> 00:23:25,340

They just didn't know why or who.

332

00:23:25,340 --> 00:23:31,660

As they continue the search to gather more evidence, they find a \$5,000 check made out

333

00:23:31,660 --> 00:23:33,300

to guess who.

334

00:23:33,300 --> 00:23:36,620

The payee is James Lewis.

335

00:23:36,620 --> 00:23:42,220

So the police ask if they can search his car, and he says, sure.

336

00:23:42,220 --> 00:23:49,500

In his trunk, they find 20 feet of white rope, trash bags like the ones found in Raymond's

337

00:23:49,500 --> 00:23:58,980

house, a briefcase with Raymond West papers, and a stack of Raymond West checkbooks.

338

00:23:58,980 --> 00:24:07,180

In late August 1978, the Jackson County grand jury charges James Lewis with capital murder.

339

00:24:07,180 --> 00:24:11,500

Before the case had even started, before any evidence was even presented, his attorney

340

00:24:11,500 --> 00:24:14,700

gets the case thrown out on a technicality.

341

00:24:14,700 --> 00:24:19,340

Once they arrested him, they failed to read him his Miranda rights.

342

00:24:19,340 --> 00:24:25,140

So every bit of that evidence that they had found would be thrown out.

343

00:24:25,140 --> 00:24:27,340

And without it, there was no case.

344

00:24:27,340 --> 00:24:29,900

And James Lewis walked out the door.

345

00:24:29,900 --> 00:24:35,060

Despite the lack of a conviction, investigators working the Tylenol case now believe Lewis

346

00:24:35,060 --> 00:24:37,500

is capable of murder.

347

00:24:37,500 --> 00:24:39,700

But do they have enough evidence to prove it?

348

00:24:39,700 --> 00:24:45,940

So this guy gets off on a murder in 79, and in 1982 they have from poor extortion.

349

00:24:45,940 --> 00:24:51,340

And authorities can't connect him to these Tylenol cases because all they have is circumstantial

350

00:24:51,340 --> 00:24:56,220

evidence because his alibi says he was in New York.

351

00:24:56,220 --> 00:24:58,660

Can you believe that?

352

00:24:58,660 --> 00:25:06,100

In October of 1983, one year after the Tylenol killings, Lewis has tried for extortion and

353

00:25:06,100 --> 00:25:07,220

convicted.

354

00:25:07,220 --> 00:25:11,580

He serves 13 years of his 20 years since.

355

00:25:11,580 --> 00:25:17,220

So after that, police have another chance to maybe find some closure in the Tylenol

356

00:25:17,220 --> 00:25:18,220

case.

357

00:25:18,220 --> 00:25:20,500

So they look for more evidence again.

358

00:25:20,500 --> 00:25:22,980

They searched his house in 2009.

359

00:25:22,980 --> 00:25:30,300

They confiscated some computers and paperwork that they hoped would point to him as having

360

00:25:30,300 --> 00:25:34,620

been the mastermind of this poisoning scheme.

361

00:25:34,620 --> 00:25:41,100

In 2010, they got a court order to get DNA from James Lewis and his wife Leanne.

362

00:25:41,100 --> 00:25:42,660

Charges never came.

363

00:25:42,660 --> 00:25:46,860

Is Lewis in the Walgreens video behind Paula Prince?

364

00:25:46,860 --> 00:25:57,820

And is Lewis the individual that tainted the pills or is he not?

365

00:25:57,820 --> 00:26:03,940

When the Tylenol murders rock Chicago in 1982, investigators initially believe it's an isolated

366

00:26:03,940 --> 00:26:05,180

event.

367

00:26:05,180 --> 00:26:10,660

But as they dig deeper, they unravel an unsettling possibility.

368

00:26:10,660 --> 00:26:14,140

The killer has been active before.

369

00:26:14,140 --> 00:26:21,900

In fact, he could be one of the most infamous criminals in U.S. history.

370

00:26:21,900 --> 00:26:27,740

One week into the initial investigation, a Chicago detective is dispatched to Sheridan,

371

00:26:27,740 --> 00:26:30,180

Wyoming to follow a lead.

372

00:26:30,180 --> 00:26:36,460

On October 9th in 1982, New York Times released an article that talked about a lead up in

373

00:26:36,460 --> 00:26:37,700

Wyoming.

374

00:26:37,700 --> 00:26:43,740

There was a very similar homicide that occurred using tainted extra strength Tylenol with

375

00:26:43,740 --> 00:26:44,740

cyanide.

376

00:26:44,740 --> 00:26:51,020

So they sent a team of investigators up there to go ahead and look at this particular case.

377

00:26:51,020 --> 00:26:58,580

As it turns out, a couple months before the Chicago murders happened, on July 26th in Sheridan,

378

00:26:58,580 --> 00:27:07,340

Wyoming, 19-year-old janitor J. Adam Mitchell is found dead of cyanide poisoning, just

379

00:27:07,340 --> 00:27:09,300

like the cases in Chicago.

380

00:27:09,300 --> 00:27:15,820

According to his mom, the only thing he had taken prior was extra strength Tylenol.

381

00:27:15,820 --> 00:27:21,620

Chicago PD and the FBI couldn't make a direct connection other than circumstantial evidence

382

00:27:21,620 --> 00:27:27,660

between the Sheridan, Wyoming poisoning of Mitchell and the Tylenol murders two months

383

00:27:27,660 --> 00:27:29,980

later in Chicago.

384

00:27:29,980 --> 00:27:34,700

The case kind of goes cold for about 30 years.

385

00:27:34,700 --> 00:27:39,700

Then, a very high-profile suspect is thrust into the spotlight.

386

00:27:39,700 --> 00:27:48,700

On May 19th, 2011, dozens of news agencies pick up on a story about a new suspect.

387

00:27:48,700 --> 00:27:59,940

The FBI was seeking DNA from none other than Ted Kosinski, the unibomber.

388

00:27:59,940 --> 00:28:04,980

Kosinski was a reclusive mathematician convicted of sending bombs through the mail for nearly

389

00:28:04,980 --> 00:28:11,060

20 years, killing three people and wounding 23.

390

00:28:11,060 --> 00:28:16,460

He's currently serving eight life sentences for his crimes in a prison medical facility

391

00:28:16,460 --> 00:28:19,460

in North Carolina.

392

00:28:19,460 --> 00:28:25,740

In 1978 through 1980, Ted Kosinski was living with his parents in Lombard, Illinois, right

393

00:28:25,740 --> 00:28:27,620

outside of Chicago.

394

00:28:27,620 --> 00:28:32,380

And obviously we have the first four attacks that occurred right there in the Chicago metropolitan

395

00:28:32,380 --> 00:28:33,380

area.

396

00:28:33,380 --> 00:28:38,420

But he also intermittently stayed with his parents after that timeframe.

397

00:28:38,420 --> 00:28:42,700

Lombard could also be an ideal home base for the Tylenol killer.

398

00:28:42,700 --> 00:28:49,260

All of the stores where those Tylenol bottles were purchased were all within a 20-mile drive

399

00:28:49,260 --> 00:28:52,500

from Kosinski's parents' home.

400

00:28:52,500 --> 00:28:57,340

And so he would have known these stores, he would have known easily how to get to them,

401

00:28:57,340 --> 00:29:01,660

he would have been comfortable in the area, and that's something else to think about poisoning

402

00:29:01,660 --> 00:29:04,260

within a particular radius.

403

00:29:04,260 --> 00:29:10,020

When you look at the video of the individual standing behind Paula in Walgreens, not only

404

00:29:10,020 --> 00:29:15,260

does he look like Lewis, but he also looks like Ted Kosinski, the unibomber.

405

00:29:15,260 --> 00:29:20,620

The overlap between what Kosinski is convicted of and the Tylenol deaths, people started

406

00:29:20,620 --> 00:29:22,420

to wonder, okay, they're both domestic, non-native, non-native.

407

00:29:23,340 --> 00:29:24,820

And there are also other domestic terrorism cases.

408

00:29:24,820 --> 00:29:32,820

And actually some of Kosinski's first terrorist attacks originated in Chicago.

409

00:29:32,820 --> 00:29:37,940

There's also another reason authorities think Kosinski could be responsible.

410

00:29:37,940 --> 00:29:44,500

When you look at where Kosinski was arrested in Montana and you follow I-90 to go to Chicago,

411

00:29:44,500 --> 00:29:49,860

almost in that direct line is Sheridan, Wyoming, which is just off I-90.

412

00:29:49,860 --> 00:29:55,180

So here we have another circumstantial connection for Kosinski to be involved in at least the

413

00:29:55,180 --> 00:30:00,820

Sheridan-Wyoming murder and the 1982 Tylenol murders in Chicago.

414

00:30:00,820 --> 00:30:09,260

Could Ted Kosinski have committed this Sheridan-Wyoming crime as a run-up or practice to his much

415

00:30:09,260 --> 00:30:11,300

bigger crimes later?

416

00:30:11,300 --> 00:30:13,900

Ted Kosinski was a really good planner.

417

00:30:13,900 --> 00:30:18,540

He tested stuff out before he actually committed the crime.

418

00:30:18,540 --> 00:30:20,620

He tested his bombs out.

419

00:30:20,620 --> 00:30:26,700

And could the Sheridan-Wyoming homicide be the precursor to what occurred in Chicago two

420

00:30:26,700 --> 00:30:28,740

months later in 1982?

421

00:30:28,740 --> 00:30:30,500

Could very well have been.

422

00:30:30,500 --> 00:30:34,340

That's the way Ted Kosinski operates.

423

00:30:34,340 --> 00:30:38,500

Kosinski denies any involvement with the Tylenol case.

424

00:30:38,500 --> 00:30:44,580

Now Kosinski claims he never had potassium cyanide in his possession and they didn't

425

00:30:44,580 --> 00:30:49,220

find any in his cabin in Montana.

426

00:30:49,220 --> 00:30:55,380

Since 2011 police haven't filed any new charges against Ted Kosinski.

427

00:30:55,380 --> 00:31:01,780

So it's possible that there wasn't a DNA match, but it's possible that they're still building

428

00:31:01,780 --> 00:31:05,860

a case.

429

00:31:05,860 --> 00:31:11,500

One month into the hunt for Chicago's Tylenol killer, investigators asked a new and provocative

430

00:31:11,500 --> 00:31:12,740

question.

431

00:31:12,740 --> 00:31:18,020

What if these people weren't killed at random?

432

00:31:18,020 --> 00:31:23,300

Investigators look into the victim's friends and family, searching for any potential motive.

433

00:31:23,300 --> 00:31:27,380

Does someone's husband or wife have a reason to commit murder?

434

00:31:27,380 --> 00:31:34,460

Does an employee who is disgruntled with their job have a reason to do this?

435

00:31:34,460 --> 00:31:38,140

Most of the victims don't seem to have any enemies.

436

00:31:38,940 --> 00:31:45,740

But Mary Reiner might have a connection to a possible suspect.

437

00:31:45,740 --> 00:31:52,980

His name is Roger Arnold and he's a self-proclaimed closet chemist.

438

00:31:52,980 --> 00:31:59,420

Around the time of the murders he's heard openly bragging about having access to cyanide.

439

00:31:59,420 --> 00:32:06,300

He's a bar fly so he hangs out at one particular tavern, knows all the bartenders and he's

440

00:32:06,300 --> 00:32:11,940

constantly talking about how easy it is to poison people and basically goes into detail

441

00:32:11,940 --> 00:32:14,340

as to how it could be done.

442

00:32:14,340 --> 00:32:19,500

One of the people listening at the bar thought his theories were a little too close to plausible

443

00:32:19,500 --> 00:32:27,140

and called in a tip asking for investigators to look at Arnold.

444

00:32:27,140 --> 00:32:33,220

Things that raised eyebrows about Arnold were he worked in a warehouse for jewel grocery

445

00:32:33,220 --> 00:32:34,220

stores.

446

00:32:34,220 --> 00:32:36,980

This one of the bottles of Tylenol was found.

447

00:32:36,980 --> 00:32:42,940

At the warehouse where he worked he was a colleague with the father of one of the victims.

448

00:32:42,940 --> 00:32:47,060

So we have a little bit of a tangential relationship.

449

00:32:47,060 --> 00:32:52,780

This is the first time police have identified a suspect who might have a connection to one

450

00:32:52,780 --> 00:32:54,300

of the victims.

451

00:32:54,300 --> 00:32:57,900

Did he have some sort of beef with the Reiner family?

452

00:32:57,900 --> 00:33:00,460

Was this a revenge killing?

453

00:33:00,460 --> 00:33:01,780

It could be.

454

00:33:01,780 --> 00:33:07,700

One thing police will tell you all the time is there's no such thing as coincidences.

455

00:33:07,700 --> 00:33:12,660

Officers act on the tip immediately and bring Arnold in for questioning.

456

00:33:12,660 --> 00:33:18,060

At the time Arnold was out on an assault complaint so the police had good reason to check in

457

00:33:18,060 --> 00:33:19,060

on him.

458

00:33:19,060 --> 00:33:23,100

They talked about what Arnold thought about the Tylenol killings and hey guy did you have

459

00:33:23,100 --> 00:33:26,660

anything to do with this and he said absolutely not.

460

00:33:26,660 --> 00:33:28,620

Roger did tell police.

461

00:33:28,620 --> 00:33:34,660

Yeah I had cyanide but I got rid of it in August and the crimes weren't until late September

462

00:33:34,660 --> 00:33:38,940

so according to him it was all gone by then.

463

00:33:38,940 --> 00:33:42,700

This is all circumstantial but it's very alarming.

464

00:33:42,700 --> 00:33:50,700

We have a suspect who fancies himself as a closet chemist and he has a connection to

465

00:33:50,700 --> 00:33:57,300

one of the victims and he worked in the perfect spot to pull off a crime like this.

466

00:33:57,300 --> 00:34:00,860

He admits to handling and having cyanide.

467

00:34:00,860 --> 00:34:04,580

It's enough to get a search warrant for Arnold's apartment.

468

00:34:04,580 --> 00:34:14,580

They found chemicals, weapons, how to guides for various criminal activities.

469

00:34:14,580 --> 00:34:17,060

And they also find two one-way tickets to Thailand.

470

00:34:17,060 --> 00:34:23,060

They find five unregistered guns, chemistry equipment and white powder.

471

00:34:23,060 --> 00:34:29,100

They find potassium carbonate which is not the same as potassium cyanide but if you modify

472

00:34:29,100 --> 00:34:31,740

it a little bit it can be deadly.

473

00:34:31,740 --> 00:34:37,060

You can make a synthetic version using other ingredients.

474

00:34:37,060 --> 00:34:42,380

Arnold doesn't help himself either because he won't tell police why he has this potassium

475

00:34:42,380 --> 00:34:44,900

carbonate in his possession.

476

00:34:44,900 --> 00:34:46,740

He just says it wasn't illegal.

477

00:34:46,740 --> 00:34:48,980

Don't worry about it.

478

00:34:48,980 --> 00:34:53,620

Others next ask Arnold to take a polygraph exam.

479

00:34:53,620 --> 00:34:59,660

Obviously he refuses so he ends up charged with the assault and weapons violations.

480

00:34:59,660 --> 00:35:07,300

While he's awaiting trial on those charges he's released on a \$6,000 bond and he's very

481

00:35:07,300 --> 00:35:08,300

angry.

482

00:35:08,300 --> 00:35:13,380

When he was being interviewed by law enforcement he made a very interesting quote and he said

483

00:35:13,380 --> 00:35:19,500

I'd like to be in on the homicide of the guy that turned me in.

484

00:35:19,500 --> 00:35:26,180

In the early morning of June 18th 1983 Arnold snaps.

485

00:35:26,180 --> 00:35:31,540

Roger Arnold becomes convinced that the bar owner Marty Sinclair is the guy who turned

486

00:35:31,540 --> 00:35:38,860

him in so he starts to stalk him, approaches him and pulls out a gun, says you turn me

487

00:35:38,860 --> 00:35:42,660

in and he fires.

488

00:35:42,660 --> 00:35:47,180

The man drops dead but it's not Marty Sinclair.

489

00:35:47,180 --> 00:35:51,580

The man he killed was a computer consultant named John Staniscia.

490

00:35:51,580 --> 00:35:53,300

He was a father of three kids.

491

00:35:53,300 --> 00:35:57,420

He had absolutely no connection to the case whatsoever.

492

00:35:57,420 --> 00:36:02,180

Arnold is sentenced to 30 years in prison for killing Staniscia.

493

00:36:02,180 --> 00:36:10,420

He ends up serving 15 years and then dies in 2008 without ever admitting any guilt or

494

00:36:10,420 --> 00:36:13,700

involvement in the Tylenol case.

495

00:36:13,700 --> 00:36:17,340

The case files remain closed to public or press inspection.

496

00:36:17,340 --> 00:36:23,060

It's still an open investigation so we'll never know how many prime suspects may have

497

00:36:23,060 --> 00:36:25,980

been looked at in the Tylenol murders.

498

00:36:25,980 --> 00:36:31,260

Lewis remains a person of interest for many people involved in the case.

499

00:36:31,260 --> 00:36:37,580

Roger Arnold, he's dead now we'll never know but still raises eyebrows.

500

00:36:37,580 --> 00:36:45,900

But who else is out there and who else was looked at and who else wasn't looked at?

501

00:36:45,900 --> 00:36:51,420

In the years since the Chicago Tylenol murders, many have wondered if the suspect is still

502

00:36:51,420 --> 00:36:52,860

out there.

503

00:36:52,860 --> 00:36:55,380

Why have the killings stopped?

504

00:36:55,380 --> 00:37:01,300

So since no other tainted pills show up in Chicago, that has led some people to assume

505

00:37:01,300 --> 00:37:06,100

maybe the killer died or maybe he just gave up.

506

00:37:06,100 --> 00:37:10,340

But there is another really frightening possibility.

507

00:37:10,340 --> 00:37:17,420

In the aftermath of the Tylenol murders, there are hundreds of copycat attempts all across

508

00:37:17,420 --> 00:37:18,420

the country.

509

00:37:18,420 --> 00:37:22,260

At least that's what police categorize them as.

510

00:37:22,260 --> 00:37:24,420

But what if they weren't copycats?

511

00:37:24,420 --> 00:37:25,740

Maybe the killer didn't stop.

512

00:37:31,420 --> 00:37:37,700

In 1986, four more deaths occur due to tempered pain pills.

513

00:37:37,700 --> 00:37:45,780

Two of the victims are attributed to a killer in Seattle named Stella Nicol.

514

00:37:45,780 --> 00:37:54,100

She used cyanide-laced excedrin to kill her husband and a woman named Sue Snow.

515

00:37:54,100 --> 00:37:59,260

But there are two more deaths that are a little more intriguing.

516

00:37:59,260 --> 00:38:08,180

In Austin, Texas, in May 1986, a college student named Kenneth Fairies dies after taking cyanide-laced

517

00:38:08,180 --> 00:38:09,180

anisin.

518

00:38:09,180 --> 00:38:17,380

His death was ruled a suicide because he had supposedly had access to cyanide at his work.

519

00:38:17,380 --> 00:38:25,460

And so the thinking was that he had tainted an anisin pill himself and intentionally taken

520

00:38:25,460 --> 00:38:26,460

it.

521

00:38:26,460 --> 00:38:33,300

It does seem like a very horrific way to die by suicide, but that's what it was ruled.

522

00:38:33,300 --> 00:38:38,340

The one that probably stood out for people was in Yonkers.

523

00:38:38,340 --> 00:38:46,260

On February 8, 1986, Diane Ellsroth took some extra strength Tylenol that had been laced

524

00:38:46,260 --> 00:38:49,660

with cyanide, and she dropped dead.

525

00:38:49,660 --> 00:38:55,940

The tainted bottles were found in stores in Westchester County, and fortunately they

526

00:38:55,940 --> 00:39:00,820

were able to get them all off the shelves before anyone else was killed.

527

00:39:00,820 --> 00:39:05,820

Investigators looked at the New York cases to see if maybe this was a continuation of

528

00:39:05,820 --> 00:39:07,900

the Chicago cases.

529

00:39:07,900 --> 00:39:14,020

Maybe whoever had done it had just been dormant for things to quiet down.

530

00:39:14,020 --> 00:39:18,540

There hasn't been a direct connection made between that case and the Chicago Tylenol

531

00:39:18,540 --> 00:39:22,540

murders, but it's eerie that it's very similar.

532

00:39:22,540 --> 00:39:28,060

If the New York cases were connected to the Chicago cases, that would have thrown a wrench

533

00:39:28,060 --> 00:39:35,860

in all of the theories up to date because Roger Arnold was in prison and James Lewis

534

00:39:35,860 --> 00:39:37,420

was in prison.

535

00:39:37,420 --> 00:39:42,380

Or as the FBI currently believes, maybe it is just a copycat.

536

00:39:42,380 --> 00:39:47,140

And there still are two poisoning suspects out there at large.

537

00:39:47,140 --> 00:39:53,060

Thankfully these days it's very unlikely that we'll have another epidemic of poisoned

538

00:39:53,060 --> 00:39:56,060

pills.

539

00:39:56,060 --> 00:40:01,300

In the wake of the Tylenol murders, the U.S. government passed the Federal Anti-Tampering

540

00:40:01,300 --> 00:40:04,580

Act in 1983.

541

00:40:04,580 --> 00:40:11,740

This case and the bill that it inspired are responsible for the tamper-proof seals and

542

00:40:11,740 --> 00:40:15,780

packaging that you see on medicine bottles today.

543

00:40:15,780 --> 00:40:20,820

It absolutely changed history and saved countless lives.

544

00:40:20,820 --> 00:40:27,860

These poisonings were an act of domestic terrorism and whoever committed them was a heinous,

545

00:40:27,860 --> 00:40:33,700

heartless, horrible person who didn't care who went down, how they would die.

546

00:40:33,700 --> 00:40:36,260

They just wanted to inflict some damage.

547

00:40:36,260 --> 00:40:39,420

And it's a terrible case.

548

00:40:39,420 --> 00:40:44,300

The families that were affected by the Tylenol murders still are wanting justice in this

549

00:40:44,300 --> 00:40:45,420

case.

550

00:40:45,420 --> 00:40:46,620

No one's been charged.

551

00:40:46,620 --> 00:40:48,380

No one's been convicted.

552

00:40:48,380 --> 00:40:52,340

There are no answers yet in the Tylenol murders.

553

00:40:52,340 --> 00:40:57,780

And this is one of those great cold cases from the 20th century that there's a lot of questions

554

00:40:57,780 --> 00:40:58,780

out there.

555

00:40:58,780 --> 00:41:04,620

But I think with having the FBI involved and maybe where we are right now with some of

556

00:41:04,620 --> 00:41:08,940

the new DNA stuff that's come out, hopefully they can bring this to a conclusion.

557

00:41:10,420 --> 00:41:17,900

Authorities have gathered thousands of documents and interviewed more than 400 persons of interest

558

00:41:17,900 --> 00:41:20,940

during their ongoing investigation.

559

00:41:20,940 --> 00:41:28,140

They're currently testing the original cyanide-laced capsules in an attempt to complete a DNA

profile

560

00:41:28,140 --> 00:41:29,700

of the killer.

561

00:41:29,700 --> 00:41:35,460

Perhaps modern technology can finally close the case.

562

00:41:35,460 --> 00:41:37,100

I'm Lawrence Fishburne.

563

00:41:37,100 --> 00:41:40,220

Thank you for watching History's Greatest Mysteries.