

1

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

MUSIC

2

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

Tonight, a spree of horrifying murders

3

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

shocks Northern California and the world.

4

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

Search goes on in San Francisco

5

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

for the man known as the Zodiac Killer.

6

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

The maniacal killer goads police

7

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

leaving cryptic clues to his identity.

8

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

The suspect's very involved in this.

9

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

Seems to enjoy taunting law enforcement

10

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

and he's on a roll doing this.

11

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

It's almost something out of a Hollywood movie.

12

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

Now we uncover the top theories

13

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

about one of history's most notorious serial killers.

14

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

He seemed obsessed with her

15

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

to the point where he followed her every move.

16

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

There's a chance that Zodiac had more victims

17

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

and may have left behind evidence that's gone unnoticed.

18

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

Grizzly murders start happening in Florence, Italy

19

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

and they fit the Zodiac's MO to a T.

20

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:02,000

Can new evidence finally crack his code?

21

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:04,000

After years and years of trying,

22

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,000

they finally crack the cipher.

23

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:08,000

And maybe that will tell us

24

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:10,000

who the killer is once and for all.

25

00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Who is the Zodiac Killer?

26

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:24,000

MUSIC

27

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

BANESIA, CA

28

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:34,000

December 20th, 1968

29

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:36,000

At 11 p.m.

30

00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:38,000

local resident Stella Borges

31

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

drives along a darkened stretch of Lake Herman Road.

32

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:44,000

Ms. Borges comes around the band

33

00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:46,000

and then suddenly she sees two bodies

34

00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:50,000

lying motionless on the ground.

35

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:53,000

She's shocked but she knows well enough not to linger.

36

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,000

So she keeps driving until she can flag down a police car.

37

00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:57,000

And when the police come,

38

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

they're able to identify the two individuals.

39

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

Betty Lou Jensen, who's 16 years old

40

00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:07,000

and David Faraday, who's 17 years old.

41

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

Just two high school students on their first date.

42

00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:12,000

Detectives examine the bodies and see that David

43

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:15,000

was killed by a single gunshot behind his left ear.

44

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:18,000

Betty Lou was shot five times in the back.

45

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

Police are stumped why anyone would commit

46

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

an execution style murder on an innocent high school couple.

47

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

There was no evidence of any robbery

48

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

or sexual assault of any kind,

49

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,000

which led them to believe that it might have been

50

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:34,000

a random attack by a stranger.

51

00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:37,000

For seven months, police have no leads.

52

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

Then, on July 4th, 1969,

53

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

they receive a shocking phone call.

54

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:47,000

The call is taken by Vallejo Police Dispatcher, Nancy Slover.

55

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:50,000

And the caller speaks in a very low, monotone voice

56

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:53,000

and describes where two bodies can be found.

57

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:57,000

He also states that they've been shot with a 9-millimeter luger.

58

00:02:57,000 --> 00:02:59,000

And before he ends the phone call,

59

00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:03,000

he also says, I also killed those kids last year.

60

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

Police rushed to Blue Rock Springs Park

61

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:09,000

in the city of Vallejo four miles from the first crime scene.

62

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:12,000

When they arrive, they find another young couple

63

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:16,000

inside of the car suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

64

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:20,000

EMTs quickly transport the victims to the hospital.

65

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:25,000

22-year-old Darlene Farron is pronounced dead on arrival.

66

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:29,000

But 19-year-old Michael Majo survives.

67

00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:31,000

Michael is badly injured,

68

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:34,000

but he's still able to describe what happened.

69

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:37,000

He says that they were randomly attacked by a stranger

70

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

who shined a flashlight in their faces

71

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

right before he fired five shots.

72

00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:45,000

He describes the suspect as a Caucasian

73

00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:51,000

about 30 years old, 5'8", 200 pounds with short curly hair.

74

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:55,000

The Bay Area now has a serial killer on the loose.

75

00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:59,000

He's claimed three victims so far, nearly four.

76

00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:02,000

Almost a month after the Vallejo attacks,

77

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:05,000

the killer contacts local press.

78

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:10,000

He includes a strange three-part coded message or cipher.

79

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:13,000

On July 31st, three Bay Area newspapers

80

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:16,000

received three virtually identical handwritten letters

81

00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:19,000

from someone who claims to be the killer.

82

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:22,000

He demands that a cipher, which is included with the letters,

83

00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:24,000

be published on August 1st,

84

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:27,000

or he threatens to kill more victims.

85

00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:31,000

The cipher and the accompanying letters are published as demanded.

86

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:36,000

Then, on August 4th, another letter arrives.

87

00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:39,000

This letter sent to the San Francisco Examiner

88

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:44,000

says, Dear Editor, this is the Zodiac speaking,

89

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

and now our killer has a name.

90

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:48,000

Zodiac.

91

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:52,000

His name becomes front-page news in the Bay Area.

92

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:56,000

That publicity quickly leads to a breakthrough.

93

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

On August 8th, 1969,

94

00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:02,000

news broke that the Zodiac cipher had been solved

95

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

by a couple in Salinas, California.

96

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

The message read that man is the most dangerous animal of all.

97

00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:12,000

The writer also states that the victims he had killed

98

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:16,000

would serve as his slaves in the afterlife.

99

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:18,000

But it doesn't reveal his identity.

100

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

In fact, it specifically says that he won't give his name

101

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:24,000

because he intends to keep killing.

102

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:26,000

People are already scared about these murders.

103

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:28,000

The victims on this are young.

104

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

They appear to be random.

105

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

And now we have all these letters coming out.

106

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:35,000

And it shows that this maniacal killer that likes to play games,

107

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:37,000

likes to taunt law enforcement,

108

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

it's almost something out of a Hollywood movie.

109

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:47,000

On September 27th, the Zodiac keeps his word.

110

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:52,000

At 7.40 p.m., the police receive a phone call from the Zodiac,

111

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

again in that low, monotone voice.

112

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

He tells the dispatcher that he wants to report a double murder.

113

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

The bodies can be found at Lake Berryessa in Napa County.

114

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

When the police arrive at Lake Berryessa,

115

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

they find the bodies of two college students,

116

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

Brian Hartnell and Cecilia Shepard.

117

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

Both victims have been stabbed multiple times.

118

00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:18,000

Shepard dies from her injuries, but Hartnell is lucky.

119

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:21,000

None of his vital organs were struck, so he survives.

120

00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:25,000

Brian Hartnell tells police that the man was over six feet tall,

121

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

was heavy set, that he was wearing a hooded costume

122

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

with a crossed circle on the chest.

123

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

That same chilling symbol appears in Zodiac's letters,

124

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:37,000

causing widespread public fear.

125

00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:39,000

At this point, descriptions of the Zodiac killer

126

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:41,000

are all over the media.

127

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:45,000

Search goes on in San Francisco for the man known as the Zodiac killer.

128

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:49,000

He was a big guy, six foot of better, over 200 pounds.

129

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:52,000

And tips are just pouring into law enforcement.

130

00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:56,000

Some witnesses reported that they had seen a man lurking in the area

131

00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:58,000

just prior to the attack.

132

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

The man's name, Arthur Lee Allen.

133

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:05,000

When police dive into Allen's background,

134

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

they find a ton of red flags.

135

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

In 1968, the same year the killings start,

136

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

he's fired from his job as a school teacher from molesting a student.

137

00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Allen was apparently seen at Lake Berryessa on the day of the attack,

138

00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:23,000

but he tells police that he was scuba diving

139

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:26,000

at a totally different area called Salt Point that day,

140

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:28,000

and he spent the night out there.

141

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

There are no witnesses to corroborate his alibi.

142

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

Even Allen's own friends and family are suspicious.

143

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:38,000

Don Cheney is a close friend of Allen,

144

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:42,000

and he tells police that Allen is in fact writing a book

145

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:45,000

about a character that kills couples,

146

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:47,000

taunts police with letters,

147

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:50,000

and even calls himself the Zodiac.

148

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:53,000

Police interviewed Allen's brother, Ron,

149

00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:55,000

who said that their mother had given Allen

150

00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:00,000

a Zodiac brand wristwatch for a Christmas gift in 1967.

151

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

This watch featured the cross-circle symbol used by the killer.

152

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

But not everything lines up.

153

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:11,000

There are certainly some discrepancies in the witness statements.

154

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

For one, Allen is 6'1", and 240 pounds,

155

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:19,000

which is much bigger than previous witness statements have described.

156

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:21,000

He's also bald on top,

157

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:24,000

while the witnesses mentioned short brown curly hair.

158

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:26,000

And that's not the only issue.

159

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:29,000

Allen's writing doesn't match Zodiacs.

160

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:34,000

Police dispatcher Nancy Slover also doesn't think it's Allen.

161

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:38,000

When she's asked to listen to a recording of Allen's voice,

162

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:41,000

Slover is confident that is not the man who called in

163

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:43,000

to report the first murders.

164

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:45,000

It's not Zodiac.

165

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:48,000

Allen dies in 1992,

166

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:52,000

without being arrested or charged in any Zodiac murder,

167

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:57,000

including one that takes place in San Francisco in October 1969.

168

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Three teenagers are sitting in their apartment in San Francisco

169

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:04,000

when they believe they hear a gunshot.

170

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:08,000

They look out the window and they see a man hovering over a taxi cab driver,

171

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:11,000

and what appears to be a robbery.

172

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:14,000

One of them calls police to report the crime in progress,

173

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:18,000

and reports that they saw the killer apparently wiping down the cab

174

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:20,000

with some sort of cloth.

175

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

When they arrive, they find 29-year-old taxi driver Paul Slover,

176

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:28,000

dead from a gunshot wound to the head.

177

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:32,000

There are a few other similar murders that some suspect could be connected,

178

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:37,000

but this is the last killing that the Zodiac explicitly takes credit for,

179

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:39,000

and the letters sent to the newspaper.

180

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:45,000

After the Stein murder, Zodiac keeps sending letters intermittently for a few years,

181

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:48,000

and some even include more cryptograms.

182

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:53,000

This psychopathic killer seems to think of himself as a man who's been killed

183

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:57,000

and he's been able to think of himself as some un-catchable genius.

184

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:03,000

All told, Zodiac sends more than 20 letters and a total of four ciphers.

185

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

Then, in January 1974, they suddenly stop.

186

00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:13,000

Luckily, the Stein murder has something none of the others do.

187

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:16,000

Independent eyewitnesses.

188

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:20,000

Thanks to these witnesses, police are able to make a composite drawing,

189

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:22,000

which two days later they're released to the media.

190

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:26,000

We should mention that this sketch looks nothing like Arthur Leigh Allen,

191

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:29,000

but it does open the floodgates for a lot more tips,

192

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:33,000

and police are about to have a lot more suspects to investigate.

193

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:42,000

After the Zodiac killer goes on a 10-month killing spree that claims five victims,

194

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:44,000

police get a break.

195

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:50,000

Eyewitnesses help them create a composite sketch with one vital clue.

196

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:54,000

This is the first sketch that shows the suspect wearing glasses.

197

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:58,000

Immediately, the police tip line gets flooded with calls.

198

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:02,000

Everybody and their mother thinks that they know somebody who resembles the man in the sketch.

199

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:08,000

Police estimate they've tracked over 2,500 suspects in the Zodiac case.

200

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:10,000

Most are very quick dead ends.

201

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:15,000

People with alibis are with no connections whatsoever to locations or victims in the case.

202

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:18,000

Most, but not all.

203

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:22,000

There's a journalist and amateur investigator named Blaine Blaine,

204

00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:28,000

who at the time of the Zodiac killings writes a column named Copwatch for the Good Times newspaper.

205

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:35,000

He's fascinated by the case and spends 10 years looking for a suspect who matches the sketch.

206

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Blaine studies the ciphers.

207

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:43,000

He compiles a list of the victim's friends, neighbors, classmates, you name it.

208

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:46,000

He looks at every angle possible,

209

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

and eventually he finds his perfect match.

210

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Army veteran Richard Gajkowski.

211

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:57,000

We should start off by saying just because someone looks like the sketch doesn't make that person guilty,

212

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

doesn't even make him the suspect, that's kind of a long shot.

213

00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:02,000

But the photos are very striking,

214

00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:06,000

and Gajkowski definitely fits the description of the Zodiac killer.

215

00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:08,000

But of course Blaine doesn't stop there.

216

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

He finds a lot more circumstantial evidence.

217

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:13,000

Gajkowski is a journalist,

218

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:16,000

and he moved to Martinez, California in 1964,

219

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

four years before the first known Zodiac murder.

220

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:25,000

Martinez is within one hour of all the known murder sites.

221

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:30,000

He's in the right place at the right time, and with the right appearance.

222

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:35,000

But the really big red flag, the most suspicious thing about Gajkowski and his link to the Zodiac killings,

223

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:39,000

comes when Blaine looks into the lives of the victims.

224

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

It appears Gajkowski has a connection to at least one victim.

225

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:44,000

Darlene Farron.

226

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:48,000

In January of 1966, Darlene Farron gets married,

227

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:51,000

and with her husband moved to Albany, New York.

228

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:56,000

The next thing you know, Richard Gajkowski uproots his life and then moves to Albany as well.

229

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:00,000

When Darlene and her husband moved back to Northern California,

230

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

Richard also moves back to Northern California.

231

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Blaine does not think this is a coincidence at all.

232

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

When authorities read Blaine's dossier, they find it convincing enough to open an investigation.

233

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

Police immediately confirm several key details from Blaine's report.

234

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

First, Gajkowski lived only 12 miles from Blue Rock Springs, where Darlene was murdered.

235

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

And second, he seemed obsessed with her to the point where he followed her every move.

236

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

Detectives look into other possible links to the Zodiac's victims.

237

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

They look back at the Lake Berryessa crime scene where Cecilia Shepard and Brian Hartnell were attacked,

238

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:44,000

and they find a very specific style of footprint.

239

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:49,000

They're from a special wing walker model of a boot worn by the Army.

240

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

You know who's a medic in the U.S. Army? Richard Gajkowski.

241

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

There's a possible connection between Gajkowski and victim Paul Stein as well.

242

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:05,000

When the police interview Stein's sister, she tells them that Gajkowski attended Stein's funeral.

243

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:09,000

She found this very odd because the two men were not friends.

244

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:13,000

They weren't acquainted anywhere. Why would he be at her brother's funeral?

245

00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:19,000

So now we have connections between Gajkowski and three of the four known murders.

246

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:22,000

The next thing police look at is the letters.

247

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:27,000

Zodiac writes letters regularly starting in August of 1969.

248

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:32,000

Pretty much every couple of months letters show up until March of 1971.

249

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:37,000

Then, suddenly, he's silent for almost three years.

250

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

The final letter comes in January, 1974.

251

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:47,000

This three-year gap coincides with a time when Gajkowski is committed to a mental asylum.

252

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:51,000

We don't have a lot of details on his involuntary commitment,

253

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

but we know he spent time at Napa State Hospital for, quote, going berserk.

254

00:14:56,000 --> 00:15:01,000

And there's one more clue hidden in the Zodiac's first cryptogram.

255

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:09,000

Zodiac said he was identifying himself in that first set of cryptograms from August 1st, 1969.

256

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:12,000

But there was no name listed when the code was cracked.

257

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:16,000

But what if the name was buried in the code itself?

258

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:19,000

In one part of the code, you can clearly see the letters.

259

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:22,000

G-Y-K-E, Gajk.

260

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:29,000

In articles written by Gajkowski in 1969, he frequently shortened his name to four letters.

261

00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:36,000

He used multiple spellings, such as G-I-K-E or G-A-I-K.

262

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:39,000

Some theorists have taken this even further.

263

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:44,000

The translation of those letters, once the code was solved, is A-U-S-E.

264

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:51,000

And again, once you look at both the code and the solution, you see the letters K-E-Y.

265

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:55,000

Gajk-Aus-Ki, Gajkowski.

266

00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:58,000

The killer says his identity was in the cipher.

267

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:00,000

Was he telling the truth?

268

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:06,000

By 1985, Blaine is ready to take his investigation to the next level.

269

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:11,000

Blaine wants more definitive proof that Gajkowski is in fact Zodiac.

270

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:17,000

So he calls him up and tricks him into talking about code and records the conversation.

271

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

Well, detectives get this tape from Blaine.

272

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:27,000

Then they ask Nancy Slover, the police dispatch who actually talked to the Zodiac, to listen to Gajkowski's voice.

273

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:31,000

She says it's the same as a Zodiac killer's voice.

274

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:38,000

Detectives confront Gajkowski and ask him where he was at the time of the Lake Herman Road murders.

275

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:46,000

And Gajkowski tells them that he was overseas covering the conflict in Northern Ireland for the Nickerbocker newspaper.

276

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:50,000

Authorities immediately check his alibi.

277

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:57,000

Detectives pull Gajkowski's passport application, which is dated October 1968.

278

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:04,000

In the box where it says approximate date of departure, it says November 1st, 1968.

279

00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:10,000

This isn't proof that he traveled on that date, but it does show that he intended to.

280

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:15,000

Now this isn't a full profile by. He could have applied for a passport and not traveled on it.

281

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:20,000

He could have written articles about Northern Ireland from any location and just pretended to be Europe.

282

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:23,000

Is it possible? Yes, but very unlikely.

283

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:28,000

Frustrated, police make one final effort to gather proof.

284

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Detectives have a handwriting expert look at Gajkowski's handwriting and compare it to the Zodiac killers.

285

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:39,000

The expert concluded that those two samples did not match.

286

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:44,000

With no physical evidence tying Gajkowski to any of the Zodiac murders,

287

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:49,000

detectives determined that there is not enough probable cause for either an arrest or a search warrant.

288

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:56,000

At the time of his death in 2004, Gajkowski is officially no longer a suspect.

289

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:07,000

Between 1969 and 1970, the Zodiac killer sends four coded messages to newspapers.

290

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:14,000

But after code breakers solve the first cipher in less than a week, the remaining three stay unbroken for decades.

291

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:19,000

A couple in Salinas solve the first cryptogram by using what they call a crib.

292

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:24,000

That's where you guess the words and phrases that you think might be in the cipher and then you go from there.

293

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

They believe that the cipher would contain the word kill, so they looked for pairings of certain symbols that could represent two letter Ls, and they were successful.

294

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:38,000

The message read, I like killing people because it's so much fun.

295

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:44,000

Once they verified the corresponding symbols for that phrase, the rest of it they solved pretty quickly.

296

00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:53,000

Zodiac's following ciphers are infinitely more complex, and for 51 years, cryptologists don't even come close to solving the remaining cipher.

297

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:57,000

Investigators wonder if this is one of Zodiac's tricks.

298

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:07,000

Then in 2020, an all-star group of decoders takes on the challenge, hoping to crack one of the three unsolved Zodiac ciphers.

299

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:11,000

I got involved with this case about 15 years ago.

300

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:17,000

We decided to try to decode a 340-character cryptogram by Zodiac that he had mailed on November 8th, 1969.

301

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:20,000

We plan to use a method called homophonic substitution.

302

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:24,000

And that's where one letter might be swapped for multiple symbols.

303

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:31,000

The team creates a powerful software program that processes millions of homophonic substitutions per second.

304

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:37,000

They run this software program for months and months, and not much happens.

305

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:43,000

Then one day they run an updated version of the software, and they finally solve the cipher.

306

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:52,000

Over time, we were able to identify a few phrases that ended up being part of the right solution, phrases like, trying to catch me and gas chamber.

307

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:59,000

Once we saw those phrases, we took a closer look in our experiments, and after a little bit of effort, we were able to unlock the entire message.

308

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:04,000

The newly decoded message picks up where the last cryptogram left off.

309

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

It said, I hope you were having lots of fun trying to catch me.

310

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:11,000

That wasn't me on the TV show, which brings up a point about me.

311

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:20,000

I am not afraid of the gas chamber because it will send me to paradise all the sooner, because I now have enough slaves to work for me where everyone else has nothing when they reach paradise.

312

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

So they are afraid of death.

313

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:26,000

I am not afraid because I know that my new life will be an easy one in paradise.

314

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

If this one can be solved, then maybe the other two can be solved as well.

315

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:33,000

And maybe that will tell us who the killer is once and for all.

316

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:40,000

Among those eager to solve the remaining cryptograms is Parisian engineer Faisal Zirawi.

317

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:45,000

In 2020, Zirawi zeroes in on one in particular.

318

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:52,000

Zirawi writes his own software to tackle what is thought to be the most difficult cryptogram of them all.

319

00:20:52,000 --> 00:21:00,000

On April 20th, 1970, the Zodiac sends a short cipher consisting of 13 symbols known as the Z13.

320

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

Because it's so short, it makes it much more difficult to crack.

321

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:10,000

It begins with my name is followed by a 13 character cryptogram.

322

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

So solving the cipher is actually supposed to provide us with the Zodiac's name.

323

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:17,000

Once again, modern technology provides a breakthrough.

324

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:23,000

Zirawi's software translates the cipher as the letters K-A-Y-R.

325

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:27,000

To many, the translation sounds like gibberish.

326

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

But veteran Zodiac investigators immediately recognize the name.

327

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:36,000

Detectives who study the Zodiac's letters know that he misspells quite a few words.

328

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:42,000

We think that's often deliberate and that K-A-Y-R might just be K-A-Y-E.

329

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:48,000

This potential solution generates excitement about a decades old lead.

330

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:59,000

In 1973, Escalon police detective Harvey Hines is assigned to the case and keys in on an ex-convict named Lawrence K.

331

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:10,000

Hines begins looking into K after noticing that K's mugshot bears a striking resemblance to one of the Zodiac's sketches.

332

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:19,000

The Zodiac is described as a male between 40 and 45 years old, 5'9 and 165 pounds with dark colored hair.

333

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:24,000

Lawrence K is 45 years old, 5'9, dark hair and 160 pounds.

334

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:33,000

Lawrence K is a convicted criminal with a long history of arrests for voyeurism as a peeping tom, prowling, burglary and more.

335

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:38,000

This is important because criminals don't just jump straight to murder, their crimes usually escalate.

336

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:45,000

Perhaps most surprisingly in K's background is that in 1942 he's admitted to the Navy's Radio Material School in Chicago,

337

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:50,000

where he's trained in electronics but more importantly, encoding.

338

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:58,000

This may have also given him access to the military's Wing Walker boots, which would match the prints at the Lake Beriesia murder site.

339

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:03,000

Hines next tracks K's movements on the days surrounding the Zodiac killings.

340

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:08,000

K lives at 217 Eddy Street in San Francisco.

341

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:14,000

That's only two and a half blocks away from where the cab driver Paul Stein picked up the Zodiac on the night he was murdered.

342

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:22,000

Hines also discovers that Darlene Farron, who was murdered at Blue Rock Springs, worked at Aran's Cafe, which was just two blocks from K's apartment.

343

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:28,000

When Hines interviews Darlene's sister Pam Huckabee, she recognizes a photo of K.

344

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:33,000

Apparently he often came to the cafe to pester her sister to the point that Darlene was very afraid of him.

345

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:38,000

But Hines needs more than circumstantial evidence to make his case.

346

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:47,000

Detective Hines contacts Brian Hartnell, who survived the Zodiac's knife attack at Lake Beries, and he's heard the Zodiac's voice.

347

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:52,000

Hines secretly records a conversation with Lawrence K and then plays it for Hartnell.

348

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:56,000

And without hesitation, he says, this is the voice of the Zodiac.

349

00:23:56,000 --> 00:24:01,000

Hines next pays a visit to San Francisco police officer Donald Falk.

350

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:06,000

Falk rushed to the crime scene on the night that the cab driver was murdered in San Francisco.

351

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:11,000

For years, Falk has claimed that he may have crossed paths with the killer that night.

352

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:15,000

He saw someone suspicious, who matched later descriptions.

353

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

But those descriptions weren't out yet, and he was on his way to a murder scene, so he didn't stop.

354

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:23,000

But Falk claims he's never forgotten that face.

355

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

When Hines shows Falk a picture of K, he states that out of the hundreds of mug shots he's seen since the murder,

356

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

K's picture bears the most resemblance to the man he saw that night.

357

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:38,000

With three witnesses identifying K as the Zodiac killer,

358

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:45,000

Hines takes his report to Captain Roy Conway and Lieutenant James Huston of the Vallejo Police Department.

359

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:51,000

Hines thinks he's solved the case of the sentry, and he is expecting a huge pat on the back.

360

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:57,000

But after Conway and Husted read his report, they basically say, thanks, we'll get back to you.

361

00:24:57,000 --> 00:24:58,000

And they never do.

362

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:02,000

Discouraged, Hines calls in one final favor.

363

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:08,000

Of course, cops know a lot of other cops, so Hines sends his report to two San Bernardino detectives he knows,

364

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:10,000

and begs them to take a look at it.

365

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:14,000

The two detectives read the report and they believe it. They think it's good police work.

366

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:18,000

These two detectives fly up to Lake Tahoe. They go to K's home.

367

00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:24,000

They ask him his whereabouts on the night Paul Stein was murdered, Darlene Farron, all kinds of stuff.

368

00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:27,000

K has an answer for everything.

369

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:32,000

K cooperates with investigators, supplying his fingerprints and handwriting samples.

370

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:37,000

So Hines is at home, and he's waiting with bated breath to hear from the two detectives.

371

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:46,000

They eventually call him, and they say that based on K's answers and the handwriting sample, they concluded that he is not the Zodiac.

372

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:53,000

K passes away in May of 2010. By this time, he's changed his name to K, C-A-N-E.

373

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

But he's never arrested for the murders.

374

00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:06,000

Zodiac. A pseudonym first published in a 1969 letter that strikes fear to this day.

375

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:11,000

For decades, that's all we've known to call this cryptic killer.

376

00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:19,000

But in 2002, a witness comes forward with a dark family secret that may finally reveal his true name.

377

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:27,000

For most of Gary Stewart's life, the only parents he knows are the ones that adopted him.

378

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:38,000

Stewart is born in 1963. He's given up for adoption rather quickly, and raised by Lloyd and Leona Stewart of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

379

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:42,000

He wonders about his birth parents, but he has no idea who they really are.

380

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:49,000

But in 2002, when he's 39 years old, his biological mother, Judy Guilford, tracks him down.

381

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:52,000

She tells him how she had him when she was just a teenager.

382

00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:57,000

And his biological father, who is now deceased, is named Earl Van Best, Jr.

383

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:05,000

Back in 1963, Van Best is 27 years old, when he impregnates Guilford, who is only 14.

384

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:09,000

Van Best is sent to prison for statutory rape.

385

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:16,000

But when he gets out on parole, he and Guilford go on the run, abandoning their baby in New Orleans.

386

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:22,000

Stewart is stunned, but the biggest shock comes when he sees a photo of his biological father.

387

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

And when Stewart looks at the picture, he immediately feels like he's seen this face before.

388

00:27:27,000 --> 00:27:35,000

And not because of the family resemblance, but because it actually bears a striking resemblance to the one it poster for the Zodiac Killer.

389

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:44,000

This photo serves as a catalyst for Stewart to find out everything he can about his biological father.

390

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:52,000

He starts digging for information and quickly learns that Van Best is a bad guy with a long history of criminal activity.

391

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:57,000

He's been convicted of fraud, pedophilia, rape, drunk driving, you name it.

392

00:27:57,000 --> 00:27:59,000

But not murder.

393

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:03,000

So he's a criminal, but is he the Zodiac Killer?

394

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:09,000

Stewart looks closer into his father's whereabouts at the time of the murders.

395

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:18,000

Stewart learns that his father was incarcerated in San Quentin Prison and that he was paroled right before the first Zodiac killings occurred.

396

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:22,000

And guess where Earl Van Best ends up when he's released?

397

00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:30,000

He moves into San Francisco's Presidio district, the same neighborhood where cab driver Paul Stein is killed.

398

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:33,000

For Stewart, this is like a bad dream.

399

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:38,000

Everything he learns about his father points to him being the Zodiac Killer.

400

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:44,000

He reads all the Zodiac's letters and one of them references the musical, the Mikado.

401

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:48,000

Then he finds out Earl Van Best was a huge fan of the Mikado.

402

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Detail after detail is just piling up.

403

00:28:52,000 --> 00:29:00,000

Stewart decides that the best way to unload all of this personal baggage is to write a book proving that his father is the Zodiac Killer.

404

00:29:00,000 --> 00:29:08,000

He really doesn't have enough information to take to a publisher at this time, but armed with a bunch of circumstantial evidence, he digs deeper.

405

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:13,000

Stewart hires an expert to compare his dad's handwriting to the Zodiacs.

406

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:19,000

This is a moment of truth for Stewart. This is where a lot of the other Zodiac suspects have fallen apart.

407

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:30,000

The handwriting expert compares the handwriting of Van Best's marriage certificate to the handwriting of the letters sent to the newspaper by the Zodiac Killer.

408

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:36,000

And after hours of detailed analysis, he concludes they are a match.

409

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:44,000

Next, Stewart asks police to compare his father's fingerprints to partial prints from the Stein murder scene.

410

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:56,000

The fingerprints found on the taxi cab are partial latents which show traces of blood, so they're incomplete and they would be inadmissible in court, but it still might tell them something.

411

00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:03,000

Garrett provides in a large side-by-side picture of the best fingerprints from Stewart's father and the Zodiac crime scene.

412

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:14,000

When Stewart looks at the visual comparison, he sees a distinguishing characteristic, an identical scar on both the Zodiacs and his father's index fingers.

413

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:18,000

Armed with this evidence, Stewart shares his story with the public.

414

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:30,000

Stewart's book is published in 2014, and it's called *The Most Dangerous Animal of All*, another reference to Zodiac's letters. And it's a huge bestseller.

415

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

Stewart decides to parlay his success into a television series, so he meets with some TV producers and they tell him they're interested in optioning his book.

416

00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:46,000

Before they put their reputation on the line, they decide to hire a private investigator in order to vet his research.

417

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:52,000

And that investigator immediately finds flaws in Stewart's research.

418

00:30:52,000 --> 00:31:01,000

First, he discovers that the handwriting sample taken from Van Bess's marriage certificate is not actually Earl Van Bess's handwriting.

419

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:04,000

It's the writing of the priest who conducted the ceremony.

420

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:10,000

The investigator also checks Van Bess's credit card records.

421

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:14,000

Now this is where the case against Van Bess actually crumbles.

422

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:24,000

Through the credit card reports, the investigator is able to determine that Van Bess is actually in Europe during the heart of the Zodiac's killing spree.

423

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:26,000

So it's definitely not him.

424

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

Still, when you look at the sketch, the resemblance is uncanny.

425

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

It's easy to see why Stewart believed, but as we all know, appearances can be deceiving.

426

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:54,000

In 2004, 35 years after the first murder, the San Francisco Police Department officially marks the Zodiac killer file inactive.

427

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:59,000

Case loads are busy, they have active cases coming in, there's really no leads going on in this case.

428

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:03,000

The public learns that this case has been shut down and they're upset about it.

429

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:06,000

They don't like the idea that the police have given up on it.

430

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:10,000

It's clear that there's still not much to go on after all this time.

431

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:19,000

So as we've seen in many cold cases before, the public and amateur investigators decide to take up the mantle and keep going with the investigation.

432

00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:29,000

Now a lot of the theories presented by the public are quickly shut down because the evidence just doesn't add up, like Gary Stewart's claims about his father, for instance.

433

00:32:29,000 --> 00:32:39,000

But in 2021, a group of researchers makes headlines claiming they've identified the Zodiac killer, and they are definitely not amateurs.

434

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:48,000

The group calls themselves the case breakers, and they are comprised of 40 different people with impeccable credentials.

435

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:55,000

We're talking retired FBI agents, retired military, forensic analysts, and academics.

436

00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:02,000

So the fact that they believe they solved this case means a lot more than hearing it from your average Joe.

437

00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:11,000

On October 6th, 2021, the case breakers announced that the Zodiac killer is a former military man named Gary Francis Post.

438

00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Gary Post is quite different than most of the other suspects that they've looked at in the past.

439

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:22,000

He's a very quiet guy, he lives in a rural area, he paints houses, he flies under the radar.

440

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:25,000

There's really no red flags to make him the suspect.

441

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:30,000

Post is brought to the attention of the case breakers by one of his neighbors, a guy named Chris Avery.

442

00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:35,000

When they hang out together, Avery discovers that Post is quite a different man than he appears.

443

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:45,000

It turns out that Avery is one of several young men that Post has recruited to mentor, kind of in a paramilitary way, and they call themselves the posse.

444

00:33:45,000 --> 00:33:57,000

Post takes these guys on trips up to the mountains, and they say he is obsessed with torturing and killing animals and building bombs which are similar to the explosive devices described by the Zodiac.

445

00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:03,000

According to Avery, on one of these trips, Post makes a confession.

446

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:10,000

Post implies to Avery that he has committed one of the Zodiac murders, and for him, that's the last straw.

447

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:16,000

He decides that he wants to move away from Groveland, and that it's also time to report Post.

448

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:21,000

Coincidentally, one of Avery's friends is actually part of the case breakers.

449

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:26,000

After speaking with Avery, the case breakers agree to investigate.

450

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Before they have a chance to dive in, Post dies in 2018 at the age of 80.

451

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

The case breakers decide to keep going regardless.

452

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

One of the first things they learned about Post was that he's an Air Force veteran.

453

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:43,000

The case breakers are able to gain access to Post's property in Groveland.

454

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:47,000

In the photography dark room, they find an old photo of Post.

455

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:53,000

And the photo bears a striking resemblance to the sketch of the Zodiac.

456

00:34:53,000 --> 00:34:56,000

Soon they find even more chilling evidence.

457

00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:03,000

The case breakers look into other California murders, unsolved ones, that happen around the same time as the Zodiac crimes.

458

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

There's a chance that the Zodiac had more victims and maybe left behind more evidence that's gone unnoticed.

459

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:15,000

They zero in on a top potential candidate for another Zodiac murder.

460

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

In 1966, Riverside City College student Sherry Jo Bates is stabbed to death near the campus.

461

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:26,000

This is just a couple of years before the Zodiac appeared in Northern California.

462

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:32,000

A stabbed young woman certainly fits the mold, but even more so, Bates' killer sends a confession.

463

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:45,000

The letter is typed so they can't compare much handwriting, but the address is handwritten on the envelope and definitely bears resemblance to the Zodiac's writing.

464

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:50,000

The letter itself has the same tone and style as the later Zodiac letters.

465

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:56,000

Naturally, they ask, where was Gary Post on the day of Bates' murder?

466

00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Turns out he was undergoing a physical examination at March Air Force Base, 15 minutes from the crime scene.

467

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:12,000

According to records of Bates' murder, police find size 10.5 military-style boot prints next to the body.

468

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:18,000

Military boot prints once again, just like Zodiac, and in Post's exact size of 10.5.

469

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:21,000

If she's the first victim, then he has to be our first suspect.

470

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:28,000

Obviously, Post can't be arrested or tried at this point, so the case-breaker announcement is met with some skepticism.

471

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:32,000

As with every Zodiac theory, the public picks it apart.

472

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:38,000

First of all, despite his resemblance to the sketch, Post never wore glasses.

473

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:48,000

The same day as the case-breakers' announcement, the Riverside Police Department releases a statement saying that the Zodiac was not responsible for the murder of Sherry Jo Bates.

474

00:36:48,000 --> 00:36:52,000

Are the cases connected? Is Post responsible for the Bates' murder?

475

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Was that the first Zodiac killing?

476

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:59,000

At this point, we're stuck with more questions than answers.

477

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:10,000

As investigators pursue the true identity of the Zodiac killer, one vital question could hold a clue.

478

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Police think the murders ended in 1969, the letters in 1974. But why did they stop?

479

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:25,000

The suspect's very involved in this. Seems to enjoy taunting law enforcement, and he's on a roll doing this.

480

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:28,000

And then as quick as he starts, he stops.

481

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:36,000

What happened here? Was the suspect arrested, incarcerated? Were they institutionalized? Were they killed?

482

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:41,000

There's a lot of open-ended questions as to why these murders all of a sudden stopped.

483

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:47,000

According to Italian journalist Francesco Amiconi, the explanation is truly surprising.

484

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Amiconi believes that the reason the Zodiac killing stopped is because the killer moved from California to Italy, and that in fact, the killings didn't stop at all.

485

00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:11,000

In September of 1974, just months after the Zodiac killer sends his last message to newspapers, a series of grisly killings begins in Florence, Italy.

486

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:15,000

And these murders fit the Zodiac's MO to a T.

487

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:20,000

Like the Zodiac killer, the Italian murderer mostly targets young couples.

488

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:23,000

He attacks mostly on the weekends or public holidays.

489

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:30,000

He almost always shoots the male victim first, then the female. And just like the Zodiac, he uses a small caliber handgun.

490

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:37,000

When the Italian press realize a serial killer is at large, they dub him the Monster of Florence.

491

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:42,000

The Monster of Florence has a much longer reign of terror than the Zodiac.

492

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:50,000

From 1974 to 1985, he murders 14 people. But he is just as elusive as the Zodiac.

493

00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:57,000

Italian police spend decades chasing leads, interrogating ex-cons, staking out secluded lovers' lanes.

494

00:38:57,000 --> 00:39:00,000

But nothing works. They cannot identify this killer.

495

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

Then in May of 2018, a bombshell.

496

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:13,000

On May 29th of 2018, the Italian newspaper Il Giornale publishes the theories by Francesco Amiconi.

497

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:17,000

He accuses a man named Giuseppe Joe Bebillacchio.

498

00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:27,000

According to Amiconi, Bebillacchio, an American army veteran, confessed to him and agreed to turn himself in eight months earlier.

499

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:37,000

As the news breaks, Bebillacchio recants his confession. But police in Italy and America are already investigating every facet of his life.

500

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:44,000

Bebillacchio was born in New Jersey. And from 1954 to 1974, he served in the U.S. Army.

501

00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:48,000

You can see on his military ID that he's five foot eight, 200 pounds.

502

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:54,000

His physical description certainly matches some of the descriptions given by witnesses of the Zodiac killer.

503

00:39:54,000 --> 00:40:03,000

Detectives also learn that in 1964, Bebillacchio becomes an undercover agent for the Army's Criminal Investigation Division.

504

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:08,000

One of his assignments takes him to San Francisco right around the time.

505

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:11,000

Taxicab driver Paul Stein is murdered.

506

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:19,000

In June of 1974, Bebillacchio retires from the Army and moves to Florence, Italy.

507

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:25,000

Zodiac's letters suddenly stop and dead bodies start appearing in Florence.

508

00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:34,000

In 2020, the Florence Public Prosecutor's Office decides they have enough circumstantial evidence that they better get a DNA sample from Bebillacchio.

509

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Everyone is sitting on pins and needles waiting for results to come back because the findings could solve two of the biggest murder mysteries in history.

510

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:51,000

So far, Italian authorities have been unable to match Bebillacchio's DNA to any of the Florence crime scenes.

511

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:58,000

But investigators have hope that DNA evidence will one day solve this long-running mystery.

512

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:08,000

With all of the advancements we've made in forensic science and investigation in general, I am confident that there is still an opportunity for us to solve this case.

513

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:16,000

And there certainly remains an entire community of people who are dedicated to seeing this case solve.

514

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:28,000

Recently, the Vallejo Police Department was able to isolate a partial profile of DNA from saliva on the back of stamps used on Zodiac's letters.

515

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:36,000

While this incomplete profile can't identify a suspect, it can be used to rule out a few.

516

00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:43,000

In the meantime, an army of slews continues to try to finally solve this cold case.

517

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:50,000

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