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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:16,280

Tonight, a mysterious and gruesome crime that's haunted the public for decades.

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00:00:16,280 --> 00:00:22,140

The tragic story of Elizabeth Short, known as the Black Dahlia, is a murder mystery that

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00:00:22,140 --> 00:00:23,880

just doesn't go away.

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00:00:23,880 --> 00:00:25,800

The victim is a young beauty.

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00:00:25,800 --> 00:00:31,640

Unlike Jack the Ripper or the Zodiac Killer, her murderer has never been caught or even

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00:00:31,640 --> 00:00:32,640

identified.

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00:00:32,640 --> 00:00:37,400

The police are definitely working off the idea that this is a personal vendetta.

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00:00:37,400 --> 00:00:40,680

How many bad men does it take to kill a 122-year-old?

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00:00:40,680 --> 00:00:47,120

A young wannabe starlet in Hollywood contrasted with this very horrible death.

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00:00:47,120 --> 00:00:52,960

Now we explore the top theories surrounding one of history's most notorious unsolved crimes.

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00:00:53,400 --> 00:00:57,960

You've got this very violent, very vicious killer out there and nobody knows when he's

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00:00:57,960 --> 00:00:59,560

gonna strike again.

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00:00:59,560 --> 00:01:04,780

Back then, when you had power, you had money, you had prestige, you could get away with

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00:01:04,780 --> 00:01:05,780

murder.

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00:01:05,780 --> 00:01:08,600

Who killed the infamous Black Dahlia?

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00:01:08,600 --> 00:01:09,100

And why?

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00:01:23,920 --> 00:01:28,920

For over seven decades, the Los Angeles Police Department has kept the Black Dahlia murder

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00:01:28,920 --> 00:01:30,200

case open.

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00:01:30,200 --> 00:01:35,640

Each new detective assigned to this legendary cold case must first review the evidence.

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00:01:38,160 --> 00:01:43,240

Los Angeles, California, January 15, 1947.

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00:01:43,240 --> 00:01:47,360

It's an uncharacteristically cool morning in La Merck Park.

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00:01:47,360 --> 00:01:51,080

There's a local resident who's walking in the early morning hours about 10 o'clock with

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00:01:51,080 --> 00:01:55,560

the toddler and she sees something that looks like a mannequin in an open field.

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00:01:55,560 --> 00:01:59,200

A mannequin that appears to be broken in half.

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00:01:59,200 --> 00:02:00,840

She thinks it's a prank.

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00:02:00,840 --> 00:02:02,320

She calls the police.

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00:02:02,320 --> 00:02:06,480

Police come and it ends up being anything but a mannequin.

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00:02:06,480 --> 00:02:12,280

What they're really looking at is the bisected corpse of a young woman, naked, scrubbed,

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00:02:12,280 --> 00:02:15,640

cleaned, and drained of all her blood.

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00:02:15,640 --> 00:02:17,360

This was a very brutal murder.

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00:02:17,360 --> 00:02:21,240

The body had been severed at the waist and had likewise been mutilated.

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00:02:21,240 --> 00:02:23,280

One of her breasts has been removed.

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00:02:23,280 --> 00:02:28,520

There is an incision or a gash above her genitals resembling a hysterectomy scar.

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00:02:28,520 --> 00:02:34,920

The body was left in a position that is both shocking and sexual at the same time.

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00:02:34,920 --> 00:02:37,480

This tattoo had been cut away from her thigh.

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00:02:37,480 --> 00:02:41,000

It was a tattoo of a rose and inserted somewhere else that I'm not sure if you want me describing

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:42,000

on camera.

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:43,000

There were signs of torture.

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:44,640

There were signs she had been beaten.

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00:02:44,640 --> 00:02:48,840

And maybe most importantly, there was no blood at the scene of this homicide.

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00:02:48,840 --> 00:02:50,720

Her face was severely beaten.

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00:02:50,720 --> 00:02:55,120

Her mouth had been slashed from ear to ear in a grisly smile.

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00:02:55,120 --> 00:02:58,680

The police initially believed that she had been killed sometime between 10 to 12 hours

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00:02:58,680 --> 00:03:03,040

before her body was most likely dumped at that location.

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00:03:03,040 --> 00:03:09,360

The medical examiner upon autopsy determined that the individual died from a concussion,

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00:03:09,360 --> 00:03:12,960

hemorrhaging, and trauma to the body.

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00:03:13,080 --> 00:03:17,440

Mercifully, she was already dead when the killer carved up the rest of her.

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00:03:17,440 --> 00:03:20,440

The way the body has been cut in half is very specific.

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00:03:20,440 --> 00:03:24,120

The body has been cut between the second and third lumbar vertebrae.

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00:03:24,120 --> 00:03:26,480

It's called a hemicorporectomy.

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00:03:26,480 --> 00:03:32,280

This is the exact point where you would cut someone without having to go through bone.

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00:03:32,280 --> 00:03:36,320

Investigators believe the killer has to be someone with medical training or at least

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00:03:36,320 --> 00:03:38,880

expertise in anatomy.

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00:03:38,880 --> 00:03:42,200

There were people at the LAPD interview that were doctors.

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00:03:42,200 --> 00:03:49,520

They actually investigated 300 medical students at USC to find out if one of them had done it.

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00:03:49,520 --> 00:03:55,400

The very next day, officers run the victim's prints and within a few hours they have a name.

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00:03:55,400 --> 00:04:01,440

She is 22-year-old Elizabeth Short from the Boston suburb of Medford, Massachusetts.

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00:04:01,440 --> 00:04:05,280

Her fingerprints were on file with police and FBI databases because she had applied

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00:04:05,280 --> 00:04:08,880

for a job at a California military camp in 1943.

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00:04:08,880 --> 00:04:13,040

And she had also been arrested for underage drinking in Santa Barbara County.

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00:04:13,040 --> 00:04:17,960

The prior arrest for underage drinking in Santa Barbara does become relevant here because

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00:04:17,960 --> 00:04:22,960

the arresting officer knew that she had a rose tattoo on her left leg and that was in the report.

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00:04:24,760 --> 00:04:29,760

Investigators begin looking into Elizabeth Short's background for more clues.

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00:04:29,760 --> 00:04:33,960

She was raised by a single mother and a middle-class family.

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00:04:33,960 --> 00:04:39,840

At a very early age, her father faked his suicide and left the family.

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00:04:39,840 --> 00:04:47,800

She was a young woman who left her home to come find fame and fortune, maybe, in Los Angeles.

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00:04:47,800 --> 00:04:53,960

A beautiful young woman cut down in the prime for life by this, you know, shadowy creature.

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00:04:53,960 --> 00:04:58,960

It's kind of the archetype or the kind of crime that captures the American public's attention.

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00:04:58,960 --> 00:05:02,160

Police and reporters try to get a lead on Beth's life.

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00:05:02,160 --> 00:05:06,440

But the more they dig in, the more of a mystery she becomes.

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00:05:06,440 --> 00:05:11,280

She's a high school dropout and she's kind of bouncing around from friend to friend, you know,

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00:05:11,280 --> 00:05:14,160

with a youngsters called couch surfing now.

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00:05:14,160 --> 00:05:17,760

So she was really trying to figure out what it is that she wants to do with herself.

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00:05:17,760 --> 00:05:21,720

When she came to LA, Beth describes herself as an aspiring actress.

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00:05:21,720 --> 00:05:25,920

However, there's no evidence that she ever auditioned for any roles.

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00:05:25,920 --> 00:05:31,160

It's in Long Beach, California in mid-1946 that Short picks up the nickname

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00:05:31,160 --> 00:05:33,960

that will stick with her after her death.

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00:05:33,960 --> 00:05:40,920

Elizabeth Short, like, hanging out at this diner and the customers there had actually named her Black Dahlia

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00:05:40,920 --> 00:05:44,680

because she dyed her hair black.

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00:05:44,680 --> 00:05:50,880

She liked wearing black clothing and a movie called The Blue Dahlia had just come out.

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00:05:50,880 --> 00:05:54,400

And so they named her the Black Dahlia.

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00:05:54,400 --> 00:05:59,520

A month before Beth's murder, she told friends that she was going to the Bay Area to visit her sister.

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00:05:59,520 --> 00:06:02,480

But in reality, she went to San Diego.

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00:06:02,480 --> 00:06:05,680

And there she sleeps in a movie theater.

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00:06:05,680 --> 00:06:13,560

One of the women working at the movie theater lets Elizabeth Short live with her and her family for about a month.

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00:06:13,560 --> 00:06:21,400

But eventually they tire of her and that's when she, you know, starts up with Red Manly.

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00:06:21,400 --> 00:06:27,320

On the evening of January 9th, six days before her dead body will be found in La Merck Park,

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00:06:27,360 --> 00:06:33,280

Beth is given a ride back to Los Angeles by a traveling salesman named Red Manly.

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00:06:33,280 --> 00:06:38,800

He said she was very fidgety. She couldn't sit still. She just seemed very uncomfortable.

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00:06:38,800 --> 00:06:45,160

Red Manly tells police that he dropped Beth off at the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles and then he heads home.

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00:06:45,160 --> 00:06:48,320

Officers checked out his alibi and everything ranked true.

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00:06:48,320 --> 00:06:52,840

And so the last time that Beth was seen by anyone was about 10 p.m. at the Biltmore.

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00:06:52,840 --> 00:06:57,720

The doorman said he walked her out and that was the last time anyone had seen her.

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00:06:57,720 --> 00:07:03,800

Six days later, she'll be dead. And the biggest manhunt in LA history kicks off.

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00:07:03,800 --> 00:07:08,760

One of the first witnesses that investigators talked to was her on-again, off-again friend sometime.

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00:07:08,760 --> 00:07:11,440

Housemate, roommate, and Tooth.

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00:07:11,440 --> 00:07:18,680

Tooth is the one that points investigators in the direction of their first real suspect, Mark Hanson.

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00:07:18,680 --> 00:07:22,720

Mark Hanson was the operator of the Florentine Gardens on Hollywood Boulevard.

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00:07:22,720 --> 00:07:25,520

It was a very popular dance club.

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00:07:25,520 --> 00:07:32,000

He's this Danish millionaire. He has lots of very powerful friends. He's very influential.

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00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:34,640

And he lives in this house on Carlos Avenue.

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00:07:34,640 --> 00:07:40,800

This was kind of a haven for dancers at his club, for people who just come to the city and want to be actresses,

103

00:07:40,800 --> 00:07:44,160

just people chasing the dream of Hollywood.

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00:07:44,160 --> 00:07:48,640

And Tooth is one of the women who lives in the Carlos Avenue home.

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00:07:48,640 --> 00:07:56,400

She tells police that Beth lived there too, off and on between May and November of 1946.

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00:07:56,400 --> 00:08:01,680

One of the reasons that Tooth directed officers to Mark in the first place is because she knew

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00:08:01,680 --> 00:08:05,040

that he was completely obsessed and infatuated with Beth.

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00:08:05,040 --> 00:08:11,920

He would forbid her to bring other men to the house, which sounds like, you know, the jealous boyfriend type.

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00:08:11,920 --> 00:08:17,040

Hanson was described as fixated and Elizabeth Shorty had this unrequited sexual interest in her.

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00:08:17,040 --> 00:08:23,520

So she's trying to find a way to, you know, kind of shoo him off sexually without infuriating him.

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00:08:23,520 --> 00:08:26,640

So she comes up with this fiction that she's a virgin.

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00:08:26,640 --> 00:08:36,160

The fact that Beth rebuffed Mark Hanson with stories of, I'm a virgin, probably only fueled his desire to want her all the more.

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00:08:36,160 --> 00:08:39,360

The stormy relationship doesn't end there.

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00:08:39,360 --> 00:08:44,560

To avoid any conflict with Mark, it's rumored that she was having her gentlemen friends drop her off

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00:08:44,560 --> 00:08:48,240

about a block away from his house. Now this just infuriates him.

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00:08:48,240 --> 00:08:51,200

So Mark doesn't speak to Beth now for several days.

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00:08:51,200 --> 00:08:55,920

Things allegedly come to a head in early November 1946.

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00:08:55,920 --> 00:09:03,040

Antotha told the police that the final straw in this relationship between Mark Hanson and Elizabeth Shorty is that

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00:09:03,040 --> 00:09:08,560

Hanson had told Elizabeth that it was only her, it was all about her. He was obsessed with or fixated on her.

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00:09:08,560 --> 00:09:13,920

And then he brings another woman home and she sees this and suddenly is now aggravated.

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00:09:13,920 --> 00:09:20,080

And there is some kind of, I don't know if they come to blows or at least just a verbal argument, but something happens between them.

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00:09:20,080 --> 00:09:24,480

And that is kind of where things completely fall apart between Hanson and Shorty.

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00:09:24,480 --> 00:09:29,360

The morning after this explosion, Hanson does a victor from the property where she's been staying.

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00:09:29,360 --> 00:09:34,640

But Ant tells police it isn't the end of Mark and Beth's tumultuous relationship.

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00:09:34,640 --> 00:09:41,680

The night before the murder, Ant said that Elizabeth had called and that Mr. Hanson had been acting nervous and restless.

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00:09:41,680 --> 00:09:46,000

She also said that Elizabeth was going to come over, but she didn't show up.

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:51,200

So the last night that anybody sees Elizabeth Shorty does make a phone call to Mark Hanson.

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00:09:51,200 --> 00:09:55,680

And he tells her everything's fine, you still have a place to stay.

129

00:09:55,680 --> 00:09:59,120

But according to Mark, Beth never came back.

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00:09:59,120 --> 00:10:05,120

Police questioned the well-connected nightclub owner, but he downplays his relationship with Elizabeth.

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00:10:05,120 --> 00:10:09,280

He says that he was never interested in Beth, he never tried to have sex with her.

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00:10:09,280 --> 00:10:12,480

He found Beth to be fair-looking, average.

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00:10:12,480 --> 00:10:15,040

Hanson does himself no favors with the police.

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00:10:15,040 --> 00:10:16,960

He tells easily disprovable lies.

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00:10:16,960 --> 00:10:19,680

He says he didn't speak to her after he evicted her.

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00:10:19,680 --> 00:10:25,520

According to Ant, Mark Hanson told her Beth could come and stay there if she needed a place to stay.

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00:10:25,520 --> 00:10:31,120

But when questioned by investigators, Mark Hanson said he turned Beth away and never saw her again.

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00:10:32,240 --> 00:10:36,960

On January 21st, six days after Beth Short's body is discovered,

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00:10:36,960 --> 00:10:42,880

an envelope containing the contents of her purse arrives at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner.

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00:10:43,760 --> 00:10:48,080

Among the materials submitted were Elizabeth Short's Social Security card,

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00:10:48,720 --> 00:10:51,440

an address book, the name of Mark Hanson's cover.

142

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:55,200

At first blush, it looks like somebody's trying to set this guy up.

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00:10:56,080 --> 00:10:59,520

Because you just don't send incriminating materials to the police.

144

00:11:00,160 --> 00:11:02,880

If you want to do that, you might as well go to the front desk and turn yourself in.

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00:11:03,840 --> 00:11:09,040

Well, it's quite believable and reasonable to suspect Mark Hanson as the perpetrator of this crime

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00:11:09,040 --> 00:11:12,640

because we know that he was obsessed with Elizabeth.

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00:11:12,640 --> 00:11:17,600

But Mark Hanson has an alibi and witnesses to back him up.

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00:11:17,600 --> 00:11:22,560

He said that when the murder occurred, he was at a movie theater opening in Long Beach.

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00:11:22,560 --> 00:11:27,920

And he also had a business associate testify that he was at his home in Redondo Beach until 3 a.m.

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00:11:28,400 --> 00:11:34,720

This would not give him enough time to kill Elizabeth and then dispose of the body in the way it had been

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00:11:34,720 --> 00:11:36,560

and be able to get away.

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00:11:37,520 --> 00:11:40,720

Hanson's alibi knocks him down the suspect list.

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00:11:41,280 --> 00:11:47,680

Police never search his properties or vehicles for blood or evidence and the case moves on.

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00:11:47,680 --> 00:11:52,640

You've got this very violent, very vicious killer out there and nobody knows who he is.

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00:11:52,640 --> 00:11:54,480

Nobody knows when he's going to strike again.

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00:11:58,480 --> 00:12:04,000

It's January of 1947 and Los Angeles is in the grips of a tabloid frenzy.

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00:12:04,800 --> 00:12:07,760

Everyone wants to know who killed the Black Dolly.

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00:12:08,480 --> 00:12:10,000

Media were all over this case.

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00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:14,160

At that time, there were four major dailies in the city of Los Angeles competing.

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00:12:14,160 --> 00:12:16,480

This is the 40s, so you're pre-internet, you're pre-Twitter.

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00:12:16,480 --> 00:12:19,920

But you are also at a time when the papers are putting out two editions each day.

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00:12:19,920 --> 00:12:24,240

They're putting out mornings and evenings, trying to just edge each other out and get, you know, at least

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00:12:24,240 --> 00:12:26,720

one exclusive per day, twice per day.

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00:12:26,720 --> 00:12:30,880

This story had everything that you would relate to a film noir.

165

00:12:31,520 --> 00:12:34,400

You've got the seedy underbelly of Hollywood.

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00:12:34,400 --> 00:12:37,360

You've got the gruesomeness of the killing.

167

00:12:37,360 --> 00:12:40,160

And then the great unknown is who did it?

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00:12:40,960 --> 00:12:44,720

The Black Dolly case even becomes headline news around the country.

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00:12:45,520 --> 00:12:46,640

Everyone was watching.

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00:12:47,360 --> 00:12:49,600

Everyone was reading papers.

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00:12:49,600 --> 00:12:51,200

This was a hot story.

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00:12:51,760 --> 00:12:56,080

And the cops were pressured to find out who done it.

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00:12:56,720 --> 00:13:04,960

You had, at one point, 150 suspects that investigators were looking at, wanting to talk to, had talked to.

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00:13:04,960 --> 00:13:07,840

You had people who were calling in with tips.

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00:13:07,840 --> 00:13:10,080

And you even had people who were confessing.

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00:13:10,720 --> 00:13:13,360

There were certain things that would only be known to the killer.

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00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:19,600

One of the details that police kept from the media was the fact that Elizabeth Short had a tattoo on her leg.

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00:13:19,600 --> 00:13:20,400

It was a rose.

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00:13:21,040 --> 00:13:25,520

Having information that others don't have is one way of helping eliminate folks from,

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00:13:25,520 --> 00:13:26,800

like, being a potential suspect.

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00:13:27,680 --> 00:13:32,800

So, after the initial excitement of this young woman found in the field,

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00:13:32,800 --> 00:13:38,400

and the several additions of days of newspaper and all this coverage, a month passes.

183

00:13:38,960 --> 00:13:43,040

And the cops are still at a loss of who killed Elizabeth Short.

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00:13:43,680 --> 00:13:49,440

As their investigation continues, the LA police make a connection to similar grizzly murders

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00:13:49,440 --> 00:13:54,080

that occurred a decade earlier and over 2,000 miles away.

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00:13:54,080 --> 00:13:56,640

Cleveland's Iron and Steel Center of the Middle West.

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00:13:57,440 --> 00:14:03,440

The nature and manner of death of Elizabeth Short tends to lend itself to a belief that

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00:14:04,080 --> 00:14:06,160

there might be other murders that are related to this.

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00:14:06,720 --> 00:14:11,120

A dismemberment murder, a brutal, probably sexual murder of a woman.

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00:14:11,120 --> 00:14:16,720

Cleveland Ohio investigators are beginning to wonder if the Black Dahlia killer is someone they've hunted before.

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00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:23,840

Investigators in Cleveland are looking at all that's happening around this young woman found in the

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00:14:23,840 --> 00:14:28,160

field, and they are wondering, is their killer the same as our killer?

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00:14:32,240 --> 00:14:38,560

About a decade before 1930, Cleveland also had a killer who seemed to delight in killing folks

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00:14:38,560 --> 00:14:39,840

and dissecting the bodies.

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00:14:40,640 --> 00:14:47,600

It all starts in September of 1934, when a beachcomber on the shores of Lake Erie makes a gruesome discovery.

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00:14:48,160 --> 00:14:53,440

They discover a female who's headless, with her legs amputated at the knees.

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00:14:53,520 --> 00:14:54,880

Partially covered in sand.

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00:14:55,440 --> 00:15:01,200

This body was essentially a torso with the upper legs still intact, but the rest of the body was missing.

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00:15:01,200 --> 00:15:07,200

Investigators eventually find her legs but not the head, and this woman becomes known as the Lady of the Lake.

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00:15:08,400 --> 00:15:15,200

Exactly one year later, two teenagers discover the decapitated corpse of a white male in a vacant lot.

201

00:15:16,240 --> 00:15:19,760

The body was found decapitated with his genitals removed.

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00:15:20,400 --> 00:15:27,840

While searching the crime scene, police find the body of another man 40 years old, who had also been decapitated and castrated.

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00:15:28,480 --> 00:15:31,920

Every few months, more butchered bodies turn up.

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00:15:32,640 --> 00:15:38,560

The Cleveland killers seems to target men and women who are down on their luck.

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00:15:39,200 --> 00:15:46,240

Folks who maybe a perpetrator might think they won't be missed and were probably vulnerable in the moment.

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00:15:46,320 --> 00:15:51,680

So we can already see specific parallels between the Cleveland torso killer and the Black Dolly case.

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00:15:51,680 --> 00:15:59,760

We see bodies that are turning up dismembered and disfigured in a way that involves a certain amount of anatomical and or medical skill and knowledge.

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00:16:01,280 --> 00:16:05,120

Like the Black Dolly's killer, who sent taunting letters to the newspaper,

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00:16:05,760 --> 00:16:09,520

Cleveland's Mad Butcher seems to enjoy goading the authorities.

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00:16:09,920 --> 00:16:13,680

A very significant parallel between the two cases is the fact that the killers

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00:16:14,560 --> 00:16:17,040

communicated with police after the murders were done.

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00:16:17,600 --> 00:16:24,640

In the case of the Cleveland torso killer, that killer was taunting the investigator who at that time was Elliott Ness.

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00:16:25,040 --> 00:16:30,400

Elliott Ness was the investigator who took down Al Capone in Chicago.

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00:16:31,360 --> 00:16:37,360

The Cleveland torso killer is believed to be responsible for the murders of seven men and five women.

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00:16:38,080 --> 00:16:45,280

In 1938, Cleveland's racked up about 12 bodies now as a result of this torso killer and then it just stops.

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00:16:45,600 --> 00:16:48,880

And so the question is why? What happened?

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00:16:49,520 --> 00:16:57,520

The belief was is that Elliott Ness during his investigation of the torso killer had honed in on a guy who was only known as Dr. X.

218

00:16:58,320 --> 00:17:06,720

This person has received medical training and Elliott Ness coaxes this person who he calls Dr. X to talk with him.

219

00:17:07,520 --> 00:17:11,680

This Dr. X receives two polygraph tests and fails both.

220

00:17:12,080 --> 00:17:20,240

There was never enough evidence to charge him, but Elliott Ness manages to coax him into an insane asylum and the torso murders stopped.

221

00:17:21,280 --> 00:17:25,920

But some believe the suspect known as Dr. X wasn't actually the torso killer.

222

00:17:26,480 --> 00:17:32,800

And that the only reason the murders stopped is because the real killer moved to a new hunting ground.

223

00:17:33,360 --> 00:17:37,680

Perhaps the killer actually left the area because a letter had been received by the police department.

224

00:17:38,240 --> 00:17:43,680

In this letter, he's kind of cheeky and he says, you can relax now. I've left the area.

225

00:17:44,400 --> 00:17:49,520

I've gone to sunny California and I'll be engaging in my surgical endeavors there.

226

00:17:50,240 --> 00:17:57,200

The suspect also says that he's buried his most recent victim in Los Angeles between Crenshaw and Western Avenue, which is

227

00:17:57,760 --> 00:18:00,400

really only about five miles from Lamert Park.

228

00:18:01,200 --> 00:18:05,280

Did Cleveland's Mad Butcher set his sights on Elizabeth Short?

229

00:18:05,760 --> 00:18:11,200

The Cleveland torso killer and the killer of Elizabeth Short, Black Dahlia,

230

00:18:11,920 --> 00:18:17,520

had some type of anatomical training. They knew where to cut, where to avoid bone.

231

00:18:17,920 --> 00:18:23,760

There are also a number of differences between the two cases. We see with the Cleveland torso killings, there are

232

00:18:24,400 --> 00:18:27,200

decapitations. Elizabeth Short was not decapitated.

233

00:18:27,920 --> 00:18:32,240

The Cleveland torso killings, the bodies weren't necessarily posed.

234

00:18:32,800 --> 00:18:39,760

Also, the Cleveland torso killings involved men, which is a different victimology than the Elizabeth Short case.

235

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:46,400

The Cleveland torso killer's mutilations might have been more defensively motivated, designed to keep him from being caught.

236

00:18:47,120 --> 00:18:51,840

Versus the Elizabeth Short case, which may have been more the service of sexual gratification.

237

00:18:52,080 --> 00:18:58,720

There was no hard proof that the killer of Elizabeth Short was the Cleveland torso killer.

238

00:18:59,280 --> 00:19:01,280

The MOs feel totally different to me.

239

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:07,600

Most old unsolved murders slip into obscurity,

240

00:19:08,160 --> 00:19:16,800

not so with the Black Dahlia. As the decades go by and the leads grow colder, the search for

answers only seems to be heating up.

241

00:19:17,520 --> 00:19:24,480

In 1997, on the 50th anniversary of the murder, the Los Angeles Times hires renowned criminal profiler,

242

00:19:24,800 --> 00:19:27,680

John Douglas, to take his own look at the case.

243

00:19:28,320 --> 00:19:34,480

Douglas believes that the killer of the Black Dahlia was a male, someone who's familiar with surgical equipment.

244

00:19:34,880 --> 00:19:38,160

He believes that the killer was motivated by personal stress,

245

00:19:38,880 --> 00:19:41,440

alcoholism, and romantic rejection.

246

00:19:42,240 --> 00:19:46,320

One of Douglas's biggest questions is why the Merck Park?

247

00:19:46,560 --> 00:19:52,080

The fact that the killer dumps the body in a residential area right in the middle of LA

248

00:19:52,640 --> 00:19:59,600

was notable to John Douglas. Because there's so many other places in Southern California to dump a body if you don't want it to be found.

249

00:19:59,760 --> 00:20:04,880

John Douglas feels that the perpetrator would have a connection to this neighborhood and to this spot.

250

00:20:05,200 --> 00:20:11,520

Well, who would possibly have a connection to this neighborhood that could have the means and the opportunity to commit this murder?

251

00:20:12,480 --> 00:20:19,840

Following up on that theory, an LA Times reporter finds a suspect that has flown under the radar for half a century.

252

00:20:20,320 --> 00:20:22,480

His name is Dr. Walter Bailey.

253

00:20:25,520 --> 00:20:32,000

So Walter Bailey is born in 1880. He's a World War I veteran. He is a surgeon at the University of Southern California.

254

00:20:32,160 --> 00:20:37,680

And maybe most importantly, he has an office not far from the Biltmore, where Elizabeth Short was last seen.

255

00:20:38,480 --> 00:20:46,480

Dr. Bailey had a young son who was riding his bicycle and was killed by a driver. And it was a very traumatic incident in his life.

256

00:20:46,960 --> 00:20:50,560

It's been said that at this point, he sort of threw himself into his career.

257

00:20:50,800 --> 00:20:56,080

He had a private practice where he specialized in mastectomies and hysterectomies.

258

00:20:56,480 --> 00:21:00,880

Given the injuries she suffered, given the specific areas of her body that were mutilated,

259

00:21:01,120 --> 00:21:05,360

there's a line of thinking that Bailey would have known exactly how to cut, move, otherwise

260

00:21:05,680 --> 00:21:07,680

dismember those parts of a human being.

261

00:21:08,560 --> 00:21:16,480

Dr. Bailey and his wife lived in La Merte Park in a house just a block away from where Elizabeth Short will be found murdered.

262

00:21:17,040 --> 00:21:22,640

But in the months before the murder, Dr. Bailey's marriage and his life were coming apart.

263

00:21:23,040 --> 00:21:29,040

He has become strange from his wife about four months before Elizabeth Short is killed and kind of shacks up with this younger

264

00:21:29,680 --> 00:21:30,560

physician.

265

00:21:30,560 --> 00:21:38,560

He had a successful medical practice and then he sort of broke bad in a certain way. His personality changed dramatically.

266

00:21:38,880 --> 00:21:48,000

He left his wife, he took up with this younger woman. He would have these bizarre kind of habits like watching surgery films at night while he ate dinner with this younger woman.

267

00:21:48,480 --> 00:21:52,800

And that sort of fit the profile of somebody who might commit this murder.

268

00:21:53,760 --> 00:22:00,880

One researcher investigating the Black Dahlia case found evidence of a connection between Dr. Bailey and Elizabeth Short.

269

00:22:01,440 --> 00:22:08,080

And he obtained Elizabeth Short's older sister's marriage certificate. And on the marriage certificate,

270

00:22:08,720 --> 00:22:12,400

one of the witnesses was Dr. Bailey's daughter.

271

00:22:12,960 --> 00:22:17,360

And the address that Dr. Bailey's daughter listed was only one block

272

00:22:18,240 --> 00:22:25,360

from the crime scene. And that's where Walter Bailey's ex-wife lived. So there's now a connection between

273

00:22:26,080 --> 00:22:31,200

Elizabeth Short and Walter Bailey and the residents and the crime scene.

274

00:22:32,480 --> 00:22:36,720

Adding to the case against Dr. Bailey is his own medical condition.

275

00:22:37,200 --> 00:22:42,880

Dr. Bailey had a very specific brain condition known as encephalo-molassia.

276

00:22:43,520 --> 00:22:49,840

The neurobiologist said that this kind of dimension could lead to a dramatic change of personality later in life.

277

00:22:49,920 --> 00:22:56,880

It could lead to a certain kind of violence and hypersexuality that might be consistent with somebody who would commit this kind of crime.

278

00:22:57,840 --> 00:23:01,840

Some theorists contend that Bailey, elderly and weakened by his disease,

279

00:23:02,400 --> 00:23:10,320

severed the body to make it easier to transport and purposely dumped it just a half a block from the house in which his ex-wife still lived.

280

00:23:11,280 --> 00:23:13,280

If he's the suspect and he left this body

281

00:23:13,920 --> 00:23:17,520

within proximity to his wife, it would have been maybe to perhaps

282

00:23:18,240 --> 00:23:23,680

unsettle her and make her feel that, you know, this place that, you know, she calls home and feels safe

283

00:23:23,920 --> 00:23:30,560

is no longer safe based on the fact that a nude woman cut in half was found a block or two away.

284

00:23:31,440 --> 00:23:37,920

Dr. Bailey dies on January 4th, 1948. Not even one year after the Black Dahlia murder.

285

00:23:38,560 --> 00:23:42,560

But his death doesn't stop speculation that he's the killer.

286

00:23:43,200 --> 00:23:46,400

Bailey wasn't a suspect at the time, but to a number of

287

00:23:47,120 --> 00:23:53,760

LAPD homicide detectives of all the theories that had been going around for many many decades. They tell his was the most plausible.

288

00:23:54,400 --> 00:23:58,000

There is this thought process that basically this man is going mad

289

00:23:58,640 --> 00:24:03,760

not far from the Biltmore with the means, mode and opportunity to commit a crime like this

290

00:24:04,320 --> 00:24:11,360

and then Elizabeth Short wanders into his path. Walter Bailey's death is critical here because if this was to become a pattern of behavior

291

00:24:11,360 --> 00:24:13,680

he didn't live long enough to find another victim.

292

00:24:14,800 --> 00:24:20,800

Walter Bailey isn't the only person who raises suspicions long after Elizabeth Short's murder.

293

00:24:21,680 --> 00:24:28,480

In 2006, Don Wolf publishes a book in which he advances the theory. What if somebody with a hair trigger temper, some

294

00:24:29,120 --> 00:24:31,600

infamous violent mobster killed Elizabeth Short?

295

00:24:32,400 --> 00:24:36,800

And not only that he killed her, but he did it at the behest of a famous and powerful person.

296

00:24:41,040 --> 00:24:47,280

Bugsy Siegel is infamous mafia figure one of the people associated with the foundation of murder, Inc. in New York, which is not a

297

00:24:47,360 --> 00:24:49,600

reputation you develop unless you have heard people.

298

00:24:50,640 --> 00:24:55,840

Siegel moves to California in the mid 1930s to set up a west coast criminal empire.

299

00:24:56,800 --> 00:25:02,240

Despite his track record as a merciless hitman, he soon finds himself hobnobbing with celebrities.

300

00:25:03,200 --> 00:25:07,840

One of the power players that Bugsy Siegel is known to associate with is

301

00:25:08,240 --> 00:25:12,720

Norman Chandler, who is at the time the publisher of the Los Angeles Times.

302

00:25:13,280 --> 00:25:16,560

Chandler is the civic leader in the second largest city in the U.S.

303

00:25:17,040 --> 00:25:22,160

The rumor is that Norman Chandler got Elizabeth Short pregnant and that could not be.

304

00:25:22,800 --> 00:25:27,680

I don't know if either she refused an abortion or he never asked, but to cover up the affair and the baby,

305

00:25:28,240 --> 00:25:30,240

Chandler reaches out to Bugsy Siegel.

306

00:25:31,040 --> 00:25:38,560

And so Bugsy Siegel gets two of his henchmen to take care of the problem. And the problem is, of course, Elizabeth Short.

307

00:25:39,520 --> 00:25:47,120

But most investigators point to one flaw in this theory. Her autopsy report states that Beth wasn't pregnant.

308

00:25:47,280 --> 00:25:52,720

Elizabeth's autopsy did not show that she was pregnant, that this would have detail would have been changed by

309

00:25:53,200 --> 00:25:56,640

a medical examiner, somebody that Siegel could reach or somebody that Chandler

310

00:25:57,280 --> 00:25:58,240

could reach.

311

00:25:58,240 --> 00:26:03,280

There's other circumstantial evidence supporting the Black Dahlia murder as a mob hit.

312

00:26:03,840 --> 00:26:11,840

Norman Chandler had a condo right near the Biltmore Hotel. So maybe on January 9th, when Red Manley drops

313

00:26:12,240 --> 00:26:14,400

Elizabeth Short off at the Biltmore Hotel,

314

00:26:15,120 --> 00:26:20,880

maybe she's going to see Norman Chandler at his condo nearby. Maybe she was walking into a trap.

315

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:27,040

Siegel's movement around the time of the Black Dahlia killing raises even more questions.

316

00:26:27,520 --> 00:26:32,640

It's believed that Bugsy Siegel was in Los Angeles during the time that Elizabeth Short was killed.

317

00:26:33,520 --> 00:26:39,520

But on the day her body is found in Lemurt Park, Bugsy Siegel leaves town and he goes to Palm Springs.

318

00:26:39,920 --> 00:26:45,920

The LAPD has kept its most famous cold case open since 1947.

319

00:26:46,640 --> 00:26:53,520

And the detective assigned to the Black Dahlia murder must evaluate all the new leads and theories that continue to come in.

320

00:26:54,080 --> 00:26:59,680

Like the one that comes from a former homicide detective who believes he's tracked the elusive killer

321

00:27:00,240 --> 00:27:02,240

right to his own front door.

322

00:27:02,640 --> 00:27:08,640

Steve Hodel is a 24 year veteran of the LAPD, but he'd never investigate the murder.

323

00:27:08,640 --> 00:27:16,880

He'd never investigated the Black Dahlia case himself until the death of his beloved father, Dr. George Hodel in 1999.

324

00:27:17,360 --> 00:27:24,240

When his father passed away, you know, he started going through all of his father's things and he came across

325

00:27:24,880 --> 00:27:26,880

this little black book and

326

00:27:27,760 --> 00:27:29,760

saw a picture that

327

00:27:29,840 --> 00:27:31,280

looked like

328

00:27:31,280 --> 00:27:32,640

Elizabeth Short.

329

00:27:32,640 --> 00:27:38,240

During some family conversation with his older step sister as he's looking at these photos,

330

00:27:38,400 --> 00:27:41,200

the older sister tells Steve that at some point

331

00:27:41,760 --> 00:27:46,560

their dad had been identified as a potential suspect in the Black Dahlia murder.

332

00:27:50,800 --> 00:27:57,680

In the very beginning, Steve Hodel set out to prove that his father had no involvement in Elizabeth Short's murder.

333

00:27:58,800 --> 00:28:04,160

But over time, Steve Hodel's investigation will lead him to a horrifying conclusion

334

00:28:04,560 --> 00:28:07,520

and cast his father in a very different light.

335

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:11,440

George Hodel was very wealthy, very charismatic.

336

00:28:11,920 --> 00:28:18,960

He was actually a genius, if you will. He's in college at Caltech when he's 16 and he falls in love with his professor.

337

00:28:19,840 --> 00:28:24,080

He had an affair with one of his teachers and got her pregnant

338

00:28:24,560 --> 00:28:30,240

and she didn't want anything to do with him because obviously, you know, she's a teacher and he's 16 years old.

339

00:28:30,720 --> 00:28:32,720

But it just kind of goes to show like

340

00:28:33,440 --> 00:28:39,360

that personality that he had, you know, because as he got older, you know, he married several times.

341

00:28:40,400 --> 00:28:44,320

He'll go on to have 11 children by five different women.

342

00:28:45,200 --> 00:28:51,840

He grows up in the Los Angeles area and eventually becomes a medical doctor and even the head of the LA Department of Health

343

00:28:52,240 --> 00:28:54,240

aware he treated STDs

344

00:28:54,400 --> 00:28:59,520

and performed abortions for the rich and famous and elite around the Los Angeles area.

345

00:29:00,160 --> 00:29:03,200

He had every political, every police

346

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:07,200

in his pocket. You could say he was taken care of.

347

00:29:08,240 --> 00:29:15,280

By the 1940s, Hodel is swinging amongst an elite LA crowd, including surrealist photographer,

348

00:29:15,440 --> 00:29:24,080

Man Ray and movie director, John Houston. Then in 1949, he's accused by his daughter, Tamar, of sexual abuse.

349

00:29:24,400 --> 00:29:28,960

During the trial, Tamar accuses Hodel of murdering the Black Dahlia.

350

00:29:29,520 --> 00:29:33,760

Despite the fact that there are eyewitnesses to the incest events is acquitted.

351

00:29:34,160 --> 00:29:41,200

But Los Angeles police then monitor his home planting microphones in the house to see if they can get evidence

352

00:29:41,760 --> 00:29:43,760

related to the Black Dahlia murder.

353

00:29:43,760 --> 00:29:51,120

Investigators spend the next 40 days and nights monitoring and recording conversations inside the Hodel home.

354

00:29:51,360 --> 00:29:57,520

At some point, he is heard saying, well, even if I did do the Black Dahlia murder, they would never catch me.

355

00:29:58,480 --> 00:30:01,520

The deeper Steve digs into the Black Dahlia evidence,

356

00:30:01,920 --> 00:30:08,320

the more convinced he becomes that his dad is the monster who tortured and mutilated Elizabeth Short.

357

00:30:08,720 --> 00:30:15,440

Witnesses at the time report seeing Elizabeth Short in the presence in company of Dr. Hodel

358

00:30:15,920 --> 00:30:19,200

and that she may have been a patient of his or perhaps even a dating partner.

359

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:25,280

Another clue for Steve Hodel is the concrete bag found at the Black Dahlia crime scene.

360

00:30:25,840 --> 00:30:30,560

One of the other reasons that Steve thought maybe his dad had been involved is that this concrete bag

361

00:30:31,040 --> 00:30:35,200

that was found at the scene where Elizabeth Short's body had been dumped,

362

00:30:35,920 --> 00:30:42,240

Steve said he found a very similar concrete bag at his dad's home because there was some construction being done there.

363

00:30:42,640 --> 00:30:45,280

Steve Hodel found the receipts

364

00:30:46,080 --> 00:30:48,080

and he matched the receipts to

365

00:30:49,040 --> 00:30:52,560

the cement bags that were found at the crime scene.

366

00:30:52,880 --> 00:30:59,200

There's literally some of Man Ray's work that almost exactly resembles the way her body was laid out

367

00:30:59,920 --> 00:31:04,400

and some believe that if this was George Hodel who perpetrated this murder,

368

00:31:04,880 --> 00:31:10,240

that he was trying to imitate or perhaps even supersede the work of Man Ray

369

00:31:10,720 --> 00:31:14,000

due to his close relationship and perhaps jealousy of Man Ray.

370

00:31:15,680 --> 00:31:17,680

If this was the case,

371

00:31:17,840 --> 00:31:20,880

due to his close relationship and perhaps jealousy of Man Ray.

372

00:31:22,400 --> 00:31:26,800

In 1950, just when it seems the case against George Hodel is heating up,

373

00:31:27,200 --> 00:31:33,280

the doctor abruptly moves to the Philippines, which at the time has no extradition treaty with the U.S.

374

00:31:34,480 --> 00:31:38,400

He goes there and he creates a whole new family

375

00:31:39,200 --> 00:31:44,080

and he came back many years later, lived in San Francisco and then he passed.

376

00:31:44,640 --> 00:31:51,360

Steve went on to write several books and still believes to this day that his father

377

00:31:52,800 --> 00:31:54,880

actually killed Elizabeth Short.

378

00:31:57,680 --> 00:32:05,120

In 2017, the 70-year anniversary of Elizabeth Short's murder, a fresh look at the unredacted records,

379

00:32:05,520 --> 00:32:10,320

breathes new life into an investigation that has never officially been closed.

380

00:32:10,720 --> 00:32:14,000

The fact of the matter is the LAPD still has a very talented detective

381

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:17,520

assigned to this investigation with the hopes that a solution still remains.

382

00:32:18,400 --> 00:32:23,840

Some believe that solution may involve a man who made headlines in the months after the murder.

383

00:32:24,480 --> 00:32:27,520

This is someone who investigators had looked at from the very start.

384

00:32:28,240 --> 00:32:35,680

It's the fall of 1948 and LAPD's chief police psychiatrist, Dr. Joseph Paul Deriver,

385

00:32:35,680 --> 00:32:38,880

is still determined to find the Black Dahlia's killer.

386

00:32:38,960 --> 00:32:42,400

The LAPD, years on from the murder, starts to get a little desperate.

387

00:32:42,400 --> 00:32:45,280

They're trying to bait out the killer any way they can.

388

00:32:45,280 --> 00:32:48,880

So Dr. Deriver is interviewed for a true crime magazine

389

00:32:48,880 --> 00:32:55,280

where he basically makes some flattering statements about who the Black Dahlia killer may be.

390

00:32:55,280 --> 00:32:58,320

Talking about the intelligence of the individual who did this

391

00:32:58,320 --> 00:33:01,680

and perhaps that person's need to brag or boast about it.

392

00:33:02,560 --> 00:33:08,080

Within days, the letter that Dr. Deriver has been waiting for arrives at police headquarters.

393

00:33:09,120 --> 00:33:17,360

A man named Jack Sands contacted Deriver saying that he had information about the Elizabeth Shortmurder.

394

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:22,320

And the main thing that is posited in this letter is that someone named Jeff Connors

395

00:33:22,320 --> 00:33:23,920

has committed the homicide.

396

00:33:24,640 --> 00:33:29,280

Sands proposes that the murder Jeff Connors could have been Elizabeth Short's ex-lover

397

00:33:29,280 --> 00:33:32,080

and perhaps she mocked him by insulting his manhood,

398

00:33:32,080 --> 00:33:34,720

therefore the murder would have been motivated by revenge.

399

00:33:35,440 --> 00:33:39,760

Jack Sands proposes this as the hypothetical motive of Jeff Connors.

400

00:33:40,320 --> 00:33:44,320

But Dr. Deriver says, oh no, Sands himself is the guy.

401

00:33:45,760 --> 00:33:51,680

By now, police psychiatrist Dr. Deriver is convinced he's writing to the actual killer

402

00:33:51,680 --> 00:33:54,960

and that Jack Sands is not his real name.

403

00:33:54,960 --> 00:34:00,160

So to track down this Jack Sands, the LAPD dispatches an officer to Florida to monitor his mailbox

404

00:34:00,160 --> 00:34:05,360

and they soon discover that this Jack Sands is actually a man named Leslie Dillon.

405

00:34:06,800 --> 00:34:12,560

Dillon is a married man who bounced between residences and also between jobs.

406

00:34:12,560 --> 00:34:17,280

He once worked as a mortician's assistant, which intrigues police given the way that

407

00:34:17,280 --> 00:34:18,800

Elizabeth Short's body was cut up.

408

00:34:20,640 --> 00:34:26,720

Deriver has an undercover LAPD officer bring Dillon to a bugged hotel in El Monte, California

409

00:34:26,720 --> 00:34:29,120

so Deriver can talk to him about the murder.

410

00:34:29,920 --> 00:34:34,560

They spend three days in a hotel room that's bugged to have a conversation about the details

411

00:34:34,560 --> 00:34:35,600

of this killing.

412

00:34:35,600 --> 00:34:41,200

Dillon tells the police that he believes Connors had a motive to kill Elizabeth Short.

413

00:34:41,200 --> 00:34:46,720

Playing on a hunch, Dr. Deriver asks Dillon to take off his clothes and he's shocked.

414

00:34:47,360 --> 00:34:49,040

Dillon has the genitals of a child.

415

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:53,760

This is important because it might have been the reason that Elizabeth Short may have been

416

00:34:53,760 --> 00:34:58,720

mocking him and thus his reason for feeling humiliated and wanting to retaliate and kill her.

417

00:34:59,360 --> 00:35:04,400

Deriver is seeking to establish the credibility of Leslie Dillon so he tests him.

418

00:35:04,400 --> 00:35:07,840

He inquires about the damage to Elizabeth Short's body.

419

00:35:08,400 --> 00:35:14,560

One of the things that we know that police held back was the fact that the suspect had actually

420

00:35:14,560 --> 00:35:21,200

cut a portion of Elizabeth Short's leg which contained a tattoo of a rose.

421

00:35:21,200 --> 00:35:26,560

When asked about the rose tattoo and its location on Elizabeth Short's body, without hesitation

422

00:35:26,560 --> 00:35:32,160

Leslie Dillon states that it was removed from her left thigh and placed in her pelvis.

423

00:35:32,160 --> 00:35:36,080

This was something only the killer and the police knew and he just answered the question

424

00:35:36,080 --> 00:35:37,280

affirmatively.

425

00:35:37,280 --> 00:35:43,600

After four days of questioning, Dr. Deriver is convinced he's finally solved the Black Dahlia

426

00:35:43,600 --> 00:35:44,160

murder.

427

00:35:44,160 --> 00:35:50,640

They go back to Los Angeles and Dillon is ultimately arrested but just when it seems like the case

428

00:35:50,640 --> 00:35:53,440

is a lock, LAPD makes a stunning announcement.

429

00:35:54,160 --> 00:36:02,560

On January 10th, 1949, Leslie Dillon is booked on suspicion of killing Elizabeth Short.

430

00:36:02,560 --> 00:36:07,360

Upon inspection of Leslie Dillon's suitcase, the investigators find 700

431

00:36:07,360 --> 00:36:12,240

phenobarbital pills along with 70 razor blades and a dog leash.

432

00:36:13,200 --> 00:36:19,040

The dog leash itself had been damaged or worn perhaps as if it had been burying a significant

433

00:36:19,040 --> 00:36:21,760

weight as in the weight of the body of Elizabeth Short.

434

00:36:22,720 --> 00:36:27,440

Strengthening the case against Dillon, it's discovered that a relative who gave him a

435

00:36:27,440 --> 00:36:34,080

place to stay at the time of the Dahlia murder lived just two blocks from where Beth's purse

436

00:36:34,080 --> 00:36:35,920

and shoes were dumped.

437

00:36:35,920 --> 00:36:41,040

They found her handbag and her shoes just maybe two miles from where she was left.

438

00:36:41,680 --> 00:36:47,360

Leslie Dillon has suggested a man named Jeff Connors is the Black Dahlia murderer

439

00:36:47,360 --> 00:36:54,400

and that he lives in the San Francisco Bay area but the cops believe Jeff Connors is merely Dillon's

440

00:36:54,400 --> 00:36:55,280

alter ego.

441

00:36:55,280 --> 00:37:00,320

When his things turn out, there is real Jeff Connors and he really is in the San Francisco Bay area.

442

00:37:00,960 --> 00:37:07,680

Interestingly enough, police learn that Jeff Connors, in addition to knowing Leslie Dillon,

443

00:37:07,680 --> 00:37:13,760

he also knows Mark Hansen, one of our suspects from a previous theory, as well as Elizabeth Short

444

00:37:13,760 --> 00:37:16,880

and that all of these paths might have crossed at some time previously.

445

00:37:17,920 --> 00:37:22,480

Investigators suspect that those paths might have crossed when a jealous and spurned Mark

446

00:37:22,480 --> 00:37:26,080

Hansen may have enlisted their help in killing Beth Short.

447

00:37:26,640 --> 00:37:31,520

But when Jeff Connors ex-wife gives him an alibi for the presumed time of the murder,

448

00:37:31,520 --> 00:37:33,120

he's allowed to walk free.

449

00:37:33,840 --> 00:37:38,960

Mark Hansen was very powerful and he had a lot of money and he had a lot of connections.

450

00:37:39,760 --> 00:37:44,480

What if he used all of that to make this case disappear?

451

00:37:44,480 --> 00:37:49,200

Leslie Dillon had plenty reason to want to get rid of Elizabeth Short.

452

00:37:49,760 --> 00:37:54,320

There's a theory that she mocks his manhood or lack thereof.

453

00:37:54,960 --> 00:37:59,360

Leslie Dillon may have the motivation with humiliation and revenge.

454

00:37:59,360 --> 00:38:04,960

Mark Hansen may have the means and the ability to get Elizabeth Short to him and also the means

455

00:38:04,960 --> 00:38:06,480

to get it all cleaned up afterwards.

456

00:38:07,920 --> 00:38:12,880

All these years later, newly uncovered witness statements may finally explain how that happened.

457

00:38:13,840 --> 00:38:21,680

In 2018, the son of one of the quarantine garden showgirls reaches out to investigators

458

00:38:21,680 --> 00:38:28,560

and says that his mom, Nanette, had said to him that she knew exactly who had killed the Black

459

00:38:28,560 --> 00:38:35,440

Dollyer. Nanette also, according to her son, said to him that she had seen someone who resembled

460

00:38:35,440 --> 00:38:41,600

Elizabeth Short in Mark Hansen's home behind the quarantine gardens known as the Carlos Avenue

461

00:38:41,600 --> 00:38:48,960

House. According to Nanette's son, she asked Hansen who the girl was and he said it was Elizabeth

462

00:38:48,960 --> 00:38:54,080

Short. So a week after the Black Dollyer murder when the story was all over the news, Mark Hansen

463

00:38:54,080 --> 00:38:58,800

apparently called Nanette and said she shouldn't mention this to anyone or her career would be over.

464

00:38:59,760 --> 00:39:05,920

But Beth was out of Hansen's Carlos Avenue House by the 10th. So where did she go after that?

465

00:39:06,720 --> 00:39:13,520

According to unredacted district attorney's office documents, Mark Hansen, Leslie Dillon

466

00:39:13,520 --> 00:39:17,600

and Elizabeth Short were all seen at the Astor Hotel together.

467

00:39:18,320 --> 00:39:25,600

Theory has it that Leslie Dillon and her old friend Mark Hansen kidnapped her and tortured her in

468

00:39:25,600 --> 00:39:33,280

one of the rooms at the Astor Hotel. Witnesses saw Mark Hansen leave room three at the Astor

469

00:39:33,280 --> 00:39:40,000

Hotel in Los Angeles. The hotel owner's wife walked into room three after everyone had left it

470

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:47,920

and she found blood and gore everywhere. These witness accounts buried for decades

471

00:39:47,920 --> 00:39:54,240

point to the possibility that the Astor Motel was where Elizabeth Short was tortured, murdered and

472

00:39:54,240 --> 00:40:01,600

mutilated. However, by the time the LAPD examined the Astor Motel, there is no evidence of a bloody

473

00:40:01,600 --> 00:40:07,360

murder. And though the Astor Motel is ruled out as a crime scene, the detectives assigned to

474

00:40:07,360 --> 00:40:15,200

investigate are quickly removed. The two detectives who were working this case, who were working the

475

00:40:15,200 --> 00:40:23,920

Astor Hotel scene are suddenly excused. Why would they be kicked off this case? Is it because of

476

00:40:23,920 --> 00:40:31,120

Mark Hansen's pull? Is it possible that multi-millionaire Mark Hansen had the clout to bury evidence

477

00:40:31,200 --> 00:40:37,200

and squelch an investigation into his possible guilt? It's yet another unanswered question in

478

00:40:37,200 --> 00:40:42,800

LA's most compelling murder mystery. The Elizabeth Short mystery carries on to this day because

nobody's

479

00:40:42,800 --> 00:40:50,800

been caught. Given the nature of the crime, we want an answer. We want to know why. We want to know who.

480

00:40:50,800 --> 00:40:53,600

And until we do, I think there will always be an interest.

481

00:40:54,240 --> 00:41:02,880

The Black Dahlia murder has a long unsavory suspect list, but without solid evidence,

482

00:41:02,880 --> 00:41:09,920

there's still no way to rule anyone in or out. The file remains open. A detective is still on the

483

00:41:09,920 --> 00:41:18,880

case. Maybe one day a newfound clue will finally lead to the identity of Elizabeth Short's killer

484

00:41:18,880 --> 00:41:26,320

and justice at last for the Black Dahlia. I'm Lawrence Fishburne. Thank you for watching

485

00:41:26,320 --> 00:41:30,640

History's Greatest Mysteries.