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

A picturesque park that hides a macabre history.

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

Very shocking surprise was about to be loosed on the people of Denver.

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

An iconic landmark that witnessed a daredevil flight to freedom.

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

The Canadians harbor fugitive slaves. They welcomed them.

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

And the statue of a musical maestro whose death is shrouded in mystery.

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

Mozart all too early left the world.

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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

These are monumental mysteries.

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

With its rolling cow pastures and tobacco fields,

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

Hopkinsville, Kentucky is home to the Civil War era Riverside Cemetery,

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

honoring hundreds of Confederate dead.

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

But one of the simplest stones here marks the burial spot

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

of an infamous and controversial native son.

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:12,000

It's the final resting place of one of the most astonishing people who ever lived.

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:17,000

This is the gravestone of a man who is said to possess extraordinary

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:21,000

supernatural powers of insight and perception.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:24,000

His name was Edgar Cayce.

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:28,000

Otherwise known as the sleeping prophet.

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:35,000

Edgar Cayce is to the world of psychic phenomena what Babe Ruth is to baseball.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:42,000

Who was Edgar Cayce and what miraculous feats is he said to have achieved?

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00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:47,000

1900, Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:52,000

23 year old Edgar Cayce, the youngest son in a poor farming family,

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:56,000

has just started a new job as an insurance salesman.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:02,000

But only a few weeks into the job, Cayce falls ill with laryngitis,

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

leaving him barely able to speak above a whisper.

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:13,000

And this was so severe that he ultimately could only communicate with a pad and paper.

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

When doctors fail to cure him, the mute young man is forced to quit his job.

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:25,000

For nearly a year, Edgar's voice does not return.

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:33,000

Until one day, following a friend's advice, he seeks out a trained hypnotist named Al Lane.

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00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:40,000

Lane has Cayce rest on the couch until he falls under hypnosis.

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00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:44,000

And then something extraordinary happens.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:46,000

His voice suddenly returned.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:48,000

It was literally amazing.

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:53,000

But what is even more amazing is what Cayce says while hypnotized.

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:59,000

He claims that the loss of his voice is due to a partial paralysis in his throat.

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:07,000

He then says that he has cured himself completely by deliberately increasing the circulation of blood to the affected area.

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:16,000

When Cayce comes out of the trance and Lane informs him what happened, both men are stunned.

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00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:24,000

As news of his miraculous recovery spreads, people start to wonder.

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00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:32,000

If Cayce could diagnose and cure his own condition while in a trance, could he also diagnose and cure others?

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:36,000

And it seems he can.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:41,000

Time and time again, Cayce is brought before the sick and ailing and puts himself into a trance.

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:48,000

He would close his eyes, put himself into a really meditative state, and then he would go into trance.

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00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:51,000

And you could tell because the eyelids would flutter.

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00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:56,000

He would then pronounce his diagnosis and suggest treatment.

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:02,000

In this way, it is said he cured ailments from stomach disorders to kidney disease.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:07,000

Although not everyone is convinced of Cayce's powers.

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

Physicians were very upset. They believed that Edgar Cayce was his big fraud.

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00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:24,000

Then one day in February 1909, Cayce is put to the ultimate test when he is summoned to a home where a child's life is hanging in the balance.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:37,000

Little Tommy House was suffering an epileptic condition such that the child could not rest, could not nurse, and it was clear the child was dying.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:46,000

Once Cayce arrives, he puts himself under hypnosis and makes an astonishing pronouncement.

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:56,000

Edgar Cayce in trance recommended that the child be given a high dose of belladonna, which is a form of deadly nightshade.

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:05:00,000

It was tantamount to poisoning the child. It was tantamount to murder.

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

The family doctors present at the scene are shocked.

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

Up until this point in Cayce's readings, nothing he has said could potentially cause serious harm to someone.

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00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:21,000

Now something he has said could potentially kill a little child.

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:29,000

Tommy's family faces a terrible decision. If they do nothing, their child will surely die.

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

The mother is so steadfast and believes, she says, do it.

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:46,000

Almost immediately Tommy's seizures stop and he falls into a deep and restful sleep and he ultimately goes on to make a full recovery.

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:48,000

It was a miracle.

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:06:01,000

It seems that Edgar Cayce has saved Tommy's life and the so-called sleeping prophet is catapulted to the national stage.

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00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:10,000

People who had exhausted standard medical treatments were suddenly beating a path to Edgar Cayce's door for these trance readings.

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

Over the course of his career as a clairvoyant healer, he attends to thousands of patients including such luminaries as President Woodrow Wilson, Thomas Edison and even Marilyn Monroe.

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00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:27,000

But were his powers real?

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:37,000

In 1938, pharmaceutical companies finally discover a reason why Cayce's unorthodox treatment for Tommy House worked.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:48,000

The active ingredient of Belladonna is found to be a muscle relaxant named atropine, which is used today in small doses to treat stomach spasms and other ailments.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Some say that Edgar Cayce's farming background gave him a working knowledge of herbal plants that he then put to good use.

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Others contend that he was a quack and a fraud and just plain lucky.

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00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:13,000

But many believe in Edgar Cayce's powers and have come to regard him as one of the most important American psychics of the 20th century.

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00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:22,000

Today he is known as the father of holistic health and perhaps the engine behind the New Age movement.

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00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:36,000

And in Edgar Cayce's hometown of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, this unassuming grave site stands as a testament to a humble man who seemed to open a door to the unknown.

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:44,000

Located across the East River from Manhattan is Brooklyn.

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00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:58,000

And in a quiet corner of this bustling metropolis is a 585 acre oasis named Prospect Park, where one can find a most distinguished landmark.

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

It's a bronze statue and it depicts a very dapper gentleman. He's wearing a ruffled shirt and a high collar.

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:16,000

The man immortalized in this nearly 5 foot high bust was one of the most renowned musical figures of all time.

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:21,000

But his illustrious career was cut grievously short.

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00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:26,000

His death at a very young age has been shrouded by mystery.

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00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:34,000

How did this prodigy's untimely demise become an enigma that endures to this day?

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

It's 1791 in Vienna, Austria.

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00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:48,000

A musical genius is at the height of success as one of the world's most celebrated composers.

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00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:52,000

His name is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

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00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:57,000

A child prodigy who began composing at the young age of five.

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00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:04,000

By the time he's in his mid-30s, the prolific pianist has composed over 600 classical pieces.

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00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:10,000

He had just premiered the Magic Flute, one of his most enduring operas.

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

But that December, Mozart is suddenly struck down by a debilitating ailment.

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00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:22,000

He was suffering terribly and the cause of this illness was not known.

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00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Nobody could figure it out despite attempts at various treatments.

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00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:35,000

Although he is gravely ill, Mozart is nevertheless obsessed with completing his latest masterwork.

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00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:42,000

It wasn't just any type of piece but it was a requiem, which is to say the musical setting of the Mass for the Dead.

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00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:54,000

Then at 1 a.m. on December 5th, the renowned composer takes his final breath, dying at only 35 years old.

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00:09:55,000 --> 00:10:02,000

Mozart, one of the greatest composers in the history of mankind, had finally and all too early left the world.

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00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:12,000

The most likely cause of death is presumed to be military fever, an acute infectious condition that was common at the time.

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00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:15,000

And it seems the case is closed.

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00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:23,000

But seven years later, Mozart's widow Constanza makes a stunning revelation.

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00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:28,000

Speaking to biographers, she claims that her husband was poisoned

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00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:35,000

and that her husband's killer was none other than the person who commissioned his final requiem mass,

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00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:41,000

a man described by her as an enigmatic stranger dressed in gray.

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00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:50,000

And according to Constanza, Mozart was convinced that this so-called man in gray was secretly poisoning him

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:54,000

and had tricked him into writing a funeral requiem for himself.

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

It seems like an outlandish claim.

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:03,000

And skeptics believe that the sick Mozart might have been hallucinating.

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

It seems plausible that he would have been imagining things as one does when one has a very high fever.

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

But Constanza insists the story is true.

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

So who would want to murder Mozart?

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00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:25,000

The question would remain unanswered until some 35 years after Mozart's death

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

when a rumor surfaces that a man has stepped forward with an extraordinary claim

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00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:34,000

that he poisoned Mozart.

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00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:42,000

Even more shocking, he, like Mozart, was also one of the foremost composers of his day.

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

His name is Antonio Salieri.

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00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:55,000

Salieri was an Italian composer primarily of opera who had attained quite a high standing in court circles in Austria.

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00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:01,000

But some say that competition between the two had fueled a growing animosity.

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:07,000

There was certainly a rivalry. Salieri, obviously, respected Mozart, recognized his genius.

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

At the same time, he had a strange dislike of Mozart.

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00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:18,000

So was Salieri the mysterious man in grey? And did he murder Mozart?

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00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:25,000

It's the 1820s, Vienna, Austria.

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00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:30,000

Some 35 years after the mysterious death of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,

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00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:39,000

a rumor surfaces that a fellow composer named Antonio Salieri claims to have murdered the musical genius by dosing him with poison.

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00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:44,000

So is there any truth to Salieri's stunning confession?

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00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:49,000

The idea that Salieri poisoned Mozart is given further credence

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:57,000

when in 1831 Russian writer Alexander Pushkin publishes a play that uses the story as its plot.

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:01,000

Since then, it's been part of the fabric of the Mozart legend.

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00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:06,000

But this version of events is now considered to be nothing more than a myth.

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

At the time that Salieri is said to have made the claim, he was locked up in an insane asylum.

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00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:18,000

He did succumb apparently to madness and was institutionalized.

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00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:28,000

Most modern day historians dismiss Salieri's supposed confession as nothing more than the mere ravings of a madman.

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00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:36,000

And that's not the only aspect of the tale surrounding Mozart's death that doesn't stand up to scrutiny.

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00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:48,000

It's also revealed that Mozart's wife Constanza actually made up the story of the man in grey being her husband's assassin in order to imbue his legacy with an air of mystery.

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00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:57,000

The man in grey was no mysterious stranger, but rather a messenger sent by an Austrian aristocrat named Count Franz von Wolzek,

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00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:01,000

who wanted a requiem composed for his recently deceased wife.

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00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:09,000

So if Salieri didn't kill him and the man in grey was just an innocent messenger,

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

who or what really killed Mozart?

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00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:20,000

In 2009, medical researchers at the University of Amsterdam conduct a new investigation

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00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:25,000

comparing Mozart's symptoms to various death registries of the era.

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00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:32,000

And they conclude that what took down the musical giant was something far more mundane than poison.

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

They came to believe that it was actually a fairly work-a-day illness that killed Mozart.

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00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:39,000

It was likely strep throat.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:44,000

At the time of Mozart's death, a strep epidemic was sweeping through Vienna.

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

And in the 18th century, without penicillin or antibiotics, the disease often proved fatal.

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00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:59,000

It was a very serious illness that if left untreated leads to further complications, and that's

what we believe happened in Mozart's case.

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00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:06,000

But although strep infection is now deemed the likely cause of Mozart's death,

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00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:08,000

the world will never know for sure.

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

It's one of the great enduring mysteries of Mozart is that we will never know absolutely without a doubt why he died.

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00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:25,000

And today, this statue in Brooklyn's Prospect Park stands as a tribute to one of the greatest composers of all time

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00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:30,000

and a reminder of a towering life cut tragically short.

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00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:45,000

On the high plains of central Colorado, the city of Denver rests on the eastern edge of the Rocky

Mountains.

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00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:54,000

And at the geographical heart of this mile-high metropolis are 80 acres of gracefully landscaped parkland.

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00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:02,000

Right in the middle of the city, we have a spot with beautiful trees, manicured lawns and walkways,

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00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:05,000

all topped by a beautiful neoclassical pavilion.

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

This is Cheeseman Park.

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

It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:20,000

But according to tour guide Kevin Ferris, this stunning urban monument hides a chilling secret.

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00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:29,000

As folks are making their way across the lawns, they probably don't realize that just beneath their feet is an insidious nightmare

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00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:31,000

waiting to be revealed.

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00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:37,000

So what ghoulish events took place here?

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00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:43,000

And how did these bucolic gardens inspire one of the most terrifying horror movies ever made?

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00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:51,000

Denver, Colorado. The early 1890s.

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00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:58,000

Once a rugged outpost, this high-altitude city is now flush with gold rush wealth.

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00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:06,000

And local authorities are intent on transforming this frontier town into the Paris of the West.

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00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:14,000

We had left our dusty cow town image behind. The city was growing by leaps and bounds and we had a lot of money.

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00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:22,000

But there's a problem. Denver's campaign to beautify itself is hindered by a massive eyesore not far from the center of town.

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00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:30,000

The 35-year-old Mount Prospect Cemetery has fallen badly into disrepair.

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00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:40,000

So civic leaders have an ingenious idea to create a magnificent new park at the site of the blighted graveyard.

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00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:48,000

But first they must move the thousands of burial plots from Mount Prospect Cemetery to other graveyards on the outskirts of the city.

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00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:55,000

To take on this grisly task, the city approaches a reputable mortician named E.P. McGovern.

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00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:02,000

Who better than a mortician to move the dead? He knew how to handle bodies in a respectful way.

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00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:14,000

McGovern agrees to take on the job, but at a price. He demands a hefty fee for every coffin he relocates, which the city fathers agree to pay.

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00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:27,000

Mr. McGovern and his crew set to work. Unfortunately, a very shocking surprise was about to be loosed on the people of Denver.

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00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:33,000

Just five days into the job, a jaw-dropping story hits the news.

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:45,000

On March 19, the Denver Republican ran a truly scandalous headline. The work of ghouls, a shocking expose of what was going on there in the park.

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00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:52,000

So what dark secret surrounds McGovern's work in the Mount Prospect Cemetery?

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

It's 1893 in the city of Denver.

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

Municipal planners are determined to build a glorious park on a neglected graveyard known as Mount Prospect Cemetery.

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

Before construction can even begin, the contents of thousands of graves have to be transported to the outskirts of the city.

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00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:23,000

But the man hired to oversee this operation is about to give the citizens of Denver the shock of their lives.

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00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:33,000

As the mortician, E.P. McGovern and his crew set about their work, a disturbing report appears in the local newspaper.

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00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:38,000

Before transporting bodies, McGovern is dismembering them.

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00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:48,000

But he is spreading those bodies between multiple boxes. Your skull in this box, your ribs in this box, your pelvis in this box.

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00:19:52,000 --> 00:20:01,000

And that's not all. Rather than using full-sized coffins to transport the bodies, McGovern is using child-sized ones.

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00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:09,000

Everyone assumes that Mr. McGovern will put one body in one box, but he sees an opportunity for profit here.

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

It seems that McGovern, aware that city officials will pay him by the coffin, has devised a nefarious plan.

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00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:25,000

By using child-sized coffins, he hopes to increase the number of coffins used and therefore maximize his profit.

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00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:36,000

When these despicable acts are exposed in the local newspaper, the public is outraged and the city quickly relieves McGovern of his duties.

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00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:43,000

So the city was left with a bunch of bodies and no one left there to remove them.

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00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:53,000

The tombstones are taken away and those remains which had already been excavated are buried elsewhere.

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00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:58,000

But for several years, the Mount Prospect site remains in a state of disarray.

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00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:04,000

And it seems the people of Denver will never see the magnificent park they have been promised.

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

But finally, in 1904, the city's new mayor revives the Dormant Project and decides to simply leave the thousands of remaining bodies where they lie and build the park on top of the graveyard.

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00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:26,000

Three years later, Cheeseman Park is open to the public and topped off with an immaculate neoclassical pavilion.

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00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:38,000

But over the last century, reports of creepy and unnatural occurrences have become eerily commonplace here.

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00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:45,000

Folks report seeing ghost-like figures moving through the cemetery and then they see them vanish.

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00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:56,000

By the 1980s, the paranormal events in Cheeseman Park are so notorious that Hollywood legend Steven Spielberg turns the bone-chilling story into a screenplay.

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00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:03,000

It served as part of the inspiration for the famous horror movie The Hedgehog.

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00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Just as in Cheeseman Park, in the blockbuster horror film, a hellstorm of supernatural havoc is unleashed when construction over a cemetery awakens angry spirits.

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00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:23,000

And today, to the unknowing visitor, the verdant acres of Cheeseman Park may look like a huge pile of trash.

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

But they are also a reminder of the ghastly disturbance that transpired here.

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00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:32,000

And that still haunts the citizens of Denver.

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00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Located along Central Florida's Indian River Lagoon is the quiet city of Tidewood.

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00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:50,000

The proud home of the U.S. Space Walk of Fame, which commemorates the historic missions of America's space program.

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00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:59,000

It's here that visitors will find a monument to one of NASA's most perilous missions.

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00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:09,000

The American Space Program is the home of the United States Space Walk of Fame.

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00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:13,000

This monument is a 12-foot by 12-foot granite slab.

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

And on top of that is a stainless steel zodiac sign.

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

According to historian Amy Shearer-Titel, this shrine memorializes a thrilling event that has been lost in the annals of history.

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

It was really incredible. And somehow we never talk about it.

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00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:38,000

So what story of heroism and near disaster, in spite of the fact that the story of the story of the great hero, Amy Shearer-Titel,

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00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:42,000

has inspired this granite and steel structure?

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00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:48,000

March 1966, Cape Canaveral, Florida.

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00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:56,000

Nearly five years have passed since President Kennedy famously promised to land a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

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00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:04,000

To help achieve that goal, NASA launches a program focused on developing specific space travel techniques.

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00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:08,000

It is named for the twins of Greek mythology and zodiac fame.

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00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:10,000

Gemini.

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00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:16,000

It was called the Gemini Program because it was the first two-man spacecraft.

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00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:26,000

Gemini 8's mission calls for a manned capsule to rendezvous and dock with an unmanned target vehicle, while in orbit about 185 miles over the Earth.

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00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:34,000

And this was really important for the lunar mission because they were going to have to launch off the moon surface, come up and rendezvous and dock with their buddy in orbit.

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00:24:35,000 --> 00:24:41,000

And it falls to the crew of Gemini 8 to test this tricky maneuver for the first time.

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00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:55,000

On March 16th at 10.41 a.m., command pilot Neil Armstrong and co-pilot David Scott take off from Cape Canaveral.

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00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:03,000

Following a smooth lift off, the two-man crew maneuvers closer to the target vehicle that had been launched earlier that morning.

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00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:06,000

Okay, we've got a visual on the agenda.

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00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:13,000

And six hours into the mission, Armstrong successfully guides the spacecraft in for docking.

219

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:17,000

Neil Armstrong, a very cool commanding pilot.

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00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Doc's this thing and his comment is...

221

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:21,000

He's really a smoothie.

222

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:24,000

And then Dave Scott was a little bit more jubilant and said,

223

00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:26,000

I wish you guys could have the thrill we have up here.

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00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:28,000

It was a big deal.

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00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:32,000

But then something goes awry.

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00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:37,000

Neil Armstrong noticed that they were starting to roll.

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00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:44,000

In fact, both Gemini 8 and the connected target vehicle are spinning out of control.

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00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:47,000

Well, I think I've heard this problem here.

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00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:49,000

We're saying this is what we're talking about in over here.

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00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:53,000

So Armstrong disconnects from the target vehicle.

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

For a second the roll looked like it was going to stop.

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00:25:58,000 --> 00:25:59,000

And then it started again.

233

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

Sir, roll and out as we can't start the search for anything else.

234

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:05,000

He says he did the roll and he can't stop it.

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00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:13,000

With the Gemini 8 now revolving even faster, the astronauts are in danger of losing consciousness.

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00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:17,000

It's starting to get really, really bad.

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00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:20,000

They were seconds away from blacking out.

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00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:23,000

They're getting pretty close to dying.

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00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:29,000

So how will the astronauts regain control over their spacecraft?

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00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:50,000

But when the Gemini 8 begins to spin out of control, the astronauts find themselves in serious trouble.

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00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:54,000

So how will these heroic men make it home alive?

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00:26:56,000 --> 00:27:02,000

As Armstrong and Scott fight to regain control of the ship, another complication arises.

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00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:06,000

They realize that they're down to 13% fuel in the Gemini's control system.

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00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:10,000

Okay, we're down to 1700 pounds.

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00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:17,000

Without enough fuel to return to Earth, the spacecraft would be stuck in orbit indefinitely.

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00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:23,000

With time running out, it was a question of whether or not they'd be able to get the spacecraft under control and make it back alive.

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00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:28,000

Armstrong must act fast and attempt re-entry.

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00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:34,000

But with the spacecraft spinning out of control, this is no easy feat.

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00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:39,000

So Armstrong realizes that the only option they have is to use their re-entry system.

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00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:46,000

The problem is that they were having a hard time focusing their eyes, but Neil Armstrong knew that cockpit so well.

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00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:50,000

He didn't even have to try to look at where the switch was to engage that system.

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00:27:50,000 --> 00:27:52,000

He just reached up and flipped the switch.

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00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:57,000

Gemini 8 successfully re-enters the Earth's atmosphere.

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00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:02,000

And 11 hours after launch, it splashes down in the Pacific Ocean.

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00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:12,000

The two astronauts are safely recovered from the capsule, and NASA officials breathe a collective sigh of relief.

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00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:20,000

I think there was a sense of awe that Neil Armstrong was able to pilot his way out of that kind of situation.

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00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:22,000

And that was really good flying.

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00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:25,000

But there was also this big mystery of what happened.

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00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:38,000

After a thorough investigation, NASA engineers conclude that during the docking, one of the Gemini 8's thrusters malfunctioned and remained stuck in an open and on position.

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00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:46,000

The Gemini spacecraft moved in orbit with thrusters, so with one of those open, you have this unrelenting push in one direction.

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00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:51,000

This caused Gemini 8 to both spin out of control and run low on fuel.

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00:28:52,000 --> 00:29:01,000

So to prevent this problem from jeopardizing future missions, NASA tweaks the spacecraft's design so that each thruster can be shut off independently.

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00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:11,000

In 1997, this Gemini monument is erected at the U.S. Space Walk of Fame in Titusville.

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00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:21,000

And today, it stands as a tribute to the astronauts whose heroic first steps took man even closer to the final frontier.

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00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:37,000

Straddling the border between Northwestern New York and Ontario, Canada is one of the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders.

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00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:43,000

There are literally millions of gallons of water cascading down every single day.

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00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:47,000

It's 160 feet from the top to the bottom.

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00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:51,000

This is Niagara Falls.

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

America's oldest state park attracts more than 22 million tourists per year.

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00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:02,000

But its legacy goes far beyond its breathtaking beauty.

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00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:09,000

Many people know about Niagara Falls, but not very many people know that it stood as a gateway to freedom.

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00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:15,000

What role did the Falls play in a desperate and harrowing escape?

273

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:19,000

1853.

274

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:24,000

Slavery is still the pervasive way of life across the American South.

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

And many slaves dream of escaping to the free Northern States and even into Canada.

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

The Canadians harbor fugitive slaves. They welcome them.

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00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:47,000

Just across the border from Canada, Niagara Falls is an important stop on the secret network of abolitionists who help usher slaves to freedom.

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00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:49,000

The Underground Railroad.

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00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:57,000

People who were seeking escape from slavery found Niagara Falls to be a good place to quickly get out of the country.

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00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:09,000

And one such slave who arrives in Niagara Falls hoping to cross the border is a woman known only as Martha, whose tale has become cemented in abolitionist history.

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00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:16,000

All of the descriptions of Martha are of a stunning, young, beautiful woman.

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00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:25,000

As the legend goes, Martha had escaped from her Southern master and made her way to an unlikely place, the luxurious Cataract House Hotel.

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00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:37,000

The Cataract House Hotel served as a secret base of operations for conductors on the Underground Railroad, who help shuttle fugitive slaves across the treacherous Niagara River.

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00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:44,000

These men, and in some cases women, were waders by day and freedom fighters by night.

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00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:53,000

One of these freedom fighters is a man named John Morrison, who is believed to have taken on the responsibility of escorting Martha to Canada.

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00:31:54,000 --> 00:32:02,000

John leads Martha to a dock downstream from the base of the Falls, where he plans to row the fugitive across the river.

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00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:04,000

But escape won't be easy.

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00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:13,000

They've been followed by a bounty hunter, who's in search of the reward that Southern owners offer for the safe return of their human property.

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00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:20,000

Martha knew in an instant that this person was going to try to bring her back into slavery.

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00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:25,000

So will Martha and her rescuer make it to freedom?

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00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:31,000

It's 1853, Niagara Falls.

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00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:39,000

A man named John Morrison attempts to usher a fugitive slave named Martha across the Niagara River to a new life in Canada.

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00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:43,000

But they soon find themselves being pursued by a bounty hunter.

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00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:47,000

So will they survive this bold and perilous bid for freedom?

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00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:56,000

John and Martha make a break for a small boat at the river's edge and push off just as the bounty hunter closes in.

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00:32:56,000 --> 00:33:01,000

But the most dangerous part of their journey has only just begun.

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00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:15,000

Although the Canadian shore is just a mile away, the three sets of falls that pour into the Niagara Gorge churn up the river, creating a ferocious current that could sweep John and Martha to their deaths.

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00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:23,000

The risks are enormous. The boat could capsize. Both of them could very easily be drowned.

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00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:29,000

But fortunately, the boat makes it across the river to Canada on the other side.

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00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:32,000

But they've made it and Martha is now free.

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

But Morrison is not out of the woods.

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00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:44,000

His heroism is in flagrant violation of an 1850 law that applies even in the free north.

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00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:46,000

The Fugitive Slave Act.

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00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:52,000

The Fugitive Slave Act criminalized attempts to help people escape slavery.

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00:33:52,000 --> 00:34:00,000

He had just committed what amounts to a federal crime. He could have been arrested upon his arrival back in the United States.

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00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:07,000

But curiously, no one is waiting to arrest Morrison when he crosses the Niagara River back to the U.S.

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00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:10,000

And he is able to quietly go back to work.

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00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:13,000

For whatever reason, he was not prosecuted.

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00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:23,000

So why was Morrison able to resume his life at the Cataract House Hotel after being exposed as an agent of the Underground Railroad?

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00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:32,000

Some believe the answer lies with the powerful businessman and owner of the hotel, Mr. Parkhurst Whitney,

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00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:38,000

who is rumored to have been a secret abolitionist himself and may have called off the authorities.

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00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:45,000

There can be no doubt that Parkhurst Whitney knew exactly what was going on.

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00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:51,000

He did what he could to help people who were helping people escape slavery.

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00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:58,000

And between 1820 and 1860, tens of thousands of slaves escaped to liberty in Canada.

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00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:07,000

Niagara Falls stands as an international monument to the idea of freedom for human beings.

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00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:11,000

It's a symbol of power, of courage and freedom.

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00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:21,000

Today, many are unaware of the valiant struggle against oppression that took place amidst this majestic natural wonder.

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00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:37,000

Sprawling 1,200 square miles across the western slopes of California's Sierra Nevada mountain range

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00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:42,000

is one of the most pristine natural landscapes in the United States.

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00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:48,000

The park is one of the most iconic national parks not only in the United States but throughout the world.

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00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:52,000

This is Yosemite National Park.

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00:35:53,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Within this 740,000 acre expanse, famous sites like El Capitan, Mirror Lake and Vernal Falls are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

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00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:13,000

But just 150 years ago, this magnificent valley was in danger of being completely annihilated.

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00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:20,000

Streams would have been polluted, trees would have been cut down, it would have been catastrophic to the natural environment.

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00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:25,000

What once threatened this ancient paradise?

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00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:32,000

And how did an unsung hero save Yosemite and pave the way for America's national park system?

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00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:44,000

1854. It's the height of the California Gold Rush and thousands of pioneers are heading west in hopes of striking it rich.

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00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:50,000

Among them is a 40-year-old Missouri cabinet maker named Galen Clark.

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00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:56,000

Like so many people, he came up to the area and basically sought his fortune.

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00:36:57,000 --> 00:37:04,000

Clark begins mining for gold east of Sacramento but finds the work to be fraught with danger.

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00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:10,000

They were using things like arsenic and lead and putting these dangerous chemicals in the rivers.

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00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:15,000

And it created a whole host of health problems for him.

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00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:21,000

The toxins ravage Clark's lungs and bring on a grave pulmonary disorder.

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00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:24,000

His prognosis is grim.

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00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:29,000

As a last resort, the miner's doctor advises him to get some fresh mountain air.

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00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:34,000

So in 1857, Clark relocates to the Yosemite Valley.

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00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:38,000

And while there, he makes a full recovery.

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00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:42,000

Galen Clark came up to the area and he just felt better.

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00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:48,000

As his health improves, Galen takes in his breathtaking new surroundings.

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00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:58,000

And the most spectacular of all is a grove of 500 massive sequoia trees standing like giants in the forest.

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00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:08,000

He looked at these trees hundreds of feet high, 30, 40 feet in diameter and thought it was the most beautiful sight he had ever seen.

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00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:15,000

But Galen Clark will soon learn that the future of these natural wonders is in dire straits.

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00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:22,000

Miners were coming to the area. People started logging, cutting trees down.

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00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:35,000

It's not long before the lakes, rivers and wildlife in the region begin to show signs of poisoning from the mercury, arsenic and other toxins in the runoff from mining operations.

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00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:40,000

This beautiful area was on the brink of being destroyed forever.

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00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:47,000

So how will one lone woodsman save these uncharted wilds before it's too late?

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00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:55,000

It's the early 1860s in Yosemite Valley.

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00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:02,000

Pioneer environmentalist Galen Clark is in a race against time to save his beloved wilderness home from destruction.

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00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:07,000

At the hands of developers seeking to exploit its mineral riches.

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00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:13,000

So what extraordinary means will this man use to save this majestic wilderness?

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00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:24,000

One day in 1861, a man arrives in Yosemite who will forever change not only Galen Clark's life, but the future of the entire region.

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00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:28,000

His name is Carlton Watkins.

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00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:37,000

Carlton Watkins was hired by the Loos Merposas Mining Company to take photographs to see if the area was suitable for mining.

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

Galen is soon hired as Watkins' guide.

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00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:54,000

And even though it means working for the very forces seeking to exploit the land for profit, he hopes to expose the photographer to more than just the area's commercial potential.

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00:39:55,000 --> 00:40:02,000

His goal in addition to satisfying his job requirements was to show him the wonder of both Yosemite Valley and the Meroposa Grove.

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00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:10,000

Clark takes Watkins on treks to some of the most remote parts of Yosemite Valley, rewarding him with spectacular views.

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00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:16,000

Carlton Watkins was just instantly mesmerized.

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00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:26,000

And instead of solely documenting what mining resources the land has to offer, Watkins also photographs stunning vistas and panoramas.

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00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:32,000

And eventually he comes to share Galen Clark's conviction.

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00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:37,000

The two of them said to each other, hey, this is an area that should be preserved.

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00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:48,000

To raise awareness of the little known Yosemite Valley, the two hold an exhibition of Watkins' photos in a New York City gallery in December 1862.

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00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:50,000

And the public is amazed.

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00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:57,000

The scale of Carlton Watkins' photographs conveyed the beauty and grandeur of the area.

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00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:05,000

The pictures are reproduced in periodicals across the country, sowing the seeds of a budding environmental movement.

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00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:16,000

And Watkins and Clark successfully lobby Washington to have the photographs shown to President Abraham Lincoln, who takes decisive action to save this wilderness.

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00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:25,000

By signing an unprecedented landmark bill on June 30th, 1864, the Yosemite Grant.

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00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:33,000

The Yosemite Grant was the first time in the history of the world that a piece of land was set aside purely for preservation.

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00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:48,000

This act not only keeps the mining and logging companies at bay, but paves the way for America's national park system established in 1916, of which Yosemite becomes part.

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00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:59,000

Galen Clark and Carlton Watkins are visionaries and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their dedication and passion in preserving Yosemite National Park.

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

To this day, visitors to Yosemite National Park will find Galen Clark's gravesite lying among the giant sequoia trees that the enterprising outdoorsman devoted his life to protecting.

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00:42:16,000 --> 00:42:23,000

From a spinning spacecraft to a sleeping psychic, a haunted graveyard to a waterfall of freedom.

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00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:28,000

I'm Don Wildman and these are Monumental Mysteries.