

1

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

A majestic forest that witnessed an extraordinary encounter.

2

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

It was almost like an invisible force field had lifted this man off the ground.

3

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

A memorial to a man who came back from the dead.

4

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

When people hear this story, it blows their mind.

5

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

And a tribute to a chef who set the culinary world on fire.

6

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

Hot, medium, and mild, and suicidal even.

7

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

8

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

These are monumental mysteries.

9

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

The Big Apple.

10

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

With its epic skyscrapers, world-famous bridges, and iconic monuments,

11

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

the New York skyline is probably the most recognizable cityscape on the planet.

12

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

And every year, more than 50 million people come to marvel

13

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

at the wonders of the city that never sleeps.

14

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:08,000

But there is a set of stunning statues here that are often overlooked.

15

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:13,000

A beautiful woman on the facade of the New York Public Library.

16

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:17,000

A regal female holding court over Columbus Circle.

17

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:22,000

And a striking figure at the pinnacle of the municipal building.

18

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:25,000

According to writer Robert Westfield,

19

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:29,000

these exquisite statues have an extraordinary tale to tell

20

00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:33,000

of a stunning muse who sent shockwaves through Manhattan.

21

00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:36,000

This story has a beautiful model.

22

00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:40,000

It has a devious, suspicious doctor and a dead body on Long Island.

23

00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:45,000

So what is the story of the woman who was known as the American Venus?

24

00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:49,000

At the dawn of the 20th century,

25

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

New York City is a cultural beacon on the world stage,

26

00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:55,000

filled with aspiring young artists and performers,

27

00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:58,000

all harboring dreams of stardom.

28

00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:03,000

Among them is a 15-year-old actress named Audrey Munson.

29

00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:06,000

Audrey has long, cascading hair, delicate, fine features,

30

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:09,000

and she has the dreams of a career in the theater.

31

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:15,000

But Munson's path is about to take a life-changing turn.

32

00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:22,000

In 1906, she catches the eye of one of the city's most accomplished sculptors,

33

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:25,000

a man named Isidore Conti.

34

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:28,000

Conti invites Audrey and her mother to his Manhattan studio,

35

00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:32,000

where he makes a proposal that startles them both.

36

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:36,000

Conti tells them he wants Audrey to become his model.

37

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:41,000

But if she accepts, she must pose for him nude.

38

00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:47,000

Audrey's shocked, her mother's shocked.

39

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

This could destroy her daughter's reputation,

40

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:55,000

but she also realizes that this could perhaps lead to bigger and better things.

41

00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:00,000

So the pair agree, and Audrey begins work as Conti's muse.

42

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

What Conti notices early is she can fully inhabit the pose

43

00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:08,000

and can convey whatever the artist wants to show.

44

00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:11,000

As word of her elegance and poise spreads,

45

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:14,000

other sculptors and painters seek her out,

46

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:20,000

and over the next ten years, Audrey Munson poses for more than 200 artists in the city.

47

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

She is everywhere in New York, on the facade of the New York Public Library.

48

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:32,000

At Columbus Circle, she's holding a Laurel wreath representing the rise of America's naval power.

49

00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:36,000

And at the pinnacle of the municipal building, she holds a five-pointed crown

50

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:39,000

that represents the five boroughs of the city of New York.

51

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:44,000

Audrey Munson becomes the star of the New York art world,

52

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:49,000

and the press gives her a new name, the American Venus.

53

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:54,000

But the young star's meteoric rise is about to come to a crashing halt.

54

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,000

February 27th, 1919.

55

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

The body of a woman is found in the yard of a suburban New York home.

56

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

It seems she has been beaten to death.

57

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Police identify the victim as Mrs. Julia Wilkins,

58

00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:18,000

the wife of preeminent doctor Walter Wilkins, upon whom suspicion swiftly falls.

59

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:23,000

There's blood on his clothing. His story doesn't quite add up.

60

00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:29,000

When police investigate further, they discover what could be a motive for the crime.

61

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:32,000

Walter Wilkins owns a boarding house in Manhattan.

62

00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:36,000

And it's rumored that he was obsessed with one of his tenants,

63

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

the young and beautiful model, Audrey Munson.

64

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:43,000

There are these stories about flirtation,

65

00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:47,000

and some tenants say that he wanted to be with Audrey Munson

66

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:49,000

if only he could get rid of his wife.

67

00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:54,000

Police suspect that Wilkins and Munson may have been having an affair,

68

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:58,000

and that Wilkins killed his wife to get her out of the way.

69

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

To verify their theory, they need to speak with Munson.

70

00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:06,000

But there's a problem. She has vanished.

71

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:11,000

Audrey Munson is nowhere to be found, and it looks very, very suspicious.

72

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

So was the American Venus mixed up in a cold-blooded murder?

73

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

As police launch a massive hunt for Audrey Munson,

74

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

the press seizes on the sensational story.

75

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:29,000

Then one month later, Munson is found in Toronto,

76

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:33,000

where she claims she has been exploring prospective projects.

77

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:37,000

But in spite of the shadow of suspicion that falls upon her,

78

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

Munson is adamant that she played no part in Julia Wilkins' murder.

79

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:46,000

Audrey is offended, she's outraged, she has nothing to do with Dr. Wilkins.

80

00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:48,000

This was a one-sided relationship.

81

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:53,000

Audrey insists that Dr. Wilkins' feelings towards her were never reciprocated,

82

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:57,000

and that she had left the boarding house weeks before the murder.

83

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:04,000

After conducting further inquiries, police conclude that Munson's story checks out,

84

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

and that she is telling the truth.

85

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:12,000

They do believe that this was purely the doctor's motive, murder, obsession.

86

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:19,000

Wilkins is tried, and on June 27th, 1919, is convicted of murder,

87

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:22,000

and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

88

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:27,000

But while Audrey's name is cleared, the damage done to her reputation

89

00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:29,000

is not so easily repaired.

90

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:35,000

So Audrey Munson, who is used to being loved, is suddenly the victim of the media.

91

00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:37,000

The public has turned against her.

92

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:44,000

With her career in tatters, the former star retreats from the limelight,

93

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

and in 1922, even tries to commit suicide.

94

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:54,000

Audrey Munson puts four tablets of mercury bichloride into a glass of water

95

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:56,000

and drinks the solution down.

96

00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:01,000

While she survives this ordeal, she is never the same again,

97

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

and is eventually placed in a mental institution where she lives out the rest of her days.

98

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:12,000

And in 1996, Audrey Munson dies in obscurity.

99

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:20,000

But the legacy of this infamous artist's muse lives on in the monuments she inspired.

100

00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:25,000

So this amazing sad story of Audrey Munson has been forgotten largely,

101

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:28,000

but her works of art remain throughout the city,

102

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:33,000

and she is seen every day by millions of people, whether they know it or not.

103

00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:41,000

And today, one only has to gaze upon these majestic statues to be reminded of the American Venus,

104

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:47,000

whose classic tale of stunning success and tragic demise captivated the nation.

105

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Amid the scorching deserts of Arizona is a rugged 2.7 million acre expanse of lush forests and sweeping vistas.

106

00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:01,000

This area is filled with tall, imposing pine trees and vast mountain ranges.

107

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

This is the Sitgreaves National Forest, a magnificent oasis in the arid southwest.

108

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:16,000

But according to author Shanna Hogan, this tranquil, beautiful, and beautiful forest

109

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:22,000

in the middle of the landscape was once the scene of a chillingly bizarre encounter.

110

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:28,000

Forty years ago, it was the site of something forever linked in history to this horrifying tale.

111

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:35,000

So what eerie event took place in this seemingly idyllic forest?

112

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:41,000

And how did it trigger a wave of controversy that still reverberates to this very day?

113

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:46,000

November 5th, 1975, Central Arizona.

114

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:52,000

Seven lumbermen are clearing brush at the edge of the Sitgreaves National Forest,

115

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:55,000

when they witness something astounding.

116

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

These lumber workers saw this strange column of light.

117

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

It appeared to be this dome-shaped object that was flying right above the trees.

118

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:11,000

One of the men, a 22-year-old named Travis Walton, steps forward to investigate the blinding light.

119

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:17,000

What happens next has become the stuff of legend.

120

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:23,000

According to these workers, Walton was suddenly propelled into the air.

121

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:29,000

His arms and legs outstretched. It was almost like an invisible force field had lifted this man off the ground.

122

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:33,000

And then, in an instant, he's gone.

123

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:36,000

It was as if he had just vanished into thin air.

124

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:41,000

It seems that Travis Walton has been abducted by a UFO.

125

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:49,000

The remaining crew members flee in terror, and straight away report what they have seen to the local police,

126

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:52,000

who immediately begin searching for the missing woodsman.

127

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:59,000

There's this massive manhunt, but there was absolutely no sign of Travis Walton.

128

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

For five days, authorities comb the forest.

129

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:08,000

But they find no trace of the man, and no clue to suggest where he might have gone.

130

00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:12,000

So officers turn their attention to Walton's coworkers.

131

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

Could the men have fabricated this outlandish tale so as to conceal a more sinister truth?

132

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:22,000

This sheriff began pressing them for a more plausible explanation.

133

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:28,000

He suspected that these men were actually maybe covering up maybe an accident, or possibly even a murder.

134

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:37,000

And when the loggers refused to disavow their stories, police objected the crewmen to a lie detector test,

135

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:40,000

the results of which are astounding.

136

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:44,000

Five of these men passed the polygraph. The sixth one was inconclusive.

137

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:49,000

How could five people beat this polygraph? The sheriff was flabbergasted.

138

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:55,000

With nothing to disprove the men's stunning tale, and no trace of the missing coworker,

139

00:10:56,000 --> 00:10:59,000

the police wonder if the unthinkable might actually be true.

140

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

Was Travis Walton actually abducted by a UFO?

141

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:12,000

On November 5th, 1975, lumberworker Travis Walton goes missing in Arizona's Sitgreaves National Forest.

142

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:19,000

His fellow crew members insist that Walton was abducted by an unidentified flying object.

143

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:27,000

But with no hard evidence to support this seemingly far-fetched tale, detectives begin to wonder,

144

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:32,000

are Walton's coworkers trying to cover up a deadly accident, or even a crime?

145

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:41,000

As the police ponder the results of the men's polygraph tests, which indicate all five witnesses are telling the truth about the UFO abduction,

146

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:44,000

there's a stunning development in the case.

147

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:50,000

A local resident finds a confused and bewildered man on the outskirts of town.

148

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:54,000

Police identify this incident as a murder.

149

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:59,000

He was disheveled, he was dirty, and he's wearing the same clothes he wore five days earlier when he disappeared.

150

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

Walton appears disoriented and confused.

151

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:10,000

Though missing for almost a week, he tells officers that he believes he's been gone for only a few hours.

152

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:17,000

And he delivers a horrifying account of what happened after he saw the strange man's body.

153

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:25,000

After being struck by this beam of light, the next thing he remembers is he wakes up, he's on this exam table surrounded by these tall, humanoid-like figures.

154

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:29,000

And Walton immediately thought that he was surrounded by aliens.

155

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:34,000

According to Walton, these aliens covered his face,

156

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:41,000

before he blacked out. Then he says he awoke what seemed like only moments later, safe on the ground in Heber, Arizona.

157

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:48,000

Skeptics dismiss the entire tale as a hoax, concocted by a group of men seeking fame and fortune.

158

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:54,000

The man is a man who has been killed by a group of men, and he's a man who has been killed by a group of men.

159

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:59,000

He's a man who has been killed by a group of men, and he's a man who has been killed by a group of men.

160

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:04,000

He's a man who has been killed by a group of men, and he's a man who has been killed by a group of men, and he's a man who has been killed by a group of men.

161

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

But Walton declares he'll do whatever it takes to verify his story.

162

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

Take lie detector tests, be hypnotized, whatever he could do to prove he wasn't lying.

163

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

And in subsequent years, Walton reportedly passes a total of 12 polygraph tests,

164

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:24,000

leading many to conclude that the young man was telling the truth.

165

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Over the years, Travis Walton's story has held up again and again, making it one of the most well corroborated cases of alien induction in history.

166

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:47,000

And almost four decades later, visitors to the Sitgrievs National Forest can ponder this mystery for themselves, wondering if the answer is out there, floating somewhere above this verdant American treasure.

167

00:13:48,000 --> 00:14:03,000

Located along the blustery shores of Lake Erie, Buffalo, New York is known as the Queen's City, thanks to its one-time status as one of the most prosperous settlements along the Great Lakes.

168

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:12,000

But near the center of town is a curious monument that reflects what the city of Buffalo is most famous for.

169

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

Carved from silver maple wood, it's a larger-than-life statue of a local heroine.

170

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:24,000

It's monstrous, it's 10 feet tall, she has an apron and she has a bowl and a spoon in her hand.

171

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:34,000

As restaurant historian George Schaefer knows, inside this bowl is a spicy concoction that set the culinary world on fire.

172

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:43,000

So which all-American finger food was supposedly invented at this very spot? And who really created it?

173

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:50,000

August 1980, Buffalo, New York.

174

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

Celebrated food writer Calvin Trillin has arrived on a special assignment.

175

00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:02,000

He's writing a comprehensive review of the wildly popular recipe that put this region on the map.

176

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:09,000

Chicken wings, deep-fried and drenched in hot sauce. Buffalo wings.

177

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:14,000

To start his survey, Trillin eats his way across the city.

178

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

So he went around and he tried a variety of chicken wings in hot, medium and mild and suicidal even.

179

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:25,000

He was starting to grow feathers. He had so many chicken wings.

180

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:32,000

But for his article, Trillin also wants to uncover this popular dish's origins.

181

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:38,000

He was investigating where this phenomenal product, this chicken wing, started.

182

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

In talking to locals, one restaurant's name comes up over and over again.

183

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:49,000

The place that he had heard most about was the Anchor Bar, so that's where he went.

184

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:55,000

And when the journalist interviews the co-owner and head chef, Teresa Bellissimo,

185

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:59,000

she heartily proclaims that she invented the famous wings.

186

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

Teresa's tale of culinary inspiration begins on a late night back in March 1964.

187

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

Her son, Dom, was entertaining the last patrons of the evening at the Anchor Bar.

188

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:18,000

They were putting down quite a few beers, getting pretty hungry.

189

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:24,000

The kitchen's closed, but Dom says to his mom, mom, can you help them out a little bit?

190

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:30,000

But back in the kitchen, Teresa saw nothing but chicken wings.

191

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:34,000

Scraps, typically worthy of only soup or stock.

192

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:40,000

She said nobody around here eats wings, but then she thought, well, okay, maybe I can do something with these.

193

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:49,000

By cutting each wing in half, she created a drumette and a flat, two pieces diners could easily eat with their hands.

194

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:59,000

She then broiled the meat, doused it with a cayenne pepper hot sauce, and topped the dish off with a condiment and some crisp, gruitatés.

195

00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:05,000

She arranged a monotree with cold celery sticks and a little jar of blue cheese.

196

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:07,000

She figured that wouldn't go good.

197

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

But the guests eye the concoction of chicken scraps warily.

198

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:21,000

They all kind of look around at each other and say, what are you trying to serve us? We don't eat these things.

199

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

Finally, a brave patron decides to try one.

200

00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:29,000

He takes a little bite out of it. Pretty good.

201

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Another one, and all of a sudden everybody's eating them. And that was the end of that. They loved them.

202

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:42,000

Teresa soon adapts the recipe to deep fry the wings instead of broiling them.

203

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:53,000

And as news of the aptly named Buffalo wings spreads throughout the city and beyond, the dish soon becomes a staple at pubs and restaurants across the nation.

204

00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:03,000

After hearing Teresa's account and with his investigation seemingly complete, Trillin gets ready to head home and write up his feature story.

205

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:12,000

But before he leaves Buffalo, a local man comes forward with a tale that makes the writer question everything he's just heard.

206

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:19,000

He was approached by other individuals that he is really the king of wings. He is the originator of the wings.

207

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:23,000

So who really invented Buffalo wings?

208

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:39,000

August 1980, Buffalo, New York. A claimed journalist Calvin Trillin has mounted a rather unusual quest to uncover the true origin of the city's famed chicken wings.

209

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:52,000

While many locals believe that Teresa Bellissimo, owner of the popular anchor bar, was the first to invent Buffalo wings, another man steps forward insisting that he is the one who pioneered the recipe.

210

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

So who's the real creator of one of America's staple foods?

211

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

The man introduces himself as John Young and tells Trillin that in the mid-1960s he concocted a fanciful new recipe.

212

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:21,000

Deep fried chicken wings, drenched in his own special spicy mambo sauce, and made it the signature dish at his appropriately named restaurant, John Young's Wings and Things.

213

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

He says, and I've been selling wings for years, at least since 1964.

214

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:42,000

And although that's the exact year that the anchor bar first began serving the same dish, Young says he can prove that he invented Buffalo wings, since he marked the dish's creation with an official certificate of registration at the county courthouse.

215

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:47,000

John Young actually registered himself as the king of wings.

216

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:58,000

And now, with Young's seemingly official account directly contradicting Teresa Bellissimo's version of events, the journalist doesn't know what to believe.

217

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:02,000

He's wondering now, am I right or am I wrong about my story?

218

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:19,000

To settle the dispute, the reporter approaches the local poultry distributor, who sold to both restaurants in the 1960s, hoping a record of sale can prove who was the first to order the main ingredient for the famous chicken dish.

219

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

But what the vendor tells him only adds fuel to the fire.

220

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:34,000

They said, it's no question about it, that both houses were both buying a lot of wings. Who bought the first case? We don't know. We don't keep our receipts that long.

221

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Without definite proof, Trillin is unable to determine who started selling Buffalo wings first.

222

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:53,000

On August 25th, 1980, Trillin's article is published in The New Yorker, and in the end, he attributes the creation of Buffalo wings to both Bellissimo and Young.

223

00:20:54,000 --> 00:21:03,000

Regardless of who was the first, what difference does it make? They both contributed well to the wing idea, and it's international now.

224

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:16,000

And though the origins of the dish may forever remain shrouded in mystery, many a fan will still argue that Teresa Bellissimo was indeed the one who first put Buffalo on the culinary map.

225

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:24,000

In 2007, this carved statue of Teresa is erected just outside the anchor bar's entrance.

226

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:31,000

A proud tribute to a spicy snack that became an American sensation.

227

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:47,000

Nestled on the shores of a 5,000-acre man-made lake in western South Dakota is the Shade Hill State Recreation Area.

228

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

And overlooking this vast landscape from a high bluff stands a solitary and curious formation.

229

00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:04,000

The monument is made of petrified wood, stands about 6 feet tall, and is about 4 feet wide.

230

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:15,000

Shaped like an ancient throne, this monument bears a bronze plaque which commemorates an epic tale of bravery and betrayal.

231

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:21,000

When people hear this story, it blows their mind.

232

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

What harrowing life or death struggle began on this very spot?

233

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:34,000

1823, the Dakota Territory.

234

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:48,000

What began a year earlier as a fur trapping expedition up the Missouri River, boasting around 100 men, has now, through attrition and disease, dwindled to just 14 brave souls.

235

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:54,000

Among the intrepid trappers is a hearty adventurer named Hugh Glass.

236

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:58,000

Hugh Glass was a tough man. You had to be tough.

237

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

There was absolutely no civilization for miles. There were hostile native tribes, wild animals that wanted to kill you.

238

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:17,000

With supplies running low, the remaining men in the expedition are headed for a trading post near the Yellowstone River.

239

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:21,000

Their plan was to get to the closest safe haven that they have.

240

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

But before the hunters begin the next part of their arduous journey, they send Glass ahead in search of game and food.

241

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:38,000

Glass hasn't been gone long, when his mates hear a chilling cry for help.

242

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:46,000

Of course, they came running and they found this grizzly bear on top of Hugh Glass.

243

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:54,000

The men shoot the bear dead. But they're too late to save their comrade from grievous injury.

244

00:23:55,000 --> 00:24:04,000

The bear had chewed on his arms, chewed on his legs. He's got claw marks on his back, exposing ribs. They can't believe he's still alive at this point.

245

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:11,000

And believing Glass to be mere moments from death, the men make a fateful decision.

246

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:17,000

They strip him of his belongings and leave him in a shallow grave to die.

247

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:26,000

It was Mount Man tradition to never leave anything useful. They took his rifle, his knife. They left him with absolutely nothing.

248

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:38,000

It seems that Hugh Glass is just another casualty of the wild frontier. But in fact, his story has only just begun.

249

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:50,000

Two months later, another group of fur trappers are enjoying the comfort of Fort Kyoa, a frontier outpost 200 miles away from the scene of the bear attack.

250

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

Suddenly, a haggard figure limps into camp and makes an incredible claim.

251

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:09,000

This man walks into Fort Kyoa claiming to be Hugh Glass. The other trappers don't believe it. They see the shell of a man that begs and resembles Hugh. But he's been dead for two months.

252

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:13,000

So has Hugh Glass really come back from the dead?

253

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:23,000

It's 1823. To the great surprise of a band of frontier fur trappers, a battered and injured man stumbles into a fort on the Dakota plains claiming to be one Hugh Glass.

254

00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:40,000

But no one can believe it. Just a few months earlier, Hugh Glass was mauled by a bear and left for dead some 200 miles away.

255

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:44,000

So is this man really who he says he is?

256

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:51,000

The man insists that he is indeed the Hugh Glass and that he has an amazing tale to tell.

257

00:25:55,000 --> 00:26:02,000

According to the man, when he came to after being attacked by the bear, he found himself abandoned in the wilderness.

258

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:09,000

Hugh Glass is lying in his grave, drifting in and out of consciousness at this point.

259

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:12,000

And he realizes that he's been left to die.

260

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:19,000

But as he lies there, clinging to life, a sinister sound rouses him.

261

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:24,000

He hears what he knows as a rattlesnake and it's close.

262

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

Glass reaches for a rock and kills the deadly serpent.

263

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:40,000

He then finds the power to cut the meat up into small enough pieces that he can swallow it with his mangled throat.

264

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:48,000

This grotesque meal provides him with just enough strength to begin his long journey back to civilization.

265

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:56,000

He then starts crawling across the ground inches at a time, inches become feet, feet become yards.

266

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:03,000

The wounded hunter subsists on berries and the occasional dead animals he finds along the way.

267

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:08,000

But in spite of his efforts, time is running out.

268

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:13,000

Hugh's wounds are refusing to heal. He's crawling along in the dirt, constantly getting him dirty.

269

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:19,000

He's got these gashes in his back, exposing his ribs. He can't reach his back to clean the wounds.

270

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:24,000

So he makes one last desperate bid for survival.

271

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:32,000

He finds a rotting log and lays in the rotting mess to get maggots to crawl into it to clean the infection out of his wounds.

272

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:49,000

This action, learned from years of experience in the wilderness, staves off further infection and gives Hugh just enough energy to continue his harrowing 200 mile journey to the closest trading post.

273

00:27:50,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Fort Kiowa.

274

00:27:54,000 --> 00:28:03,000

Today, the Hugh Glass Monument proudly stands in the Shade Hill State Recreation Area, near the site where the hardy hunter was originally attacked by the bear.

275

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:09,000

Hugh is remembered today as one of the most amazing mountain men ever.

276

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:20,000

And this monument is a reminder of the epic struggle for survival that one man endured in the remote wilderness of South Dakota.

277

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:31,000

Set on the plains of West Central Alabama is the rural community of Carrollton.

278

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:43,000

Here, among the old cemeteries and charming churches, is an imposing brick structure that reflects one of this town's darkest moments.

279

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

It's made of brick and it's three stories tall, about 50 feet in height.

280

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:59,000

According to playwright Barry Bradford, this building was the site of an enigmatic event that has been etched into this southern Hamlets history for nearly 140 years.

281

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

The story has put Carrollton, Alabama on the map.

282

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:10,000

What chilling tale of vengeance and guilt played out behind this building's looming windows.

283

00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:15,000

1874. Pickens County, Alabama.

284

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:23,000

Nearly a decade after the ravages of the Civil War, the town of Carrollton celebrates the construction of a new county courthouse.

285

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:28,000

It was a source of pride for the town. They had painstakingly rebuilt it.

286

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

But it isn't long before the town's pride is dealt a terrible blow.

287

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:40,000

In the early morning of November 16, 1876, a fire breaks out and the courthouse goes up in flames.

288

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:57,000

After the blaze is extinguished, investigators examine the smoldering ruins and conclude that the fire may have been started deliberately.

289

00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:03,000

Believing that an arsonist is in their midst, the people of Carrollton demand justice.

290

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:09,000

They were angry when the courthouse was burned down. Of course, the people wanted to know who was responsible.

291

00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:17,000

While some of the town's citizens focus on rebuilding the torched edifice, others seek vengeance.

292

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:21,000

And a year later, a suspect is finally identified.

293

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

A man named Henry Wells.

294

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

Henry Wells was a freed slave who had the reputation of being an ornery man.

295

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:34,000

A man who had a hair trigger temper and always carried a gun.

296

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:42,000

For the sheriff, Wells' presence in the town the day the courthouse burned is enough evidence to take him into custody.

297

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:50,000

Although Wells vehemently protests his innocence, his pleas for the death of his wife and his family are still in the same place.

298

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:53,000

The police fall on deaf ears.

299

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:59,000

Henry Wells, of course, living in post reconstruction Alabama did not have much hope of being found not guilty.

300

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:08,000

According to local lore, the enraged townsfolk demand to be let into the courthouse to exact their own brand of justice.

301

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:15,000

Leaving just one person between Henry Wells and the angry mob. The man who brought him in.

302

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:22,000

The sheriff was a man of law and order and in order to protect Henry, sent him upstairs to the third floor garret room.

303

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:32,000

Then it's said that Wells makes a final and desperate plea for his life and with it, an ominous warning.

304

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:40,000

Henry cried out, I'm innocent. If you kill me, I will haunt you for the rest of your lives.

305

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:50,000

As the story goes, just as his words ring out, lightning fills the sky, illuminating Wells in all his anguish.

306

00:31:51,000 --> 00:32:00,000

But the townspeople, thirsty for blood, are unmoved by his protestations. They storm the courthouse and summarily execute Henry Wells.

307

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:09,000

But little do the people of Carrollton know that Henry Wells will come back to haunt them forever.

308

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:28,000

1878, Carrollton, Alabama. A freed slave named Henry Wells has been executed for allegedly burning down the town's courthouse.

309

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

Legend has it that before he met his fate, he vehemently proclaimed his innocence, warning that if killed, he would forever haunt the town.

310

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:40,000

So does Henry Wells make good on his threat?

311

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

The day after Wells is executed, something strange happens.

312

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:54,000

The man looked up and saw a face staring down at him from the garret room window.

313

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:59,000

The witnesses' screams bring the rest of the townspeople running.

314

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

They could see the face in the window whose mouth was open in fear and pain.

315

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:12,000

The faint image in the courthouse window appears to be the terrified face of Henry Wells.

316

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:18,000

Residents frantically clean the window, desperate to remove his eerie visage.

317

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:23,000

But nothing anyone tried to remove the face of Henry Wells.

318

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:26,000

Could this truly be Wells' face?

319

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:34,000

Some are convinced that a curse has been put there by the spirit of the condemned man.

320

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:39,000

But others insist there must be a scientific explanation.

321

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:48,000

One theory is that perhaps the glass when it was blown had imperfections in it, which weren't noticed until it was installed.

322

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:57,000

Another theory is that the window actually served as a photographic plate, working in conjunction with a lightning, operating like a giant flashball.

323

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:05,000

Some believe that the lightning cooked the image of Henry Wells just as he was proclaiming his innocence.

324

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:12,000

Yet modern-day photography experts dismiss the hypothesis for a simple but compelling reason.

325

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:21,000

In order for this to happen, the glass would have to be coated with a photosensitive material, which the courthouse window wasn't.

326

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:28,000

You need light-sensitive emulsion to be able to create an image like that on a piece of glass.

327

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:40,000

So in the absence of a coherent scientific explanation, some conclude that the ghostly image is indeed proof that Wells put a curse on the town of Carrollton.

328

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:48,000

Maybe Henry is still hanging out in the courthouse. The truth is we just don't know. It's a mystery.

329

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:59,000

Today, what has become known across America as the face in the courthouse window can still be seen in the Pickens County Courthouse in Carrollton, Alabama.

330

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:06,000

A spooky reminder of a legendary tale that's left its indelible mark on this tiny southern town.

331

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:19,000

Located in northeastern New York is one of the largest national historic landmarks in America, covering some 6.1 million acres.

332

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:25,000

It is a great history. It's a beautiful scenic American treasure.

333

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

This is Adirondack Park. Here, amidst the sprawling pine and oak forests, visitors will find a narrow, 32-mile-long gorge.

334

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:43,000

It's the body of water, named for the King of England by British colonists in 1755, Lake George.

335

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:51,000

But as paranormal investigator Joe Nicol knows, these placid waters contain a frightening secret.

336

00:35:53,000 --> 00:36:03,000

This peaceful lake was a scene of terror that hinted at something horrific lurking just beneath the surface.

337

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:08,000

What dark shadow emerged from the pristine Lake George?

338

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:21,000

Hague Bay, New York, 1904. Upstate from Manhattan, this lakeside hamlet is a popular playground for

New York City's wealthy elite.

339

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:29,000

And one of those rich vacationers is a tabloid newspaper editor named Colonel William Mann.

340

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:40,000

Colonel Mann had a scandal sheet called Town Topics. Really not a very nice paper, but popular, and he made enough money to be able to vacation right here at Lake George.

341

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:49,000

One summer's day, Colonel Mann is treating some friends to a relaxing boat ride on Lake George's famously calm waters.

342

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:54,000

When their peaceful enjoyment is shattered.

343

00:36:55,000 --> 00:37:05,000

Suddenly, something breaks the surface, rearing its ugly head, bobbing up out of the water, and people were just beside themselves.

344

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:11,000

Colonel Mann was saying, my God, what is that thing?

345

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:17,000

But as quickly as it appeared, the mysterious creature vanishes beneath the surface of the lake.

346

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:26,000

And as the water takes on an eerie calm, Colonel Mann and his friends try to make sense of what they have just witnessed.

347

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

People described it as having large eyes and a big open-reared mouth with ferocious tongue and fangs. It was some sort of horrible monster.

348

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:52,000

One of Mann's passengers, a reporter for the New York Evening Sun, wires a story about this mystifying encounter and dubs the creature, the Lake George Monster.

349

00:37:54,000 --> 00:38:01,000

The news sparks a frenzy of sightings with people on all sides of the lake claiming to have seen the beast.

350

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:13,000

Then, as summer draws to a close and with speculation as to the nature of the bizarre creature at its peak, all sightings of the Lake George Monster suddenly stop.

351

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:21,000

And for 30 long years, no one sees hide nor hair of the watery menace.

352

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:35,000

Then, in the mid-1930s, with tales of the serpentine creature relegated to nothing more than mere legend, another shocking episode breaks the area's calm complacency.

353

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:43,000

1934, a report surfaces of a news sighting of the Lake George Monster.

354

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:50,000

After a long period of hibernation, the monster once again emerges from the depths.

355

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:58,000

Now the bewildered people of Hague Bay want to know, what is the truth behind this mysterious beast?

356

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:04,000

It's 1934, Lake George, New York, inside Adirondack Park.

357

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:18,000

30 years after it first terrorized the citizens of this peaceful community, a horrifying and mysterious monster has been spotted rising from the lake again, dredging up all the same fearful questions.

358

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:23,000

So what's the real explanation behind this bizarre beast?

359

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:40,000

With news of a sinister water monster once again gripping the region, a man steps out of the shadows. His name is Harry Watris.

360

00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:45,000

Harry Watris had a secret that he was about to share with the world.

361

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:50,000

Watris's tale begins 30 years earlier in 1904.

362

00:39:51,000 --> 00:40:01,000

Watris and his neighbor, newspaper editor Colonel William Mann, are both avid fishermen, and the two decide to make a bet to see who can catch the biggest trout.

363

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:09,000

And the Colonel comes over to show this giant fish he has just caught, and it's a whopper.

364

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:16,000

Mann holds up what appears to be a 40-pound catch. Watris cannot believe his eyes.

365

00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:21,000

Watris knew then he was not going to catch such a large trout. He had lost.

366

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:29,000

But days later, Watris discovers he's been pranked. The prize catch was a fake.

367

00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:37,000

Colonel Mann had had a giant, dummy fish made, and from a distance it looked like the real thing.

368

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

So Watris vows revenge.

369

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:47,000

Watris decided to get even by scaring the bejesus out of Colonel Mann.

370

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:54,000

Using a 10-foot-long cedar log, the ingenious Watris fashions a bizarre-looking creature.

371

00:40:55,000 --> 00:41:03,000

It has huge white fangs, a bright red open mouth, strands of whiskers probably made from hemp rope.

372

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:12,000

Then Watris threads a 100-foot-long rope through an anchor at the bottom of the lake and a pulley at the end of the log.

373

00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:19,000

So that by tugging on the rope, he's able to make the monster rise up and submerge at will.

374

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:27,000

When it came up, it naturally sort of bobbed as if it were a real monster shaking its head.

375

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:40,000

Emboldened by his success, Watris pulled this trick again and again, sparking the frenzy of sightings all those years ago, before abandoning the gag seemingly for good.

376

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

But 30 years later, in a fit of nostalgia, he revived the beast.

377

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:52,000

This time with the intent of finally revealing his secret as a practical joke.

378

00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:59,000

With the passage of time, Harry Watris' friendly prank has morphed into the stuff of legend.

379

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

And today, the waters of Lake George in beautiful Adirondack Park will forever be linked to tales of a mysterious creature lurking beneath the surface.

380

00:42:11,000 --> 00:42:19,000

From an infamous muse to an extraterrestrial encounter, a freshwater fiend to a deep-fried delight.

381

00:42:20,000 --> 00:42:23,000

I'm Don Wildman and these are Monumental Mysteries.