

1

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

A shrine that honors a couple whose love was tested in an epic tragedy.

2

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

It had to be terrifying with crowds of people screaming, crying.

3

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

An iconic memorial that hosted a concert that changed the world.

4

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

It was a groundbreaking act of bravery.

5

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

And a desert outpost where visitors await another worldly apparition.

6

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

They seem to be moving at rapid speeds and people just don't know what it is.

7

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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

These are monumental mysteries.

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

In the shadow of the Medicine Bow Mountains, not far from the Colorado border,

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

is the college town of Laramie, Wyoming.

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

Once known for its wild west saloons and guns slinging cowboys.

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00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:03,000

And on a windswept summit, 20 miles from town, stands a most improbable sight.

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:09,000

It's about 60 feet high. It's made of granite. It is so misplaced.

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

One would think that you're in the middle of ancient Egypt or Mayan Mexico,

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:19,000

but here you are on the plains of Wyoming.

16

00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:22,000

This is the Ames Pyramid.

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00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:29,000

It was originally conceived as a tribute to one of the greatest technological achievements of the 19th century.

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:32,000

But as historian Phil Roberts explains,

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00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:38,000

the individuals whose portraits grace this massive structure are hardly divine figures.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:46,000

That pyramid is a symbol of a scandal that rocked America.

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:51,000

How does this stone monument represent one of the greatest frauds

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:56,000

ever perpetrated against the citizens of the United States?

23

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

Utah, 1869.

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

Preparations are underway to drive a ceremonial golden spike at Promontory Summit,

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

marking the completion of the nation's first transcontinental railroad.

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00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:16,000

But on May 6th, four days before the big event,

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

as two Union Pacific Railroad managers enjoy a luxurious train ride on their way to the ceremony,

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:26,000

their celebratory journey is abruptly halted.

29

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:30,000

Their train was stopped, and of course they're looking around saying,

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:34,000

what's happened? We can't be there yet.

31

00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:38,000

Then a group of armed men burst into the train.

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:42,000

One of the spokesmen for the group says, where is our money?

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:45,000

Why haven't we been paid?

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00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:49,000

These men are laborers for the Union Pacific Railroad,

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:56,000

and they claim to be owed over \$200,000 for months of unpaid wages.

36

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

The frightened officials are taken to a telegraph office.

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

They telegraphed back to the headquarters of the company quick, quick.

38

00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:09,000

Get some money out here. We want to go to the ceremony.

39

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

After a few hours of long distance negotiations,

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

company officials in Boston managed to mollify the angry workers

41

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

with promises of fast deliveries of cash.

42

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:23,000

Eager to put the embarrassing episode behind them,

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:28,000

the company does not file charges against the kidnappers.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:32,000

Four days later, on May 10th, 1869,

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:35,000

the symbolic Golden Spike is hammered,

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:39,000

signifying that the epic endeavor is finally complete.

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

Now the tracks met, they connected.

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

In less than seven days, you could now cross the continent

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:49,000

from New York all the way to the coast of California.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:53,000

But the triumphant mood is short-lived.

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:56,000

Newspapers report that the members of the road crew

52

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

are not the only laborers who haven't been paid.

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

It seems the problem is endemic throughout the Union Pacific branch.

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

People were beginning to ask questions.

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00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:09,000

Well, where did all the money go?

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

Finally, the deplorable situation is laid bare

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

in an 1872 newspaper story, headlined The King of Frauds.

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:22,000

It makes the shocking allegation that the entire railway venture

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:26,000

has been financed by chicanery, bribery, and double dealing.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:28,000

Now the big question is,

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00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:32,000

who were the people that were perpetrating this financial shenanigan?

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

Who was the King of Fraud?

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00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:41,000

The seeds of the problem began years earlier.

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

1865.

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:45,000

For more than 24 months,

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00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:51,000

the eastbound Central Pacific Railroad has made modest headway across California.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:57,000

But progress on the westbound Union Pacific side is practically nonexistent.

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00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:01,000

The directors were very skeptical about putting money into this project

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:07,000

that after two years had essentially done almost nothing.

70

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:10,000

But as the Civil War draws to a close,

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:15,000

President Abraham Lincoln is anxious to jumpstart the stalled Union Pacific.

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:20,000

So he turns to an influential pair of brothers from Massachusetts.

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:25,000

Oaks Ames is a powerful member of the House of Representatives.

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:29,000

Oliver operates the family's successful shovel business.

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

Lincoln believes they are just the men to revive the project.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:36,000

Lincoln told them, you guys see it through to completion,

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:43,000

because if you do, you will be remembered for all history.

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:46,000

The Ames brothers take control of the Union Pacific

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

and its faltering construction company,

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

raising money from private investors and the government.

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00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:59,000

By 1866, they have 8,000 laborers working on the railroad.

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

But when the line reaches southwest Wyoming, funds are running short once again.

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00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:07,000

So in order to avoid further delays,

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00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:11,000

the managers convince the men to accept a difficult proposal.

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

They will defer all wages until funds are available.

86

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:22,000

What the workers didn't realize is that much of the money that was coming in was being stolen.

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00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:29,000

In fact, Oaks and Oliver Ames have their fingers in the till at every step.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:34,000

Unbeknownst to the laborers, the brothers have been using funds meant for construction

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00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:39,000

to line the pockets of their fellow executives and friends in Congress.

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00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:43,000

By the time the Golden Spike is hammered into place,

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00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:50,000

a \$16 million project has cost taxpayers more than \$65 million.

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00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:55,000

The end result of the scam was that the directors and the ownership made millions.

93

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:58,000

The workers made hardly anything at all.

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

After the outrageous scheme hits the newspapers in 1872, a federal investigation is launched.

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00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:09,000

The main focus fell on both Ames brothers

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

and it was Oaks and Oliver Ames who bore the brunt of the public's scorn.

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Oaks Ames is censured by Congress and retires from his seat in disgrace.

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:27,000

Within a few years of the scandal, both brothers are dead.

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:34,000

Abraham Lincoln's death in 1865 spared him the fate of seeing his dream of a railroad from coast to coast

100

00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:39,000

devolve into a feast of greed and corruption.

101

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:45,000

But in 1875, the board of directors of the Union Pacific commissions this unusual monument

102

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:49,000

at the highest point along the Transcontinental Railroad

103

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:54,000

as a tribute to the brilliant technological achievement of the project.

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00:07:54,000 --> 00:08:02,000

But today, this strange pyramid on the plains of Wyoming also stands as a reminder of a scandal-plagued endeavor

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

planned in part by two wealthy men but carried out on the backs of thousands of exploited workers.

106

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:20,000

New York City, tucked away from the bustle of Manhattan's Upper West Side, is a small residential park

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00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:26,000

and a statue of an elegant figure who has an extraordinary story to tell.

108

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:37,000

She is made of bronze. She's dressed in Grecian clothing and she has a contemplative look on her face.

109

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:46,000

And yet, according to historian Lisa Santandria, behind this solitary monument is an epic tale of love and sacrifice

110

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:51,000

that played out amidst one of the most infamous disasters the world has ever known.

111

00:08:51,000 --> 00:09:02,000

The statue commemorates one of the greatest love stories and greatest tragedies in 20th century American history.

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

Who is this woman? And what chilling chain of events does the statue commemorate?

113

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

New York City, the 1870s.

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00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:19,000

A young German-Jewish immigrant named Isidor Strauss marries his true love.

115

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:22,000

A beautiful young woman named Ida Blune.

116

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:28,000

Isidor is a very ambitious young man and this ambition started from a young age.

117

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:34,000

Ida is smart, she's charming. They're truly a devoted couple.

118

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:41,000

Isidor works in the family business, selling household goods in Lower Manhattan.

119

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:50,000

In the years that follow, the operation grows into a world-renowned department store known by the iconic name Macy's.

120

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:54,000

In 1902, he relocates Macy's to Herald Square.

121

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:59,000

This is the same location that exists today. It's become known worldwide.

122

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

In 1912, after enjoying over 40 years of wedded bliss, the aging couple decides to take a romantic vacation to the French Riviera.

123

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

Isidor and Ida have love, respect and success, but things are about to take a catastrophic turn.

124

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:24,000

As they prepare for the return voyage to New York, their plans hit a snag.

125

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:33,000

When the ship that they're scheduled to return on is delayed, Isidor makes a fateful decision and books passage on a different ship.

126

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:36,000

And that ship was the RMS Titanic.

127

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:47,000

On April 10th, Isidor and Ida prepare to board the glorious vessel for its maiden voyage from the port of Southampton, England.

128

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:57,000

From the port, you can imagine Isidor looking up at this magnificent ship, which was four blocks long and 11 stories high.

129

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

They spend their first days on the Titanic, strolling the decks and basking in the opulent splendor of the ship.

130

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:21,000

On the evening of April 14th, they enjoy a grand 10-course meal in the first-class dining room, and Ida admires the lavish gifts that Isidor bought for her in Paris.

131

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:29,000

But just a few hours later, something goes dreadfully wrong.

132

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:33,000

The Titanic strikes an iceberg.

133

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:39,000

And as the mighty ship founders, Isidor and Ida make their way to the deck.

134

00:11:40,000 --> 00:11:55,000

It had to be terrifying being on that deck with crowds of people screaming, crying, the dark of night, knowing and feeling the ship just sinking slowly into the water.

135

00:11:55,000 --> 00:12:03,000

With the hulking behemoth slowly sinking, Isidor and Ida are about to face a dilemma that will seal their fate forever.

136

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:09,000

It's 1912, the North Atlantic.

137

00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:17,000

At 11.40 p.m. on April 14th, the RMS Titanic hits an iceberg and begins to take on water.

138

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:26,000

Among the desperate throng waiting for lifeboats is a wealthy New York couple, Isidor and Ida Strauss, returning home from a European vacation.

139

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:30,000

So will this pair make it home alive?

140

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:38,000

According to the rules of the sea, women and children are to be loaded onto the lifeboats first.

141

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:49,000

Ida is offered a place in a lifeboat, but when she learns that her beloved Isidor will not be able to join her, she makes a fateful decision.

142

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

She has spent the last 40 years of her life with this man and she refuses to get on that boat.

143

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

With that, the couple calmly accepts their fate.

144

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:09,000

And as the great ship sinks beneath the waves, the Strausses are last seen together on the Titanic's deck.

145

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

The last time they were seen, they were arm in arm staring out over the water.

146

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:24,000

In the early morning of April 15th, 1912, the news breaks that more than 1,500 people have died in the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

147

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:28,000

Among them are Isidor and Ida Strauss.

148

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:33,000

But it seems the memory of their love is destined to endure.

149

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:41,000

Three years after the sinking of the Titanic, this patch of land on West End Avenue is renamed Strauss Park for the couple, who had lived just a block away.

150

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:48,000

Their legacy is carried on by Macy's, the grieving employees and the family members of the family.

151

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:55,000

And this bronze statue of a reclining figure, known simply as memory, remains as a solemn tribute to a couple who were inseparable in both life and death.

152

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

Though best known for its world-class wines, Napa County, California is also home to a stunning natural treasure.

153

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:41,000

Lake Beriesa, one of the largest bodies of fresh water in the state, and just off the reservoir's western shore, is a tiny piece of land that is a hidden gem for lovers of the great outdoors.

154

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:47,000

It's a very bucolic setting, the water sparkles surrounded by nature.

155

00:14:47,000 --> 00:15:03,000

Yet the beauty of this rustic spot belies its chilling nickname. Locals call it Zodiac Island, a testament to the terrible deeds that were committed here by an enigmatic individual who has never been caught.

156

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:09,000

The very twisted, deviant individual strangely remained a mystery to authorities for decades.

157

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:14,000

So what dark secrets does this idyllic island harbor?

158

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:21,000

September 27th, 1969, Lake Beriesa, California.

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00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:30,000

A fisherman is enjoying a quiet afternoon along the water when he suddenly hears a blood-curdling scream pierce the air.

160

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:34,000

Rushing towards the cries, he comes across a horrific sight.

161

00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:42,000

A young man and woman lying on the ground with their hands bound, apparent victims of a vicious attack.

162

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:45,000

They had been brutally stabbed multiple times.

163

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:54,000

In spite of their wounds, both victims are still alive and, though barely conscious, are able to describe the assailant.

164

00:15:55,000 --> 00:16:04,000

He was allegedly wearing a black executioner's hood, and on his chest was this odd symbol, a circle with a cross in the middle.

165

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:10,000

The young man survives the attack, but the woman later passes away.

166

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:18,000

In their search for evidence, police uncover a crucial clue, scrawled on the victim's car door.

167

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

It is that same unusual symbol that the attacker had on his chest.

168

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:28,000

Immediately, police recognize the sinister sign.

169

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:35,000

It's the calling card of a maniacal murderer who has terrorized the region for nine months.

170

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:44,000

During the summer of 1969, San Francisco area newspapers received a series of anonymous letters,

171

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:49,000

in which the sender proudly took credit for a string of unsolved slayings.

172

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:52,000

He calls himself the Zodiac.

173

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:59,000

And each of his letters ends with a mysterious cipher of characters and astrological symbols.

174

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

And when partially decoded by experts who identify key patterns, it reveals a disturbing message.

175

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:15,000

He claims he's going to keep on killing, and he also says he intends to use his victims as slaves in the afterlife.

176

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:22,000

Yet one crucial piece of the puzzle remains stubbornly beyond the reach of any cryptographer.

177

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

Everything is deciphered except the last 18 letters, which is supposed to reveal his identity.

178

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

Following the attack at Lake Beriesas, the killer remains elusive for years.

179

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:42,000

And it isn't until two decades later that detectives finally pursue a promising lead.

180

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:45,000

1991.

181

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:51,000

Police focus on a 57-year-old former schoolteacher named Arthur Lee Allen,

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00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:56,000

based on what seems to be credible and troubling information from Allen's friend.

183

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:04,000

The man said he was hunting with a friend who spoke about fantasizing about killing couples.

184

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:10,000

And the guy happens to have a watch with that zodiac symbol that was found at the crime scene.

185

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:16,000

Detectives learn that Allen lives near the scene of two of the zodiac attacks.

186

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

But in August of 1992, Allen passes away from kidney failure.

187

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:31,000

Though the case remains open, many authorities rest easy, convinced they had finally identified their man.

188

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:39,000

But in 2002, with the advent of new DNA testing techniques, there is a shocking turn of events.

189

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:45,000

When saliva samples extracted from stamps on the zodiac letters are sent to the lab.

190

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:51,000

As it turns out, the DNA on the letters and the stamp do not match Arthur Lee Allen.

191

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:58,000

So if Arthur Lee Allen wasn't the zodiac killer, who was?

192

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:05,000

It's the late 1960s.

193

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:16,000

A serial murderer known as the Zodiac Killer has been terrorizing Northern California and taunting authorities with a chain of letters boasting he'll never be caught.

194

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:23,000

Then, decades later in 1991, police close in on a suspect, a schoolteacher named Arthur Lee Allen.

195

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:28,000

But then, DNA evidence indicates that Allen is not the man.

196

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:32,000

So will this elusive murderer ever be apprehended?

197

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:37,000

The case frustrates investigators for another decade.

198

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:47,000

But in 2012, a retired California highway patrolman named Lyndon Lafferty claims that he has identified the man behind the vicious murders.

199

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:57,000

Lafferty says that by applying obscure coding formulas, he has finally cracked the remaining 18 letters of the cipher.

200

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:05,000

Lyndon Lafferty was an Air Force code breaker during the Korean War, and Lyndon says that he used his skills to come up with the killer's name.

201

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:10,000

Identifying him only by a pseudonym, George Russell Tucker.

202

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Lafferty claims the suspect is a Northern California man. He had spotted near the scene of one of the attacks.

203

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:28,000

Lyndon says that when he was on patrol one time, he saw the man pull up at a rest stop and immediately recognized him from the sketch of the Zodiac killer that all police had.

204

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:35,000

And after investigating his background, he says that the suspect was motivated to kill by a jealous rage.

205

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:40,000

According to Lyndon, his wife had had an affair with a superior court judge.

206

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:56,000

The court judge apparently set him off, and Lyndon said that ultimately resulted in this killing spree, and that with his codes, ciphers, and letters, he was trying to prove to the world that he was a better, smarter, craftier man than the authorities.

207

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:08,000

Yet the FBI deems this information insufficient to consider this man an official suspect. And little other information is released.

208

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:17,000

While the FBI finds Lyndon's code cracking interesting and perhaps credible, they say it's not enough to solve the case.

209

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:27,000

And today, despite a decades-long hunt, the Zodiac killer, who is blamed for at least five murders, has never been found.

210

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:40,000

And for those who are familiar with this shocking saga, the enchanting spot known as Zodiac Island is an eerie reminder of the notorious criminal who terrorized Northern California.

211

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:54,000

Washington, D.C. The two-mile-long National Mall is lined with world-class memorials and museums.

212

00:21:55,000 --> 00:22:01,000

And on the far western end of this magnificent corridor is a colossal neoclassical structure.

213

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:14,000

It's about a hundred feet tall and a hundred and ninety feet long, and in the center of it is this wonderful seated figure.

214

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:26,000

This is the Lincoln Memorial, a triumphant tribute to President Abraham Lincoln, and a backdrop for some of the most transcendent moments in civil rights history.

215

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:39,000

But before Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic march in 1963, a lesser-known moment cemented this monument's status as a universal symbol of freedom.

216

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:47,000

It was a groundbreaking act of bravery that really did set the stage for those that followed.

217

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:55,000

What trailblazing and courageous act occurred here, and how did it change the world in one bold stroke?

218

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:01,000

1939, Washington, D.C.

219

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:09,000

42-year-old African-American contralto Marion Anderson is one of the preeminent classical vocalists in the world.

220

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:19,000

She's performed for crowds from Paris to Copenhagen, yet there's still one audience that doesn't know the full power of her voice.

221

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:28,000

She was not allowed to perform in front of integrated audiences in America.

222

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:44,000

Eager to secure his client a domestic stage that will bring her the acclaim she deserves, Anderson's agent Saul Hurac sets his sights on the capitol's largest concert venue, Constitution Hall.

223

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:51,000

It was a 4,000-seat venue. It was the size that he needed and the prestige that he was looking for as well.

224

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Yet when Hurac examines the contract used by the hall, he discovers there's a problem.

225

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:04,000

It says specifically that the hall is to be used for white artists only.

226

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:12,000

And the manager says that there will be no Negro singing in Constitution Hall as long as he is manager.

227

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:22,000

Undaunted by the rejection, Anderson's agent teams up with the civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

228

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:32,000

Together, they put forward a bold idea. If Anderson can't sing inside the hall, then why not find a suitable outdoor venue?

229

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:39,000

They suggested that perhaps the Lincoln Memorial might be an ideal spot.

230

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:46,000

There would be unlimited space and African Americans and whites could come and hear her together.

231

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:56,000

But since the memorial is a federal monument, Hurac and the NAACP must first secure permission from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

232

00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:05,000

And with racial tensions running high across the nation, the president worries that the performance might trigger a wave of hate and violence.

233

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Several years earlier, a massive Ku Klux Klan march on the National Mall had set off a storm of brutal anger.

234

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

Roosevelt was not sure exactly what would happen when a black woman was allowed to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

235

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:27,000

Would there be hate groups? Would Anderson be safe?

236

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:35,000

Will Marion Anderson be allowed to sing at the memorial? And if so, at what cost?

237

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:42,000

It's 1939, Washington, D.C.

238

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:52,000

African American opera star Marion Anderson has been banned from giving a concert at the prestigious Constitution Hall simply because of the color of her skin.

239

00:25:53,000 --> 00:26:00,000

So the NAACP makes an audacious suggestion as she performed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial instead.

240

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:06,000

Now President Roosevelt is concerned that the event could become a flashpoint for racial tensions.

241

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:09,000

So what's it going to take for this show to go on?

242

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:17,000

Despite the risks, President Roosevelt believes the event could ultimately help unite the country.

243

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

Roosevelt was aware of how important this was politically and decides to go ahead and support Anderson.

244

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

But the singer, already on edge from the controversy, is shaken.

245

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:36,000

And just before the big event, she tells her agent she wants to back out.

246

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:41,000

But they encouraged her and told her that she needed to do it.

247

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:46,000

And she recognized that she was becoming a symbol for her people's struggle.

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00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:51,000

Easter Sunday, April 9th, 1939.

249

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:58,000

75,000 people gather at the Lincoln Memorial to hear Marion Anderson sing.

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00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:07,000

And watching over the throngs are hundreds of police officers bracing for a potentially violent clash.

251

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:13,000

There were numbers of protesters who did not want Anderson to sing.

252

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:20,000

And with her heart pounding, Anderson steps up to the podium and begins to sing.

253

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:32,000

When she got to the phrase, sweet land of liberty.

254

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:37,000

And everyone in attendance must have realized how ironic that was.

255

00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:41,000

Because she had not been able to do so in Constitution Hall.

256

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:55,000

Marion Anderson has given the performance of her life.

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00:27:55,000 --> 00:28:01,000

One that ushers in a sea change in the opportunities afforded an African-American artist.

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00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:12,000

After the concert, she's invited to other venues that had been denied access to her earlier, including Constitution Hall.

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00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:22,000

In the years following Anderson's groundbreaking concert, the Lincoln Memorial hosts dozens of historic civil rights marches and rallies.

260

00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:31,000

And today, the Lincoln Memorial still stands as a reminder of the heroes who fought for the rights of all Americans.

261

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:34,000

With their voices singing out for freedom.

262

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:47,000

Founded by the Spanish in 1565, St. Augustine, Florida is the oldest continuously occupied European settlement in the U.S.

263

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

An overlooking Matanzas Bay is the town's most historic landmark.

264

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:56,000

A sprawling 17th century structure.

265

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:00,000

It's a polygon shaped fort.

266

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:03,000

It's about 30 feet high.

267

00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:07,000

And it was designed to keep people out and keep people in.

268

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:14,000

This is the Castillo de San Marcos, North America's oldest masonry fort.

269

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

And while these walls have seen their fair share of battles, it's said that this was also the scene of another sort of encounter.

270

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:27,000

A secret romance, tainted by jealousy, betrayal and mystery.

271

00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:33,000

So what is hidden behind the walls of this once impenetrable fortress?

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00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:39,000

July 1784, St. Augustine.

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00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:47,000

Colonel Garcia Marti has arrived to take his post as the new commanding officer of the Castillo de San Marcos.

274

00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:52,000

And at his side is his strikingly beautiful wife, Dolores.

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00:29:54,000 --> 00:30:01,000

Dolores Marti was a young, raven-haired beauty with flashing eyes, a ready smile.

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00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:08,000

It's said that the effervescent woman is disappointed by her new life in the isolated outpost.

277

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:16,000

It was hot, it was muggy, it was dirty, and she hated the idea of being in this swamp.

278

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:24,000

As the story goes, one evening, while Colonel Marti is touring the Castillo with Dolores,

279

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:29,000

they run into the Colonel's charming assistant, Captain Manuel Abella.

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

Abella was dashing, he was handsome, and he was really good with the ladies.

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00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:42,000

And a few weeks later, it's said that while pouring over maps with Captain Abella,

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00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:46,000

Colonel Marti suddenly catches a familiar aroma on his assistant.

283

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:55,000

The Colonel smelled this sweet, fragrant scent of orange blossom, his wife's signature perfume.

284

00:30:56,000 --> 00:31:00,000

Could his wife and second in command be having an affair?

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00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:07,000

Soon after the Colonel's suspicions are aroused, Abella mysteriously vanishes.

286

00:31:08,000 --> 00:31:15,000

When he failed to show up at the fort for two or three days, people began wondering where he was.

287

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:22,000

When asked, Colonel Marti announces that he has sent the officer on a special mission to Cuba.

288

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:26,000

But Abella isn't the only one missing.

289

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:35,000

Some of the ladies in town eventually noticed that Dolores hadn't been around, and they all wondered where she was.

290

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:39,000

And Marti has an explanation for that too.

291

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:45,000

He simply replied that she had gotten ill and he had sent her to Mexico to live with her aunt.

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00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:53,000

Yet as weeks and then months go by without the return of Dolores or Captain Abella, many grow suspicious.

293

00:31:54,000 --> 00:32:01,000

People started wondering why both Captain Abella and Dolores disappeared, so the rumors started flying.

294

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:08,000

What is the truth behind the strange and sudden disappearance of the Colonel's wife and his young captain?

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00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:14,000

It's the late 18th century.

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00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:25,000

According to legend, when Spanish commander, Colonel Garcia Marti, assumed his post in Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, he brought along his beautiful wife, Dolores.

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00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:33,000

But it wasn't long before rumors began to circulate that she was having an affair with her husband's dashing assistant, Captain Manuel Abella.

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

Then one day, Dolores and Abella suddenly disappeared.

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00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:41,000

So what happened to the two alleged lovers?

300

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:50,000

In the weeks before they vanished, Dolores and Captain Abella were allegedly seen meeting secretly outside the fort.

301

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:56,000

And as rumors about a possible love affair spread, the news may have found its way to the Colonel.

302

00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:00,000

That he might very well have flown into a rage and had her murdered.

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00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:08,000

But there's no physical evidence to support such an extreme and sinister theory.

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00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:15,000

And because the Colonel rules the fort with an iron fist, no one dares to question his explanation.

305

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:24,000

Because the Colonel outranked everybody in the fort and because he had such a hair-trigger temper, nobody would have said anything that would have set him off.

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

And as the years pass, memories of Dolores and the Captain fade into history.

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00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:35,000

And it seems the mystery of their disappearance will remain unsolved forever.

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00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:38,000

Until a half-century later.

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00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:43,000

July 1833, Castillo de San Marcos.

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00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:48,000

Spain has ceded Florida to the United States as part of a treaty.

311

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:51,000

And with it, this old Spanish fortification.

312

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:58,000

And an American engineer named Lieutenant Steve Tuttle is overseeing repairs to the newly acquired structure.

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00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:05,000

And one day, while inspecting the dungeon, he notices that one of its walls appears to be hollow.

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

It banged against the wall and realized that there was a fake wall.

315

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

Removing a brick to see if anything is hidden behind the partition, Tuttle comes across a shockingly grisly sight.

316

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:26,000

He saw two skeletons hanging from the wall.

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00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:35,000

It's said that as the officer examines the bones, he notices something quite extraordinary.

318

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:40,000

He and his men were overpowered by a rush of orange blossoms.

319

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:44,000

Senora Martí's signature perfume.

320

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:50,000

So could these be the skeletons of the disappeared Captain Abela and Senora Martí?

321

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:56,000

There are those who speculate that the Colonel, after learning of the pair's alleged affair,

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00:34:57,000 --> 00:35:02,000

imprisoned them in the subterranean room, closed it up and left them to wither away.

323

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:06,000

But there is no way to prove this theory.

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00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:12,000

And there never will be. The bones were never scientifically tested and have long since been discarded.

325

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:19,000

In 1833, when Lieutenant Tuttle found these bones, there was no way to do any DNA testing to identify them.

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00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:24,000

And now the bones are gone and we will never know who they belong to.

327

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:29,000

And the Castillo will never give up its secret.

328

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:36,000

To this day, visitors to the fort claim that the faint smell of orange blossoms still fills the air.

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00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:41,000

And while it may be from the flora that surrounds the Castillo de San Marcos,

330

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:49,000

some believe it's the lingering scent of a star-crossed couple whose fate was sealed within this impenetrable fortress.

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00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:57,000

In the high plains of the Chihuahuan Desert is Marfa, Texas, a tiny community that is home to a thriving art scene.

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00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:03,000

But the area's best known attraction is a solitary structure on the outskirts of town.

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00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:09,000

There is a cylindrical shaped hollow building made of a beautiful terracotta color.

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00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:13,000

And it has by no means the shape of a tree.

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00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:20,000

According to physicist Deborah Berabiches, this building was constructed to shed light on an illuminating spectacle that has drawn visitors to the region for decades.

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00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:25,000

An age-old phenomena that has been experienced by thousands of people.

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00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:28,000

So what is this structure?

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00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:32,000

And how is it linked to a permanent structure?

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00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:37,000

It's a structure that is built by a man who has been a part of the Chihuahuan Desert.

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

So what is this structure?

341

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:45,000

And how is it linked to a perplexing enigma in the vast arid desert?

342

00:36:48,000 --> 00:36:58,000

As the story goes, one night outside of Marfa, Texas, a man is trying to find his way back to his car when he notices a strange glow on the horizon.

343

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

He sees this basketball-sized light start wavering.

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00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:08,000

So thinking it was a town, he just started following the light.

345

00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:13,000

Before he knows it, the man spots his vehicle directly ahead.

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00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:19,000

And no sooner does he enter his car when the mysterious light disappears.

347

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:27,000

So he thought this light had benevolent properties and it guided him finally to his car.

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00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:32,000

And the man isn't alone.

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00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:39,000

For over a century, countless others have reported a similar phenomenon in the area near Marfa.

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00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:45,000

Ranchers, Native American people have attributed a saving property to these lights.

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00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:51,000

And the description of the lights is almost always the same.

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00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:58,000

They seem to be moving at rapid speeds and they pop up out of nowhere and people just don't know what it is.

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00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:04,000

Some believe the lights are linked to the nearby Marfa Army airfield.

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00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:10,000

Where during World War II, it said that pilots conducted experiments with top-secret equipment.

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00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:17,000

And people thought this sophisticated new technology somehow projected these lights onto the atmosphere.

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00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:23,000

Shortly after the end of the Second World War, the base shut its doors.

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00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:26,000

But the sightings did not cease.

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00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:30,000

People continue to experience these mysterious Marfa lights.

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00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:42,000

And because there seems to be no earthly explanation, some begin to believe that these optical effects are linked to some kind of extraterrestrial force.

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00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:46,000

Are these UFOs? These lights from another world?

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00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:54,000

By the turn of the 21st century, interest in this strange phenomenon reaches a fever pitch.

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00:38:55,000 --> 00:39:04,000

And in 2001, the city constructs a viewing platform to accommodate the thousands who come hoping to spot the so-called Marfa lights.

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00:39:06,000 --> 00:39:15,000

Among them, a group of intrepid physics students who, in 2004, heads for the observation post

determined to solve this baffling problem.

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00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:18,000

This is a very interesting enigma, once and for all.

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00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:27,000

The students bring lasers and cameras, all sorts of cutting-edge equipment, to systematically study what's going on with these Marfa lights.

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00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:36,000

Will the students be able to provide a scientific reason for this mystery? Or will they find an otherworldly explanation?

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00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:50,000

For generations, residents of the West Texas town of Marfa have reported seeing a bizarre set of lights in the desert that appear out of nowhere and then vanish just as suddenly.

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00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:58,000

But in 2004, a group of students camps out in a bid to determine the true source of these bewildering lights.

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00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:02,000

Whether they can illuminate this mystery remains to be seen.

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00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:12,000

The students barely have to wait before the lights appear, allowing them to measure their speed, size and distance.

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00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:20,000

They also monitor other activity in the surrounding area, including the traffic on nearby US Highway 67.

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00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:31,000

And upon examining their results, the students discover the frequency of the lights seems to correlate exactly with the incidence of passing cars.

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00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:36,000

Yet there's a glaring problem with this explanation.

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00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:43,000

It doesn't explain all the reports that came way before cars with other artificial man-made lights.

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00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:48,000

So what then could account for the pulsating orbs in the sky?

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00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:58,000

Many believe that the answer actually lies in the weather, since the Marfa basin is home to a unique atmospheric phenomenon.

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00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:08,000

It's surrounded by mountains, so as the temperature plunges at night from very hot air during the day, all that cold air gets trapped.

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00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:12,000

So we have cold air at the bottom and hot air at the top.

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00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:18,000

This temperature inversion can create optical illusions in the sky.

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00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:24,000

Light travels a lot faster through hot air than through cold air, which is a lot denser.

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00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:31,000

So as it hits the interface with the warmer air on top, light bends and creates a mirage.

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00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:44,000

This would explain why over the past century, lights created in one part of the desert from a train, lantern or even a campfire could appear to come from a different place altogether.

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00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:48,000

So any light source could be creating this bending of the light.

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00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:58,000

Still, while the mystery of the Marfa lights may not ever be fully illuminated beyond a shadow of a doubt, one thing is certain.

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00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:02,000

The fascination with this age-old phenomenon endures.

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00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:09,000

And to this day, thousands still continue to descend upon this lonely desert post,

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00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:14,000

hoping to catch a glimpse of the mystifying orbs in the sky.

388

00:42:16,000 --> 00:42:24,000

From a scandal-ridden railroad to a cryptic killer, an ill-fated fortress to a courageous contralto.

389

00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:28,000

I'm Don Wildman and these are Monumental Mysteries.