

1

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

The bizarre demise of an infamous psychic.

2

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

This is not a trick. It's not part of his act.

3

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

A legendary figure who bared it all.

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

He was very shocking. A woman of her rank never showed any flesh.

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

And a fashion trend that ignited a woman's fury.

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

She wasn't afraid to ruffle a few feathers to save millions of birds.

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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

These are the mysteries of the monument.

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

Brooklyn, New York.

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

This historic borough often plays second fiddle to its glamorous neighbor across the East River.

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

Yet many of the artists and entertainers that have made New York City a cultural mecca

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

were born in Brooklyn.

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00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:05,000

And upon their passing are buried here, inside the gates of Greenwood Cemetery.

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Among the headstones is the final resting place of a man whose legacy was forged in death.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:18,000

It's about four feet tall. It's cold, hard.

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:24,000

And perhaps the most curious thing about it is across the top it says, the martyr.

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:32,000

This is the gravestone of the 19th century mind reader, Washington Irving Bishop.

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00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:40,000

According to historian Denny Lobb, it was Bishop's rare gift that actually led to his demise.

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:46,000

Nobody could explain how he did what he did, but they were all dying to find out.

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

May 12th, 1889, Manhattan.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:58,000

The Lambs Club is one of the most exclusive private clubs in the country.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:06,000

And tonight, the members only group has invited famous psychic, 33-year-old Washington Irving Bishop to perform.

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:12,000

Washington Irving Bishop was the superstar of his age.

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00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:21,000

He had performed all over the world and he was extremely well known for his tremendous ability to pick up thoughts.

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:29,000

Bishop announces that while other stage musicians claim to have special powers, only he possesses the real thing.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

He tells everybody what he does is not a trick.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:37,000

The secret of his success is that he has a brain that's unlike any other human being.

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

And he tells the audience he can prove it.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

By reading one of their minds.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:50,000

Bishop picks up the society's membership register and hands it to the club secretary.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:56,000

The psychic then instructs the secretary to silently choose a single name from the register.

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

Bishop demands that he concentrate intently on the name and attempt to project it to him.

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

As the secretary attempts to focus his thoughts, the mentalist appears to go into a strange trance.

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:18,000

He starts to shake. His face turns pale. His veins and his forehead pop out.

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

Then Bishop utters a name.

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:32,000

It's the very one the secretary had chosen. The crowd erupts.

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:38,000

But before they can comprehend what they've just seen, a more troubling spectacle unfolds.

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

Bishop slumps to the stage unconscious.

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00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:49,000

This is not a trick. It's not part of Bishop's act.

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

One of the club members is a doctor and rushes on stage to help.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:59,000

He says just give him a little room and some time and he'll be alright.

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

Yet despite the attempts to revive him, Bishop fails to regain consciousness.

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

Every effort they take doesn't work.

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

The world famous psychic is pronounced dead.

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:23,000

The next day, Bishop's grieving mother Eleanor arrives at a nearby funeral home to view her son's body.

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00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:29,000

But the moment she gazes upon him, her grief turns into horror.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:31,000

What did you do to my child?

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:34,000

Eleanor is certain that her time has been murdered.

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:40,000

The reason why she thinks this is because there is a ring of incision marks around her son's head.

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:47,000

Mrs. Bishop realizes he's been operated on and autopsy has been performed.

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:54,000

The hysterical mother reveals her son suffered from catalepsy,

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

a rare condition that can induce a sustained coma-like state.

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

Muscles lock up, person's unconscious. He appears to be dead for all intents and purposes.

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00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:07,000

But in fact, he's just unable to respond.

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00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:12,000

Eleanor explains that similar episodes had occurred throughout her son's life,

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00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:15,000

some lasting as long as three weeks.

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:20,000

For this reason, Bishop harbored a deep fear of being dissected.

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:25,000

Bishop was so concerned about his cataleptic state that he carried a note with him

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:28,000

that said, you're not to cut into the body in any way.

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

Eleanor is told no such note was found on Bishop's body.

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:40,000

She refuses to accept the claim and demands that the police open an investigation.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:44,000

What authorities discover is shocking.

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00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:52,000

One of the physicians at the autopsy had in fact known Bishop, a man named John Irwin.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:57,000

Investigators discovered that Dr. Irwin was familiar with cataleptic states that Bishop went into.

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00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:03,000

And in fact, he was the doctor that stepped into the fray at the Lambs Club the night Bishop fell ill.

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

Under questioning, Irwin admits to a morbid fascination with the psychic's brain.

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00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:15,000

For years, he had dreamt of investigating the inner workings of Bishop's extraordinary mind.

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

When Bishop collapsed, the physician realized his opportunity could finally be at hand.

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00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:31,000

Despite knowing that Bishop had returned from these death-like states in the past,

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:37,000

Dr. Irwin pushed for an autopsy just hours after the mentalists' collapse.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:43,000

Even though he knew that dissection would snuff out any chance of survival.

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00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:52,000

Dr. Irwin was forced to admit that he jumped the gun when it came to demanding an autopsy to get at his special brain.

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00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Police decide that while Dr. Irwin may not have set out to kill Washington Irving Bishop,

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

his actions may have brought about the psychic's death.

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

Irwin is charged with illegal dissection.

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

Newspaper headlines of the day called Dr. Irwin the scientific jack the ripper.

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00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:19,000

And it soon revealed that the doctor's desperation for a scientific discovery wasn't even worth it.

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00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:28,000

Despite Bishop's claim that his brain was somehow special, it turned out that Bishop's brain was pretty much like anyone else's brain.

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00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:39,000

As a tribute to the son she believed was murdered, Eleanor Bishop has the word martyr carved into his headstone.

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00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:46,000

An eerie post-grip to a famed mentalist's greatest and most tragic illusion.

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00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:56,000

The medieval city of Coventry in the English Midlands boasts a history that dates back a thousand years.

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

Visitors can explore the haunting ruins of a 14th century cathedral

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00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:06,000

and admire the Tudor-style structures that still line the cobblestone streets.

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

Yet in the center of town is a monument that harkens back to a time long before any of these landmarks were built.

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

It balances on a plinth made of Portland stone.

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00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:31,000

It's about 18 foot high and it depicts a beautiful woman riding on a horse without any curse.

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00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:36,000

This is a statue of the legendary figure famous for bearing it all.

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00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:38,000

Lady Godiva.

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:49,000

Yet according to local historian, Prue Peretta, what seemed like a free-spirited jaunt was actually an unusual political crusade.

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00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:58,000

The story behind this statue is one of tyranny, piety and bare-faced cheek.

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00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:05,000

So what is the naked truth behind the story of Godiva's ride in the raw through the streets of Coventry?

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

The legend goes back to the year 1040, England.

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00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:18,000

The town of Coventry is struggling to recover after being conquered by the Danish.

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00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:25,000

Since the attacks, the area has been ruled by a Danish lord named Leofric, Earl of Mercia.

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:30,000

The ruthless leader has been imposing heavy tariffs on the locals.

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:38,000

Leofric's a very rich, very powerful man and what he wants he gets and he uses his sword to get it.

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00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:42,000

Yet this hard charging conqueror has a kind-hearted bride.

98

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:46,000

Her name is Lady Godiva.

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:52,000

Godiva is beautiful with cascading blonde hair and a very fine complexion.

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00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:57,000

And she has eyes and ears that see and listen to what the people need.

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

She's quite different to Leofric.

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

And it seems the couple's differences will soon come to a head.

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

One day Leofric issues a stern decree.

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

All citizens of Coventry must pay a new tax.

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00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:17,000

Those who fail to comply may face death.

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:24,000

For a community still recovering from the Danish invasions, the latest ruling is a devastating blow.

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00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:30,000

Coventry is just rebuilding itself and Leofric is now coming to them for more tax.

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00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:36,000

Troubled by the people's suffering, Lady Godiva begs her husband to reconsider the levy.

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

Godiva asked her husband to stop taking the tax.

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00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:45,000

Leofric said impossible is no way.

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00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:52,000

And impatiently, Leofric declares he'll only repeal the tax on one outrageous condition.

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00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:58,000

Godiva must ride on her horse through the market of the town naked.

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

The Danish lords storms out, satisfied that his shocking jest has settled the matter.

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

Yet for Lady Godiva, the discussion is far from over.

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

She decides to take up her husband's challenge.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:23,000

It was a very shocking thought. A woman of her rank who was pious, who never showed any flesh.

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00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:30,000

Even though she may be publicly scorned, Godiva resolves to move forward with her plan.

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00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:40,000

People might be outraged, but however awful it would be for her, she was willing to take the risk to help her people.

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00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:45,000

How will the townspeople react to Godiva's scandalous plot?

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00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:57,000

1040 Coventry, England. According to legend, Lady Godiva has just decided to take up a shocking dare.

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00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:04,000

Her husband, Leofric, says he will grant her request to repeal a tax that is burdening to the town.

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00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:08,000

But first, she must ride through its streets naked.

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

As news of her scandalous plan spreads, Lady Godiva mounts her waiting horse.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:25,000

At midday, as locals head to the market, she rides into town, covered with nothing but her long golden hair.

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00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:33,000

Her hair falls as a veil of modesty about her body, and only her white legs can be seen.

126

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:42,000

Her mind is in a whirlwind. Will the people actually look and stare, or will they respect her?

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:49,000

Yet rather than ridicule the bare-skinned equestrian, the residents do something astounding.

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:56,000

The people of Coventry want to support her. They decided that they would not look.

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

They would avert their eyes and save Godiva any embarrassment.

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00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:09,000

But for one local, the prospect of seeing the naked woman is too much to resist.

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00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:20,000

According to legend, a tailor by the name of Tom couldn't contain his curiosity and peeped at the lady passing by.

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00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:25,000

The man is reportedly struck blind for stealing a glance.

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00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:33,000

He becomes known as peeping Tom, forever giving a nickname to sneaky peekers everywhere.

134

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:41,000

Upon hearing of his wife's courageous deed, Leofric fulfills his promise.

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00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:50,000

Leofric was amazed at what Godiva had done. He knew he had to keep his word. The tax was removed.

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00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:58,000

Following the fabled event, Leofric and Godiva peacefully rule over the town for the rest of their lives.

137

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:06,000

Centuries later, this tribute to her legendary ride remains prominently on display.

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00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:12,000

A proud reminder of the fearless woman who fought for her cause by bearing it all.

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

Florida. The state is synonymous with sun, surf and sea.

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00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:25,000

So it's no surprise that tourists flock to its 700 miles of sandy beaches.

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00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:35,000

But a sizable swath of the Sunshine State's southern tip draws a million visitors every year for an entirely different reason.

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00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:40,000

It's 1.5 million acres of flat land covered with shallow water.

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00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:44,000

It has lush vegetation and palm trees and cypress that grow on it.

144

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:50,000

It is the nesting ground of over 360 types of birds, many of which can only be seen here.

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00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:57,000

This is Everglades National Park, the largest subtropical wilderness in the U.S.

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00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:04,000

As author David Goudsward can attest, many of the creatures that are in the wild are the most common species.

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00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:12,000

The most common species that inhabit this lush landscape would not be here today if it wasn't for one woman's pluck and resolve.

148

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:17,000

She wasn't afraid to ruffle a few feathers to save millions of birds.

149

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

Never underestimate a woman on a mission.

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00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:26,000

The 1890s, Massachusetts.

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

38-year-old Harriet Hemingway is perched at the very top of Boston's upper class.

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00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:37,000

Harriet Hemingway was a Boston socialite.

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00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:44,000

She was old money and was a shaker and a mover in lady circles.

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00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:49,000

And the high society matron is known for keeping some especially lofty company.

155

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:52,000

Birds.

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00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:56,000

There was nothing she enjoyed more than bird watching.

157

00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:01,000

So she would take her field glasses and she would just identify as many birds as she can.

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00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:08,000

For Hemingway, there is nothing more rewarding than studying winged species in their native habitat.

159

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:15,000

But while reading a magazine one day, she comes across something that ruffles her feathers.

160

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:24,000

The report details the widespread slaughter of birds, whose plumes are used to decorate women's hats.

161

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:34,000

These hats were huge and they were filled with bird feathers and stuffed birds, owl heads, hummingbirds.

162

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:39,000

These women looked like a walking museum diorama.

163

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:48,000

The high demand for some feathers has driven their cost to twice their weight in gold.

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00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:52,000

That's close to \$1,000 an ounce in today's money.

165

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:58,000

And the prime hunting ground for these coveted quills is a Florida wetland.

166

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:00,000

The Everglades.

167

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

Hunters would go into the Everglades and just wholesale slaughter all of the birds,

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00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:08,000

leaving the fledglings behind to starve the death.

169

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

Harriet learns that 5 million birds a year are being killed in the name of fashion,

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00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:20,000

driving numerous species to the brink of extinction.

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

This absolutely horrified her.

172

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:26,000

She is not going to take this sitting down.

173

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:30,000

So Harriet hatches a plan.

174

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:37,000

Though she can't control those who hunt for feathers, perhaps she can influence the women who buy them.

175

00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:45,000

If she can make wearing these hats morally repugnant, it would impact the demand for these feathers.

176

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:54,000

So on a cold winter day, Harriet invites the most fashionable ladies of Boston society to her home for tea.

177

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:58,000

As they enjoy their refreshments, the hostess rises to speak.

178

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:01,000

Imagine having no peacocks.

179

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:07,000

She starts to talk about how hunters would skin the animals, throw the carcass to the side,

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00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:11,000

leaving the fledglings behind to the slow, painful death from starvation.

181

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:13,000

Just for ladies hats.

182

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:21,000

Harriet scans the room looking for a reaction, but it is far from what she had hoped.

183

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:29,000

These women are so outraged by the thought of giving up their hat that they started getting up and leaving.

184

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:32,000

Harriet is losing her audience.

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00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:34,000

Well, none of you help me.

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:39,000

Is Harriet's quest to save the birds a mere flight of fancy?

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00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:44,000

It's January 1896 in Boston.

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00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:50,000

Avid bird watcher Harriet Hemingway has discovered that a new fashion for elaborate feathered hats

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00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:57,000

is decimating the bird population of the Florida Everglades, bringing several species to the brink of extinction.

190

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:01,000

So how will Harriet save her feathered friends?

191

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:04,000

We have children.

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00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:09,000

Determined to protect the birds from extinction, Harriet pulls out a wild card.

193

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

If I can't speak to you as a bird lover, at least let me speak to you as a mother.

194

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:17,000

He starts talking in such a way to appeal to the maternal instinct.

195

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

How can they explain to their children why these birds are extinct so mommy could have feathers on her hat?

196

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:30,000

This time, her efforts are rewarded.

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00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:39,000

Harriet watches as one by one the women start removing their hats and vow never to wear another one.

198

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:47,000

The women dedicate themselves to spreading Harriet's message and the movement takes flight.

199

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:52,000

In 1896, Hemingway founds an avian advocacy group.

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

She decides to name the group after the most famous painter of birds, John James Audubon.

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

Her brainchild, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, is the forerunner of the National Audubon Society,

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00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:12,000

which will eventually boast 500 chapters across the U.S.

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00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:19,000

Thanks to Harriet's activism, Massachusetts becomes one of the first states to ban the feather trade.

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00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:26,000

And in 1913, Harriet receives the news she has long awaited.

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00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:31,000

An international law was passed prohibiting the trade and transport of the feathers.

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00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:35,000

This was the final nail in the coffin that stopped poaching in its tracks.

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00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:44,000

Today, visitors to the Everglades National Park will find over 360 species of birds there,

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00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:48,000

a soaring tribute to the woman who flew to their rescue.

209

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Nestled along the banks of the Kennebec River is Augusta Maine.

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00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:58,000

The capital of the Pine Tree State.

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00:20:58,000 --> 00:21:02,000

It was first settled by English traders in 1629.

212

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:09,000

And in its downtown district is an imposing building befitting the historic town.

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00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:13,000

It is two stories tall. It's made out of stone.

214

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:19,000

It's built in a Greek revival style and on the roof is a square bell tower.

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00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:23,000

This is the Kennebec County Superior Courthouse.

216

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

The pillar of Mane's justice system since 1830.

217

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

But as Sergeant Terry Hughes knows firsthand, one of the most bizarre tales ever heard within its walls occurred as recently as 2013.

218

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

We've heard stories of something lurking in the woods for years, but nobody expected it to be real.

219

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:52,000

What strange forest-dwelling being haunted the residents of Central Mane for nearly 30 years.

220

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:57,000

1986, North Pond, Maine.

221

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:06,000

It's the height of the summer season at Pine Tree Camp, and people from across the region are enjoying the idyllic lakeside retreat.

222

00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:10,000

But that tranquility is about to be shattered.

223

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:19,000

One day, vacationers discover that essential supplies have vanished from their campsites.

224

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

Mostly the items that were missing was propane tanks, batteries, canned foods, clothing.

225

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:31,000

And that's not the only mysterious incident reported in the area.

226

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:39,000

As the season continues, visitors and even year-round residents notice other odd disappearances.

227

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:44,000

Sleeping bags, laundry detergent, and even magazines go missing.

228

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

Spooked locals conclude this must be the work of a burglar, and authorities are called in.

229

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:57,000

But when police investigate, they fail to find any signs of forced entry.

230

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:03,000

Expensive items were not stolen. There wasn't broken down doors.

231

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:07,000

In fact, no one is ever caught in the act of stealing.

232

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:11,000

And not one clue is ever left at the scene.

233

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:17,000

There was more of this mysterious figure that nobody could identify or describe.

234

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

The unseen culprit becomes known by a single moniker.

235

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:26,000

He was known as the North Pond Hermit.

236

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:37,000

Month after month and year after year, the North Pond Hermit continues to haunt the woods of Central Maine, striking about 40 times a year.

237

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:40,000

Soon, he is a local legend.

238

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:46,000

And almost three decades after the burglaries began, police are no closer to capturing him.

239

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:49,000

But that is about to change.

240

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:52,000

March 2013.

241

00:23:53,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Sergeant Terry Hughes is working as a game warden for the state of Maine when he gets a call from the director of Pine Tree Camp.

242

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:06,000

He said he had lost a significant amount of food that they couldn't afford to lose.

243

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:09,000

And I figured enough was enough.

244

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:14,000

Hughes makes it his mission to capture the North Pond Hermit.

245

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:23,000

He acquires a military-grade motion detector and installs it at one of the hermit's favorite haunts, the kitchen of the Pine Tree Camp.

246

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

When the detector senses movement, it will set off an alarm in Hughes' home.

247

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:36,000

Night after night, the warden waits for the motion detector to alert him, but to no avail.

248

00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:42,000

Then, in the early hours of April 4th, the alarm finally goes off.

249

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:49,000

This is 25 years worth of burglaries. I have one crack at catching this cat.

250

00:24:50,000 --> 00:24:54,000

Will Sergeant Hughes snare the notorious North Pond Hermit?

251

00:24:54,000 --> 00:25:09,000

It's 2013 in North Pond, Maine. For more than 25 years, this small town has been plagued by a series of baffling break-ins.

252

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

But now, game warden Terry Hughes has set a trap to snare the legendary robber.

253

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

So can this long-time crime finally be solved?

254

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:27,000

With his heart racing, Hughes speeds towards the camp and creeps up to the window of the main kitchen.

255

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:32,000

All I could see was a large figure. I could see him taking food out of the freezer.

256

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:40,000

My adrenaline was pumping. I didn't want to have to get into a confrontation with this man who was much larger than I was.

257

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:44,000

As Hughes watches, the figure approaches the door.

258

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:50,000

I'm just going to stand there, frozen. Then all of a sudden, the door just slams open.

259

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:52,000

Freeze!

260

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:57,000

At that point, they just kind of all just came crashing down around me.

261

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

Not going to need hands in your head.

262

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:01,000

I'm like, wow, I actually caught this guy.

263

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:04,000

He's not at all what Hughes expected.

264

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:12,000

I was surprised on how clean-shaven and how neat he appeared. Nice shirt, nice pants, nice shoes.

265

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:14,000

The man is arrested and booked.

266

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:21,000

And under interrogation, he reveals his name is Christopher Thomas Knight.

267

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:25,000

He's 47 years old and grew up in a neighboring town.

268

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

At the age of 19, he retreated from civilization to live an isolated life in the backwoods.

269

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:35,000

He just went off the radar for no apparent reason.

270

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:42,000

To avoid being spotted, he only went out at night and never lit a fire surviving entirely on what he could steal.

271

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:47,000

He just was doing what he had to do to survive and that's what he did.

272

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:54,000

Knight says that the last person he saw was a hiker in the woods, approximately a decade earlier.

273

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

The bizarre case of the backwoods burglar captivates the country.

274

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

This was a legend that was 25 years in the making and nobody expected it just to end.

275

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:09,000

But on May 28, 2013, it does.

276

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:16,000

Knight appears at the Kennebec County Courthouse where he pleads guilty to 13 counts of burglary,

277

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:21,000

a fraction of the 1,000 crimes Knight estimates he committed.

278

00:27:22,000 --> 00:27:24,000

He is sentenced to seven months in jail.

279

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:30,000

Today, the Kennebec County Superior Courthouse stands as a reminder of the mysterious loner

280

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:36,000

whose desire for total isolation ironically thrust him into the national spotlight.

281

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:46,000

Sitting on the banks of the Truckee River is Reno, Nevada.

282

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:51,000

The city's city center is located in the heart of the city.

283

00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:54,000

The city's main attraction is Reno, Nevada.

284

00:27:55,000 --> 00:28:04,000

The city skyline is lit up by countless casinos and stretching across its main drag is a monument that has become synonymous with the city itself.

285

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:15,000

It's 30 feet high, made out of steel and it says, welcome to the biggest little city in the world.

286

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:18,000

This is the Reno Arch.

287

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:25,000

Since 1926, versions of this iconic landmark have greeted millions on their way to the gaming tables.

288

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:32,000

But according to historian Max Rubin, one of those visitors turned the gambling industry on its head.

289

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:37,000

Professional blackjack would never be the same.

290

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:43,000

Mountain View, California, 1969.

291

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:51,000

35-year-old computer technician Keith Taft and his family have just returned from a successful

gambling trip to Reno.

292

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:55,000

And now gaming is the only thing on his mind.

293

00:28:56,000 --> 00:28:58,000

It was the first bet he had ever made on a blackjack table.

294

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:03,000

Anyone and he started thinking, I could do this for a living.

295

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:12,000

Keith begins studying blackjack in earnest and comes across an intriguing strategy, card counting.

296

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:22,000

The idea was to observe the cards that have been played and because you know the cards that have been played, you know the remaining composition of the deck.

297

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:25,000

You have a better chance of winning.

298

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

But keeping track of which cards are dealt is hard.

299

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:34,000

Yet Keith thinks that with a little help, he can beat the game.

300

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:41,000

So the light bulb goes off and Keith says, I think I could keep track of cards with a computer.

301

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:44,000

He faces a big problem.

302

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:53,000

Back in 1969, most computers were at least the size of a minivan and many of them took up an entire room.

303

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

Yet Keith is convinced that with his engineering know-how, he can build a computer small enough to sneak into a casino.

304

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

And finally, he completes a prototype that's utterly ahead of its time.

305

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:13,000

He managed to create a computer that you could put on your body.

306

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:20,000

This wearable computer is made of three separate parts wired to a belt.

307

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:28,000

One wire leads down to his shoe, where a switch allows him to input card values using his toes.

308

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:35,000

The computer then calculates how Keith should bet and sends him information through lights concealed in his glasses.

309

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

This contraption strapped all the way around his belly and he just buttoned the jacket and it was virtually unnoticeable.

310

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:46,000

All he has to do is type with his toes and he's going to get rich.

311

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:55,000

Enlisting the help of his 19-year-old son, Marty, Keith returns to Reno with his hidden computer.

312

00:30:56,000 --> 00:31:01,000

As father and son approach the blackjack table, Keith succumbs to a wave of panic.

313

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:05,000

What if the dealer catches on to his high-tech tricks?

314

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:10,000

Casinos were really hard on card counters. You could get beaten up very easily.

315

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:14,000

But he's come too far to turn back now.

316

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:18,000

So he crosses his fingers and places his bet.

317

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:21,000

He was scared wetless.

318

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:28,000

1972, Reno, Nevada. Technician Keith Taffed has built a miniature computer designed to help him cheat at blackjack.

319

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:32,000

So will the homemade device tilt the odds in his favor?

320

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:36,000

As the cards are dealt, Keith taps the switches inside his shoes.

321

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:41,000

And suddenly, the switch is turned on.

322

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:46,000

As the cards are dealt, Keith taps the switches inside his shoes.

323

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:53,000

And suddenly, the signals from the tiny lights in his glasses come to life.

324

00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:59,000

Keith bets accordingly and the computer doesn't let him down.

325

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

And he's dealt a 10 and an ace.

326

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:07,000

He hits a blackjack his very first hand.

327

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:15,000

Before long, father and son amass \$4,000.

328

00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:20,000

Keith is thinking this is meant to be. This is what I am supposed to do.

329

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:23,000

So I need to start betting more.

330

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:28,000

Soon, Keith and Marty are playing at the top casinos in the country.

331

00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:33,000

Now they were making hundreds of thousands of dollars.

332

00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:37,000

But their good fortune is about to go bust.

333

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:46,000

One night at a casino, Marty is playing blackjack when he is suddenly accosted by burly security guards.

334

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:52,000

He gets a tap on his shoulder and they said will you come with me please?

335

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:57,000

And they throw him into a room, threaten him and hold him against his will.

336

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:02,000

Marty is searched and the device is discovered.

337

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:06,000

Marty is scared to death. He thinks they are going to murder him.

338

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:13,000

To Marty's great relief, he is left unharmed.

339

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:17,000

But he is arrested for cheating and sent to jail.

340

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:24,000

It seems the establishment was alerted to the taft's uncanny winning streak by another casino.

341

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:31,000

Yet after scouring the criminal code, authorities conclude that Marty has done nothing but to kill him.

342

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:34,000

And that he is illegally illegal.

343

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:40,000

At the time, there is no law on the books prohibiting the use of an electronic card counting device.

344

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:43,000

And the charges are eventually dropped.

345

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:49,000

But if free Marty and Keith out so badly, they said we don't want to do this anymore.

346

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:52,000

The father and son team opt to fold.

347

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:58,000

Yet the significance of their electronic exploits goes far beyond the gaming world.

348

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:04,000

Many claim that Keith's gambling gadget was the very first microcomputer.

349

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:13,000

And today, the Reno Arch continues to welcome gamblers, as it did over 40 years ago,

350

00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:18,000

when an ingenious invention forever changed the rules of the game.

351

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:22,000

Warsaw.

352

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:29,000

Warsaw. This city of 1.7 million people has been Poland's capital since 1596.

353

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:36,000

But not far from the old town square is a remnant of a more recent moment in its history.

354

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:44,000

It's seven feet high and 30 feet wide and it's made out of red bricks,

355

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:47,000

forming what must have felt like an impenetrable barrier.

356

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:52,000

This is a fragment of the Warsaw Ghetto boundary wall,

357

00:34:53,000 --> 00:34:58,000

the barricade that once encircled the largest Jewish ghetto in Nazi occupied Europe.

358

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:04,000

Yet filmmaker Mariana Bukowski says it was also a portal to freedom,

359

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:06,000

thanks to one unlikely heroine.

360

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:13,000

It's a story of enormous courage, conviction and compassion in the face of insurmountable odds.

361

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:19,000

October 1940.

362

00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:23,000

Warsaw's Jewish community is in crisis.

363

00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:31,000

The Nazis have forced them out of their homes and into a 16 block ghetto and closed by a 10 foot high wall.

364

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

350,000 Jews, 30% of Warsaw's entire population, are now squashed into an area about two miles square.

365

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:51,000

The ghetto was overcrowded, people did not have enough food, they had poor sanitation, they had no electricity.

366

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:57,000

So it was an environment where disease easily spread and it became truly, truly horrible.

367

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

Witnessing these horrors is 29 year old social worker, Irena Sendler.

368

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:12,000

Though not Jewish herself, she is appalled by this cruel treatment of her countrymen and desperately wants to help.

369

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:18,000

Irena believed that if you see someone that's drowning, it's your duty to save them even if you can't swim yourself.

370

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:27,000

But aiding those in the ghetto is nearly impossible. Nazi guards keep a close watch over its entrance.

371

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:31,000

And the penalty for aiding Jewish people is grave.

372

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:37,000

If you helped and you were caught, the punishment was death. This was the consequence.

373

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:46,000

Yet the dire warnings only fuel Irena's defiance. And in 1941, she devises a plan.

374

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:56,000

Sporting false ID papers from the city health department, Irena poses as a municipal nurse, sent to the ghetto to monitor disease.

375

00:36:57,000 --> 00:37:03,000

Once inside, she secretly dispenses medicine and warm clothing to as many people as she can.

376

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:07,000

Irena continues this ruse every week for months.

377

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:16,000

With each visit, however, the hunger, disease and desperation worsen before her eyes.

378

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:25,000

One day she noticed a girl leaning against a wall. She was maybe five or six years old, malnourished. She was barely alive.

379

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:34,000

Irena knows the child is too weak to survive another night in the bitter cold. In that instant, she makes a fateful decision.

380

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

She realized that she had to save this girl's life.

381

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:47,000

Irena conceals the girl under her cloak and starts to walk away, scanning the streets for an escape route.

382

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:53,000

Suddenly, the answer is right before her. The municipal court building.

383

00:37:55,000 --> 00:38:00,000

Part of the courthouse was in the ghetto and part of the same building was actually on the outside.

384

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

So, taking a deep breath, she heads into the courthouse. But just a few moments later, a janitor spots Irena and her illegal cargo.

385

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:18,000

Thinking fast, she pulls some cash from her wallet.

386

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:23,000

She thought that perhaps he would agree to help them for a bribe.

387

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

But the custodian surprises her.

388

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:28,000

He said he didn't want the money.

389

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:31,000

Incredibly, he aids their escape.

390

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:35,000

He said that this is the route that you should take to come out on the other side.

391

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:45,000

As they reemerge into daylight, Elation washes over Irena. She has done the impossible. She has rescued a child from the ghetto.

392

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:52,000

They must have been exhilarating to feel that you could do something more, that it was possible.

393

00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:57,000

Emboldened by her success, Irena plots to get more children out.

394

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:08,000

Drawing on her contacts in the social service community, she develops an underground network of associates, willing to transport and hide the young escapees.

395

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:17,000

The children were smuggled out in brown paper packages. Some were put in suitcases. We're even taken out in small coffins.

396

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

Once beyond the walls, the young fugitives are given new identities and shuttle to safe houses.

397

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:32,000

Over the next three years, Irena and her associates rescue an astonishing 2,500 children.

398

00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:36,000

Yet their fragile network is suddenly ripped apart.

399

00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:43,000

In 1943, she is arrested by the Gestapo on suspicion of aiding the Jews.

400

00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:49,000

To be caught by the Gestapo, people feared this more than they feared death. She must have been petrified.

401

00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:52,000

Where are the children?

402

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:58,000

It's 1943 in Nazi-occupied Poland.

403

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:07,000

33-year-old social worker Irena Sendler has just been arrested on suspicion of helping Jewish children to escape from the Warsaw ghetto.

404

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:13,000

It's a crime punishable by death. So what will happen to Irena and her young fugitives?

405

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:21,000

Irena Sendler is taken to Warsaw's Pawiak prison, where she is turned over to interrogators.

406

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:23,000

Where are the children?

407

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:27,000

They want the names of the children that she was protecting and hiding.

408

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

Irena refuses to talk and is sentenced to be executed.

409

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:41,000

On the morning she is to be shot, a Nazi guard arrives at Irena's cell.

410

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

But rather than taking her to the firing squad, he sets her free.

411

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

Some of Irena's colleagues paid a bribe to allow for her escape.

412

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:06,000

She flees the prison and remains in hiding until the Nazis are defeated in 1945.

413

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:13,000

After the war, Irena remains in touch with many of the children she helped save.

414

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:21,000

In 2007, her heroic efforts are honored with a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

415

00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:27,000

And in her hometown of Warsaw, this remnant of the Ghetto Wall still stands.

416

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:35,000

A reminder that even in the worst of times, the courage of a single person can restore hope to the world.

417

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:46,000

From a cheeky challenge to a gambler's gadget, a legendary loner to a bird-loving Bostonian,

418

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:51,000

I'm Don Wildman and these are the Mysteries at the Monument.