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

Has a creature surfacing in arctic waters been primed for a sinister purpose?

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

You can train them, but you can't totally control them.

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

Is there a legendary monster lurking off America's coastline, capable of taking down a ship?

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

This must have been an incredibly strong creature.

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

And how did a man survive for 438 days adrift on the Pacific Ocean?

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

You are not only at the mercy of the sea, you are at the mercy of the gods.

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

The underwater realm is another dimension.

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00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:48,000

It's a physically hostile place where dreams of promise can sink into darkness.

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00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:50,000

I'm Jeremy Wade.

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

I'm searching the world to bring you the most iconic and baffling underwater mysteries known to science.

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

Shipwrecks can't just disappear, or can they?

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

It's a dangerous unexplored frontier that swallows evidence.

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:08,000

We know more about the face of Mars than we do our deep estotians.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Where unknown is normal and understanding is rare.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:30,000

I've spent decades tracking down underwater creatures all over the world,

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:36,000

and as a general rule, they don't want to be found.

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

Animals in the wild keep their distance.

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

So when reports surface from the arctic waters of Norway of a large marine mammal

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:57,000

mysteriously investigating boats, alarm bells start ringing.

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:04,000

April 26, 2019. Hammerfest Norway.

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:10,000

Researchers conducting a government fishing survey are surprised by the mysterious appearance

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:17,000

of a large marine mammal near their boat.

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:22,000

As the white animal approaches, they realise it's a beluga whale,

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:27,000

something rarely seen in spring Norwegian waters.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:33,000

To make things even more unusual, this beluga whale seems to be friendly.

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00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:42,000

Naturally free beluga or any cetacean don't come to humans.

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:46,000

They're inquisitive, but they'll always keep distance.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:50,000

It'll never be right up to the side of the boat.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:57,000

Stranger still is the fact that this beluga has something attached to its body.

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00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:00,000

And was this an unusual whale in that it was interested in them,

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

but it also had a harness on.

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:08,000

To add to the mystery of this beluga whale, where did it come from?

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00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:13,000

Did it escape? Did it just say, you know, but I want to be free?

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:18,000

Marine mammals have been known to escape from captivity,

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:26,000

and this beluga's ease around the researchers could be a sign that it's been raised by people.

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:30,000

It meets humans again, and it's something that's conditioned.

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:34,000

That's where the food comes from. I'm safe with them.

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:37,000

Animals go for the easiest source of food.

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00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:43,000

Beluga whales are kept in captivity in aquaria and marine parks worldwide,

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00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:48,000

but not in Norway or anywhere else in Scandinavia.

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00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:54,000

I think the evidence is pretty clear that it's been raised by humans.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:58,000

So the question then is, which humans?

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:01,000

The Norwegians decide to investigate further,

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00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:07,000

and when they study the beluga's harness, they discover two camera mounts.

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

Could these have been fitted by wildlife researchers?

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:19,000

Keen to work out where the beluga has come from, local experts come up with an idea.

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:28,000

The only way we're going to find out who is behind this is to track this whale.

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00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:37,000

The beluga is fitted with a satellite tracker in the hope that it will head back home.

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:43,000

But after several weeks of monitoring, the data shows no significant movement.

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:46,000

The whale is staying put.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:50,000

The tracker does, however, reveal some new information.

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:53,000

The tracking of the whale has shown two things.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:57,000

One, it doesn't seem to have the ability to hunt and feed on its own.

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

And two, it doesn't communicate with other belugas,

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

suggesting it doesn't have those social aspects that it would have learned

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

if it had been raised in the wild.

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

The animal's inability to feed itself and lack of social skills

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:15,000

further points to a life spent in captivity.

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:18,000

It could be it's the first time it's been allowed out.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:25,000

Researchers turn their attention back to the only piece of hard evidence they have, the harness.

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:30,000

Examining the straps, they discover a decisive clue.

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00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:39,000

The fact that the harness says St. Petersburg suggests that it is a beluga trained in Russia.

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00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:43,000

Why would the Russians be putting a harness on a beluga?

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:47,000

The Russian border is less than 200 miles away,

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:51,000

and the Russians have a track record in training marine mammals.

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:58,000

They have guard animals that guard an area in floating pens.

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:02,000

They have search and recovery animals.

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

Seals have been trained to locate mines and lost ordnance,

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

and dolphins have been tasked with taking out enemy targets.

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

Parachuting down, the harness as they hit the water, release,

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:20,000

what would happen is that they would have a trigger on the beak

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00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:24,000

and an explosive pack on the dorsal fin.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:31,000

So then they would swim up to the boat and five of these animals touching the boat.

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,000

Up it goes in flames.

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00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:40,000

Such methods were developed during the Cold War, and many thought ended with it.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:45,000

But recent US Navy spending suggests that they continue to this day.

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00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:51,000

The military have always been interested in the potential for marine mammals

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:07:00,000

to assist them in various ways, and in fact, the military still fund a huge amount of research on

marine mammals to this day.

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

If the Americans are doing it, then surely the Russians are going to still be doing it as well.

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

So is the Beluga Whale found in Norway a specialist Russian underwater operative?

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

You can train them, you can tame them, but you can't totally control them.

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:27,000

200 miles east of where the Beluga was found is the Russian military base of Morsk.

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:35,000

And recent satellite images reveal something shocking hidden among the Russian ships.

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00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:42,000

Analysts believe that these large octagonal shapes are floating animal pens.

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00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:48,000

Could the Beluga Whale have escaped from this top secret military facility?

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00:07:48,000 --> 00:08:06,000

When a mystery Beluga Whale is found in Norwegian waters wearing a harness with camera mounts,

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00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:12,000

there are suspicions that the animal could be a trained Russian underwater operative.

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00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:19,000

But could this single animal be evidence of a larger military force?

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00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:23,000

The Whale seems to have been on some kind of surveillance mission.

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00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:30,000

Norway is basically on the forefront of NATO, front lines with Russia.

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:33,000

The Arctic is opening up.

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:41,000

As sea ice melts, the Arctic is becoming more accessible and its resources are becoming more and more sought after.

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00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:51,000

Every year as the ice recedes, military forces are moving in and the Russians are at the forefront.

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00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:57,000

Some fear that Belugas may be a new part of the Russian arsenal.

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00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:08,000

There's nothing that a Beluga can do that a dolphin can't do, but a Beluga can live in Arctic waters.

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00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:15,000

The Beluga's echolocation can actually penetrate up to a meter through sand and mud.

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00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:20,000

They can go places and not be noticed unlike ROVs or AOVs.

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00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:26,000

They can travel long distances without having to take breaks or to be recharged.

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

Could that Beluga Whale be agent double-o blubber?

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:34,000

One critical factor suggests not.

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00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:42,000

Training secret agents, human or animal, requires a major investment of time and money.

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00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:48,000

If it was military, the Russians would have been there and they would have taken it back.

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:52,000

So the Whale's origin and purpose remain a mystery.

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00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:59,000

But one thing's for sure, this suspected spy has been brought in from the cold.

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:06,000

It's been adopted by locals who have named the Beluga Valdimir, a pun on the Norwegian for Whale,

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00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:14,000

and the name of Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, himself once an undercover Soviet agent.

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00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:26,000

Most searches for lost mariners continue for a matter of days or weeks.

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00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:30,000

After that, the missing are presumed dead.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:34,000

But how long can you survive alone at sea?

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00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:40,000

The seemingly miraculous 14-month survival of a Central American fisherman

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00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:45,000

calls into question everything we thought we knew.

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:55,000

January 30th, 2014.

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Reports emerge from a tiny stretch of islands in the Central Pacific

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

of a mysterious foreigner coming ashore with a small boat.

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00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:14,000

The Marshall Islands are a remote cluster of islands in the Pacific.

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00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:22,000

The fact that there would be an individual on the beach in a really bad way is really remarkable.

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00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:30,000

The man's name is Jose Alvorenga, and the story he tells his rescuers is relayed around the world.

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00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:39,000

He came off the coast of Mexico in a very small 24-foot fiberglass vessel,

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00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:43,000

and that was almost a year and a half ago.

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:12:00,000

A fishing trip that was meant to last just a few days ended up lasting 438.

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

How is it that he survived that long?

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

Surviving the Pacific adrift in a small boat for this length of time would be a first.

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00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:15,000

It's inconceivable that a human being would be able to do that.

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00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:21,000

Alvorenga describes an incredible journey from Mexico to the Marshall Islands

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00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:25,000

across half the width of the Pacific.

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00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:32,000

But could a man survive for 14 months alone in the largest ocean on the planet?

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00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:39,000

It's crazy to survive that long at sea because you have to imagine that the open ocean is a type of desert.

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00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:47,000

The Pacific Ocean is massive. It's an unbelievably big space.

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

According to Alvorenga, when he sets out on his fishing trip, he has supplies for just a few days.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:05,000

It was supposed to be an overnight trip in a small open boat, and it'd be encountered bad weather and a bad storm.

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00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:12,000

The fisherman's boat is pulled out to sea, and most of his supplies are swept overboard.

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00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:18,000

Before Alvorenga gets out of range, he's able to radio his boss to warn him of his predicament.

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:26,000

He's out there with no engine, with no oars, no means of propulsion, and he's basically left to float.

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00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Being lost at sea is probably one of the most lonely things in the universe.

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00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:38,000

You are not only at the mercy of the sea, you are at the mercy of the gods.

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:48,000

His story is certainly mysterious, and many people don't believe it, because it's almost unthinkable what he's telling them.

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00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:54,000

And when Alvorenga's account is put under scrutiny, shocking details start to emerge.

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00:13:54,000 --> 00:14:01,000

He's out there on a boat with nothing. How do you survive that? It's literally phenomenal.

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00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:17,000

In 2012, fisherman Jose Alvorenga sets out in a small boat from the coast of southern Mexico.

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

14 months later, he turns up in the Marshall Islands, 6,000 miles to the west.

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00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:29,000

Can he really have survived the open ocean for so long?

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00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:37,000

It's certainly theoretically possible, according to scientific models and current understanding, that he could have reached the marshals.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:43,000

In the Pacific Ocean, there is the North Pacific Jire.

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00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:52,000

If you left Mexico, headed a little south, you catch the trade winds and the currents, and they will push you all the way over a boom.

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00:14:53,000 --> 00:15:01,000

But many people following the story question the truth of Alvorenga's account.

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

After such an ordeal, how could the fisherman look so healthy?

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00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:11,000

He looks a little, you know, plump around the face.

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00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:17,000

But as some experts are keen to point out, sometimes looks can be deceiving.

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00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:32,000

When you live through that type of famine, your body kind of holds or retains liquids or fluids, and it gives you a plump appearance, although you're literally starving.

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00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:37,000

He's bloated because of his malnutrition.

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00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:42,000

Actually, for many months, he would have probably looked emaciated and even possibly skeletal.

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00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:49,000

Doubts remain, however, about how Alvorenga could have found enough food and water to survive.

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00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:55,000

In most cases, people adrift in the Pacific last only a matter of days.

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00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:05,000

Filming off the northern coast of Australia in 2015, I encountered a fisherman who'd become stranded on a barren tropical island.

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

This is an uninhabited island, and we first of all saw a cooler on the rocks, and then one of us spotted, said, there's somebody there, there's somebody there.

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

It was sheer luck that we came across him in time.

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00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:28,000

The castaway had run out of water, and after two days marooned under the fierce sun, he was facing death from dehydration.

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

So how did Alvorenga find enough water to survive for 438 days?

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00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:43,000

The general rule of thumb is that it's the three-day rule. You know, without water after three days, you'll die.

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00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:45,000

So how did he manage?

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00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:53,000

Drinking sea water can be deadly to humans because our kidneys can't process the amount of salt it contains.

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00:16:53,000 --> 00:17:04,000

Alvorenga needed fresh water to stave off dehydration, so he claims he fished dozens of plastic bottles out of the ocean and used them to catch rainwater.

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00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:10,000

But when his supplies ran out, he was forced to resort to desperate measures.

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

As well as water, Alvorenga would have needed regular food.

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

The boat would have become its own microcosm, that there would have been LJ and plankton and barnacles building up on the bottom, and that in itself would have attracted his food.

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00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:43,000

If he's living off of the entire fish, not only consuming the flesh, but consuming all of the internal organs, he's getting that nutrients and he's getting that fluid, and that it would be enough to sustain him.

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00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:56,000

But one detail of his epic ordeal is perhaps the toughest to swallow. When he started out on his two-day fishing trip, Jose Alvorenga was not alone.

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00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:22,000

Castaway Jose Alvorenga claims to have spent 14 months adrift in the Pacific Ocean. When he was found, he was alone, but it turns out that when he set sail, he had a companion.

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00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:42,000

He actually had a fishing partner, but unfortunately the fishing partner didn't survive. He claims that his partner couldn't deal with the stress and that basically stopped eating and therefore shut down and died.

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00:18:43,000 --> 00:19:05,000

Alvorenga says he kept speaking to his deceased friend for days, until he realized he must let him go and buried him at sea. But the dead man's family claim otherwise. They accuse Alvorenga of resorting to cannibalism. This would not be a first.

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00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:15,000

There are stories of whalers who have been lost at sea in the Pacific and had to resort to cannibalism in the 19th century.

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00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:20,000

It's impossible for anybody to speculate what they would do in that situation.

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

He'd kill and cannibalize his partner. The only person that knows is the fisherman himself.

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00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:47,000

A complete physical examination of Alvorenga reveals symptoms of anemia, possibly the result of vitamin deficiencies caused by prolonged starvation. For supporters, it's proof his ordeal really happened.

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00:19:48,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Some people say this is an impossible journey. No, no, it's not at all. This man obviously had the constitution to survive 438 days. Yeah, it could have happened.

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00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:22,000

An unbelievable story or a story of unbelievable endurance. For many, the jury is still out. But what nobody denies is that sometimes the battle to be believed can be every bit as challenging as the battle to survive.

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00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:40,000

The annals of seafaring are full of stories of mysterious creatures from the deep. Today such reports are much more rare.

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00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:50,000

So when one does surface, evoking the legend of the greatest sea monster of them all, the mighty Kraken, it demands our attention.

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00:20:53,000 --> 00:21:11,000

January 12, 2003. Veteran Jotsman Olivier de Coursosan is attempting to win the Jules Verne trophy for the fastest circumnavigation of the world by sail.

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00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:17,000

There's a relatively unknown story of this sailboat, the Geronimo, that was in a race.

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00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:26,000

The 110 foot Trimaran Geronimo, the largest racing yacht of its kind, is making good progress through the North Atlantic.

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But not far from the Portuguese island of Madeira, it suddenly loses speed.

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00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:38,000

The boat dropped from 24 knots down to 11, it slowed right down.

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00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:44,000

Unable to determine what's caused this deceleration, the crew inspect below the waterline.

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00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:54,000

They think something must be wrong with the vessel. The first mate goes below and appears through a porthole. What he reports is something stuck to the rudder, bigger than his leg.

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00:21:55,000 --> 00:22:02,000

He can't believe his eyes. Some kind of tentacled beast is wrapped around the vessel.

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00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:06,000

This must have been an incredibly strong creature.

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

Armed with only boat hooks and pocket knives, the crew try to force the animal to let go.

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00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:17,000

But after an hour of struggle, the creature is still attached.

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00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:20,000

The captain orders the sails to be lowered.

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00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:28,000

And as the ship comes to a halt, the underwater attacker releases its grip and vanishes into the deep.

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00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:33,000

The captain gets a good look at the creature and estimates it to be 10 meters long.

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

An encounter with a 30-foot tentacled monster of this mass is extremely rare.

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00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:42,000

He says he's never seen anything like it.

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00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:46,000

The incident leaves the crew in a state of shock.

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00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:50,000

What was the mysterious creature that attacked their boat?

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00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:56,000

The encounter has echoes of ancient sea stories.

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00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:01,000

Has a legend of the deep resurfaced.

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00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:08,000

Throughout history, sailors have always encountered animals at sea that they didn't know what to make of and that they feared.

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00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:17,000

We don't know what these animals really were or whether they even existed at all outside of the imagination of these sailors.

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00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:25,000

There is one fabled beast whose name alone was enough to terrify hardy sailors for centuries.

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00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:32,000

The Kraken, the breaker of ships, large creatures that would pull ships down to their deaths.

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00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:38,000

The Kraken has always been assumed to be a myth.

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00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:43,000

But could there be a real world creature behind the legend?

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

There are tentacled titans out there.

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00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:57,000

I've come face to face with the giant Pacific octopus, the largest of the octopus family.

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

Its 20-foot armspan is impressive, but it's no ship breaker.

208

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:11,000

I've also encountered another potential suspect.

209

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:13,000

Squid.

210

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:17,000

Vieracious, deep sea predators.

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

This Humboldt squid has a powerful beak made of one of the hardest substances in the animal world and a bite force comparable to a lion.

212

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Quite an impressive beast.

213

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:33,000

Going back.

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00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:38,000

The Humboldt squid has the aggression of the terrifying Kraken.

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00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:39,000

But not the size.

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00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:43,000

There are, however, much bigger squid out there.

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00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:52,000

There's been evidence of giant squid without actual direct observations.

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00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:58,000

And that evidence comes from their primary predator, the sperm whale.

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00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:07,000

On their deep dives, to over 4,000 feet, which can last for up to 45 minutes,

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00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:12,000

sperm whales are known to prey on giant squid.

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

Most of the early evidence actually came from just pieces of squid that were found in the stomachs of sperm whales,

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00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:23,000

or from the scars on the whales themselves.

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

These giant sucker marks from the battles between the squid and the whales.

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00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:38,000

With only rare sightings and occasional physical evidence, it's hard to fathom the potential size of this beast.

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00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:43,000

We know giant squid get big, we just don't know how big they get.

226

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:47,000

If you're going to fight a sperm whale, you better be big.

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00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:53,000

Just how big giant squid can grow is one of the great deep ocean mysteries.

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00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:59,000

But a new science involving a remarkable natural phenomenon could provide the answer.

229

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:08,000

Bioluminescence is biologically produced light, and in the deep pelagic zone,

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00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:11,000

80% of all animals are bioluminescent.

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00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:19,000

This strange light-producing property inspired a team of scientists led by Dr Edith Widder

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

to attempt something unique, attracting the elusive giant squid using a lure made of LED lights.

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00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:34,000

Her theory was that if we can recreate the light sequence that these squid prey make,

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00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:38,000

you could potentially use that to attract giant squid.

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00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:47,000

This is a very interesting theory, and it's very interesting to see.

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00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:52,000

This extraordinary footage captured by Dr Widder's team,

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00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:58,000

2,300 feet down off the coast of Japan, astounded biologists.

238

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:18,000

This clip is incredible because we're seeing this squid in its natural habitat in the deep sea.

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00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:22,000

It's never been done before.

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

The footage is a first, but the estimated size of the squid is just 14 feet long,

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00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:35,000

half the size of the beast that attacked the racing yacht Geronimo.

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00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:40,000

But Dr Widder is not deterred.

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

In 2019, she relocates her search to the Gulf of Mexico,

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00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:49,000

100 miles off the coast of Louisiana.

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00:27:50,000 --> 00:27:56,000

Her team has developed the electronic lure to mimic the light patterns of the atola deep-sea jellyfish,

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00:27:56,000 --> 00:27:59,000

which attracts giant squid.

247

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:08,000

And what rises from the abyss single-handedly resurrects the myth of the Kraken.

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00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:14,000

The Kraken

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00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:25,000

When a huge tentacled creature envelops a racing yacht in the Atlantic,

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

it revives stories of the Kraken.

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

Could the giant squid be the real animal behind this recent story?

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

And the ancient legend?

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00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:41,000

Off the southern coast of the United States,

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00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:46,000

a revolutionary lure that mimics bioluminescent creatures is being used as bait

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00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:50,000

to catch on camera the stuff of legends.

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00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:56,000

We're visual animals, and so when humans have gone down to explore the deep sea,

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00:28:56,000 --> 00:29:01,000

traditionally we go down and shine these great lights so that we can see everything.

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00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:04,000

But in reality, it probably scares a lot of things away.

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

To avoid this, Dr. Widder's team use infrared cameras to penetrate the darkness,

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00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:18,000

allowing them to see but not disturb the creatures that come to investigate the electronic bait.

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00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:24,000

Hours and hours of darkness with maybe the occasional flash of something going by.

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00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:31,000

And then suddenly, out of nowhere, come these tentacles.

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00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:38,000

The Kraken

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00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:43,000

It's massive.

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00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:48,000

This giant squid is taller than a two-story house,

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00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:53,000

easily big enough to take on the racing trimaran, Geronimo.

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00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:01,000

So could this be the legendary Kraken, breaker of ships?

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00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:05,000

We just now know they're there.

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00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:10,000

So it's answered one question, it's opened up about a bazillion more.

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

Deep water diving can be deadly, and I've had glimpses of what can go wrong.

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00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:35,000

Can you help me? Do you read me? Do you read me? Over.

272

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:38,000

Also coming in my mask.

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00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:43,000

When diving deaths happen, their causes are often lost beneath the waves.

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00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:48,000

So when the decapitated corpse of a diver is discovered off the coast of England,

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

at the height of the Cold War, there are many theories about what or who may have killed him.

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00:30:55,000 --> 00:31:01,000

Can new analysis of the evidence solve the mystery of the headless frogman?

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00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:12,000

June 9th, 1957, Chichester Harbour on the south coast of England.

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00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:17,000

The crew of a commercial fishing boat make a gruesome discovery,

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00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:20,000

a swollen mass in the water.

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00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:23,000

It can only be one thing.

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

A body in a wetsuit, missing its head and its hands.

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00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:36,000

Preliminary analysis of the rubber-suited torso reveals it may have been submerged for many months.

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00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:42,000

And diving fins attached to the rotting feet indicate the body is a frogman.

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00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:47,000

But who is this mysterious dead diver?

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00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:51,000

All we actually have is the body, so if we can understand the body,

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00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:54,000

maybe we can say something about the mystery.

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00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:58,000

The autopsy report raises many questions.

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00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:01,000

Why are the diver's head and hands missing?

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00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:08,000

Have they been eaten by fish, cut off by an unfortunate boating accident,

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00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:11,000

or has there been foul play?

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00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:16,000

Typically, when you find only a torso missing the head and the hands,

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

this is an effort to try to hide the identity of the victim.

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

Investigators are baffled.

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00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:26,000

They are unable to match dental records or fingerprints,

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00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:30,000

or even determine how long the body has been in the water.

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00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:35,000

How can you actually recognize a corpse if it doesn't have a head and hands?

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00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:41,000

When authorities comb local files going back over a year, they discover a possible victim.

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00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:47,000

And a small scar above the corpse's left knee leads investigators to conclude

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

that the body is that of retired military diver Lionel Buster Crab.

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00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:55,000

Buster Crab was a frogman.

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00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:01,000

We're talking about soldiers that are crem-de-la-crem of the underwater commandos.

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00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:07,000

Crab, it turns out, was a scuba diving pioneer who served with distinction during World War II.

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00:33:07,000 --> 00:33:13,000

As a demolition frogman, he was involved in numerous dangerous underwater missions.

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00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:17,000

The Navy frogmen during World War II were the elite of the elites.

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

Combining the kind of rudimentary diving technology with what was essentially underwater bomb

disposal.

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

Crab officially retired from the Navy after the war to become a commercial diver.

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00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:35,000

He was a treasure hunter. He was doing a whole lot of other things,

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

but he wasn't supposed to be doing anything related to the military anymore.

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00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:44,000

But when investigators study the equipment recovered with the corpse,

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

they notice that the dive fins are military issue.

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00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:53,000

So on the day that he died, was Crab back working for the armed forces.

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00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:59,000

A Royal Navy report released weeks later suggests that this is the case.

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

The Navy puts out an official notice that he's missing, presumed dead,

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00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:09,000

that there was an apparent accident related to testing out new dive equipment.

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00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:15,000

The idea that war hero Crab was testing new equipment for the Navy seems plausible.

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00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:20,000

But there's no mention of decapitation, and according to the report,

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00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:25,000

the incident in which Crab died did not take place where his body was found.

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00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:29,000

It happened over 10 miles away near Portsmouth Harbour,

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00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:32,000

and this is where the plot thickens.

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

At the time of Crab's disappearance, Portsmouth was playing host to a very special visitor,

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00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:42,000

an advanced battle cruiser belonging to the Soviet Navy.

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00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:47,000

I think the big question is, is was he in fact actually working as an operative at the time of his death?

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00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:51,000

Was Crab spying on the Soviets?

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00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:55,000

And if so, did they catch him in the act?

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00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:12,000

A mutilated corpse is discovered off the south coast of 1950s England.

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00:35:12,000 --> 00:35:17,000

What the dead diver was doing there is shrouded in mystery.

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00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:24,000

But the answer could shed new light on a closely guarded state secret.

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00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:32,000

The Cold War between the Eastern Bloc and the Western Allies is at its height.

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00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:37,000

In 1956, there's a summit, and Khrushchev is coming to England.

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00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:43,000

The Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev has been invited for diplomatic talks and arrives by sea.

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00:35:43,000 --> 00:35:47,000

The ship was really a state-of-the-art military battleship.

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00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:51,000

It's the battle cruiser, the Ozhoni Kidza.

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00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:58,000

Incredibly attractive for British intelligence to have an opportunity to maybe do a little bit of spying on it.

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00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:04,000

British Prime Minister Anthony Eden is said to have ordered no surveillance operations as a sign of good faith,

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00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:10,000

but the temptation perhaps proves too great for some inside the intelligence community.

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00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:15,000

Unfortunately, what happens here is MI6 goes to the rogue.

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00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:23,000

MI6 operatives, possibly acting on their own initiative, decide to recruit a diver to undertake a dangerous operation,

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00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:28,000

an underwater spying mission beneath the Ozhoni Kidza.

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00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:34,000

And one man fits the bill, retired Navy diver Lionel Buster Crabb.

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00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:39,000

One of the theories is that they chose him because he was already out of the military,

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00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:44,000

and perhaps if he were caught, there'd be some room there for plausible deniability.

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00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:51,000

But 47-year-old Crabb, a lifelong smoker, is not in peak condition.

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00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:57,000

A diver like that, especially in those days, they were pretty hard-living guys, and they drank a lot.

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

What Crabb is tasked with finding out under the Soviet ship is unclear.

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

The one possibility is that he was trying to study the propeller.

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00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:11,000

He was trying to get either photographs or even just to see it.

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00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:21,000

On April 19th, 1956, Crabb is believed to have headed out into the waters of Portsmouth Harbour with his MI6 controller in a small boat.

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00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:26,000

After testing his equipment, he disappears into the depths.

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00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:32,000

Buster Crabb is never seen alive again.

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

What happened to Crabb? Theories abound.

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00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:42,000

Was he cut by the propeller? Was he captured by the Russians and decapitated? Nobody really knows.

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00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:49,000

It's my speculation that he may have been killed by the Russians, but it's a human scarce.

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

There are other, less sinister theories.

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00:37:53,000 --> 00:38:01,000

Back in those days, diving was a risky business in itself, using rudimentary underwater breathing technology.

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00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:08,000

The possibility for something to go wrong is bound to happen at some point.

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00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:15,000

If you do twiddle a knob a little bit too much, you can soon find yourselves in a lot of difficulty.

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00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:19,000

To avoid detection, Crabb was using a rebreather.

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00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:29,000

This diving equipment doesn't produce telltale bubbles, but it does require constant attention and clear thinking on the part of the diver.

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

The night before the mission, apparently Buster is in a pub getting drunk, bragging and telling everybody about how he's a spy.

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

Diving and drinking do not mix. Oxygen poisoning is a significant risk when you're breathing from a rebreather.

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00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:52,000

Adding alcohol into the mix.

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00:38:53,000 --> 00:39:03,000

But could a highly decorated diver of Crabb's experience really have made such an obvious error of judgement?

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00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:14,000

Lionel Crabb was a war hero, and for many people the idea that a war hero of his magnitude makes mistakes seems impossible to believe.

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00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:26,000

If Crabb's death was not an error or an accident, it opens up the possibility that he was deliberately killed, either under the Soviet ship or elsewhere.

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00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:37,000

Evidence for this is limited, but some have questioned whether the corpse that was finally found could possibly have spent over a year in the water.

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00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:46,000

It's really unusual that you would find it headless, handless and at all identifiable as a corpse 14 months later.

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00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:56,000

Experts also question how a corpse could possibly have made the 10 mile journey from Portsmouth to Chichester Harbour.

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:00,000

So it is unlikely that it would have been carried that far away.

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00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:11,000

If you look at the currents and the tides, it doesn't quite match. According to the regular trends, that would not be the right place for it to show up.

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00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:26,000

So if Crabb's body could not have floated on the tides to Chichester, how did it get there? Was the body dumped? And if so, by whom?

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00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:31,000

Something happened between the time it was found and the time he went missing.

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00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Did the Soviets throw the body overboard as they sailed east? Or was it planted by an embarrassed British intelligence service trying to cover up a failed operation?

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00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:50,000

An answer to this mystery may exist, but right now there's no way of knowing for sure.

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00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:59,000

In an unusual move by the British government, files relating to the disappearance of Lionel Crabb have been classified for 100 years.

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00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:02,000

These documents can't be opened until 2057.

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00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:09,000

By actually making it so secret and by putting in this thing, you've actually added to the mystery.

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00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:28,000

Whether it was an accident, murder or misadventure, the solution to the mystery of what may have happened to Lionel Crabb lies locked in the depths of a secret vault.

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00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:39,000

As unreachable as it would be at the bottom of the ocean. But like a sunken body, it may well resurface one day.