



1

00:00:01,060 --> 00:00:09,100

dark skies takes place in the 60s and it's all about historical events reinterpreted through

2

00:00:09,100 --> 00:00:14,860

the eyes of an alien conspiracy so those stories they're all true well nothing is all true depends

3

00:00:14,860 --> 00:00:19,690

on who you talk to as a consequence most of what we know about the way history went down

4

00:00:19,690 --> 00:00:24,520

in the last sixty to seventy years has been colored by that and yet it's been covered up

5

00:00:24,520 --> 00:00:27,820

you don't keep the President of the United States in the dark about this it's wrong so

6

00:00:27,820 --> 00:00:34,270

everything that you know about our American culture was not inspired by Americans but in

7

00:00:34,270 --> 00:00:40,960

fact by either aliens or the government trying to suppress the information it didn't change

8

00:00:40,960 --> 00:00:45,190

history it just gave it a little twist I don't know who your friends are the town

9

00:00:45,190 --> 00:00:50,290

air force is out there far more powerful that's the essence of the of the series

10

00:00:54,840 --> 00:01:04,050

a good family friend of ours at when I was just getting out of high school was working at a very

11  
00:01:04,050 --> 00:01:10,200  
high level in the Reagan administration and one  
night he took me aside and was telling me some of

12  
00:01:10,200 --> 00:01:14,130  
the things he was doing in the government and  
he was going to get us a white house tour and

13  
00:01:14,130 --> 00:01:22,800  
everything and ended up you know telling me some  
pretty shattering stories and in particular he

14  
00:01:22,800 --> 00:01:27,660  
knew that I had always been into science fiction  
and fantasy in comic books and whatnot and very

15  
00:01:27,660 --> 00:01:33,810  
casually just threw out there that aliens were  
real they're here and I've seen them the story

16  
00:01:33,810 --> 00:01:40,470  
goes on to much greater detail because at the time  
I was just absolutely shocked and this is a person

17  
00:01:40,470 --> 00:01:47,520  
I grew up with and I completely trusted and  
he just rocked my world and I have not told a

18  
00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:52,980  
lot of people the story but I made this kind of  
connection with Bryce over lunch and realized how

19  
00:01:52,980 --> 00:01:57,840  
deeply he was into UFOs and I said well I have to  
tell you the story then I thought either that's

20  
00:01:57,840 --> 00:02:01,980  
true in which case this is phenomenal and an  
incredible story and I'll have to do something

21  
00:02:01,980 --> 00:02:07,800  
with it or I also thought if it's not true he's a  
hell of a storyteller and we should be working so

22  
00:02:07,800 --> 00:02:13,380  
we decided to work together and we started talking  
over UFOs I had been working on something called

23  
00:02:13,380 --> 00:02:17,760  
majestic I think at the time and Brent came in  
one day and said I got a better title for you

24  
00:02:17,760 --> 00:02:26,010  
dark skies and that kind of stuck and then for an  
entire month we we're at my office at Universal

25  
00:02:26,010 --> 00:02:30,720  
and you would come by every day and we would  
just work on on the notebook that became this

26  
00:02:30,720 --> 00:02:35,100  
thing that we ended up selling it with him we just  
worked we didn't tell anybody what we're doing it

27  
00:02:35,100 --> 00:02:42,540  
was perfect dark skies Ian's development where you  
do it you don't tell anybody and you go a little

28  
00:02:42,540 --> 00:02:47,730  
bit insane and that kind of worked usually you  
know you're you're developing something and you

29  
00:02:47,730 --> 00:02:51,840  
start hyping your agents and your lawyers and  
getting people excited about something and we

30  
00:02:51,840 --> 00:02:57,090  
went completely off the grid totally and had this  
whole thing and by the time anyone heard about it

31

00:02:57,090 --> 00:03:02,670

it was through this top-secret briefing book that  
they had to read you know like a hundred pages of

32

00:03:02,670 --> 00:03:08,760

content it wasn't just a TV pitch it was a whole  
world in the days when we were putting together

33

00:03:08,760 --> 00:03:14,970

the briefing book we were working in a vacuum  
which was very exhilarating but there was a bit

34

00:03:14,970 --> 00:03:23,400

of madness going on you know we we envisioned this  
big epic series and we just kept feeding our own

35

00:03:23,400 --> 00:03:28,530

imaginations wealth well if we open up that thing  
in history let's open up this and let's say this

36

00:03:28,530 --> 00:03:33,300

and we decided once we kind of went down that  
rabbit hole well let's just come out with the

37

00:03:33,300 --> 00:03:38,340

whole five-year vision you know I mean this was  
in reaction to other shows that felt like they

38

00:03:38,340 --> 00:03:41,760

were just making it up as they went along we  
said well let's do the antithesis let's come

39

00:03:41,760 --> 00:03:47,310

out with a whole blueprint so we've got a big  
epic show we can actually prove to people that

40

00:03:47,310 --> 00:03:53,190

we've thought this through and but what it meant  
was in the span of a month or so thinking out

41  
00:03:53,190 --> 00:03:58,320  
five seasons which is a lot to do and and we just  
kept falling in love with the idea of well let's

42  
00:03:58,320 --> 00:04:02,580  
put more details because again we had history to  
mine from I mean I remember seeing this thing

43  
00:04:02,580 --> 00:04:08,430  
still have it I have that dark skies Bible that  
he handed to me and said this is top secret and

44  
00:04:08,430 --> 00:04:15,930  
it was basically it spelled out the five seasons  
I thought these guys brilliant they have captured

45  
00:04:15,930 --> 00:04:21,690  
an idea that really was ahead of its time it was  
sort of out of the box at some point we started

46  
00:04:21,690 --> 00:04:26,490  
realizing we're gonna put all of this out there  
and then people are gonna know where it goes so

47  
00:04:26,490 --> 00:04:30,210  
we're gonna have to put we're gonna have to put  
certain versions out there to get people going

48  
00:04:30,210 --> 00:04:34,380  
what's the truth what's the truth you know what  
blows my mind still today if you look at this

49  
00:04:34,380 --> 00:04:43,650  
original briefing document the timeline goes from  
75 million BC to which admittedly was not part of

50  
00:04:43,650 --> 00:04:52,170  
our series at least for a while to 2020 yeah so  
that's kind of a lot of extra credit yeah I know

51  
00:04:52,170 --> 00:04:56,340  
that we ever got the extra credit for doing it\h  
but well you know one certainly did it one thing\h\h

52  
00:04:56,340 --> 00:05:00,030  
you're always asked to do when you're developing\h  
a show is they say well you know come up with some\h\h

53  
00:05:00,030 --> 00:05:04,650  
outlines for what a an episode would be just to\h  
show that there's actually something there so we\h\h

54  
00:05:04,650 --> 00:05:10,350  
said well we actually have millions of years but\h  
you know we did that for a reason we knew that the\h\h

55  
00:05:10,350 --> 00:05:17,010  
the thing that we were pitching was so outlandish\h  
mm-hmm and so outrageous that conventionally it\h\h

56  
00:05:17,010 --> 00:05:21,360  
would just be rejected and people go out you\h  
know what it's a great concept this thing about\h\h

57  
00:05:21,360 --> 00:05:26,160  
the Kennedy assassination you know it's but it's\h  
a one-off you know you get away with it once and\h\h

58  
00:05:26,160 --> 00:05:33,930  
that's it so we've sort of felt that that it was\h  
important for us to prove to people that it wasn't\h\h

59  
00:05:33,930 --> 00:05:41,730  
a one-off that that there were lots and lots of\h  
stories so we sort of accepted the in advance\h\h

60  
00:05:41,730 --> 00:05:47,280  
the skepticism that might might have greeted us\h  
and that's why the notebooks were so overwhelming\h\h

61  
00:05:47,280 --> 00:05:51,300  
they were overwhelming because we felt that the  
opposition would be overwhelming and we had to

62  
00:05:51,300 --> 00:05:56,580  
defeat them on the field of battle yes it was  
was a preemptive strike it was a bold brave for

63  
00:05:56,580 --> 00:06:01,410  
they could start doubting anything we overwhelmed  
them with a vision that could not be refuted

64  
00:06:13,550 --> 00:06:18,800  
now history is an extremely important part of  
dark skies not just because it's interesting

65  
00:06:18,800 --> 00:06:23,660  
but because it gave us a way to tell the story  
in a totally different way what I fundamentally

66  
00:06:23,660 --> 00:06:28,700  
loved about the pilot that was successful in the  
first half of the series was visiting historical

67  
00:06:28,700 --> 00:06:35,300  
events week by week and putting our two heroes  
into the mix to find the truth in a situation

68  
00:06:35,300 --> 00:06:41,660  
there's a whole genre of alien invasion movies  
and television series that have gone on before

69  
00:06:41,660 --> 00:06:47,960  
where it's primarily battling the invasion  
we wanted to add an element to it that made

70  
00:06:47,960 --> 00:06:53,450  
it compelling in its own right and that was  
history for us the level of writing and the

71  
00:06:53,450 --> 00:07:00,410  
forward thinking of how they were able to tie\h  
in actual historical events and put a twist on\h\h

72  
00:07:00,410 --> 00:07:06,830  
it to include this suspected alien invasion was\h  
brilliant kind of in the early stages it was let's\h\h

73  
00:07:06,830 --> 00:07:12,950  
do Forrest Gump me tour of the Worlds let's do a\h  
complete revisionist history of the 20th century\h\h

74  
00:07:12,950 --> 00:07:20,210  
as if aliens really existed and that kind of\h  
opened the door to all sorts of possibilities

75  
00:07:22,840 --> 00:07:29,920  
freeze it right there and steal behind the cowboy\h  
two feet from Oswald when he got shot it's a very\h\h

76  
00:07:29,920 --> 00:07:39,430  
high concept but at the same time it's all rooted\h  
in real history and logical ideas about why or how\h\h

77  
00:07:39,430 --> 00:07:42,910  
things happen things that aren't actually\h  
explained generally the best ones are the\h\h

78  
00:07:42,910 --> 00:07:48,490  
ones that are left a bit of a mystery like the\h  
assassination of JFK we all really don't know\h\h

79  
00:07:48,490 --> 00:07:54,160  
exactly what happened so it leaves a lot of room\h  
for interpretation in life President Kennedy had\h\h

80  
00:07:54,160 --> 00:08:01,990  
inspired me to a higher standard I resolved that\h  
his death would have no lesser effect the enemy\h\h

81  
00:08:01,990 --> 00:08:09,340  
was out there they had claimed our leader but\h  
the war was far from over it just allowed us to\h\h

82  
00:08:09,340 --> 00:08:14,200  
point of view into a wealth of a pre-existing\h  
material where we'd go in and say okay this is\h\h

83  
00:08:14,200 --> 00:08:19,420  
what everyone thinks happened what's our darks\h  
guys take and we could go backwards and forwards\h\h

84  
00:08:19,420 --> 00:08:23,080  
in history and start applying that to everything\h  
that's one of the things you're always looking\h\h

85  
00:08:23,080 --> 00:08:28,390  
for when you're breaking you know TV episodes\h  
is I need some traction I need something to\h\h

86  
00:08:28,390 --> 00:08:33,160  
get me going here that became our franchise is\h  
that we just went in in mind history for all of\h\h

87  
00:08:33,160 --> 00:08:39,460  
these interesting incidents and put a dark sky\h  
spin on control we are in contact with the range

88  
00:08:48,750 --> 00:08:57,240  
gentlemen mission controls in a state of lockdown\h  
until everyone has been debriefed I loved visiting\h\h

89  
00:08:57,240 --> 00:09:03,960  
these times in our history it was fun to do and\h  
it was educational for me and I also think it was\h\h

90  
00:09:03,960 --> 00:09:08,670  
entertaining every week I was like Oh how's this\h  
gonna be well I get to be in haight-ashbury oh\h\h

91  
00:09:08,670 --> 00:09:13,620  
my gosh you know I get to be in these times it's  
was sort of thrilling personally to experience

92  
00:09:13,620 --> 00:09:19,530  
that I've had people tell me that yeah I love dark  
skies I mean the alien stuff was fascinating but

93  
00:09:19,530 --> 00:09:25,680  
I just loved the nostalgic ride sir Mr. Kennedy I  
want to apologize for ever dragging you and your

94  
00:09:25,680 --> 00:09:31,110  
brother into this it's President would never  
accept that apology neither will I one of the

95  
00:09:31,110 --> 00:09:37,200  
reasons by the way we wanted to start with Kennedy  
and and with the 60s was just sufficient time had

96  
00:09:37,200 --> 00:09:43,980  
passed that Kennedy had become mythology not  
a real flesh-and-blood guy and it was okay to sort

97  
00:09:43,980 --> 00:09:50,070  
of have fun with that the Kennedy assassination  
to the average member of the audience the Kennedy

98  
00:09:50,070 --> 00:09:54,690  
assassination was like the Lincoln assassination  
that's certainly true today you know if you talk

99  
00:09:54,690 --> 00:10:01,860  
to any kids it's like Lincoln Kennedy whatever  
right a dead president the other opportunistic

100  
00:10:01,860 --> 00:10:07,980  
thing about the Kennedy assassination was that you  
know despite what the Warren Commission said a lot

101

00:10:07,980 --> 00:10:13,470

of people never believed the truth had come out\h  
so there was still an open right for an another\h\h

102

00:10:13,470 --> 00:10:19,920

dramatic interpretation of what really happened\h  
behind the scenes for that assassination and we\h\h

103

00:10:19,920 --> 00:10:25,080

felt like well no one has come out with that\h  
theory but what we really were trying to do at\h\h

104

00:10:25,080 --> 00:10:30,090

the very beginning that that got us excited\h  
when we started to develop this UFO series\h\h

105

00:10:30,090 --> 00:10:37,710

together we said wait a minute the two biggest\h  
conspiracies that people have think are going\h\h

106

00:10:37,710 --> 00:10:43,260

on right now in conspiracy theory would be the\h  
Kennedy assassination clearly a major conspiracy\h\h

107

00:10:43,260 --> 00:10:50,880

UFO cover-up clearly a major conspiracy what if\h  
we put them together into the granddaddy of all\h\h

108

00:10:50,880 --> 00:10:56,670

conspiracies and we call the you know the the\h  
unification theory of conspiracy to put Kennedy\h\h

109

00:10:56,670 --> 00:11:01,770

and UFOs together and honestly this day I still\h  
have to pinch myself that that in America network\h\h

110

00:11:01,770 --> 00:11:09,150

in an American production studio would give\h  
us millions of dollars to to make a two-hour\h\h

111  
00:11:09,150 --> 00:11:17,580  
movie that suggests the Kennedy and UFOs are tied  
into the same overarching I can't believe that in

112  
00:11:17,580 --> 00:11:25,560  
the wake of dark skies you actually can now go on  
some UFO sites and forums and whatnot and see that

113  
00:11:25,560 --> 00:11:30,540  
people are saying you know there is some evidence  
that links aliens to Kennedy's assassination

114  
00:11:30,540 --> 00:11:35,430  
that's become something where once you put that  
theory out there people start saying oh yeah

115  
00:11:35,430 --> 00:11:40,920  
there that's unless that's a legitimate theory  
when we were doing dark skies the first majestic

116  
00:11:40,920 --> 00:11:48,090  
documents had leaked out it was basically the  
Eisenhower briefing memo that was leaked in 1984

117  
00:11:48,090 --> 00:11:53,490  
that was a briefing memo for Dwight Eisenhower in  
1952 and that's kind of the the wellhead of the

118  
00:11:53,490 --> 00:11:59,100  
conspiracy with majestic but what was interesting  
is that there were new documents that came out in

119  
00:11:59,100 --> 00:12:05,940  
2000 a whole slew of new majestic documents so  
this is after dark skies has been cancelled for

120  
00:12:05,940 --> 00:12:12,180  
three years these documents come out also majestic  
documents and they are about Kennedy some of them

121  
00:12:12,180 --> 00:12:18,900  
are about Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe yeah we tied  
in as well in the in the war and omission episode

122  
00:12:23,300 --> 00:12:31,130  
turn it off honey no yes sir it's gonna be  
authenticated as having been filmed on the

123  
00:12:31,130 --> 00:12:36,050  
day miss Monroe's has tragically died there  
is a copy at another location there were two

124  
00:12:36,050 --> 00:12:43,190  
parallel tracks of research being done and I was  
history was interesting to me but with Bryce it

125  
00:12:43,190 --> 00:12:48,620  
was part of his life and his upbringing so he  
had a wealth of information about just general

126  
00:12:48,620 --> 00:12:54,170  
history as well as a real immersion in a lot of  
cultural events we were gonna be deconstructing

127  
00:12:54,170 --> 00:12:59,420  
well we differ in one respect which I almost  
hate to admit because I lived through some of

128  
00:12:59,420 --> 00:13:07,400  
those events and and so I actually remember you  
know what happened when Kennedy died and how

129  
00:13:07,400 --> 00:13:13,970  
felt and you were just born so I don't think you  
had you did remember that so so there's that my

130  
00:13:13,970 --> 00:13:20,390  
father was a history teacher so history was very  
important and and one of my little passions came

131

00:13:20,390 --> 00:13:27,620

in really happy happily coincided with our dark  
skies research which was collecting Time and

132

00:13:27,620 --> 00:13:34,190

Newsweek magazines because that allowed us  
to really you know history books are about

133

00:13:34,190 --> 00:13:39,110

the big picture and you get the trends and all  
that but what what happened in those magazines

134

00:13:39,110 --> 00:13:44,930

you'd find all the different things that were  
happening at the same time in detail and what

135

00:13:44,930 --> 00:13:49,520

people were saying and we're able to just  
constantly match those up with UFO events

136

00:13:49,520 --> 00:13:55,490

and find details I mean there are people who  
watch our show and and still say boy they got

137

00:13:55,490 --> 00:14:01,250

that wrong that songs not right or whatever  
but overall it's meticulously researched

138

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:14,940

got a thing for these guys don't you we  
also both had a real interest in UFOs

139

00:14:14,940 --> 00:14:20,970

so he had read a bunch of books and he has a  
very impressive UFO library I have something

140

00:14:20,970 --> 00:14:25,530

smaller and mine's more esoteric but I think  
between us it had kind of covered the bases

141

00:14:25,530 --> 00:14:29,610

and we had a pretty good knowledge and what we  
started doing was we started saying okay here

142

00:14:29,610 --> 00:14:34,650

are all of these recorded events in history as  
we know it and here are all of these recorded

143

00:14:34,650 --> 00:14:40,560

events in the UFO history and let's just look for  
synergistic opportunities to start marrying them

144

00:14:40,560 --> 00:14:47,160

together and there are so many famous events  
in in you know UFO history and certainly lots

145

00:14:47,160 --> 00:14:52,140

of cultural touchstones throughout you know the  
20th century that we were able to just find all

146

00:14:52,140 --> 00:14:56,730

of these great little inflection points to  
say okay well this happened about this time

147

00:14:56,730 --> 00:15:01,110

that this was going on let's say that they're  
connected somehow a good classic for us is to

148

00:15:01,110 --> 00:15:07,680

pray in darkness which is takes place during the  
New York Power blackout of 1965 which happened

149

00:15:07,680 --> 00:15:15,660

the day before Dorothy Kilgallen died which is  
alleged to have been potentially influenced by

150

00:15:15,660 --> 00:15:20,640

UFOs because they caused the blackout  
sometimes they'd all this came together

151

00:15:28,030 --> 00:15:33,130

everyone knows what Roswell is now or what it represents to people but it was our opinion that

152

00:15:33,130 --> 00:15:39,250

if Roswell was the crash of flying saucer or an unidentified flying object or even two of them

153

00:15:39,250 --> 00:15:47,320

1947 if we don't know about it and yet it happened well then as we've said in the series history is

154

00:15:47,320 --> 00:15:54,430

a lie there's truth and then there's truth if you really want to tell the American people the real

155

00:15:54,430 --> 00:16:01,570

truth about this we're gonna be at war nuclear war almost immediately there are other ways to fight

156

00:16:01,570 --> 00:16:06,430

us sir and keep the Cold War cold I think neither of us would argue that everything in dark skies is

157

00:16:06,430 --> 00:16:12,880

true but but the underlying essence of it is true which is if you want to look at history since the

158

00:16:12,880 --> 00:16:18,910

late 40s and you start to think about the fact that contact with and other intelligence has

159

00:16:18,910 --> 00:16:25,030

occurred and is occurring then you don't know the whole story and someday when it's all comes out

160

00:16:25,030 --> 00:16:30,220

they're gonna have to rewrite every history book and that will be an interesting time for the world

161

00:16:38,180 --> 00:16:52,190

my name is John Bowen Garth I'm recording this\h  
because we may not live you the night they're\h\h