

THE NIGHT OF THE ANDROIDS

and other Strange Suburban Stories

BXP

1
00:00:05,710 --> 00:00:04,540
[Music]

2
00:00:10,540 --> 00:00:05,720
[Applause]

3
00:00:12,360 --> 00:00:10,550
[Music]

4
00:00:24,870 --> 00:00:12,370
[Applause]

5
00:00:29,589 --> 00:00:27,589
face file a001-1

6
00:00:33,270 --> 00:00:29,599
the night of the androids it was the

7
00:00:35,350 --> 00:00:33,280
summer of 1973 and i was 18 at the time

8
00:00:37,670 --> 00:00:35,360
my cousin tony and i were out late on a

9
00:00:38,630 --> 00:00:37,680
friday night and we decided to get a six

10
00:00:40,470 --> 00:00:38,640
pack of beer

11
00:00:42,790 --> 00:00:40,480
sit on the front steps of the nearby

12
00:00:44,229 --> 00:00:42,800
elementary school and quench our teenage

13
00:00:46,069 --> 00:00:44,239

summertime first

14

00:00:48,229 --> 00:00:46,079

we hadn't been there very long when we

15

00:00:49,110 --> 00:00:48,239

both heard the rumble of a very loud car

16

00:00:51,350 --> 00:00:49,120

approaching

17

00:00:54,389 --> 00:00:51,360

as it came into view we saw that it was

18

00:00:55,590 --> 00:00:54,399

a 1959 cadillac convertible the one with

19

00:00:57,430 --> 00:00:55,600

the huge fins

20

00:00:59,510 --> 00:00:57,440

it was moving no more than about 10

21

00:01:01,189 --> 00:00:59,520

miles an hour and it was apparent that

22

00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:01,199

the car had no muffler

23

00:01:05,350 --> 00:01:03,440

we watched it as it passed wondering why

24

00:01:06,950 --> 00:01:05,360

such an unusual old car would be

25

00:01:07,830 --> 00:01:06,960

cruising through our neighborhood after

26

00:01:09,590 --> 00:01:07,840

midnight

27

00:01:11,670 --> 00:01:09,600

the car disappeared up the street

28

00:01:12,870 --> 00:01:11,680

however and we soon turned our attention

29

00:01:15,270 --> 00:01:12,880

to other things

30

00:01:17,109 --> 00:01:15,280

after a while we got tired of sitting so

31

00:01:19,030 --> 00:01:17,119

my cousin and i got up from the school

32

00:01:20,630 --> 00:01:19,040

steps and decided to walk

33

00:01:22,710 --> 00:01:20,640

we rounded the side of the school

34

00:01:24,550 --> 00:01:22,720

building and found ourselves on a dark

35

00:01:25,590 --> 00:01:24,560

side street with no street lights and

36

00:01:28,230 --> 00:01:25,600

few houses

37

00:01:30,230 --> 00:01:28,240

we hadn't gone very far when again we

38

00:01:32,149 --> 00:01:30,240

heard the sound of that loud engine

39

00:01:34,390 --> 00:01:32,159

about a quarter of a mile up the street

40

00:01:36,870 --> 00:01:34,400

a pair of headlights swung toward us

41

00:01:38,469 --> 00:01:36,880

both my cousin and i froze the side of

42

00:01:39,109 --> 00:01:38,479

the street on which we'd been walking

43

00:01:41,030 --> 00:01:39,119

was wooded

44

00:01:42,149 --> 00:01:41,040

so we slowly edged back into the tree

45

00:01:44,310 --> 00:01:42,159

line and waited

46

00:01:46,230 --> 00:01:44,320

the car approached and as it slowly

47

00:01:47,109 --> 00:01:46,240

passed us we could see it contained a

48

00:01:48,710 --> 00:01:47,119

man driving

49

00:01:50,789 --> 00:01:48,720

a woman next to him in the front

50

00:01:51,749 --> 00:01:50,799

passenger seat and a small boy in the

51
00:01:53,990 --> 00:01:51,759
back seat

52
00:01:55,910 --> 00:01:54,000
the street was dark but their faces were

53
00:01:56,789 --> 00:01:55,920
illuminated by the glow of the dashboard

54
00:01:58,709 --> 00:01:56,799
lights

55
00:02:00,630 --> 00:01:58,719
my cousin and i agreed afterwards that

56
00:02:01,990 --> 00:02:00,640
none of the three moved the entire time

57
00:02:04,149 --> 00:02:02,000
we had them in sight

58
00:02:06,069 --> 00:02:04,159
they said nothing heads never moved

59
00:02:08,469 --> 00:02:06,079
facial expressions didn't change

60
00:02:10,389 --> 00:02:08,479
they were absolutely like mannequins the

61
00:02:11,990 --> 00:02:10,399
cadillac disappeared down the street and

62
00:02:14,150 --> 00:02:12,000
we never saw it again

63
00:02:15,030 --> 00:02:14,160

being teenagers out late this freaked us

64

00:02:16,949 --> 00:02:15,040

out a bit

65

00:02:18,710 --> 00:02:16,959

we decided that we'd had enough for one

66

00:02:20,949 --> 00:02:18,720

night so we headed for home

67

00:02:22,070 --> 00:02:20,959

as we rounded the block a police car

68

00:02:24,229 --> 00:02:22,080

approached us

69

00:02:25,990 --> 00:02:24,239

the car stopped and the officer asked us

70

00:02:27,990 --> 00:02:26,000

what we were doing out so late

71

00:02:29,030 --> 00:02:28,000

then he asked us if we'd seen anything

72

00:02:31,110 --> 00:02:29,040

unusual

73

00:02:32,229 --> 00:02:31,120

of course at this point we spilled our

74

00:02:33,910 --> 00:02:32,239

whole story

75

00:02:36,470 --> 00:02:33,920

he calmly explained that the car

76

00:02:38,869 --> 00:02:36,480

contained a family of bicycle thieves

77

00:02:39,670 --> 00:02:38,879

somewhat relieved we continued home

78

00:02:41,509 --> 00:02:39,680

after a bit

79

00:02:43,270 --> 00:02:41,519

i thought it seemed awfully convenient

80

00:02:45,430 --> 00:02:43,280

that the police officer pulled up when

81

00:02:46,790 --> 00:02:45,440

he did to offer a forsake explanation

82

00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:46,800

for what had been a very weird

83

00:02:49,750 --> 00:02:47,840

experience

84

00:02:51,270 --> 00:02:49,760

you have to wonder what kind of parent

85

00:02:52,309 --> 00:02:51,280

would take their kid out for a night of

86

00:02:54,390 --> 00:02:52,319

larceny

87

00:02:55,350 --> 00:02:54,400

yes there are some really dysfunctional

88

00:02:57,990 --> 00:02:55,360

families out there

89

00:02:59,830 --> 00:02:58,000

but this just seemed too bizarre it only

90

00:03:01,350 --> 00:02:59,840

occurred to me later that we had seen no

91

00:03:03,589 --> 00:03:01,360

bicycles in the car

92

00:03:05,350 --> 00:03:03,599

the trunks on those caddies are huge but

93

00:03:06,149 --> 00:03:05,360

i don't recall that the trunk lid was

94

00:03:09,110 --> 00:03:06,159

even a jar

95

00:03:10,390 --> 00:03:09,120

at least not obviously so so if they

96

00:03:12,710 --> 00:03:10,400

were bicycle thieves

97

00:03:14,869 --> 00:03:12,720

they must not have had any luck to this

98

00:03:16,790 --> 00:03:14,879

day i remember how eerie it was to see

99

00:03:18,070 --> 00:03:16,800

these motionless people driving down

100

00:03:19,990 --> 00:03:18,080

that dark street

101
00:03:21,350 --> 00:03:20,000
if they were looking for bikes don't you

102
00:03:23,270 --> 00:03:21,360
think they would have been scanning

103
00:03:24,309 --> 00:03:23,280
yards to see if some kid left one on the

104
00:03:26,550 --> 00:03:24,319
front lawn

105
00:03:27,430 --> 00:03:26,560
instead all three of those people sat

106
00:03:29,270 --> 00:03:27,440
bolt upright

107
00:03:31,430 --> 00:03:29,280
looking straight ahead you would at

108
00:03:32,070 --> 00:03:31,440
least expect the kid to be moving around

109
00:03:34,070 --> 00:03:32,080
but as

110
00:03:36,630 --> 00:03:34,080
long as we had them in sight he never

111
00:03:38,309 --> 00:03:36,640
did my cousin and i still discussed the

112
00:03:39,910 --> 00:03:38,319
incident from time to time

113
00:03:42,190 --> 00:03:39,920

and we still don't quite know what to

114

00:03:43,910 --> 00:03:42,200

make of our night of the androids

115

00:03:47,750 --> 00:03:43,920

[Music]

116

00:03:49,589 --> 00:03:47,760

case file a001 the odds

117

00:03:50,789 --> 00:03:49,599

i live in a moderate size borough in

118

00:03:53,350 --> 00:03:50,799

pennsylvania

119

00:03:54,949 --> 00:03:53,360

i live in the same house where i grew up

120

00:03:56,949 --> 00:03:54,959

in fact most of the neighborhood

121

00:03:58,229 --> 00:03:56,959

has remained the same for the past 20

122

00:04:00,070 --> 00:03:58,239

years or so

123

00:04:01,350 --> 00:04:00,080

this includes the family that lives

124

00:04:03,830 --> 00:04:01,360

across the street

125

00:04:05,670 --> 00:04:03,840

this family who i refer to as the odds

126

00:04:06,869 --> 00:04:05,680

is not normal by any stretch of the

127

00:04:08,550 --> 00:04:06,879

imagination

128

00:04:10,149 --> 00:04:08,560

there is the husband and wife who are in

129

00:04:13,429 --> 00:04:10,159

their 70s and their daughter

130

00:04:13,990 --> 00:04:13,439

carol who is now my age 52. they have

131

00:04:16,550 --> 00:04:14,000

lived there

132

00:04:17,749 --> 00:04:16,560

as long as i can remember carol and i

133

00:04:20,150 --> 00:04:17,759

went to school together

134

00:04:21,749 --> 00:04:20,160

though we barely knew each other she has

135

00:04:23,510 --> 00:04:21,759

always been very attractive

136

00:04:25,430 --> 00:04:23,520

though i never recall her ever having a

137

00:04:27,749 --> 00:04:25,440

boyfriend or girlfriend

138

00:04:29,430 --> 00:04:27,759

her parents maintain a very nice house

139

00:04:30,310 --> 00:04:29,440

and seem to get along quite well

140

00:04:32,469 --> 00:04:30,320

together

141

00:04:33,430 --> 00:04:32,479

in fact carol and her parents are always

142

00:04:35,909 --> 00:04:33,440

a trio

143

00:04:36,790 --> 00:04:35,919

they are never seen separate they do not

144

00:04:38,710 --> 00:04:36,800

go to church

145

00:04:39,830 --> 00:04:38,720

and are not involved in any civic

146

00:04:42,230 --> 00:04:39,840

activities

147

00:04:43,749 --> 00:04:42,240

but this isn't the strange part every

148

00:04:46,150 --> 00:04:43,759

spring since i can recall

149

00:04:47,590 --> 00:04:46,160

they dig up a huge hole in the backyard

150

00:04:50,469 --> 00:04:47,600

it's in the same location

151
00:04:51,990 --> 00:04:50,479
every year the size i estimate is about

152
00:04:54,310 --> 00:04:52,000
15 x 10 foot

153
00:04:56,070 --> 00:04:54,320
and about four foot deep as soon as the

154
00:04:57,830 --> 00:04:56,080
hole is dug they cover it with a huge

155
00:04:59,189 --> 00:04:57,840
tarp that is staked into the ground

156
00:05:01,590 --> 00:04:59,199
around the perimeter

157
00:05:03,430 --> 00:05:01,600
it remains like that for two days and it

158
00:05:04,150 --> 00:05:03,440
is quickly filled in and topped with new

159
00:05:06,629 --> 00:05:04,160
turf

160
00:05:07,430 --> 00:05:06,639
every year it's almost like a harbinger

161
00:05:09,909 --> 00:05:07,440
of spring

162
00:05:11,430 --> 00:05:09,919
the odds are digging the hole the odds

163
00:05:14,710 --> 00:05:11,440

don't talk to anyone

164

00:05:16,710 --> 00:05:14,720

never carol never talks to anyone i have

165

00:05:18,230 --> 00:05:16,720

only heard her voice on a few occasions

166

00:05:20,150 --> 00:05:18,240

and that was when we were in class

167

00:05:20,950 --> 00:05:20,160

together and she'd be answering the

168

00:05:22,790 --> 00:05:20,960

teacher

169

00:05:24,710 --> 00:05:22,800

i attempted to talk to her a few months

170

00:05:25,510 --> 00:05:24,720

ago during the holidays and she simply

171

00:05:27,830 --> 00:05:25,520

looked at me

172

00:05:28,950 --> 00:05:27,840

smiled and said nothing i have never

173

00:05:31,350 --> 00:05:28,960

heard her parents say

174

00:05:33,029 --> 00:05:31,360

anything that brings up another point

175

00:05:33,909 --> 00:05:33,039

carol doesn't look anything like her

176
00:05:36,629 --> 00:05:33,919
parents

177
00:05:38,790 --> 00:05:36,639
she must be adopted or as i suspect

178
00:05:40,469 --> 00:05:38,800
something else is going on here

179
00:05:43,110 --> 00:05:40,479
i remember when i saw the movie the

180
00:05:45,590 --> 00:05:43,120
truman show that is the odds

181
00:05:47,430 --> 00:05:45,600
everything stays the same one summer i

182
00:05:48,710 --> 00:05:47,440
took a photograph of a family member in

183
00:05:50,790 --> 00:05:48,720
our friend lawn

184
00:05:52,070 --> 00:05:50,800
in the background was the odds front

185
00:05:53,830 --> 00:05:52,080
yard and house

186
00:05:55,990 --> 00:05:53,840
a few years later i was looking at the

187
00:05:56,629 --> 00:05:56,000
photograph and was amazed at how similar

188
00:05:58,230 --> 00:05:56,639

the house

189

00:06:00,550 --> 00:05:58,240

shrubby and flowers were at the

190

00:06:02,950 --> 00:06:00,560

present time it looks like the flowers

191

00:06:04,710 --> 00:06:02,960

came up the same way a few years later

192

00:06:06,390 --> 00:06:04,720

they seemed to follow a routine for each

193

00:06:08,710 --> 00:06:06,400

day of the week but the one thing they

194

00:06:10,390 --> 00:06:08,720

do every morning is really strange

195

00:06:12,870 --> 00:06:10,400

the three of them tour the outside of

196

00:06:14,230 --> 00:06:12,880

the house there are specific places on

197

00:06:14,790 --> 00:06:14,240

the perimeter of the house where they

198

00:06:16,790 --> 00:06:14,800

stop

199

00:06:18,710 --> 00:06:16,800

hold hands in a circle and look into the

200

00:06:20,309 --> 00:06:18,720

sky it's very strange

201
00:06:22,070 --> 00:06:20,319
because each time they perform this

202
00:06:23,350 --> 00:06:22,080
ritual i get a static feeling in the

203
00:06:25,590 --> 00:06:23,360
hands and feet

204
00:06:26,950 --> 00:06:25,600
it affects my mother the same way even

205
00:06:28,230 --> 00:06:26,960
when we are not watching them and

206
00:06:30,629 --> 00:06:28,240
somewhere else

207
00:06:31,590 --> 00:06:30,639
there are other oddities as well none of

208
00:06:33,749 --> 00:06:31,600
them has a job

209
00:06:35,430 --> 00:06:33,759
no one ever visits and they get a lot of

210
00:06:37,749 --> 00:06:35,440
deliveries it seems like

211
00:06:40,230 --> 00:06:37,759
every day something comes i'm convinced

212
00:06:42,390 --> 00:06:40,240
that these people are not entirely human

213
00:06:43,749 --> 00:06:42,400

i know it sounds nutty but i'm not the

214

00:06:45,510 --> 00:06:43,759

only person in the town

215

00:06:49,350 --> 00:06:45,520

that thinks that something nefarious is

216

00:06:53,189 --> 00:06:49,360

going on with the odds

217

00:06:55,270 --> 00:06:53,199

case file a001-3 the strangemiths

218

00:06:56,550 --> 00:06:55,280

i grew up in a bedroom community outside

219

00:06:58,950 --> 00:06:56,560

of new york city

220

00:07:00,550 --> 00:06:58,960

it was the 1970s and all the fathers in

221

00:07:02,870 --> 00:07:00,560

the neighborhood commuted to work

222

00:07:04,710 --> 00:07:02,880

while our mothers were stay-at-home moms

223

00:07:06,309 --> 00:07:04,720

all the moms were busy bodies and

224

00:07:07,430 --> 00:07:06,319

basically had their noses in each

225

00:07:08,870 --> 00:07:07,440

other's business

226

00:07:11,350 --> 00:07:08,880

the talk of the neighborhood was the

227

00:07:13,510 --> 00:07:11,360

family that lived beside us the smiths

228

00:07:15,430 --> 00:07:13,520

the smiths were very strange there was

229

00:07:17,110 --> 00:07:15,440

mr and mrs smith who looked like they

230

00:07:19,430 --> 00:07:17,120

were in their 40s and their kids

231

00:07:21,430 --> 00:07:19,440

a son and a daughter the kids were early

232

00:07:23,189 --> 00:07:21,440

teens and we never knew their names

233

00:07:24,469 --> 00:07:23,199

they didn't go to school so we assumed

234

00:07:26,230 --> 00:07:24,479

they were homeschooled

235

00:07:28,150 --> 00:07:26,240

the only time we saw them was when the

236

00:07:29,909 --> 00:07:28,160

whole family would walk single file to

237

00:07:31,909 --> 00:07:29,919

the garage in the back of their house

238

00:07:32,629 --> 00:07:31,919

and drive away in their rambler station

239

00:07:34,790 --> 00:07:32,639

wagon

240

00:07:35,830 --> 00:07:34,800

my mom talked to mrs smith once right

241

00:07:37,909 --> 00:07:35,840

after they moved in

242

00:07:40,230 --> 00:07:37,919

but that was it they never answered the

243

00:07:42,629 --> 00:07:40,240

door and there was no telephone listing

244

00:07:44,629 --> 00:07:42,639

mr smith never drove to work and mrs

245

00:07:45,589 --> 00:07:44,639

smith was never seen shopping or doing

246

00:07:47,589 --> 00:07:45,599

any chores

247

00:07:49,430 --> 00:07:47,599

the yard work was taken care of by two

248

00:07:51,189 --> 00:07:49,440

men who would drive up in a gray service

249

00:07:51,909 --> 00:07:51,199

truck once a week during the spring and

250

00:07:53,430 --> 00:07:51,919

summer

251
00:07:55,830 --> 00:07:53,440
they would cut the lawn and trim the

252
00:07:57,270 --> 00:07:55,840
hedges there were no flowers or trees no

253
00:07:58,950 --> 00:07:57,280
lawn furniture nothing

254
00:08:00,950 --> 00:07:58,960
one of our neighbors called the mayor's

255
00:08:03,430 --> 00:08:00,960
office about the kids in school but we

256
00:08:05,430 --> 00:08:03,440
never saw anyone ever come to the house

257
00:08:06,629 --> 00:08:05,440
in fact they never received mail the

258
00:08:08,710 --> 00:08:06,639
postman told us

259
00:08:11,110 --> 00:08:08,720
and there were never any deliveries the

260
00:08:12,869 --> 00:08:11,120
smiths lived there for about four years

261
00:08:15,029 --> 00:08:12,879
we didn't even know they had left until

262
00:08:16,790 --> 00:08:15,039
another normal family moved in

263
00:08:18,309 --> 00:08:16,800

they told us that the house had been on

264

00:08:19,670 --> 00:08:18,319

the market for several months

265

00:08:21,510 --> 00:08:19,680

and that it was purchased through a

266

00:08:24,790 --> 00:08:21,520

government auction but that seemed

267

00:08:28,230 --> 00:08:27,350

this is lon strickler if you like this

268

00:08:29,990 --> 00:08:28,240

program

269

00:08:31,350 --> 00:08:30,000

it would help us if you would give it a

270

00:08:34,230 --> 00:08:31,360

thumbs up

271

00:08:34,709 --> 00:08:34,240

then subscribe and click the bell icon

272

00:08:37,029 --> 00:08:34,719

so you

273

00:08:39,190 --> 00:08:37,039

get notification when we upload new

274

00:08:42,310 --> 00:08:39,200

first person encounters

275

00:08:44,710 --> 00:08:42,320

we have many more to come very soon and

276

00:08:47,110 --> 00:08:44,720

by the way if you have a suggestion