

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:23,680

MUSIC

2

00:00:23,680 --> 00:00:26,280

This is a map of Greater Los Angeles,

3

00:00:26,280 --> 00:00:31,280

50 miles across, 2,500 square miles in all.

4

00:00:31,280 --> 00:00:34,280

Now if someone goes missing in this sprawling city,

5

00:00:34,280 --> 00:00:38,280

even a highly organized search can't guarantee to find them.

6

00:00:38,280 --> 00:00:43,280

Etta Smith claimed no special psychic powers, no history of clairvoyance,

7

00:00:43,280 --> 00:00:48,280

but she succeeded where the whole of the Los Angeles Police Department failed.

8

00:00:48,280 --> 00:00:50,280

How she did it is a matter of debate.

9

00:00:50,280 --> 00:00:53,280

What she did is beyond question.

10

00:00:56,280 --> 00:01:00,280

I've lived in Los Angeles now for 26 years.

11

00:01:00,280 --> 00:01:04,280

A day I'll never forget will be December 17th, 1980.

12

00:01:04,280 --> 00:01:11,280

That day changed my life, had an impact on me that I'll never forget.

13

00:01:11,280 --> 00:01:16,280

I'll never be the same person that I was prior to that day.

14

00:01:17,280 --> 00:01:20,280

On the traffic front.

15

00:01:20,280 --> 00:01:22,280

Okay kids.

16

00:01:22,280 --> 00:01:26,280

That day started as normal as any other.

17

00:01:26,280 --> 00:01:29,280

Start getting ready for work, get the children ready.

18

00:01:29,280 --> 00:01:31,280

It was no different than any other day.

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00:01:31,280 --> 00:01:33,280

Okay, bye mom.

20

00:01:33,280 --> 00:01:34,280

Bye.

21

00:01:34,280 --> 00:01:36,280

Bye mommy.

22

00:01:36,280 --> 00:01:37,280

Bye honey.

23

00:01:37,280 --> 00:01:39,280

A single mother with two children,

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00:01:39,280 --> 00:01:43,280

Etta Smith lived in the Los Angeles suburb of Soma.

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00:01:43,280 --> 00:01:48,280

She worked as an administrator of the Lockheed Aircraft Company in nearby Burbank.

26

00:01:48,280 --> 00:01:53,280

It was there she first heard of the disappearance of local woman Melanie Uribe.

27

00:01:53,280 --> 00:01:56,280

KNBC News from Los Angeles, the headlines at 9.

28

00:01:56,280 --> 00:02:01,280

The police department is conducting a house to house search for a missing nurse, Melanie Uribe.

29

00:02:01,280 --> 00:02:03,280

The 31 year old was last week.

30

00:02:03,280 --> 00:02:09,280

It was really strange because as soon as the announcer said they were making a house to house search,

31

00:02:09,280 --> 00:02:14,280

I had some kind of a visual image like what you would see on a movie screen.

32

00:02:16,280 --> 00:02:18,280

I could see where she was.

33

00:02:18,280 --> 00:02:21,280

I know it's a canyon area.

34

00:02:21,280 --> 00:02:26,280

I see a dirt path going off to the right and I see a hill.

35

00:02:26,280 --> 00:02:32,280

And at the end of the dirt path I see white through shrubbery.

36

00:02:32,280 --> 00:02:34,280

And I thought that's odd.

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00:02:34,280 --> 00:02:38,280

Something tells me she's not in the house and then I see this picture. Why?

38

00:02:38,280 --> 00:02:41,280

Etta left work that day profoundly troubled.

39

00:02:41,280 --> 00:02:45,280

Her premonition was proving impossible to ignore.

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00:02:45,280 --> 00:02:51,280

As I'm headed home, this thing still won't leave me alone.

41

00:02:51,280 --> 00:02:53,280

I couldn't dismiss it.

42

00:02:53,280 --> 00:02:58,280

So I'm saying maybe I should stop and tell the police and then something is telling me,

43

00:02:58,280 --> 00:03:00,280

now they're going to think you're nuts.

44

00:03:00,280 --> 00:03:05,280

Then I'm thinking, yeah, but what if she's alive and what if I'm right?

45

00:03:05,280 --> 00:03:08,280

What if somebody needs to get to her?

46

00:03:08,280 --> 00:03:12,280

Can I in good conscience ignore that possibility and go home?

47

00:03:12,280 --> 00:03:16,280

Etta decided it was her duty to tell the police.

48

00:03:16,280 --> 00:03:23,280

What she didn't know was that the police had found the missing woman's pickup truck abandoned and in flames.

49

00:03:23,280 --> 00:03:28,280

They now suspected they were investigating a case of abduction and possibly murder.

50

00:03:30,280 --> 00:03:35,280

Mrs. Smith, I'm Detective Lee Ryan. I'm handling the Rebe case.

51

00:03:35,280 --> 00:03:37,280

Can I help?

52

00:03:37,280 --> 00:03:43,280

Well, um, I know it may sound weird, but I think she might be dead.

53

00:03:43,280 --> 00:03:47,280

I hope I'm wrong. I mean, she could be alive, but...

54

00:03:47,280 --> 00:03:53,280

She was a very nicely dressed lady, very professional looking, very...

55

00:03:53,280 --> 00:03:58,280

very well phrased. Her demeanor was such that she was very credible on initial appearance.

56

00:03:58,280 --> 00:04:04,280

I think I know where she is. I had kind of a psychic experience.

57

00:04:04,280 --> 00:04:09,280

I mean, several statements at the time that she didn't want to be considered a cuckoo or a nut.

58

00:04:09,280 --> 00:04:14,280

She wasn't crazy, although we might think she is when we heard what she had to say.

59

00:04:14,280 --> 00:04:18,280

Do you think you could possibly locate Mrs. Rebe on this map?

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00:04:18,280 --> 00:04:21,280

Sure.

61

00:04:21,280 --> 00:04:26,280

I was following with my finger on the map and I remember stopping.

62

00:04:26,280 --> 00:04:32,280

And saying, this is the area. I still to this day don't know why.

63

00:04:32,280 --> 00:04:41,280

She's here. Lopez Canyon. There are these hills in the background and some sort of track through the scrub.

64

00:04:41,280 --> 00:04:43,280

That's quite a big area.

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00:04:43,280 --> 00:04:48,280

But I know she's right here. And she's hidden in the underground.

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00:04:48,280 --> 00:04:53,280

The city of Los Angeles is huge. And this particular map included some of the county.

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00:04:53,280 --> 00:04:57,280

But to be able to pinpoint an area was absolutely incredible.

68

00:04:57,280 --> 00:05:00,280

Do you have any connection with the missing person?

69

00:05:00,280 --> 00:05:02,280

No.

70

00:05:02,280 --> 00:05:09,280

Okay, ma'am. What I'd like to do now, if I may, is take down your address and phone number.

71

00:05:09,280 --> 00:05:12,280

I'd like to talk to my commander and we'll follow up your lead.

72

00:05:12,280 --> 00:05:22,280

Thank you very much, officer. You know, I'm so sure about this that I think I'm going to follow this up myself.

73

00:05:23,280 --> 00:05:28,280

We had a Smith left the station. I shook her hand. Thanked her very much for her concern.

74

00:05:28,280 --> 00:05:35,280

Not only as a citizen, but as a possible witness. I thanked her for her coming in on her own, on her own time.

75

00:05:35,280 --> 00:05:43,280

I felt at least I had done my part to be a writer wrong. If I was wrong, that would be wonderful.

76

00:05:43,280 --> 00:05:47,280

But if I was right, it would be a very sad time.

77

00:05:47,280 --> 00:05:55,280

Still disturbed by her vision, Etta went home and told her children and her niece Deborah about the day's extraordinary events.

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00:05:55,280 --> 00:06:00,280

So now I don't know what to do. I just hope the police will do something.

79

00:06:00,280 --> 00:06:08,280

I have such a strong feeling about this. I think I'm going to have to go up there and take a look myself.

80

00:06:08,280 --> 00:06:10,280

Well, you can't go alone.

81

00:06:10,280 --> 00:06:11,280

Well, I think I should.

82

00:06:11,280 --> 00:06:14,280

Oh, please, please, mommy. Let us come with you.

83

00:06:14,280 --> 00:06:23,280

I was eight years old and my mom came home from work and she said she had a premonition and she explained it to be like a daydream.

84

00:06:23,280 --> 00:06:30,280

And we didn't understand it really at the time, but we got very excited about it.

85

00:06:30,280 --> 00:06:35,280

Please, please, mommy. Let us come.

86

00:06:35,280 --> 00:06:43,280

We were so anxious. We really wanted to go and we just weren't going to let her go without us.

87

00:06:43,280 --> 00:06:49,280

Etta's decision to go to the canyon marked a deepening of her involvement in the case.

88

00:06:49,280 --> 00:06:56,280

She was now being drawn into the investigation in a way she could no longer foresee or control.

89

00:06:56,280 --> 00:07:08,280

I said, OK, this is what I need you to do. We're going to drive up in the canyon, try to look and see if you notice anything white through shrubbery.

90

00:07:08,280 --> 00:07:14,280

We drove very slowly. I'm looking to the left. I'm looking to the right. They're looking.

91

00:07:14,280 --> 00:07:27,280

And I said to Deborah, you know, I don't see anything right here, but I know she's in this canyon. I feel it.

92

00:07:27,280 --> 00:07:29,280

I pulled the van over.

93

00:07:29,280 --> 00:07:42,280

Deborah and I got out. I could see tire marks and for some reason I felt compelled to touch them.

94

00:07:42,280 --> 00:07:46,280

Oh, no. I know this was her truck.

95

00:07:46,280 --> 00:07:56,280

As soon as I laid my fingers inside the indentions in the dirt from the tire marks, it was like then I really felt scared.

96

00:07:56,280 --> 00:08:02,280

I really felt a trembling inside of me. Come on, kids, we've got to get out of here.

97

00:08:02,280 --> 00:08:06,280

Come on. Come on, now.

98

00:08:12,280 --> 00:08:19,280

As Etta drove back down the canyon, she began to regret ever having involved her children in the search.

99

00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:30,280

I'm thinking this thing is really out of hand now. Now I'm starting to feel guilty because I have them with me doing something that they have no business doing.

100

00:08:30,280 --> 00:08:38,280

I felt this emotion inside my body like impending fear.

101

00:08:38,280 --> 00:08:43,280

Mom, look. There's something white in the brush, just like you said.

102

00:08:43,280 --> 00:08:44,280

Tina, come on.

103

00:08:44,280 --> 00:08:54,280

We headed back down the canyon and about halfway down the canyon, I thought I saw something and I told my mother and she didn't want to believe me.

104

00:08:54,280 --> 00:08:56,280

I just think we really better go home.

105

00:08:56,280 --> 00:09:00,280

No, there was something back there. We can just back up, can't we?

106

00:09:00,280 --> 00:09:03,280

Come on, Mom. We have to go back.

107

00:09:03,280 --> 00:09:05,280

I'm not so sure about this.

108

00:09:05,280 --> 00:09:09,280

But, hey.

109

00:09:15,280 --> 00:09:24,280

At this point, we were very, very excited and not with joy, but with fear in a sense.

110

00:09:28,280 --> 00:09:30,280

Andy, stay in the car.

111

00:09:39,280 --> 00:09:41,280

Mom?

112

00:09:45,280 --> 00:09:50,280

Oh my God.

113

00:09:50,280 --> 00:10:00,280

It was like everything in me exploded. It was like thunder and lightning and fear and rage because the subject had on white nurses shoes.

114

00:10:00,280 --> 00:10:02,280

It's her.

115

00:10:07,280 --> 00:10:13,280

Okay, right. I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll go to the next call box, we'll phone the police and then just tell them what happened.

116

00:10:13,280 --> 00:10:15,280

Hey, Mom, look.

117

00:10:19,280 --> 00:10:25,280

All of the trauma and all of the fear and everything that had been feeling building up all just went crazy.

118

00:10:25,280 --> 00:10:29,280

Oh my God. There's this woman and I think she's dead.

119

00:10:29,280 --> 00:10:31,280

You know, now and here, I think she's dead.

120

00:10:31,280 --> 00:10:32,280

I know, I calm down.

121

00:10:32,280 --> 00:10:40,280

I don't remember exactly what I said, but I got enough out to let him know that we had indeed found a body.

122

00:10:40,280 --> 00:10:42,280

She's over here.

123

00:10:42,280 --> 00:10:49,280

16 W41B advised. I'm at Lopez Canyon. I'm an apparent homicide.

124

00:10:49,280 --> 00:10:54,280

Victim appears to be a female. Requesting divisional detectives in the corner. Over.

125

00:10:54,280 --> 00:10:56,280

Out there.

126

00:10:57,280 --> 00:10:59,280

I need you to make a statement, ma'am.

127

00:10:59,280 --> 00:11:00,280

Okay.

128

00:11:00,280 --> 00:11:04,280

Why don't we step over the car and wait for the detectives arrive and then we'll take you down the station.

129

00:11:04,280 --> 00:11:05,280

Okay.

130

00:11:05,280 --> 00:11:11,280

The officer came back in just a few minutes and I said, uh, is it her?

131

00:11:11,280 --> 00:11:19,280

And he said, well, of course I can't be for sure, but from what I see in our probability, I would say it probably is.

132

00:11:19,280 --> 00:11:21,280

I said, oh my God.

133

00:11:36,280 --> 00:11:39,280

Having made her statement to the police, Etta went home.

134

00:11:39,280 --> 00:11:44,280

All of us were pretty shaken up, but we felt a little better once we got home.

135

00:11:44,280 --> 00:11:45,280

Shut the door.

136

00:11:45,280 --> 00:11:48,280

We began to feel a little bit of security.

137

00:11:58,280 --> 00:11:59,280

Yes.

138

00:11:59,280 --> 00:12:00,280

Etta Smith.

139

00:12:00,280 --> 00:12:01,280

Uh-huh.

140

00:12:01,280 --> 00:12:06,280

LAPD, ma'am. We'd like you to come down to the station with us. It's about the rebate case.

141

00:12:06,280 --> 00:12:09,280

But I only just finished making a statement to one of your men.

142

00:12:09,280 --> 00:12:11,280

I've already talked to Detective Ryan.

143

00:12:11,280 --> 00:12:14,280

Well, that's what we want to talk to you about, so if you'd come with us.

144

00:12:14,280 --> 00:12:17,280

Are you sure you really need me to go through all this again?

145

00:12:17,280 --> 00:12:20,280

Put it this way, ma'am. We want you to come along with us now.

146

00:12:20,280 --> 00:12:22,280

Just a moment.

147

00:12:22,280 --> 00:12:24,280

Mary.

148

00:12:24,280 --> 00:12:26,280

Look, kids, I've got to go out now.

149

00:12:26,280 --> 00:12:35,280

They explained to me that what they would like for me to do is answer a few questions so that they could fill out their report regarding this body.

150

00:12:35,280 --> 00:12:40,280

To me, that seemed like a logical request. They assured me they would bring me back.

151

00:12:40,280 --> 00:12:42,280

I said, okay, no problem.

152

00:12:51,280 --> 00:12:54,280

How did you know the body was there?

153

00:12:54,280 --> 00:12:58,280

Well, I saw the place. I had a vision.

154

00:12:58,280 --> 00:13:00,280

You had a vision?

155

00:13:00,280 --> 00:13:01,280

Yes.

156

00:13:01,280 --> 00:13:04,280

And she was wearing white shoes in this vision of yours?

157

00:13:04,280 --> 00:13:07,280

Yes. Uh, white.

158

00:13:07,280 --> 00:13:10,280

So you went up to Lopez Canyon to look for the body yourself?

159

00:13:10,280 --> 00:13:11,280

Yes.

160

00:13:11,280 --> 00:13:12,280

And there it was?

161

00:13:12,280 --> 00:13:13,280

Yes.

162

00:13:13,280 --> 00:13:16,280

That's quite a series of coincidences, don't you think?

163

00:13:16,280 --> 00:13:17,280

What are you trying to say?

164

00:13:17,280 --> 00:13:21,280

Oh, come on, Anna. There's always one person who knows where the body is.

165

00:13:21,280 --> 00:13:26,280

Well, I was only trying to help. Ask Detective Ryan. He knows I'm telling the truth.

166

00:13:26,280 --> 00:13:31,280

You expect us to believe that you had a vision and you go up to this canyon and you find this body?

167

00:13:31,280 --> 00:13:32,280

By yourself?

168

00:13:32,280 --> 00:13:33,280

Yes.

169

00:13:33,280 --> 00:13:34,280

Come on, Anna.

170

00:13:34,280 --> 00:13:35,280

I know it sounds crazy.

171

00:13:35,280 --> 00:13:37,280

We went through it again.

172

00:13:37,280 --> 00:13:38,280

And again.

173

00:13:38,280 --> 00:13:39,280

And then again.

174

00:13:39,280 --> 00:13:47,280

Finally, about 10 o'clock, I start to realize something isn't right here.

175

00:13:47,280 --> 00:13:49,280

Look, I know it sounds crazy.

176

00:13:49,280 --> 00:13:50,280

Come on, Anna.

177

00:13:50,280 --> 00:13:54,280

I had this experience and I felt compelled to go up there.

178

00:13:54,280 --> 00:13:57,280

You felt compelled, but you took your children with you?

179

00:13:57,280 --> 00:13:58,280

Yes.

180

00:13:58,280 --> 00:14:00,280

That doesn't make sense, Anna.

181

00:14:00,280 --> 00:14:03,280

I was not thinking straight.

182

00:14:03,280 --> 00:14:06,280

Anna, I don't think this is washing. I don't believe you.

183

00:14:06,280 --> 00:14:11,280

Detective Ryan was now working on another case. He was told that Etta had been taken into custody.

184

00:14:11,280 --> 00:14:19,280

I was infuriated. I wanted to know why. I asked why. And I was told that the detectives now that are handling the case...

185

00:14:19,280 --> 00:14:23,280

...believe that she's more involved than what she told you.

186

00:14:23,280 --> 00:14:25,280

Have you ever known Melanie Reve?

187

00:14:25,280 --> 00:14:27,280

No, of course not.

188

00:14:27,280 --> 00:14:31,280

Look, Etta. We're going to be straight with you.

189

00:14:31,280 --> 00:14:33,280

We haven't got any other leads in this case.

190

00:14:33,280 --> 00:14:36,280

And along comes a woman who says she knows where the body is.

191

00:14:36,280 --> 00:14:38,280

But I came to see you.

192

00:14:38,280 --> 00:14:40,280

You could be setting yourself up with an alibi.

193

00:14:40,280 --> 00:14:42,280

What more can I do or say to convince you guys?

194

00:14:42,280 --> 00:14:45,280

Look, I got to get to my kids.

195

00:14:45,280 --> 00:14:47,280

But give me a lie detector test.

196

00:14:47,280 --> 00:14:50,280

I said, if you're having a problem believing me...

197

00:14:50,280 --> 00:14:52,280

You'll know I'm telling the truth.

198

00:14:52,280 --> 00:14:56,280

Then let me volunteer for a lie detector or a polygraph.

199

00:14:56,280 --> 00:15:02,280

Once I do that, you'll know I'm telling the truth. You'll be happy. I'll be happy.

200

00:15:02,280 --> 00:15:05,280

I said, okay.

201

00:15:05,280 --> 00:15:12,280

I'm not at all happy about this. I'm just not sure about it. It's late. She's not in a fit state to take the test.

202

00:15:12,280 --> 00:15:14,280

I think we should just leave it till the morning.

203

00:15:14,280 --> 00:15:18,280

Please, let's just get this thing over with. I can get out of here.

204

00:15:18,280 --> 00:15:20,280

Let's do it.

205

00:15:20,280 --> 00:15:22,280

Have your heart, please.

206

00:15:22,280 --> 00:15:30,280

By offering to take a polygraph test, Etta thought at last she'd found the perfect way to convince the detectives she was telling the truth.

207

00:15:30,280 --> 00:15:33,280

Are you taking this polygraph of your own free will?

208

00:15:33,280 --> 00:15:35,280

Yes.

209

00:15:35,280 --> 00:15:37,280

Is your name Etta Louise Smith?

210

00:15:37,280 --> 00:15:39,280

Yes.

211

00:15:39,280 --> 00:15:41,280

Are you 32 years of age?

212

00:15:41,280 --> 00:15:43,280

Yes.

213

00:15:43,280 --> 00:15:46,280

Do you work at the Lockheed Aircraft Plant, Burbank?

214

00:15:46,280 --> 00:15:47,280

Yes.

215

00:15:47,280 --> 00:15:50,280

Do you know or have you ever known Melanie Uribe?

216

00:15:50,280 --> 00:15:52,280

No.

217

00:15:52,280 --> 00:15:57,280

He did it once? Then he asked me if we could do it again.

218

00:15:57,280 --> 00:15:59,280

Sure. So he went through it again.

219

00:15:59,280 --> 00:16:01,280

Are you 32 years of age?

220

00:16:01,280 --> 00:16:02,280

Yes.

221

00:16:02,280 --> 00:16:06,280

All in all, we were probably there hour and a half, two hours.

222

00:16:06,280 --> 00:16:10,280

Is that it?

223

00:16:10,280 --> 00:16:14,280

All finished. Thank you for your time.

224

00:16:14,280 --> 00:16:20,280

Maybe a few minutes before I can let you have the results.

225

00:16:20,280 --> 00:16:28,280

It was now three in the morning. Etta had been in custody for nine hours.

226

00:16:28,280 --> 00:16:36,280

Okay, Etta. We have the results.

227

00:16:36,280 --> 00:16:41,280

According to this polygraph, you were lying to us about your so-called visions.

228

00:16:41,280 --> 00:16:45,280

And you were also lying to us when you said you didn't know Melanie Uribe.

229

00:16:45,280 --> 00:16:49,280

Oh, my God. No, I don't believe it.

230

00:16:49,280 --> 00:16:53,280

This is what I'm saying. Inside. Oh, no. There's a mistake.

231

00:16:53,280 --> 00:16:58,280

Outside, it's like, what? But my mind is spinning.

232

00:16:58,280 --> 00:17:01,280

How can you fail a polygraph when you're telling the truth?

233

00:17:01,280 --> 00:17:05,280

Is there anything else you want to tell us about this case now?

234

00:17:05,280 --> 00:17:08,280

It looks like you were heading straight for a charge of murder.

235

00:17:08,280 --> 00:17:09,280

What?

236

00:17:09,280 --> 00:17:12,280

You're under arrest, Etta.

237

00:17:12,280 --> 00:17:14,280

My mind is spinning.

238

00:17:14,280 --> 00:17:19,280

I said, I've been honest, I've been cooperative, and you're going to book me for murder?

239

00:17:19,280 --> 00:17:23,280

I said, you know what? Fine.

240

00:17:23,280 --> 00:17:34,280

When the wheels of justice turn, you're going to find out you've made a very serious mistake.

241

00:17:34,280 --> 00:17:37,280

I wanted to cry. I wanted to scream. I wanted to say no.

242

00:17:37,280 --> 00:17:39,280

But I knew that's what they were trying to do to me.

243

00:17:39,280 --> 00:17:42,280

And something inside said no.

244

00:17:42,280 --> 00:17:45,280

I won't let them do that to me. Fine. Take me to jail.

245

00:17:45,280 --> 00:17:47,280

But I was scared.

246

00:17:53,280 --> 00:17:56,280

I'm stripped, searched. I have to take off all my clothes.

247

00:17:56,280 --> 00:17:59,280

They hose me down with something.

248

00:17:59,280 --> 00:18:05,280

I mean, I'm totally violated by the system that I thought was there to protect me.

249

00:18:05,280 --> 00:18:12,280

I'm very upset. I had promised her she would not be taken to custody because she was a friendly witness.

250

00:18:12,280 --> 00:18:17,280

She wasn't seeking any form of monetary or personal gain.

251

00:18:17,280 --> 00:18:27,280

And that I felt that it had broken all the moral rules and standards that the Los Angeles Police Department and its detectives were expected to uphold to the community and the citizens.

252

00:18:27,280 --> 00:18:31,280

And I'll need an attorney to be. And could you call Ann about the kids?

253

00:18:31,280 --> 00:18:33,280

Yeah, they better have a note for school.

254

00:18:33,280 --> 00:18:35,280

And there's some burgers in the freezer if you could put them down.

255

00:18:35,280 --> 00:18:39,280

With Ethel under arrest, the hunt for the real killers had come to a standstill.

256

00:18:39,280 --> 00:18:41,280

Did your ring work for me tomorrow?

257

00:18:41,280 --> 00:18:45,280

The pursuit of her premonition had plunged her into a nightmare.

258

00:18:45,280 --> 00:18:46,280

That's tea and Andy.

259

00:18:46,280 --> 00:18:51,280

We didn't understand why she was not coming home.

260

00:18:51,280 --> 00:18:52,280

Tell my love.

261

00:18:52,280 --> 00:18:53,280

We were devastated.

262

00:18:53,280 --> 00:18:55,280

Okay. Bye-bye.

263

00:18:55,280 --> 00:19:02,280

She's our mother. She didn't do anything. She's not supposed to be there. She's supposed to be here with us.

264

00:19:02,280 --> 00:19:08,280

I'm just, I'm dumbfounded. But I won't cry. I won't give in.

265

00:19:08,280 --> 00:19:16,280

And I tried to figure out how in the world I end up there trying to help somebody.

266

00:19:26,280 --> 00:19:27,280

You're fritchable.

267

00:19:27,280 --> 00:19:28,280

What?

268

00:19:30,280 --> 00:19:31,280

Really?

269

00:19:31,280 --> 00:19:33,280

Etta was suddenly free.

270

00:19:34,280 --> 00:19:39,280

At a party, three men had been overheard boasting of having killed Melanie Uribe.

271

00:19:41,280 --> 00:19:44,280

The police had no further interest in Etta Smith.

272

00:19:46,280 --> 00:19:51,280

For some reason, something way deep down inside of me came up in a voice.

273

00:19:51,280 --> 00:19:54,280

And it says, I don't have to be strong anymore.

274

00:19:54,280 --> 00:19:57,280

That's all I could say. It was the weirdest thing.

275

00:19:57,280 --> 00:20:00,280

And I was crying. I don't have to be strong anymore.

276

00:20:00,280 --> 00:20:03,280

I could not make it 10 feet. I collapsed.

277

00:20:06,280 --> 00:20:12,280

After being held as a murder suspect for nearly four days, Etta was reunited with her family.

278

00:20:15,280 --> 00:20:16,280

Andy, tea!

279

00:20:16,280 --> 00:20:17,280

Mom!

280

00:20:18,280 --> 00:20:19,280

How are you?

281

00:20:19,280 --> 00:20:20,280

How are you?

282

00:20:20,280 --> 00:20:21,280

Are you okay?

283

00:20:21,280 --> 00:20:22,280

Are you okay, Mom?

284

00:20:22,280 --> 00:20:23,280

Are you okay, Mom?

285

00:20:23,280 --> 00:20:24,280

I missed you.

286

00:20:24,280 --> 00:20:25,280

Yes.

287

00:20:25,280 --> 00:20:26,280

I missed you so much.

288

00:20:26,280 --> 00:20:27,280

You did.

289

00:20:27,280 --> 00:20:29,280

When she finally did come home, we were relieved.

290

00:20:29,280 --> 00:20:30,280

We were happy.

291

00:20:30,280 --> 00:20:34,280

We were just filled with joy.

292

00:20:34,280 --> 00:20:37,280

And it was just the best thing ever to have our mom back.

293

00:20:40,280 --> 00:20:42,280

But Etta's relief was short-lived.

294

00:20:42,280 --> 00:20:45,280

The trauma of her imprisonment had left its scars.

295

00:20:46,280 --> 00:20:48,280

I couldn't get back to normal.

296

00:20:48,280 --> 00:20:50,280

Nothing was the same.

297

00:20:50,280 --> 00:20:52,280

Nothing was the same.

298

00:20:52,280 --> 00:20:54,280

I wasn't the same person.

299

00:20:54,280 --> 00:20:56,280

Home didn't feel the same.

300

00:20:58,280 --> 00:21:00,280

I couldn't seem to adjust.

301

00:21:03,280 --> 00:21:05,280

Etta was haunted by her experience.

302

00:21:05,280 --> 00:21:09,280

In a battle to clear her name and exercise her ordeal,

303

00:21:09,280 --> 00:21:13,280

she decided to sue the Los Angeles Police Department for wrongful arrest.

304

00:21:13,280 --> 00:21:17,280

Detective Ryan gave evidence on her behalf.

305

00:21:18,280 --> 00:21:21,280

I felt it was a terrible injustice.

306

00:21:21,280 --> 00:21:23,280

She'd put her job on the line.

307

00:21:23,280 --> 00:21:26,280

She'd put her standing on the line in the community.

308

00:21:26,280 --> 00:21:32,280

And it was just a real embarrassing situation from the Los Angeles Police Department.

309

00:21:34,280 --> 00:21:37,280

After seven days of testimony, the judge ruled in Etta's favor,

310

00:21:37,280 --> 00:21:40,280

and she was awarded \$26,000 in damages.

311

00:21:40,280 --> 00:21:43,280

Her story had been vindicated.

312

00:21:43,280 --> 00:21:46,280

This case was very unusual and astonishing.

313

00:21:46,280 --> 00:21:50,280

I didn't hold very much credibility for persons who claim

314

00:21:50,280 --> 00:21:54,280

they can see into the future and predict the unknown.

315

00:21:54,280 --> 00:21:57,280

And I wouldn't say that I'd bet there would be one in a thousand

316

00:21:57,280 --> 00:22:00,280

that I thought could do it, much less maybe one in a million.

317

00:22:03,280 --> 00:22:06,280

I was a disbeliever until I talked with Edda Smith.

318

00:22:09,280 --> 00:22:11,280

Etta's case is unprecedented.

319

00:22:11,280 --> 00:22:16,280

She sued the police because they doubted her psychic abilities, and she won.

320

00:22:16,280 --> 00:22:19,280

And the trial cleared up one mystery for Etta.

321

00:22:19,280 --> 00:22:22,280

She didn't fail the lie detector test the night she was arrested.

322

00:22:22,280 --> 00:22:24,280

The results had been inconclusive,

323

00:22:24,280 --> 00:22:27,280

but the detectives couldn't believe she was telling the truth.

324

00:22:27,280 --> 00:22:30,280

So they decided to tell her she'd failed.

325

00:22:30,280 --> 00:22:32,280

Good night.