

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:22,260

My mom was the most cautious, overprotective person in the world.

2

00:00:22,260 --> 00:00:27,860

For them to say that she left the church to walk across the street in 12 degree weather,

3

00:00:27,860 --> 00:00:33,820

dark of night, where it was icy and snowy, into a foot of freezing cold water to take

4

00:00:33,820 --> 00:00:40,580

her own life, it just doesn't make sense.

5

00:00:40,580 --> 00:00:43,980

Who did your mom fear?

6

00:00:43,980 --> 00:00:47,500

That's a sensitive subject at this time.

7

00:00:47,500 --> 00:00:50,180

People within the family, people close to the family?

8

00:00:50,180 --> 00:00:52,180

I can't say that right now.

9

00:01:27,860 --> 00:01:41,820

Can you just say your full name for the record?

10

00:01:41,820 --> 00:01:47,020

Daniel Jensen, J-E-M-S-E-N.

11

00:01:47,020 --> 00:01:48,020

Where was her car found?

12

00:01:48,020 --> 00:01:53,180

It was on a one-way exit drive adjacent to the church, approximately 100 feet from the

13

00:01:53,180 --> 00:01:54,180

lakeside.

14

00:01:54,940 --> 00:01:58,220

It was the only car on that exit drive.

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00:01:58,220 --> 00:02:00,860

It was almost 10 o'clock at night.

16

00:02:00,860 --> 00:02:06,260

The church appeared dark and there was really no good reason for it to be there.

17

00:02:06,260 --> 00:02:09,980

The officer approached the parked vehicle, illuminated same.

18

00:02:09,980 --> 00:02:18,100

We saw the purse in the car, checked down to the water, and saw the footprints.

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00:02:18,100 --> 00:02:22,900

There was the two prints in the snow from apparently where someone sat down with hand

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00:02:22,900 --> 00:02:24,300

prints alongside of it.

21

00:02:24,300 --> 00:02:29,500

It slid to the second level, another butt print hand prints.

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00:02:29,500 --> 00:02:34,380

The minute the footprints and the butt prints were seen, it was confirmed immediately by

23

00:02:34,380 --> 00:02:36,220

all three officers on the scene.

24

00:02:36,220 --> 00:02:40,900

They sincerely believed there was a person in the water.

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00:02:40,900 --> 00:02:46,620

It went to immediate request for help for a search and rescue operation.

26

00:02:46,620 --> 00:02:51,220

We have a possibility, a good chance that we may be able to save a life.

27

00:02:55,220 --> 00:03:01,180

That night, my mom had a 7 p.m. prayer service that she would attend and at this point it's

28

00:03:01,180 --> 00:03:02,180

9.20.

29

00:03:02,180 --> 00:03:07,940

And my brother's upstairs sleeping and I'm getting, you know, just put my pajamas on.

30

00:03:07,940 --> 00:03:10,220

And I see a car come around the corner.

31

00:03:10,220 --> 00:03:17,140

I was like, oh, there's mom.

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00:03:17,140 --> 00:03:21,180

And I looked out and it was a police officer.

33

00:03:21,180 --> 00:03:24,340

And I said, can I help you?

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00:03:24,340 --> 00:03:29,340

And he said, yes, we found your mother's car abandoned in the church parking lot.

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00:03:29,340 --> 00:03:32,620

Is she missing?

36

00:03:32,620 --> 00:03:37,140

We start calling her phone like that second and her phone's going right to voicemail.

37

00:03:37,140 --> 00:03:40,420

So her phone's off.

38

00:03:40,420 --> 00:03:46,660

I was 29, my sister Kelly was 27 and my brother Michael was 20.

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00:03:46,660 --> 00:03:51,340

My mom and my dad were separated and they didn't really get along that well.

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00:03:51,340 --> 00:03:55,180

Me and my siblings, we all lived together with my mom.

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00:03:55,180 --> 00:04:00,300

And so that night we started calling family friends and, you know, anybody that she could

42

00:04:00,300 --> 00:04:01,820

have gone to get coffee with.

43

00:04:01,820 --> 00:04:04,460

No, everyone's like, no, we didn't hear from her.

44

00:04:04,460 --> 00:04:07,180

We're not with her.

45

00:04:07,180 --> 00:04:11,940

My niece Michelle called me and said, get over here right away.

46

00:04:11,940 --> 00:04:14,100

And she was totally freaked out.

47

00:04:14,100 --> 00:04:20,580

She said, two gross point woods police officers came to the house and said, my mom's missing.

48

00:04:20,580 --> 00:04:25,740

And I was like, what?

49

00:04:25,740 --> 00:04:29,380

She said, OK, let's get over to St. Paul's church because apparently that's where her

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00:04:29,380 --> 00:04:30,380

car is.

51

00:04:30,380 --> 00:04:36,820

My mom was 55.

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00:04:36,820 --> 00:04:39,100

She was full of life.

53

00:04:39,100 --> 00:04:46,860

The best mom, just the warmest heart.

54

00:04:46,860 --> 00:04:51,660

And we were just really a close knit family.

55

00:04:51,660 --> 00:04:53,580

My mom was a great lady.

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00:04:53,580 --> 00:04:54,580

Everyone's best friend.

57

00:04:54,580 --> 00:04:58,500

Like happy, fun to be around.

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00:04:58,500 --> 00:05:00,580

Our house was the house to be at when we were growing up.

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00:05:00,580 --> 00:05:02,460

All the friends were over.

60

00:05:02,460 --> 00:05:06,220

It made her happy to see us with her friends.

61

00:05:06,220 --> 00:05:08,940

She was an angel.

62

00:05:08,940 --> 00:05:13,420

Just a great soul, you know, out to help everybody.

63

00:05:13,420 --> 00:05:21,300

She was my favorite sister and the closest person to me.

64

00:05:21,300 --> 00:05:28,100

She was pretty much everything I made.

65

00:05:28,100 --> 00:05:33,140

When we pull up at the church, we see crime scene tape around the car.

66

00:05:33,140 --> 00:05:35,300

And there's always a place everywhere.

67

00:05:35,300 --> 00:05:45,620

We're like, what is happening right now?

68

00:05:45,620 --> 00:05:51,860

My mom's car was parked in the driveway of St. Paul Catholic Church.

69

00:05:51,860 --> 00:05:53,380

The car is locked.

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00:05:53,380 --> 00:05:57,420

The keys were nowhere to be found at that time.

71

00:05:57,420 --> 00:05:59,380

Her cell phone was missing.

72

00:05:59,380 --> 00:06:01,380

Her purse is on the front seat.

73

00:06:01,380 --> 00:06:03,500

She's never left her purse behind.

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00:06:03,500 --> 00:06:13,940

So when I saw the purse in the car, I was extremely nervous at that point.

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00:06:13,940 --> 00:06:18,540

We're all running around the ground of the church, you know, when we are just searching

76

00:06:18,540 --> 00:06:24,700

through every spot you could possibly get into inside the building, outside the building.

77

00:06:24,700 --> 00:06:30,540

So the fact that we're now approaching three hours at night and no one's heard from her,

78

00:06:30,540 --> 00:06:31,820

something's wrong.

79

00:06:31,820 --> 00:06:33,300

It was a shit show.

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00:06:33,300 --> 00:06:38,340

It seemed like the whole Coast Guard, whatever it was, a helicopter and divers and all kinds

81

00:06:38,340 --> 00:06:39,460

of Coast Guard equipment.

82

00:06:39,460 --> 00:06:42,620

They had the Grosspoint Farms cops there.

83

00:06:42,620 --> 00:06:46,540

We start just asking, what's going on?

84

00:06:46,540 --> 00:06:52,260

They're like, oh, we think your mom walked into the water.

85

00:06:52,260 --> 00:06:56,780

There's no way she's in the water.

86

00:06:56,780 --> 00:06:57,780

It was freezing.

87

00:06:57,780 --> 00:07:03,500

I just remember it being just so cold and you're just shivering.

88

00:07:03,500 --> 00:07:06,740

The water was partially frozen.

89

00:07:06,740 --> 00:07:08,620

It was one to two feet deep.

90

00:07:08,620 --> 00:07:13,020

You could see the rocks.

91

00:07:13,020 --> 00:07:16,980

They basically said we think that your mom walked from the car to the water and committed

92

00:07:16,980 --> 00:07:18,980

suicide.

93

00:07:18,980 --> 00:07:23,740

There were no signs of a struggle either around the car or in the car.

94

00:07:23,740 --> 00:07:32,420

There were no signs of any, for example, torn clothing, items on the ground, purse dumped,

95

00:07:32,420 --> 00:07:40,980

car ransacked, scuff marks or drag marks around the scene, blood, bullet casings, any type

96

00:07:40,980 --> 00:07:43,500

of evidence that would lead one to believe that a crime occurred.

97

00:07:49,980 --> 00:07:52,420

It was 4 AM.

98

00:07:52,420 --> 00:07:53,740

Nobody had heard from her.

99

00:07:53,740 --> 00:08:02,260

They called off the helicopters and they towed the Lexus to the police station.

100

00:08:02,260 --> 00:08:05,620

We just had no idea where she could be.

101

00:08:05,620 --> 00:08:06,620

She had vanished.

102

00:08:06,620 --> 00:08:11,620

We did the fingerprinting of the car.

103

00:08:11,620 --> 00:08:12,620

I did.

104

00:08:12,620 --> 00:08:13,620

And what were the results?

105

00:08:13,620 --> 00:08:14,620

There were no clear fingerprints.

106

00:08:14,620 --> 00:08:15,620

How's the blood just?

107

00:08:15,620 --> 00:08:16,620

None of the purse.

108

00:08:16,620 --> 00:08:17,620

None of anything inside the car.

109

00:08:17,620 --> 00:08:18,620

We didn't fingerprint the purse.

110

00:08:18,620 --> 00:08:19,620

How about the door handles?

111

00:08:19,620 --> 00:08:20,620

Inside or outside?

112

00:08:20,620 --> 00:08:21,620

No fingerprints from?

113

00:08:21,620 --> 00:08:22,620

No usable prints.

114

00:08:22,620 --> 00:08:23,620

Joanne Matuke Romain disappeared.

115

00:08:23,620 --> 00:08:38,740

The 55-year-old woman from Gros Point Woods was last seen in her church.

116

00:08:38,740 --> 00:08:44,140

Suicide speculated but nobody was found and there's little current if she went in here.

117

00:08:44,140 --> 00:08:48,820

She could have been here.

118

00:08:48,820 --> 00:08:56,260

My mom worked part-time at a boutique in Gros Point.

119

00:08:56,260 --> 00:09:01,020

Gros Point is the suburb bordering Detroit.

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00:09:01,020 --> 00:09:06,860

It is a very rich community, a very tight community.

121

00:09:06,860 --> 00:09:09,380

Everybody knows everybody's business.

122

00:09:09,380 --> 00:09:13,700

If you were born there, you're basically raised there and you stay there.

123

00:09:13,700 --> 00:09:17,260

Everybody ever truly leaves Gros Point.

124

00:09:17,260 --> 00:09:21,980

My mom definitely loved it.

125

00:09:21,980 --> 00:09:27,660

Her social life on a weekly basis was just having lunch with girlfriends, inviting people

126

00:09:27,660 --> 00:09:32,780

over to the house for dinner, having our friends over, having family over.

127

00:09:32,780 --> 00:09:39,380

It was just a very active, loving lifestyle.

128

00:09:39,380 --> 00:09:43,260

My mom had a lot of friends.

129

00:09:43,260 --> 00:09:49,100

So for my mom to disappear, it was the end of the world for a lot of people.

130

00:09:49,100 --> 00:09:51,300

We were putting flyers together.

131

00:09:51,300 --> 00:09:53,740

We had a mass search.

132

00:09:53,740 --> 00:09:58,260

People were looking in woods and dumpsters.

133

00:09:58,260 --> 00:10:07,820

Anywhere that she could possibly be, we just had no idea where she could be.

134

00:10:07,820 --> 00:10:12,580

There was an extensive three-day search in the area that the police had alleged my mom

135

00:10:12,580 --> 00:10:15,420

had entered the water.

136

00:10:15,420 --> 00:10:17,500

There's no current.

137

00:10:17,500 --> 00:10:20,060

It's clear.

138

00:10:20,060 --> 00:10:23,100

It's a foot or two feet deep.

139

00:10:23,100 --> 00:10:27,860

And the night she disappeared, she was wearing a black blouse, black pants, black high-heeled

140

00:10:27,860 --> 00:10:30,380

shoes, a black coat.

141

00:10:30,380 --> 00:10:37,020

You would be able to clearly see her if she was here.

142

00:10:37,020 --> 00:10:42,420

The hippie diving team searched for three more days to officially say she's not in

143

00:10:42,420 --> 00:10:45,420

here.

144

00:10:45,420 --> 00:10:49,580

The search that we had done for Mrs. Romaine was the most thorough search that I've ever

145

00:10:49,580 --> 00:10:53,620

done or my team has ever done.

146

00:10:53,620 --> 00:11:01,420

We found a lot of cold water, a lot of ice, and unfortunately not Mrs. Romaine.

147

00:11:01,420 --> 00:11:05,580

I just don't think that she was in that location.

148

00:11:05,580 --> 00:11:09,900

There was nothing found indicating that a person stepped onto broken ice and or entered

149

00:11:09,900 --> 00:11:10,900

the water, right?

150

00:11:10,900 --> 00:11:11,900

Correct.

151

00:11:11,900 --> 00:11:14,740

So there was no evidence that she actually went in the water, right?

152

00:11:14,740 --> 00:11:16,940

Correct.

153

00:11:16,940 --> 00:11:22,100

She would have had to cross the initial two-lane traffic, gone to the median, cross the other

154

00:11:22,100 --> 00:11:27,180

two-lane traffic, and then gone over to the embankment where the water would have been,

155

00:11:27,180 --> 00:11:33,660

which was very steep and icy and would make no sense for anybody to be over there at that

156

00:11:33,660 --> 00:11:36,700

time of night and that temperature.

157

00:11:36,700 --> 00:11:39,660

It was snowy on the ground.

158

00:11:39,660 --> 00:11:44,940

She's not going anywhere near water that she could possibly slip and fall into.

159

00:11:44,940 --> 00:11:45,940

That's not her.

160

00:11:45,940 --> 00:11:47,700

Not my mom.

161

00:11:47,700 --> 00:11:51,460

Not this little lady who was cautious for everything.

162

00:11:51,460 --> 00:11:52,460

Something's wrong.

163

00:11:52,460 --> 00:11:53,460

Someone took her.

164

00:11:53,460 --> 00:11:54,460

She's somewhere.

165

00:11:54,460 --> 00:12:01,260

And we're going to find her.

166

00:12:01,260 --> 00:12:03,620

I can't believe this isn't my life right now.

167

00:12:03,620 --> 00:12:07,980

We're talking about a lady that went to church and cooked.

168

00:12:07,980 --> 00:12:08,980

That's all she did.

169

00:12:08,980 --> 00:12:12,140

Police believe the gross point of Wood's mother committed suicide.

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00:12:12,140 --> 00:12:15,980

Her family does not.

171

00:12:15,980 --> 00:12:23,340

Joanne is probably the one person that I know that would never commit suicide.

172

00:12:23,340 --> 00:12:25,500

She had such great faith.

173

00:12:25,500 --> 00:12:30,300

There's no way that she was going to end her life and walk away from her kids.

174

00:12:30,300 --> 00:12:34,260

Never happen.

175

00:12:34,260 --> 00:12:36,260

There was no suicide note.

176

00:12:36,260 --> 00:12:39,860

She was never on any medications.

177

00:12:39,860 --> 00:12:41,780

My mom always was.

178

00:12:41,780 --> 00:12:45,380

And as she got older, it became more of it about Catholic going to church more than just

179

00:12:45,380 --> 00:12:48,620

on Sundays, you know, going during the week.

180

00:12:48,620 --> 00:12:55,300

If you're worried about Catholic suicide is against all beliefs.

181

00:12:55,300 --> 00:13:02,180

Joanne and I were friends since the fourth grade at St. Joan of Arc Elementary School.

182

00:13:02,180 --> 00:13:05,540

I talked to her three days before she disappeared.

183

00:13:05,540 --> 00:13:07,100

She was upbeat.

184

00:13:07,100 --> 00:13:13,420

She and I had a good laugh about something that had occurred in my life.

185

00:13:13,420 --> 00:13:18,020

And I remember at the end, we both kind of shared, I love you.

186

00:13:18,020 --> 00:13:20,820

See you soon.

187

00:13:20,820 --> 00:13:28,620

Joanne never displayed to me any signs of depression.

188

00:13:28,620 --> 00:13:31,740

She would never leave her children.

189

00:13:31,740 --> 00:13:33,500

They were her life.

190

00:13:33,500 --> 00:13:37,100

They were her everything.

191

00:13:37,100 --> 00:13:41,700

The police's theory was she committed suicide close case.

192

00:13:41,700 --> 00:13:45,820

I believe it was foul play because she would never just disappear.

193

00:13:51,820 --> 00:13:58,220

January 12, 2010, family's nightmare began right here at St. Paul Catholic Church in

194

00:13:58,220 --> 00:14:00,860

Grose Point, Michigan.

195

00:14:00,860 --> 00:14:06,740

I hired Salva Australia to come out as an expert crime scene investigator and also as

196

00:14:06,740 --> 00:14:09,380

a water expert to help solve this case.

197

00:14:09,380 --> 00:14:14,420

Her car was found in the parking lot there behind these cars that you see in our view.

198

00:14:14,420 --> 00:14:17,060

A couple cars back.

199

00:14:17,060 --> 00:14:22,940

Mr. Claim she jumped in the water or got into the water somehow and committed suicide.

200

00:14:22,940 --> 00:14:29,140

I have traveled literally all over the country and looked at cases like this.

201

00:14:29,140 --> 00:14:34,140

And something I've seen over my career, even in law enforcement, was officers that get

202

00:14:34,140 --> 00:14:38,460

on a scene and right away they think it's a suicide.

203

00:14:38,460 --> 00:14:42,940

Everything after that is geared towards proving the theory of a suicide.

204

00:14:42,940 --> 00:14:48,580

And when I started looking at the photographs that they took of these apparent footprints,

205

00:14:48,580 --> 00:14:51,380

all you see is basically something walk through.

206

00:14:51,380 --> 00:14:56,140

And it could have been anybody or anything based on those photographs.

207

00:14:56,140 --> 00:15:01,820

The one thing they didn't do, which is elementary in footwear impression work, is to take 90

208

00:15:01,820 --> 00:15:02,820

degree photographs.

209

00:15:02,820 --> 00:15:07,340

In other words, you know, you set a camera up on a tripod and shoot a picture straight

210

00:15:07,340 --> 00:15:14,900

down on top with the scale on it so you can enlarge that image to actual size and then

211

00:15:14,900 --> 00:15:20,660

compare it and any law enforcement officer that's been trained should have ever omitted

212

00:15:20,660 --> 00:15:22,260

those kind of photographs.

213

00:15:22,260 --> 00:15:25,220

That's one of the things that was crucial in this case.

214

00:15:25,220 --> 00:15:27,860

It isn't a confirmed exact footprint.

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00:15:27,860 --> 00:15:31,660

There's a footprint and then another one with some sliding going on, but it was evident

216

00:15:31,660 --> 00:15:36,620

to Detective McCarthy that it appeared to be a small, high-heeled boot.

217

00:15:36,620 --> 00:15:41,460

Did any footprint experts review those photographs at all?

218

00:15:41,460 --> 00:15:44,540

Not that I'm aware of, sir.

219

00:15:44,540 --> 00:15:45,540

No.

220

00:15:45,540 --> 00:15:46,540

Okay.

221

00:15:46,540 --> 00:15:51,340

Mr. Romain was supposed to be wearing a pair of four-inch high heels.

222

00:15:51,340 --> 00:15:58,540

And she was alleged to have traversed this with high heels on in the snow, in the dark.

223

00:15:58,540 --> 00:16:04,300

I was kind of curious to see what it would be like for a woman wearing similar shoes

224

00:16:04,300 --> 00:16:05,300

to traverse this.

225

00:16:05,580 --> 00:16:06,580

It was dark.

226

00:16:06,580 --> 00:16:07,980

Okay, here we go.

227

00:16:07,980 --> 00:16:10,740

And it was full of snow and ice.

228

00:16:10,740 --> 00:16:15,300

And she was wearing shoes like you're wearing, which obviously is difficult for you and

229

00:16:15,300 --> 00:16:16,300

difficult for me.

230

00:16:16,300 --> 00:16:18,060

Please let that both go in.

231

00:16:18,060 --> 00:16:19,540

And this had ice on it.

232

00:16:19,540 --> 00:16:20,540

I don't know how anybody...

233

00:16:20,540 --> 00:16:21,540

It would have been snow and ice.

234

00:16:21,540 --> 00:16:23,220

Now we got this bad crevice here.

235

00:16:23,220 --> 00:16:24,740

So I'm going to stop here.

236

00:16:24,740 --> 00:16:25,740

Okay.

237

00:16:25,740 --> 00:16:29,620

If you want to come a little further, just watch your footing before you go to the next

238

00:16:29,620 --> 00:16:30,620

step.

239

00:16:30,620 --> 00:16:31,620

Let's see.

240

00:16:31,620 --> 00:16:32,620

You want to come one more?

241

00:16:32,620 --> 00:16:33,620

Yeah.

242

00:16:34,060 --> 00:16:35,260

Get you on level ground.

243

00:16:35,260 --> 00:16:36,260

This is old.

244

00:16:36,260 --> 00:16:37,260

Are you okay?

245

00:16:37,260 --> 00:16:38,260

Yeah.

246

00:16:38,260 --> 00:16:42,500

When I came here for the very first time and saw this slope, there's no way a woman could

247

00:16:42,500 --> 00:16:43,660

have done this in heels.

248

00:16:43,660 --> 00:16:47,020

And you just proved it without the snow and ice.

249

00:16:47,020 --> 00:16:53,780

Then they claim that she made her way across that next level and then down into the water.

250

00:16:53,780 --> 00:16:59,900

So that meant she would have had to drop five feet or more off that ledge down to the boulder

251

00:16:59,900 --> 00:17:03,260

strewn bottom.

252

00:17:03,260 --> 00:17:06,860

The chief of police here said, he knew it was a suicide in five minutes.

253

00:17:06,860 --> 00:17:11,740

He said, you must have a crystal ball because in my 30-some-odd years doing this, there's

254

00:17:11,740 --> 00:17:15,780

no way you can ascertain something is what it is in five minutes.

255

00:17:15,780 --> 00:17:16,820

It's not going to happen.

256

00:17:20,580 --> 00:17:25,660

You always have a glimpse of hope that they're still alive.

257

00:17:25,660 --> 00:17:32,740

But as the days turn into weeks, turn into months, you realize your odds are slim.

258

00:17:33,740 --> 00:17:40,660

It's just a very traumatic event to happen to have your mom disappear.

259

00:17:40,660 --> 00:17:45,340

And for my brother and sister, it's been extremely difficult.

260

00:17:45,340 --> 00:17:48,780

My brother, Michael, emotionally is a wreck.

261

00:17:48,780 --> 00:17:49,780

He still is.

262

00:17:49,780 --> 00:17:54,740

And it was very hard for him to talk about any of this.

263

00:17:54,740 --> 00:18:01,020

I'm the oldest, so I knew I was going to have to take this into my own hands.

264

00:18:01,020 --> 00:18:03,580

And I need to find the witnesses that saw something.

265

00:18:03,580 --> 00:18:10,740

I need to go back to that night, and I need to re-walk the steps of what occurred and

266

00:18:10,740 --> 00:18:14,860

what they're saying happened versus what could have possibly happened.

267

00:18:17,380 --> 00:18:21,380

The day she disappeared, my mom dropped my brother off at home and told him, I'm going

268

00:18:21,380 --> 00:18:23,980

to go fill up gas for the next morning.

269

00:18:23,980 --> 00:18:25,300

I'll be right back.

270

00:18:31,820 --> 00:18:39,980

Joanne was a really good friend of ours and a good customer for a very long time.

271

00:18:39,980 --> 00:18:45,660

So the night that Joanne came in here, actually she was just like normal, very happy, cheerful.

272

00:18:45,660 --> 00:18:50,100

I went out there, pumped her gas for her, nothing out of the ordinary.

273

00:18:50,100 --> 00:18:53,980

We just had our normal conversations, how's the day going, how's the family, you know,

274

00:18:53,980 --> 00:18:56,580

talking about her daughters and so on and so forth.

275

00:18:56,580 --> 00:18:58,500

And then she was on her way and that was it.

276

00:19:01,020 --> 00:19:08,780

There was a prayer service at 7 p.m.

277

00:19:08,780 --> 00:19:12,820

It was about 15 to 20 minute prayer service.

278

00:19:12,820 --> 00:19:19,820

From what we know, after she went to get gas, she decided to go to the church.

279

00:19:19,820 --> 00:19:29,220

So it was a very routine thing for her to do, and if she could make it to it, she would.

280

00:19:29,220 --> 00:19:34,500

There was only about 10 or 15 people in the entire prayer service, so it was a very small

281

00:19:34,500 --> 00:19:35,500

thing.

282

00:19:35,500 --> 00:19:40,980

There is a witness that identified my mom in the church.

283

00:19:40,980 --> 00:19:44,100

They were sitting in the front of the church by the altar and my mom was sitting in the

284

00:19:44,100 --> 00:19:45,980

back of the church.

285

00:19:45,980 --> 00:19:51,140

So when they had turned around, they saw her in the aisle and she departed at 7 p.m.

286

00:19:51,140 --> 00:19:53,420

when the service ended.

287

00:19:59,220 --> 00:20:14,140

Within the month of my mom disappearing, I hired, retired FBI agent Bill Randall to

288

00:20:14,140 --> 00:20:17,940

help solve this case.

289

00:20:17,940 --> 00:20:22,900

Originally when Michelle and Kelly met with me and told me what had occurred, I said the

290

00:20:22,900 --> 00:20:29,420

first thing we needed to do was to get a copy of my mother's cell phone records.

291

00:20:29,420 --> 00:20:31,540

There was one number in particular.

292

00:20:31,540 --> 00:20:34,860

We called the number and found out it was a security company.

293

00:20:34,860 --> 00:20:40,660

We, prior to her disappearance, Joanne had left a voicemail and she was attempting to

294

00:20:40,660 --> 00:20:41,900

contact an investigator.

295

00:20:41,900 --> 00:20:50,340

I think she believed she was being followed by person or persons unknown and she was concerned.

296

00:20:50,340 --> 00:20:57,780

In the weeks leading up to my mom's disappearance, she did seem more nervous, more cautious.

297

00:20:57,780 --> 00:21:05,540

And I personally wasn't paying as much attention as I probably should have until she disappeared.

298

00:21:05,540 --> 00:21:10,020

She was acting very troubled, not herself, very scared.

299

00:21:10,020 --> 00:21:15,420

She wouldn't tell me what she was concerned about and she always told me everything.

300

00:21:15,420 --> 00:21:19,380

Almost like if she told me she would put her kids or myself in jeopardy.

301

00:21:19,380 --> 00:21:22,100

So I was like, what's going on?

302

00:21:22,100 --> 00:21:25,100

Like something's not right.

303

00:21:25,100 --> 00:21:26,500

I contacted a number of people.

304

00:21:26,500 --> 00:21:32,740

I contacted a woman that owns a clothing store where Joanne worked and I also talked to one

305

00:21:32,740 --> 00:21:35,500

of her co-workers.

306

00:21:35,500 --> 00:21:40,940

One of the persons that I talked to indicated to me that starting around January the 7th

307

00:21:40,940 --> 00:21:47,700

to January 8th of 2010 that Joanne was receiving more calls than usual and that she would always

308

00:21:47,700 --> 00:21:52,500

walk away to talk to whoever the party was that she was on the phone with and that was

309

00:21:52,500 --> 00:21:57,740

very uncommon for her to do so.

310

00:21:57,740 --> 00:22:02,980

There was an instance where she felt that her mail was being interdicted from the post office

311

00:22:02,980 --> 00:22:07,140

and that there was someone, someone had followed her to the post office.

312

00:22:07,140 --> 00:22:12,860

She also indicated that she felt that her phone was being tapped.

313

00:22:12,860 --> 00:22:27,500

She didn't like going many places alone and the only place she truly felt safe was church.

314

00:22:27,500 --> 00:22:29,620

I've spoke with a number of witnesses from the church.

315

00:22:29,620 --> 00:22:35,260

They indicated that they did see Joanne at the service the night she disappeared.

316

00:22:35,260 --> 00:22:40,340

After leaving the services approximately 7.15 to 7.20 pm one of the witnesses indicated

317

00:22:40,340 --> 00:22:45,540

she thought she heard the auto alarm going off on the Lexus that was driven by Joanne

318

00:22:45,540 --> 00:22:49,740

or it could have been the panic alarm.

319

00:22:49,740 --> 00:22:52,820

The witness saw the lights flashing.

320

00:22:52,820 --> 00:22:59,020

She said it lasted for about 15 seconds.

321

00:22:59,020 --> 00:23:03,380

She didn't make anything of it because there was no other disruptions so they went about

322

00:23:03,380 --> 00:23:06,780

their business.

323

00:23:06,780 --> 00:23:09,860

I interviewed another witness who was at the service.

324

00:23:09,860 --> 00:23:14,900

She indicated that she left the church at approximately 7.25 to 7.35 pm.

325

00:23:14,900 --> 00:23:17,260

She was one of the last to leave.

326

00:23:17,260 --> 00:23:20,460

She felt very uneasy because it was so dark.

327

00:23:20,460 --> 00:23:25,740

So as she proceeded towards her car she looked to the left and to the right of the drive

328

00:23:25,740 --> 00:23:30,020

and she said she noticed no vehicles parked in the driveway.

329

00:23:30,980 --> 00:23:37,220

This empty which indicates the Lexus left the church and then at some point had come back.

330

00:23:37,220 --> 00:23:42,420

It was like someone moved the car and put it close to the very same spot although not

331

00:23:42,420 --> 00:23:45,220

exactly the same spot.

332

00:23:45,220 --> 00:23:49,740

When the cops found the vehicle it was positioned right here with the front of the car aligned

333

00:23:49,740 --> 00:23:52,140

with this bush.

334

00:23:52,140 --> 00:23:56,500

So the car left and then it came back but nobody understood why.

335

00:23:56,500 --> 00:23:58,500

How good this up happened.

336

00:24:19,340 --> 00:24:22,940

It was a Saturday and I got a call from the detective.

337

00:24:22,940 --> 00:24:25,060

You need to call me back.

338

00:24:25,060 --> 00:24:30,500

At this moment I'm thinking worst case scenario like obviously something bad's happened.

339

00:24:30,500 --> 00:24:36,620

Michelle comes out of her bedroom and she's like they found mom.

340

00:24:36,620 --> 00:24:40,940

It was like a sinking feeling.

341

00:24:40,940 --> 00:24:46,700

The body was found by two fishermen on Babel Island in Amishburg Ontario where she was

342

00:24:46,700 --> 00:24:49,660

found.

343

00:24:49,660 --> 00:25:04,420

It was 35 miles from where they alleged she entered the water.

344

00:25:04,420 --> 00:25:07,460

Our worst fear came to light at that point.

345

00:25:07,460 --> 00:25:12,060

You know all these days that we're hoping and praying just you know that she'd walk

346

00:25:12,060 --> 00:25:15,380

through the door.

347

00:25:15,380 --> 00:25:20,380

Usually my mom it was like we lost everything because she really was the backbone of the

348

00:25:20,380 --> 00:25:23,460

family.

349

00:25:23,460 --> 00:25:29,300

Her brothers and sisters and just the entire family.

350

00:25:29,300 --> 00:25:37,860

So it was a huge shock and a huge adjustment and a huge loss for everybody.

351

00:25:37,860 --> 00:25:43,300

Yeah we were devastated.

352

00:25:43,300 --> 00:25:46,380

We didn't stop.

353

00:25:46,380 --> 00:25:50,980

Now let's figure out how it happened and why it happened.

354

00:25:50,980 --> 00:25:52,860

I want justice for Joanne.

355

00:25:52,860 --> 00:26:08,340

That's the bottom line.

356

00:26:08,340 --> 00:26:14,940

So right around in this area is where the GPS says her body was recovered.

357

00:26:14,940 --> 00:26:20,660

Scott Lewis is an investigative reporter for 25 years in Metro Detroit.

358

00:26:20,660 --> 00:26:23,460

Then turned PI after he retired.

359

00:26:23,460 --> 00:26:29,340

Scott came in, new fresh set of eyes on the case.

360

00:26:29,340 --> 00:26:34,260

Joanne Romain was found down in the Detroit River on the Canadian side of an island called

361

00:26:34,260 --> 00:26:35,860

Babel Island.

362

00:26:35,860 --> 00:26:40,180

This is kind of a historic island in Detroit back in the day.

363

00:26:40,180 --> 00:26:45,140

It had an amusement park on it and people about my age will tell you they remember going

364

00:26:45,140 --> 00:26:46,300

there as kids.

365

00:26:46,300 --> 00:26:50,700

Eventually it closed down and I think it became a development with housing and some other

366

00:26:50,700 --> 00:26:54,540

things.

367

00:26:54,540 --> 00:27:02,340

I didn't realize how far the travel actually was until we took this trip.

368

00:27:02,340 --> 00:27:03,620

I had the same perspective.

369

00:27:03,620 --> 00:27:07,820

It's one thing to look at it on a map and talk about 30 miles.

370

00:27:07,820 --> 00:27:09,500

You get in the car and drive 30 miles.

371

00:27:09,500 --> 00:27:10,740

It doesn't take very long.

372

00:27:10,740 --> 00:27:15,900

But when you actually get out here on the water, my God.

373

00:27:15,900 --> 00:27:22,220

So for her body to have left that shallow water along the shore with no current, it would

374

00:27:22,220 --> 00:27:26,300

have had to somehow get out into that shipping channel in the middle of the lake and then

375

00:27:26,300 --> 00:27:30,900

found its way into the Detroit River and 30 miles downriver.

376

00:27:30,900 --> 00:27:34,260

That's a little bit of a stretch for me.

377

00:27:34,260 --> 00:27:38,660

But first I wasn't sure if this was a kind of case I would want to get into.

378

00:27:38,660 --> 00:27:44,180

So what I told Michelle is that if I review your case and I think there's even a chance

379

00:27:44,180 --> 00:27:47,700

that this was a suicide, I'm done.

380

00:27:47,700 --> 00:27:50,220

If I think this is a murder, I'm in.

381

00:27:50,220 --> 00:27:56,940

I don't see anything that points to suicide.

382

00:27:56,940 --> 00:28:01,300

To begin with, who fills their gas tank on the way to commit suicide?

383

00:28:01,300 --> 00:28:03,300

That was the first red flag to me.

384

00:28:03,300 --> 00:28:10,140

If she had driven into the garage and closed the garage door and let the car run, I'd buy

385

00:28:10,140 --> 00:28:11,660

it.

386

00:28:11,660 --> 00:28:18,660

If she had shot herself, I'd buy it.

387

00:28:18,660 --> 00:28:22,540

I don't believe for one second that she walked into that lake.

388

00:28:23,540 --> 00:28:29,980

I can't see any way that you could go into two feet of calm water in a bay and somehow

389

00:28:29,980 --> 00:28:34,980

get out into the deep water with a current and end up 30 miles downriver without somebody

390

00:28:34,980 --> 00:28:39,340

finding that body with all the divers they had out in the helicopters and all the searching

391

00:28:39,340 --> 00:28:42,780

they did.

392

00:28:42,780 --> 00:28:47,940

Nobody thought out of the investigators I hired that she could have traveled from where

393

00:28:47,940 --> 00:28:53,380

the police were alleging she had entered to the vicinity and what she was found.

394

00:28:53,380 --> 00:28:58,100

The only other possibility is that she didn't enter at the location the police alleged that

395

00:28:58,100 --> 00:28:59,100

she had entered.

396

00:28:59,100 --> 00:29:03,740

That she had entered somewhere way further down, somewhere in Detroit, and that she

397

00:29:03,740 --> 00:29:09,140

was dumped.

398

00:29:09,140 --> 00:29:17,260

I'm just thinking if she struggled, if she was scared, you know, the moments before

399

00:29:17,260 --> 00:29:26,580

she entered the water, if she knew what was going on, and, you know, what her last thoughts

400

00:29:26,580 --> 00:29:30,420

were when she knew she was in danger and she wasn't going to make it.

401

00:29:39,140 --> 00:29:53,900

Joanne Romain's body was recovered on March 20, 2010.

402

00:29:53,900 --> 00:29:59,660

The body was in an advanced state of decomposition such that we couldn't make a definitive determination

403

00:29:59,660 --> 00:30:02,100

as to the time of death.

404

00:30:02,100 --> 00:30:06,900

But the body may have been there for some time as there was a gray-brown algae and zebra

405

00:30:06,900 --> 00:30:12,860

mussels that were stuck to the legs and lower extremities.

406

00:30:12,860 --> 00:30:19,940

In my opinion, Joanne Romain's death was caused by drowning, but it's certainly possible

407

00:30:19,940 --> 00:30:25,020

that she could have been dead prior to entering the water.

408

00:30:25,020 --> 00:30:30,180

The manner of her death was indeterminate, meaning that we can't differentiate between

409

00:30:30,180 --> 00:30:35,420

a homicide or a suicide or an accident.

410

00:30:35,420 --> 00:30:42,260

There may have been someone else involved or it may have been a self-inflicted drowning.

411

00:30:42,260 --> 00:30:48,780

There were two bruises to the left upper portion of the arm.

412

00:30:48,780 --> 00:30:53,540

The bruising on Joanne Romain's upper arm certainly could have been the result of an

413

00:30:53,540 --> 00:30:59,540

assault or some kind of injury inflicted by another person, or it could represent just

414

00:30:59,540 --> 00:31:02,580

two coincidental bruises to the arm.

415

00:31:02,940 --> 00:31:07,820

However, it would be my opinion that those bruises were anti-mortem or occurred before

416

00:31:07,820 --> 00:31:08,820

death.

417

00:31:12,820 --> 00:31:17,300

So this was my mom's brand new designer purse that she had purchased about six weeks before

418

00:31:17,300 --> 00:31:19,180

she disappeared.

419

00:31:19,180 --> 00:31:23,780

And this is the condition it was in when we got the purse back from the police.

420

00:31:23,780 --> 00:31:25,940

It's ripped.

421

00:31:25,940 --> 00:31:28,540

There's a big hole where the rip was.

422

00:31:28,540 --> 00:31:35,460

My mom always had her purse on her left shoulder like this, and she had contusions on her upper

423

00:31:35,460 --> 00:31:40,460

left arm, which is the same place that she carried her purse.

424

00:31:45,580 --> 00:31:49,940

So that's just another piece of evidence that suggests she was grabbed.

425

00:31:49,940 --> 00:31:51,780

Her purse was ripped.

426

00:31:51,780 --> 00:31:56,420

To me, that is important evidence that there was a crime that committed against her that

427

00:31:56,420 --> 00:31:58,420

she did not commit suicide.

428

00:31:58,700 --> 00:32:03,020

You're aware that Ms. Romain's purse was found in the car, correct?

429

00:32:03,020 --> 00:32:03,540

Yes, sir.

430

00:32:03,540 --> 00:32:05,140

You're aware that it was torn, correct?

431

00:32:05,140 --> 00:32:06,260

Yes, sir.

432

00:32:06,260 --> 00:32:07,940

Why do you believe it's not evidence of a crime?

433

00:32:07,940 --> 00:32:09,380

Because where the tear was.

434

00:32:09,380 --> 00:32:10,100

Where was the tear?

435

00:32:10,100 --> 00:32:11,780

The tear was not on a strap.

436

00:32:11,780 --> 00:32:14,180

It didn't appear to come from a physical struggle.

437

00:32:14,180 --> 00:32:15,940

There was no buckle torn free.

438

00:32:15,940 --> 00:32:18,020

There was no rivet torn.

439

00:32:18,020 --> 00:32:20,940

It came from by the flap area of the purse.

440

00:32:20,940 --> 00:32:23,020

They never fingerprinted the purse.

441

00:32:23,020 --> 00:32:25,460

They never got any DNA off of it.

442

00:32:25,460 --> 00:32:27,740

They never tested it for any DNA.

443

00:32:27,740 --> 00:32:29,860

And they just acted like, oh, no big deal.

444

00:32:29,860 --> 00:32:32,220

So it's shredded and torn.

445

00:32:32,220 --> 00:32:34,980

That's just probably how it was.

446

00:32:34,980 --> 00:32:38,340

And just let it go like that.

447

00:32:38,340 --> 00:32:43,660

When they found my mom's body, her car keys were found zipped up in her coat pocket.

448

00:32:48,060 --> 00:32:51,420

Now, what bothers me about that is that everything was zipped up.

449

00:32:51,420 --> 00:32:53,540

Her coat pockets were zipped up.

450

00:32:53,540 --> 00:32:56,380

Her jacket was zipped up toward chin.

451

00:32:56,380 --> 00:32:57,340

That didn't make sense.

452

00:32:57,340 --> 00:32:59,780

Because she never zipped up her jacket.

453

00:32:59,780 --> 00:33:01,140

It's not something she would have done.

454

00:33:05,180 --> 00:33:07,260

There's two things that were missing.

455

00:33:07,260 --> 00:33:09,820

And it was her rosary and her cell phone.

456

00:33:09,820 --> 00:33:12,500

Both are things that she would have had in her coat pocket.

457

00:33:15,300 --> 00:33:18,300

When there's some type of crime committed,

458

00:33:18,300 --> 00:33:19,700

what's the first thing you want to get rid of?

459

00:33:19,700 --> 00:33:23,420

A cell phone, because you can track a cell phone.

460

00:33:23,420 --> 00:33:26,260

The other thing was that her shoes were intact.

461

00:33:27,820 --> 00:33:33,820

The police assert that she walked down an embankment over some concrete rods

462

00:33:33,820 --> 00:33:38,940

into some rocks, walked out 100 yards to drown herself.

463

00:33:38,940 --> 00:33:41,700

Now, the entire bottom of the lake is rocky.

464

00:33:46,180 --> 00:33:47,220

Her clothes were intact.

465

00:33:47,220 --> 00:33:49,100

Her shoes were still on.

466

00:33:49,100 --> 00:33:54,420

So it didn't really seem that she had been traveling too far and gone through too much

467

00:33:54,420 --> 00:33:58,180

to have all of her clothes still on, her shoes still intact,

468

00:33:58,180 --> 00:34:00,140

you know, her jewelry still on.

469

00:34:00,140 --> 00:34:01,180

It's very odd.

470

00:34:14,500 --> 00:34:17,460

I believe that my mama was abducted while walking out of church.

471

00:34:17,460 --> 00:34:21,900

She was grabbed from the left side where the bruises and contusions are on her arm

472

00:34:21,900 --> 00:34:22,900

and her purse was ripped.

473

00:34:24,420 --> 00:34:29,140

Pushed into her own car where the abductor then drove away in her vehicle.

474

00:34:30,420 --> 00:34:34,140

They took her somewhere along the Detroit River,

475

00:34:34,140 --> 00:34:38,700

rendered her unconscious or killed her, put her body in the water,

476

00:34:38,700 --> 00:34:40,900

drove the car back to the church,

477

00:34:40,900 --> 00:34:45,420

parked it in a spot where it would maybe get a little attention,

478

00:34:45,420 --> 00:34:48,900

and created the scene in the snow with the trampled footprints

479

00:34:48,900 --> 00:34:50,460

and the butt marks in the snow.

480

00:34:51,460 --> 00:34:56,220

Her car being moved from the location and back to the church

481

00:34:56,220 --> 00:34:58,220

indicates it was foul play.

482

00:34:58,220 --> 00:35:02,220

Whoever did this wanted it to look like a suicide,

483

00:35:02,220 --> 00:35:07,220

so they left her purse on the seat of the car after they abducted her and took her.

484

00:35:08,220 --> 00:35:11,780

Did the fact that this Alexis was not in the parking lot,

485

00:35:11,780 --> 00:35:14,060

according to a number of witnesses,

486

00:35:15,060 --> 00:35:18,060

and then was in the parking lot later that evening,

487

00:35:18,660 --> 00:35:21,660

did that particular fact or that evidence

488

00:35:22,660 --> 00:35:27,060

make you think one way or another about whether or not this was an abduction,

489

00:35:27,060 --> 00:35:29,060

suicide or something suspicious?

490

00:35:29,060 --> 00:35:30,060

No.

491

00:35:32,660 --> 00:35:36,660

I believe that more than one person abducted my sister Joanne.

492

00:35:36,660 --> 00:35:39,660

I think they took her to scare her.

493

00:35:39,660 --> 00:35:41,660

I really do think that.

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00:35:41,660 --> 00:35:44,660

I don't think the intention was to kill her.

495

00:35:44,660 --> 00:35:47,660

If it wasn't a robbery motive, which it didn't appear to be,

496

00:35:47,660 --> 00:35:52,260

it could have been some sort of an issue between her and someone else,

497

00:35:52,260 --> 00:35:55,260

a family member, I mean, because most of the time it is family,

498

00:35:55,260 --> 00:35:59,260

but not all the time, or someone that you knew that knew she'd be there,

499

00:35:59,260 --> 00:36:02,260

may have been following her or just knew she was going there.

500

00:36:05,260 --> 00:36:09,260

We definitely know enough that it was not a suicide, it was a murder.

501

00:36:10,260 --> 00:36:13,260

Once you sit back and reflect, you realize, oh, wow,

502

00:36:13,260 --> 00:36:16,260

look at all these dots that do not connect.

503

00:36:18,260 --> 00:36:21,260

I think that's the reason why I'm so happy.

504

00:36:21,260 --> 00:36:25,260

Initially, I told the police there was potentially several suspects.

505

00:36:26,260 --> 00:36:28,260

Joanne was my father.

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00:36:29,260 --> 00:36:33,260

My mom and my dad, they were married a long time, 25 years.

507

00:36:33,260 --> 00:36:36,260

Towards the end, the reason they separated was

508

00:36:36,260 --> 00:36:39,260

she just got to a point she was fed up and, you know,

509

00:36:39,260 --> 00:36:42,260

she just wanted to live like a peaceful, happy life

510

00:36:42,260 --> 00:36:46,260

instead of a toxic, you know, argumentative household.

511

00:36:46,860 --> 00:36:49,860

My dad was really angry that my mom left him.

512

00:36:50,860 --> 00:36:53,860

And so there's always that in the back of your mind,

513

00:36:53,860 --> 00:36:55,860

like, could he have done it, something?

514

00:36:55,860 --> 00:36:58,860

But I wasn't really sure, but still part of him on the list.

515

00:36:58,860 --> 00:37:01,860

I asked Michelle to contact David Romain

516

00:37:01,860 --> 00:37:06,860

for the purpose of an interview, and he declined to be interviewed.

517

00:37:06,860 --> 00:37:10,860

But with my investigation, I didn't find anything that would indicate

518

00:37:10,860 --> 00:37:12,860

that he had anything to do with her disappearance.

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00:37:16,260 --> 00:37:21,860

I told the police my number two suspect is Joanne Matuke, her brother.

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00:37:21,860 --> 00:37:26,860

I don't think he did anything, but I thought that there could have been people out to get Joanne,

521

00:37:26,860 --> 00:37:29,860

and it could have been a revenge on my mom because of him.

522

00:37:30,860 --> 00:37:33,860

Joanne has a interesting past.

523

00:37:33,860 --> 00:37:36,860

A lot of business deals that hadn't gone right,

524

00:37:36,860 --> 00:37:40,860

and a lot of people that he allegedly owed money to.

525

00:37:41,860 --> 00:37:44,860

There was rumors that Joanne had a large amount of money

526

00:37:44,860 --> 00:37:49,860

that he owed to a number of people, and that this could be a plausible reason for Joanne's disappearance.

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00:37:49,860 --> 00:37:53,860

I did speak with him. He says he had nothing to do with it.

528

00:37:53,860 --> 00:37:57,860

And maybe he didn't. Maybe it was someone that he was dealing with.

529

00:37:57,860 --> 00:38:00,860

Had he had some dealings with? I don't know.

530

00:38:03,860 --> 00:38:08,860

I think it's entirely possible that John got in trouble with somebody,

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00:38:08,860 --> 00:38:12,860

and everybody knew that he and Joanne were very tight.

532

00:38:12,860 --> 00:38:15,860

And in some situations, she bailed him out financially.

533

00:38:15,860 --> 00:38:20,860

So I think if somebody wanted to get back at John Matuke or send a message to him,

534

00:38:20,860 --> 00:38:24,860

there would be no better way to do it than to kill his sister,

535

00:38:24,860 --> 00:38:27,860

the probably the most important person to him in his life.

536

00:38:31,860 --> 00:38:35,860

Well, in 2009 and 10, I was struggling financially.

537

00:38:35,860 --> 00:38:37,860

The real estate depression hit.

538

00:38:37,860 --> 00:38:41,860

It was awful for everybody that had any real estate liabilities at all.

539

00:38:42,860 --> 00:38:46,860

So I owed a lot of money to certain people.

540

00:38:46,860 --> 00:38:52,860

It's possible that someone I had dealings with could have murdered Joanne.

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00:38:52,860 --> 00:38:54,860

I can't control that.

542

00:38:54,860 --> 00:38:57,860

Sorry that this happened no matter what.

543

00:38:57,860 --> 00:39:00,860

Wish they would have done this to me.

544

00:39:04,860 --> 00:39:08,860

I told the police my number one suspect must be cousin.

545

00:39:08,860 --> 00:39:11,860

That was a cop. His name was Tim Matuke.

546

00:39:11,860 --> 00:39:13,860

Can you give me your full name, please?

547

00:39:13,860 --> 00:39:15,860

Timothy James Matuke.

548

00:39:15,860 --> 00:39:18,860

Tim is a first cousin of my mom.

549

00:39:18,860 --> 00:39:23,860

There was a strange relationship between Tim and my mom.

550

00:39:25,860 --> 00:39:27,860

We had a big family, a big loving family.

551

00:39:27,860 --> 00:39:31,860

But as soon as my grandma had passed in 1994,

552

00:39:31,860 --> 00:39:34,860

the family just started falling apart.

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00:39:34,860 --> 00:39:38,860

There was a lawsuit between the siblings over family inheritance,

554

00:39:38,860 --> 00:39:40,860

which was pretty substantial.

555

00:39:40,860 --> 00:39:43,860

Money was supposed to be split five equal ways,

556

00:39:43,860 --> 00:39:46,860

and it was never distributed popularly.

557

00:39:46,860 --> 00:39:51,860

And ever since that time, the family had never been the same.

558

00:39:51,860 --> 00:39:56,860

When was it you last spoke to Joanne

559

00:39:56,860 --> 00:40:00,860

prior to discovering she was missing?

560

00:40:00,860 --> 00:40:03,860

It was sometime in October of 2009.

561

00:40:03,860 --> 00:40:05,860

In the weeks before my mom disappeared,

562

00:40:05,860 --> 00:40:07,860

Tim Matuke had called my mom.

563

00:40:07,860 --> 00:40:10,860

And she got into an argument with him.

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00:40:10,860 --> 00:40:13,860

And I don't know what he said to her exactly,

565

00:40:13,860 --> 00:40:15,860

but I remember her screaming at him,

566

00:40:15,860 --> 00:40:17,860

saying, how did you get my number?

567

00:40:17,860 --> 00:40:19,860

Never call me again.

568

00:40:19,860 --> 00:40:22,860

I could hear him yelling, but I couldn't hear what he said.

569

00:40:22,860 --> 00:40:25,860

And I heard her say, leave me and my family alone.

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00:40:25,860 --> 00:40:27,860

Never call me again.

571

00:40:27,860 --> 00:40:29,860

She hung up on him.

572

00:40:29,860 --> 00:40:31,860

And at that moment, she turned to me and said,

573

00:40:31,860 --> 00:40:33,860

if something happens to me, look to Tim.

574

00:40:33,860 --> 00:40:36,860

Do you recall today the conversation that you had with her?

575

00:40:36,860 --> 00:40:38,860

I do.

576

00:40:38,860 --> 00:40:41,860

My cousin Billy had called me and told me that Joanne

577

00:40:41,860 --> 00:40:45,860

had just said to him that all of Joanne's problems

578

00:40:45,860 --> 00:40:47,860

were because of me.

579

00:40:47,860 --> 00:40:52,860

So I took exception to that, and I called Joanne's phone number.

580

00:40:52,860 --> 00:40:55,860

I asked her, I said, Joanne, why would you tell people

581

00:40:55,860 --> 00:40:59,860

that I am the reason why Joanne's got so many problems?

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00:40:59,860 --> 00:41:03,860

Her response to me was, you're just nothing but a big troublemaker.

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00:41:03,860 --> 00:41:06,860

I don't even want to talk to you, and she hung up the phone.

584

00:41:08,860 --> 00:41:11,860

Throughout all of my interviews, it became apparent

585

00:41:11,860 --> 00:41:14,860

that there was a lot of infighting going on

586

00:41:14,860 --> 00:41:18,860

and a lot of dislike amongst family members,

587

00:41:18,860 --> 00:41:22,860

which, again, makes it even harder and more difficult

588

00:41:22,860 --> 00:41:26,860

to try to get down to the root cause of Joanne's disappearance

589

00:41:26,860 --> 00:41:28,860

and subsequent death.

590

00:41:28,860 --> 00:41:32,860

Did you attend the funeral service of Joanne Matuke,

591

00:41:32,860 --> 00:41:34,860

who remained your cousin?

592

00:41:34,860 --> 00:41:36,860

No, I did not.

593

00:41:36,860 --> 00:41:40,860

Were you specifically asked to avoid that service?

594

00:41:40,860 --> 00:41:41,860

I was.

595

00:41:41,860 --> 00:41:44,860

Who specifically asked that you not attend

596

00:41:44,860 --> 00:41:48,860

and pay respects to your cousins?

597

00:41:48,860 --> 00:41:53,860

It came from John Matuke, and just to avoid any controversy or conflict,

598

00:41:53,860 --> 00:41:56,860

we decided it was better that I don't go.

599

00:41:56,860 --> 00:42:01,860

It's my understanding that there was probably some personality clashes

600

00:42:01,860 --> 00:42:03,860

between Tim and John.

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00:42:03,860 --> 00:42:06,860

I think Tim may be harbored some bad feelings towards John,

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00:42:06,860 --> 00:42:09,860

so there's a lot of family dynamics that come into play,

603

00:42:09,860 --> 00:42:11,860

and they kind of feed off of each other.

604

00:42:11,860 --> 00:42:13,860

There was an issue between Tim and John.

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00:42:13,860 --> 00:42:14,860

They were butting heads.

606

00:42:14,860 --> 00:42:17,860

Tim was always poking his nose into what John was doing.

607

00:42:17,860 --> 00:42:22,860

It's just been ugly between the two of them, and it always has.

608

00:42:23,860 --> 00:42:26,860

My mom was always kind of like a mentor to John.

609

00:42:26,860 --> 00:42:31,860

So when John was having an issue, or especially this battle he had going on with Tim,

610

00:42:31,860 --> 00:42:35,860

I felt like my mom was trying to be, you know, the mediator,

611

00:42:35,860 --> 00:42:39,860

the peacekeeper of the drama that was going on.

612

00:42:41,860 --> 00:42:47,860

In the back of my mind, I just keep rehashing that conversation she had with me regarding

613

00:42:47,860 --> 00:42:51,860

Tim and the conversation and the fight on the phone,

614

00:42:51,860 --> 00:42:56,860

even though I don't know what the content of the reasoning he's calling her is,

615

00:42:56,860 --> 00:43:00,860

but I do know that she has a fear of him, and now she's gone.

616

00:43:01,860 --> 00:43:08,860

Did you at any point in time conspire with anyone to have Joe Ramatook remain murderous?

617

00:43:08,860 --> 00:43:10,860

No, I did not.

618

00:43:10,860 --> 00:43:14,860

I did speak with Tim Matook,

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00:43:14,860 --> 00:43:17,860

and I found him to be credible.

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00:43:17,860 --> 00:43:22,860

I didn't find anything that would indicate that he had anything to do with her disappearance.

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00:43:23,860 --> 00:43:30,860

Was there ever a time that the department considered a crime you had been kid-emitted against Miss Romain?

622

00:43:31,860 --> 00:43:32,860

No, sir.

623

00:43:33,860 --> 00:43:37,860

Do you have a belief as to how Miss Romain died?

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00:43:37,860 --> 00:43:40,860

My belief is she committed suicide.

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00:43:40,860 --> 00:43:44,860

And not just that she committed suicide. How did she do it?

626

00:43:44,860 --> 00:43:46,860

By drowning, walked into water.

627

00:43:47,860 --> 00:43:51,860

So you think she just walked into the water and just kept walking?

628

00:43:51,860 --> 00:43:54,860

I don't know about that. I believe she entered the water.

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00:43:54,860 --> 00:43:57,860

How far she walked without falling or whatever, I don't know.

630

00:43:57,860 --> 00:43:59,860

We have no witnesses to that.

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00:44:00,860 --> 00:44:06,860

Knowing the history of her youngest brother and the stress he may have brought into the relationship,

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00:44:06,860 --> 00:44:12,860

knowing the history of the family divide between half the family against the other half of the family,

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00:44:12,860 --> 00:44:17,860

these are all things that could lead a reasonable person such as myself in this field

634

00:44:17,860 --> 00:44:21,860

to believe these are major stressors that could lead to a suicide.

635

00:44:27,860 --> 00:44:33,860

In all my years in law enforcement, we don't operate on theories, we operate on facts.

636

00:44:33,860 --> 00:44:40,860

All the facts that I've obtained through my interviews indicate to me that I really can't determine.

637

00:44:40,860 --> 00:44:47,860

I can't determine whether she took her own life or whether it was done through other criminal means.

638

00:45:03,860 --> 00:45:24,860

My mom was a very strong spirit. As much as we miss her every day, they still feel her around a lot.

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00:45:26,860 --> 00:45:32,860

So don't really feel like she's completely gone, if that makes any sense at all.

640

00:45:33,860 --> 00:45:37,860

She gave me this rosary that I keep with me.

641

00:45:39,860 --> 00:45:44,860

She wanted me to, you know, have faith. I think about her often.

642

00:45:45,860 --> 00:45:50,860

I'm never going to move on until this gets exposed and solved.

643

00:45:50,860 --> 00:45:59,860

And we adjust this for her and we put certain people that I believe are responsible for the murder of my sister,

644

00:45:59,860 --> 00:46:02,860

where they should be, prison.

645

00:46:03,860 --> 00:46:09,860

The day that she disappeared, we lost everything. It's empty.

646

00:46:09,860 --> 00:46:14,860

You don't have that love anymore, you don't have that light.

647

00:46:15,860 --> 00:46:23,860

I miss everything. But just, you know, that warmth and love and just comfort that she would give us.

648

00:46:23,860 --> 00:46:27,860

And, you know, that's something you can never really get back.

649

00:46:33,860 --> 00:46:36,860

I'm not going to let you go.

650

00:46:36,860 --> 00:46:39,860

I'm not going to let you go.

651

00:46:39,860 --> 00:46:42,860

I'm not going to let you go.

652

00:46:42,860 --> 00:46:45,860

I'm not going to let you go.

653

00:46:45,860 --> 00:46:48,860

I'm not going to let you go.

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00:46:48,860 --> 00:46:51,860

I'm not going to let you go.

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00:46:51,860 --> 00:46:54,860

I'm not going to let you go.

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00:46:54,860 --> 00:46:57,860

I'm not going to let you go.

657

00:46:57,860 --> 00:47:00,860

I'm not going to let you go.

658

00:47:00,860 --> 00:47:03,860

I'm not going to let you go.

659

00:47:30,860 --> 00:47:33,860

You

660

00:48:00,860 --> 00:48:02,860

You