

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:25,160

One year ago tonight Joshua Gimo vanished from an apartment near St. John's University

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00:00:25,160 --> 00:00:26,160

in Tullis.

3

00:00:26,160 --> 00:00:27,760

It's been five years since a St. John's student was last seen.

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00:00:27,760 --> 00:00:30,800

Last week marks 15 years since Joshua Gimo went missing.

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00:00:30,800 --> 00:00:33,920

The St. John's junior disappeared while walking home from a party.

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00:00:33,920 --> 00:00:36,760

He hasn't been seen since.

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00:00:36,760 --> 00:00:41,160

I think Josh has secrets just like everybody else has secrets.

8

00:00:41,160 --> 00:00:45,720

But I don't care what Josh was doing.

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00:00:45,720 --> 00:00:46,600

We just want our friend.

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00:00:57,760 --> 00:01:04,760

I'm not sure if you can see it.

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00:01:04,760 --> 00:01:07,760

I'm not sure.

12

00:01:07,760 --> 00:01:09,760

I'm not sure.

13

00:01:09,760 --> 00:01:11,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:11,760 --> 00:01:13,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:13,760 --> 00:01:15,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:15,760 --> 00:01:17,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:17,760 --> 00:01:19,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:19,760 --> 00:01:21,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:21,760 --> 00:01:23,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:23,760 --> 00:01:25,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:25,760 --> 00:01:32,760

I'm not sure.

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00:01:32,760 --> 00:01:41,760

That night Josh was at a party playing poker with some friends at a dorm on campus.

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00:01:41,760 --> 00:01:46,760

Josh arrived at the party around 11.30 at night that evening.

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00:01:46,760 --> 00:01:54,760

And sometime before midnight people start realizing Josh isn't there.

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00:01:54,760 --> 00:02:00,760

A couple of people at the party had noticed a male get up and leave but they weren't quite sure if it was Josh.

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00:02:00,760 --> 00:02:04,760

Josh just wasn't at the party anymore.

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00:02:04,760 --> 00:02:10,760

And there's no answers.

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00:02:10,760 --> 00:02:14,760

He's just gone.

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00:02:24,760 --> 00:02:26,760

Congratulations.

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00:02:26,760 --> 00:02:29,760

He was so proud of his speech.

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00:02:29,760 --> 00:02:33,760

I remember him being just like working on that speech so hard.

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00:02:33,760 --> 00:02:35,760

I remember that.

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00:02:35,760 --> 00:02:38,760

When I was with him and Katie we were helping with the Special Olympics.

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00:02:38,760 --> 00:02:40,760

Oh yeah.

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00:02:40,760 --> 00:02:42,760

I forgot about that.

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00:02:42,760 --> 00:02:44,760

Here's Katie and Josh from prom.

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00:02:44,760 --> 00:02:46,760

That's a nice picture.

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00:02:46,760 --> 00:02:48,760

I really love that one.

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00:02:48,760 --> 00:02:58,760

Thank you.

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00:02:58,760 --> 00:03:00,760

Josh and I grew up together.

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

We went to school together.

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00:03:02,760 --> 00:03:09,760

In our sophomore year of high school we started dating so Josh was my high school sweetheart.

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00:03:09,760 --> 00:03:11,760

He's very handsome.

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00:03:11,760 --> 00:03:13,760

Blonde with blue eyes.

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00:03:13,760 --> 00:03:15,760

He was athletic.

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00:03:15,760 --> 00:03:17,760

He had a great sense of humor.

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00:03:17,760 --> 00:03:20,760

He was very confident and studious.

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00:03:20,760 --> 00:03:23,760

Look at how serious he is.

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00:03:23,760 --> 00:03:26,760

You guys look so grumpy.

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00:03:26,760 --> 00:03:28,760

Everyone else in the picture is smiling.

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00:03:28,760 --> 00:03:36,760

Josh and I met when we were in second grade and became close at the end of high school.

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00:03:36,760 --> 00:03:39,760

After that we stayed close.

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00:03:39,760 --> 00:03:44,760

Josh was nominated as most likely to succeed in our high school class.

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00:03:44,760 --> 00:03:48,760

And I really believed that he would have succeeded.

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00:03:48,760 --> 00:03:50,760

Josh liked to have a lot of fun.

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00:03:50,760 --> 00:03:51,760

He was outgoing.

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00:03:51,760 --> 00:03:56,760

He was always happy and smarter than he should have been.

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00:03:56,760 --> 00:04:02,760

13 years ago we were branded as special from the very beginning.

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00:04:02,760 --> 00:04:04,760

We were the class of 2000.

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00:04:04,760 --> 00:04:07,760

Josh was interested in being a lawyer.

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00:04:07,760 --> 00:04:12,760

And even as a kid you can tell by the way he would talk to you when you talked to him about things.

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00:04:12,760 --> 00:04:14,760

He would always be questioning.

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00:04:14,760 --> 00:04:20,760

Society may change, but good solid teaching never will.

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00:04:20,760 --> 00:04:25,760

As soon as Josh was going to turn 35 he was running for the next presidential election.

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00:04:25,760 --> 00:04:33,760

He planned on going to law school once we finished college and then from there he was going to be a

lawyer.

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00:04:33,760 --> 00:04:37,760

And then from there he would be a politician and eventually he would be the president.

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00:04:37,760 --> 00:04:41,760

When we went to college we decided to go to similar schools.

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00:04:41,760 --> 00:04:47,760

I went to the college of St. Benedict which is all female and he went to St. John's University.

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00:04:47,760 --> 00:04:50,760

St. John's is an all-male school.

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00:04:50,760 --> 00:04:53,760

They are two separate campuses but a joint college.

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00:04:53,760 --> 00:04:58,760

So we were able to have classes together and continue our relationship in college.

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00:04:58,760 --> 00:05:05,760

My sophomore year I joined the mock trial team with Josh who was a year behind me at St. John's.

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00:05:05,760 --> 00:05:15,760

Josh struck me pretty quickly as someone who I knew I could trust, a very intelligent person and a very easy person to get along with.

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00:05:15,760 --> 00:05:21,760

As we got to know each other better we realized we had a lot in common.

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00:05:21,760 --> 00:05:28,760

My senior year, his junior year, we were roommates and I was one of his best friends at the time he disappeared.

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00:05:29,760 --> 00:05:38,760

The last time I saw Josh was the week before down at McAllister College watching the mock trial.

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00:05:38,760 --> 00:05:47,760

He won a number of awards and they told him yeah he did real good, told him I loved him and said we'll see you next time, you know.

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00:05:47,760 --> 00:05:49,760

And that was it.

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00:05:50,760 --> 00:06:05,760

On Saturday, November 9th, 2002, Josh and I went to brunch together and at some point we got an invitation from Katie to say hey do you guys want to come over and hang out with me and my roommates tonight.

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00:06:05,760 --> 00:06:10,760

And so I thought you know I'll go over to Katie's and hang out with them tonight.

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00:06:11,760 --> 00:06:19,760

But Josh also got an invitation from some other friends who were playing poker that night at another guy's apartment.

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00:06:21,760 --> 00:06:26,760

So the last time I saw him it would have been after dinner, probably 6.37.

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00:06:26,760 --> 00:06:30,760

He was with his friend Alex in our apartment.

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00:06:30,760 --> 00:06:38,760

You know he said hey I'm going to head over and Josh said hey okay, have fun and I said yeah you guys have a good night too, we'll see you later and that was it.

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00:06:41,760 --> 00:06:49,760

I think it was sometime a little after 2 a.m. when I left Katie's apartment.

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00:06:49,760 --> 00:06:54,760

I went home, I went upstairs, I noticed Josh wasn't in his room.

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00:06:56,760 --> 00:06:58,760

But I just said oh he must still be at the party.

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00:06:58,760 --> 00:07:09,760

The next morning I saw he still wasn't there and I thought that was weird.

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00:07:09,760 --> 00:07:16,760

I checked my AOL instant messenger, his account had been idle for probably over 12 hours.

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00:07:16,760 --> 00:07:20,760

So all I could think of was like where is he?

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00:07:20,760 --> 00:07:25,760

I talked to Greg and Alex because he was with both of them the previous night.

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00:07:26,760 --> 00:07:29,760

But they didn't know where he was.

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00:07:29,760 --> 00:07:33,760

I think it was probably 2 or 3 in the afternoon.

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00:07:33,760 --> 00:07:38,760

And Nick called me and asked if I knew where Josh was because he had said that Josh missed a mock trial meeting.

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00:07:38,760 --> 00:07:41,760

And I remember thinking that was very out of character.

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00:07:43,760 --> 00:07:52,760

I knew something was wrong, I knew something had happened to him or something was preventing him from coming back because I knew he wouldn't have just left on his own.

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00:07:52,760 --> 00:07:54,760

So I was really worried.

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00:07:58,760 --> 00:08:03,760

I got a call from the Dean of Students Sunday night at 10.30 on November 10th.

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00:08:03,760 --> 00:08:09,760

And he said you need to report your son missing.

100

00:08:09,760 --> 00:08:14,760

His friends haven't seen him since last night.

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00:08:15,760 --> 00:08:20,760

I was extremely scared and freaked out.

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00:08:20,760 --> 00:08:24,760

Immediately I knew it was a very serious situation.

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00:08:27,760 --> 00:08:30,760

You're not thinking much at that point in time.

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00:08:30,760 --> 00:08:34,760

You're only kids missing, you don't know what to do.

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00:08:34,760 --> 00:08:41,760

The call from Josh was mother.

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00:08:41,760 --> 00:08:48,760

Reporting Josh was disappearance came in November 10th at 11.42 in the evening.

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00:08:48,760 --> 00:08:52,760

The Sheriff's Office did do a search of his apartment.

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00:08:52,760 --> 00:08:55,760

I would classify it more as just a walk through.

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00:08:55,760 --> 00:08:58,760

Than anything it wasn't locked down at the time.

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00:08:58,760 --> 00:09:03,760

They were looking for signs of a struggle, signs of any type of criminal activity.

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00:09:03,760 --> 00:09:09,760

Might even be looking for suicide notes or anything that would kind of lead a clue to his whereabouts.

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00:09:09,760 --> 00:09:14,760

But it looked like a normal college kid's room, you know, the TV had still been on.

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00:09:14,760 --> 00:09:19,760

There was nothing that seemed out of the ordinary or anything of a criminal nature.

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00:09:19,760 --> 00:09:22,760

They looked at some of his personal effects, like his wallet.

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00:09:22,760 --> 00:09:29,760

Some of those things might give you an indication if he left and planned to be gone for a little while, if he packed a bag or anything like that.

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00:09:29,760 --> 00:09:37,760

I remember his keys were there and we looked and checked and his car was still in the parking lot where I remember him last parking.

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00:09:37,760 --> 00:09:39,760

And so we knew he hadn't driven anywhere.

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00:09:39,760 --> 00:09:50,760

And they saw Josh's eyeglasses and contact cases still present and, you know, that to me would be something that you'd for sure take if you're going to maybe try to go start a new life or something somewhere.

119

00:09:51,760 --> 00:09:53,760

You got to wear your contact lenses to get around.

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00:09:53,760 --> 00:10:00,760

So with the contact lens case being open with no contact lenses in it, we just figured he didn't come home and that he was still somewhere on campus.

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00:10:00,760 --> 00:10:02,760

There's no reason to believe that anything else had happened.

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00:10:02,760 --> 00:10:07,760

It was not uncommon for kids to spend a night somewhere other than their dormitory.

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00:10:07,760 --> 00:10:15,760

So we talked to Josh's friends and roommates to help track his movements and activities the night before his disappearance.

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00:10:16,760 --> 00:10:23,760

Josh and his friends were in Josh's apartment at St. Maurer House.

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00:10:23,760 --> 00:10:31,760

They left the apartment to go to the party at 75 Meton Court, which was about a five minute walk away.

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00:10:31,760 --> 00:10:41,760

We do know that Josh's key card was used to access his apartment at 1106, which we believe was him going back into the apartment to retrieve a few more beers.

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00:10:42,760 --> 00:10:46,760

And that was the last time Josh key carded back into his apartment.

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00:10:50,760 --> 00:10:53,760

St. John's University is a really small campus.

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00:10:53,760 --> 00:10:55,760

I mean, student body of 2,000.

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00:10:55,760 --> 00:10:58,760

There's not a lot of distance between any of the buildings.

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00:10:58,760 --> 00:11:02,760

Josh was dormitory at St. Maurer House.

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00:11:02,760 --> 00:11:05,760

It's more on the central middle part of the campus.

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00:11:05,760 --> 00:11:10,760

The Meton Court apartment where the party was is more on the northern border of the campus.

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00:11:10,760 --> 00:11:16,760

There's a lake that stretches through the campus that would keep you from going directly from the Meton Court apartments to St. Maurer House.

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00:11:19,760 --> 00:11:23,760

The poker party that Joshua went to was a pretty small gathering, 10 to 12 kids.

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00:11:23,760 --> 00:11:27,760

Some of them knew who Josh was but didn't know him terribly well.

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00:11:27,760 --> 00:11:30,760

And then there was some people who didn't know him at all and had just met him that evening.

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00:11:30,760 --> 00:11:35,760

They said he showed up at the party between 1130 and 12.

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00:11:35,760 --> 00:11:39,760

And that Josh had a few drinks and was playing cards.

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00:11:41,760 --> 00:11:48,760

I talked to a lot of Josh's friends who were at the poker party with him and the way they describe him, he was in a good mood.

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00:11:48,760 --> 00:11:54,760

He was having a great time. He was joking around. He was acting like his normal self at the party.

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00:11:54,760 --> 00:12:03,760

Some thought that he had been intoxicated and some thought he was still sober enough to be able to walk and talk and keep control of himself.

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00:12:04,760 --> 00:12:10,760

Eventually they saw Joshua get up from the table and nobody really paid attention to where he was going.

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00:12:10,760 --> 00:12:17,760

According to people at the poker party, he just got up and left the party without saying anything to anybody.

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00:12:17,760 --> 00:12:22,760

One person stated that they believed he was going to the bathroom.

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00:12:22,760 --> 00:12:28,760

In this case, both the apartment, front entry door and the bathroom are kind of in the same direction.

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00:12:28,760 --> 00:12:32,760

So if someone wasn't paying attention, they wouldn't know which way he was going.

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00:12:32,760 --> 00:12:40,760

I can't remember any time that he had done that previously where he would have just left without saying goodbye.

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00:12:41,760 --> 00:12:46,760

The Josh I knew would tell the people that he came with that he was leaving.

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00:12:49,760 --> 00:12:56,760

That first night of the investigation, a tracking dog was called in to track Josh's scent.

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00:12:56,760 --> 00:13:03,760

It led to that pathway that's between Met and Court Apartments and St. Mauler House.

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00:13:05,760 --> 00:13:07,760

And a trail kind of stopped there.

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00:13:13,760 --> 00:13:21,760

At the time of Josh's disappearance, I was a crime and court supporter for the St. Claude Times newspaper, St. Claude, Minnesota.

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00:13:22,760 --> 00:13:29,760

Within hours of Josh disappearing, I was made aware that they had a missing person's case at St. John's University.

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00:13:29,760 --> 00:13:37,760

They brought in blood hounds pretty quickly after Josh disappeared and I believe one of the blood hounds hit on an area, on a bridge,

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00:13:37,760 --> 00:13:42,760

that would have been on the path from the card game to where Josh lived.

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00:13:42,760 --> 00:13:45,760

And then they found two witnesses.

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00:13:46,760 --> 00:13:50,760

Through our investigation, we identified two witnesses that were students.

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00:13:50,760 --> 00:13:55,760

One was a St. John's student, one was a St. Ben's student, so basically a guy and a girl.

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00:13:57,760 --> 00:14:03,760

Between 1215 and 1230, they were walking down the road towards the Met and Court Apartments.

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00:14:03,760 --> 00:14:07,760

When they got down in that area near the footbridge by Stumpf Lake,

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00:14:07,760 --> 00:14:11,760

they noticed a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt with a pair of blue jeans.

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00:14:11,760 --> 00:14:16,760

And the overall physical description matched that of Josh was.

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00:14:17,760 --> 00:14:24,760

They continued to walk and when they looked back a second time, that person wasn't there any

longer.

165

00:14:25,760 --> 00:14:31,760

That was about at the same time that Josh left the party, so it is believed that that was Josh.

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00:14:33,760 --> 00:14:37,760

The witnesses didn't report seeing anything or anyone else.

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00:14:38,760 --> 00:14:43,760

No other people, no other cars, no indication of what might have happened.

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00:14:44,760 --> 00:14:49,760

He just, he up and vanished, you know, there's nothing to lead us in one direction or another.

169

00:14:49,760 --> 00:14:52,760

He's here one minute and gone the next.

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00:14:52,760 --> 00:14:57,760

Josh was missing, his friends didn't know where he was, nobody had seen him,

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00:14:57,760 --> 00:15:02,760

so I was extremely worried because it was out of character and it was not Josh.

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00:15:08,760 --> 00:15:12,760

There were numerous agencies involved in the search efforts.

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00:15:12,760 --> 00:15:16,760

The Sterns County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigative agency.

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00:15:16,760 --> 00:15:20,760

The National Guard was eventually called in to help with searches because, you know,

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00:15:20,760 --> 00:15:25,760

the college campus part itself where, you know, students would go was relatively small,

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00:15:25,760 --> 00:15:30,760

but the area owned by St. John's was very small.

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00:15:30,760 --> 00:15:35,760

St. John's University is a private college campus on several hundred acres.

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00:15:35,760 --> 00:15:38,760

It's in a rural area in Sterns County.

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00:15:38,760 --> 00:15:44,760

It's just a lot of ground cover from swamps to lakes to wooded, hilly, thick terrain.

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00:15:47,760 --> 00:15:53,760

Tuesday they brought in the horses and they searched the campus to see if they could find a way to get there.

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00:15:54,760 --> 00:16:01,760

Tuesday they brought in the horses and they searched the campus and the ravines.

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00:16:01,760 --> 00:16:09,760

And then on the third day, Wednesday, they let us search with them and they broke us up into groups.

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00:16:13,760 --> 00:16:17,760

I went out physically searching, walking around the campus.

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00:16:17,760 --> 00:16:20,760

There was hundreds of people there.

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00:16:21,760 --> 00:16:25,760

There's probably the biggest search effort that I've ever seen.

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00:16:25,760 --> 00:16:28,760

Probably would be the biggest search effort in the county.

187

00:16:29,760 --> 00:16:37,760

I was scared to death because we're looking for our friend in this brush for whatever we could find and we didn't see anything.

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00:16:39,760 --> 00:16:43,760

I really wanted to know what happened to him. I wanted to be found. I just...

189

00:16:44,760 --> 00:16:46,760

I didn't want to be the one who found him.

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00:16:46,760 --> 00:16:51,760

Joshua Game-O is still missing tonight.

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00:16:51,760 --> 00:16:55,760

The FBI was brought in rather early in the case.

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00:16:55,760 --> 00:16:59,760

Authorities in Minnesota and Wisconsin have a disturbing mystery on their hands.

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00:16:59,760 --> 00:17:04,760

At the time that Josh disappeared, there were several college-age students that were missing.

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00:17:04,760 --> 00:17:10,760

All were about the same age, vanished at night. Could the unsolved disappearances be linked?

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00:17:11,760 --> 00:17:18,760

There was a theory that a serial type killer was traveling up and down the Mississippi River here and abducting these people and killing them.

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00:17:18,760 --> 00:17:23,760

Chris Jenkins disappeared after a Halloween party at this bar in Minneapolis.

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00:17:23,760 --> 00:17:31,760

Six days later, Michael Knowle, a 22-year-old college student, vanished after celebrating his birthday at a party in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

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00:17:32,760 --> 00:17:39,760

You know, these are all young men, people like Josh, who are successful, driven, ambitious.

199

00:17:39,760 --> 00:17:42,760

All within a hundred mile radius of Minneapolis.

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00:17:42,760 --> 00:17:47,760

But two other key elements tie the cases together, alcohol and water.

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00:17:48,760 --> 00:18:02,760

The Michael Knowle and Chris Jenkins cases happening at so close to the same time added confusion to Josh's case that maybe wouldn't have been there if there hadn't been so many other things happening.

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00:18:03,760 --> 00:18:07,760

Connecting things that aren't connected can really screw up the investigation.

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00:18:07,760 --> 00:18:15,760

Both local law enforcement and the FBI say while they haven't ruled out a connection, there's no evidence the disappearances are related.

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00:18:15,760 --> 00:18:22,760

Are their stories connected? At this point, all they know and all we know for sure is that their children are nowhere to be found.

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00:18:25,760 --> 00:18:33,760

During the initial searches for Josh, Canine was brought in and the dog led us down to the water by the bridge.

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00:18:33,760 --> 00:18:41,760

So the thought was, did he fall in the water? Did he go down to the water? Was he intoxicated and stumbled? You know, he may be in the water.

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00:18:43,760 --> 00:18:51,760

Our searches included dragging for a body, divers in the water, boats where we're using sonar technology.

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00:18:52,760 --> 00:19:02,760

Seeing that lake being dragged was like the most surreal, probably awful memory I have.

209

00:19:03,760 --> 00:19:08,760

I'm out here looking for my best friend that please think is at the bottom of this lake.

210

00:19:09,760 --> 00:19:14,760

I couldn't believe the craziness of it and the gravity of it and it just takes a toll.

211

00:19:15,760 --> 00:19:30,760

But as winter set in, there was some thought because the water was so cold, in some instances freezing over early on that if Josh was in the water, his body may never surface until the water temperatures rose.

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00:19:31,760 --> 00:19:38,760

So we did suspend the search activities in the waters and we would just wait until the spring.

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00:19:45,760 --> 00:19:54,760

You know, as fall turned into winter, it was really frustrating because it felt like there were no more search activities on campus.

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00:19:55,760 --> 00:20:03,760

I felt like everything sort of stopped and there was really nowhere else to look. It felt helpless.

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00:20:05,760 --> 00:20:10,760

I was asked by people at St. John's how I would feel about having somebody else move into Josh's room.

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00:20:10,760 --> 00:20:17,760

But I said no, I didn't want that to happen. I thought that that was a really awful idea.

217

00:20:18,760 --> 00:20:26,760

It was hard even just seeing that closed door every day because it was sort of symbolic of that's Josh's room but now it's just this closed door.

218

00:20:28,760 --> 00:20:34,760

I'm not sure how I finished that semester when Josh disappeared. It was unimaginable.

219

00:20:35,760 --> 00:20:41,760

He and I had a class together that semester and I never went back.

220

00:20:42,760 --> 00:20:52,760

Gimo was last seen about midnight as he left a party. There was search after search, no sign of him. His family pleaded for police to do more.

221

00:20:53,760 --> 00:20:57,760

Josh is out there somewhere. There's been no body phones. We got no reason to believe he's dead.

222

00:20:58,760 --> 00:21:06,760

To be honest with you, I don't think Brian was satisfied with the direction we were taking the investigation, the speed in which we were doing the investigation, our attention to the investigation.

223

00:21:07,760 --> 00:21:09,760

And he wanted answers to what happened to his son.

224

00:21:13,760 --> 00:21:18,760

Around that time, the family brought in a bloodhound to help with the search.

225

00:21:18,760 --> 00:21:20,760

That's a third, second, third time since then.

226

00:21:21,760 --> 00:21:29,760

It's not uncommon for those bloodhounds to be able to pick up a scent long after an individual has gone missing weeks and months afterwards.

227

00:21:32,760 --> 00:21:47,760

This dog traced Joshua's scent from Metton Court to Stumpf Lake, then to Josh's apartment at St. Maurer House, then to St. John's Abbey.

228

00:21:49,760 --> 00:21:57,760

St. John's University is a fairly unique institution. It's a religious college.

229

00:21:58,760 --> 00:22:03,760

There's a monastery on campus and some of the monks are professors.

230

00:22:06,760 --> 00:22:15,760

At the time Josh disappeared, there was a lot of news stories coming out about things happening at the monastery or the Abbey at St. John's.

231

00:22:15,760 --> 00:22:20,760

More allegations of clergy sex abuse at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville.

232

00:22:20,760 --> 00:22:25,760

Today in Stearns County Court, two civil lawsuits were filed, ledging abusive students dating back some 40 years.

233

00:22:26,760 --> 00:22:30,760

Today, another victim stepped forward, claiming a monk molested him inside the school.

234

00:22:31,760 --> 00:22:34,760

This is the fourth lawsuit filed against a monk at St. John's Abbey.

235

00:22:36,760 --> 00:22:43,760

Before he disappeared, Josh and I talked about the sexual abuse scandal at the Abbey and Josh was just irate about it.

236

00:22:44,760 --> 00:22:47,760

He was very upset that that kind of thing was happening and that it had been covered up.

237

00:22:49,760 --> 00:22:58,760

Brian had told us that he believed Joshua was doing research into the sexual misconduct, specifically for a research paper.

238

00:23:00,760 --> 00:23:06,760

You know, we looked at his computer. We saw other research papers, but I didn't see anything pertaining to that.

239

00:23:06,760 --> 00:23:13,760

So when the search led to the Abbey, with the bloodhound...

240

00:23:14,760 --> 00:23:16,760

She's casting all right over here.

241

00:23:17,760 --> 00:23:26,760

When the dog started to get into more intrusive areas where the general public's not typically allowed, St. John's ended up contacting us to kind of deal with it.

242

00:23:28,760 --> 00:23:33,760

Brian Gimelan asked that the search continue inside the Abbey and they were denied access.

243

00:23:34,760 --> 00:23:41,760

Later, our office was called and we were able to obtain consent to search through the Abbey with the dog.

244

00:23:42,760 --> 00:23:45,760

Now she wants to go back over there. Go back up to the Abbey.

245

00:23:46,760 --> 00:23:53,760

The dog found Josh's scent inside the Abbey near the rear of the building, but no evidence of Josh was ever found.

246

00:23:54,760 --> 00:24:01,760

Bloodhounds can be trained to do any number of things, tracking and trailing old scent, finding human remains if they're trained for that.

247

00:24:01,760 --> 00:24:07,760

But they aren't always accurate and our office was skeptical of that particular dog team at the time.

248

00:24:08,760 --> 00:24:13,760

There are about a dozen pedophile priests living on campus at a monastery not far from where I'm standing.

249

00:24:14,760 --> 00:24:18,760

So far, nothing in this investigation has connected them with Gimelan's disappearance.

250

00:24:18,760 --> 00:24:31,760

I believe that if somebody did something to Joshua that had any connection to that campus whatsoever, we're never going to find them ever.

251

00:24:32,760 --> 00:24:36,760

Not even a body ever because they're too secretive.

252

00:24:39,760 --> 00:24:41,760

In the glow of the evening light.

253

00:24:41,760 --> 00:24:49,760

I guess wondering if I'm ever going to see him again or know what happened.

254

00:24:50,760 --> 00:24:54,760

The sound of a family still hoping, still praying for something lost.

255

00:24:55,760 --> 00:24:58,760

Others have been found, the ones who disappeared around the same time.

256

00:24:59,760 --> 00:25:03,760

Chris Jenkins, a U of M student, his body found in February of 2003.

257

00:25:04,760 --> 00:25:07,760

Michael Noel, a student from Wisconsin, his body found a month later.

258

00:25:08,760 --> 00:25:14,760

Chris Jenkins and Michael Noel both were found in the bodies of water that they were near when they disappeared.

259

00:25:15,760 --> 00:25:20,760

The other two college students' deaths were determined to be not linked to Josh's disappearance.

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00:25:23,760 --> 00:25:30,760

As those other students were located, it became even more ominous that Josh was still missing.

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00:25:31,760 --> 00:25:37,760

Because both Chris Jenkins and Michael Noel were found in bodies of water, it seemed like we would find Josh.

262

00:25:38,760 --> 00:25:49,760

When the spring came around, the theory was if Josh is in one of the lakes, the water will warm,

the gases in the body will do their work and he'll float.

263

00:25:50,760 --> 00:25:59,760

And you know, I remember interviewing Katie who said she didn't like to see the ice forming on the lakes because if he's there, that's going to trap him.

264

00:26:00,760 --> 00:26:06,760

She didn't like to see the ice melting because that might warm the water enough to have him float and she didn't want that either.

265

00:26:07,760 --> 00:26:12,760

It was just like a very stressful and tense time, just wondering like is today going to be the day?

266

00:26:12,760 --> 00:26:25,760

In the spring, the Sheriff's Office started searching the waters right away in areas around waters, eventually diving multiple times in multiple bodies of water.

267

00:26:28,760 --> 00:26:36,760

And I remember Brian was searching the lakes and he's out there in a kayak.

268

00:26:37,760 --> 00:26:47,760

And I just couldn't get over the thought that what if his body floated up right next to that kayak?

269

00:26:48,760 --> 00:26:50,760

I mean what would you do as a father?

270

00:26:52,760 --> 00:26:57,760

If their theory was right, they should have been right there in the water.

271

00:26:58,760 --> 00:27:03,760

If we should have walked right there, there he is, okay, end of story, but that wasn't the case.

272

00:27:07,760 --> 00:27:14,760

When the Sheriff's Office got done with their search efforts, they concluded that Joshua was not in the water.

273

00:27:16,760 --> 00:27:23,760

Well when Joshua's body didn't surface, there were so many theories about what could have happened to him.

274

00:27:24,760 --> 00:27:31,760

I think the most prevailing theory was probably that somebody that knew Joshua was close to Josh

did something to Josh.

275

00:27:31,760 --> 00:27:34,760

Could be a friend, could be a roommate.

276

00:27:35,760 --> 00:27:47,760

During our investigation, one of Josh's roommates told us that he heard an argument between Nick and Josh earlier that night before Josh went missing and the argument involved Katie.

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00:27:48,760 --> 00:27:59,760

Josh and I dated for about four and a half years, but by our junior year of college, we decided to end our relationship and Josh and I broke up.

278

00:27:59,760 --> 00:28:03,760

When Josh disappeared, we had only been broken up for a couple of months.

279

00:28:04,760 --> 00:28:10,760

Right after Josh disappeared, there was a lot of speculation about whether or not Nick and Katie were together.

280

00:28:11,760 --> 00:28:22,760

If they were ever romantically involved, if that was possibly a motive for some harm done to Josh or was Josh upset about them getting together after Josh and Katie broke up.

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00:28:23,760 --> 00:28:31,760

I think Nick and I did have a level of attraction toward each other. He and I did consider dating.

282

00:28:32,760 --> 00:28:40,760

We were close and we discussed do we want to try to have some sort of relationship other than just being friends, but I wouldn't call it a romantic relationship with Katie.

283

00:28:41,760 --> 00:28:46,760

I think we kissed one maybe two times and then we decided this isn't a route we want to go right now.

284

00:28:47,760 --> 00:28:56,760

Katie and Nick both mentioned in their statements to us that they talked about Nick's desire to date Katie.

285

00:28:57,760 --> 00:29:06,760

Nick also drew our attention in the investigation because his timeline of his whereabouts that evening differed from Katie's original statement to us.

286

00:29:07,760 --> 00:29:12,760

Nick told us he left Katie's apartment at about 2.30.

287

00:29:14,760 --> 00:29:23,760

And keycard records on campus showed he keyed into his dorm room at 2.42 hours on the morning of the 10th of November.

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00:29:24,760 --> 00:29:28,760

In a statement with Katie, she told us he left at 1.30.

289

00:29:29,760 --> 00:29:37,760

You've got over an hour of unaccounted time there when the drive between both campuses is roughly 7 to 10 minutes, especially at that time of night.

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00:29:38,760 --> 00:29:42,760

What he's telling us at that point did not match up with what Katie said.

291

00:29:44,760 --> 00:29:53,760

Nick was asked to take a polygraph by our office. Initially he told us that he would consider and then when that polygraph examination was scheduled he chose not to take it.

292

00:29:53,760 --> 00:30:01,760

I told them no because that's not going to do anybody any good. I don't want there to be some false positive because they're simply not reliable.

293

00:30:02,760 --> 00:30:04,760

There was a reason they were inadmissible in court.

294

00:30:06,760 --> 00:30:12,760

I don't think it's necessarily abnormal or very strange that someone in that capacity wouldn't take it.

295

00:30:13,760 --> 00:30:19,760

The fact that he then declined it and cancelled after the fact is a detail that we must consider.

296

00:30:20,760 --> 00:30:34,760

I don't believe I was ever directly told that I was a suspect or person of interest. I had nothing to do with Josh's disappearance and all I could think of was they're not going in the right direction because this is the one direction I can say with certainty is the wrong one.

297

00:30:35,760 --> 00:30:50,760

I never gave that theory much credence and I was thinking if they keep looking at Nick, if they keep viewing him as a suspect and as their primary suspect and if they're not looking anywhere else, we're never going to find Josh.

298

00:30:51,760 --> 00:31:04,760

My initial thought is that it was some kind of an accident and somebody who was involved maybe tried to cover it up to avoid any kind of potential consequences.

299

00:31:05,760 --> 00:31:22,760

Early on I felt like there were some people at the party who had seen him right before he disappeared. I just got this sense that are they telling me the whole truth, the full truth?

300

00:31:22,760 --> 00:31:37,760

Or is there something that's not flattering, that's maybe embarrassing, that happened, that they just don't want anyone to know, that they just are never going to tell anybody? That always stuck in the back of my head.

301

00:31:38,760 --> 00:31:52,760

They're all kids with goals and aspirations and they've got their whole life in front of them if they know something or something happened, they have a future to protect. So it could be a motivation to hide or conceal something.

302

00:31:53,760 --> 00:32:00,760

But if something happened at the party, I don't think it's possible to keep 10 or 12 kids silent on it.

303

00:32:00,760 --> 00:32:22,760

I believe the kids at the party know more than they say for them to say, Josh just got up and said he was going to the bathroom and never came back. And nobody wondered where he was. It doesn't make any sense to me. There's more to it than what they're saying.

304

00:32:30,760 --> 00:32:38,760

In the days that followed the investigation into where Josh went, investigators were still looking at additional physical evidence.

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00:32:38,760 --> 00:32:54,760

After that initial search, our office didn't remove the computer or the hard drive or anything from Josh's room. At the time, they didn't have any reason to believe that the computer would yield any information based on the direction they were going with that early investigation.

306

00:32:54,760 --> 00:33:04,760

So we got access to the computer from Brian and we were able to see that somebody had used an internet washer on Josh's computer several days after his disappearance.

307

00:33:06,760 --> 00:33:19,760

The internet washing program in 2002 was a program that was able to be installed from the internet onto the device which then would allow some files to either be deleted temporarily or deleted permanently from the hard drive of a computer.

308

00:33:20,760 --> 00:33:33,760

This internet washer was something that had not been done previously on this computer and it was obviously suspicious for us and something that we wanted to make sure we shed some more light on. It was not normal for Josh's use on the computer.

309

00:33:34,760 --> 00:33:49,760

After Josh disappeared, they didn't close his room off or anything so anybody could go in and out. So Brian made the decision to get all his stuff out of there within, I think it was two weeks of Josh being missing.

310

00:33:51,760 --> 00:33:57,760

All the kids in that apartment could have had access to his computer and anything else.

311

00:33:58,760 --> 00:34:09,760

I was careful not to do anything on his computer and I didn't want to disturb anything because it just struck me as something that may really be significant and I was not going to be messing around with it.

312

00:34:10,760 --> 00:34:24,760

It does seem odd that within days after someone goes missing, someone other than the missing person goes onto their computer and deletes files. But we don't know who and we don't know what the files were. So you just felt like there was more to that computer.

313

00:34:28,760 --> 00:34:37,760

We did everything together. I mean we went to college together. We started the next chapter of our life together and I guess I just always assumed that it would be the same when we graduated.

314

00:34:39,760 --> 00:34:55,760

It took me a long time to realize and to accept that Josh was actually a missing person. I kept expecting him to be at class or to show up at McTriel or just to be back at campus. It took me a long time to really accept that he might not come back.

315

00:34:56,760 --> 00:34:59,760

He was my best friend and up here on campus he was my family.

316

00:35:01,760 --> 00:35:13,760

I still remember graduation in 2003. It was for most of the people there. Obviously they're really happy. It's a joyous day. I felt none of that. I just wanted to be done.

317

00:35:14,760 --> 00:35:26,760

I missed him so much. It was like I lost a part of myself. We were really close and I felt a little lost without him.

318

00:35:29,760 --> 00:35:38,760

It's been five years since a St. John's student was last seen. No one knows exactly what happened to Josh Gimau. Still his family and friends hope for his return.

319

00:35:39,760 --> 00:35:48,760

It's worse now. It's worse because you know it's like this is the day that marks the fifth year that he's been gone and we have no idea what happened where he is.

320

00:35:48,760 --> 00:36:04,760

When we looked at this case and didn't have any specific thing directing us to what happened, almost everything was considered.

321

00:36:05,760 --> 00:36:17,760

And specifically in 2008 the thing that I began looking at was Josh's computer. Different people have looked at the actual original hard drive.

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00:36:17,760 --> 00:36:28,760

But in 2008 additional technology started giving me some new investigative things to look at some different possibilities.

323

00:36:29,760 --> 00:36:39,760

I took that hard drive down to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, set it up in their lab and since that time that computer really has been the most central part of the investigation.

324

00:36:39,760 --> 00:36:51,760

We learned in the Internet washer that we found Josh's computer in 2002. It would only delete browser history, cookies, things of that nature. It wouldn't wipe out a ton of data.

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00:36:52,760 --> 00:36:55,760

So we still had the vast majority of the contents of the computer.

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00:36:55,760 --> 00:37:03,760

We looked at his emails which was pretty mundane, normal stuff that you would expect to see on a college kid's computer.

327

00:37:03,760 --> 00:37:14,760

The things that started to pique my interest that this could be a key to solving the case were he was spending time on Yahoo! Personals.

328

00:37:15,760 --> 00:37:25,760

We identified three different profiles that we believed were used by Josh, one of which has his partial part of his name and his zip code for the area he lived.

329

00:37:25,760 --> 00:37:33,760

And then two other ones portray himself as a female. One is Kuchiku 2002 and the other one is Gwen Girl Big Jugs.

330

00:37:33,760 --> 00:37:41,760

We know with follow-up with individuals later on that he was chatting online with men in portraying himself as a female.

331

00:37:42,760 --> 00:37:48,760

The examination of Josh's computer leads me to believe he might have had some secrets that he didn't want to share with people.

332

00:37:48,760 --> 00:37:59,760

Some of the things that were on his computer would lead you to believe that maybe he was looking for casual encounters of some kind, trying to meet people online that he didn't necessarily share with anyone.

333

00:38:00,760 --> 00:38:12,760

He might have been exploring his sexuality, but at the same time the pornography that he looked at and had on his computer ranged from heterosexual to homosexual pornography.

334

00:38:12,760 --> 00:38:19,760

And nobody that we interviewed really had any belief or information or any indication that he was homosexual or transgender.

335

00:38:19,760 --> 00:38:29,760

I don't think Josh was gay. I never got that impression from him. I wasn't aware of him exploring anything like that while we were together when I knew him.

336

00:38:29,760 --> 00:38:36,760

I never saw any sign that he was gay, so that would surprise me considerably.

337

00:38:36,760 --> 00:38:54,760

From looking at that account, your mind kind of wanders. What would you do if you were the person interacting with the profile he set up and you found out you were talking to a 20-year-old male college student at St. John's?

338

00:38:54,760 --> 00:39:01,760

What would that cause someone to do if they found that out? Certainly it would be embarrassing.

339

00:39:01,760 --> 00:39:13,760

Would it drive you to the point of saying, I want to find out who did that? I want to go meet that person. Do I want to go do harm to that person? I don't know what it would cause people to think. That crossed my mind.

340

00:39:14,760 --> 00:39:26,760

One of the theories is that Josh potentially met someone on an instant messaging chat site and ended up chatting with him ahead of time to line up maybe some sort of meetup which could explain why abruptly he left in the middle of the night.

341

00:39:27,760 --> 00:39:33,760

It may be meeting with someone that he maybe didn't fully know and something happened to him.

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00:39:37,760 --> 00:39:47,760

So we looked at all of the St. John's life safety incident reports that they had back then. Life Safety Services is the name for the security staff on campus.

343

00:39:47,760 --> 00:39:57,760

So we're just looking for any complaints about suspicious activity, just to look for suspicious vehicles, suspicious people and people on campus that were not affiliated with the campus in any way.

344

00:39:57,760 --> 00:40:15,760

And there was two incident reports specifically that really piqued my interest. In both of those instances, there was a vehicle that Life Safety Services had seen in various different places on campus on two different nights in 2002 prior to Joshua's disappearance.

345

00:40:16,760 --> 00:40:30,760

There are several other areas on campus that are dark, not well lit, a little more remote on the outskirts of campus that aren't used typically at night, that people would frequent for meetings or hookups.

346

00:40:31,760 --> 00:40:36,760

The places the car was seen were consistent with that kind of hookup area.

347

00:40:37,760 --> 00:40:52,760

Campus Security stated in the incident reports that when they drove up to the vehicle, they noticed a college-daged male get out of the front passenger seat and run off into the darkness.

348

00:40:53,760 --> 00:41:02,760

Life Safety in the first report detailed that the person that took off running was a college-aged male. They weren't able to tell much more than that.

349

00:41:02,760 --> 00:41:09,760

But in the second report, Life Safety was able to speak with another college-aged male who was in the front passenger seat of that vehicle.

350

00:41:09,760 --> 00:41:16,760

Life Safety detailed in both reports that the passenger in the front passenger seat was not identified in either case.

351

00:41:17,760 --> 00:41:27,760

The incident reports specifically state what the vehicle was and they described it as an orange Pontiac Sunfire.

352

00:41:30,760 --> 00:41:37,760

They had obtained a license plate number, a vehicle description, and in one instance had stopped and spoken with this individual.

353

00:41:39,760 --> 00:41:42,760

He told them he was dropping off a student on campus.

354

00:41:43,760 --> 00:41:54,760

We have been in contact with the individual from the incident reports and he provided us the same explanation that he did at the time was that he was dropping off a student from another campus.

355

00:41:56,760 --> 00:42:05,760

And we had an interest in finding the vehicle to see if there would be any forensic evidence indicating whether this individual had any contact with Joshua.

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00:42:05,760 --> 00:42:10,760

Unfortunately, it's not available to us because that vehicle has been crushed.

357

00:42:13,760 --> 00:42:24,760

We would like to identify the student he was with and ask how they met this individual, what the purpose of the meeting was, just to see if it's in any way related to Joshua's disappearance.

358

00:42:24,760 --> 00:42:30,760

If this person is frequenting the campus, we want to know if he had any encounters or interactions with Joshua.

359

00:42:31,760 --> 00:42:45,760

But also our Sheriff's Office is interested in speaking with anybody who had contact with this male individual in a Pontiac Sunfire orange in color or any other person who might have come on campus for whatever reason at that time.

360

00:42:45,760 --> 00:42:56,760

Investigators have reviewed some of the identified male photos from Joshua's Yahoo user account and that individual in a Pontiac Sunfire was not found to match any of those.

361

00:42:57,760 --> 00:43:05,760

I do think that Joshua's computer activity and specifically being on Yahoo! Personals might have contributed to his disappearance.

362

00:43:05,760 --> 00:43:15,760

It seems probable that he was on a dating site or trying to meet people and I think it's probably our most likely avenue or theory.

363

00:43:16,760 --> 00:43:24,760

When we imaged the hard drive, we saw a lot of different images and some of them are directly linked to his Yahoo! Personal site.

364

00:43:24,760 --> 00:43:38,760

We have quite a few photos that we would like the public's help in identifying so that we can go out and speak to these people to see if they have any connection to Joshua at all, if they've ever met Joshua and why they might appear on his computer hard drive.

365

00:43:46,760 --> 00:44:03,760

I hung Joshua's photo on the wall for everybody that's coming through this office because we still have this unsolved case and we have to have that constant daily reminder that it's there so it's not forgotten.

366

00:44:06,760 --> 00:44:08,760

It's important to me personally.

367

00:44:08,760 --> 00:44:15,760

Disappointment in this case is...

368

00:44:15,760 --> 00:44:33,760

The road ahead is a long and difficult one. Fortunately, we have been very well equipped to celebrate the conclusion of the last chapter of the first volume of our lives.

369

00:44:33,760 --> 00:44:40,760

Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that we would be 20 years later and still have no idea what happened to him.

370

00:44:40,760 --> 00:44:51,760

Josh would be 39 now and I would assume he would be a lawyer if not a senator already.

371

00:44:53,760 --> 00:45:00,760

He was going to go to some elite law school, maybe Yale, and then come back to his hometown of Maple Lake, open up his law practice.

372

00:45:00,760 --> 00:45:07,760

Oh, Josh would be the president of the United States right now if he hadn't disappeared. If not president, on his way to being president.

373

00:45:08,760 --> 00:45:25,760

I always told Josh, when you grow up in your big political career, just remember, I'm living in the west wing of the mansion and you're building your father a cabin way up north in the woods.

374

00:45:26,760 --> 00:45:29,760

And he said, I'll do that for you, mom.

375

00:45:29,760 --> 00:45:44,760

I think Josh probably had secrets. Maybe they got him killed? I don't know. I wish that whoever knew those secrets would come forward. Bring him to light.

376

00:45:44,760 --> 00:45:59,760

He's our son. We want to know what happened to him. We love him. It doesn't make any difference. He's my son.

377

00:46:14,760 --> 00:46:32,760

I remember my mom having dreams about some weird guy and some lady. I could see a dungeon and they're doing sadistic and weird things to this girl.

378

00:46:33,760 --> 00:46:40,760

I feel like her spirit is trying to get in touch with someone. I think she wants to be found.

379

00:46:41,760 --> 00:46:44,760

How did the boat get out that far? What happened that day?

380

00:46:45,760 --> 00:46:52,760

He clearly wasn't killed in that boat. There's zero biological evidence in there. This was not a suicide. This is a murder.

381

00:46:54,760 --> 00:46:59,760

The entire place was cleaned. They were just gone. There's nothing left. There is no playbook for kidnapping.

382

00:48:40,760 --> 00:48:42,760

You