

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,600

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,600 --> 00:00:06,300

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:06,300 --> 00:00:09,200

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,200 --> 00:00:11,900

What you are about to see is not a news broadcast.

5

00:00:16,900 --> 00:00:20,400

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries, San Quentin Prison.

6

00:00:20,400 --> 00:00:23,600

Once you enter, it is unlikely you will leave.

7

00:00:23,600 --> 00:00:25,400

The convicted murderer Mark Adams,

8

00:00:25,400 --> 00:00:27,400

fashionist and chief of the police,

9

00:00:27,800 --> 00:00:29,600

the convicted murderer Mark Adams,

10

00:00:29,600 --> 00:00:31,800

fashion and improbable escape.

11

00:00:31,800 --> 00:00:35,800

You may be able to help catch him.

12

00:00:35,800 --> 00:00:38,600

The story of a young housewife who vanished from her home

13

00:00:38,600 --> 00:00:40,600

of Gothenburg, Nebraska.

14

00:00:40,600 --> 00:00:43,700

Her husband wants her back, but he must answer allegations

15

00:00:43,700 --> 00:00:47,760

that he is the one responsible for her disappearance.

16

00:00:47,760 --> 00:00:50,400

Stephen Cox was a small town hero,

17

00:00:50,400 --> 00:00:53,200

handsome, popular, successful.

18

00:00:53,200 --> 00:00:55,800

Stephen Cox may also have been a con man

19

00:00:55,800 --> 00:00:59,800

who built over \$3 million out of his unsuspecting neighbor.

20

00:00:59,800 --> 00:01:03,800

The people of Medford, Oregon want their money back.

21

00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:47,800

A young housewife who disappeared.

22

00:01:47,800 --> 00:01:51,800

A local hero turned back and escaped convict.

23

00:01:51,800 --> 00:01:53,800

Three people whose fate remains a question mark.

24

00:01:54,300 --> 00:01:56,400

Perhaps tonight we'll find some answers.

25

00:01:56,400 --> 00:01:59,400

Also a special appeal from the police in Philadelphia

26

00:01:59,400 --> 00:02:02,200

who will ask for your help in tracking down a murderer.

27

00:02:02,200 --> 00:02:03,400

Join me.

28

00:02:03,400 --> 00:02:05,800

You may be able to help solve a mystery.

29

00:02:05,800 --> 00:02:14,800

The town of Gothenburg is located in the heart of Nebraska's farm

30

00:02:14,800 --> 00:02:15,800

belt.

31

00:02:15,800 --> 00:02:17,800

There is a strong sense of community

32

00:02:17,800 --> 00:02:19,800

among its 3,000 inhabitants.

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00:02:19,800 --> 00:02:21,800

And when a neighbor is in trouble,

34

00:02:21,800 --> 00:02:23,800

it becomes everybody's business.

35

00:02:23,800 --> 00:02:26,800

On December 11, 2013, a new family was born.

36

00:02:26,800 --> 00:02:29,800

The family was born in the town of Gothenburg.

37

00:02:29,800 --> 00:02:32,800

The family was born in the town of Gothenburg.

38

00:02:33,800 --> 00:02:38,800

On December 11, 1987, a housewife named Kristie Nicolle vanished.

39

00:02:38,800 --> 00:02:43,800

Her disappearance turned into a controversy that continues to this day.

40

00:02:43,800 --> 00:02:47,800

Kristie married Mark Nicolles when she was 19.

41

00:02:47,800 --> 00:02:50,800

Soon after their marriage, a daughter was born.

42

00:02:50,800 --> 00:02:56,800

And in April of 1986, a son, those who knew Kristie well,

43

00:02:56,800 --> 00:02:58,800

felt her life centered around her family.

44

00:02:59,800 --> 00:03:03,800

Kristie was a very good student and a nice looking girl.

45

00:03:03,800 --> 00:03:08,800

And people liked her, but she always had kind of a negative self-image.

46

00:03:08,800 --> 00:03:13,800

And I think Kristie never felt she did anything until she had her children in there.

47

00:03:13,800 --> 00:03:16,800

It was something she could look at and say, hey, I did this pretty well.

48

00:03:16,800 --> 00:03:20,800

Nobody can do this any better because she was just so proud of her children.

49

00:03:20,800 --> 00:03:21,800

She loved them.

50

00:03:21,800 --> 00:03:25,800

I would have never thought that Kristie would run away.

51

00:03:25,800 --> 00:03:28,800

She would have never left her children.

52

00:03:28,800 --> 00:03:30,800

I would have never believed that.

53

00:03:32,800 --> 00:03:36,800

Kristie's husband, Mark Nicolles, works at a local gas station.

54

00:03:36,800 --> 00:03:39,800

He was the last person to see her alive.

55

00:03:39,800 --> 00:03:44,800

There are rumors in Gothenburg that say he is responsible for her disappearance.

56

00:03:46,800 --> 00:03:49,800

People in small towns, they talk a lot.

57

00:03:49,800 --> 00:03:52,800

And a lot of these rumors tend to get pretty vicious.

58

00:03:52,800 --> 00:03:58,800

There's been a couple rumors that I'd chopped her up and put her in garbage bags

59

00:03:58,800 --> 00:04:00,800

and buried her at the dump.

60

00:04:00,800 --> 00:04:03,800

That's one of the first ones I heard.

61

00:04:03,800 --> 00:04:09,800

And that one really got to me because I guess they were actually up there digging around.

62

00:04:11,800 --> 00:04:14,800

Mark Nicolles claims he is innocent of all wrongdoing.

63

00:04:14,800 --> 00:04:16,800

He wants his wife to come home.

64

00:04:16,800 --> 00:04:18,800

But until Kristie returns to Gothenburg,

65

00:04:18,800 --> 00:04:21,800

he remains under a cloud of suspicion.

66

00:04:21,800 --> 00:04:25,800

The police investigation of this case has raised some disturbing questions

67

00:04:25,800 --> 00:04:28,800

about the events surrounding his wife's disappearance.

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00:04:31,800 --> 00:04:36,800

Since Kristie vanished 11 months ago, no one, family members or friends

69

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

have had any contact with her.

70

00:04:38,800 --> 00:04:42,800

For this reason, the Nebraska State Patrol has been called in.

71

00:04:42,800 --> 00:04:45,800

Officer Terry Arons is in charge of the case.

72

00:04:45,800 --> 00:04:50,800

And as the investigation has proceeded, it's starting to look more and more like a foul play situation.

73

00:04:50,800 --> 00:04:53,800

There's just a lot of things that aren't ringing true,

74

00:04:53,800 --> 00:04:58,800

that don't appear like your normal missing person situation.

75

00:04:58,800 --> 00:05:03,800

Police began to uncover evidence that the Nicolles marriage was in trouble.

76

00:05:07,800 --> 00:05:10,800

They learned that Kristie had been seeing another man.

77

00:05:11,800 --> 00:05:14,800

They learned that Kristie had been seeing another man.

78

00:05:14,800 --> 00:05:18,800

10 days before her disappearance, she had gone to a local hospital

79

00:05:18,800 --> 00:05:22,800

for treatment of an injury she received during a fight with Mark.

80

00:05:26,800 --> 00:05:33,800

The only bad fight I can remember is when I was trying to get her to stay home from going out.

81

00:05:33,800 --> 00:05:36,800

And she was getting so upset at me,

82

00:05:36,800 --> 00:05:40,800

she started to try to hit and kick me.

83

00:05:40,800 --> 00:05:47,800

And that's when she burned the side of my neck with a cigarette she was holding.

84

00:05:47,800 --> 00:05:52,800

And I tossed her onto the waterbed and she landed wrong

85

00:05:52,800 --> 00:05:55,800

and kind of twisted up her thumb underneath her.

86

00:05:57,800 --> 00:06:00,800

I saw Kristie on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

87

00:06:00,800 --> 00:06:04,800

She came to the emergency room complaining of a sore thumb.

88

00:06:05,800 --> 00:06:09,800

She was acting like a scared rabbit, if you will.

89

00:06:09,800 --> 00:06:15,800

She's never been one for great eye contact or been very verbal.

90

00:06:15,800 --> 00:06:18,800

She obviously wasn't telling me everything either.

91

00:06:18,800 --> 00:06:24,800

Mark was in the hallway nearby and I couldn't looking back really tell

92

00:06:24,800 --> 00:06:28,800

if it was reassuring for her to have Mark there or not.

93

00:06:30,800 --> 00:06:33,800

Kristie also told her cousin Debbie Fredrickson

94

00:06:33,800 --> 00:06:35,800

that she had been abused by Mark.

95

00:06:38,800 --> 00:06:42,800

When I went to see Kristie, she was working at the bar

96

00:06:42,800 --> 00:06:46,800

and she was having problems with her husband.

97

00:06:46,800 --> 00:06:49,800

She would tell me their husband would beat her.

98

00:06:49,800 --> 00:06:53,800

When we left the bar, Kristie showed me a bruise on her side

99

00:06:53,800 --> 00:06:55,800

and it really scared me.

100

00:06:55,800 --> 00:06:58,800

I told her she needed to go get help from somebody.

101

00:06:58,800 --> 00:07:01,800

And I asked her how it had happened

102

00:07:01,800 --> 00:07:04,800

and she said her and Mark had gotten an argument

103

00:07:04,800 --> 00:07:06,800

and he had thrown her around.

104

00:07:06,800 --> 00:07:09,800

And she just acted like it wasn't a big deal.

105

00:07:09,800 --> 00:07:11,800

It was something that happened a lot.

106

00:07:11,800 --> 00:07:17,800

As far as a violent argument, which there seemed to be a lot of rumors

107

00:07:17,800 --> 00:07:20,800

going around that I was always beating up on her,

108

00:07:20,800 --> 00:07:23,800

that's just totally wrong.

109

00:07:24,800 --> 00:07:28,800

On December 9th, two days before her disappearance,

110

00:07:28,800 --> 00:07:31,800

Kristie went to an attorney to begin divorce proceedings.

111

00:07:31,800 --> 00:07:34,800

What can I do for you Kristie?

112

00:07:34,800 --> 00:07:36,800

Well, I need some help.

113

00:07:36,800 --> 00:07:39,800

What's your problem?

114

00:07:39,800 --> 00:07:42,800

I need someone to help me get through this.

115

00:07:42,800 --> 00:07:44,800

Kristie was frightened that Mark would find out

116

00:07:44,800 --> 00:07:48,800

and for this reason went to an out of town lawyer.

117

00:07:48,800 --> 00:07:50,800

We do a lot of divorce work.

118

00:07:50,800 --> 00:07:52,800

I've handled hundreds of divorces,

119

00:07:52,800 --> 00:07:54,800

but she had to rank up in the top five

120

00:07:54,800 --> 00:07:58,800

of being very distressed and upset and nervous

121

00:07:58,800 --> 00:07:59,800

and needed help.

122

00:07:59,800 --> 00:08:03,800

And when she explained certain abuses

123

00:08:03,800 --> 00:08:05,800

that she had been subjected to,

124

00:08:05,800 --> 00:08:09,800

we decided to make some telephone calls

125

00:08:09,800 --> 00:08:11,800

to call the authorities

126

00:08:11,800 --> 00:08:14,800

and to report certain crimes that had taken place.

127

00:08:14,800 --> 00:08:17,800

I feel that she was very sincere and honest

128

00:08:17,800 --> 00:08:18,800

in what she was telling me.

129

00:08:19,800 --> 00:08:22,800

I don't know what motive she would possibly have had

130

00:08:22,800 --> 00:08:27,800

to conjure up a story about being abused by her husband

131

00:08:27,800 --> 00:08:29,800

if it didn't in fact happen.

132

00:08:29,800 --> 00:08:32,800

I was convinced and I am still convinced that it happened.

133

00:08:32,800 --> 00:08:34,800

What was Kristie's state of mind

134

00:08:34,800 --> 00:08:36,800

when she left the lawyer's office?

135

00:08:36,800 --> 00:08:39,800

Was she preparing to run away as Mark claims?

136

00:08:39,800 --> 00:08:42,800

Or was she planning on fighting for the custody of her children

137

00:08:42,800 --> 00:08:44,800

as her mother believes?

138

00:08:45,800 --> 00:08:48,800

I can say that the day that Kristie was in my office

139

00:08:48,800 --> 00:08:51,800

on December 9th, she was not panicking

140

00:08:51,800 --> 00:08:55,800

to the point that she would run or leave.

141

00:08:55,800 --> 00:08:59,800

And in fact, she had planned to come back.

142

00:08:59,800 --> 00:09:01,800

When she left, she had made an appointment

143

00:09:01,800 --> 00:09:03,800

to come back to my office.

144

00:09:09,800 --> 00:09:12,800

The day after this meeting, December 10th,

145

00:09:12,800 --> 00:09:15,800

Kristie and Mark went Christmas shopping with their children.

146

00:09:15,800 --> 00:09:19,800

This was the last afternoon she would spend with her family.

147

00:09:24,800 --> 00:09:28,800

I felt real uncomfortable the day before she left

148

00:09:28,800 --> 00:09:33,800

because I felt a lot of anger coming from her.

149

00:09:34,800 --> 00:09:37,800

That evening, the couple hired a babysitter

150

00:09:37,800 --> 00:09:40,800

and went to the local bar where Kristie worked.

151

00:09:43,800 --> 00:09:46,800

When I babysat the night that she disappeared,

152

00:09:46,800 --> 00:09:48,800

I was surprised that those two were going out,

153

00:09:48,800 --> 00:09:50,800

the both of them were going out

154

00:09:50,800 --> 00:09:53,800

because I knew they weren't getting along.

155

00:09:56,800 --> 00:10:00,800

When we were at the bar, things seemed to be going real well.

156

00:10:00,800 --> 00:10:05,800

I felt there was a good attitude about herself and myself

157

00:10:05,800 --> 00:10:09,800

and a lot of laughing and carrying on.

158

00:10:10,800 --> 00:10:13,800

Mark and Kristie left the bar around midnight

159

00:10:13,800 --> 00:10:16,800

and drove to an all-night convenience store.

160

00:10:16,800 --> 00:10:19,800

At 12.30, they headed for home.

161

00:10:19,800 --> 00:10:21,800

According to the babysitter, Mark arrived home

162

00:10:21,800 --> 00:10:24,800

between 12.30 and 1.00 in the morning.

163

00:10:25,800 --> 00:10:27,800

The babysitter was doing her homework

164

00:10:27,800 --> 00:10:29,800

in front of the television

165

00:10:29,800 --> 00:10:31,800

and doesn't remember seeing Kristie.

166

00:10:34,800 --> 00:10:37,800

I was about five, six yards behind her

167

00:10:37,800 --> 00:10:39,800

when she reached the door.

168

00:10:39,800 --> 00:10:43,800

And she walked right by the living room

169

00:10:43,800 --> 00:10:46,800

where the babysitter was at,

170

00:10:46,800 --> 00:10:48,800

back towards the kids' bedroom

171

00:10:48,800 --> 00:10:52,800

and went into the main bathroom.

172

00:10:54,800 --> 00:10:57,800

It seems strange because Mark had paid me with cash

173

00:10:57,800 --> 00:11:00,800

when Kristie usually pays me with a check.

174

00:11:00,800 --> 00:11:03,800

It was unusual for Mark to pay me.

175

00:11:03,800 --> 00:11:04,800

Is that enough?

176

00:11:04,800 --> 00:11:06,800

Yeah, that's fine. Thanks.

177

00:11:06,800 --> 00:11:07,800

How was everything?

178

00:11:07,800 --> 00:11:09,800

I really can't believe that I didn't see her

179

00:11:09,800 --> 00:11:12,800

because I would have heard footsteps

180

00:11:12,800 --> 00:11:16,800

and I would have heard her go into the bathroom

181

00:11:16,800 --> 00:11:22,800

because I was there between five and ten minutes

182

00:11:22,800 --> 00:11:25,800

so that I would have been able to hear Kristie somehow

183

00:11:25,800 --> 00:11:28,800

that I didn't hear or see Kristie.

184

00:11:28,800 --> 00:11:31,800

According to Mark, Kristie went to bed immediately

185

00:11:31,800 --> 00:11:33,800

after the babysitter left.

186

00:11:33,800 --> 00:11:36,800

The last time he says he saw her was at 2 a.m.

187

00:11:36,800 --> 00:11:38,800

when he went to sleep beside her.

188

00:11:42,800 --> 00:11:45,800

And that's the last thing I remember

189

00:11:45,800 --> 00:11:48,800

until my kids woke me up the next morning.

190

00:11:48,800 --> 00:11:51,800

And the first thing I noticed was

191

00:11:51,800 --> 00:11:53,800

she wasn't in the bed.

192

00:11:53,800 --> 00:11:56,800

Mark claims he searched the house

193

00:11:56,800 --> 00:11:58,800

and noticed Kristie had taken a suitcase

194

00:11:58,800 --> 00:12:00,800

full of belongings with her.

195

00:12:00,800 --> 00:12:02,800

Kristie?

196

00:12:02,800 --> 00:12:06,800

But both family cars were still sitting in the front yard.

197

00:12:06,800 --> 00:12:09,800

At 9.30 in the morning,

198

00:12:09,800 --> 00:12:12,800

Mark received a phone call from Kristie's mother

199

00:12:12,800 --> 00:12:14,800

who lived 100 miles away.

200

00:12:14,800 --> 00:12:17,800

Even though he knew his wife was gone,

201

00:12:17,800 --> 00:12:21,800

Mark told her mother that Kristie was still in bed asleep.

202

00:12:21,800 --> 00:12:23,800

I'll have her call you.

203

00:12:23,800 --> 00:12:25,800

I didn't want to worry her at the time

204

00:12:25,800 --> 00:12:27,800

because I didn't know where she was

205

00:12:27,800 --> 00:12:30,800

so I told her that she was still in bed sleeping

206

00:12:30,800 --> 00:12:32,800

because I didn't think she felt real good.

207

00:12:32,800 --> 00:12:34,800

At 11.30 a.m.,

208

00:12:34,800 --> 00:12:37,800

Mark took his children over to Kristie's grandmother's

209

00:12:37,800 --> 00:12:39,800

and asked if she could take care of them

210

00:12:39,800 --> 00:12:42,800

as he was planning to search for his wife.

211

00:12:44,800 --> 00:12:46,800

Well, I didn't think much about it at the time,

212

00:12:46,800 --> 00:12:48,800

but like I say later,

213

00:12:48,800 --> 00:12:50,800

he never asked me at all or telephoned me

214

00:12:50,800 --> 00:12:52,800

in order to take care of the kids.

215

00:12:52,800 --> 00:12:54,800

Where they always did before,

216

00:12:54,800 --> 00:12:56,800

that was really about the strangest thing.

217

00:12:57,800 --> 00:13:01,800

He never asked if Kristie was at my house

218

00:13:01,800 --> 00:13:03,800

or if I'd seen Kristie.

219

00:13:03,800 --> 00:13:06,800

He just said that Kristie was missing

220

00:13:06,800 --> 00:13:09,800

and he acted like he was shook up.

221

00:13:11,800 --> 00:13:14,800

I spent approximately two hours

222

00:13:14,800 --> 00:13:17,800

just riding around town trying to spot her,

223

00:13:17,800 --> 00:13:19,800

maybe coming out of the store

224

00:13:19,800 --> 00:13:23,800

or I drove some residential streets

225

00:13:24,800 --> 00:13:27,800

where we knew some people.

226

00:13:27,800 --> 00:13:29,800

When we checked out Mark's story

227

00:13:29,800 --> 00:13:31,800

about driving around looking for Kristie,

228

00:13:31,800 --> 00:13:35,800

we could find nobody in the city of Gothenburg

229

00:13:35,800 --> 00:13:38,800

that had seen him driving around.

230

00:13:38,800 --> 00:13:40,800

At 1.37 p.m.,

231

00:13:40,800 --> 00:13:42,800

Mark filed a missing persons report

232

00:13:42,800 --> 00:13:45,800

with the Gothenburg Police Department.

233

00:13:46,800 --> 00:13:48,800

What time did you see her last?

234

00:13:48,800 --> 00:13:51,800

I saw her last when I went to bed about 2 a.m. this morning.

235

00:13:51,800 --> 00:13:53,800

I was real upset

236

00:13:53,800 --> 00:13:56,800

because there was no indication whatsoever

237

00:13:56,800 --> 00:14:00,800

that she would just pack up her suitcase and just leave.

238

00:14:00,800 --> 00:14:02,800

During their investigation,

239

00:14:02,800 --> 00:14:05,800

the state patrol discovered that Mark moved out of the house

240

00:14:05,800 --> 00:14:08,800

the day after his wife's disappearance.

241

00:14:08,800 --> 00:14:10,800

A few weeks later,

242

00:14:10,800 --> 00:14:12,800

he boxed up all of her clothes

243

00:14:12,800 --> 00:14:14,800

and sold both of their cars.

244

00:14:16,800 --> 00:14:18,800

In March of 1988,

245

00:14:18,800 --> 00:14:20,800

three months after she disappeared,

246

00:14:20,800 --> 00:14:22,800

Kristie's suitcase was discovered

247

00:14:22,800 --> 00:14:25,800

in a roadside rest area 30 miles west of Gothenburg.

248

00:14:25,800 --> 00:14:27,800

Police found it surprising

249

00:14:27,800 --> 00:14:31,800

that earlier Mark had precisely detailed all of its contents.

250

00:14:35,800 --> 00:14:37,800

It appeared to everybody present

251

00:14:37,800 --> 00:14:39,800

that the suitcase had been placed there

252

00:14:39,800 --> 00:14:41,800

instead of just thrown out.

253

00:14:41,800 --> 00:14:44,800

The items were neatly laying around.

254

00:14:44,800 --> 00:14:49,800

It was like the person that put them there wanted them to be found.

255

00:14:49,800 --> 00:14:53,800

If my wife had left me,

256

00:14:53,800 --> 00:14:56,800

I wouldn't be able to look through the closet

257

00:14:56,800 --> 00:14:59,800

and tell you what she had taken.

258

00:14:59,800 --> 00:15:03,800

I probably would be able to tell you maybe what suitcase she had taken,

259

00:15:03,800 --> 00:15:07,800

but he was listing items of clothing right down the line

260

00:15:07,800 --> 00:15:10,800

and knew what she had taken.

261

00:15:10,800 --> 00:15:12,800

The area surrounding Gothenburg

262

00:15:12,800 --> 00:15:14,800

has been searched extensively.

263

00:15:14,800 --> 00:15:17,800

No other trace of Kristie Nichols has ever been found.

264

00:15:17,800 --> 00:15:20,800

Today, the case is stalled.

265

00:15:24,800 --> 00:15:27,800

It is difficult without locating Kristie Nichols

266

00:15:27,800 --> 00:15:29,800

or her body to determine

267

00:15:29,800 --> 00:15:32,800

what, if any, charges would be appropriate.

268

00:15:32,800 --> 00:15:37,800

We basically are concerned about the way she disappeared,

269

00:15:37,800 --> 00:15:40,800

the fact that she has not contacted her children,

270

00:15:40,800 --> 00:15:42,800

she hasn't contacted her family,

271

00:15:42,800 --> 00:15:45,800

she did not take one of the family vehicles,

272

00:15:45,800 --> 00:15:50,800

and basically the continued long absence all points to perhaps foul play

273

00:15:50,800 --> 00:15:52,800

in some form is involved.

274

00:15:52,800 --> 00:15:55,800

I'd have never done anything to hurt my wife.

275

00:15:55,800 --> 00:15:58,800

I just, that's just the person I am.

276

00:15:58,800 --> 00:16:01,800

A lot of people think I'm a violent person.

277

00:16:01,800 --> 00:16:03,800

I'm not.

278

00:16:03,800 --> 00:16:06,800

I'm not. I'm not a violent person.

279

00:16:07,800 --> 00:16:10,800

I hope and pray that she was alive,

280

00:16:10,800 --> 00:16:15,800

but if she isn't, I'd still want to find the solution to this case.

281

00:16:15,800 --> 00:16:21,800

I'd like to have her buried someplace where I'd know she was.

282

00:16:22,800 --> 00:16:26,800

I want very much for Kristie to come home,

283

00:16:26,800 --> 00:16:31,800

that if for some reason she doesn't want to come home,

284

00:16:31,800 --> 00:16:34,800

you know, Kristie, at least call somebody.

285

00:16:34,800 --> 00:16:38,800

You know, let us know where you are, whether you're all right.

286

00:16:38,800 --> 00:16:42,800

By all accounts, Kristie Nichols was trapped in a marriage gone wrong.

287

00:16:42,800 --> 00:16:46,800

Nobody can say for certain if this is what motivated her disappearance.

288

00:16:46,800 --> 00:16:50,800

All we know is that Kristie Nichols has vanished without a trace,

289

00:16:50,800 --> 00:16:54,800

and her family and friends would like to know why.

290

00:16:54,800 --> 00:16:59,800

In a moment, the story of a remarkable escape from San Quentin Prison.

291

00:17:05,800 --> 00:17:09,800

Last October, we examined the mysterious disappearance of Gail Delano,

292

00:17:09,800 --> 00:17:14,800

a 35-year-old mother of two who vanished from her hometown in Wisconsin, Maine.

293

00:17:16,800 --> 00:17:19,800

After her second divorce, Gail Delano sought companionship

294

00:17:19,800 --> 00:17:23,800

by placing personal ads in a local newspaper.

295

00:17:23,800 --> 00:17:29,800

On June 21st, 1986, Gail drove to a restaurant in the nearby town of Brunswick.

296

00:17:29,800 --> 00:17:32,800

She had told her two teenage sons that she was meeting a man named John

297

00:17:32,800 --> 00:17:35,800

who'd responded to one of her ads.

298

00:17:35,800 --> 00:17:39,800

Gail Delano's family never saw her again.

299

00:17:39,800 --> 00:17:45,800

Two days later, Elise found her car abandoned in the restaurant's parking lot.

300

00:17:45,800 --> 00:17:49,800

Later that day, a restaurant worker found Gail's keys

301

00:17:49,800 --> 00:17:52,800

in the same spot where her car had been parked.

302

00:17:52,800 --> 00:17:55,800

Two weeks later, Gail's purse was found.

303

00:17:55,800 --> 00:17:59,800

Though it seemed untouched, it contained no money.

304

00:17:59,800 --> 00:18:04,800

For two and a half years, investigators and Gail's family were baffled.

305

00:18:06,800 --> 00:18:08,800

Update, Mobile, Alabama.

306

00:18:08,800 --> 00:18:12,800

The two and a half years search for Gail Delano has come to an end.

307

00:18:12,800 --> 00:18:17,800

Tragically, she took her own life shortly after she disappeared.

308

00:18:17,800 --> 00:18:21,800

A forensic administrator in Mobile watched our program

309

00:18:21,800 --> 00:18:27,800

recognize Gail's photo as a woman who had died in a local hotel room in 1986.

310

00:18:28,800 --> 00:18:36,800

When I saw the photograph, I immediately saw the resemblance between Ms. Delano

311

00:18:36,800 --> 00:18:44,800

and an unidentified body that we had in our laboratory in Mobile.

312

00:18:44,800 --> 00:18:50,800

After two weeks of forensic tests, positive identification was made.

313

00:18:50,800 --> 00:18:54,800

Elise now theorized that Gail Delano orchestrated her own disappearance.

314

00:18:54,800 --> 00:18:57,800

They believed that after she drove to the restaurant,

315

00:18:57,800 --> 00:19:01,800

she hid her keys somewhere on the car, removed all the money from her purse,

316

00:19:01,800 --> 00:19:04,800

discarded it, and then flew to Alabama.

317

00:19:04,800 --> 00:19:07,800

That evening, she checked into a hotel in Mobile

318

00:19:07,800 --> 00:19:10,800

where she registered under the name Jackie Stafford.

319

00:19:10,800 --> 00:19:13,800

Three days later, police discovered her body.

320

00:19:13,800 --> 00:19:16,800

She had died from a drug overdose.

321

00:19:18,800 --> 00:19:22,800

On November 11th, Gail's family held a memorial service for her

322

00:19:22,800 --> 00:19:24,800

and Brunswick, Maine.

323

00:19:26,800 --> 00:19:28,800

Gail's family showed remarkable courage

324

00:19:28,800 --> 00:19:31,800

as for two long years they searched for the truth.

325

00:19:31,800 --> 00:19:36,800

Her loss saddens us all, and to her parents and sons, we send our deepest sympathy.

326

00:19:41,800 --> 00:19:46,800

California's San Quentin Prison is justly known as one of the country's most secure,

327

00:19:46,800 --> 00:19:48,800

maximum security prisons.

328

00:19:48,800 --> 00:19:51,800

Few cameras are permitted behind its walls.

329

00:19:51,800 --> 00:19:54,800

But recently, unsolved mysteries was allowed inside,

330

00:19:54,800 --> 00:19:57,800

so we might document one of the few times the system failed

331

00:19:57,800 --> 00:20:00,800

and help recapture and escape prisoner.

332

00:20:00,800 --> 00:20:05,800

In the summer of 1986, an inmate named Mark Adams mysteriously vanished.

333

00:20:05,800 --> 00:20:10,800

The events leading up to his escape began on a summer night in August of 1979.

334

00:20:12,800 --> 00:20:17,800

On that evening, three high school students entered a municipal baseball park

335

00:20:17,800 --> 00:20:20,800

located in the quiet community of Modesto, California.

336

00:20:20,800 --> 00:20:22,800

Hey, you know who's over at Mark's house?

337

00:20:22,800 --> 00:20:23,800

Who?

338

00:20:23,800 --> 00:20:24,800

Susie?

339

00:20:24,800 --> 00:20:25,800

No way!

340

00:20:25,800 --> 00:20:26,800

No way!

341

00:20:26,800 --> 00:20:28,800

They gathered in the dugout to drink some beers

342

00:20:28,800 --> 00:20:30,800

and to chat about school and their friends.

343

00:20:30,800 --> 00:20:32,800

Mark, don't take that out of the screen, guys.

344

00:20:40,800 --> 00:20:43,800

Three figures appeared out of the darkness.

345

00:20:44,800 --> 00:20:46,800

Oh, for God's sake.

346

00:20:46,800 --> 00:20:48,800

He's taking away...

347

00:20:48,800 --> 00:20:53,800

Over the previous few weeks, there have been other robberies by these ski-masked individuals.

348

00:20:53,800 --> 00:20:54,800

Give me your wallets.

349

00:20:54,800 --> 00:20:56,800

In the earlier attempts, nobody had been injured.

350

00:20:56,800 --> 00:20:58,800

Give me your wallets.

351

00:20:58,800 --> 00:21:01,800

Your wallets, you guys, just leave us alone.

352

00:21:10,800 --> 00:21:12,800

Whoa! Whoa!

353

00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:16,800

Whoa!

354

00:21:19,800 --> 00:21:22,800

One boy, Mike Ridenauer, was dead.

355

00:21:22,800 --> 00:21:24,800

Another, wounded.

356

00:21:24,800 --> 00:21:28,800

An eyewitness description of an automobile spotted at the scene

357

00:21:28,800 --> 00:21:31,800

led to the arrest of three robbers.

358

00:21:31,800 --> 00:21:35,800

The trigger man, 16-year-old Mark Adams, was tried, convicted,

359

00:21:35,800 --> 00:21:38,800

and sentenced to 25 years to life.

360

00:21:38,800 --> 00:21:43,800

Located on San Francisco Bay, San Quentin is an impenetrable fortress.

361

00:21:43,800 --> 00:21:48,800

21 armed posts surround a 3-foot-thick prison walls

362

00:21:48,800 --> 00:21:51,800

lined with razor-sharp barbed wire.

363

00:21:51,800 --> 00:21:57,800

Today, over 3,000 hardened criminals call the prison home.

364

00:21:57,800 --> 00:22:00,800

Charles Manson is only one of its infamous residents.

365

00:22:00,800 --> 00:22:04,800

In his 136-year history, other criminals such as

366

00:22:04,800 --> 00:22:08,800

Siran Siran, Carol Chesman, and Outlaw Black Bart

367

00:22:08,800 --> 00:22:11,800

have been locked away in the prison's massive cell blocks.

368

00:22:11,800 --> 00:22:17,800

A major portion of the San Quentin's current population are repeat offenders.

369

00:22:17,800 --> 00:22:21,800

It is the end of the line for the hardened criminals.

370

00:22:23,800 --> 00:22:26,800

San Quentin prison is different from other prisons

371

00:22:26,800 --> 00:22:28,800

because of its design.

372

00:22:28,800 --> 00:22:31,800

There are armed officers inside the institution.

373

00:22:31,800 --> 00:22:36,800

They're in gun walks and manned areas where there's weapons inside the institution.

374

00:22:36,800 --> 00:22:41,800

Mark Adams was here because of the physical plant and security

375

00:22:41,800 --> 00:22:45,800

that San Quentin can provide inmates like Mark Adams.

376

00:22:49,800 --> 00:22:53,800

When Adams entered San Quentin when he was 19 years old,

377

00:22:53,800 --> 00:22:57,800

he would have been eligible for parole in the year 2007.

378

00:22:57,800 --> 00:23:00,800

He began his sentence under close scrutiny,

379

00:23:00,800 --> 00:23:03,800

but after six months, restrictions were relaxed.

380

00:23:03,800 --> 00:23:06,800

His privileges included a job working with computers

381

00:23:06,800 --> 00:23:10,800

as a clerk in the prison's academic department.

382

00:23:10,800 --> 00:23:13,800

Mark Adams was essentially a model prisoner.

383

00:23:13,800 --> 00:23:16,800

He worked very well with people.

384

00:23:16,800 --> 00:23:18,800

He obeyed the rules,

385

00:23:18,800 --> 00:23:22,800

and he would seize any opportunity he could to stay out of his cell.

386

00:23:22,800 --> 00:23:25,800

When we had a lot of people in the prison,

387

00:23:25,800 --> 00:23:27,800

he would have to stay out of his cell.

388

00:23:27,800 --> 00:23:30,800

When we had special projects where he had to work some overtime,

389

00:23:30,800 --> 00:23:32,800

he was only too happy to assist.

390

00:23:39,800 --> 00:23:43,800

I'm sure that Mark Adams took advantage of his position.

391

00:23:43,800 --> 00:23:46,800

He probably checked schedules, he probably checked timing.

392

00:23:46,800 --> 00:23:49,800

He wanted to leave no margin for error.

393

00:23:50,800 --> 00:23:56,800

On June 10th, 1986, four years to the day after he was put behind bars,

394

00:23:56,800 --> 00:24:00,800

Adams secured an authorized pass allowing him to leave work early.

395

00:24:00,800 --> 00:24:02,800

I'll see you later.

396

00:24:02,800 --> 00:24:04,800

Where are you going?

397

00:24:04,800 --> 00:24:06,800

I'm going to the dentist office.

398

00:24:06,800 --> 00:24:08,800

Okay, I'll see you tomorrow.

399

00:24:11,800 --> 00:24:14,800

At approximately 2.30 p.m.,

400

00:24:14,800 --> 00:24:17,800

Adams left to a job and walked to the security checkpoint,

401

00:24:17,800 --> 00:24:19,800

showing his pass.

402

00:24:19,800 --> 00:24:23,800

He was observed heading to the dentist's office.

403

00:24:23,800 --> 00:24:26,800

That was the last time anyone remembers seeing him.

404

00:24:35,800 --> 00:24:40,800

At 4.15 p.m., the inmates returned to the cells for the afternoon headcount.

405

00:24:40,800 --> 00:24:44,800

The 4.15 count, when there's no hitches,

406

00:24:44,800 --> 00:24:47,800

will take approximately 45 minutes to clear.

407

00:24:47,800 --> 00:24:49,800

Handmaid, let me see some skin.

408

00:24:52,800 --> 00:24:54,800

If something is wrong with the count,

409

00:24:54,800 --> 00:24:58,800

if there's one person that cannot be accounted for,

410

00:24:58,800 --> 00:25:03,800

most often there's a simple explanation for that miscount.

411

00:25:03,800 --> 00:25:05,800

If you can't find any error then,

412

00:25:05,800 --> 00:25:07,800

you go cell by cell,

413

00:25:07,800 --> 00:25:11,800

bed by bed, with an officer and a picture of those people assigned

414

00:25:11,800 --> 00:25:14,800

to those cell blocks and that particular cell.

415

00:25:14,800 --> 00:25:16,800

Wind, good.

416

00:25:16,800 --> 00:25:18,800

2A11 ID,

417

00:25:20,800 --> 00:25:22,800

2A12, negative.

418

00:25:22,800 --> 00:25:24,800

Now I'm showing Adams in here.

419

00:25:25,800 --> 00:25:29,800

At approximately 4.45 p.m., Adams was confirmed missing.

420

00:25:31,800 --> 00:25:34,800

Immediately sent Quentin locked down.

421

00:25:34,800 --> 00:25:38,800

All access to the prison, inside and out, was sealed tight.

422

00:25:40,800 --> 00:25:42,800

Every prisoner was confined to his cell,

423

00:25:42,800 --> 00:25:44,800

and a few privileges revoked.

424

00:25:50,800 --> 00:25:53,800

An intensive search by correctional officers was fruitless.

425

00:25:53,800 --> 00:25:57,800

No trace of Mark or the method of his escape was found.

426

00:26:05,800 --> 00:26:09,800

Authorities have three theories as to how he escaped.

427

00:26:09,800 --> 00:26:13,800

The first suggests that Adams put on civilian clothes

428

00:26:13,800 --> 00:26:16,800

and walked out with the regular visitors,

429

00:26:16,800 --> 00:26:19,800

passing through three different armed gates.

430

00:26:23,800 --> 00:26:25,800

In order to accomplish this,

431

00:26:25,800 --> 00:26:29,800

Adams would have had to show a photo ID of the first two gates.

432

00:26:35,800 --> 00:26:41,800

A second theory proposes that Adams simply went over the 25-foot prison wall.

433

00:26:41,800 --> 00:26:46,800

When an inmate has to make that move from a blind spot over the wall,

434

00:26:46,800 --> 00:26:51,800

he has to go from an area of concealment to one of his ability.

435

00:26:51,800 --> 00:26:55,800

It can happen in a matter of seconds,

436

00:26:55,800 --> 00:26:59,800

but in those few moments that it took to hit the wall and scale it,

437

00:26:59,800 --> 00:27:03,800

the officers looking in another direction on escape is perpetrated.

438

00:27:05,800 --> 00:27:10,800

The chances that Adams could have made the climb are extremely slim.

439

00:27:10,800 --> 00:27:12,800

Shortly after his escape,

440

00:27:12,800 --> 00:27:15,800

three inmates attempted to scale the wall.

441

00:27:15,800 --> 00:27:17,800

All three were immediately captured,

442

00:27:17,800 --> 00:27:20,800

and one was injured in a struggle with officers.

443

00:27:21,800 --> 00:27:26,800

We considered also, in our investigation of the possible ways of escape,

444

00:27:26,800 --> 00:27:29,800

is could he have gained access to a vehicle?

445

00:27:29,800 --> 00:27:35,800

It's possible that Mark Adams could have studied vehicles

446

00:27:35,800 --> 00:27:38,800

which do pass in front of his area of assignment.

447

00:27:44,800 --> 00:27:49,800

Every day, approximately 225 service vehicles enter and exit the prison.

448

00:27:49,800 --> 00:27:53,800

Each must pass through a guarded inspection area for a thorough search.

449

00:27:54,800 --> 00:27:58,800

There is a remote chance Adams could have found a place to hide,

450

00:27:58,800 --> 00:28:00,800

and then when the search ended,

451

00:28:00,800 --> 00:28:03,800

he would have been driven straight to freedom.

452

00:28:23,800 --> 00:28:27,800

If there were a mistake in the security system,

453

00:28:27,800 --> 00:28:30,800

Adams would have been the type to look for it.

454

00:28:30,800 --> 00:28:32,800

He would have been the type to find it,

455

00:28:32,800 --> 00:28:35,800

and he would have made plans to exploit it.

456

00:28:35,800 --> 00:28:39,800

And as a result, that's precisely what he did.

457

00:28:41,800 --> 00:28:45,800

It's been two years since Mark Adams has escaped from Sanquin prison,

458

00:28:45,800 --> 00:28:47,800

and in those two years,

459

00:28:47,800 --> 00:28:51,800

we have not found any concluding or convincing evidence

460

00:28:51,800 --> 00:28:54,800

to tell us how Mark Adams escaped.

461

00:29:13,800 --> 00:29:15,800

In a moment, you'll meet Eugene Rich.

462

00:29:15,800 --> 00:29:18,800

He vanished after defrauding his friends and neighbors of \$3.5 million

463

00:29:18,800 --> 00:29:20,800

that came back to face the music.

464

00:29:20,800 --> 00:29:24,800

As alleged to accomplish, Stephen Cox is still at large.

465

00:29:38,800 --> 00:29:43,800

In 1981, Lorraine Rondo was 68 years old and newly widowed.

466

00:29:46,800 --> 00:29:49,800

Her husband had left her \$100,000.

467

00:29:49,800 --> 00:29:51,800

It was all Lorraine had.

468

00:29:51,800 --> 00:29:54,800

She invested it with a man named Stephen Cox.

469

00:29:57,800 --> 00:30:02,800

In 1976, a drunk driver left Michelle Whit crippled for life.

470

00:30:02,800 --> 00:30:06,800

The insurance company awarded her \$75,000.

471

00:30:06,800 --> 00:30:11,800

Michelle invested her money with the same man, Stephen Cox.

472

00:30:12,800 --> 00:30:17,800

On September the 24th, 1984, Stephen Cox disappeared.

473

00:30:17,800 --> 00:30:20,800

He has not been seen since.

474

00:30:20,800 --> 00:30:25,800

Is there anyone in this room has anything to offer in this case at this time?

475

00:30:25,800 --> 00:30:27,800

If so, please step forward.

476

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

At bankruptcy court in Medford, Oregon,

477

00:30:30,800 --> 00:30:34,800

a packed audience of more than 200 angry investors came forward.

478

00:30:34,800 --> 00:30:38,800

And I am one of the investors who invested with Steve Cox

479

00:30:38,800 --> 00:30:40,800

in excess of \$100,000.

480

00:30:40,800 --> 00:30:43,800

They told authorities that they had given Cox

481

00:30:43,800 --> 00:30:45,800

in excess of \$3.5 million.

482

00:30:45,800 --> 00:30:47,800

Every penny was gone.

483

00:30:47,800 --> 00:30:51,800

So that we can get our money back.

484

00:30:51,800 --> 00:30:56,800

How did Stephen Cox get \$3.5 million from the people of Medford?

485

00:30:56,800 --> 00:30:58,800

Well, Cox was a hometown boy.

486

00:30:58,800 --> 00:31:01,800

The people of Medford knew him and trusted him.

487

00:31:01,800 --> 00:31:03,800

They hoped that if he's watching tonight,

488

00:31:03,800 --> 00:31:06,800

he'll return and deal with him honorably, face to face.

489

00:31:09,800 --> 00:31:12,800

In high school, Stephen Cox was a popular student

490

00:31:12,800 --> 00:31:14,800

and an all-around athlete.

491

00:31:14,800 --> 00:31:16,800

He was captain of the football team,

492

00:31:16,800 --> 00:31:18,800

letterman on the basketball team,

493

00:31:18,800 --> 00:31:21,800

and named Oregon's Allstate Baseball Team.

494

00:31:21,800 --> 00:31:23,800

He went to college in Oregon.

495

00:31:23,800 --> 00:31:27,800

Then after he graduated, married his college sweetheart, Deborah.

496

00:31:27,800 --> 00:31:30,800

They settled in Medford.

497

00:31:30,800 --> 00:31:32,800

I didn't believe it. No.

498

00:31:32,800 --> 00:31:36,800

In 1982, he started his own company, S.D. Cox Investments.

499

00:31:36,800 --> 00:31:38,800

That's what I'm talking about.

500

00:31:38,800 --> 00:31:40,800

Hold on a second. Let me get it up on the screen here.

501

00:31:40,800 --> 00:31:44,800

When he first began, all the indications we have are

502

00:31:44,800 --> 00:31:46,800

that his intentions were good.

503

00:31:46,800 --> 00:31:49,800

He had had some luck with commodities,

504

00:31:49,800 --> 00:31:52,800

with other investments, gold and silver and other things,

505

00:31:52,800 --> 00:31:55,800

and he really wanted to make money for other people

506

00:31:55,800 --> 00:31:58,800

at the same time he made money for himself.

507

00:31:58,800 --> 00:32:01,800

Stephen Cox attracted investors

508

00:32:01,800 --> 00:32:05,800

by offering a rate of return as high as 25%.

509

00:32:05,800 --> 00:32:07,800

Good morning, Michelle. Hi, how are you?

510

00:32:07,800 --> 00:32:09,800

I'm fine. How are you? Good to see you both.

511

00:32:09,800 --> 00:32:11,800

There was only one catch.

512

00:32:11,800 --> 00:32:14,800

In exchange, they received nothing more than Cox's IOU

513

00:32:14,800 --> 00:32:17,800

in the form of a promissory note.

514

00:32:17,800 --> 00:32:19,800

Michelle Whitney needed \$1,200 a month

515

00:32:19,800 --> 00:32:22,800

to pay for her round-the-clock nursing care.

516

00:32:22,800 --> 00:32:24,800

Despite the lack of security,

517

00:32:24,800 --> 00:32:28,800

she decided Cox's high return was worth the risk.

518

00:32:28,800 --> 00:32:32,800

In that 20-24% ballpark that we were talking about

519

00:32:32,800 --> 00:32:34,800

is something we're definitely going to be able to get for you.

520

00:32:34,800 --> 00:32:37,800

The \$75,000 was invested,

521

00:32:37,800 --> 00:32:39,800

and for three and a half years,

522

00:32:39,800 --> 00:32:43,800

I got a monthly payment of \$1,250.

523

00:32:43,800 --> 00:32:47,800

He seemed to know what he was doing,

524

00:32:47,800 --> 00:32:51,800

and I'm sure he did know what he was doing.

525

00:32:51,800 --> 00:32:55,800

Hey. Hey, Gene. Good to see you.

526

00:32:55,800 --> 00:32:58,800

Cox's business doubled, then tripled.

527

00:32:58,800 --> 00:33:02,800

Eugene Richmond, an old friend, was brought in as a partner.

528

00:33:02,800 --> 00:33:05,800

Well, it'll work. It'll work. Good. Good.

529

00:33:05,800 --> 00:33:08,800

Well, you know, I'd known Steve since we were in grade school together.

530

00:33:08,800 --> 00:33:11,800

I mean, he was always somebody I looked up to.

531

00:33:11,800 --> 00:33:14,800

You know, he was, you know, the high school quarterback

532

00:33:14,800 --> 00:33:17,800

of the football team, and, you know, just that typical guy

533

00:33:17,800 --> 00:33:19,800

that everybody wanted to know and be around.

534

00:33:19,800 --> 00:33:21,800

You know, the way I look at it, mortgage paper,

535

00:33:21,800 --> 00:33:26,800

basically whatever Steve Cox asked me to do, I did.

536

00:33:26,800 --> 00:33:29,800

And I just trusted him unequivocally.

537

00:33:29,800 --> 00:33:34,800

Eugene Richmond was the forceful personality in the partnership.

538

00:33:34,800 --> 00:33:36,800

That's the nice one she have here.

539

00:33:36,800 --> 00:33:38,800

Oh, thank you.

540

00:33:38,800 --> 00:33:40,800

Eugene Richmond was the one that went out

541

00:33:40,800 --> 00:33:42,800

and got people to invest their money.

542

00:33:42,800 --> 00:33:46,800

Mr. Rondo, I'm sorry I have to bother you at a time like this.

543

00:33:46,800 --> 00:33:50,800

When Eugene Richmond made his sales presentation to Lorraine Rondo,

544

00:33:50,800 --> 00:33:53,800

she gave him all the money her husband had left her.

545

00:33:53,800 --> 00:33:55,800

I know that your husband has left you some money.

546

00:33:55,800 --> 00:33:58,800

I'm confident that I told every investor

547

00:33:58,800 --> 00:34:00,800

that their money is at risk.

548

00:34:00,800 --> 00:34:02,800

I would have investors ask me,

549

00:34:02,800 --> 00:34:04,800

what happens if Estie Cox goes belly up?

550

00:34:04,800 --> 00:34:07,800

And I would sit right in my chair and look him straight in the face

551

00:34:07,800 --> 00:34:09,800

and I'd say, you're gonna lose your money.

552

00:34:09,800 --> 00:34:14,800

Well, Eugene Richmond is a liar then, because he never did.

553

00:34:14,800 --> 00:34:16,800

Never told us that.

554

00:34:16,800 --> 00:34:19,800

Not me. Never told me that.

555

00:34:19,800 --> 00:34:21,800

If she was not aware that her money was at risk,

556

00:34:21,800 --> 00:34:24,800

then either I failed in my job to tell her that,

557

00:34:24,800 --> 00:34:29,800

or likes a lot of people, they didn't want to hear it.

558

00:34:29,800 --> 00:34:34,800

Eugene Richmond never told me that my money was unsafe

559

00:34:34,800 --> 00:34:36,800

in any way that everything was secured,

560

00:34:36,800 --> 00:34:38,800

that they had money.

561

00:34:38,800 --> 00:34:41,800

If I wanted all that money right now,

562

00:34:41,800 --> 00:34:45,800

they had money laid aside that they could pay off any one of us.

563

00:34:45,800 --> 00:34:47,800

Yeah, the cracks definitely the cracks first.

564

00:34:47,800 --> 00:34:51,800

By 1983, Estie Cox investments was flourishing.

565

00:34:51,800 --> 00:34:53,800

The firm bought a restaurant.

566

00:34:53,800 --> 00:34:55,800

The neighborhood bar.

567

00:34:55,800 --> 00:34:57,800

A video arcade.

568

00:34:57,800 --> 00:34:59,800

Two jewelry stores.

569

00:34:59,800 --> 00:35:03,800

An inventory of gems worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

570

00:35:06,800 --> 00:35:11,800

When you have a situation where a local businessman looks successful

571

00:35:11,800 --> 00:35:14,800

and other people are going to the bank with the checks,

572

00:35:14,800 --> 00:35:17,800

they're making the deposits, that will get around.

573

00:35:17,800 --> 00:35:19,800

That facade works.

574

00:35:19,800 --> 00:35:21,800

People see the Porsche drive by in their heads turn.

575

00:35:21,800 --> 00:35:24,800

People see the Mercedes drive by and they think that guy is successful.

576

00:35:24,800 --> 00:35:28,800

They don't realize that maybe that guy is not making ends meet,

577

00:35:28,800 --> 00:35:31,800

and he's two payments behind on the Porsche.

578

00:35:34,800 --> 00:35:40,800

By 1984, many of Steven Cox's investments began to go sour.

579

00:35:40,800 --> 00:35:44,800

In my opinion, Steve was not a good businessman.

580

00:35:44,800 --> 00:35:47,800

In Steve's case, he made some wrong decisions.

581

00:35:47,800 --> 00:35:49,800

Well, I'll talk to you tomorrow about that.

582

00:35:49,800 --> 00:35:52,800

You know, there's some real estate that wasn't panning out

583

00:35:52,800 --> 00:35:54,800

the way it was supposed to pan out and you had to feed it.

584

00:35:54,800 --> 00:35:58,800

You had a restaurant he was feeding, and instead of just cutting it off,

585

00:35:58,800 --> 00:36:00,800

he wanted to hang on.

586

00:36:00,800 --> 00:36:03,800

You know, he was competitive. He didn't want to lose ever.

587

00:36:03,800 --> 00:36:07,800

\$50,000. \$50,000. You heard me the first time.

588

00:36:07,800 --> 00:36:12,800

What happened is that Steve Cox had some luck at the very beginning.

589

00:36:12,800 --> 00:36:15,800

He had some good fortune. He made some money.

590

00:36:16,800 --> 00:36:20,800

And as he continued to pay 22 or 25% interest,

591

00:36:20,800 --> 00:36:24,800

he had to get more and more people involved at the bottom

592

00:36:24,800 --> 00:36:26,800

in order to be able to do that.

593

00:36:26,800 --> 00:36:29,800

It's like a pyramid scheme. There's nothing to back up.

594

00:36:29,800 --> 00:36:31,800

His promise is to pay back this money.

595

00:36:31,800 --> 00:36:34,800

That's a house of cards. Eventually it has to fall.

596

00:36:34,800 --> 00:36:37,800

Well, look, what do we need to do to turn this thing around?

597

00:36:37,800 --> 00:36:39,800

You know what we need to do. We need to turn those numbers around.

598

00:36:39,800 --> 00:36:42,800

The way you're going to turn those numbers around is getting more clients.

599

00:36:43,800 --> 00:36:45,800

All right, I see you've got my flowers.

600

00:36:45,800 --> 00:36:47,800

Yes, I did, Eugene. And thank you so much.

601

00:36:47,800 --> 00:36:51,800

As a last resort, Eugene went back to Lorraine Rondeau

602

00:36:51,800 --> 00:36:53,800

and asked for her last \$5,000.

603

00:36:53,800 --> 00:36:55,800

Do you have some savings to cover them with?

604

00:36:55,800 --> 00:36:59,800

Well, I'd been in the hospital, and Eugene came over to the house

605

00:36:59,800 --> 00:37:01,800

to see how I was doing, and he said,

606

00:37:01,800 --> 00:37:04,800

do you have money enough? And I said, I have some in savings.

607

00:37:04,800 --> 00:37:09,800

So he suggested that I take the \$5,000 and put in

608

00:37:09,800 --> 00:37:11,800

so that I would be getting some interest.

609

00:37:12,800 --> 00:37:15,800

So I wrote him a check for \$5,000.

610

00:37:15,800 --> 00:37:18,800

I couldn't even tell you right now whether she invested any money or not.

611

00:37:18,800 --> 00:37:20,800

I do not recall.

612

00:37:20,800 --> 00:37:23,800

At that time when I saw her, I had no idea that I was going to be going

613

00:37:23,800 --> 00:37:25,800

or Steve was going to be going.

614

00:37:25,800 --> 00:37:28,800

I mean, I didn't even know I was going to leave with Steve until the day that I left.

615

00:37:28,800 --> 00:37:31,800

Do we have a problem? I've got to leave the area.

616

00:37:31,800 --> 00:37:35,800

It came to a point where Steve just said, I'm leaving town and I'm going.

617

00:37:35,800 --> 00:37:37,800

Wait a minute, you're going to leave, and I'm going to stay here

618

00:37:37,800 --> 00:37:40,800

and face this entire thing by myself? What am I going to do?

619

00:37:40,800 --> 00:37:43,800

Everybody's going to come knocking on my door and say, where's my money?

620

00:37:43,800 --> 00:37:46,800

And I felt like I was going to get lynched.

621

00:37:46,800 --> 00:37:48,800

The important thing is Debra and I are leaving town.

622

00:37:48,800 --> 00:37:50,800

Now, are you going with us or not?

623

00:37:51,800 --> 00:37:54,800

My choice was to stay here or go with him.

624

00:37:54,800 --> 00:37:58,800

And I ended up leaving with Steve and his family.

625

00:37:59,800 --> 00:38:01,800

I'm going with you, Steve.

626

00:38:01,800 --> 00:38:03,800

Okay. All right.

627

00:38:03,800 --> 00:38:07,800

Definitely there was a premeditated decision on the part of Steve Cox

628

00:38:07,800 --> 00:38:12,800

and Eugene Richmond to fold up and leave town.

629

00:38:12,800 --> 00:38:14,800

Let's quit beating around the bush.

630

00:38:14,800 --> 00:38:19,800

They planned to leave for at least a month before they just didn't show up one morning.

631

00:38:21,800 --> 00:38:24,800

Thanks for sticking around, you guys. I realized that your weekend will make it short.

632

00:38:24,800 --> 00:38:29,800

On Friday, September the 21st, 1984, Eugene Richmond told his employees

633

00:38:29,800 --> 00:38:33,800

that he and Cox would be out of town on business through Monday.

634

00:38:33,800 --> 00:38:35,800

It's usual. We'll be back on Tuesday.

635

00:38:35,800 --> 00:38:39,800

So unless you've got any questions, see you Tuesday.

636

00:38:46,800 --> 00:38:49,800

That weekend, according to Eugene Richmond,

637

00:38:49,800 --> 00:38:56,800

Steve and Cox cleaned out their office safe, taking over \$200,000 in gold, silver, jewelry and

cash.

638

00:38:58,800 --> 00:39:02,800

Cox also took their financial records, which were stored on computer disks.

639

00:39:04,800 --> 00:39:11,800

He and his wife, Deborah, emptied their house and packed their belongings into a rented truck.

640

00:39:16,800 --> 00:39:20,800

Along with Eugene Richmond, they furtively departed Medford.

641

00:39:20,800 --> 00:39:23,800

Their final destination? Hawaii.

642

00:39:26,800 --> 00:39:30,800

Stephen Cox, Deborah Cox and Eugene Richmond dropped completely out of sight,

643

00:39:30,800 --> 00:39:34,800

and the people of Medford, Oregon had lost \$3.5 million.

644

00:39:34,800 --> 00:39:37,800

But the story of the missing Medford millions was not over.

645

00:39:37,800 --> 00:39:42,800

The authorities learned that Stephen Cox might have disappeared from Medford because he feared for his life.

646

00:39:46,800 --> 00:39:50,800

Ten months after Stephen Cox, his wife and Eugene Richmond vanished,

647

00:39:50,800 --> 00:39:55,800

leaving nothing but a bankrupt company that owed the people of Medford \$3.5 million.

648

00:39:55,800 --> 00:39:58,800

The authorities had a surprise visitor.

649

00:40:01,800 --> 00:40:05,800

Debbie, we appreciate you coming in for this interview today.

650

00:40:05,800 --> 00:40:11,800

In July of 1985, Stephen Cox's wife, Deborah, returned to Medford,

651

00:40:11,800 --> 00:40:15,800

and through her attorney, agreed to cooperate with the authorities.

652

00:40:15,800 --> 00:40:17,800

What was your position with SD Cox's investment?

653

00:40:17,800 --> 00:40:21,800

She wasn't actually wanted as far as being a fugitive.

654

00:40:21,800 --> 00:40:25,800

We did want to talk to her, but there were no criminal charges pending.

655

00:40:26,800 --> 00:40:31,800

Then, within a week, Eugene Richmond also wanted to surrender himself,

656

00:40:31,800 --> 00:40:37,800

and so arrangements were made for him to surrender himself in the company of his attorney

657

00:40:37,800 --> 00:40:44,800

and to be interviewed and then to be processed on the fugitive warrants that were outstanding for him at the time.

658

00:40:44,800 --> 00:40:51,800

But for the most part, the information that we did glean from these interviews was really not helpful to us.

659

00:40:56,800 --> 00:41:00,800

Sergeant Sweeney, concerning that matter, we're not answering those questions today.

660

00:41:00,800 --> 00:41:01,800

You accept any responsibility?

661

00:41:01,800 --> 00:41:06,800

Eugene Richmond wouldn't make any statements that could be used to incriminate him,

662

00:41:06,800 --> 00:41:10,800

and he couldn't really say anything about Stephen Cox without incriminating himself.

663

00:41:10,800 --> 00:41:14,800

As a result of that, we're still looking for SD Cox or Stephen Cox.

664

00:41:16,800 --> 00:41:23,800

One thing Richmond did tell the police was that in 1983, Cox had become involved with a mysterious investor.

665

00:41:23,800 --> 00:41:25,800

That day, on those rocks, was fantastic.

666

00:41:25,800 --> 00:41:26,800

All right, I'm glad to hear that.

667

00:41:26,800 --> 00:41:27,800

He should be.

668

00:41:27,800 --> 00:41:31,800

I just want to remind you, Stephen, I'm not a man who likes to lose money.

669

00:41:31,800 --> 00:41:37,800

There was an investor that invested hundreds of thousands of dollars with SD Cox's investments,

670

00:41:37,800 --> 00:41:45,800

and as security for his investment, he had taken out a life insurance policy on Stephen Cox.

671

00:41:45,800 --> 00:41:50,800

Before Steve and I left town, okay, and I went to him and said,

672

00:41:50,800 --> 00:41:56,800

let's shut this thing down, bring in a judge, and just do a chapter 11, and just close it down.

673

00:41:56,800 --> 00:41:59,800

Steve said, I can't.

674

00:41:59,800 --> 00:42:07,800

And it was because of this fella, because he owed him money, and Steve just felt like,

675

00:42:07,800 --> 00:42:14,800

if he didn't pay this guy back, he would just hurt Steve, or his wife, or his kids, or something.

676

00:42:14,800 --> 00:42:18,800

Especially since we know of the threat, we know who the individual is,

677

00:42:18,800 --> 00:42:26,800

the individual would have to be a fool to come back and kill Stephen Cox, because he didn't get his money back.

678

00:42:27,800 --> 00:42:32,800

Eugene Richmond put guilty to charges of racketeering and served two years in prison.

679

00:42:32,800 --> 00:42:35,800

Stephen Cox is still at large.

680

00:42:35,800 --> 00:42:41,800

The message I'd like to send Stephen Cox is that he should come in, turn himself in,

681

00:42:41,800 --> 00:42:45,800

and face up to the people that he's really, really hurt.

682

00:42:47,800 --> 00:42:54,800

Short of Steve Cox winning the lottery and coming back and paying back all of his investors,

683

00:42:54,800 --> 00:42:59,800

I don't foresee them ever being able to recoup any of their losses.

684

00:42:59,800 --> 00:43:03,800

Steve Cox is the one who's in prison right now.

685

00:43:03,800 --> 00:43:06,800

He's the one who's doing time right now.

686

00:43:07,800 --> 00:43:12,800

And he will continue to do time until he turns around and faces the situation,

687

00:43:12,800 --> 00:43:15,800

until he lives up to his responsibilities.

688

00:43:17,800 --> 00:43:23,800

Because Steve, every day, has to wonder if somebody's going to walk in to where he's working,

689

00:43:23,800 --> 00:43:28,800

or if he's going to be at the market, and somebody's going to see him.

690

00:43:28,800 --> 00:43:30,800

It's a small world.

691

00:43:31,800 --> 00:43:39,800

Stephen Cox is six feet two inches tall, has blond hair and blue eyes, and weighs over 200 pounds.

692

00:43:40,800 --> 00:43:47,800

He is now 38 years old, and he may be wearing a toupee, as well as a beard or mustache.

693

00:43:50,800 --> 00:43:57,800

Update. Stephen Cox has been arrested in Lake Mead, Nevada, 25 miles southeast of Las Vegas.

694

00:43:57,800 --> 00:44:02,800

Five days after he fled from Boise, Cox checked into the Lake Mead Lodge Motel.

695

00:44:02,800 --> 00:44:07,800

He registered under the name John Strauss and listed in Arizona address.

696

00:44:08,800 --> 00:44:12,800

He was not the normal guest. He stayed in his room all day long.

697

00:44:12,800 --> 00:44:17,800

He would only leave at night. Very seldom did he leave in the daytime.

698

00:44:18,800 --> 00:44:24,800

And we noticed that the license plates were not the same as he had put down on his registration card.

699

00:44:25,800 --> 00:44:29,800

And that made us a little suspicious, but yet nothing we could put a finger on.

700

00:44:30,800 --> 00:44:34,800

Two weeks later, Edna Reed made a startling discovery.

701

00:44:34,800 --> 00:44:39,800

One day when I was out on the grounds, I saw the guest come out of his room.

702

00:44:39,800 --> 00:44:46,800

Instead of putting his trash and the bin in front of his room, he took it up to number 35, which was several doors away.

703

00:44:46,800 --> 00:44:51,800

And when I went to empty the trash out of that bin, I found the crumpled up letter.

704

00:44:51,800 --> 00:44:54,800

And like any curious female, I read the letter.

705

00:44:55,800 --> 00:45:01,800

When I read the letter, I saw the part that said something about the unsolved mystery show being a bombshell.

706

00:45:01,800 --> 00:45:10,800

I showed the letter to my husband, Harold, and between the two of us, we decided it was time, definitely, to call the Rangers and tell them about the guest.

707

00:45:11,800 --> 00:45:18,800

Lake Mead Park Rangers immediately ran a computer check and discovered that the car belonged to someone other than John Strauss.

708

00:45:19,800 --> 00:45:26,800

On the morning of the 14th, we began to look for the person by going to the Lake Mead Lodge to see if we could identify, in fact, who he really was.

709

00:45:26,800 --> 00:45:31,800

When we got there, the vehicle was gone and the person was gone and had been gone for 15 or 20 minutes.

710

00:45:32,800 --> 00:45:39,800

The next morning, Park Rangers spotted Cox's car and pulled him over in the parking lot of the Goldstrike Casino.

711

00:45:39,800 --> 00:45:45,800

After we made the traffic stop, he produced identification, a driver's license issued to a Robert Davis.

712

00:45:45,800 --> 00:45:55,800

And we checked that name and data birth through the NCIC computer and found that it was an alias used by one, Stephen Cox, and that there was a warrant for Mr. Cox.

713

00:45:56,800 --> 00:45:58,800

At that point, we placed him under arrest.

714

00:45:59,800 --> 00:46:04,800

During the search of Cox's car, Park Rangers uncovered a small fortune.

715

00:46:05,800 --> 00:46:22,800

When we looked in the passenger compartment of the vehicle and in the trunk, we found suitcases and other luggage-type bags filled with jewelry, rings, necklaces, collector-type baseball cards, some gold coins, silver coins.

716

00:46:23,800 --> 00:46:31,800

And I was really very curious to know why he had it in the vehicle and if, in fact, this was the stuff that he was wanted for taking in the first place.

717

00:46:35,800 --> 00:46:41,800

The next morning, we found a car and a car.

718

00:46:50,800 --> 00:46:54,800

Every parent's worst nightmare is the loss of a child to a violent stranger.

719

00:46:55,800 --> 00:47:00,800

Tonight, the Philadelphia Police Department needs your help in solving the brutal murder of a four-year-old girl.

720

00:47:00,800 --> 00:47:04,800

We have with us Lieutenant Arthur Durant, Investigating Officer in the case.

721

00:47:05,800 --> 00:47:08,800

Lieutenant Durant, could you tell us a little something about Barbara Jean and her family?

722

00:47:09,800 --> 00:47:14,800

Barbara Jean was four and a half years old. She was the only child of Sharon and John Fay.

723

00:47:15,800 --> 00:47:20,800

She lived with her parents in the northeast section of Philadelphia, which is a relatively crime-free, middle-class section.

724

00:47:21,800 --> 00:47:23,800

What are the circumstances of her murder?

725

00:47:23,800 --> 00:47:32,800

On July 12, 1988, approximately 3 p.m. in the afternoon, while her mother was at work, Barbara Jean was out front of her house playing.

726

00:47:33,800 --> 00:47:36,800

Her father went to check on her and was unable to find her.

727

00:47:37,800 --> 00:47:41,800

He became frantic and started searching the area for her. He checked with the neighbors and called police.

728

00:47:42,800 --> 00:47:44,800

The police came and they searched the area.

729

00:47:45,800 --> 00:47:50,800

Approximately two hours later, Barbara Jean was found, stuffed inside a cardboard box, approximately two blocks from her home.

730

00:47:50,800 --> 00:47:52,800

She had been bludgeoned to death.

731

00:47:53,800 --> 00:47:55,800

What clues do you have to the identity of the killer?

732

00:47:56,800 --> 00:48:01,800

Four eyewitnesses observed a man at St. Vincent and Caster carrying a cardboard box.

733

00:48:02,800 --> 00:48:10,800

The man has been described as approximately 25 to 35 years old, white male, 5'8", 180 pounds.

734

00:48:11,800 --> 00:48:13,800

Sandy brown hair with a little bit of blonde up front.

735

00:48:13,800 --> 00:48:22,800

At the time, he was wearing a white T-shirt, cut off jeans, and he was carrying a cardboard box that previously contained a 13-inch color Hitachi television set.

736

00:48:23,800 --> 00:48:25,800

How can our audience help solve this tragic crime?

737

00:48:26,800 --> 00:48:37,800

We feel there's somebody out there tonight that might have seen this male on January 12, 1988, or might know somebody that's engaged in this type of criminal activity, that might have been in the Philadelphia area and fits this description.

738

00:48:43,800 --> 00:48:45,800

This was a special investigation.

739

00:49:04,800 --> 00:49:07,800

For every mystery, there is someone somewhere who knows the truth.

740

00:49:08,800 --> 00:49:11,800

Perhaps that someone was watching, perhaps it's you.