

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,000

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:10,000

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:13,000

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:16,000

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

5

00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:25,000

Tonight on Unsolved Mystery, in Los Angeles, 22-year-old

6

00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:27,000

Matthew Chase made a midnight trip to an automated

7

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:28,000

tele-machine.

8

00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:31,000

The Matthew had not been seen since.

9

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:39,000

A hidden bag camera showed Matthew next to a mysterious figure.

10

00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:43,000

On Valentine's Day in 1986, a Houston housewife was murdered.

11

00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:45,000

Her husband was a suspect.

12

00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:47,000

He steadfastly maintains his innocence.

13

00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:49,000

His alibi is airtight.

14

00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:52,000

Risen.

15

00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:54,000

The Loris Valadiz has no past.

16

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:55,000

No past.

17

00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:58,000

She wants to find the mother she never knew and answer a

18

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:00,000

question that has haunted her entire life.

19

00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:02,000

Where is Matthew Oldman?

20

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:49,000

We also tell you the touching story of the refugee family

21

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:51,000

emigrating to America.

22

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:54,000

During World War II, they fled their home in Hungary and were

23

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:58,000

forced to live in a box car barely surviving in war-torn Europe.

24

00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:01,000

Forty-three years later, they are trying to find a mysterious

25

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:04,000

American soldier who, on memorable Christmas,

26

00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:06,000

changed their lives forever.

27

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:07,000

Join them.

28

00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,000

You may be able to help solve a mystery.

29

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,000

During the Christmas season 43 years ago,

30

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

a Hungarian family who'd escaped from the ravages of the

31

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:33,000

Second World War met an American GI named Philip.

32

00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:36,000

This refugee family was living a hand-to-mouth existence in

33

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:38,000

an abandoned train in rural Austria.

34

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:41,000

The kindly soldier offered them friendship when they had

35

00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

few friends, food when they was often hungry,

36

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:47,000

and faith when despair seemed insurmountable.

37

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:50,000

With Philip's help, the family survived their ordeal.

38

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:52,000

They now live in America, and they want to reunite with

39

00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:55,000

their benefactor so they can thank him for a Christmas

40

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:57,000

that changed their lives.

41

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:06,000

May 1945, as Hitler's Third Reich crumbled,

42

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:09,000

refugees from Eastern Europe choked the highways in rural

43

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:14,000

roads, some escaping the Nazis, others the vengeful Russian army.

44

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:20,000

Carl Dente and his family fled from Budapest in Hungary,

45

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:23,000

one step away from the guns of the Red Army.

46

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:28,000

The Russian army just a few miles behind us,

47

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:30,000

so I have only one thing in my mind,

48

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,000

just to get the family with me out from there.

49

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:37,000

You know, it's a very strange feeling when you leave a country

50

00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:39,000

when you was born.

51

00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:43,000

But a thousand, thousand family was leaving,

52

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:46,000

just leave everything behind, just running the way.

53

00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:52,000

After their perilous journey, the Dente's and other refugees

54

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:55,000

found temporary sanctuary in Austria,

55

00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:57,000

in a town occupied by the Americans.

56

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,000

As the fall turned to an extremely cold winter,

57

00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:04,000

a family was forced to live inside a boxcar.

58

00:04:04,000 --> 00:04:06,000

Despite their hardship, Carl and his wife,

59

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:09,000

Terezia, managed to survive and provide a shelter

60

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:12,000

for their five-year-old daughter, Brigitta.

61

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:17,000

The winter came in, we had a tough time to get food,

62

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:21,000

we had no clothing, we had no other place to go.

63

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:24,000

One thing I was very happy,

64

00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:28,000

my family never was complained.

65

00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:34,000

My wife never complained.

66

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:45,000

A few days before Christmas, an American soldier named Philip

67

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:47,000

came to meet Brigitta's parents.

68

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:50,000

He had met their daughter at her American-run school.

69

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:54,000

Somehow managing to surmount the language barrier,

70

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:57,000

Philip asked if Brigitta would come as a guest to a Christmas party,

71

00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:01,000

given for the refugee children by the American Occupation Force.

72

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:05,000

I want to take Brigitte to a Christmas party.

73

00:05:05,000 --> 00:05:08,000

Christmas, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, Santa Claus.

74

00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:09,000

Christmas. Right.

75

00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:10,000

Brigitte?

76

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:11,000

Yeah.

77

00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:12,000

Yes. Yes?

78

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:14,000

Yes. Yes. Christmas. Yes.

79

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:15,000

She'll have fun.

80

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:16,000

Thank you.

81

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:17,000

Thank you, ladies.

82

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:25,000

Brigitte?

83

00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:28,000

When Carl was able to scavenge some material,

84

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:31,000

Terezia made a party outfit for their daughter.

85

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:36,000

She never experienced any Christmas party before,

86

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:40,000

and after leaving already so long in a little freight car,

87

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:46,000

no candy, no sugar, hardly anything, hardly any food.

88

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:51,000

So it was a big gift for us to knowing how happy she will be,

89

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:53,000

and she was happy.

90

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:58,000

Over 40 years have passed since that night,

91

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,000

but to Brigitte, it seems like only yesterday.

92

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:08,000

He looked very, very handsome, like a Prince Charming.

93

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:13,000

And I remember the shiny U.S. button on his lapel.

94

00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:18,000

Philip made me feel very, very special

95

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:20,000

aside of making me feel safe and happy.

96

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:22,000

He made me feel like a big girl.

97

00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:35,000

Well, I got like a princess.

98

00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:38,000

It's like someone opened a magic door.

99

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:46,000

There was lights and music and a very happy atmosphere.

100

00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:48,000

It was like the lights went on.

101

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:56,000

I remember the food was very, very fancy.

102

00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:59,000

I had not seen anything like it, probably ever.

103

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:04,000

I felt like I was in a dream.

104

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:06,000

I never wanted the dream to end.

105

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:20,000

It was a big change in our life, a little happiness.

106

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:24,000

You know, give us a lot of confidence of the human race.

107

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:26,000

Merry Christmas!

108

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:32,000

When they come in back from the Christmas party,

109

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,000

we have just like a little celebration.

110

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:37,000

Brigitte starts to open her present.

111

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:42,000

We are very happy, you know, to see all the daughters so happy.

112

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:44,000

We met somebody very nice.

113

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:47,000

Who did a nice Christmas for our of us?

114

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:52,000

After the war started, it was our first Christmas,

115

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:56,000

we have a little happy time with somebody because of Philip.

116

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:59,000

That's a memory you never forget.

117

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:03,000

That evening Philip and the dante's discovered

118

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:05,000

that though they didn't share a language,

119

00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:07,000

they shared a friendship.

120

00:08:08,000 --> 00:08:10,000

We had a difficult time to communicate,

121

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:12,000

but he was so friendly, you know,

122

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:15,000

we had a lot of laughing, a lot of good time.

123

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:17,000

We was happy that night.

124

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:20,000

We never expected him to come in back.

125

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:23,000

We thought so Christmas party over and, you know,

126

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:26,000

we have a beautiful memory at the end of it.

127

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:33,000

But Philip did come back.

128

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:35,000

He became a real life Santa Claus,

129

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:39,000

giving the children candies and the parents food and other necessities

130

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:43,000

that helped the family endure the many hardships of life without a home.

131

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:48,000

But one day, their friendship came to an end.

132

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:50,000

I came to tell you I'm leaving.

133

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:52,000

Soon. Yes, tonight.

134

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:56,000

I want you to have this to remember me by.

135

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:58,000

Thank you.

136

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Good bye.

137

00:09:00,000 --> 00:09:05,000

One afternoon Philip showed up and told us his troops transferred to French.

138

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:12,000

He's very sorry he had to leave.

139

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:16,000

He gave us his photograph, he gave us his address.

140

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:21,000

I was wondering if we're going to ever see him again.

141

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Just like you leave part of the family.

142

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:37,000

It took 11 years of struggle and hardship

143

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

for the Dantes to finally make their way to America.

144

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:43,000

Though Terezia passed away a few years ago,

145

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:46,000

Carl and Brigida currently live in Michigan.

146

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:49,000

Unfortunately, during the family's flight across Europe,

147

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:53,000

they lost most of their possessions, including Philip's address.

148

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:57,000

All they have to remember him by is this picture.

149

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:01,000

Based on the appearance of Philip's uniform,

150

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:04,000

military experts believe he was a private.

151

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:07,000

Philip also told Carl and Brigida that he was from Maine.

152

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:11,000

These may be important clues as to Philip's whereabouts.

153

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:15,000

In an hour of our broadcast,

154

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:17,000

it was Pauline Dofty of Augusta, Maine,

155

00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:20,000

called our 800 number to say that the man named Philip in our story

156

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:22,000

is her cousin Philip Pelletier.

157

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:26,000

He's a retired postal worker who lives in Hammond, Indiana.

158

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:31,000

We immediately called Carl and Brigida Dentie and helped to arrange a reunion.

159

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:36,000

On Wednesday, December 28, 1988,

160

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:40,000

Carl and Brigida's 30-year search for Philip came to an emotional end.

161

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:46,000

Bridget?

162

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:47,000

Yes, Philip?

163

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:49,000

Yes, all right.

164

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,000

Oh, I can't believe.

165

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:53,000

Hello, Louisville.

166

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:55,000

Hi, Bridget.

167

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:57,000

Nice to see you.

168

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:59,000

Nice to see you.

169

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:03,000

Well, it's really pretty hard to tell you just how I feel after all so many years

170

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:08,000

and trying to recollect everything that we went through together.

171

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:11,000

It's very hard.

172

00:11:11,000 --> 00:11:13,000

It's very exciting.

173

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:15,000

It's almost unbelievable.

174

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:19,000

Oh, my gosh.

175

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:23,000

It's something like a Christmas miracle because when he left,

176

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:25,000

I was thinking about it.

177

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:27,000

I ever see him again.

178

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:30,000

And here we go after 43 years, we back together again.

179

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:34,000

It's just like a dream came too hard to believe it.

180

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Sometimes I had a feeling I was going to wake up.

181

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:41,000

You were five, right, at the time at the Christmas party?

182

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:45,000

The minute that I saw him, I could see the warms

183

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:51,000

and the happy look on his face, smiling.

184

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:55,000

Like, we really never had lost touch in a way.

185

00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:00,000

Carl, Brigida and Philip spent the afternoon looking through photographs

186

00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:05,000

that brought back memories of that special time they spent together.

187

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:07,000

We're going to stay with touch.

188

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:11,000

We're going to try to visit each other as much as possible.

189

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:15,000

We're going to renew the friendship that we had before.

190

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:18,000

You know, it's a friendship forever.

191

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:23,000

Next, the story of a young man who went to get some cash at midnight

192

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:27,000

from an automated tele-machine disappeared.

193

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:38,000

Every day, thousands of people do business with their banks

194

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:42,000

using an automated tele-machine to become a normal part of our life.

195

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:45,000

However, anyone standing alone in front of a bank at midnight

196

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:50,000

withdrawing cash in the automated tele-machine would naturally feel apprehensive.

197

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:52,000

It is hard not to nervously look over your shoulder

198

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:56,000

as you wait for the computer to take care of your financial business.

199

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:58,000

At midnight on June 8th of this year,

200

00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:02,000

a young man in Los Angeles visited one of these machines.

201

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:07,000

What happened to him suggests our fears might be more real than imaginary.

202

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:16,000

Los Angeles, June 8th, 1988, 11.45 p.m.

203

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:18,000

Oh, I forgot to deposit my check.

204

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:21,000

Returning home from dinner with his roommate, Teresa Dowell,

205

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:23,000

22-year-old Matthew Chase,

206

00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:26,000

remembered that he needed to deposit his paycheck.

207

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:28,000

Wait, why don't you take my car?

208

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:30,000

Okay. Great.

209

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:35,000

Teresa had met her car and asked if he could pick up some cat food on the way home.

210

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:37,000

Okay, see you in a few minutes.

211

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:42,000

Matthew Chase had known Teresa and her brother Steve since childhood.

212

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:46,000

They all moved to Los Angeles from Medford, Oregon.

213

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:51,000

That night, when Matt left their house, he took only his bank card with him.

214

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:53,000

He left his wallet at home.

215

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:59,000

It should have taken Matt approximately 10, 15 minutes to run the errand.

216

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:04,000

The bank was about two blocks from our home, and normally he walked.

217

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:07,000

And that particular evening, he'd taken my car,

218

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:12,000

so at the most, 15 minutes would be sufficient.

219

00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:17,000

We know that Matt did arrive at the automated teller that night,

220

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:19,000

but he never returned home.

221

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:23,000

Five months later, his friends and family are still searching for him.

222

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:27,000

The next morning, when Matt still hadn't come home,

223

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:29,000

his roommates call the police.

224

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:34,000

Hello, my name is Matthew Chase.

225

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:38,000

They then call the bank, and by using Matt's social security number,

226

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:40,000

convince him that it was Matt calling.

227

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:45,000

They wanted to find out if he had used his bank card the night before.

228

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:48,000

There have been transactions, great.

229

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:50,000

The bank said he had several times.

230

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:55,000

Can you tell me what time they were made, what day and...

231

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:58,000

Steve and Theresa call the police again.

232

00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:03,000

A light came on indicating that this is not going to be a normal run-of-the-mill case.

233

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:07,000

It's going to be something that requires some in-depth investigation.

234

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:12,000

And it may not turn out to be a good case, as we call them.

235

00:15:15,000 --> 00:15:21,000

When we reviewed the bank records, it indicates that he made a successful deposit of a paycheck,

236

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:27,000

received cash back, and then returned to the same branch approximately 30 minutes later

237

00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:34,000

and attempted to withdraw \$280, which he knows is over the amount of cash he can receive per day.

238

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:42,000

The theory there would be that either he was being forced to attempt to withdraw these amounts,

239

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:46,000

or he was signaling to the bank, to the computer, for help.

240

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:50,000

That night, two more attempts are made to withdraw cash.

241

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:52,000

The first was for \$200.

242

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:55,000

It was refused because of insufficient funds.

243

00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Then a minute later, \$100 was requested.

244

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Again, as Matt's paycheck hadn't posted, this amount was also refused.

245

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:13,000

Eleven minutes later, the card was used at another branch in a different neighborhood.

246

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:16,000

Again, the withdrawals were unsuccessful.

247

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:20,000

This time, a hidden camera took photographs of Matt.

248

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:25,000

Then, a strange man appeared, standing at Matt's shoulder.

249

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:34,000

According to these surveillance cameras at the branch, the person standing next to Matt was somewhat shorter, somewhat stockier.

250

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:37,000

And overall, he shouldn't have been in the photograph.

251

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:44,000

No one is going to let someone stand that close to him while they're using an ATM machine where they can see the pin number.

252

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:52,000

Police suspect that Matt may have been abducted by the man in the photograph while he was making his first transactions.

253

00:16:52,000 --> 00:17:01,000

Then, in an attempt to call for help, they speculate Matt may have deliberately entered erroneous amounts, hoping to attract attention.

254

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:06,000

Over the next day and a half, there were five more withdrawal attempts.

255

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:12,000

By this time, Matt's paycheck had cleared, so \$400 was paid out from his account.

256

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:16,000

Finally, the card was confiscated by the machine.

257

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:24,000

We put a freeze on the card, thinking that, number one, getting the card back would tell us where the bank was,

258

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:28,000

possibly where these people are and where Matt might be.

259

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:34,000

And number two, that the police might be able to go get fingerprints off the card.

260

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:38,000

When the card was dusted for prints, none were found.

261

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:44,000

Police believe that either the card was wiped clean or that Matt's abductor used gloves.

262

00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:53,000

Matt's mother and father came down from Oregon to search for their son, and the car he drove to the bank.

263

00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:02,000

At first, we had great hopes. I think that we were going to stumble onto the car somewhere near proximity of where they lived.

264

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:08,000

I believe after a couple, three nights of doing this, we became very frustrated.

265

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:16,000

Los Angeles can be a dangerous place at night. We saw a lot of things that were very frightening, I think.

266

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:26,000

And that only made it more real to us that something perhaps very serious had happened to Matt.

267

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:33,000

Police believe that Matt may have been injured in a mugging and was walking the streets with amnesia.

268

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:38,000

Steve and Teresa distributed Matt's picture at a local rescue mission.

269

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:41,000

Hi. Could you do me a favor and keep an eye out?

270

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:47,000

I talked to several of the people there, and a couple of the volunteers that worked at the midnight mission said,

271

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:52,000

when I show them just his driver's license, because I'd run out of posters, said,

272

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:56,000

oh, yes, we have seen him. He's been in here several times eating.

273

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:00,000

He's really, and then they just started describing to me, and they said,

274

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:04,000

he's very tall and thin, isn't he, and very lanky.

275

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:15,000

And I said, yes, exactly. And for them to get that from one of those tiny pictures from a driver's license is really miraculous.

276

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:18,000

And we thought, well, wow, they really have seen him.

277

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:21,000

And we thought we were just so close to finding him at that point.

278

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:27,000

On June 27, almost three weeks after Matt's disappearance,

279

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:33,000

the car he had been driving was finally found by the police, abandoned close to where Matt had vanished.

280

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:38,000

When they found that car, they ran the license plate via the SVS system,

281

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:45,000

and it indicated that it was associated with the missing person, and that I wanted the vehicle held for latent fingerprints.

282

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:51,000

The criminalist dusted it for fingerprints, looked at it for other evidence of a crime,

283

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:55,000

and the car was completely void of fingerprints.

284

00:19:55,000 --> 00:20:02,000

And this finding the vehicle with no fingerprints would be very unusual in that you and I driving our vehicles in a normal manner

285

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:08,000

will leave prints on certain items within, and this vehicle had absolutely no prints inside.

286

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:13,000

Police did find one clue in the car, a blue bandana.

287

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:16,000

This bandana did not belong to either Matt or Teresa,

288

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:20,000

and investigators believe it may have been left by Matt's abductors.

289

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:22,000

I don't know what happened.

290

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:34,000

I know that I hope none of the things that I've dreamed about and wake up in the night and think about are the things that could have happened to Matt.

291

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:41,000

I am very hopeful that he's somewhere and that he's all right.

292

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:48,000

And I really think that I will be with him again sometime.

293

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Today I sense that he's still alive, and that has kept us going,

294

00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:00,000

and we'll never stop looking for him until we find him, and I know we'll find him.

295

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:06,000

He means a lot to me. He's my best friend.

296

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:15,000

Matthew Chase is 22 years of age. He is 6 feet 2 inches, 150 pounds, and has brown hair and brown eyes.

297

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:20,000

He also has a small tattoo of a dollar sign behind his right ear.

298

00:21:21,000 --> 00:21:25,000

On March 29th, one chapter of this mysterious case came to a close,

299

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:31,000

when the Los Angeles Coroner's office positively identified the body of Matthew Chase.

300

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:38,000

His remains were discovered in a ravine in nearby Pasadena, September the 17th of last year,

301

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:40,000

three months after he disappeared.

302

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:46,000

Identification was delayed by the difficulty in tracking down dental records.

303

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:49,000

The cause of death was a gunshot wound.

304

00:21:50,000 --> 00:22:00,000

We had estimated that he had been down in this canyon area since the last week in June of last year to September 1st.

305

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:08,000

When he was located, this case is being handled as a robbery homicide at this point.

306

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:16,000

The man in the bank photograph is wanted for questioning and the disappearance and death of Matthew Chase.

307

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:25,000

This is an artist's rendering of the prime suspect in this case, based on computer enhancements of the bank photographs.

308

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:29,000

Matthew's car was also stolen and later abandoned.

309

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:33,000

The killer may have been seen driving this car in early June.

310

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:37,000

It was a red two-door 1983 Volkswagen GTI.

311

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:42,000

When this car was recovered, a blue bandana was found inside.

312

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:46,000

It is thought the bandana may have belonged to the killer.

313

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:49,000

I do hope to find his killer.

314

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:57,000

I think that we need to see this through and we will see it through and this person must be brought to justice.

315

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:35,000

The 10.06 in the morning of February 14th, 1986, Valentine's Day.

316

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:41,000

A young affluent Houston Mary Lou Geride was found in her home shot four times.

317

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:45,000

She was rushed to the hospital.

318

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:48,000

There she was pronounced dead.

319

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:50,000

She had been murdered.

320

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Mary Lou's parents believed that their daughter was murdered by her husband, Stephen Geride.

321

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:05,000

Stephen is adamant that he was not involved and has a minute-by-minute alibi for the morning of the crime.

322

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:10,000

You will hear both sides of the story.

323

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:14,000

On the one side, the anguish of the loving parents who lost their daughter.

324

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:19,000

On the other, a grieving husband who has to deal with a weight of suspicion.

325

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:24,000

You'll be able to analyze the evidence in this brutal slang, but watch closely.

326

00:24:24,000 --> 00:24:27,000

The details of time and place can be crucial.

327

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Hello, Maria. Happy birthday, Maria.

328

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:35,000

Mary Lou's body was discovered at 10.06 a.m.

329

00:24:35,000 --> 00:24:40,000

At 8.15 a.m., Stephen Geride called Mary Lou's mother, Maria Serato,

330

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:44,000

and asked her to go over and help Mary Lou prepare for a lunchtime party.

331

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:49,000

Go over a little bit early and help Mary Lou get ready for it. Super.

332

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:56,000

As soon as I hang up with him, I dialed Mary's number and she didn't answer the phone.

333

00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:00,000

And he got me very concerned because I thought, how strange.

334

00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:06,000

She's supposed to be already running around the house doing the last things. What was she?

335

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:13,000

So I left. It took me about 20 minutes to get to her house.

336

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:21,000

To my surprise, there was no answer in the back door.

337

00:25:21,000 --> 00:25:25,000

And everything looked in perfect condition. Nothing was disturbed.

338

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:31,000

The front door was not locked.

339

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:36,000

And that was a shock, rather, for me, because Mary was a very careful person.

340

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:39,000

Her door was always locked.

341

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:43,000

Mary, Mary Lou.

342

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:46,000

Mary, Mary Lou.

343

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:48,000

Oh my gosh. Where are you?

344

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:52,000

I thought something was wrong. So I walked to the back of the house.

345

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:59,000

Maria searched systematically. She found Mary Lou lying on the floor.

346

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:04,000

She looked like she had fainted or something.

347

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:08,000

And I started to kiss her in her face and touching her.

348

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:11,000

And she looked like she was dead.

349

00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:16,000

And it got me completely. I was just like a wild person.

350

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:20,000

I thought I was in a nightmare.

351

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:25,000

10.30 a.m.

352

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:30,000

The paramedics tried to revive Mary Lou, attempting to restart her heart with an injection.

353

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:35,000

Mary Lou was already dead.

354

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:44,000

Unfortunately, this procedure would later make it impossible to determine an exact time of death.

355

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:54,000

Mary Lou had been shot four times with two different guns, a .380 and a .22.

356

00:26:55,000 --> 00:27:00,000

There was no sign of a gun in the house, nor were there any physical signs of a break-in.

357

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:07,000

In the bedroom, Mary Lou's jewelry box was open. Could robbery have been a motive?

358

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:14,000

It was jewelry laying in there, like she had been selected jewelry or something that she was going to wear.

359

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:21,000

Whoever killed Mary Lou didn't come in the house to steal anything.

360

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:24,000

Mary Lou's husband disagrees.

361

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:35,000

Well, there was many things taken. The gross value was about 25 to 30, maybe \$40,000 worth of jewelry.

362

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:39,000

Fur coats are from other valuables.

363

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:44,000

There were a lot of valuable things in the house and nothing was disturbed.

364

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:48,000

This was a well-planned murder.

365

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:58,000

Mary Lou and Stephen had been married for three years. Stephen was an insurance agent and Mary Lou worked for him.

366

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:05,000

The couple went on vacation to Hawaii and Europe and appeared to be happily living the good life.

367

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:17,000

It was extremely exciting and the most fulfilling relationship that I have ever had with an individual.

368

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:29,000

It was a torment of a marriage. The last two and a half years of her life, it was nothing but crying about one thing and another.

369

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:31,000

They were fighting over money.

370

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:39,000

She brought out the strongest qualities in me, made me more productive than I had ever been in my entire life.

371

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:45,000

We allowed each other to develop to the fullest.

372

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:56,000

As Mary Lou's husband, the police naturally viewed Stephen Gerai as one of the possible suspects and requested permission to inspect his handguns.

373

00:28:56,000 --> 00:29:07,000

The ballistics report proved that Stephen's guns were not used in the shooting. Stephen also gave the police a detailed account of his movements on the day of the crime.

374

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:15,000

Normally he worked in his office at home in the early morning. This time he changed his routine.

375

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:25,000

I woke up at about five that morning. I went upstairs and worked on the computer. I had an extremely busy day.

376

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:31,000

There were some things that I had to finish up. Mary Lou was still in bed, told her that I would call at seven.

377

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:39,000

I know that the security system is on when I left the house at about 625, 630.

378

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:53,000

I went down to 711 and got another cup of coffee. I left there and went to the post office, picked up our mail for the day.

379

00:29:54,000 --> 00:30:02,000

From there I went to a donut shop and picked up donuts.

380

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:03,000

Good morning.

381

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:05,000

Yeah, I'd like...

382

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:13,000

Then I went to precision glass Don Richardson's company and talked with him for a moment.

383

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:18,000

I started to leave, realized that I had forgotten to call Mary.

384

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:23,000

I went back in at the reception desk and called her at almost 730.

385

00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:30,000

She was up. She said she was busy, busy, busy. So I told her goodbye.

386

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

Goodbye.

387

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:43,000

From 730 when he called Mary Lou to 1006 when Mary Lou's body was found, Stephen was often in the company of witnesses who have corroborated his alibi.

388

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:51,000

A private investigator, Bill Elliott, hired by Mary Lou's parents, examined Stephen's alibi in detail.

389

00:30:52,000 --> 00:31:00,000

The witnesses that we interviewed indicated to us that it was not his habit or pattern to leave the house before 9 or 10 in the morning.

390

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:07,000

And this particular day he claims to have left the house between 6 and 630.

391

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:16,000

When Stephen left home, his first stop was at the 711 only two blocks away, less than a five minute drive.

392

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:22,000

We interviewed the people at the convenience store where he went first.

393

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:30,000

And it was their recollection, a very positive recollection, that Stephen did not get there until three minutes, until 7 o'clock.

394

00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:40,000

A variation in the alibi that would have given him time to do things as far as getting rid of evidence and that kind of thing.

395

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:56,000

The curious thing is Mr. G. Rye had not only gone to these places that morning, but the following day he went back and reminded these people that he had been there the day before, which is something that I found unusual.

396

00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:06,000

The evidence regarding the time of death is clouded because of the EMS crew moving in to attempt to resuscitate Mary Lou's car.

397

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:10,000

Time of death is questionable.

398

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:19,000

Therefore the alibi that he gave may be good and may not. I have no way of determining this.

399

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:30,000

Two years earlier, Stephen had purchased insurance policies on both their lives. Each policy had a total value of \$435,000.

400

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:42,000

Mr. G. Rye was a big spender, liked to spend a lot of money and liked to live the high life at a higher level than his income was capable of supporting.

401

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:51,000

In Harris County I found a little over \$120,000 of hard-cast judgments that he had against him.

402

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:58,000

Ten months after the murder, Stephen filed to collect the \$435,000.

403

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:04,000

Outraged, Mary Lou's parents went to court to prevent him from collecting the money.

404

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:10,000

They claimed he had been the cause of Mary Lou's death and would attempt to prove it in court.

405

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:17,000

We learned things about the insurance money and it was on my daughter's name.

406

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:28,000

So all that may cross suspect that something was wrong and that he was in part responsible for the death of my daughter.

407

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:34,000

Stephen Gereye believes there is another reason that the Serratos found the lawsuit.

408

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:41,000

Well, there's two things that make the world go round in that sex and money and it definitely wasn't sex, was it?

409

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:51,000

Just as the trial was beginning, after the jury had been picked, an out-of-court settlement was reached between Stephen Gereye and the Serratos.

410

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:57,000

But which side had requested the settlement, Stephen or Mary Lou's parents?

411

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:03,000

My attorney came and got me and said that Serratos had made an offer to settle the case.

412

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:05,000

You can imagine that we...

413

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:07,000

We didn't. They did.

414

00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:11,000

We didn't have a reason to. Why do we want it to do that?

415

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:28,000

I was adamant that when my attorney presented this to me that it would not be as an admission of guilt and that rather that the Serratos would realize that I was not involved, or why would they make the offer and that we would settle on it.

416

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:34,000

If it had been my daughter and I thought that person was involved, there was no way I would ever take a settlement.

417

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:37,000

But they did.

418

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:42,000

You're not to discuss any aspect of the settlement of this case.

419

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:49,000

The court documents can't reveal who asked for the settlement, since Judge Sklar ordered the record sealed for two years.

420

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:52,000

And I assume that you wish me to approve the judgment at this time.

421

00:34:53,000 --> 00:34:54,000

Yes, your judge.

422

00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:55,000

All right.

423

00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:05,000

After Mary Lou Gerai was buried, the headstone on her grave was smeared with mud and vandalized, and then stolen.

424

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:14,000

The headstone has been replaced. It now reads, Mary Lou Serratos.

425

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:24,000

It is very uncomfortable for us to go on living knowing that somebody did something horrible and it's not been punished.

426

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:32,000

No, I did not kill my wife. Mary Lou was the perfect woman for me.

427

00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:43,000

We had a wonderful life together, exciting. We traveled. We built one hell of a business and a fantastic compliment for each other.

428

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:51,000

The police continue their search for information about the two weapons that were used, a .380 caliber and a .22 caliber pistol.

429

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:54,000

They feel these guns will lead them to the killer.

430

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:59,000

Next, the story of an orphan, Dolores Valabes.

431

00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:05,000

It was told by her stepmother that she was left on the doorstep in a suitcase. She wants to know where she really came from.

432

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Maybe you can help.

433

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:27,000

Dolores Valabes has no parents, no history, no heritage. She doesn't even know how old she is.

434

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:35,000

The stepmother who raised her, Maria, the only one who could tell her who she really is, lies buried in an unmarked grave.

435

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:46,000

What Maria did tell Dolores is a chilling story. She said she found Dolores when she was an infant, abandoned in a suitcase on the front porch.

436

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:52,000

Her only companion, a black kitten. The story has haunted Dolores all her life.

437

00:36:53,000 --> 00:37:04,000

It scared me the fact that I could have possibly been left at the doorstep and I never wanted to believe it and I was determined to find out the truth.

438

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:14,000

I feel like there's relatives of Maria that know the truth, but they're still afraid of Maria in her grave.

439

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:24,000

Dolores feels that the mysterious power of her stepmother Maria reaches beyond the grave to keep Dolores's identity buried with her.

440

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:29,000

Every day Dolores wrestles with a simple question, who am I?

441

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:32,000

Who am I?

442

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:38,000

Every time Dolores Valabes looks in the mirror, she can see her Spanish heritage, but she can't prove it.

443

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:45,000

Her lack of a documented past has caused her many practical problems. She's not been able to get a passport.

444

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:55,000

She's borrowed from receiving money, do her and her stepfather's will, and her daughter could not qualify for Mexican American college scholarships because Dolores' birthright is a mystery.

445

00:37:55,000 --> 00:38:05,000

Dolores Valadez is looking for a past and identity. Perhaps someone in our audience can help Dolores find the answer to her question. Who am I?

446

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:21,000

In 1947, the year Dolores believed she was born, San Bernardino, California was a bustling city, swelling with its new Mexican American population.

447

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:27,000

San Bernardino was a town where Dolores grew up, in the home of Maria Valadez.

448

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:39,000

Maria was a midwife and a powerful curandera, a healer who worked with potent herbs and ointments. She was respected and even feared in the community.

449

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:47,000

Maria had been told that she could not have children of her own, so she adopted to, a boy named Mingo and a girl named Vicky.

450

00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:55,000

For some reason, she never adopted Dolores. The baby, she said, was left on her doorstep in a suitcase.

451

00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:09,000

As a child, Dolores felt isolated, and although Mingo and Vicky were told who their natural parents were, Dolores' background was left a mystery, a topic to be avoided.

452

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:19,000

I never felt like Maria really wanted me. I never really felt accepted by her. I felt a lot of resentment.

453

00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:33,000

I felt afraid of her many times, where we always would tell me various stories about how I didn't really belong in the family and so forth and so on.

454

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:40,000

She would tell me that I arrived in the suitcase and was left in front of the steps.

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00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:49,000

I really didn't want to believe it, but I would tell her, well, tell me the truth. Why don't you just tell me the truth? Where did I come from?

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00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:53,000

And she would just turn around and ignore me.

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00:39:55,000 --> 00:40:00,000

It's a real strange feeling to think that nobody really wanted you.

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00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:11,000

The only thing that I can remember is my mother said that Dolores came in a suitcase, and that's it, and it was dropped right there.

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00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:17,000

And I thought they were just kidding. You know, and I was just a little girl myself.

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00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:32,000

When Dolores was in the fourth grade, Maria died. Dolores scripted for morphinages to foster homes. Until in 1963, she settled down and began to turn her life around.

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00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:37,000

She completed high school, trained as a flight attendant, and got married.

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00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:46,000

In 1970, after the birth of her daughter Erika, Dolores decided she had to know the truth about her own birth.

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00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:53,000

Starting at the San Bernardino Hall of Records, she pursued a paper trail that she hoped would lead to the identity of her parents.

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00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:01,000

Despite her high hopes, there was no record that Dolores had ever been born.

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00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:09,000

With no trace of her birth, Dolores went looking for a record of her baptism.

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00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:19,000

Finally in a church five miles outside San Bernardino, she found a baptismal record with her birth date and the name of Maria Valadez.

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00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:22,000

Dolores also found a new clue.

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00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:31,000

The record showed that Dolores had two godparents, Rodolfo Minhares and Rufina Rodriguez.

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00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:42,000

Back in the 40s, people were more inclined to think of children being out of wedlock as something to hide.

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00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:50,000

So there's a possibility that Dolores's godparents are her parents because I've seen that before in other cases.

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00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:56,000

Dolores had one other clue to her past.

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00:41:57,000 --> 00:42:02,000

Maria had told her that as an infant, Dolores had been hospitalized for diphtheria.

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00:42:05,000 --> 00:42:16,000

One of my searches was going to the county hospital in San Bernardino and on the admissions card, they listed a woman named Esther as my mother.

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00:42:18,000 --> 00:42:21,000

Dolores had never heard the name of Esther Valadez before.

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00:42:21,000 --> 00:42:29,000

The hospital form stated that Esther was deceased but in fact no death certificate was found in the San Bernardino Hall of Records.

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00:42:30,000 --> 00:42:37,000

Strangely, Dolores's admission forms also stated that Maria was Dolores's aunt, not her stepmother.

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00:42:38,000 --> 00:42:44,000

And Dolores's birth date was listed as September the 17th, which was not the birth date she had always celebrated.

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00:42:45,000 --> 00:42:48,000

Clearly the records may have been falsified, but why?

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00:42:49,000 --> 00:43:02,000

Several times we have run into cases where Mexican families who have had large numbers of children have given a baby, one of their children away, one of their newborns, away to one of the other family members who have been childless.

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00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:12,000

If this was the case with Dolores, none of the family members would ever talk about it and they would virtually carry it with them to the graves.

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00:43:13,000 --> 00:43:24,000

If someone gave Dolores to Maria, who did it and why? Perhaps the answer lies in Maria's years as a midwife.

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00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:31,000

Dolores had heard a family rumor that Maria once kept a baby girl she helped deliver.

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00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:35,000

According to the rumor, the baby's mother was a family friend.

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00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:39,000

Dolores decided to question her.

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00:43:39,000 --> 00:43:46,000

Hello, my name is Dolores Valadis and I grew up in the Owl Street area of San Bernardino.

486

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:52,000

This lady lived in the Valadis's home around the time that I could have been born.

487

00:44:01,000 --> 00:44:05,000

She was nervous and couldn't keep her composure very well.

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00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:09,000

I've heard rumors that you were my mother. Are you my mother?

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00:44:10,000 --> 00:44:15,000

No, I'm not your mother and as much as I would love to be your mother. You have not given me any proof.

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00:44:16,000 --> 00:44:25,000

And I look very much like her daughter's picture. I could be her twin, but she keeps denying that she is my mother.

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00:44:26,000 --> 00:44:34,000

She's mad. I mean, she wants to know who are her parents. You know, she doesn't want anything from them.

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00:44:35,000 --> 00:44:43,000

All she wants is, what is my name? When's my birthday? That's all she wants. She doesn't want anything else, but that.

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00:44:45,000 --> 00:44:53,000

Dolores had isolated three possible mothers, Esther, the woman named in her hospital records, Rufina, her baptismal godmother,

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00:44:53,000 --> 00:44:58,000

and the reticent family friend, but none of the leads had paid off.

495

00:45:01,000 --> 00:45:11,000

Dolores felt her last hope was Mingo, Maria's adopted son. He had been reluctant to talk, so while we were interviewing Mingo, Dolores confronted him.

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00:45:12,000 --> 00:45:17,000

Dolores claimed that when they were younger, Mingo had told her that he knew the truth.

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00:45:17,000 --> 00:45:24,000

Oh, you didn't? I'm positive that years ago you told me that you couldn't tell me the truth.

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00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:27,000

No, I don't remember that.

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00:45:28,000 --> 00:45:32,000

You don't remember that? So you don't know anything about her?

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00:45:33,000 --> 00:45:46,000

Sometimes I get the feeling that he's still afraid of Maria, even in her grave. And there really isn't anything to be afraid of. People don't come back from the dead.

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00:45:47,000 --> 00:46:07,000

I have felt very frustrated and very discouraged, but I still have a feeling inside of me that there are people out there that know they're just afraid.

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00:46:08,000 --> 00:46:17,000

I have prayed a lot about my parents coming forward or somebody coming forward with the truth.

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00:46:18,000 --> 00:46:29,000

I don't want to hurt anyone by them admitting that they're my parents. And if they want to come forward and acknowledge that I'm their daughter, that would really make me happy.

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00:46:29,000 --> 00:46:37,000

I have a very strong feeling that somebody out there is looking for me too.

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00:46:59,000 --> 00:47:06,000

I have a feeling that I'm going to be able to tell you the truth.

506

00:47:07,000 --> 00:47:12,000

I have a feeling that I'm going to be able to tell you the truth.

507

00:47:13,000 --> 00:47:18,000

I have a feeling that I'm going to be able to tell you the truth.

508

00:47:19,000 --> 00:47:24,000

I have a feeling that I'm going to be able to tell you the truth.

509

00:47:24,000 --> 00:47:29,000

I have a feeling that I'm going to be able to tell you the truth.