

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,560

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:07,560 --> 00:00:10,160

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:10,160 --> 00:00:13,160

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:13,160 --> 00:00:15,560

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

5

00:00:20,800 --> 00:00:24,560

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries, 18-year-old Lisa Marie Kimmel

6

00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:27,240

was brutally stabbed in Casper, Wyoming.

7

00:00:27,240 --> 00:00:30,120

Yet, four weeks after police believe she was murdered,

8

00:00:30,120 --> 00:00:32,720

hundreds of people across the Western United States

9

00:00:32,720 --> 00:00:36,600

claimed they saw Lisa or her car.

10

00:00:36,600 --> 00:00:38,640

For over 100 years, fortune hunters

11

00:00:38,640 --> 00:00:41,520

have tried to find Arizona's lost Dutchman mind,

12

00:00:41,520 --> 00:00:43,840

and many men have died trying.

13

00:00:43,840 --> 00:00:49,080

Today, the goal could be worth over \$200 million.

14

00:00:49,080 --> 00:00:52,960

Also a story of love and murder in a remote Louisiana by-law.

15

00:00:52,960 --> 00:00:55,480

An illicit romance led to one man's death

16

00:00:55,480 --> 00:00:59,800

and a young woman's mysterious disappearance.

17

00:00:59,800 --> 00:01:02,200

From a murder discovered in the swamps of Louisiana

18

00:01:02,200 --> 00:01:04,480

to a treasure lost in an Arizona mountain range,

19

00:01:04,480 --> 00:01:06,720

our stories have one thing in common.

20

00:01:06,720 --> 00:01:08,680

As yet, there is no solution.

21

00:01:08,680 --> 00:01:10,480

Perhaps you can help.

22

00:01:10,480 --> 00:01:11,480

Join me.

23

00:01:11,480 --> 00:01:14,800

You may be able to help solve a mystery.

24

00:01:55,640 --> 00:02:09,400

On a little used suspension bridge outside Casper, Wyoming,

25

00:02:09,400 --> 00:02:11,840

residents reported seeing unexplained lights

26

00:02:11,840 --> 00:02:17,600

in the early morning hours of March the 26th, 1988.

27

00:02:17,600 --> 00:02:20,420

Police theorized that an unknown assailant operating

28

00:02:20,420 --> 00:02:24,240

under cover of darkness brought his victim, a young girl of 18,

29

00:02:24,280 --> 00:02:25,000

to the bridge.

30

00:02:30,320 --> 00:02:32,600

After stabbing her repeatedly, he threw her

31

00:02:32,600 --> 00:02:34,880

into the chill waters of a North Platte River.

32

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:48,320

The victim was later identified as Lisa Marie

33

00:02:48,320 --> 00:02:51,000

Kimmel from Billings, Montana.

34

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:53,920

She had been sexually assaulted prior to being killed

35

00:02:53,920 --> 00:02:57,040

in a manner that suggested some kind of bizarre torture.

36

00:03:00,440 --> 00:03:02,080

The savage nature of Lisa's murder

37

00:03:02,080 --> 00:03:05,480

is not the only perplexing aspect of this case.

38

00:03:05,480 --> 00:03:08,440

Lisa was last seen alive on the night of March the 25th.

39

00:03:08,440 --> 00:03:10,680

Police believe that she was killed a few hours later

40

00:03:10,680 --> 00:03:13,400

in the early morning of March the 26th.

41

00:03:13,400 --> 00:03:15,160

But what complicates the investigation

42

00:03:15,160 --> 00:03:18,960

is that nearly 1,000 people claim they saw Lisa Marie Kimmel

43

00:03:18,960 --> 00:03:20,280

or her car.

44

00:03:20,280 --> 00:03:23,160

During a week when police believe she was already dead.

45

00:03:28,600 --> 00:03:31,080

Lisa was 18 years old and worked as a manager

46

00:03:31,080 --> 00:03:34,440

at a fast food restaurant in Denver, Colorado.

47

00:03:34,440 --> 00:03:37,720

On March the 25th, she left town and headed for Cody, Wyoming

48

00:03:37,720 --> 00:03:38,760

to visit her boyfriend.

49

00:03:41,240 --> 00:03:45,640

Lisa's car, a black 1988 Honda CRXSI,

50

00:03:45,640 --> 00:03:48,400

carry the spunky license plate Lil Miss.

51

00:03:51,280 --> 00:03:54,360

The plan was that she was supposed to leave Denver

52

00:03:54,360 --> 00:03:58,440

and sometime after work and get to Cody to see me sometime

53

00:03:58,440 --> 00:03:59,520

late that evening.

54

00:03:59,520 --> 00:04:03,680

I talked to her about 4.30 and she

55

00:04:03,680 --> 00:04:05,400

was going to be leaving in about a half hour.

56

00:04:05,400 --> 00:04:08,920

I thought she'd be in about midnight or something like that.

57

00:04:08,920 --> 00:04:11,760

From Denver, Lisa had planned to travel to Casper, Wyoming

58

00:04:11,760 --> 00:04:14,520

on Interstate 25.

59

00:04:14,520 --> 00:04:16,480

From Casper, she would take a two-lane road

60

00:04:16,480 --> 00:04:19,480

to Ed Jerick's house in Cody.

61

00:04:19,520 --> 00:04:21,160

After spending the night there, she

62

00:04:21,160 --> 00:04:26,240

planned to go on to Billings, Montana to visit her parents.

63

00:04:26,240 --> 00:04:28,200

Whether conditions were good, so Lisa

64

00:04:28,200 --> 00:04:31,000

should have made the trip to Cody in eight or nine hours,

65

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:34,400

arriving at Ed's house late Friday night.

66

00:04:34,400 --> 00:04:36,640

However, at 7 o'clock Saturday morning,

67

00:04:36,640 --> 00:04:40,400

she still had not arrived.

68

00:04:40,400 --> 00:04:42,800

Ed Jerick frantically telephoned the highway patrols

69

00:04:42,800 --> 00:04:45,000

in three states.

70

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:47,080

Two days later, the Wyoming Highway Patrol

71

00:04:47,080 --> 00:04:49,360

reported that they had stopped Lisa for speeding

72

00:04:49,360 --> 00:04:52,520

about 60 miles south of Casper on March 25,

73

00:04:52,520 --> 00:04:54,360

the night she disappeared.

74

00:04:54,360 --> 00:04:57,040

It was nearly 9 PM Friday night.

75

00:04:57,040 --> 00:04:59,160

Four hours after Lisa had left Denver,

76

00:04:59,160 --> 00:05:01,480

she was right on schedule.

77

00:05:01,480 --> 00:05:04,520

I was patrolling southbound on March 25.

78

00:05:04,520 --> 00:05:08,160

I noted a small car northbound at 88 miles an hour,

79

00:05:08,160 --> 00:05:09,440

quoting my radar.

80

00:05:09,440 --> 00:05:12,440

I turned around and pursued the car.

81

00:05:12,440 --> 00:05:14,840

I stopped her near Orange Junction.

82

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:20,800

Good evening, miss.

83

00:05:20,800 --> 00:05:22,480

Man, I see your driver's license.

84

00:05:22,480 --> 00:05:25,760

She was well kept, driving a nice car,

85

00:05:25,760 --> 00:05:29,240

kind of a person you'd like to have for a daughter.

86

00:05:29,240 --> 00:05:31,120

Hey, miss, Kimmel, I had you on my radar back there

87

00:05:31,120 --> 00:05:33,120

at 88 miles an hour.

88

00:05:33,120 --> 00:05:34,920

Is there any particular reason for your speed?

89

00:05:34,920 --> 00:05:36,320

I'm trying to hurry to Billings.

90

00:05:36,320 --> 00:05:39,120

I've got a friend who's going in for surgery.

91

00:05:39,120 --> 00:05:42,160

This was the last confirmed sighting of Lisa.

92

00:05:42,160 --> 00:05:45,240

Her signature on the citation and a routine voice recording

93

00:05:45,240 --> 00:05:48,680

the policemen made verify that it was definitely Lisa Marie

94

00:05:48,720 --> 00:05:50,320

Kimmel who was stopped that night.

95

00:05:53,520 --> 00:05:57,480

As the week went on, we realized the gravity of the situation.

96

00:06:01,280 --> 00:06:07,520

We knew that the outlook was looking a little grim.

97

00:06:07,520 --> 00:06:12,480

But even if that, even if the outcome wasn't as we hoped,

98

00:06:12,480 --> 00:06:14,080

we still needed to find her.

99

00:06:15,080 --> 00:06:20,800

On April 2, one week after she disappeared,

100

00:06:20,800 --> 00:06:23,480

Greg Bradford, the mechanic who was spending his Saturday

101

00:06:23,480 --> 00:06:28,480

fishing, brought the search for Lisa Marie to a sad end.

102

00:06:28,480 --> 00:06:31,840

When I came up to just about this spot right here,

103

00:06:31,840 --> 00:06:36,240

and I got a real bad feeling something was wrong,

104

00:06:36,240 --> 00:06:40,120

I felt that somebody died or somebody was hurt real bad.

105

00:06:40,120 --> 00:06:42,040

It just kept coming over me.

106

00:06:42,040 --> 00:06:42,800

I couldn't shake it.

107

00:06:45,080 --> 00:06:47,080

So I just stepped up.

108

00:06:47,080 --> 00:06:49,080

When I stepped up off the side of the bank,

109

00:06:49,080 --> 00:06:53,080

I looked over my shoulder and I saw the lady in the water.

110

00:06:55,080 --> 00:06:56,080

I knew it was a lady in the water,

111

00:06:56,080 --> 00:06:58,080

but your mind tells you it's not true.

112

00:06:58,080 --> 00:07:00,080

It's not real.

113

00:07:00,080 --> 00:07:03,080

And then I remember when we were driving up from Cheyenne,

114

00:07:03,080 --> 00:07:06,080

they said this young girl was missing from Montana.

115

00:07:06,080 --> 00:07:11,080

So I looked again and I said, oh my god, it must be her.

116

00:07:12,080 --> 00:07:15,080

When we went out there, the physical description matched Lisa,

117

00:07:15,080 --> 00:07:18,080

but at that point, because of the condition of the body,

118

00:07:18,080 --> 00:07:21,080

we weren't sure until we'd gotten her out of the water.

119

00:07:23,080 --> 00:07:27,080

We're not sure at this point whether the body was placed

120

00:07:27,080 --> 00:07:31,080

in the river sometime on the 25th or the 26th.

121

00:07:31,080 --> 00:07:33,080

The body just didn't show any signs of decomposition

122

00:07:33,080 --> 00:07:35,080

because it was so cold.

123

00:07:37,080 --> 00:07:39,080

There were some stab wounds in the chest area.

124

00:07:39,080 --> 00:07:41,080

She was sexually assaulted.

125

00:07:41,080 --> 00:07:46,080

She was found nearly nude, but not quite.

126

00:07:46,080 --> 00:07:50,080

They made stab wounds in such a manner that we feel are unique,

127

00:07:50,080 --> 00:07:53,080

and I can't tell you how they were done to the body,

128

00:07:53,080 --> 00:07:56,080

but it would lead the appearance that somebody took their time

129

00:07:56,080 --> 00:07:58,080

in doing this.

130

00:07:59,080 --> 00:08:02,080

It's hard to understand why somebody would do something like that

131

00:08:02,080 --> 00:08:04,080

to another human being.

132

00:08:06,080 --> 00:08:08,080

Police scouted the area where Lisa's body

133

00:08:08,080 --> 00:08:10,080

was discovered.

134

00:08:10,080 --> 00:08:13,080

On an old highway bridge, one quarter of a mile away,

135

00:08:13,080 --> 00:08:17,080

they found blood, which was the same type as Lisa Marie Kimmel's.

136

00:08:17,080 --> 00:08:21,080

Because the bridge is so inaccessible and so seldom used,

137

00:08:21,080 --> 00:08:24,080

police believe the murder may be someone local.

138

00:08:25,080 --> 00:08:28,080

Based on the eyewitness accounts of unexplained lights on the bridge

139

00:08:28,080 --> 00:08:31,080

and an analysis of other evidence,

140

00:08:31,080 --> 00:08:34,080

police believe the time of Lisa's murder was the early morning

141

00:08:34,080 --> 00:08:36,080

of Saturday, March the 26th.

142

00:08:36,080 --> 00:08:40,080

Approximately five hours after she was stopped for speeding.

143

00:08:41,080 --> 00:08:43,080

Strangely, in the next seven days,

144

00:08:43,080 --> 00:08:46,080

hundreds of sightings of Lisa and her car,

145

00:08:46,080 --> 00:08:49,080

many of them involving an unknown male companion

146

00:08:49,080 --> 00:08:53,080

were reported throughout the Northwestern United States in Canada.

147

00:08:54,080 --> 00:08:58,080

Up until this date, we've had over a thousand sightings of this vehicle.

148

00:08:58,080 --> 00:09:02,080

A lot of them from law enforcement officers.

149

00:09:02,080 --> 00:09:04,080

There's no pattern to them.

150

00:09:04,080 --> 00:09:07,080

They're not just enforcement part. There's no direction of travel.

151

00:09:07,080 --> 00:09:10,080

They went south, they went to the north, they went to the west.

152

00:09:10,080 --> 00:09:12,080

They just were everywhere.

153

00:09:12,080 --> 00:09:14,080

And we were deluged with them at the point that we thought

154

00:09:14,080 --> 00:09:17,080

they had gone to Canada. We had some sightings in Canada.

155

00:09:18,080 --> 00:09:21,080

Composites were made of at least 17 men,

156

00:09:21,080 --> 00:09:23,080

but none of them seemed to resemble one another

157

00:09:23,080 --> 00:09:26,080

closely enough to justify issuing a watered poster.

158

00:09:28,080 --> 00:09:31,080

Three of these sightings believed to be among the most reliable

159

00:09:31,080 --> 00:09:34,080

were reported on the 26th and 27th of March,

160

00:09:34,080 --> 00:09:38,080

after police believe Lisa Marie had already been murdered.

161

00:09:38,080 --> 00:09:41,080

One of them was in Casper, just 20 minutes drive away

162

00:09:41,080 --> 00:09:43,080

from the place her body was found.

163

00:09:43,080 --> 00:09:46,080

The other two sightings were in Buffalo, Wyoming,

164

00:09:46,080 --> 00:09:48,080

two hours drive outside Casper.

165

00:09:49,080 --> 00:09:51,080

In none of the three sightings,

166

00:09:51,080 --> 00:09:53,080

did Lisa appear to be signaling for help.

167

00:09:54,080 --> 00:09:57,080

The Casper sighting occurred on Sunday, March the 27th,

168

00:09:57,080 --> 00:10:00,080

two days after Lisa had been stopped for speeding.

169

00:10:01,080 --> 00:10:04,080

Diana Houston was driving a van through the downtown area

170

00:10:04,080 --> 00:10:06,080

of Casper, when she noticed the personalized

171

00:10:06,080 --> 00:10:08,080

little miss license plates,

172

00:10:08,080 --> 00:10:11,080

because her roommate owned a puppy with the same name.

173

00:10:13,080 --> 00:10:16,080

It was Sunday afternoon, about quarter to two,

174

00:10:16,080 --> 00:10:19,080

and I saw a Montana license plate on a vehicle.

175

00:10:19,080 --> 00:10:22,080

And being from Montana, I had caught my eye,

176

00:10:22,080 --> 00:10:25,080

so I looked, and the license plate said little miss.

177

00:10:27,080 --> 00:10:30,080

I went by, I saw somebody with blond hair driving,

178

00:10:30,080 --> 00:10:32,080

and had on a yellow sweater.

179

00:10:33,080 --> 00:10:35,080

22 hours earlier, Donna Kurtpatrick,

180

00:10:35,080 --> 00:10:37,080

the county sheriff's wife in Buffalo,

181

00:10:37,080 --> 00:10:40,080

reported that she had seen Lisa wearing a pink sweater.

182

00:10:42,080 --> 00:10:44,080

It was Saturday at noon, and I noticed

183

00:10:44,080 --> 00:10:47,080

a little black sports car had pulled out right in front of me.

184

00:10:49,080 --> 00:10:52,080

And then I noticed a license plate.

185

00:10:52,080 --> 00:10:55,080

It was a Montana license plate with little miss on it,

186

00:10:55,080 --> 00:10:57,080

LIL, M-I-S-S.

187

00:10:57,080 --> 00:11:00,080

And at that point, I decided that I needed to see

188

00:11:00,080 --> 00:11:02,080

who was driving the car.

189

00:11:02,080 --> 00:11:05,080

I was most interested to see if the car went with whoever

190

00:11:05,080 --> 00:11:07,080

was driving it.

191

00:11:08,080 --> 00:11:12,080

I am absolutely positive there was a young gal driving it.

192

00:11:12,080 --> 00:11:15,080

I know the license plate, I know Montana license plates,

193

00:11:15,080 --> 00:11:19,080

I saw the plate on that car, at that time, on that day,

194

00:11:19,080 --> 00:11:21,080

and there's not a doubt in my mind.

195

00:11:22,080 --> 00:11:25,080

Curiously, Lisa's parents are not sure that she ever owned

196

00:11:25,080 --> 00:11:27,080

either a yellow or a pink sweater.

197

00:11:28,080 --> 00:11:30,080

And the highway patrolman who stopped her for speeding,

198

00:11:30,080 --> 00:11:32,080

the last person to have verifiable evidence

199

00:11:32,080 --> 00:11:35,080

that he saw Lisa alive, remembers that she was wearing

200

00:11:35,080 --> 00:11:37,080

a black and white sweater.

201

00:11:38,080 --> 00:11:40,080

Could Lisa have changed her clothes?

202

00:11:40,080 --> 00:11:42,080

Or did the eyewitnesses see another young woman

203

00:11:42,080 --> 00:11:44,080

who resembled Lisa?

204

00:11:45,080 --> 00:11:48,080

Two hours after Donna Kurtpatrick saw Lisa,

205

00:11:48,080 --> 00:11:51,080

another eyewitness also saw her in Buffalo.

206

00:11:52,080 --> 00:11:55,080

This time, a mysterious man was with Lisa.

207

00:11:56,080 --> 00:11:59,080

I was busy at the register, but a car pulled up

208

00:11:59,080 --> 00:12:02,080

and I said, little miss, on the Montana license plates

209

00:12:02,080 --> 00:12:05,080

on the front of it, and there were two people in the vehicle.

210

00:12:05,080 --> 00:12:08,080

There was a very attractive young lady at the wheel.

211

00:12:08,080 --> 00:12:11,080

The individual that was with her was a small man.

212

00:12:11,080 --> 00:12:14,080

I would say 135 to 140 pounds.

213

00:12:14,080 --> 00:12:17,080

Dark hair, dark eyes, rather large eyes.

214

00:12:17,080 --> 00:12:19,080

And he had very fine features.

215

00:12:19,080 --> 00:12:21,080

It wasn't blunt nose or anything like that.

216

00:12:21,080 --> 00:12:24,080

They were aquiline, I think, as the word, to the poet's use.

217

00:12:24,080 --> 00:12:27,080

And he was swarthy-complected and he was small.

218

00:12:27,080 --> 00:12:29,080

He fit into the car.

219

00:12:29,080 --> 00:12:32,080

He didn't look out of place or anything like that.

220

00:12:32,080 --> 00:12:35,080

And a few minutes later, when I turned to look again,

221

00:12:35,080 --> 00:12:37,080

the car had gone.

222

00:12:37,080 --> 00:12:40,080

If the three sightings of Lisa Marie Kimmel are reliable,

223

00:12:40,080 --> 00:12:42,080

they raise some disturbing questions.

224

00:12:43,080 --> 00:12:45,080

Was Lisa killed as a police think she was

225

00:12:45,080 --> 00:12:48,080

during the early morning hours of March the 26th?

226

00:12:49,080 --> 00:12:51,080

If she was, who was a woman

227

00:12:51,080 --> 00:12:54,080

seen driving Lisa's car in Casper and Buffalo?

228

00:12:54,080 --> 00:12:57,080

If Lisa was not killed on the 26th,

229

00:12:57,080 --> 00:12:59,080

why was she in Buffalo more than two hours

230

00:12:59,080 --> 00:13:01,080

off the course of her planned journey?

231

00:13:01,080 --> 00:13:03,080

And if she was in jeopardy,

232

00:13:03,080 --> 00:13:06,080

why did she not signal for help when she was sighted?

233

00:13:18,080 --> 00:13:21,080

Next, the story of the legendary lost Dutchman, Marie.

234

00:13:21,080 --> 00:13:24,080

The clues are scarce, but the stakes are high.

235

00:13:24,080 --> 00:13:26,080

Millions of dollars in gold.

236

00:13:26,080 --> 00:13:29,080

Next, the story of the legendary lost Dutchman, Marie.

237

00:13:29,080 --> 00:13:32,080

The clues are scarce, but the stakes are high.

238

00:13:32,080 --> 00:13:34,080

Millions of dollars in gold.

239

00:13:48,080 --> 00:13:50,080

The superstition mountains in Arizona cover

240

00:13:50,080 --> 00:13:54,080

160,000 acres of desolate, rugged terrain.

241

00:13:54,080 --> 00:13:56,080

According to legend, these mountains contain

242

00:13:56,080 --> 00:13:58,080

the richest deposits of gold in America,

243

00:13:58,080 --> 00:14:00,080

the lost Dutchman's gold mine.

244

00:14:06,080 --> 00:14:09,080

There are hundreds of stories hidden in its location,

245

00:14:09,080 --> 00:14:11,080

and they're all tied to one man,

246

00:14:11,080 --> 00:14:13,080

a German prospector named Jacob Waltz,

247

00:14:13,080 --> 00:14:16,080

who is said to have discovered the mine in 1876.

248

00:14:16,080 --> 00:14:19,080

His nickname was the Dutchman.

249

00:14:20,080 --> 00:14:23,080

Jacob Waltz was a student of mining,

250

00:14:23,080 --> 00:14:25,080

and he knew what he was doing.

251

00:14:25,080 --> 00:14:29,080

The old timers were very, very astute to the fact of geology.

252

00:14:29,080 --> 00:14:32,080

They knew what they were looking for.

253

00:14:32,080 --> 00:14:34,080

If you're going to go out in these mountains anywhere

254

00:14:34,080 --> 00:14:36,080

and look for gold, you really want to go to a place

255

00:14:36,080 --> 00:14:38,080

where gold has been found.

256

00:14:38,080 --> 00:14:40,080

Superstitions would be an exception.

257

00:14:40,080 --> 00:14:42,080

You wouldn't go in there.

258

00:14:45,080 --> 00:14:48,080

Waltz was one of the few who was prepared to prospect

259

00:14:48,080 --> 00:14:52,080

an unpromising location, and apparently he was rewarded.

260

00:14:56,080 --> 00:15:00,080

15 years later, in 1891, when Jacob Waltz was 80 years old,

261

00:15:00,080 --> 00:15:03,080

he decided to hide his mine.

262

00:15:03,080 --> 00:15:05,080

He is said to have dug a hole six feet deep

263

00:15:05,080 --> 00:15:08,080

at the entrance to the mine.

264

00:15:08,080 --> 00:15:11,080

He then laid in two solid layers of ironwood logs,

265

00:15:11,080 --> 00:15:14,080

filled a hole with dirt, and topped it with stones

266

00:15:14,080 --> 00:15:16,080

from the surrounding area.

267

00:15:18,080 --> 00:15:20,080

The Dutchman bragged that you could drive a pack train

268

00:15:20,080 --> 00:15:24,080

over the entrance to the mine and never know it was there.

269

00:15:24,080 --> 00:15:27,080

For over 100 years, fortune hunters have searched

270

00:15:27,080 --> 00:15:30,080

for Jacob Waltz's hidden treasure trove.

271

00:15:34,080 --> 00:15:36,080

Several months after Waltz hid the mine,

272

00:15:36,080 --> 00:15:38,080

he contracted pneumonia and was taken to the home

273

00:15:38,080 --> 00:15:42,080

of a friend, Julia Thomas in Phoenix.

274

00:15:42,080 --> 00:15:45,080

She tried to nurse Jacob back to health.

275

00:15:45,080 --> 00:15:47,080

Before Jacob Waltz died, he told them

276

00:15:47,080 --> 00:15:50,080

that there was gold from the mine stashed under his bed.

277

00:15:50,080 --> 00:15:53,080

He said, that's what I've been living on all these years.

278

00:15:53,080 --> 00:15:56,080

He took out the box, they opened it,

279

00:15:56,080 --> 00:15:59,080

and their comment was, my God, that's rich.

280

00:15:59,080 --> 00:16:01,080

It's got to be just a pocket.

281

00:16:01,080 --> 00:16:02,080

And he said, no, it isn't.

282

00:16:02,080 --> 00:16:04,080

He said, it's a vein.

283

00:16:04,080 --> 00:16:08,080

He said, there's enough in sight to make millionaires out of 20 men.

284

00:16:09,080 --> 00:16:11,080

As his end drew near, the Dutchman gave Julia

285

00:16:11,080 --> 00:16:13,080

and Reinhardt Petrasch a local miner,

286

00:16:13,080 --> 00:16:16,080

clues to the location of the mine.

287

00:16:16,080 --> 00:16:19,080

The old northwest corner of the superstition mountains

288

00:16:19,080 --> 00:16:21,080

take the trail in.

289

00:16:21,080 --> 00:16:24,080

I left a number of clues, but several times he said,

290

00:16:24,080 --> 00:16:27,080

I've almost got to show you where it is,

291

00:16:27,080 --> 00:16:29,080

or you'll never find it,

292

00:16:29,080 --> 00:16:32,080

because you've got to know exactly where it is.

293

00:16:33,080 --> 00:16:35,080

Waltz died before he could give them a map

294

00:16:35,080 --> 00:16:37,080

that showed exactly where the mine lay.

295

00:16:38,080 --> 00:16:40,080

Even though there are hundreds of maps in existence today,

296

00:16:40,080 --> 00:16:43,080

none of them came from Jacob Waltz.

297

00:16:47,080 --> 00:16:50,080

The only direction that Julia and the Petrasch brothers had

298

00:16:50,080 --> 00:16:52,080

when they ventured into the mountains

299

00:16:52,080 --> 00:16:55,080

were the verbal clues Waltz had given on his deathbed.

300

00:16:58,080 --> 00:17:01,080

He said, the setting sun shines into the entrance

301

00:17:01,080 --> 00:17:04,080

to my mine and glitters on the gold,

302

00:17:04,080 --> 00:17:06,080

so it must have faced to the west.

303

00:17:06,080 --> 00:17:09,080

He said, you take the first gorge on the south side

304

00:17:09,080 --> 00:17:11,080

from the west end of the range.

305

00:17:11,080 --> 00:17:15,080

He said that you can see Weaver's needle to the south.

306

00:17:15,080 --> 00:17:17,080

From above my mine.

307

00:17:19,080 --> 00:17:23,080

Julia and the Petrasches were so anxious to get in the mountains,

308

00:17:23,080 --> 00:17:27,080

they actually went in mid-summer when the mountains were hotter

309

00:17:27,080 --> 00:17:29,080

than hell in a bucket,

310

00:17:29,080 --> 00:17:33,080

and it must have been a real ordeal for all of them.

311

00:17:35,080 --> 00:17:37,080

They went in there for almost five weeks.

312

00:17:37,080 --> 00:17:39,080

They came out without any gold,

313

00:17:39,080 --> 00:17:43,080

and this was noted in the Arizona Republican in 1892.

314

00:17:44,080 --> 00:17:48,080

In fact, they called it the Queer Quest in search of gold.

315

00:17:49,080 --> 00:17:52,080

Julia had invested everything she owned into this expedition,

316

00:17:52,080 --> 00:17:54,080

but she returned penniless.

317

00:17:54,080 --> 00:17:56,080

Julia Thomas never attempted to return

318

00:17:56,080 --> 00:17:59,080

to the superstition mountains again.

319

00:18:00,080 --> 00:18:03,080

Reinhard Petrasch was accused by his brother Hermann

320

00:18:03,080 --> 00:18:05,080

of not paying attention to Jacob's bedside

321

00:18:05,080 --> 00:18:07,080

and writing the clues down incorrectly.

322

00:18:07,080 --> 00:18:09,080

They never spoke again.

323

00:18:10,080 --> 00:18:12,080

Reinhard continued to search sporadically

324

00:18:12,080 --> 00:18:14,080

over the next 50 years.

325

00:18:14,080 --> 00:18:16,080

When his eyesight began to fail,

326

00:18:16,080 --> 00:18:18,080

Reinhard realized he would never find the mine

327

00:18:18,080 --> 00:18:21,080

and took his own life.

328

00:18:28,080 --> 00:18:30,080

For over a century,

329

00:18:30,080 --> 00:18:32,080

treasure hunters have occasionally claimed

330

00:18:32,080 --> 00:18:34,080

that they have clues to Waltz's lost mine.

331

00:18:34,080 --> 00:18:37,080

A few of them may even have found it,

332

00:18:37,080 --> 00:18:41,080

but curiously, they all died before they could tell their tale.

333

00:18:42,080 --> 00:18:44,080

When we return the story of Waltz Gassler,

334

00:18:44,080 --> 00:18:47,080

who five years ago claimed he'd found the mine,

335

00:18:47,080 --> 00:18:49,080

on his last trip to the mountains,

336

00:18:49,080 --> 00:18:52,080

he lost his life before he could reveal a secret location.

337

00:18:56,080 --> 00:18:58,080

The Lost Dutchman's gold mine

338

00:18:58,080 --> 00:19:01,080

is one of the greatest living legends of the American Southwest.

339

00:19:01,080 --> 00:19:04,080

Some people say that it's just that, a legend.

340

00:19:04,080 --> 00:19:06,080

On the other hand, government studies indicate

341

00:19:06,080 --> 00:19:08,080

that there's a large quantity of gold

342

00:19:08,080 --> 00:19:10,080

located somewhere in the superstitions.

343

00:19:10,080 --> 00:19:12,080

It is said that this matchbox

344

00:19:12,080 --> 00:19:14,080

was made from the high-grade ore

345

00:19:14,080 --> 00:19:17,080

that Jacob Waltz had in his possession when he died.

346

00:19:17,080 --> 00:19:20,080

The ore is so rich that if the mine were found today,

347

00:19:20,080 --> 00:19:23,080

it could be worth over \$200 million.

348

00:19:25,080 --> 00:19:27,080

Almost 100 years later,

349

00:19:27,080 --> 00:19:31,080

a modern-day treasure hunter claimed he had found the mine.

350

00:19:33,080 --> 00:19:35,080

His name was Walt Gassler,

351

00:19:35,080 --> 00:19:38,080

head chef at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix.

352

00:19:38,080 --> 00:19:42,080

Using clues handed down from Jacob's deathbed description,

353

00:19:42,080 --> 00:19:44,080

Gassler had spent most of his free time

354

00:19:44,080 --> 00:19:46,080

looking for the famous ore.

355

00:19:48,080 --> 00:19:50,080

Bob Corbin, Waltz.

356

00:19:50,080 --> 00:19:51,080

Walt Gassler.

357

00:19:51,080 --> 00:19:52,080

Nice to meet you. Have a seat.

358

00:19:52,080 --> 00:19:53,080

Thank you.

359

00:19:53,080 --> 00:19:54,080

When his health began to fail,

360

00:19:54,080 --> 00:19:56,080

he contacted two other prospectors.

361

00:19:56,080 --> 00:19:57,080

Walt, what you got?

362

00:19:57,080 --> 00:19:58,080

One of them was Bob Corbin,

363

00:19:58,080 --> 00:20:00,080

the attorney general of Arizona.

364

00:20:00,080 --> 00:20:03,080

This is a map to the area where I have my camp.

365

00:20:03,080 --> 00:20:05,080

He wanted to get together with me

366

00:20:05,080 --> 00:20:07,080

so that we could perhaps go with him

367

00:20:07,080 --> 00:20:09,080

and continue looking for the mine

368

00:20:09,080 --> 00:20:11,080

and with his directions after he had died.

369

00:20:11,080 --> 00:20:13,080

And he gave me his notes,

370

00:20:13,080 --> 00:20:15,080

as well as a map as to where his camp was

371

00:20:15,080 --> 00:20:17,080

and where he believed the mine to be.

372

00:20:17,080 --> 00:20:20,080

That's a good location. It could be there.

373

00:20:20,080 --> 00:20:22,080

Two months later,

374

00:20:22,080 --> 00:20:24,080

Gassler called Bob's partner Tom Collinborn

375

00:20:24,080 --> 00:20:26,080

a local historian.

376

00:20:26,080 --> 00:20:28,080

Gassler was excited and claimed

377

00:20:28,080 --> 00:20:31,080

that he had finally located the Dutchman's mine.

378

00:20:31,080 --> 00:20:33,080

Walt Gassler called me on Sunday evening.

379

00:20:33,080 --> 00:20:36,080

He said, I'm going to the mine.

380

00:20:36,080 --> 00:20:38,080

I know exactly where it is.

381

00:20:38,080 --> 00:20:40,080

You and Corbin have to go.

382

00:20:40,080 --> 00:20:42,080

I just can't possibly break away in the morning.

383

00:20:42,080 --> 00:20:44,080

I could if you just give me a little bit of notice.

384

00:20:44,080 --> 00:20:46,080

I sure want to go in with you.

385

00:20:46,080 --> 00:20:48,080

He said, no, I can't wait any longer.

386

00:20:48,080 --> 00:20:49,080

I'm going to it.

387

00:20:49,080 --> 00:20:51,080

I'll see you when I get back,

388

00:20:51,080 --> 00:20:53,080

but I'm leaving in the morning.

389

00:20:55,080 --> 00:20:57,080

Walt Gassler was convinced

390

00:20:57,080 --> 00:21:00,080

that the mine existed from the clues that he had.

391

00:21:00,080 --> 00:21:03,080

Some of those clues he would not reveal.

392

00:21:03,080 --> 00:21:06,080

And the next morning, his wife took him out to the trailhead

393

00:21:06,080 --> 00:21:07,080

and dropped him off.

394

00:21:07,080 --> 00:21:09,080

See you in three days.

395

00:21:09,080 --> 00:21:11,080

Walt hiked alone into the superstitions,

396

00:21:11,080 --> 00:21:14,080

never to be seen alive again.

397

00:21:15,080 --> 00:21:19,080

Three days later, he was found dead by ranch hand Don Shade.

398

00:21:19,080 --> 00:21:23,080

An autopsy proved he had died of a heart attack.

399

00:21:23,080 --> 00:21:27,080

I don't have a license to talk like a coroner.

400

00:21:27,080 --> 00:21:31,080

I thought he was dead probably two to three days.

401

00:21:31,080 --> 00:21:34,080

He looked to me like a nice little old man

402

00:21:34,080 --> 00:21:38,080

and found a lovely place to give up the ghost.

403

00:21:38,080 --> 00:21:40,080

Tom Collinborn?

404

00:21:40,080 --> 00:21:41,080

Yes.

405

00:21:41,080 --> 00:21:42,080

I'm Roland Gassler.

406

00:21:42,080 --> 00:21:43,080

How you doing, Roland?

407

00:21:43,080 --> 00:21:44,080

One month after Walt's death,

408

00:21:44,080 --> 00:21:46,080

Tom Collinborn had a surprising visitor.

409

00:21:46,080 --> 00:21:48,080

This man came over to my house

410

00:21:48,080 --> 00:21:52,080

and he said he was Roland Gassler, Walt Gassler's son.

411

00:21:52,080 --> 00:21:54,080

And we were talking a few minutes.

412

00:21:54,080 --> 00:21:56,080

He said, well, you know my dad found the lost Dutchman

413

00:21:56,080 --> 00:21:59,080

in the superstitions and he got out a piece of gold.

414

00:21:59,080 --> 00:22:00,080

Showed it to me.

415

00:22:00,080 --> 00:22:01,080

Boy, that stuff really looks good.

416

00:22:01,080 --> 00:22:03,080

It looked very similar to the gold

417

00:22:03,080 --> 00:22:06,080

that allegedly came out of the lost Dutchman mine.

418

00:22:06,080 --> 00:22:07,080

Where'd this come from?

419

00:22:07,080 --> 00:22:10,080

It came right straight out of my dad's backpack.

420

00:22:10,080 --> 00:22:14,080

Bob Corbin told me that you had a map that belonged to my dad.

421

00:22:14,080 --> 00:22:16,080

I wonder if you'd let me have that.

422

00:22:16,080 --> 00:22:19,080

Well, I don't have the map anymore, Roland,

423

00:22:19,080 --> 00:22:22,080

but I do have your dad's manuscript.

424

00:22:22,080 --> 00:22:23,080

Yes, that is my dad's.

425

00:22:23,080 --> 00:22:26,080

Apparently, Walt really had found the lost mine

426

00:22:26,080 --> 00:22:29,080

and his son, Roland, planned to use the map and notes

427

00:22:29,080 --> 00:22:32,080

to retrace his father's steps.

428

00:22:32,080 --> 00:22:33,080

Well, I knew that you'd be interested

429

00:22:33,080 --> 00:22:36,080

and I want to thank you for being very important on this.

430

00:22:36,080 --> 00:22:37,080

All right.

431

00:22:37,080 --> 00:22:38,080

We'll see you later.

432

00:22:38,080 --> 00:22:39,080

OK, bye.

433

00:22:39,080 --> 00:22:43,080

Two months later, as Tom was finishing a slide lecture,

434

00:22:43,080 --> 00:22:45,080

he was approached by another stranger

435

00:22:45,080 --> 00:22:49,080

who claimed he was Roland Gassler, Walt's son.

436

00:22:49,080 --> 00:22:50,080

Mr. Collinborn?

437

00:22:50,080 --> 00:22:51,080

Yes.

438

00:22:51,080 --> 00:22:52,080

I'm Roland Gassler.

439

00:22:52,080 --> 00:22:54,080

I've been wanting to meet you for a long time now.

440

00:22:54,080 --> 00:22:56,080

Well, I'm sure I met several Roland Gasslers, lady.

441

00:22:56,080 --> 00:22:57,080

Walt Gassler.

442

00:22:57,080 --> 00:22:59,080

And I think my jaw dropped 10 foot to the ground.

443

00:22:59,080 --> 00:23:00,080

It wasn't the same guy.

444

00:23:00,080 --> 00:23:02,080

I said, I ought to ask you for a driver's license.

445

00:23:02,080 --> 00:23:04,080

I said, here's the second Roland Gassler

446

00:23:04,080 --> 00:23:07,080

I've run into in the last couple of months.

447

00:23:07,080 --> 00:23:09,080

Sure looks like you're Roland Gassler.

448

00:23:09,080 --> 00:23:10,080

Yes, sir.

449

00:23:10,080 --> 00:23:12,080

After meeting two Roland Gasslers,

450

00:23:12,080 --> 00:23:16,080

I wondered who was really Roland Gassler.

451

00:23:16,080 --> 00:23:20,080

Who was the first man who claimed to be Roland Gassler?

452

00:23:20,080 --> 00:23:23,080

It appeared that he was an imposter who needed Walt's map

453

00:23:23,080 --> 00:23:26,080

so he could search for himself.

454

00:23:26,080 --> 00:23:29,080

But how would he gotten hold of the gold ore sample?

455

00:23:29,080 --> 00:23:31,080

When Walt died, the Sheriff's report

456

00:23:31,080 --> 00:23:34,080

listed a backpack among Walt's belongings,

457

00:23:34,080 --> 00:23:37,080

but the real Roland Gassler never received it.

458

00:23:37,080 --> 00:23:40,080

Don Shade, the man who found Walt's body,

459

00:23:40,080 --> 00:23:42,080

also remembered seeing the backpack.

460

00:23:42,080 --> 00:23:45,080

And he said that there was a stranger in the area.

461

00:23:45,080 --> 00:23:49,080

There was another man in the area at the time.

462

00:23:49,080 --> 00:23:51,080

When Tom Collin born later,

463

00:23:51,080 --> 00:23:54,080

gave us a description of the man that came to him

464

00:23:54,080 --> 00:23:56,080

and showed him some gold,

465

00:23:56,080 --> 00:24:02,080

it jibed up with the man that we saw in here.

466

00:24:02,080 --> 00:24:04,080

Some believe that the fake Roland Gassler

467

00:24:04,080 --> 00:24:06,080

may have been in the mountains when Walt died

468

00:24:06,080 --> 00:24:10,080

and stolen the backpack with his precious ore.

469

00:24:10,080 --> 00:24:12,080

I'd like to believe Walt found it.

470

00:24:12,080 --> 00:24:14,080

He spent so many years looking for it.

471

00:24:14,080 --> 00:24:16,080

And the last thing he would have done in his life

472

00:24:16,080 --> 00:24:18,080

before he died would have found the mine.

473

00:24:18,080 --> 00:24:20,080

I'd like to believe that.

474

00:24:20,080 --> 00:24:22,080

When Jacob Walt's died,

475

00:24:22,080 --> 00:24:25,080

he left a trunk of ore, a list of clues,

476

00:24:25,080 --> 00:24:27,080

and a legend of lost treasure

477

00:24:27,080 --> 00:24:30,080

which has captured the dreams of three generations.

478

00:24:30,080 --> 00:24:32,080

I have good reason to believe

479

00:24:32,080 --> 00:24:34,080

that the Dutchman's legend could be true.

480

00:24:34,080 --> 00:24:37,080

I've seen the ore that was under his bed when he died.

481

00:24:37,080 --> 00:24:39,080

I've seen the assay report on it

482

00:24:39,080 --> 00:24:41,080

at the jewelry store in Phoenix,

483

00:24:41,080 --> 00:24:43,080

which did exist at that time.

484

00:24:43,080 --> 00:24:45,080

And at today's gold prices,

485

00:24:45,080 --> 00:24:47,080

it's \$2.2 million a ton.

486

00:24:47,080 --> 00:24:50,080

It's the richest gold ore I've ever seen in my life,

487

00:24:50,080 --> 00:24:52,080

and I've seen a lot of gold ore.

488

00:24:52,080 --> 00:24:55,080

This could have been Gassler's trick in the trail

489

00:24:55,080 --> 00:24:57,080

because he went up here on Peter's mention.

490

00:24:57,080 --> 00:24:58,080

The Department of the Interior

491

00:24:58,080 --> 00:25:00,080

reclassified the Superstition Mountains

492

00:25:00,080 --> 00:25:03,080

as a federally owned wilderness area.

493

00:25:03,080 --> 00:25:05,080

And if the mine were found,

494

00:25:05,080 --> 00:25:09,080

all the gold would have to be surrendered to the government.

495

00:25:09,080 --> 00:25:13,080

But this does not deter Tom Collinborn and Bob Corbyn.

496

00:25:13,080 --> 00:25:15,080

The search for the lost Dutchman mine

497

00:25:15,080 --> 00:25:18,080

is a fascinating mystery and a tradition that keeps alive

498

00:25:18,080 --> 00:25:22,080

one of the most enduring legends of the American Southwest.

499

00:25:25,080 --> 00:25:27,080

In a moment, the story of two lovers

500

00:25:27,080 --> 00:25:30,080

who met secretly deep in the swamps of Louisiana,

501

00:25:30,080 --> 00:25:33,080

30 years ago, their illicit romance ended in murder.

502

00:25:44,080 --> 00:25:47,080

The Louisiana Bayou Country,

503

00:25:47,080 --> 00:25:50,080

surrounded by human swamp land lies Lake Pontchartrain,

504

00:25:50,080 --> 00:25:52,080

just west of New Orleans.

505

00:25:52,080 --> 00:25:56,080

November 24th, 1956.

506

00:25:56,080 --> 00:25:59,080

At 9 a.m. on this chill Saturday morning,

507

00:25:59,080 --> 00:26:01,080

a local hunter and his young son

508

00:26:01,080 --> 00:26:03,080

unintentionally surprised a pair of lovebirds

509

00:26:03,080 --> 00:26:06,080

in an isolated area known as Frenier Beach.

510

00:26:06,080 --> 00:26:08,080

The land was surrounded by a large lake

511

00:26:08,080 --> 00:26:10,080

and a small lake.

512

00:26:10,080 --> 00:26:12,080

They're about as big as a lake.

513

00:26:12,080 --> 00:26:14,080

And now they're trying to find a place

514

00:26:14,080 --> 00:26:17,080

where they can find a place where they can find lovebirds

515

00:26:17,080 --> 00:26:20,080

in an isolated area known as Frenier Beach.

516

00:26:20,080 --> 00:26:22,080

What are they doing, Daddy?

517

00:26:22,080 --> 00:26:25,080

Whatever you want. Let's go.

518

00:26:31,080 --> 00:26:34,080

The next morning, the two passed by the same spot

519

00:26:34,080 --> 00:26:36,080

and made a grisly discovery.

520

00:26:36,080 --> 00:26:38,080

The man they had surprised the day before

521

00:26:38,080 --> 00:26:40,080

was identified as Thomas Houtard,

522

00:26:40,080 --> 00:26:44,080

a 46-year-old engineer from nearby Laplace.

523

00:26:44,080 --> 00:26:46,080

Authorities later determined that the woman

524

00:26:46,080 --> 00:26:48,080

who had been with him the day before

525

00:26:48,080 --> 00:26:53,080

was 31-year-old Audrey Mote, a divorced mother of three.

526

00:26:53,080 --> 00:26:57,080

She has not been seen for 32 years.

527

00:26:57,080 --> 00:26:59,080

This was probably the largest case

528

00:26:59,080 --> 00:27:01,080

that ever hit the area.

529

00:27:01,080 --> 00:27:02,080

It was all over New Orleans.

530

00:27:02,080 --> 00:27:04,080

It was all over Baton Rouge.

531

00:27:04,080 --> 00:27:06,080

Everybody was talking about it.

532

00:27:06,080 --> 00:27:07,080

And they all wanted to know, where's the woman?

533

00:27:07,080 --> 00:27:10,080

Where did she disappear? Why did she disappear?

534

00:27:10,080 --> 00:27:12,080

Did they kill her? Did they bury her body?

535

00:27:12,080 --> 00:27:13,080

Did they throw her in a leak?

536

00:27:13,080 --> 00:27:15,080

Three months before this happened,

537

00:27:15,080 --> 00:27:17,080

my mother told my grandmother,

538

00:27:17,080 --> 00:27:19,080

if anything happens to me,

539

00:27:19,080 --> 00:27:22,080

take the kids and get as far away from here as possible.

540

00:27:22,080 --> 00:27:27,080

Why would a 31-year-old woman in 1956

541

00:27:27,080 --> 00:27:32,080

in an environmentally crime-free area say this?

542

00:27:32,080 --> 00:27:36,080

Three decades ago, the case of Thomas Houtard and Audrey Mote

543

00:27:36,080 --> 00:27:38,080

was one of the most publicized and sensational stories

544

00:27:38,080 --> 00:27:40,080

in modern Louisiana history.

545

00:27:40,080 --> 00:27:42,080

The case still provokes discussions

546

00:27:42,080 --> 00:27:44,080

among the old timers in the area.

547

00:27:44,080 --> 00:27:47,080

Most of those involved in the initial investigation

548

00:27:47,080 --> 00:27:49,080

have since passed away,

549

00:27:49,080 --> 00:27:51,080

but the mystery of the incident at Frenier Beach

550

00:27:51,080 --> 00:27:55,080

has remained a baffle the next generation.

551

00:27:55,080 --> 00:27:58,080

The newspaper Abituary's 1956

552

00:27:58,080 --> 00:28:02,080

described Thomas Houtard as a quiet, hard-working family man,

553

00:28:02,080 --> 00:28:05,080

active in the church and with a boy scouts.

554

00:28:05,080 --> 00:28:07,080

He worked for a local chemical company.

555

00:28:07,080 --> 00:28:11,080

It was here in 1952 that he met Audrey Mote.

556

00:28:11,080 --> 00:28:20,080

Audrey was a recently divorced mother,

557

00:28:20,080 --> 00:28:22,080

15 years younger than Houtard.

558

00:28:22,080 --> 00:28:24,080

In addition to their work,

559

00:28:24,080 --> 00:28:26,080

the two shared an interest in scouting

560

00:28:26,080 --> 00:28:28,080

and were often seen together in town

561

00:28:28,080 --> 00:28:32,080

organizing their troops' activities.

562

00:28:32,080 --> 00:28:35,080

My mother was a woman that was way ahead of her time.

563

00:28:35,080 --> 00:28:38,080

She was a single parent in 1956,

564

00:28:38,080 --> 00:28:42,080

and she was a kind of woman that was very loving,

565

00:28:42,080 --> 00:28:44,080

very giving.

566

00:28:44,080 --> 00:28:47,080

Perhaps she was the best friend I ever had.

567

00:28:50,080 --> 00:28:52,080

Even though Thomas was married,

568

00:28:52,080 --> 00:28:54,080

he and Audrey fell in love,

569

00:28:54,080 --> 00:28:57,080

but their romance was a deeply held secret.

570

00:28:57,080 --> 00:29:00,080

Audrey told her family that she had to work every Saturday,

571

00:29:00,080 --> 00:29:02,080

but it was a lie.

572

00:29:02,080 --> 00:29:05,080

For two years, Thomas Houtard kept the same schedule,

573

00:29:05,080 --> 00:29:08,080

telling his wife that he too was working on Saturdays.

574

00:29:08,080 --> 00:29:10,080

Unbeknownst to both their families,

575

00:29:10,080 --> 00:29:14,080

Houtard and Audrey spent these stolen days together.

576

00:29:14,080 --> 00:29:16,080

How you guys doing?

577

00:29:16,080 --> 00:29:17,080

Good now.

578

00:29:17,080 --> 00:29:18,080

Work your way in.

579

00:29:18,080 --> 00:29:21,080

I remember we used to go on picnics together.

580

00:29:21,080 --> 00:29:23,080

He taught me how to develop film.

581

00:29:23,080 --> 00:29:25,080

It was there on my birthdays.

582

00:29:25,080 --> 00:29:27,080

I thought they were friends.

583

00:29:27,080 --> 00:29:29,080

I didn't realize they were lovers.

584

00:29:29,080 --> 00:29:32,080

I found out later whenever the newspaper accounts,

585

00:29:32,080 --> 00:29:34,080

but I just thought they were friends.

586

00:29:34,080 --> 00:29:37,080

On Saturday, November 25th,

587

00:29:37,080 --> 00:29:40,080

Thomas and Audrey met in the plaza around 7.30 a.m.

588

00:29:40,080 --> 00:29:43,080

Then drove together to their secluded lovers lane

589

00:29:43,080 --> 00:29:45,080

at the edge of Lake Pontchartrain.

590

00:29:53,080 --> 00:29:56,080

Ironically, that Saturday was Audrey's birthday.

591

00:29:57,080 --> 00:30:00,080

It was a special day that was to end in tragedy.

592

00:30:00,080 --> 00:30:03,080

Police later estimated that by morning's end,

593

00:30:03,080 --> 00:30:05,080

Thomas Houtard had been shot to death,

594

00:30:05,080 --> 00:30:08,080

and Audrey Mote had vanished, apparently forever.

595

00:30:27,080 --> 00:30:30,080

When the hunter made his grim discovery the next morning,

596

00:30:30,080 --> 00:30:32,080

he went straight to Percy Abare,

597

00:30:32,080 --> 00:30:35,080

the sheriff of St. John the Baptist Parish.

598

00:30:35,080 --> 00:30:38,080

Abare was the first to arrive at the scene.

599

00:30:40,080 --> 00:30:42,080

Houtard had been killed by a single shot

600

00:30:42,080 --> 00:30:45,080

from a 16-gauge shotgun fired at point blank range

601

00:30:45,080 --> 00:30:47,080

through a side window.

602

00:30:48,080 --> 00:30:51,080

At first, Sheriff Abare thought that the missing woman

603

00:30:51,080 --> 00:30:54,080

had probably killed Houtard in a lover's spat.

604

00:30:55,080 --> 00:30:58,080

However, once he began to investigate the crime scene,

605

00:30:58,080 --> 00:31:00,080

he made some unusual discoveries.

606

00:31:02,080 --> 00:31:05,080

Scattered on the ground with a partial contents

607

00:31:05,080 --> 00:31:07,080

of a woman's purse.

608

00:31:07,080 --> 00:31:10,080

Inside the car, he found the car key still in the ignition,

609

00:31:10,080 --> 00:31:13,080

and women's clothes crumpled on the floorboard.

610

00:31:14,080 --> 00:31:17,080

From the articles of clothing that were found in the car,

611

00:31:17,080 --> 00:31:20,080

the only thing she could have been wearing was a bra and a slip.

612

00:31:20,080 --> 00:31:23,080

Her sweater, her underwear, her stockings,

613

00:31:23,080 --> 00:31:26,080

her shoes, skirt, all of that was in the car.

614

00:31:26,080 --> 00:31:29,080

The car had the bed made down in it.

615

00:31:29,080 --> 00:31:31,080

In other words, it was one of those old gnashes

616

00:31:31,080 --> 00:31:33,080

that had a bed that could be folded down.

617

00:31:33,080 --> 00:31:36,080

The evidence indicates that they were probably

618

00:31:36,080 --> 00:31:40,080

in the act of making love when the murder occurred.

619

00:31:41,080 --> 00:31:43,080

It appeared that the woman had tried to flee,

620

00:31:43,080 --> 00:31:46,080

spilling the contents of her purse in the process.

621

00:31:47,080 --> 00:31:49,080

50 yards from Houtard's car,

622

00:31:49,080 --> 00:31:52,080

Abare found a pair of footprints made by small bear feet.

623

00:31:52,080 --> 00:31:54,080

Probably Audrey's.

624

00:31:54,080 --> 00:31:57,080

Just behind them was a print of a man's heavy boot.

625

00:31:58,080 --> 00:32:00,080

Five feet away was an area where it appeared

626

00:32:00,080 --> 00:32:02,080

a scuffle had taken place,

627

00:32:02,080 --> 00:32:04,080

and a set of car keys was discovered.

628

00:32:05,080 --> 00:32:07,080

There was no other physical evidence

629

00:32:07,080 --> 00:32:10,080

and no indication that the murder had an accomplice.

630

00:32:10,080 --> 00:32:14,080

Significantly, the woman's purse itself was never found.

631

00:32:14,080 --> 00:32:16,080

It was not until ten hours later

632

00:32:16,080 --> 00:32:19,080

that the authorities decided the missing woman

633

00:32:19,080 --> 00:32:21,080

definitely was Audrey Mote.

634

00:32:23,080 --> 00:32:25,080

Only after a few hours

635

00:32:25,080 --> 00:32:28,080

did she hear Audrey Mote's voice.

636

00:32:30,080 --> 00:32:33,080

At 7.30 that same Saturday night

637

00:32:33,080 --> 00:32:35,080

Sheriff Abare

638

00:32:35,080 --> 00:32:37,080

found Audrey's car parked next to the cafe

639

00:32:37,080 --> 00:32:39,080

where she had met Houtard.

640

00:32:42,080 --> 00:32:44,080

The keys found at the crime scene

641

00:32:44,080 --> 00:32:46,080

fit the ignition.

642

00:32:46,080 --> 00:32:48,080

In a box on the back seat,

643

00:32:48,080 --> 00:32:50,080

he found the verses of a song from a music

644

00:32:50,080 --> 00:32:52,800

on the King and I, handwritten by Audrey

645

00:32:52,800 --> 00:32:54,720

on a small file card.

646

00:32:54,720 --> 00:32:57,960

It read like an obituary for her secret lost love affair.

647

00:33:00,640 --> 00:33:02,880

We kiss in the shadows.

648

00:33:02,880 --> 00:33:05,120

We hide from the moon.

649

00:33:05,120 --> 00:33:08,960

Our meetings are few, and over too soon.

650

00:33:08,960 --> 00:33:12,560

We speak in a whisper, afraid to be heard.

651

00:33:12,560 --> 00:33:16,200

When people are near, we speak, not a word.

652

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:22,360

This was quite a scandal.

653

00:33:22,360 --> 00:33:24,520

It was quite a shock for this sleepy little town

654

00:33:24,520 --> 00:33:27,920

of Laplace back in 1956.

655

00:33:27,920 --> 00:33:30,080

Everybody was buzzing, was talking about it.

656

00:33:30,080 --> 00:33:32,800

They all had their own theory of what happened.

657

00:33:32,800 --> 00:33:36,280

They all had idea of who could have committed the murder.

658

00:33:36,280 --> 00:33:39,700

They all had an idea of where Audrey Mote was.

659

00:33:39,700 --> 00:33:42,160

And they all wanted to help the sheriff

660

00:33:42,160 --> 00:33:45,000

because they saw a woman answering that description,

661

00:33:45,000 --> 00:33:46,160

going door to door.

662

00:33:46,160 --> 00:33:48,680

And all kinds of confusion, believe me.

663

00:33:48,680 --> 00:33:51,640

Confusion ranged supreme about that time.

664

00:33:54,760 --> 00:33:57,960

On December 6, two weeks after the disappearance,

665

00:33:57,960 --> 00:34:00,600

Audrey's former mother-in-law received a strange phone

666

00:34:00,600 --> 00:34:01,880

call.

667

00:34:01,880 --> 00:34:04,000

Perhaps Audrey was still alive.

668

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

Hello?

669

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:06,440

Mom?

670

00:34:06,440 --> 00:34:07,340

Audrey?

671

00:34:07,340 --> 00:34:08,920

Mom, I'm in trouble.

672

00:34:08,920 --> 00:34:10,320

Audrey, is that you?

673

00:34:10,320 --> 00:34:11,800

I need help.

674

00:34:11,800 --> 00:34:13,400

Audrey?

675

00:34:13,400 --> 00:34:14,760

Audrey?

676

00:34:14,760 --> 00:34:17,400

Audrey?

677

00:34:17,400 --> 00:34:19,280

Then a waitress in New Orleans reported

678

00:34:19,280 --> 00:34:21,120

that she had seen Audrey in her restaurant

679

00:34:21,120 --> 00:34:24,680

around the same time that Mrs. Mote received the phone call.

680

00:34:24,680 --> 00:34:26,760

Yeah, or the reason, yes, then?

681

00:34:26,760 --> 00:34:27,680

No.

682

00:34:27,680 --> 00:34:28,960

The waitress said she recognized Audrey

683

00:34:28,960 --> 00:34:31,680

from seeing her picture in the paper.

684

00:34:31,680 --> 00:34:35,840

Audrey appeared to be very tired and her clothes were shabby.

685

00:34:35,840 --> 00:34:38,040

Audrey then left the restaurant when she realized

686

00:34:38,040 --> 00:34:40,160

the waitress was watching her.

687

00:34:40,160 --> 00:34:43,000

This was the last reported sighting of Audrey Mote.

688

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:50,200

I couldn't let myself believe she was gone.

689

00:34:50,200 --> 00:34:53,760

I kept thinking she'd walk through the door.

690

00:34:53,760 --> 00:34:57,480

I couldn't relate to Mr. Holt's being dead at all.

691

00:34:57,480 --> 00:34:59,360

That didn't register.

692

00:34:59,360 --> 00:35:01,680

But my mother not coming back.

693

00:35:01,680 --> 00:35:04,400

I thought everybody was lying to me.

694

00:35:04,400 --> 00:35:05,480

I just couldn't accept it.

695

00:35:08,080 --> 00:35:10,520

As the years went by, the sensational story

696

00:35:10,520 --> 00:35:12,040

slipped slowly from the headlines

697

00:35:12,040 --> 00:35:15,760

and eventually disappeared from the newspapers.

698

00:35:15,760 --> 00:35:18,360

The murder of Thomas Holtard and the disappearance of Audrey

699

00:35:18,360 --> 00:35:22,680

Mote soon became an obscure footnote in Louisiana folklore

700

00:35:22,680 --> 00:35:28,320

until the case was suddenly revived more than 20 years later.

701

00:35:28,320 --> 00:35:31,040

In 1980, a sick and ailing old man

702

00:35:31,040 --> 00:35:36,080

told his family that he knew what happened to Audrey Mote.

703

00:35:36,080 --> 00:35:37,760

Do you remember that Holtard fellow

704

00:35:37,760 --> 00:35:39,960

who got killed in the swamp?

705

00:35:39,960 --> 00:35:41,920

And a big search for everybody looking around never

706

00:35:41,920 --> 00:35:44,160

did find out who killed him.

707

00:35:44,160 --> 00:35:45,880

And a moat woman, what they never found.

708

00:35:48,960 --> 00:35:50,200

But there ain't nothing in that swamp

709

00:35:50,200 --> 00:35:53,040

goes on, but I don't know.

710

00:35:53,040 --> 00:35:55,160

Several months before he died, Ernest

711

00:35:55,160 --> 00:35:58,120

accosted him at a startling confession.

712

00:35:58,120 --> 00:36:00,920

He claimed that his common law wife at the time, Caroline

713

00:36:00,920 --> 00:36:05,720

Slesher, had murdered both Thomas Holtard and Audrey Mote

714

00:36:05,720 --> 00:36:09,240

and that he had helped her dispose of the bodies.

715

00:36:09,240 --> 00:36:11,840

Caroline died in 1979.

716

00:36:11,840 --> 00:36:13,360

And it was Caroline.

717

00:36:13,360 --> 00:36:14,880

What shot both those two?

718

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:23,120

Acosta and Slesher lived on the edge of the swamp,

719

00:36:23,120 --> 00:36:26,520

less than a mile from the Frenier Beach murder site.

720

00:36:26,520 --> 00:36:28,760

Both had surly reputations.

721

00:36:28,760 --> 00:36:31,000

And Acosta was known to sit in his front yard

722

00:36:31,000 --> 00:36:33,560

and take pot shots, and he passers by the strayed

723

00:36:33,560 --> 00:36:34,760

too close to the house.

724

00:36:34,960 --> 00:36:38,000

My father was a very mean person.

725

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:41,000

He had no respect for nobody.

726

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:45,360

And if he would come up to him and ask him anything,

727

00:36:45,360 --> 00:36:47,040

he wouldn't answer you.

728

00:36:47,040 --> 00:36:51,760

He would grab the gun, show it to you, and then tell you

729

00:36:51,760 --> 00:36:54,000

what the hell you want.

730

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:59,000

And then if he didn't like what you wanted or what you said,

731

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:01,760

he would tell you, hit the road jack.

732

00:37:05,560 --> 00:37:07,960

Caroline was in the same manner.

733

00:37:07,960 --> 00:37:12,760

She slept with a gun underneath her pillow at all times.

734

00:37:12,760 --> 00:37:17,920

And she was another person that the gun would come first.

735

00:37:17,920 --> 00:37:19,880

She would ask questions later.

736

00:37:19,880 --> 00:37:22,040

Because next week, I don't want them kids here.

737

00:37:22,040 --> 00:37:22,960

I don't want them around.

738

00:37:22,960 --> 00:37:24,400

I don't want them underfoot.

739

00:37:24,400 --> 00:37:25,880

You don't want them kids here next week?

740

00:37:25,880 --> 00:37:26,920

No, I don't want them.

741

00:37:26,920 --> 00:37:29,480

They were the perfect pair.

742

00:37:29,480 --> 00:37:32,560

They were two of a kind.

743

00:37:32,560 --> 00:37:33,720

And they loved guns.

744

00:37:44,720 --> 00:37:47,640

Marvel Corona claims to know of at least two occasions

745

00:37:47,640 --> 00:37:51,280

when Houtaughton Audrey came to the house.

746

00:37:51,280 --> 00:37:54,360

Both times, they apparently argued with Caroline.

747

00:37:54,360 --> 00:37:55,600

But no one knows why.

748

00:37:56,200 --> 00:37:59,200

My father said that they knew something

749

00:37:59,200 --> 00:38:02,200

about Mrs. Caroline Slusha.

750

00:38:02,200 --> 00:38:03,600

What you want here, Houtaughton?

751

00:38:03,600 --> 00:38:04,600

We don't want any trouble.

752

00:38:04,600 --> 00:38:06,200

What they knew, I do not know.

753

00:38:06,200 --> 00:38:07,800

We ain't got nothing to talk about, Boa.

754

00:38:07,800 --> 00:38:08,800

I'm Miss Caroline.

755

00:38:08,800 --> 00:38:14,000

But according to him, Mrs. Mott's was related to Mrs. Slusha.

756

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:15,600

Some kind of way.

757

00:38:15,600 --> 00:38:16,400

All right, make sure.

758

00:38:16,400 --> 00:38:18,200

This is the last time, Boa.

759

00:38:18,200 --> 00:38:20,000

Come on.

760

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:22,000

And you better watch your manners.

761

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:23,000

And don't talk that trash.

762

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:24,200

Talk in my house.

763

00:38:24,200 --> 00:38:26,000

The night before the body was found,

764

00:38:26,000 --> 00:38:29,800

Marvel says her father was away visiting his children.

765

00:38:29,800 --> 00:38:32,800

Apparently, Caroline phoned him and he rushed home.

766

00:38:43,800 --> 00:38:46,400

Acosta told his daughter that both Houtaughton and Mott

767

00:38:46,400 --> 00:38:49,000

had actually been killed by Caroline in the house.

768

00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:55,200

He claimed that he and the neighbor carried Houtaughton's

769

00:38:55,200 --> 00:39:00,200

body back to Frenier Beach and placed it in the car.

770

00:39:00,200 --> 00:39:03,900

They then tied Audrey's body to an old Civil War canon

771

00:39:03,900 --> 00:39:05,000

and dumped it in the swamp.

772

00:39:08,200 --> 00:39:10,900

I told him, I said, Daddy, how could you all

773

00:39:10,900 --> 00:39:15,000

have killed Mrs. Mott and Mr. Houtaughton?

774

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:19,500

Because Mr. Houtaughton was killed in the car.

775

00:39:19,500 --> 00:39:21,500

He said, believe what you want to believe.

776

00:39:23,000 --> 00:39:24,500

I'm telling you what happened.

777

00:39:27,300 --> 00:39:29,840

I brought Miss Corona to the Sheriff's office

778

00:39:29,840 --> 00:39:33,540

and she was given a lie detector test on everything

779

00:39:33,540 --> 00:39:36,340

that she said and she passed it.

780

00:39:36,340 --> 00:39:40,140

It said that she was telling the truth.

781

00:39:40,140 --> 00:39:42,540

Wayne Norwood joined the Sheriff's Department of St.

782

00:39:42,540 --> 00:39:45,940

John the Baptist parish in 1983.

783

00:39:45,940 --> 00:39:47,960

He heard about the Houtaughton case

784

00:39:47,960 --> 00:39:50,340

and became intrigued by it.

785

00:39:50,340 --> 00:39:52,540

For the past five years, he's conducted

786

00:39:52,580 --> 00:39:57,000

an unofficial investigation on his own time.

787

00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:58,640

Right on the other side of the track,

788

00:39:58,640 --> 00:40:00,720

right at the edge of the swamp is where the old Acosta

789

00:40:00,720 --> 00:40:02,000

house used to be.

790

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:04,780

And according to Miss Marvell, about where

791

00:40:04,780 --> 00:40:08,440

you see the big cypher stump is about where the canon used

792

00:40:08,440 --> 00:40:09,380

to sit.

793

00:40:09,380 --> 00:40:12,240

And we hope to go back in there a little later on

794

00:40:12,240 --> 00:40:14,580

when the water goes down and do some more diving.

795

00:40:14,580 --> 00:40:17,240

Hopefully we'll find something then.

796

00:40:17,240 --> 00:40:20,320

Wayne Norwood, as convinced Audrey's body was indeed thrown

797

00:40:20,380 --> 00:40:22,940

into the swamp tied to a canon.

798

00:40:22,940 --> 00:40:26,420

And he has combed the area with a metal detector.

799

00:40:26,420 --> 00:40:28,900

But he believes Acosta may have warped the truth

800

00:40:28,900 --> 00:40:31,460

when he told his daughter the other crucial details

801

00:40:31,460 --> 00:40:31,980

of that night.

802

00:40:34,620 --> 00:40:38,820

Mr. Acosta said that his wife had actually done the killing

803

00:40:38,820 --> 00:40:41,580

and that he had helped hide the body.

804

00:40:41,580 --> 00:40:44,540

But this is one of the things that I disagree with.

805

00:40:44,540 --> 00:40:49,580

I think that this was his way of telling what had happened

806

00:40:49,640 --> 00:40:53,880

but not letting the kids know that he actually did the murder,

807

00:40:53,880 --> 00:40:56,000

just relieving his conscience.

808

00:40:56,000 --> 00:40:57,640

I think this was his way of doing it.

809

00:41:02,720 --> 00:41:06,840

I would imagine since he watched the area back there

810

00:41:06,840 --> 00:41:10,080

real close and he run hunters off all the time,

811

00:41:10,080 --> 00:41:11,680

that he had to know what was going on

812

00:41:11,680 --> 00:41:15,400

because people had seen this automobile and a man and woman

813

00:41:15,400 --> 00:41:19,300

parked back there every Saturday just like clockwork.

814

00:41:28,660 --> 00:41:31,540

My theory is that he had been watching them

815

00:41:31,540 --> 00:41:34,220

in this particular time that he was watching them

816

00:41:34,220 --> 00:41:36,900

and probably got excited.

817

00:41:36,900 --> 00:41:38,740

I think it was a sex crime.

818

00:41:45,700 --> 00:41:46,600

Here you go.

819

00:42:02,760 --> 00:42:04,840

Had to be sheer panic.

820

00:42:04,840 --> 00:42:08,580

It had to be intense fear.

821

00:42:08,580 --> 00:42:12,580

I mean, to watch your lover get his head blown off

822

00:42:12,580 --> 00:42:15,500

And then fear for your own life, I'm sure.

823

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:26,160

He only lived about a mile from the murder scene.

824

00:42:26,160 --> 00:42:30,580

There were no tire marks according to the investigation.

825

00:42:30,580 --> 00:42:36,320

And he only had to take her about a mile to the house.

826

00:42:36,320 --> 00:42:38,280

So this would be why there was no tracks

827

00:42:38,280 --> 00:42:39,640

and a quick disappearance.

828

00:42:42,580 --> 00:42:55,980

The scene of the crime has changed considerably since that tragic Saturday morning in 1956.

829

00:42:55,980 --> 00:43:02,140

The actual spot where Thomas Houtar died is now 100 yards offshore, reclaimed by the waters

830

00:43:02,140 --> 00:43:03,660

of Lake Pontchartrain.

831

00:43:04,140 --> 00:43:07,940

In Audrey Mote, her fate remains a mystery hidden

832

00:43:07,940 --> 00:43:10,220

in the murky swamps surrounding the lake.

833

00:43:13,420 --> 00:43:23,860

I think it's always going to be in the back of my mind, in my heart, to want to know what happened.

834

00:43:23,860 --> 00:43:35,140

I hope that whatever happened, that it was quick, that she didn't suffer, that she wasn't put through a lot.

835

00:43:35,140 --> 00:43:37,140

But I need to know.

836

00:43:54,620 --> 00:44:01,020

For every mystery, there is someone somewhere who knows the truth.

837

00:44:01,020 --> 00:44:02,820

Perhaps that someone was watching.

838

00:44:02,820 --> 00:44:04,300

Perhaps it's you.