

1

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

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

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

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

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

officials have participated in recreating the events.

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

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

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00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:23,000

Ralph Siggler was a double agent for the United States,

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

who for ten years fed the Soviet KGB misleading information

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

exposed Russian spies.

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

In April of 1976, he was found dead in a Maryland motel room.

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

His family says he was murdered.

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

Against his family's wishes, Robert Argenti asked Maria Armstrong

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00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:42,000

to come live with him in Mesa, Arizona,

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

despite her history of mental illness.

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

Five months later, Robert Argenti was dead,

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

and Maria Armstrong had vanished.

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00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:54,000

We will also tell you the inspirational story of a 14-year-old boy

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

who survived the horrors of the Nazi concentration camp at Dahal,

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

thanks to an American GI who gave him food and the will to live.

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

Steve Ross is now an American citizen,

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:08,000

a happy family and counselor to disadvantaged children.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:12,000

You would like to say thank you to the unknown, kind-hearted GI

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:16,000

who so dramatically turned his life around 45 years ago.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:02:01,000

The Navajo Nation, 25,000 square miles of their stark, beautiful land,

23

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

lies nestled in the north-central section of Arizona.

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:08,000

The landscape is dotted with tiny government housing settlements.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:14,000

On November 9, 1988, one of the settlements, Bitter Springs, had a man.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:16,000

The Navajo Nation,

27

00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:18,000

which was the largest city in the country,

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:20,000

was the largest city in the country,

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:24,000

and on November 9, 1988, one of the settlements, Bitter Springs,

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:26,000

had a mysterious visitor.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:30,000

A dark-haired girl who none of the townspeople had ever seen before

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:32,000

wandered through the streets of Bitter Springs.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:37,000

She called herself simply sandy and mystified everyone with her behavior.

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00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:40,000

She carried on an animated conversation with herself

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00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:43,000

and walked into several homes uninvited.

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

She was secretive and seemed to be hiding from something or someone.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:53,000

She asked, can you dye my hair?

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:55,000

I said, what for?

39

00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:01,000

Cut my hair, blonde so I can change my identity.

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

As evening approached, the girl asked one family

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:09,000

if she could leave a pickup truck behind their house.

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:16,000

My niece told me that the sandy wanted to park her vehicle there for about a week.

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

Immediately I said, well, why don't she park it up front?

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

But she said that she wanted to really park her vehicle

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,000

where it was hidden from the road.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:33,000

I didn't get really suspicious until I asked my niece if she knew sandy,

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

and she said no.

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00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:41,000

I just had a funny feeling that things were not all right.

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:46,000

After two days, the dark-haired girl abruptly left the settlement.

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00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:49,000

None of the residents ever saw her again.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:56,000

Within a week, the people of Bitter Springs

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:58,000

would learn the truth about their mysterious visitor.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:00,000

Her real name was Maria Armstrong,

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

and her brief sojourn in the Navajo settlement

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:07,000

was a climax to a tragic love story, one that began nearly 10 years ago.

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00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:16,000

Maria Armstrong grew up in a small suburban city in southern New Jersey.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:18,000

She was a sweet-tempered, attractive girl

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:21,000

who had always had her choice of boyfriends.

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:26,000

One of the young men who quoted Maria was Robert Argenti, nicknamed Ron.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:29,000

He had graduated high school at 17 with honors

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:32,000

and immediately joined the National Guard.

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

He was outgoing and athletic,

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:37,000

yet he had always been fascinated by the introverted Maria.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:42,000

Maria was, she was, um, she was like innocent,

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00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:44,000

and she was beautiful.

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:48,000

She had long, almost black hair, um, really gorgeous,

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:50,000

and I think that's what my brother was attracted to her,

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:52,000

because she was so unusual-looking.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:55,000

She was sweet, she was kind to people.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

She, um, she was your friend.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:03,000

In 1984, Ron Argenti joined his family in Arizona.

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

Ron settled in the city of Mesa

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

and got a job as a mechanic at McDonnell Douglas, building helicopters.

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:14,000

Back in New Jersey, Maria had begun to behave strangely,

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00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:18,000

frequently slipping into a world of delusion and paranoia.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:21,000

Her parents feared she was using drugs

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:24,000

and put her in both state and private mental hospitals.

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:27,000

Finally in 1984, Maria was diagnosed

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:29,000

with suffering from paranoid schizophrenia,

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00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

a physical disease of the brain

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:34,000

which most commonly strikes as victims in their teens and twenties.

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:38,000

It is an illness over which the patient has no control.

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:41,000

Schizophrenics often cannot tell the difference

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:44,000

between the real world and the delusions at play.

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:47,000

There is no known cure for schizophrenia,

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:50,000

but the symptoms can sometimes be controlled with medication.

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:56,000

Hey, Ron, how you doing?

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00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:58,000

Ron and Jetty never forgot the beautiful Maria.

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

He urged her to move to Arizona and live with her,

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:04,000

so she could start over with a clean slate.

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00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:07,000

He seemed to think that she was fine

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00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:09,000

and that all he wanted to do was get her away from New Jersey

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:11,000

and get her away from the drugs

94

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:13,000

and get her away from the bad influences back there and help her.

95

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:16,000

Help her to re-establish her life out here.

96

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:21,000

In June of 1988, Maria finally came to Arizona.

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00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:25,000

Despite his family's objections, Maria moved in with Ron.

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:30,000

We were concerned because we did hear that she was in a mental institution

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:33,000

and we knew she was on drugs back east.

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00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:37,000

So we were kind of concerned about it,

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:40,000

but they were holding hands, kissing.

102

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:43,000

They were like a couple.

103

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:47,000

For the first few weeks, Maria seemed happy and macy.

104

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:50,000

She blossomed under Ron's loving attention.

105

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:53,000

Soon after Maria arrived,

106

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,000

Ron began working the graveyard shift,

107

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,000

so Maria was often alone at night.

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00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:01,000

Before long, she began pacing, having imaginary conversations,

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:05,000

and sadly, once again, exhibiting symptoms of schizophrenia.

110

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

Somebody in the apartment complex where they lived,

111

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:12,000

Maria had me friends with,

112

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:17,000

and Ron found out that this person was supplying drugs to Maria.

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00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:22,000

Maria's behavior became increasingly erratic.

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00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:24,000

Her paranoia ran rampant.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:28,000

Time and time again, she accused Ron of plotting against her.

116

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:32,000

Maria.

117

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:33,000

Maria.

118

00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:36,000

Maria, calm down. Listen.

119

00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:37,000

She's got to leave me alone!

120

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:39,000

They told me about you!

121

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:40,000

Okay!

122

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:41,000

Alright!

123

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:48,000

Ron told his sisters that Maria often attacked him physically.

124

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

Ron said Maria once hit him so hard, she ruptured his eardrum.

125

00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:56,000

She wasn't going to the psychiatrist. She had canceled her appointments.

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

She wasn't taking her medication. She said that it kept her up at night.

127

00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:03,000

Well, she was already up all the time at night. She never slept anyway.

128

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

I would talk to Ron on the phone, and I would tell him,

129

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

Ronnie, you have to do something.

130

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:10,000

You have to get rid of her. Send her home.

131

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:13,000

I don't want to do that. I want to help her, he would say.

132

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

I said, but you can't help her. It's obvious you can't help her.

133

00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:19,000

She needs more than you to help her.

134

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:21,000

She needs psychiatric care.

135

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:24,000

And then he would get really mad.

136

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:25,000

Okay, I know.

137

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:27,000

Who are you talking to?

138

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:31,000

By Tuesday, November 8th, Ron had finally reached the end of his patience.

139

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

Who are you talking to?

140

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:34,000

Roxanne.

141

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:36,000

Hi, Roxanne!

142

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:37,000

Yeah.

143

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:40,000

I called him, and he said, the neighbors are complaining.

144

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:45,000

The management wants to kick me out, and I want to get her out of here.

145

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

She is. She's going back soon. She's going back soon.

146

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:53,000

And she's there in the room, listening to all this.

147

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:01,000

The next morning, Wednesday, Maria Armstrong slowly drove into the Navajo settlement

148

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:05,000

of Bitter Springs, 260 miles north of Mesa.

149

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

She was calling herself Sam, trying to sell the pickup she was driving.

150

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:13,000

First thing she said to me, she said, she's going to buy me a truck.

151

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:15,000

And I said, no, I'm not.

152

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:17,000

You know where I could get a painted?

153

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

And she wanted to know where's Nair's town so you can get her truck repainted it.

154

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:22,000

I just told her I have no idea.

155

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:25,000

The nearest place you can get a truck repainted is about 30 miles up north.

156

00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:27,000

You can go down the highway here and make a right hand turn.

157

00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:29,000

I just thought maybe she was hiding from her boyfriend or something like that,

158

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:32,000

because she said she left her boyfriend someplace.

159

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:33,000

Thanks.

160

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:34,000

You bet.

161

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:39,000

I thought she was going to leave right away, but she never did.

162

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:48,000

The following morning, around 10 AM, the Arizona Highway Patrol

163

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:52,000

responded to a complaint in Bitter Springs.

164

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:55,000

Maria had left her pickup truck marked behind a house there,

165

00:09:55,000 --> 00:09:58,000

and the owner feared that the truck was stolen.

166

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:05,000

The officer ran a computer check on the truck's license plate.

167

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

He found it was registered to Robert Argenti and arranged a habit towed to a nearby town.

168

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:16,000

After searching several locations, the officer got a lead.

169

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:19,000

The mysterious girl was hiding in a nearby house.

170

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:27,000

Come on out.

171

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:29,000

I see you behind the bed.

172

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:33,000

Come on out, or I'm going to come in and I'm going to drag you out.

173

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:37,000

Where are you taking me?

174

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:39,000

I'm not going to take you anywhere.

175

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:41,000

I just want to find out what's going on.

176

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:43,000

Let's go out here and talk.

177

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:46,000

Okay.

178

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:57,000

I've been getting word from around here that you're going around introducing yourself as Sandy.

179

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

What's the matter?

180

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:01,000

I'm just going to go out and talk to you.

181

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:04,000

I've been told that you're going around introducing yourself as Sandy.

182

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:06,000

What's that all about?

183

00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:08,000

I just never liked my name.

184

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:10,000

Sandy sounds a lot friendlier.

185

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:12,000

Do you have authorization to have the truck?

186

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:13,000

Yes.

187

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:14,000

Who gave it to you?

188

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:16,000

Well, Ron. Robert.

189

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:18,000

When did he give it to you?

190

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:20,000

Well, he realized he was too sick to go to work,

191

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:22,000

and he let me have the truck to come up here.

192

00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:24,000

Listen, I need to get some cigarettes.

193

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:25,000

Can I go now?

194

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:28,000

Okay, well, I don't have anything on you right now,

195

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:30,000

but something is going on.

196

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:32,000

Just watch yourself.

197

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

I did feel suspicious even after I let her go,

198

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:39,000

but I couldn't get a finger on it.

199

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:44,000

I just had the feeling that she had either done something,

200

00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:48,000

was doing something, or was going to do something.

201

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:51,000

Stand by earlier, and this is, you know, sort of messing with that.

202

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Four days later on Monday,

203

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:55,000

a maintenance man at Ron Argenti's apartment complex

204

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:58,000

asked the manager to come with him to Ron's apartment.

205

00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:00,000

On Monday, November 14th,

206

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

I noticed a stack of old newspapers in front of Ron's apartment.

207

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

We went up, got the manager,

208

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:09,000

and then we entered the apartment.

209

00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:11,000

Okay, thanks. We'll go in.

210

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:13,000

Hello, maintenance.

211

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:16,000

When I first hit the door, the door just flung wide open.

212

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:20,000

I walked in, and I saw a pile of clothes on the couch.

213

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

Didn't see anybody in there, and everything was quiet,

214

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:25,000

and I walked through the unit looking, yelling,

215

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:27,000

anybody here? Who's here?

216

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:29,000

Didn't get any answer. Walked straight through the bedroom,

217

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:31,000

and nothing.

218

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:33,000

Don't say anything back here, they might have skipped out.

219

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:35,000

Great.

220

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:41,000

Oh, my God.

221

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:43,000

What?

222

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:47,000

According to the medical examiner report on the autopsy,

223

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:51,000

the cause of death was a blunt force trauma to the head region,

224

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:54,000

and Mr. Argenti had been dead for several days.

225

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:56,000

Looking at this guy, it's definitely going to be a homicide.

226

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:01,000

His body had been covered by bedding, pillows, clothing.

227

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:05,000

This is someone was trying to hide the discovery of the body.

228

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:07,000

Okay, want to come over here?

229

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:09,000

Give a shot of this hammer.

230

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

We found, just left of the body, a small hand-sledge hammer.

231

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

We also found that he had been stabbed in the right rib area

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:20,000

with a wooden-handled knife,

233

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:24,000

but the knife wound came after the trauma to the head.

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00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:28,000

Based on the evidence and later discussions with family and friends,

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00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:34,000

it was our theory that Mr. Argenti had been sleeping in a sitting position on the couch

236

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:38,000

because he was afraid of Maria Armstrong,

237

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:41,000

and that sometime during, when he was asleep,

238

00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:46,000

Ms. Armstrong came up and inflicted the blows to his head with the sledge hammer

239

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:48,000

and then subsequently stabbed him.

240

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:54,000

Then we believed that she covered the body in an attempt to hide the crime.

241

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:57,000

She went into the bedroom, changed her clothing,

242

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:00,000

and then took the keys to Mr. Argenti's truck

243

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

and then left Mesa and drove up north to the bittersprings.

244

00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:16,000

The last sighting that we had on Maria was on November 11th of 1988,

245

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:19,000

where she was seen hitchhiking on the highway next to bittersprings

246

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:22,000

back towards the Flagstaff area.

247

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:27,000

I know that if Maria wandered off the track and didn't find shelter,

248

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:30,000

I don't think she could live through the elements up there

249

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:33,000

because it's very cold in Northern Arizona at that time of year.

250

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:37,000

If she was able to hitch a ride and get tied up with somebody,

251

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:42,000

then yes, I would say she's probably very much alive and very dangerous.

252

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:45,000

There's no predicting what she's going to do.

253

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:52,000

Up next, Maria Armstrong has been captured.

254

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:56,000

Shortly after this courier, the FBI received a call from one of our viewers

255

00:14:56,000 --> 00:15:00,000

with information regarding Armstrong's whereabouts.

256

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

We received a telephone call from an unidentified caller

257

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:08,000

that Marie Armstrong had been living in the Memphis, Tennessee area

258

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

and that she was going to be at the airport on August 3rd of this year.

259

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

The FBI subsequently went to the airport and were able to identify her

260

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:23,000

and they did place her under arrest.

261

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:28,000

Armstrong had changed her appearance by dyeing her hair blonde.

262

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:33,000

Two weeks later, she was returned to Arizona

263

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:36,000

and faced a charge of first-degree murder.

264

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Next, the story of a 14-year-old boy who survived five years in Nazi concentration camps

265

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:55,000

and then was given the will to live by an unknown American GI.

266

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

Now he desperately wants to say thank you to this kind soldier.

267

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

Our next story is about the triumph of one boy's will.

268

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

His will to survive the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp.

269

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

His name was then Schmulich Rosenthal,

270

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:22,000

but the day he lives and works in Boston and goes by the name of Steve Ross,

271

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:26,000

the mystery here is that at a crucial point in his flight from Germany,

272

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:29,000

he was befriended by an unknown American GI

273

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:32,000

who gave him food and rekindled his broken spirit.

274

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:36,000

Now, 45 years later, he wants to say thank you.

275

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:39,000

Perhaps you can help.

276

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:45,000

1939, the German invasion of Poland.

277

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:50,000

Adolf Hitler's Blitzkrieg brought Poland to its knees in three devastating weeks.

278

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:57,000

Hitler's vendetta against the Jewish people

279

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:00,000

struck with special force against the Jews of Poland.

280

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:08,000

At an isolated farm outside their home in the city of Lodz,

281

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:11,000

Joseph and Baja Rosenthal, a Jewish couple,

282

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:14,000

hid their youngest son Schmulich with a Catholic family.

283

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

They knew these farm people and they wanted me to go and live there,

284

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:24,000

hoping that when the war is over, they can come back and pick me up again.

285

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:32,000

My mother said, help us, keep my son.

286

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:36,000

Schmulich is too small to go with us.

287

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:42,000

I tried to be a big man.

288

00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:46,000

I tried to be like my father, to emulate him.

289

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:49,000

But it was hard.

290

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:52,000

But I didn't cry.

291

00:17:52,000 --> 00:18:00,000

They kissed me and they said, be a good boy, Schmulich.

292

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

You have a nice home here.

293

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:05,000

Yeah.

294

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:07,000

That was it.

295

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:09,000

I have never seen them again.

296

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:17,000

In less than a year, the Nazis had found the nine-year-old child

297

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:19,000

and put him in a concentration camp.

298

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:31,000

Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka, the very names conjure unspeakable cruelty.

299

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:36,000

All of the camps where mass exterminations took place were located in Poland

300

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:41,000

and of the nearly six million Jews murdered, more than 50% were Polish.

301

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:45,000

One and a half million children were among the dead.

302

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:52,000

Schmulich Rosenthal was one of the few children who survived.

303

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:58,000

From the time he was nine until he was 14, he was interred at ten different camps.

304

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:01,000

The last one was Dachau in Germany.

305

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:12,000

It was extremely difficult to survive because there was not enough food.

306

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:18,000

We got a liter soup for lunch and a liter soup for supper.

307

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:28,000

And we got one slice of bread that was divided up from one pound of bread for 20 people.

308

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:38,000

At the best time, we fell apart by working 12 hours, 12 to 14 hours a day.

309

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:43,000

And with lack of food, you couldn't survive much longer.

310

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:46,000

So people kept dying constantly.

311

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Cleanliness, we never were able to wash up.

312

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

Now no hot water, I didn't see any hot water for five years.

313

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:57,000

There wasn't such a thing as hot water.

314

00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:04,000

There was nothing in there to sleep on except the boards.

315

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:06,000

You slept on the boards, no blankets.

316

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:08,000

You covered yourself with what you had.

317

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:15,000

It was very difficult to understand for me what was really going on.

318

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:27,000

I had dreams that I was with my family and here I end up in a hell, in a place where it's called hell, life and death, survival of the fittest.

319

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:32,000

As long as you survive today from one day to the next, that's all you were worrying about.

320

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:35,000

Do I have another day to live?

321

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:38,000

We all pray to God all the time.

322

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:45,000

In December of 1944, Allied forces turned back the German army at the Battle of the Baury

323

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:50,000

and one month later made their first significant incursions onto German soil.

324

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Nearly five years had passed since young Schmule Krozenfau was first imprisoned.

325

00:20:56,000 --> 00:21:02,000

In April of 1945, Allied troops liberated the concentration camps.

326

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:08,000

An American GI snapped this photograph of the cheering inmates at Dachau.

327

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:12,000

One of them was 14-year-old Schmulek Rosenthal.

328

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:19,000

Schmulek's older brother had also been captured by the Nazis and he too ended up at Dachau.

329

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:27,000

The two boys would later discover that their mother, father and six brothers and sisters had all perished in the camps.

330

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Before the American troops came, I was 99% dead.

331

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:39,000

It was 1% of life that my heart was ticking in me.

332

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:43,000

I weighed about 60 pounds at that time.

333

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:46,000

I was infested with lies.

334

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:56,000

Two days after we were liberated, we were released from the camp and we were asked to go towards hospitalizations.

335

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:04,000

We walked by a unit that was tanks and there was a soldier sitting on the tank.

336

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:11,000

As I came closer, I could see he was eating with his bayonet into his mouth, putting in with his bayonet.

337

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

He jumped off the tank and he gave me the can that he was eating from.

338

00:22:22,000 --> 00:22:24,000

It's okay, it's okay.

339

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:37,000

I closed it up and I gave it to my brother and I fell down on my knees and I held onto his legs and I kissed his boots, forgiving me the food.

340

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:40,000

Hey, listen, everything's gonna be all right.

341

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:48,000

He put his hand around on me and he wasn't scared that he was gonna get my lies or my diseases or my sicknesses.

342

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:52,000

Mike, throw me some rations, will you?

343

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:54,000

He was a good man.

344

00:22:54,000 --> 00:23:06,000

He looked to me as though he was rough, rough and tough, but yet he knew how to put his arm around me at that time in my life.

345

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:10,000

When nobody ever done that before.

346

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:13,000

Take this.

347

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:14,000

You keep it.

348

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:15,000

Keep it.

349

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Hold it with you, okay?

350

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:20,000

That soldier gave me a handkerchief.

351

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:27,000

I did not know till later on that this was a flag, the flag of freedom.

352

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:36,000

I felt as though it was a miracle from God that I was reborn.

353

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:40,000

It was starting a new life from here on.

354

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:44,000

Schmulich never let the flag out of his sight.

355

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:52,000

He carried it with him when he came to the United States in 1948 under the auspices of the Committee for the Care of European Children.

356

00:23:55,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Schmulich Americanized his name to Steve Ross, married and had a son and a daughter.

357

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

His brother Harry also came to the States and has stayed close to Steve and his family.

358

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:13,000

For the past 30 years Steve has been a licensed psychologist counseling disadvantaged teenagers in Boston.

359

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:17,000

He chose his career with the American soldier in mind.

360

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:18,000

For the Latin test.

361

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:23,000

Steve wanted to help other children the way the young GI had helped him.

362

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:26,000

You meet a week from this Saturday, you're going to take another exam.

363

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:28,000

Is that national?

364

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:39,000

If I could ever find this soldier, I would say to him that he is part of my life.

365

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:42,000

He would be part of my family.

366

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:54,000

I would have wanted him to know that what he has done for me that I am you later and that I love people because of him.

367

00:24:55,000 --> 00:25:02,000

I have experienced something in a critical period of my life that I could never forget.

368

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:12,000

And it always is with me that this man was such a compassionate man, a soldier who was taught to kill.

369

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Could do that.

370

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Why couldn't we all be more sensitive to each other's needs?

371

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:29,000

Steve thinks that the American soldier belonged to the 191st Army Tank Battalion, which was part of the 20th Armored Division.

372

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:36,000

He was traveling from Dachau towards Munich around the 1st of May in 1945.

373

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:52,000

Next, Ralph Sigler was a career army officer with a wife, a loving daughter and a secret life.

374

00:25:52,000 --> 00:26:00,000

In April of 1976, he was found dead in a Maryland motel room. His family says he was murdered.

375

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:13,000

I think this key will open it, but he guessed the latch will have to break the door down.

376

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:15,000

I'm sure he's in there. Ralph!

377

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:26,000

11 p.m. on the evening of April 13, 1976. In a motel room near Fort Mead in Maryland, an army electronics expert named Ralph Sigler was found dead.

378

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

The army said that Ralph had electrocuted himself by wrapping wire around both forearms and their official verdict was suicide.

379

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:40,000

Mom, can you take everybody?

380

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:43,000

Because I want to be alone with dad.

381

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:46,000

Two weeks later, Ralph Sigler was laid to rest.

382

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:53,000

But during the official viewing of the body, his family discovered telling evidence that the official verdict may have been wrong.

383

00:26:55,000 --> 00:27:03,000

When I looked at him the first time, I didn't believe it was him. His body was so bruised, so mutilated.

384

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:06,000

So it didn't look like my father at all.

385

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:17,000

I noticed that his nose was broken. I noticed that there was a dent in the top of the head and there was blood.

386

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:28,000

I looked inside his mouth. He was missing his partial plate, the two front teeth, but all the teeth were cracked and jagged as if someone hit him in the mouth.

387

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:30,000

What are you doing?

388

00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:34,000

Mom, he looks lousy. Look at this. Look at his hand.

389

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:44,000

I took off one of his gloves. I saw cuts on the palm. I rolled up the sleeves. I looked at the arms. I found a lot of bruises.

390

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:50,000

From looking at the body and the condition that the body was in, I don't think he committed suicide.

391

00:27:50,000 --> 00:27:56,000

I believe that he was beaten to death. I believe he was murdered.

392

00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:03,000

Ralph Sigler's life was as unusual as his death, for Ralph Sigler was no ordinary army officer.

393

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:09,000

From 1966 to his death, Sigler was a double agent working for the United States.

394

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:19,000

The idea that Ralph Sigler committed suicide in the way that the Army and the Maryland State Police described is patently and totally absurd.

395

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:24,000

Journalist Joan Susan Trento have co-written a book called Widows.

396

00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:29,000

In this book they shed new light on the strange life and death of Ralph Sigler.

397

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:39,000

Sigler was a central figure in an espionage operation run by the FBI and Army Intelligence, whose purpose was to deceive the Soviet KGB and expose Soviet spies.

398

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:44,000

For ten years Ralph Sigler walked a razor's edge in the service of his country.

399

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:51,000

His family believes that this is the reason why his life was brutally cut short. They want to know who was responsible.

400

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:58,000

Ralph Sigler's secret mission began in Mexico City in December of 1966.

401

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:03,000

He had been recruited by Army Intelligence after an exhaustive search.

402

00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:08,000

One of the centers for Soviet espionage on the Western Hemisphere was at their Mexican embassy.

403

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:12,000

One afternoon Sigler calmly walked through the front door.

404

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:18,000

I'd like to speak to the KGB resident.

405

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:31,000

Sigler told KGB officials that he was prepared to deliver stolen documents outlining the latest U.S. developments and missile events.

406

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:41,000

What do you want? I want to come to work for your government.

407

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:45,000

The Soviets took the bait and Ralph Sigler's double life began.

408

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:58,000

For ten years Ralph Sigler contacted his Soviet employers through various clandestine methods, disseminating misleading information given him by his Army superiors.

409

00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:01,000

One of these Army officers was Louis Martel.

410

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:08,000

Ralph was considered a very good double agent by the community. He was a shining star.

411

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:21,000

And in my community I mean those last CFBI and to a degree the CIA as a very valuable asset in a man who was doing a very good job.

412

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:29,000

The documents Ralph gave to the Soviets were crafted to deliberately trick them into trying to

duplicate inoperative technology.

413

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:32,000

The roost succeeded time after time.

414

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:41,000

Ralph gave them plans for a missile launcher that was a multi-tube missile launcher and the missile launcher was supposed to launch maybe ten missiles at the same time.

415

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:46,000

Well, when we built it the thing fell over backwards. It would never work and we invested millions in it.

416

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:49,000

We got the Russians to invest millions in it also and that never did work.

417

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:55,000

So a lot of this is to get the Russians to invest money in operations and time that failed.

418

00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Sigler also exposed Soviet agents to the FBI. One of the most important of these was Rudolf

Herrmann, a Soviet master spy who lived and worked in the United States.

419

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:15,000

According to the Trentos, the FBI was concerned about the Army's internal security and asked Sigler to keep this part of his mission secret. He agreed.

420

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:24,000

1976, San Francisco. Ralph was ordered by Army Intelligence to take a routine polygraph examination.

421

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:26,000

Is your last name Sigler?

422

00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:28,000

Yes, it is.

423

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

Please answer with a simple yes or no only.

424

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

The results surprise Sigler's sub-years.

425

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:35,000

Yes.

426

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Have you ever passed any unauthorized intelligence to the Soviet Union?

427

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:41,000

No.

428

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:57,000

The question or question that showed something was bothering him were questions involved with what he had given to the Soviets that he was not authorized to give.

429

00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:08,000

That question in many forms was asked time and time again on every poly and every poly it showed indications of deception.

430

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

Joe Trento believed Sigler's failure to pass the lie detector test was due to his secret relationship with Rudolf Herrmann, the operation the Army never knew about.

431

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:25,000

Rudolf Herrmann was the number one Soviet spy in America.

432

00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:32,000

And this was the great secret that the FBI kept for the Army. They were never told that Ralph Sigler was servicing Herrmann.

433

00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:36,000

So when they asked him questions, did you ever have any unauthorized contacts with the Soviets?

434

00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:39,000

Ralph would say no, and it would show up as deception.

435

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:44,000

Ralph, of course, saw that the FBI would clear it for the Army, and they never did that.

436

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:49,000

Fort Meade, Maryland, the headquarters of Army Intelligence.

437

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:55,000

Outside of what you already told us, have you passed any other unauthorized information to the Soviets?

438

00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:02,000

Ralph's failure to successfully pass the San Francisco examinations led to more tests. He failed everyone.

439

00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:04,000

Have you held any other money from one of your missions?

440

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:05,000

No.

441

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:12,000

The next day, Ralph was scheduled for a hostile interrogation session, a session that would be conducted assuming that he was a traitor.

442

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:13,000

No.

443

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:24,000

24 hours before this interrogation, Ralph called his wife at the dress shop as she was working.

444

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:25,000

Ralph, is that you?

445

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:27,000

Now listen to me, this is important.

446

00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:28,000

Where are you?

447

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:31,000

I want you to hire a respectable lawyer.

448

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:36,000

Ralph sounded distraught as if he was under tremendous pressure.

449

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:43,000

I want you to sue the U.S. Army. I'm dying. I never lied.

450

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:45,000

Then the phone went dead.

451

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

Ralph?

452

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:51,000

Yossi rushed home and called Army Intelligence.

453

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:57,000

Several hours later, Louis Martel found Ralph dead in his motel room, and the Maryland State Police were called.

454

00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:01,000

Sergeant Roger Castle was a trooper in charge of the investigation.

455

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:06,000

As far as the room looked, there did not appear to have been a struggle.

456

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:20,000

There was no indication that Mr. Siggler had suffered any other injuries other than the fact that he had apparently fallen from a height of the chairs, which he had stacked next to the life switch.

457

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:25,000

There was a bleeding from the nose area, and the blood had deposited on the rug.

458

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:32,000

There was no indication of any signs of injury other than the wires which had been attached to his arms.

459

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:38,000

The locks on the door to the room had been double locked from the inside.

460

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:51,000

As a result of our investigation, we found that sometime during that evening, the 13th of April, Ralph Siggler placed two chairs, one larger chair on the bottom, a smaller chair on the top,

461

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:55,000

near a light switch which activated the electrical outlet.

462

00:34:55,000 --> 00:35:06,000

At that time, he apparently took a cord, a lamp cord, cut it off, spliced the wires, and wrapped both wires around his biceps.

463

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:17,000

He plugged the outlet in to the socket, got on top of the chairs, used a cup of water as a conductor,

464

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:22,000

and turned the light switch on, causing him to be electrocuted.

465

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

There was no evidence developed to indicate that the death of Ralph Siggler was anything other than suicide.

466

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:37,000

The suicide theory makes no sense because Ralph had no motive for suicide.

467

00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:51,000

The Army told us throughout the entire week of the polygraphs that they were giving him there outside of Fort Meade that they over and over and over told him that no matter what he had done,

they didn't care.

468

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:56,000

They weren't going to prosecute him, they weren't going to punish him, they weren't going to hurt him in any way.

469

00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:01,000

That the worst that could happen would be the end of the operation, that they would give him letters of immunity.

470

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:04,000

All they wanted to know was what he had done.

471

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:14,000

The fact of the matter is the experts we talked to about electrocution and electricity told us that the amount of damage caused to Siggler's arms by the presence of the electrical wire wrapped around them

472

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:20,000

couldn't have been made by a 110 volt circuit that you'd find in a normal motel lighting situation as you did at this motel.

473

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:25,000

And in fact it would take a much greater amount of electricity to do this sort of damage.

474

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:28,000

I'm sorry folks, we're conducting a police investigation, please clear the hallways.

475

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:37,000

The Trentos believe that Ralph Siggler was kidnapped by the KGB, tortured and then murdered. His double life had finally run out.

476

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:43,000

The phone call to Ralph's wife is very interesting and very smart on the Soviets part.

477

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:44,000

Ralph, is that you?

478

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:46,000

They knew Ralph was going to be questioned.

479

00:36:46,000 --> 00:36:47,000

Could you call me back when I get home?

480

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:54,000

Standard tradecraft on the part of the KGB would mean that they would take Ralph and put him through their own hostile interrogation.

481

00:36:54,000 --> 00:37:00,000

Probably torture him, the Soviets have a history of using electricity for torture and get the answers they needed.

482

00:37:00,000 --> 00:37:02,000

I want you to sue the US Army.

483

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:06,000

Was he one of their agents or was he really a double agent for the Army?

484

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:12,000

Had he snookered him all these years and Ralph may have been forced to give up those answers.

485

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Had he compromised Rudolf Herman to the Army and to the FBI.

486

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:20,000

That's why the Soviets had every reason in the world to kill Ralph Siggler at this point.

487

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:27,000

My feelings about the theory is that the KGB did not kill Ralph Siggler.

488

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:35,000

In fact, my opinion, strictly my opinion, based on facts, is that Ralph Siggler committed suicide.

489

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

But based on the evidence she found in the open casket, Ralph's wife is convinced that his death was no suicide.

490

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:54,000

The government told me all the time, if anything happened, we'll be here for you.

491

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:59,000

We're taking care. Why did they lie to me when he died?

492

00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:04,000

He wasn't a double agent. I respected national security.

493

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:08,000

So they dealt with me for 11 years.

494

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:14,000

If even something happened, they could have come and tell me the truth.

495

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:17,000

And I want to know the truth.

496

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:21,000

And I will not rest till I know the truth.

497

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:27,000

If Ralph Siggler committed suicide, as the authorities believe,

498

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:31,000

why did he use such an unusual and potentially ineffective method?

499

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:36,000

Why is there such a discrepancy between the official verdict of suicide

500

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:39,000

and the Siggler family's own observations?

501

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:47,000

But if Ralph Siggler was tortured and murdered, then who was responsible?

502

00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:54,000

Was Ralph Siggler a traitor or a hero?

503

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:58,000

If he committed suicide because he knew he'd betrayed his country, then he was a traitor.

504

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:03,000

If he was murdered by the KGB as punishment for his disclosure of their secrets,

505

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:05,000

then he was a hero.

506

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:10,000

His family will not rest until they know just who Ralph Siggler really was.

507

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:16,000

When we return the story of one of the heroes who put the notorious night stalker behind bars,

508

00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:18,000

he has disappeared.

509

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:34,000

In the summer of 1985, Los Angeles, California was paralyzed by fear.

510

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:37,000

For more than six months, a serial killer had terrorized the Siban

511

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:42,000

that was seemingly no method to his madness or limit to his horrific crimes.

512

00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:48,000

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department assigned a 120-member task force to the case.

513

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:52,000

Detectives interviewed thousands of witnesses and checked out all possible leads.

514

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:56,000

But for months, the unknown killer remained at large.

515

00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:00,000

He became known as the Night Stalker, and he killed at least 13 people

516

00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:04,000

before his sadistic spree of kidnapping, rape and murder, came to an end.

517

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:11,000

18 citizens collected rewards for their assistance in solving the Night Stalker case.

518

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:14,000

But one of the largest rewards remains unclaimed.

519

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:18,000

Authorities hope that someone watching tonight can help locate the man

520

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:22,000

whose crucial information helped end the Night Stalker's deadly rampage.

521

00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:29,000

On August 26, 1985, an unidentified man called the task force's hotline.

522

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:33,000

Detective Carrillo, can I help you?

523

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:35,000

Passing information on the Night Stalker.

524

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:37,000

What kind of information do you have?

525

00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:39,000

I know he is.

526

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Detectives immediately sensed that the caller's information was legitimate and arranged a meeting.

527

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:45,000

What about this afternoon at three o'clock?

528

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:47,000

Three o'clock's fine.

529

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:50,000

Alex, thank you for calling. We'll see you at three.

530

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:52,000

Okay, bye.

531

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:59,000

That afternoon, the caller met with detectives, Gil Carrillo and Carlos Avila.

532

00:41:00,000 --> 00:41:03,000

The man identifying himself is Alejandro Espinosa.

533

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:06,000

The individual that he wished to identify, he knew was Richard.

534

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:11,000

Or by a moniker that he knew on the streets is the Espinao,

535

00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:15,000

which translated into English means the Uncombed one.

536

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:17,000

He tells me about all these burglaries he commits.

537

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:22,000

Alejandro was telling us about burglaries where Richard had told him about

538

00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:27,000

that coincided with the murders that we were investigating where there had been a murder burglary.

539

00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:30,000

What's he generally do with the property that he takes on the burglaries?

540

00:41:30,000 --> 00:41:34,000

He takes it to this fence and I can show you where that's at.

541

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:37,000

I know where the house is at. I don't know where the address is.

542

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:43,000

That information that he had that we had not heard coming from other individuals that we're calling in,

543

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:48,000

and it was information that we knew that perhaps only the suspect himself

544

00:41:48,000 --> 00:41:50,000

or associates of the suspect might know.

545

00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:57,000

Alejandro Espinosa told the detectives that on several occasions

546

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

he had accompanied the man he knew as Richard to a house in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles.

547

00:42:02,000 --> 00:42:15,000

According to Espinosa, Richard would enter the house alone and exchange stolen property for cash.

548

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:22,000

Alejandro became suspicious and as he said, it put two and two together.

549

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:30,000

After realizing that a lot of the property that Richard had taken on days that he had talked about doing a recent burglary,

550

00:42:30,000 --> 00:42:34,000

Alejandro agreed in the paper that coincidentally there had been another burglary

551

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

or another homicide that the quote unquote night stalker had been attributed to.

552

00:42:41,000 --> 00:42:49,000

He finally realized that his friend whom he knew as Richard was in his opinion the night stalker.

553

00:42:49,000 --> 00:42:52,000

Three days after their meeting with Espinosa,

554

00:42:52,000 --> 00:42:57,000

a sheriff's detective's made a positive match of a fingerprint taken from one of the night stalker crime scenes

555

00:42:57,000 --> 00:43:01,000

with a possible suspect, 25-year-old Richard Ramirez,

556

00:43:01,000 --> 00:43:05,000

because Ramirez had a prior arrest record that was a booking photo on file.

557

00:43:10,000 --> 00:43:15,000

As soon as we got that booking photo, we then went to Alejandro out on the streets.

558

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:18,000

I showed him a copy of the booking photo.

559

00:43:18,000 --> 00:43:20,000

Yeah, that's Richard.

560

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:21,000

You positive?

561

00:43:21,000 --> 00:43:23,000

I'm positive, no doubt, that's him.

562

00:43:23,000 --> 00:43:27,000

When Alejandro identified the mugshot that we displayed for him,

563

00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:30,000

we knew that we were talking like one of the same person,

564

00:43:30,000 --> 00:43:34,000

and that Richard was the man we were in fact looking for.

565

00:43:34,000 --> 00:43:41,000

The following morning, Richard Ramirez's photograph appeared on the front page of every major newspaper in Los Angeles.

566

00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:51,000

Within hours, Ramirez was chased and captured by a group of angry citizens after he allegedly tried to steal a car.

567

00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:58,000

By noon, he was in police custody, and the night stalker's seven-month reign of terror had finally come to an end.

568

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

On September 20, 1989, nearly five years after his demonic rampage began,

569

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:12,000

Richard Ramirez was convicted on 43 felony charges, including 13 counts of first-degree murder.

570

00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:17,000

Six weeks later, Ramirez was sentenced to die in a California gas chamber.

571

00:44:17,000 --> 00:44:20,000

Big deal, death always went with the territories.

572

00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:22,000

I'll see you in business, ma'am.

573

00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:31,000

Alejandro Espinosa is entitled to \$6,388 for the vital information he provided authorities,

574

00:44:31,000 --> 00:44:34,000

but Espinosa has not come forward to claim his reward.

575

00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:41,000

Alejandro Espinosa is 26 years old, and according to police, he may have a wife and a young son.

576

00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:54,000

Join me next week for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

577

00:45:17,000 --> 00:45:22,000

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