

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,680

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,680 --> 00:00:06,360

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:06,360 --> 00:00:09,400

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,400 --> 00:00:12,200

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

5

00:00:16,840 --> 00:00:19,560

The tiny village of Medjugorje in Yugoslavia

6

00:00:19,560 --> 00:00:21,400

is a mecca for countless thousands

7

00:00:21,400 --> 00:00:24,200

in search of physical and spiritual healing.

8

00:00:24,200 --> 00:00:27,200

In 1986, Jill Jensen and her family

9

00:00:27,200 --> 00:00:30,200

seemed hopelessly addicted to cocaine.

10

00:00:30,200 --> 00:00:32,840

Rita Klaus was suffering from the debilitating effects

11

00:00:32,840 --> 00:00:34,440

of multiple sclerosis.

12

00:00:34,440 --> 00:00:37,000

Today, both of them believe that they were cured

13

00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:39,760

by the miracle of Medjugorje.

14

00:00:39,760 --> 00:00:43,600

1974, Bullhead City, Arizona.

15

00:00:43,600 --> 00:00:46,240

Volunteer firefighters respond to a report

16

00:00:46,240 --> 00:00:49,800

of a small blaze at an abandoned minor shack.

17

00:00:49,800 --> 00:00:52,440

Inside, they are stunned to find the badly burned

18

00:00:52,440 --> 00:00:54,200

bodies of two young boys.

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00:00:54,200 --> 00:00:57,200

The deaths are ruled accidental, but since then,

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00:00:57,200 --> 00:01:00,200

at least three eyewitnesses have claimed the fire

21

00:01:00,200 --> 00:01:03,200

was deliberately set and the boys were murdered.

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00:01:06,200 --> 00:01:09,200

In Missouri, the quiet tranquility of a small town

23

00:01:09,200 --> 00:01:11,200

is shattered by a dramatic car chase

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00:01:11,200 --> 00:01:15,200

and the shocking abduction of a popular young woman.

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00:01:15,200 --> 00:01:17,200

For every mystery, there is someone,

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00:01:17,200 --> 00:01:20,200

somewhere who knows the truth.

27

00:01:20,200 --> 00:01:23,200

Perhaps, the truth is the truth.

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00:01:23,200 --> 00:01:25,200

Perhaps, it's you.

29

00:01:53,200 --> 00:02:07,200

MUSIC

30

00:02:16,200 --> 00:02:19,200

1986, Chicago, Illinois.

31

00:02:19,200 --> 00:02:23,200

Former model Jill Jensen is so strung out on cocaine,

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00:02:23,200 --> 00:02:28,200

she has gouged open sores over her entire body.

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00:02:28,200 --> 00:02:32,200

500 miles away, Rita Klaus, the mother of three,

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00:02:32,200 --> 00:02:35,200

attempts to overcome the painful debilitating effects

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00:02:35,200 --> 00:02:39,200

of multiple sclerosis.

36

00:02:39,200 --> 00:02:43,200

Rita Klaus and Jill Jensen, two women who have nothing in common,

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00:02:43,200 --> 00:02:48,200

except a small village in Yugoslavia known as Medjugorje.

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00:02:49,200 --> 00:02:53,200

Before civil war began to tear Yugoslavia apart,

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00:02:53,200 --> 00:02:57,200

the church at Medjugorje had drawn more than 15 million pilgrims,

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00:02:57,200 --> 00:02:59,200

many of them American.

41

00:02:59,200 --> 00:03:01,200

They came to meet six young people

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00:03:01,200 --> 00:03:03,200

who call themselves visionaries.

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00:03:03,200 --> 00:03:06,200

The six claim that in 1981,

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00:03:06,200 --> 00:03:10,200

they spoke to the Virgin Mary on this hill outside the village.

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00:03:10,200 --> 00:03:13,200

The following description by one of the visionaries

46

00:03:13,200 --> 00:03:16,200

has been translated verbatim.

47

00:03:17,200 --> 00:03:20,200

First, the light appears.

48

00:03:20,200 --> 00:03:23,200

Then after the light, our lady comes.

49

00:03:23,200 --> 00:03:26,200

She's dressed in gray with a veil.

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00:03:26,200 --> 00:03:31,200

She has black hair and is supported on a cloud.

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00:03:33,200 --> 00:03:36,200

Four of the young visionaries still claim to communicate

52

00:03:36,200 --> 00:03:40,200

with the Virgin at exactly 6.40 p.m. each day.

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00:03:42,200 --> 00:03:45,200

Medjugorje has become a virtual mecca for Catholic pilgrims.

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00:03:46,200 --> 00:03:48,200

To accommodate the crowds,

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00:03:48,200 --> 00:03:50,200

makeshift confessionals have been set up

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00:03:50,200 --> 00:03:53,200

both inside and outside the church.

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00:03:54,200 --> 00:03:56,200

Ten years after the original epiphany,

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00:03:56,200 --> 00:04:01,200

hundreds claimed they had been healed spontaneously at Medjugorje.

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00:04:03,200 --> 00:04:05,200

This man, Joe Romano,

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00:04:05,200 --> 00:04:07,200

swears that he was cured of abdominal cancer

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00:04:07,200 --> 00:04:11,200

after he and his wife made three visits to Medjugorje.

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00:04:12,200 --> 00:04:14,200

Kevin Giebel was seven years old

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00:04:14,200 --> 00:04:17,200

when his parents took him on a pilgrimage to Yugoslavia.

64

00:04:18,200 --> 00:04:22,200

Since birth, Kevin had been plagued with digestive abnormalities,

65

00:04:22,200 --> 00:04:26,200

profoundly weak muscles, and an inadequate immune system.

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00:04:26,200 --> 00:04:30,200

Today, at age nine, his symptoms have virtually disappeared.

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00:04:32,200 --> 00:04:35,200

Charvance's right leg was shattered in a farm accident.

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00:04:35,200 --> 00:04:39,200

She says her doctors told her it was the worst break they had ever seen,

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00:04:39,200 --> 00:04:44,200

but she claims her leg healed miraculously at Medjugorje.

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00:04:46,200 --> 00:04:49,200

To most of us, it seems far-fetched to think that physical healing

71

00:04:49,200 --> 00:04:53,200

can occur simply because one travels to the scene of a religious vision.

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00:04:53,200 --> 00:04:56,200

Yet for those who've watched a loved one suffer pain,

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00:04:56,200 --> 00:04:58,200

which modern medicine cannot alleviate,

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00:04:58,200 --> 00:05:02,200

the hope of a miracle flickers persistently, if dimly,

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00:05:02,200 --> 00:05:04,200

at the back of the logical mind.

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00:05:05,200 --> 00:05:10,200

Jill Jensen grew up in an upper-middle-class neighborhood outside Chicago.

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00:05:10,200 --> 00:05:14,200

As a teenager, she began to experiment with drugs.

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00:05:14,200 --> 00:05:17,200

Before long, she was addicted to cocaine.

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00:05:18,200 --> 00:05:23,200

I don't think that many days ever went by without me using cocaine.

80

00:05:23,200 --> 00:05:27,200

I carry it in my purse, I'd conceal it in my jackets, I'd hide it in my car.

81

00:05:27,200 --> 00:05:29,200

I would never go anywhere without it.

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00:05:30,200 --> 00:05:34,200

And I was unable to do anything without using the drug.

83

00:05:34,200 --> 00:05:38,200

I had to have it eventually, it got to the point where I had to have it to wake up,

84

00:05:38,200 --> 00:05:40,200

I had to have it to go to sleep,

85

00:05:40,200 --> 00:05:44,200

I had to have it just to function on a daily basis, just to get going.

86

00:05:44,200 --> 00:05:46,200

I had to smoke some.

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00:05:46,200 --> 00:05:51,200

By the time Jill was 26, she had a \$500 a day habit.

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00:05:51,200 --> 00:05:55,200

She had tried one drug rehab center after another to no avail.

89

00:05:56,200 --> 00:05:59,200

Jill now smoked cocaine in free-base form,

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00:05:59,200 --> 00:06:03,200

because constant use had burned a hole through the lining of her nose.

91

00:06:05,200 --> 00:06:09,200

It got to the point where I began to hallucinate.

92

00:06:09,200 --> 00:06:14,200

I would start to see bugs all over me, or what I believed to be bugs.

93

00:06:14,200 --> 00:06:20,200

I would feel things all over me and think that I had to get them off of me.

94

00:06:20,200 --> 00:06:23,200

No matter what I did, I just had to get these bugs off of me.

95

00:06:23,200 --> 00:06:27,200

So I would rip my skin open and rip out my head.

96

00:06:27,200 --> 00:06:30,200

And for years I had these sores all over me.

97

00:06:31,200 --> 00:06:34,200

She was scrawny, she was anorexic.

98

00:06:34,200 --> 00:06:37,200

She had circles under her eyes, she looked far beyond her ears.

99

00:06:37,200 --> 00:06:41,200

You know, one time Jill was beautiful and all heads would turn when they saw her,

100

00:06:41,200 --> 00:06:43,200

and she did modeling for a while.

101

00:06:43,200 --> 00:06:45,200

But all that left her.

102

00:06:45,200 --> 00:06:50,200

In 1988, Jill's aunt Dee Dee made a pilgrimage to Magigoria.

103

00:06:50,200 --> 00:06:55,200

When she returned to the States, she tried to convince Jill to make another pilgrimage with her.

104

00:06:57,200 --> 00:07:01,200

A year later, Jill agreed, even though she dreaded a 14-hour plane trip

105

00:07:01,200 --> 00:07:04,200

without access to her precious cocaine.

106

00:07:05,200 --> 00:07:08,200

I didn't know how I was going to handle the withdrawals.

107

00:07:08,200 --> 00:07:10,200

I've been through them before.

108

00:07:10,200 --> 00:07:14,200

Horrible headaches, severe injuries, and I was just so happy.

109

00:07:14,200 --> 00:07:17,200

Horrible headaches, sleeplessness sometimes.

110

00:07:18,200 --> 00:07:23,200

Terrible nightmares when I am able to sleep, cold sweats, hot flashes.

111

00:07:23,200 --> 00:07:26,200

Horrible things, especially being sick.

112

00:07:26,200 --> 00:07:30,200

I didn't know how I was going to make it, but I was willing to try.

113

00:07:30,200 --> 00:07:33,200

Something came over me that gave me the willingness to try.

114

00:07:35,200 --> 00:07:39,200

When Jill arrived in Magigoria, she met with an American priest

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00:07:39,200 --> 00:07:41,200

and one of the makeshift confessionals.

116

00:07:42,200 --> 00:07:45,200

I'm not really sure what I'm supposed to do here.

117

00:07:45,200 --> 00:07:49,200

You say, forgive me, Father, for I have sinned my last confession.

118

00:07:49,200 --> 00:07:51,200

Although nominally raised a Catholic,

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00:07:51,200 --> 00:07:54,200

Jill never had more than a passing interest in religion.

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00:07:54,200 --> 00:07:57,200

My last confession was when I was eight years old.

121

00:07:58,200 --> 00:08:02,200

For nearly an hour, lines backed up while Jill made her confession.

122

00:08:03,200 --> 00:08:06,200

Next thing I know, I couldn't go anywhere without the drugs.

123

00:08:06,200 --> 00:08:08,200

I couldn't do anything without the drugs.

124

00:08:09,200 --> 00:08:11,200

Right around then, that's when the bugs started.

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00:08:11,200 --> 00:08:13,200

I'm really afraid of bugs.

126

00:08:14,200 --> 00:08:16,200

And I'll do anything to get them off me.

127

00:08:18,200 --> 00:08:20,200

It was evident to him that I was all torn up,

128

00:08:20,200 --> 00:08:22,200

and I had told him what had happened

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00:08:22,200 --> 00:08:27,200

and how I had arrived at having all these things, these sores, these open wounds.

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00:08:27,200 --> 00:08:34,200

And when I was through with my confession, he blessed my sores with holy water.

131

00:08:35,200 --> 00:08:40,200

Ennominate properties and feelings, spirit to sancti, amen.

132

00:08:41,200 --> 00:08:46,200

By that evening, all my sores were completely closing and healing.

133

00:08:46,200 --> 00:08:50,200

It was amazing. I've never, I didn't feel it happening,

134

00:08:50,200 --> 00:08:56,200

but every time I'd look down, I would notice that they were less and less open, the sores.

135

00:08:56,200 --> 00:08:59,200

And for years, they'd never, ever gone away.

136

00:08:59,200 --> 00:09:01,200

How are you feeling today?

137

00:09:02,200 --> 00:09:05,200

Within a few days, Jill sores had almost disappeared.

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00:09:08,200 --> 00:09:11,200

She had yet to experience any of the symptoms of withdrawal.

139

00:09:14,200 --> 00:09:18,200

Her aunt had managed to arrange a meeting with one of the Medjugorje visionaries,

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00:09:18,200 --> 00:09:22,200

who Jill says blessed her with a prayer to the Virgin Mary.

141

00:09:32,200 --> 00:09:36,200

She put her hands on both of our heads,

142

00:09:36,200 --> 00:09:42,200

and I felt this tremendous, almost like electricity going through me, and this warmth.

143

00:09:42,200 --> 00:09:47,200

I had such a tremendous sense of well-being, it was unreal.

144

00:09:49,200 --> 00:09:52,200

For the first time in my life, I felt like I had been freed,

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00:09:52,200 --> 00:09:58,200

that I really was going to be able to have a life, that it was given back to me, it was a gift.

146

00:09:59,200 --> 00:10:04,200

Three years after her trip to Medjugorje, Jill is still drug-free.

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00:10:04,200 --> 00:10:09,200

She speaks in school drug prevention programs and works as a cosmetologist.

148

00:10:09,200 --> 00:10:15,200

To this day, Jill claims that she has never suffered a single symptom of withdrawal.

149

00:10:17,200 --> 00:10:22,200

I think it's very rare for someone who is as severe and as late-stage as Jill,

150

00:10:22,200 --> 00:10:24,200

to just be able to quit.

151

00:10:24,200 --> 00:10:31,200

I'm certainly very unlikely that she could quit without experiencing some pretty severe withdrawal,

152

00:10:31,200 --> 00:10:33,200

both physical and psychological.

153

00:10:34,200 --> 00:10:38,200

I can't tell you exactly what it was that changed me completely,

154

00:10:38,200 --> 00:10:43,200

but I know that each and every bit of what I went through had part to do with it,

155

00:10:43,200 --> 00:10:49,200

because I just don't have an explanation for why I was able to get a second chance at life.

156

00:10:50,200 --> 00:10:55,200

It must be pointed out that thousands of people, none of whom have ever heard of Medjugorje,

157

00:10:55,200 --> 00:10:57,200

kick drug habits each year.

158

00:10:57,200 --> 00:11:01,200

Yet Jill Jensen is convinced that her pilgrimage was pivotal to her recovery.

159

00:11:01,200 --> 00:11:08,200

Rita Klaus, suffering from an incurable disease, also believes that the virgin of Medjugorje

160

00:11:08,200 --> 00:11:12,200

had her seated to heal her, even though Rita never left her own home.

161

00:11:15,200 --> 00:11:18,200

Rita Klaus had always devoted herself to God.

162

00:11:18,200 --> 00:11:22,200

At the age of 15, she had entered a convent in Omaha, Nebraska.

163

00:11:23,200 --> 00:11:29,200

Five years later, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a degenerative incurable disease.

164

00:11:30,200 --> 00:11:35,200

As her symptoms worsened, Rita felt she had no choice but to withdraw from the order.

165

00:11:37,200 --> 00:11:39,200

I was just heartbroken. This was my life.

166

00:11:39,200 --> 00:11:44,200

I had spent about 13 years of my 28 years there.

167

00:11:45,200 --> 00:11:49,200

I loved it dearly, and I knew I wouldn't see it again.

168

00:11:50,200 --> 00:11:54,200

Rita moved to Pennsylvania, where she taught special education.

169

00:11:55,200 --> 00:11:58,200

She soon met Ron Klaus, an elementary school teacher.

170

00:11:59,200 --> 00:12:01,200

Three years later, they were married.

171

00:12:01,200 --> 00:12:07,200

Rita's MS symptoms had disappeared, and she came to believe she had been misdiagnosed.

172

00:12:08,200 --> 00:12:10,200

How is my daughter?

173

00:12:11,200 --> 00:12:14,200

Within five years, Ron and Rita had three daughters.

174

00:12:15,200 --> 00:12:21,200

After the birth of the youngest, Heidi, Rita began to experience symptoms of multiple sclerosis once again.

175

00:12:22,200 --> 00:12:27,200

She tried to ignore them until one day the muscles in her right arm weakened uncontrollably.

176

00:12:28,200 --> 00:12:29,200

Heidi!

177

00:12:34,200 --> 00:12:36,200

Thankfully, Heidi was alright.

178

00:12:36,200 --> 00:12:42,200

I think she had a bruise on her shoulder and went on her back side a little bit.

179

00:12:43,200 --> 00:12:47,200

But other than that, outside of being shaken up, she was alright, but I was not alright.

180

00:12:47,200 --> 00:12:52,200

I was so shaken inside and so afraid, just terribly afraid.

181

00:12:53,200 --> 00:12:56,200

This time, Rita's symptoms did not subside.

182

00:12:57,200 --> 00:13:00,200

By the end of 1984, her vision was chronically blurred.

183

00:13:01,200 --> 00:13:06,200

Her bladder did not function properly, and she had lost virtually all feeling in her feet and lower legs.

184

00:13:07,200 --> 00:13:12,200

Rita was restricted to a wheelchair and sometimes on good days, crutches.

185

00:13:15,200 --> 00:13:19,200

Life was a challenge at this point.

186

00:13:19,200 --> 00:13:24,200

It was impossible to get upstairs, do the things that people take for granted.

187

00:13:25,200 --> 00:13:26,200

And I was a strong, independent person.

188

00:13:26,200 --> 00:13:30,200

I didn't want to admit that I needed help.

189

00:13:31,200 --> 00:13:32,200

I didn't want anyone helping me.

190

00:13:32,200 --> 00:13:34,200

I wanted to be the one who helped.

191

00:13:37,200 --> 00:13:46,200

It was hard to see her going downhill, slowly at first, and then at times, it seemed as though it was quicker.

192

00:13:47,200 --> 00:13:58,200

And then there were times when it seemed to even off and some of the things, some of the functions of her body that she had lost would come back again.

193

00:13:59,200 --> 00:14:02,200

And it was always false hope because within time, that was gone again.

194

00:14:04,200 --> 00:14:09,200

In 1986, Rita heard about Medjugorje and began to study the phenomenon.

195

00:14:10,200 --> 00:14:17,200

Rita started praying to the Virgin Mary and fasted two days every week as a young visionary said they had been told to do.

196

00:14:18,200 --> 00:14:22,200

Often I would look at the books about Medjugorje and I would think I would love to be there.

197

00:14:23,200 --> 00:14:26,200

And then I would look at myself and say, but physically there's no way I could go.

198

00:14:27,200 --> 00:14:28,200

Financially there's no way I could go.

199

00:14:29,200 --> 00:14:30,200

And so I didn't go.

200

00:14:32,200 --> 00:14:35,200

Rita's prayers were always on behalf of others.

201

00:14:35,200 --> 00:14:38,200

Then one night, she claims she heard a voice.

202

00:14:39,200 --> 00:14:41,200

Why don't you ask?

203

00:14:44,200 --> 00:14:46,200

Why don't you ask?

204

00:14:50,200 --> 00:14:56,200

Dear Mary, my mother, Queen of Peace, my nose appearing to the children at Medjugorje.

205

00:14:57,200 --> 00:15:01,200

Please ask your son to heal me in any way I need to be healed.

206

00:15:02,200 --> 00:15:06,200

As soon as I finished the prayer, I felt this feeling through my body like electricity,

207

00:15:07,200 --> 00:15:14,200

but it was especially intense on the right side of my body where I had deformities in the right leg and I dropped ankles and so on.

208

00:15:15,200 --> 00:15:18,200

And I thought this isn't happening to me and I fell asleep.

209

00:15:22,200 --> 00:15:25,200

The next morning, Rita had no memory of the voice or the prayer.

210

00:15:26,200 --> 00:15:33,200

At the time, she was taking a class at the local college and Ron helped her into her specially rigged automobile, as he always did.

211

00:15:35,200 --> 00:15:38,200

Midway through the class, I felt this rush of heat through my body.

212

00:15:39,200 --> 00:15:44,200

And by the end of class, I could feel, I could feel there were wrinkles inside my shoes.

213

00:15:45,200 --> 00:15:46,200

I could move my toes.

214

00:15:47,200 --> 00:15:49,200

I had not been able to move my toes for years.

215

00:15:50,200 --> 00:15:51,200

I was dumbfounded.

216

00:15:51,200 --> 00:15:55,200

I remembered nothing from the night before, but I knew something was happening.

217

00:15:56,200 --> 00:15:58,200

I could feel that my legs were seen to be strong.

218

00:15:59,200 --> 00:16:00,200

I could lift them by myself.

219

00:16:00,200 --> 00:16:01,200

I got myself out of the car with no problem.

220

00:16:03,200 --> 00:16:05,200

Rita rushed home to tell her family.

221

00:16:06,200 --> 00:16:08,200

Ron! Girls!

222

00:16:09,200 --> 00:16:12,200

She had not walked on her own without help for more than four years.

223

00:16:15,200 --> 00:16:17,200

As I stood there looking at the steps, I had a flashback.

224

00:16:18,200 --> 00:16:23,200

And in that flashback, I heard the voice from the night before, the prayer that was given me to say.

225

00:16:24,200 --> 00:16:26,200

And I knew I was completely healed.

226

00:16:40,200 --> 00:16:42,200

I ran all the way up the steps.

227

00:16:43,200 --> 00:16:44,200

And I remember I was screaming at the top of the steps.

228

00:16:45,200 --> 00:16:47,200

And then I ran down the steps out the front door.

229

00:16:48,200 --> 00:16:50,200

I was screaming at the sky, oh thank you God, oh thank you Blessed Mother.

230

00:16:51,200 --> 00:16:52,200

Look, I can walk.

231

00:16:53,200 --> 00:16:57,200

You're really thinking that you're not seeing what you're actually seeing.

232

00:16:58,200 --> 00:17:01,200

You want to be happy, but you're almost afraid to be happy.

233

00:17:02,200 --> 00:17:06,200

Because every doctor that you've ever seen has said it's, it would never happen.

234

00:17:08,200 --> 00:17:09,200

See how that feels.

235

00:17:10,200 --> 00:17:11,200

Okay.

236

00:17:11,200 --> 00:17:12,200

Six months went by.

237

00:17:12,200 --> 00:17:14,200

Rita's symptoms did not return.

238

00:17:15,200 --> 00:17:19,200

After 15 agonizing years, she was at last able to function normally.

239

00:17:20,200 --> 00:17:24,200

Rita and Ron believed that she was healed by a miracle of faith.

240

00:17:27,200 --> 00:17:31,200

For this to clear instantly.

241

00:17:32,200 --> 00:17:36,200

Dr. Richard Kasdorf is an expert in so-called spontaneous healings.

242

00:17:36,200 --> 00:17:38,200

It is not the realm of medical practice.

243

00:17:39,200 --> 00:17:45,200

This certainly could be called a miraculous event if you want to use that term.

244

00:17:46,200 --> 00:17:54,200

Because we just don't see 20 years of disability clear instantly.

245

00:17:56,200 --> 00:17:57,200

It's so good.

246

00:17:58,200 --> 00:17:59,200

It's so exciting.

247

00:18:00,200 --> 00:18:01,200

Isn't it beautiful?

248

00:18:02,200 --> 00:18:03,200

It has now been six years since Rita threw away her crutches.

249

00:18:03,200 --> 00:18:07,200

She has never felt another symptom of multiple sclerosis.

250

00:18:12,200 --> 00:18:16,200

Is Rita Klaus' cure a miracle that can be ascribed to the virgin at Medjugorje?

251

00:18:17,200 --> 00:18:21,200

The Catholic Church is publicly skeptical, but continues to investigate.

252

00:18:22,200 --> 00:18:25,200

On the other hand, Webster's dictionary defines a miracle,

253

00:18:25,200 --> 00:18:30,200

not only in standard religious terms, but also simply as a wonderful thing.

254

00:18:30,200 --> 00:18:35,200

By this definition, Jill Jensen drug free and Rita Klaus ice skating,

255

00:18:35,200 --> 00:18:38,200

our miracles even non-believers can celebrate.

256

00:18:49,200 --> 00:18:55,200

Bullhead City, Arizona is a small, quiet community nestled along the banks of the Colorado River.

257

00:18:56,200 --> 00:19:00,200

Sue Johnson moved there from California in 1973.

258

00:19:01,200 --> 00:19:05,200

She and her husband felt it was an ideal place to raise their children,

259

00:19:05,200 --> 00:19:08,200

eight-year-old angel and seven-year-old Scott.

260

00:19:14,200 --> 00:19:15,200

They loved it.

261

00:19:16,200 --> 00:19:18,200

Scott was a natural born fisherman.

262

00:19:18,200 --> 00:19:24,200

He loved to fish and go out in the desert, catch lizards, catch a snake, whatever.

263

00:19:24,200 --> 00:19:27,200

He was just, he was a desert rat. He just fell in love with it.

264

00:19:30,200 --> 00:19:34,200

Fifty-yard's Majansse's Lou Holm stood an abandoned shack,

265

00:19:34,200 --> 00:19:38,200

a powder magazine once used by copper miners to store supplies.

266

00:19:39,200 --> 00:19:43,200

Scott and his friends soon adopted the rundown shed as their headquarters.

267

00:19:46,200 --> 00:19:53,200

Well, they just played there and played cops and robbers and Indians and cowboys and whatever else little boys do.

268

00:19:53,200 --> 00:19:57,200

I never felt any apprehension towards that building at all.

269

00:19:57,200 --> 00:19:59,200

And it was within sight of the house.

270

00:19:59,200 --> 00:20:01,200

It wasn't anything to worry about.

271

00:20:01,200 --> 00:20:05,200

It was a typical thing that children would pick to use for a ford or a clubhouse.

272

00:20:08,200 --> 00:20:12,200

At 3.45 p.m. on April 3, 1974,

273

00:20:12,200 --> 00:20:16,200

the Bullhead City Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call.

274

00:20:17,200 --> 00:20:19,200

The shack was on fire.

275

00:20:24,200 --> 00:20:30,200

18 years later, former Fire Chief Larry Adams vividly remembers the details.

276

00:20:35,200 --> 00:20:41,200

What I could see through the smoke and the steam is what appeared to be upholstery on the floor.

277

00:20:43,200 --> 00:20:49,200

When I got the pike pole, I stooped down to look under the smoke

278

00:20:49,200 --> 00:20:52,200

to hook this material and drag it out to extinguish it.

279

00:20:54,200 --> 00:20:56,200

Oh my God.

280

00:20:58,200 --> 00:21:03,200

Inside the shack lay the badly burned bodies of Scott Johnson and one of his friends.

281

00:21:03,200 --> 00:21:07,200

Seven weeks later, the official coroner's report was released.

282

00:21:07,200 --> 00:21:12,200

It stated that Scott Johnson and his friend had died accidentally.

283

00:21:12,200 --> 00:21:18,200

Investigators concluded that the boys had probably been playing with matches and gasoline.

284

00:21:19,200 --> 00:21:22,200

I was shocked. I was very shocked.

285

00:21:23,200 --> 00:21:26,200

My child was certainly smarter than to just lay in the back of a building

286

00:21:26,200 --> 00:21:31,200

and wait to be asphyxiated by smoke or burned by fire.

287

00:21:31,200 --> 00:21:36,200

It's kind of an obvious thing. I always knew it was a murder. Always.

288

00:21:40,200 --> 00:21:43,200

Sue Johnson was not alone in her opinions.

289

00:21:43,200 --> 00:21:49,200

From the onset, Larry Adams also believed that Scott and his friend were victims of foul play.

290

00:21:49,200 --> 00:21:55,200

In particular, he noticed that the door of the shack had not been locked or obstructed in any way.

291

00:21:57,200 --> 00:22:02,200

All anybody had to do to escape that building was push on the door.

292

00:22:02,200 --> 00:22:06,200

In this case, in buildings six by six in that panic situation,

293

00:22:06,200 --> 00:22:12,200

they would hit that door and escape the building. Have they been able to?

294

00:22:13,200 --> 00:22:18,200

A few feet from the door, Adams found a two by 12 inch wooden plank.

295

00:22:18,200 --> 00:22:23,200

Curiously, the board had a circle burned into one side.

296

00:22:25,200 --> 00:22:32,200

It indicated to me that somebody had prevented their escape through that door.

297

00:22:35,200 --> 00:22:39,200

They may have initially tried to hold the door, but it's metal.

298

00:22:39,200 --> 00:22:45,200

It got hot. They can't hold the door any longer. They need something to insulate them from the heat.

299

00:22:47,200 --> 00:22:52,200

They picked up the two by 12, one on each end or more,

300

00:22:52,200 --> 00:22:58,200

and held the two by 12 against the door with one person on each end of it.

301

00:22:59,200 --> 00:23:03,200

Angel, dinner.

302

00:23:07,200 --> 00:23:12,200

Despite Larry Adams' findings, the police closed the criminal investigation.

303

00:23:12,200 --> 00:23:18,200

As a weeks went by, Sue Johnson was haunted by the burned out shack where her son died,

304

00:23:18,200 --> 00:23:21,200

where she believed her son had been murdered.

305

00:23:21,200 --> 00:23:26,200

For four long years, she struggled in vain to have the case reopened.

306

00:23:29,200 --> 00:23:35,200

Then in 1978, a convicted felon came forward with shocking new information.

307

00:23:35,200 --> 00:23:40,200

Dale Gordon Meader was incarcerated at a county jail in New Mexico.

308

00:23:40,200 --> 00:23:43,200

At the time of the fire, he lived in Bullhead City.

309

00:23:43,200 --> 00:23:49,200

Dale, why don't you tell us in your own words what you saw on the 3rd of April, 1974, at the powder magazine?

310

00:23:51,200 --> 00:23:55,200

In the time you talk to a prisoner that wants to give you information,

311

00:23:55,200 --> 00:23:58,200

he's trying to cut himself a deal.

312

00:23:58,200 --> 00:24:02,200

The man just did not seem like he was really telling us all the truth.

313

00:24:02,200 --> 00:24:06,200

There was knowledge there.

314

00:24:06,200 --> 00:24:13,200

It was parked about, say, 50, 75 yards away from the powder magazine, and seeing these two guys all...

315

00:24:13,200 --> 00:24:22,200

Meader advised us that he saw two men holding these two young kids and pushing them in the powder magazine.

316

00:24:26,200 --> 00:24:35,200

One of the kids looked like he was heavily drugged, and the other one was fighting.

317

00:24:35,200 --> 00:24:41,200

But then he saw one of the men with a gas can.

318

00:24:43,200 --> 00:24:47,200

Did you actually see him take the gas can into the shack?

319

00:24:47,200 --> 00:24:54,200

I didn't see him throw any gas into the shack, but after about five or ten minutes, I noticed both of those.

320

00:24:54,200 --> 00:24:59,200

I was standing up right next to the house, and I heard a whining coming from the two kids.

321

00:25:06,200 --> 00:25:07,200

What do you want?

322

00:25:07,200 --> 00:25:12,200

They said that they were afraid the kids were going to tell them for smoking pot.

323

00:25:12,200 --> 00:25:19,200

Then I saw flames and smoke coming out of the magazine, and I said, hey man, I just want to know what's going on.

324

00:25:19,200 --> 00:25:21,200

I can't do what you've got to do.

325

00:25:21,200 --> 00:25:22,200

Just take a walk.

326

00:25:22,200 --> 00:25:30,200

One of them told him in street terms to get lost, and we just burned up two kids.

327

00:25:32,200 --> 00:25:34,200

Have you seen either one of these men since that time?

328

00:25:34,200 --> 00:25:37,200

This is the last time I saw either of them till...

329

00:25:37,200 --> 00:25:44,200

Meador told investigators that he encountered one of the men while serving time at a prison in Nevada two years after the fire.

330

00:25:44,200 --> 00:25:52,200

Sheriff's deputies questioned the man Meador identified as the killer of Scott Johnson and his friend, but no charges were ever filed.

331

00:25:54,200 --> 00:25:57,200

It was just an open and closed case, and that's not really what happened.

332

00:25:57,200 --> 00:26:03,200

Tina Riemann and John Kalos reported the fire on the day Scott Johnson and his friend died.

333

00:26:03,200 --> 00:26:04,200

And I wish that I could do more.

334

00:26:04,200 --> 00:26:07,200

They too were convinced boys were murdered.

335

00:26:07,200 --> 00:26:08,200

I can't.

336

00:26:11,200 --> 00:26:14,200

At the time, Tina and John were teenagers.

337

00:26:14,200 --> 00:26:19,200

Their eyewitness accounts seemed to corroborate Dale Meader's chilling version of events.

338

00:26:24,200 --> 00:26:25,200

There was two men.

339

00:26:25,200 --> 00:26:36,200

One was standing on the side of the hill facing the door of the shack, and the other one, well, he didn't like the idea that we were there.

340

00:26:36,200 --> 00:26:38,200

And he took off and went running.

341

00:26:40,200 --> 00:26:44,200

The other man was standing there, and he looked over at John and I.

342

00:26:46,200 --> 00:26:47,200

He just stayed there.

343

00:26:47,200 --> 00:26:49,200

That was what was so eerie.

344

00:26:49,200 --> 00:26:52,200

He just stared at us like, well, what are you going to do?

345

00:26:52,200 --> 00:26:53,200

You know?

346

00:26:53,200 --> 00:26:58,200

And that's when I said, you know, to Tina, I said, I think we should go call the fire department on this.

347

00:26:58,200 --> 00:27:01,200

You know, because I think them guys sit this place on fire.

348

00:27:01,200 --> 00:27:03,200

You know, and that's when we left.

349

00:27:06,200 --> 00:27:10,200

John and Tina told investigators about the two men they had seen.

350

00:27:10,200 --> 00:27:16,200

However, they believed their statements were ignored due to their own previous scrapes with the law.

351

00:27:17,200 --> 00:27:20,200

It didn't seem like they took it seriously at all.

352

00:27:20,200 --> 00:27:26,200

You know, it seemed like they didn't believe my story and, you know, from a past reputation.

353

00:27:26,200 --> 00:27:34,200

You know, they seemed to me like they just disregarded it, and I never heard nothing no more about it.

354

00:27:35,200 --> 00:27:40,200

With a passage of time, the tragedy slowly faded from public memory.

355

00:27:40,200 --> 00:27:44,200

A number of the original investigators retired or moved away.

356

00:27:44,200 --> 00:27:49,200

But Sue Johnson continued her relentless quest for the truth.

357

00:27:49,200 --> 00:27:55,200

You wonder, was there someone who wanted this just tucked away quickly and for good?

358

00:27:55,200 --> 00:28:01,200

Or was it just sloppy investigation or just circumstances?

359

00:28:02,200 --> 00:28:06,200

I honestly feel that it was a combination of a lot of things.

360

00:28:06,200 --> 00:28:09,200

I've talked with Sue on the phone and in person many times.

361

00:28:09,200 --> 00:28:13,200

In 1989, newly appointed chief of detectives,

362

00:28:13,200 --> 00:28:19,200

she understands how I feel that I have a complete torture, and I understand how she feels.

363

00:28:19,200 --> 00:28:25,200

And I told her in the beginning when I started out that there may not be an answer to this.

364

00:28:25,200 --> 00:28:27,200

But we're going to keep looking.

365

00:28:31,200 --> 00:28:35,200

Were Scott Johnson and his friends savagely murdered?

366

00:28:35,200 --> 00:28:41,200

If so, why would someone kill two young boys who were not yet ten years old?

367

00:28:42,200 --> 00:28:51,200

The answers to these haunting questions may lie in a surprising discovery Scott made near the shack three weeks before he died.

368

00:28:55,200 --> 00:28:57,200

Look at what I found!

369

00:28:57,200 --> 00:28:58,200

What is it?

370

00:28:58,200 --> 00:29:00,200

It's a hundred dollar bill.

371

00:29:00,200 --> 00:29:09,200

I think that it's possible that there could have been someone that used that area possibly for a drug transaction or something.

372

00:29:09,200 --> 00:29:18,200

And maybe the people that they saw doing this thought that the kids would run and block away to the sheriff's substation and report them.

373

00:29:18,200 --> 00:29:22,200

And therefore they felt like they had to do something to stop it.

374

00:29:22,200 --> 00:29:28,200

If we could establish a motive, a reason that these boys were killed certainly would help the case.

375

00:29:28,200 --> 00:29:34,200

But the motive is strictly a matter of speculation on anybody's part as far as I know.

376

00:29:34,200 --> 00:29:46,200

It's very hard to live every day of your life and wonder why your son was murdered and why no one's ever done anything about it in all these many years.

377

00:29:49,200 --> 00:29:53,200

I hope that whoever did it gets to pay for what they did someday.

378

00:29:53,200 --> 00:29:56,200

I don't care how long it takes.

379

00:29:56,200 --> 00:30:00,200

I've been patient this long. I can wait longer. That's what it takes.

380

00:30:02,200 --> 00:30:07,200

Even in her victory to have the investigation reopened, Sue Johnson has met with defeat.

381

00:30:07,200 --> 00:30:13,200

Many of the case files and much of the physical evidence has been misplaced or long since discarded.

382

00:30:13,200 --> 00:30:15,200

Detectives have little to go on.

383

00:30:15,200 --> 00:30:19,200

Save the faint hope that a new eyewitness will come forward.

384

00:30:20,200 --> 00:30:25,200

Next, a young woman is apparently abducted and her family fears for her life.

385

00:30:27,200 --> 00:30:30,200

CLINTON MISSOURI

386

00:30:37,200 --> 00:30:44,200

Clinton, Missouri, population 9000, is an idyllic farming community in the heart of small town America.

387

00:30:44,200 --> 00:30:49,200

The type of place where everyone knows each other and feels insulated from big city crime.

388

00:30:49,200 --> 00:30:53,200

But today, a cloud of uncertainty hovers over Clinton.

389

00:30:53,200 --> 00:30:58,200

A popular young woman has been abducted and quite possibly murdered.

390

00:31:00,200 --> 00:31:05,200

Angela Hammond was an active outgoing 20-year-old, known to everyone as Angie.

391

00:31:05,200 --> 00:31:08,200

Her family had lived in Clinton for three generations.

392

00:31:08,200 --> 00:31:15,200

Her fiancée Rob Schaeffer was a star athlete in high school who looked forward to a career in the military.

393

00:31:15,200 --> 00:31:22,200

In January of 1991, Rob gave Angie a diamond ring and promised that he would always take care of her.

394

00:31:23,200 --> 00:31:25,200

HANJI

395

00:31:27,200 --> 00:31:29,200

I had a great time tonight.

396

00:31:29,200 --> 00:31:32,200

I'm going to go see Kylin now, so I'll give you a call later.

397

00:31:32,200 --> 00:31:34,200

April 4th, 1991.

398

00:31:34,200 --> 00:31:39,200

At around 10 p.m., Angie dropped Rob off at his house after a barbecue.

399

00:31:39,200 --> 00:31:42,200

She promised that she would phone him a few hours later.

400

00:31:43,200 --> 00:31:45,200

That was about 10 o'clock.

401

00:31:45,200 --> 00:31:48,200

I was going to meet her back uptown as soon as my mom got home.

402

00:31:48,200 --> 00:31:50,200

I was watching my little brother at the time.

403

00:31:50,200 --> 00:31:54,200

And she called later on that night.

404

00:31:59,200 --> 00:32:00,200

Hello?

405

00:32:00,200 --> 00:32:01,200

Hi, Rob. It's Angie.

406

00:32:01,200 --> 00:32:02,200

Hi.

407

00:32:02,200 --> 00:32:09,200

At 11.15, Angie called Rob from a payphone in the center of town, approximately seven blocks from his house.

408

00:32:09,200 --> 00:32:15,200

Over talking on the phone, she mentioned to me about a truck circling around the block, an older model, green Ford pickup truck.

409

00:32:15,200 --> 00:32:17,200

Pick up truck. They keep circling around the block.

410

00:32:17,200 --> 00:32:19,200

Do you recognize the truck?

411

00:32:19,200 --> 00:32:20,200

No.

412

00:32:20,200 --> 00:32:22,200

He's probably not from around here.

413

00:32:22,200 --> 00:32:24,200

Maybe he's just lost.

414

00:32:24,200 --> 00:32:25,200

I guess so.

415

00:32:25,200 --> 00:32:27,200

Anyway, do you still want to go to the lake this week?

416

00:32:27,200 --> 00:32:32,200

Angie remained unconcerned until the truck parked next to the phone booth.

417

00:32:32,200 --> 00:32:36,200

Uh, Rob, he's pulling up next to the phones.

418

00:32:36,200 --> 00:32:38,200

What's the driver looking at?

419

00:32:38,200 --> 00:32:44,200

He's kind of dirty looking. He's got a mustache, beard and glasses, and he's wearing overalls.

420

00:32:44,200 --> 00:32:46,200

And he's coming to the phones.

421

00:32:47,200 --> 00:32:54,200

The truck is a light model, green pickup truck with one of those decals that cover the whole back window.

422

00:32:54,200 --> 00:32:58,200

It looks like a leg seen with a fish jumping out of water.

423

00:32:58,200 --> 00:33:01,200

What's he doing now, Angie?

424

00:33:01,200 --> 00:33:07,200

He used the phone next to her, got back in his truck and looked at something with a flashlight.

425

00:33:07,200 --> 00:33:10,200

She described the flashlight to me on the phone. He was looking for something.

426

00:33:10,200 --> 00:33:12,200

I had her turn around and ask him if he needed to use the phone.

427

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

Maybe the other phone was broke. And he said no. He was just going to try again in a minute.

428

00:33:16,200 --> 00:33:17,200

No.

429

00:33:17,200 --> 00:33:19,200

Maybe I should come down there.

430

00:33:19,200 --> 00:33:22,200

Oh, Rob, no. I'm sure it's okay.

431

00:33:22,200 --> 00:33:24,200

Um, so anyway...

432

00:33:24,200 --> 00:33:28,200

We just talked about other things we weren't sure about.

433

00:33:28,200 --> 00:33:30,200

And that's when I heard her scream on the phone.

434

00:33:30,200 --> 00:33:32,200

Waaaaaah!

435

00:33:35,200 --> 00:33:41,200

When I heard her scream, the only thing that went through my mind is getting up there and finding out what the hell's going on.

436

00:33:43,200 --> 00:33:47,200

I ran out of the house, just dropped the phone. I didn't hang the phone back up.

437

00:33:47,200 --> 00:33:50,200

Uh, just headed out there.

438

00:33:54,200 --> 00:33:59,200

I saw a pickup truck going past me and then somebody yelled out the window, Robby.

439

00:33:59,200 --> 00:34:01,200

That's how I knew it was them.

440

00:34:01,200 --> 00:34:03,200

Angie!

441

00:34:13,200 --> 00:34:15,200

All right.

442

00:34:24,200 --> 00:34:28,200

Rob pursued the pickup straight through the downtown business district.

443

00:34:28,200 --> 00:34:34,200

He had no idea when he threw his car into reverse, he had severely damaged the transmission.

444

00:34:36,200 --> 00:34:41,200

When the pickup made a sharp right turn, Rob's car finally gave out.

445

00:34:42,200 --> 00:34:46,200

I chased him about two miles. The transmission failed.

446

00:34:46,200 --> 00:34:50,200

It started dying as I was making my turn to the right.

447

00:34:50,200 --> 00:34:54,200

This guy turned off the right, although I saw it was brake lights and dust.

448

00:34:54,200 --> 00:34:59,200

Rob blamed himself for it because he always told her he'd be there to take care of her.

449

00:34:59,200 --> 00:35:06,200

And he tried, he did everything that could be done. Nobody blames him, but I think he thinks the people blame him.

450

00:35:07,200 --> 00:35:12,200

He's been trying to get his car out of the way, but he's not letting it go.

451

00:35:12,200 --> 00:35:17,200

He's been trying to get his car out of the way, but he's not letting it go.

452

00:35:17,200 --> 00:35:21,200

He's trying to get his car out of the way, but he's not letting it go.

453

00:35:21,200 --> 00:35:23,200

He thinks the people blame him.

454

00:35:24,200 --> 00:35:33,200

The beginning is the hardest, because you know you were close enough to get him, but she just didn't get the job done.

455

00:35:35,200 --> 00:35:41,200

And you still wake up at night wondering where she's at, wondering what happened, wondering if

anybody's still looking.

456

00:35:51,200 --> 00:35:53,200

You just wonder all the time.

457

00:35:56,200 --> 00:36:00,200

The news of Angie's disappearance sent shockwaves through Clinton.

458

00:36:00,200 --> 00:36:04,200

The police and hundreds of citizens launched an extensive air and land search,

459

00:36:04,200 --> 00:36:09,200

but there was no sign of Angela Hammond, her abductor, or the pickup truck.

460

00:36:10,200 --> 00:36:19,200

We had some assistance from the Missouri State Highway Patrol that did a computer search on all registered vehicles with MAKE in the approximate year.

461

00:36:19,200 --> 00:36:30,200

To their help, we had like 1600 possibilities that we had to look after, checking wherever these trucks are at on as far as color,

462

00:36:30,200 --> 00:36:36,200

and if they had any mural in the back window with no success.

463

00:36:37,200 --> 00:36:40,200

The police based their investigation on Rob Schaeffer's testimony,

464

00:36:40,200 --> 00:36:47,200

but when no witnesses could be found to corroborate his statement, Rob became a suspect himself.

465

00:36:47,200 --> 00:36:53,200

I think you know it was natural that people wondered, you know, did the boyfriend do it type thing,

466

00:36:53,200 --> 00:37:02,200

but my feeling, I've known the kid all his life, and I never doubted for a minute that he had anything to do with it.

467

00:37:03,200 --> 00:37:08,200

Within a week, Rob Schaeffer was cleared of any involvement in Angie's disappearance.

468

00:37:08,200 --> 00:37:16,200

Two days later, the police connected the abduction in Clinton to two other unsolved cases within a 100-mile radius.

469

00:37:16,200 --> 00:37:21,200

The first occurred near Max Creek, Missouri on January 19, 1991.

470

00:37:21,200 --> 00:37:27,200

I'm not gonna close up, but there's a man that's been hanging around outside for a while now, and I'm really starting to get nervous.

471

00:37:27,200 --> 00:37:31,200

42-year-old Trudy Darby was working alone in a convenience store.

472

00:37:31,200 --> 00:37:37,200

Around 10 p.m., she called her son to report a suspicious man lurking outside.

473

00:37:37,200 --> 00:37:43,200

Less than 10 minutes later, Trudy's son arrived at the store and found it completely deserted.

474

00:37:44,200 --> 00:37:50,200

Two days later, the body of Trudy Darby was found on a riverbank, 10 miles from the store.

475

00:37:50,200 --> 00:37:53,200

She had been shot twice in the head.

476

00:37:54,200 --> 00:38:02,200

Then on February 28, 30-year-old Sheryl Ann Kenney was reported missing in Nevada, Missouri, 70 miles from Max Creek.

477

00:38:05,200 --> 00:38:09,200

She vanished shortly after closing up the convenience store where she worked.

478

00:38:09,200 --> 00:38:15,200

That night, Sheryl's car was found in the store parking lot. She has not been seen since.

479

00:38:15,200 --> 00:38:19,200

Less than one month later, Angela Hammond would be abducted.

480

00:38:22,200 --> 00:38:30,200

If Angela's found, it might provide that link if they are related to, for example, Trudy Darby.

481

00:38:30,200 --> 00:38:37,200

Or if Sheryl's found, it may be that connection to Trudy Darby, how she was murdered.

482

00:38:38,200 --> 00:38:43,200

Authorities now fear that a serial killer may be on the loose in West Central Missouri.

483

00:38:43,200 --> 00:38:50,200

Even though they hold out little hope that either Sheryl Ann Kenney or Angela Hammond are still alive,

484

00:38:50,200 --> 00:38:55,200

there have been unconfirmed sightings of Angela in several states and most recently, Canada.

485

00:38:55,200 --> 00:39:12,200

If anybody out there sees anything, you know, if they could put their selves in our place and know how we feel,

486

00:39:12,200 --> 00:39:18,200

you know, how heart-wrenching it is that she was taken, even if the guy that took her sees this,

487

00:39:18,200 --> 00:39:21,200

if he would just call and let him know what he did with her.

488

00:39:22,200 --> 00:39:26,200

There's one final chilling detail, the abduction of Angela Hammond.

489

00:39:26,200 --> 00:39:32,200

After she screamed into the phone, Rob Schaeffer heard another person speak, most likely her abductor.

490

00:39:32,200 --> 00:39:37,200

All he said was, I didn't need to use the phone anyway.

491

00:39:37,200 --> 00:39:45,200

Before she disappeared, Angie described the suspect as a filthy, bearded man who wore glasses and was dressed in overalls.

492

00:39:46,200 --> 00:39:55,200

The suspect was driving a late 1960s, early 1970s, two-tone green Ford pickup truck.

493

00:39:55,200 --> 00:40:02,200

The back window was completely covered by an opaque decal of a fish jumping out of water, which may look like this.

494

00:40:15,200 --> 00:40:20,200

When we return, a bank fraud investigator disappears in the Arizona desert.

495

00:40:30,200 --> 00:40:39,200

May 5, 1997, in the middle of the desolate Arizona desert, 100 miles southeast of Phoenix, a crime is committed,

496

00:40:39,200 --> 00:40:42,200

far from the eyes of potential witnesses.

497

00:40:45,200 --> 00:40:50,200

The suspect is a man who was taken to the hospital.

498

00:41:10,200 --> 00:41:14,200

Less than half an hour later, a deputy sheriff finds the burning car.

499

00:41:14,200 --> 00:41:20,200

Authorities believe the arsonist was covering up a bigger crime, murder.

500

00:41:20,200 --> 00:41:27,200

The car was burned to the ground, and the fact is that had there been any evidence in the car, such as blood,

501

00:41:27,200 --> 00:41:31,200

we weren't able to tell because of the burning.

502

00:41:31,200 --> 00:41:38,200

The car's owner was 56-year-old Lee Young, a bank fraud investigator from Scottsdale, Arizona.

503

00:41:38,200 --> 00:41:41,200

He was nowhere to be found.

504

00:41:42,200 --> 00:41:52,200

When they gave me the information the car was burned and Lee wasn't there, then my wildest fears just became a reality.

505

00:41:52,200 --> 00:42:00,200

Because you live with that every day that something could happen, but you just don't really believe it ever will.

506

00:42:00,200 --> 00:42:06,200

Police feared the worst, that Lee Young had been murdered. The most obvious motive? Robbery.

507

00:42:06,200 --> 00:42:16,200

Young always wore a distinctive \$25,000 Rolex watch and carried large amounts of cash so he could buy jewelry which he sold in his spare time.

508

00:42:16,200 --> 00:42:23,200

When police searched the car, they were surprised to find thousands of dollars worth of jewelry still in the trunk.

509

00:42:23,200 --> 00:42:29,200

Young's family suspected a scenario far more sinister than simple robbery.

510

00:42:30,200 --> 00:42:38,200

The only thing missing out of that trunk of the car that I am aware of is the briefcase that carried his files.

511

00:42:38,200 --> 00:42:47,200

So that makes me believe that it wasn't robbery motive, it was case-related of some sort.

512

00:42:49,200 --> 00:42:55,200

Several months before he disappeared, Lee Young had contacted federal agents who dealt with drug smuggling.

513

00:42:55,200 --> 00:42:59,200

Young suspected that his bank was being used by a money laundering ring.

514

00:42:59,200 --> 00:43:05,200

During the week before he disappeared, Young tried to reach the agents a number of times without success.

515

00:43:07,200 --> 00:43:15,200

We was involved in one particular case investigating a major drug cartel in Columbia.

516

00:43:15,200 --> 00:43:21,200

And he had been involved in this investigation within six months prior to his disappearance.

517

00:43:21,200 --> 00:43:26,200

And the case was still ongoing as a matter of fact at the time of his disappearance.

518

00:43:28,200 --> 00:43:36,200

On May 4th, 1990, Lee Young left a restaurant in Scottsdale around 12.30 p.m. He was never seen again.

519

00:43:37,200 --> 00:43:43,200

That afternoon, a single call came in over his car phone and three calls went out.

520

00:43:43,200 --> 00:43:50,200

One to a phone booth and the others to a woman who denied ever having talked to Lee Young on the telephone.

521

00:43:50,200 --> 00:43:53,200

I don't know for a fact that Lee made these calls.

522

00:43:53,200 --> 00:44:00,200

In fact, it's possible that Lee was taken down prior to 2 o'clock Friday afternoon

523

00:44:01,200 --> 00:44:07,200

and that the three calls made after 2 o'clock were made by somebody else.

524

00:44:09,200 --> 00:44:15,200

Lee Young's family believes that he was kidnapped by someone who wanted to destroy his bank fraud investigation records.

525

00:44:15,200 --> 00:44:20,200

They think that person, not Lee Young, made the phone calls.

526

00:44:21,200 --> 00:44:27,200

Everything points to the fact that Lee's not alive.

527

00:44:27,200 --> 00:44:30,200

My heart still says he's out there somewhere.

528

00:44:30,200 --> 00:44:35,200

But logic tells me he's not.

529

00:44:35,200 --> 00:44:38,200

What happened to Lee Young?

530

00:44:38,200 --> 00:44:40,200

Was he killed in a robbery attempt?

531

00:44:40,200 --> 00:44:45,200

Or did he inadvertently become the victim of one of his own bank fraud investigations?

532

00:44:46,200 --> 00:44:53,200

Connie Young clings to the slim hope that someone saw her husband's plum-colored 1985 Lincoln Town car.

533

00:44:53,200 --> 00:45:00,200

Between the time he left the restaurant on May 4, 1990 and the time the car was found in flames the next day,

534

00:45:00,200 --> 00:45:05,200

she also hopes someone might have information about his copper-faced Rolex watch,

535

00:45:05,200 --> 00:45:10,200

which has diamonds encircling the face and studying the band.

536

00:45:11,200 --> 00:45:18,200

On our next Unsolved Mysteries, for years, legendary tales have circulated about the abominable snowman.

537

00:45:18,200 --> 00:45:23,200

A frightening human-like creature said to roam the high plateaus of the Himalayas.

538

00:45:23,200 --> 00:45:30,200

The story of the man who was killed in the first night of the war was told by a man who was killed in the first night of the war.

539

00:45:30,200 --> 00:45:34,200

The man was killed in the first night of the war.

540

00:45:34,200 --> 00:45:41,200

The abominable snowman, a frightening human-like creature said to roam the high plateaus of the Himalayas.

541

00:45:41,200 --> 00:45:46,200

But for the natives of this isolated land, the snowman is all too real.

542

00:45:46,200 --> 00:45:53,200

A half-man, half-ape known as Yeti, is he a mythological monster or a distant relative of man?

543

00:45:55,200 --> 00:46:00,200

Join us next time for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.