

1

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

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:06,800

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

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

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

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

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

5

00:00:17,800 --> 00:00:20,600

Richard Minns was a flashy bodybuilding millionaire who

6

00:00:20,600 --> 00:00:22,600

always got what he wanted.

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00:00:22,600 --> 00:00:27,000

In 1977, he set his sights on Barbara Petrovsky, a former

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

beauty queen from California.

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

Three years later, their love affair disintegrated, and

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

Barbara descended into a personal hell which culminated

11

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

in a brutal attack.

12

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

For years, Catherine Bennett lived in virtual seclusion,

13

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

apparently on the edge of poverty.

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

When she died, she left behind a past shrouded in mystery

15

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

and an estate worth more than \$125,000.

16

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

Perhaps someone watching tonight's show

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

is a rightful heir.

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00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:03,000

Also, we'll update you on the unusual case of a Canadian

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:06,000

man who disappeared in 1987.

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00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:09,000

Thanks to our broadcast, he has finally been located and

21

00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:11,000

reunited with his family.

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00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:15,000

Join me. Perhaps you may solve a mystery.

23

00:01:56,000 --> 00:02:00,000

Janney Smith of Irvine, California is a registered nurse,

24

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

a marathon racer, and a new bride.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:07,000

She is also paralyzed from the chest down, the result of

26

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

a brutal attack.

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:14,000

15 years ago, Janney had another name, Barbara Petrovsky,

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

and another life.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:19,000

She was a woman who was born in the United States

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:22,000

and was a woman who was a woman who was a woman

31

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:25,000

named Barbara Petrovsky and another life.

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:30,000

She was a beauty queen and a straight-A pre-med student.

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:34,000

In 1977, she became involved in a passionate, obsessive

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:37,000

love affair with a man twice her age.

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00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:43,000

By 1979, that love affair began to self-destruct.

36

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:46,000

Barbara Petrovsky found herself in broad and a bitter dispute

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:49,000

with her former lover Richard Minnes.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:52,000

Minnes, a multimillionaire from Texas, was a one-man

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

Barbara had loved unconditionally, the man whose child

40

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:58,000

she had carried, the man who had promised her a bright

41

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:00,000

and limitless future.

42

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

Incredibly, she is certain that the attack which left her

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

paralyzed was a murder attempt and that Richard Minnes

44

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:08,000

was responsible.

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:13,000

They met in January of 1977 on the ski slopes

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:15,000

of Aspen, Colorado.

47

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:20,000

Barbara Petrovsky was just 23 and admittedly naive.

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

Richard Minnes was 47, a sophisticated,

49

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:28,000

smooth-talking chameleon who could adjust to any situation.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:32,000

Richard Minnes, when he first approached me, was very loud

51

00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:33,000

and belligerent.

52

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:36,000

He was dressed very loudly in a bright fluorescent yellow

53

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,000

ski suit.

54

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:41,000

He was bragging about what a great guy he was.

55

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:44,000

And when he saw how that affected me, he just very,

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:48,000

very quickly changed his persona and was very quiet,

57

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:51,000

charming, almost seemed a little shy.

58

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:55,000

And eventually, I did not only, I didn't just fall in love

59

00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:58,000

with him, I fell head over heels in love with him.

60

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:01,000

Richard Minnes was anything but shy.

61

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

He was a dedicated flamboyant bodybuilder who'd made

62

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

millions from a chain of upscale health spas based in Texas.

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00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:11,000

Minnes was a man who always got what he wanted

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00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,000

and he wanted Barbara.

65

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:15,000

What's the two most beautiful moments you've

66

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

done in the last four months?

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:27,000

Aspen in March and Acabocca.

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00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:30,000

Within three months, Barbara Petrovsky had moved from

69

00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:33,000

Los Angeles to Houston to live with Richard Minnes.

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:36,000

He hired her as a model for his health spas,

71

00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:38,000

lavished her with attention, and in general,

72

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:41,000

made her the center of his life.

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:44,000

Minnes even bragged that his contacts guaranteed Barbara

74

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:47,000

a spot in medical school.

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

It was incredibly romantic and it was too good to be true.

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

You know, things like this don't happen in real life.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:54,000

They happen in a story.

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00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:56,000

They happen in a movie, but they don't happen to you.

79

00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,000

And I felt so incredibly lucky.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:01,000

We seemed to have a very good relationship.

81

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

Certainly, it was magical.

82

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:06,000

So there was no indication whatsoever in the beginning

83

00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:10,000

that there was anything that was really a miss.

84

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:14,000

Knock, knock, knock, knock, knock.

85

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:17,000

Knock, knock, knock, knock, knock.

86

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:26,000

My husband is in your house and I want to see him right now.

87

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:27,000

I know he's here.

88

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

I saw his car.

89

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

Richard Minnes had neglected to tell Barbara one small detail.

90

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:32,000

I'll go get him.

91

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:33,000

Dick!

92

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:34,000

He was married.

93

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:37,000

You better get out here right now!

94

00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:43,000

At that point, he explained to me that he had loved me so much

95

00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:48,000

that he knew if he had admitted that he was not divorced

96

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:50,000

that I never would have consented to come to Houston

97

00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:53,000

and that he loved me so much that he would have done anything.

98

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:57,000

He would have even compromised his own integrity and lied to me

99

00:05:57,000 --> 00:05:59,000

because he loved me so much that he wanted to convince me

100

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:01,000

to come to Houston to be with him.

101

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

And he explained that he was legally separated but not divorced.

102

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:14,000

After a short breakup, Barbara decided to accept Richard's explanation

103

00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:18,000

and his peace offering, a townhouse for the two of them to share.

104

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:19,000

Beautiful.

105

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:20,000

Yeah.

106

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:24,000

To prove his devotion, Minnes even gave Barbara papers

107

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:27,000

stating that the townhouse and his contents belong to her.

108

00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:30,000

I decided to do something with this that I asked him.

109

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:34,000

He really didn't want me to be working for anyone other than him.

110

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:36,000

This was his way of dealing with that,

111

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:41,000

was by giving me every assurance that these were things I didn't have to worry about,

112

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:46,000

that instead I should concentrate on our relationship,

113

00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:50,000

on finishing my own education

114

00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:54,000

and not worrying about holding down a job that wouldn't pay me

115

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:57,000

nearly what he could make in a day.

116

00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:03,000

Six months later, Barbara discovered that Richard Minnes was not legally separated.

117

00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:06,000

In May of 1978, his wife filed for divorce

118

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:10,000

after she found out about the townhouse arrangement.

119

00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:13,000

When Dick was going through his divorce,

120

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:15,000

he just became a completely different person

121

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:20,000

and it was something that really shocked me.

122

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:22,000

It really appalled me.

123

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

How does something like this happen right now?

124

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:31,000

Suddenly I saw a very paranoid, violent side of his personality.

125

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:34,000

Barbara, will you stop it?

126

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

You know what? This silly little thing you blame school.

127

00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:38,000

You think that has something to do with...

128

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:41,000

Do you think it has something to do with economics?

129

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:44,000

Don't worry about it. Don't worry about it.

130

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:45,000

Ha!

131

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:48,000

Richard Minnes' temper became worse and worse,

132

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:51,000

especially after the divorce settlement was finalized.

133

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,000

His wife, who built the health spa business with him,

134

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

was awarded nearly six million dollars.

135

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

Barbara, I don't want to talk about you.

136

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

At around the same time, Barbara had discovered she was pregnant.

137

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:06,000

Minnes suddenly put his plans to marry her on hold.

138

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:07,000

I'll do something.

139

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:09,000

I'll take you here, please.

140

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:10,000

Yes!

141

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

Dick, will you just calm down, please, and be careful?

142

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

Remember, I told you I was pregnant.

143

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:19,000

Yeah. Good. Good. Good.

144

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:20,000

Right, I told you that.

145

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:21,000

Abort it to you.

146

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:22,000

No. I don't want to talk about it.

147

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:23,000

No!

148

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:24,000

Abort.

149

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

I won't abort it.

150

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:26,000

I'm not going to.

151

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:29,000

I'm not having a child. I don't want it.

152

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:31,000

I thought we were ever family!

153

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

Abort it!

154

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:33,000

Get out of my house!

155

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

You gonna be Barbara?

156

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:36,000

Okay.

157

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:43,000

The couch is definitely...

158

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:44,000

Yeah, no, not the piano. No, I...

159

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:45,000

Or the clock.

160

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:46,000

All right, we won't take the clock.

161

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:50,000

Barbara feared for herself and her unborn child.

162

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:53,000

In a panic, she decided to move out.

163

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:57,000

Barbara took almost everything in the townhouse.

164

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:59,000

At the time that I decided to leave,

165

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:04,000

my emotional state was one of complete confusion.

166

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,000

I didn't know if I was doing the right thing.

167

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

I didn't want to be doing what I was doing.

168

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

I really didn't want to...

169

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

At this point, even, I still didn't want to leave him.

170

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:17,000

I thought it was as if I was tearing myself away from part of myself.

171

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:19,000

I was ripping my own arm off.

172

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:22,000

When Barbara moved out of the townhouse,

173

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:26,000

she took all of the furniture in the townhouse with her.

174

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:29,000

Suzanne Finstead spent more than three years

175

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:31,000

researching and writing *Sleeping with the Devil*,

176

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:36,000

the book which pieces together the complex story of Richard and Barbara.

177

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:41,000

She did this thinking she needed to do something to jolt him

178

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:43,000

and she moved out several other times

179

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

and the relationship had pretty much remained the same

180

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

and she felt she needed to get his attention in a very dramatic way,

181

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:51,000

which, unfortunately, she did.

182

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:53,000

Barbara?

183

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:55,000

Barbara?

184

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

Barbara?

185

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:06,000

Barbara went into hiding.

186

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:08,000

Richard Minns was furious.

187

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

He had lost his wife and half his fortune.

188

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

Now Barbara.

189

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:24,000

He had called his sister, begging her to have me come meet him

190

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:27,000

on a particular evening.

191

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:31,000

And even though I knew that it was a big mistake,

192

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:35,000

I felt as if I had to at least see what he had to say.

193

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

When Barbara arrived at Richard's hotel room, he wasn't there,

194

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:42,000

hoping they could work something out.

195

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:46,000

She waited in the hallway until well after midnight.

196

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:48,000

See?

197

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:50,000

Yes, no, man. No.

198

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:52,000

Tell me. No.

199

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:54,000

Yes.

200

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

Whoa.

201

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

Come on.

202

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:03,000

Come on.

203

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:05,000

Barbara?

204

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:07,000

Barbara, I thought you said you loved me.

205

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:09,000

I wanted you to come here.

206

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

Barbara?

207

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

He grabbed me first forcibly and wouldn't allow me to leave.

208

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:18,000

And then while he held me forcibly,

209

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

begged me to just come in and talk,

210

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

said that he still loved me.

211

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

We had a lot to talk about.

212

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:26,000

That somehow or another, if we just sat down and talked,

213

00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:28,000

that we could work things out.

214

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:32,000

So he brought me in to his suite

215

00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:35,000

and we started to talk a little bit.

216

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Okay.

217

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:42,000

He put his arms around me,

218

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:44,000

was telling me how much he loved me,

219

00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:47,000

and all of a sudden the door burst open.

220

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:49,000

It was the police.

221

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:52,000

He threw me from his arms toward them and said,

222

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

take her. You have a warrant for her arrest.

223

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:57,000

Call her if you don't believe it.

224

00:11:57,000 --> 00:11:59,000

She's an employee of mine. She stole my jewelry.

225

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:01,000

She stole my shotgun.

226

00:12:01,000 --> 00:12:03,000

After the police set up,

227

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:07,000

Minns had used his connections to obtain a warrant for her arrest.

228

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

One of his associates had called the police.

229

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

Are you going to take her away?

230

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

What are we standing here talking about?

231

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:16,000

Don't tell me how to do my job.

232

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:18,000

It's a valid warrant signed by a judge.

233

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:20,000

Well, it's not true. God, Richard.

234

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:22,000

This man is lying.

235

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:24,000

Just talking about downtown.

236

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:28,000

What he did to me that night was like taking a knife

237

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:32,000

and just ripping my heart straight open.

238

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:34,000

But believe it or not,

239

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:36,000

even after what he did that night,

240

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:38,000

I was still in love with him.

241

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:44,000

Four and a half hours later, at daybreak,

242

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:47,000

Barbara was visited by a police detective.

243

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:50,000

Barbara? Barbara Trotsky?

244

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

How you doing?

245

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:54,000

You okay?

246

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:55,000

No.

247

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:56,000

How about a smoke?

248

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:57,000

No, thank you.

249

00:12:57,000 --> 00:12:59,000

Listen, Barbara, I heard about your case,

250

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:00,000

and I thought I'd come down here

251

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

and see if I couldn't give you a hand.

252

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:03,000

How?

253

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:04,000

If you'll settle up with Digmins,

254

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:06,000

we can forget about this whole thing.

255

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:08,000

What are you talking about?

256

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

I've got a little piece of paper here.

257

00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:12,000

You read this, you sign it,

258

00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:14,000

we might slate clean.

259

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:16,000

I'll get you out of here tonight.

260

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

The detective carried a statement,

261

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:22,000

which he said Richard Minns wanted Barbara to sign.

262

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:25,000

That I never knew Richard Minns,

263

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:27,000

that I never had a relationship with him,

264

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:28,000

and I'm not carrying his child?

265

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

No, I'm gonna sign it.

266

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:31,000

There's some money in there for you.

267

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:34,000

No, it's lies.

268

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:35,000

Think about it.

269

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:38,000

I have.

270

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Okay, then.

271

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:45,000

Barbara Petrosky was formally charged

272

00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:47,000

with felony grand theft,

273

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:49,000

and aggravated assault,

274

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:51,000

because she had slapped at Richard Minns

275

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

with her purse in the hotel.

276

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:56,000

Less than 36 hours later, Barbara miscarried.

277

00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:01,000

She told her doctors, but not Richard Minns.

278

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:04,000

I think that Digmins got the arrest warrant,

279

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:06,000

got the attention of the authorities,

280

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:09,000

because of who he was.

281

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:12,000

Because it's always been my opinion

282

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

that the district attorney's office

283

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

would never take any charge unless they felt

284

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:20,000

that they could make a prima facie case

285

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:22,000

and get a conviction.

286

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:26,000

And I felt, when I reviewed these facts,

287

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:29,000

that this would be an easy case to defend.

288

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:31,000

Have you been up? Have you been to the door?

289

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:35,000

Barbara was released, and again went into hiding.

290

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:36,000

You're gonna be here in a second.

291

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:38,000

You asked me to do a job or do the job?

292

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

Earlier, Minns had hired a private investigator

293

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:42,000

named Dudley Bell, who was notorious

294

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

for operating on the edge of the law.

295

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

Bell had no trouble finding Barbara,

296

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:51,000

and the police were close behind.

297

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:53,000

Don't touch me.

298

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:57,000

On April 17, 1980, two Houston police detectives

299

00:14:57,000 --> 00:14:59,000

served Barbara with a search warrant.

300

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:01,000

We'll have somebody up here in a minute to identify.

301

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:03,000

Hey, why is he going in there?

302

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:04,000

Just have a look around.

303

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:05,000

All right.

304

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:08,000

Barbara was about to find out that Richard Minns

305

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:10,000

had engineered the entire episode.

306

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:12,000

I want my attorney here, OK?

307

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:13,000

I'm gonna wait for him.

308

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:14,000

If you want to call him.

309

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

I don't want him in here.

310

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

I don't want to be standing up here all day long.

311

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:19,000

I don't want him in this place.

312

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:20,000

Come on in, Dick.

313

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

This is my place.

314

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:22,000

These are my things.

315

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:23,000

We got an orange.

316

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:25,000

Just get the couch out right now.

317

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Those are my things.

318

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:28,000

The couches, both the couches are mine.

319

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:29,000

The table is the dishwasher.

320

00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:30,000

You gave all this stuff to me.

321

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:32,000

Get all this wallpaper away.

322

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:35,000

Get these movers in here.

323

00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:38,000

Richard Minns put the furniture in storage.

324

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:40,000

He continued to demand that Barbara

325

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:43,000

sign papers promising never to sue him.

326

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Just calm down.

327

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:47,000

He wanted a finality of their relationship,

328

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

and he wanted in writing, and he wanted the peace of mind,

329

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:55,000

I guess, in his, that he considered was necessary for him

330

00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:58,000

to go on without any concerns about her

331

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:03,000

instituting any litigation with respect to a marriage

332

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:05,000

or paternity.

333

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:09,000

Barbara Petrovsky's fairytale romance with Richard Minns

334

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:11,000

had disintegrated into a nightmare.

335

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:18,000

I had been told by people who knew him well

336

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:23,000

that he was so embarrassed and angry that I had left him

337

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:25,000

that he had to teach me a lesson

338

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:27,000

and that he had to teach everyone else a lesson.

339

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:30,000

I told her to be careful, to not be alone,

340

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:34,000

to watch what she did and where she went.

341

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:38,000

Unfortunately, no safeguard is enough.

342

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:41,000

If someone's after you, they can find a way to get you.

343

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:43,000

Good evening.

344

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:44,000

How can I help you?

345

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:46,000

I want to get an apple fritter, please.

346

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:49,000

Finally, on October 20, 1980,

347

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:51,000

Barbara's love affair with Richard Minns

348

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:54,000

reached its violent climax in the parking lot

349

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:55,000

of a Houston donut shop.

350

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

As I was getting back into my car, a black man approached me,

351

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:10,000

and I knew, I knew immediately what was going to happen.

352

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:14,000

It was essentially the moment that I had been afraid of.

353

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:23,000

Barbara Petrovsky was shot four times and left for dead.

354

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:25,000

The bullets collapsed her lungs

355

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:27,000

and severed her spinal cord, leaving her paralyzed

356

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:29,000

from the chest down.

357

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Initially, it seemed that Barbara Petrovsky

358

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

was a victim of a random street crime.

359

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:41,000

Nothing could have been further from the truth.

360

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:43,000

Miraculously, on the night of the attack,

361

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:45,000

Barbara never lost consciousness.

362

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:48,000

When paramedics asked who was responsible,

363

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:53,000

she gave the name of her former lover, Richard Minns.

364

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:56,000

Within minutes of the shooting, two small-time hoods

365

00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:59,000

from California, Nathaniel Ivory and Patrick Steen

366

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:02,000

were arrested for attempted murder.

367

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:04,000

You're going to do a lot of time.

368

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:06,000

Under interrogation, they were closed mouthed

369

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:08,000

and gave no support to Barbara's contention

370

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:10,000

that Richard Minns was involved.

371

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:12,000

I don't know, man.

372

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:14,000

Oh, no.

373

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:16,000

Then the following night, detectives met

374

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:19,000

with one of Richard Minns' former bodyguards.

375

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

I want to know if you were hired to go to the public.

376

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:24,000

The man refused to go public, but claimed that one month earlier,

377

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:27,000

a contract had been put out on Barbara's life.

378

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:29,000

10 grand?

379

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:30,000

By who?

380

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:32,000

Dudley?

381

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:34,000

Dudley, who?

382

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:37,000

Come on, man. How many Dudleys do you know?

383

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:38,000

Dudley Bell.

384

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:40,000

Okay.

385

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:42,000

So, who does Dudley Bell work for?

386

00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:44,000

He works for Richard Minns.

387

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:51,000

So that Richard Minns offer you the money?

388

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:53,000

No, man. Dudley did.

389

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:55,000

Dudley works for Richard.

390

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:57,000

One plus one equals two, man.

391

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:02,000

The next day, police learned that a California trucker

392

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:04,000

named Robert Jess Anderson

393

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:08,000

owned a getaway car used by Steen and Ivory.

394

00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:11,000

A guy named Anderson Huyvers, Bob Anderson.

395

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:13,000

Bob Anderson.

396

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:16,000

Steen and Ivory were questioned again.

397

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

They identified Robert Jess Anderson as the man

398

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

who had hired them to kill Barbara.

399

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:24,000

He was gonna pay us, then he gave us a gun

400

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:27,000

and said it would be better if she was dead.

401

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:30,000

That just happened to know his little mode here.

402

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:34,000

The following day, Dudley Bell's ex-wife gave police a note

403

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:37,000

which seemed to connect Richard Minns and Dudley Bell

404

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:39,000

with Robert Jess Anderson.

405

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:42,000

The note, printed in Dudley Bell's own hand,

406

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:45,000

was on Richard Minns' hotel stationery.

407

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:48,000

A list of guns which later turned out to belong to

408

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Robert Jess Anderson was on the back.

409

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:58,000

On October 28th, 1980, eight days after Barbara had been shot,

410

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:00,000

police arrested Robert Jess Anderson

411

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

in charges of conspiring to commit a murder.

412

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:05,000

Wait outside with us.

413

00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:10,000

What is your relationship with Patrick Steen and Nathaniel Ivory?

414

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:13,000

Relationship, I mean, I don't know from no relationship.

415

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:15,000

I mean, you throw these names at me,

416

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:17,000

I don't know many relationships.

417

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:19,000

With what I have, the fact they have confessed,

418

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:21,000

they have implicated you,

419

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:24,000

they were apprehended while driving your car.

420

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:26,000

It all boils down to one thing, Mr. Anderson,

421

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:31,000

we've got you, their testimony and the other evidence is that strong.

422

00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:37,000

I happen to be in a position to cut you a deal

423

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:42,000

to where you were more than likely not serving any time at all for this crime.

424

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:46,000

If you'll cooperate with me and give me the information that I want to know.

425

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Yeah, sure. What do you want to know?

426

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:52,000

We solicited at that time his cooperation

427

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:55,000

because the information that we had in this particular case

428

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:59,000

certainly indicated that there were people far above Robert J. Anderson

429

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:02,000

that were involved and we felt that it was necessary

430

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:06,000

to get his assistance to try to move up that ladder.

431

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:09,000

Well, I tell you, Dudley's a private eye, you know,

432

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:11,000

and he was working for this guy.

433

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:14,000

Anderson confirmed that it was Dudley Bell who had hired him.

434

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

Anderson also admitted that he in turn had approached Steen and Ivory to make the hit,

435

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:22,000

but he said he called it off in the end.

436

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:26,000

Anderson's suspect is that Dudley Bell was working for Richard Minns,

437

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:27,000

but he had no proof.

438

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:30,000

He stiffed me for the bill. How about that, you know?

439

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:35,000

Despite Anderson's cooperation, the DA claimed he simply did not have enough evidence

440

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:38,000

to indict either Dudley Bell or Richard Minns.

441

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:44,000

In fact, throughout the entire investigation, Minns was never questioned once.

442

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:49,000

Amazingly, he continued to press a theft case against Barbara.

443

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:53,000

She appeared in court on November 17, 1980,

444

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:55,000

less than one month after the shooting,

445

00:21:55,000 --> 00:22:00,000

which Minns now insisted Barbara's new attorney at stage as a publicity stunt.

446

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

Mr. DeGaron, I understand you have a motion to present today.

447

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:08,000

Yes, Your Honor, we'd like for you to rule on our motion to suppress.

448

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:12,000

I was shot, I was paralyzed, I was sitting in the wheelchair.

449

00:22:12,000 --> 00:22:16,000

He wasn't being questioned, he wasn't being indicted.

450

00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:19,000

Neither were any of the other people who were involved,

451

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:21,000

yet here I was sitting in a courtroom,

452

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:23,000

my first trip out of the hospital,

453

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:27,000

facing theft charges that he had fabricated.

454

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:29,000

I have your motion.

455

00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:33,000

Barbara would never get the chance to prove that she was innocent.

456

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:38,000

The theft charges were dropped on a technicality involving the search warrant.

457

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:39,000

Thank you, Your Honor.

458

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:47,000

On March 30, 1981, Nathaniel Ivory and Patrick Steen were convicted of attempted murder.

459

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Each was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

460

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:57,000

Just over one year later, Barbara Petrosky filed a civil suit for wrongful injury

461

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:03,000

against Richard Minns and his alleged confederates, Steen, Ivory, Anderson and Bell.

462

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:08,000

Before depositions could be taken, Richard Minns left the country

463

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:09,000

and disappeared.

464

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:15,000

He has been in hiding ever since, evading the civil suit by pleading ill health,

465

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:19,000

even though witnesses have reported him water-skiing in the Bahamas.

466

00:23:21,000 --> 00:23:24,000

Richard Minns remains a suspect in this case, unfortunately,

467

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:27,000

an unindicted suspect in this case,

468

00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:30,000

because we don't have sufficient evidence in order to indict

469

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:32,000

nor try Richard Minns for the offense.

470

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:39,000

There have been many cases of indictments returned in Harris County

471

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:44,000

on less evidence than the state has against Dick Manns.

472

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

I don't know why Dick Manns hasn't been charged.

473

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:54,000

He should have been, and no fair jury that hears that case

474

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:57,000

would find anything other than Dick Manns was responsible.

475

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:03,000

In 1984, the FBI, in an unrelated investigation,

476

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:08,000

tape-recorded Robert J. Anderson bragging about the Petrosky hit.

477

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:13,000

He was subsequently convicted of soliciting a murder and sentenced to 38 years.

478

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:18,000

Dudley Bell was also arrested for soliciting a murder.

479

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

In 1987, he was convicted when one of his former employees testified in court

480

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:27,000

that Bell had tried to hire him to kill Barbara Petrosky.

481

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:32,000

Like Anderson, Dudley Bell was sentenced to 38 years.

482

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:37,000

He was released on parole in 1991 after serving only four and a half years.

483

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

There's nothing new before this court on this motion,

484

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:45,000

and the court is noting at this time, and I want the record to show...

485

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:49,000

On 17 consecutive occasions, Richard Minns failed to appear in court

486

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:52,000

to respond to Barbara Petrosky's civil suit.

487

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:56,000

Ultimately, Minns was found in default,

488

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

and a jury ordered him to pay Barbara more than \$50 million.

489

00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:03,000

The amount of \$58 million plus cost.

490

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:05,000

That will be all, gentlemen.

491

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:09,000

It is a civil judgment against Richard Minns.

492

00:25:09,000 --> 00:25:14,000

It's a curiosity of the law that one could get a civil judgment against someone

493

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:18,000

and not a criminal judgment, but that's what's happened in this particular case.

494

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:23,000

All of the responsible parties in the shooting of Barbara Petrosky

495

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:27,000

have not been indicted and have not been convicted and sent to the penitentiary.

496

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:35,000

At least four of them have, and I think it's a consensus in the DA's office

497

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:42,000

and the homicide division that there is at least one person still there.

498

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:46,000

A higher person than anybody else that has not been indicted

499

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:53,000

and has not been convicted, and until that happens, this case will not close.

500

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:00,000

Barbara said about rebuilding her life.

501

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

She changed her name to Janice Smith and eventually moved to Ohio.

502

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:09,000

Above all, she refused to accept the limitations of her paralysis.

503

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:16,000

You cannot go through something as devastating as what happened to me and dwell on it.

504

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

You cannot, if you do, if you dwell on it, it will destroy you.

505

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:24,000

You have to go on. You have to find a way to find meaning in life,

506

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

to do something meaningful with your life.

507

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

And I swore when I was shot that if I lived through it,

508

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:34,000

that I would find a way to make my life rewarding, fulfilling and productive.

509

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:37,000

And I've tried to do that since the time of my injury.

510

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:47,000

In 1983, Barbara, now Janice Smith, began rehabilitation with Dr. Gerald Petrovsky,

511

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:53,000

who was experimenting with a device which allows a paralyzed person to walk independently.

512

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:57,000

As collaborators, it perfected the system.

513

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:01,000

It operates by means of computer-induced electrical impulses.

514

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:07,000

Today Janice Smith is president and co-founder of the Petrovsky Centers in Irvine, California

515

00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:10,000

and Scranton, Pennsylvania.

516

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

As a nurse, she works personally with patients at the centers, especially children.

517

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:23,000

On November 30, 1991, Janice Smith and Dr. Gerald Petrovsky were married.

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

It was a remarkable turn of events for a woman who had been left paralyzed

519

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

and near death by an assassin's bullet.

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

Richard Minz has been seen in Texas, the Caribbean, Israel and London,

521

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:40,000

but is based in Switzerland.

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00:27:40,000 --> 00:27:42,000

Minz has also changed his name.

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00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:47,000

Today he goes by Richard O'Toole and builds himself as an international tax attorney.

524

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:52,000

Minz has reportedly transferred all his assets offshore to dummy corporations.

525

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:56,000

Janice Smith has never collected a penny.

526

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

The next is a search for the heirs of an elderly recluse

527

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:11,000

who left an estate worth more than \$125,000.

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00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:37,000

It seems like every town in America has a village recluse,

529

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:42,000

a mysterious soul who chooses to remain alone, isolated from the community.

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00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:46,000

Catherine Bennett of Portland, Oregon was just such a person,

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00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:51,000

an eccentric, nearly destitute pack rat who dressed in men's clothing,

532

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:56,000

rarely left her home and refused to discuss her past with anyone.

533

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:02,000

For years, Catherine Bennett was viewed with curiosity by sympathetic neighbors.

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00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:06,000

But no one suspected it was that Catherine had amassed a modest fortune

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00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:09,000

worth more than \$125,000.

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00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:14,000

But on the day she died, Catherine Bennett was a woman with few friends and no family.

537

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:19,000

Perhaps one of our viewers can help find the heir to her estate.

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00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:25,000

Little is known about Catherine before 1941.

539

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

That year she met a handsome young soldier named Gilbert Bennett.

540

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

Six months later they were married.

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00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:36,000

After the Second World War, the couple settled in Portland, Oregon,

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00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:39,000

where Gilbert worked as a commercial photographer.

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00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:42,000

Catherine became his favorite subject.

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00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:45,000

Oh yeah, this is the spot.

545

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:49,000

The two shared a love for the great outdoors.

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00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:55,000

At every opportunity they would escape to the unspoiled rivers of the Pacific Northwest.

547

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:58,000

It's beautiful. I can smell the fish.

548

00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:04,000

They loved the outdoor life and they fished every chance they'd get.

549

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:10,000

They're very devoted to each other. Truly.

550

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:14,000

They were inseparable.

551

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:20,000

Every place they went they went together and they fished together and they hunted together and what have you.

552

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:24,000

I'm sure that they were very much in love with each other.

553

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:29,000

Gilbert and Catherine never had children.

554

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

Instead they built a loving private universe for two.

555

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:37,000

Catherine lavished attention upon her husband, her garden and her pets.

556

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:41,000

Yet she remained intensely private about her past.

557

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:44,000

She never spoke of a past.

558

00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:48,000

And I have since talked to all my brothers and sisters and they said the same thing.

559

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:51,000

They just didn't know anything of Katie's past.

560

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:58,000

In 1980, after 38 years of marriage, Gilbert Bennett died.

561

00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:01,000

Catherine's world began to crumble.

562

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:07,000

When she lost Gilbert she just lost everything I guess.

563

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:13,000

And I had talked to Katie concerned about her future.

564

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:18,000

And I asked her if she had any living relatives and she said no she didn't have a family.

565

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:23,000

She was raised in an orphan home and she didn't know anything about a family.

566

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

And she just withdrew some holidays and things like this.

567

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

We asked her to come to dinner and stuff like this and she wouldn't do that.

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00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:44,000

And we just couldn't keep in contact with her too long as a result of this.

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00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:52,000

Catherine rarely left the home where she and Gilbert had spent so many years together.

570

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:58,000

In the end, only the charity of neighbors kept her from total seclusion.

571

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:02,000

We just finished dinner and we have few leftovers so I made up a little plate for you.

572

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:03,000

Oh, thank you.

573

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:06,000

Look, is there anything you need from the store?

574

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:09,000

Oh, I don't think so. Thanks.

575

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:17,000

Finally in June of 1990, after 10 years alone, Catherine Bennett passed away.

576

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:22,000

She was 80 years old.

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00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:28,000

When no blood relatives could be located, representatives from the Oregon Division of State Lands

578

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:31,000

were dispatched to Catherine's house to sort out her estate.

579

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:33,000

There's a place in pretty poor condition.

580

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:35,000

It really needs to be artwork.

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00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:36,000

That's for sure.

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00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:41,000

Almost no one had entered the house in the 10 years since her husband had died.

583

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:48,000

Oh, boy, look at this.

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00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:49,000

A mess.

585

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:54,000

Her home was unkept. It was cluttered. It was dirty. It was flea infested.

586

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:56,000

It's been like this.

587

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:03,000

It had an odor. It was as if a hermit had lived there.

588

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:08,000

Mr. Bennett's clothing was still draped over the back of the chairs in the bedroom.

589

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:12,000

You could hardly even walk through it. It was such a mess.

590

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Papers and bottles and trash and garbage and uneaten food.

591

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:21,000

She had several animals, cats. There was cat food everywhere and cat food tins.

592

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:26,000

The fleas were unreal. You could just fill them all over you as you walked in.

593

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:28,000

It was really bad.

594

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

Our first job is to locate a will or locate heirs.

595

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

And when we enter the home, we quickly sift through the personal papers,

596

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:42,000

looking for letters, insurance policies, anything that might lead to an heir.

597

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:47,000

The investigators never did find a will, but they were surprised to discover

598

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:51,000

that despite the surroundings, Catherine Bennett was anything but destitute.

599

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:56,000

They came across unopened social security checks dating back to 1981

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00:33:56,000 --> 00:34:00,000

and valued it more than \$30,000.

601

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

In addition to a large amount of loose change, they found a number of rare coins worth \$1,500.

602

00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:12,000

Finally, investigators discovered that Catherine had scurled away nearly \$60,000

603

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:14,000

and two separate bank accounts.

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00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:21,000

After her house was sold, the value of Catherine's estate rose to more than \$125,000.

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00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:27,000

Officials in Oregon have launched an extensive search for Catherine's heirs.

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00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:33,000

Because her husband is dead, state law requires that the estate go to the nearest blood relative.

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00:34:33,000 --> 00:34:39,000

What complicates the settling of Catherine's estate is the fact that almost nothing is known about her past.

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00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:43,000

And much of what is known is fraught with contradiction.

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00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:49,000

Catherine Bennett was born in Kansas City, Kansas in 1910.

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00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:54,000

She once told her in-laws that she was raised in a Catholic orphanage after the death of her parents.

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00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:59,000

However, in a document notarized in 1945, three years after she was married,

612

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:03,000

Catherine presented a completely different story about her life.

613

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:06,000

She declared that her father had died prior to her birth,

614

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:11,000

but that her mother was still alive and married to Joseph Faeback of Kansas City.

615

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:18,000

The document also made mention of a brother named Martin Erotovich.

616

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:48,000

On a previous broadcast, we brought you the baffling case of Alex Cooper,

617

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:53,000

a devoted husband and father of five who had disappeared without a trace.

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00:35:54,000 --> 00:36:01,000

In April of 1987, Cooper's car was discovered abandoned a few miles from his home in British Columbia, Canada.

619

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:06,000

Despite a massive search, no sign of him was ever found.

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00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:13,000

A year later, Alex Cooper was legally declared dead.

621

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:16,000

I'm calling in regards to Alex Cooper, birth certificate.

622

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:19,000

On his wife, Margaret, tried to obtain his birth certificate.

623

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:21,000

She made an unsettling discovery.

624

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:27,000

There were no official records in the name of her husband prior to their marriage in 1952.

625

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:33,000

As far as anyone could tell, Alex Cooper simply did not and had never existed.

626

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:41,000

Four years after he vanished, authorities learned that Alex Cooper was alive and well and living in Toronto, Canada.

627

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:45,000

But before he could be questioned, Cooper disappeared again.

628

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:47,000

I'd love to get him back.

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

I want to give him a real big hug and then I kind of want to give him a kick in the butt and then another big hug.

630

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:57,000

He's got this family that care about him.

631

00:36:57,000 --> 00:37:00,000

And if he's alive, he's going to be a great man.

632

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

He's a family that care about him.

633

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:09,000

And if he's out there living among strangers, he should rethink this thing.

634

00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:13,000

We deserve it. And so does he.

635

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:15,000

Who was Alex Cooper?

636

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:22,000

Why had he assumed an alias and, in essence, lived alive for more than 35 years?

637

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:29,000

Shortly after this story aired, a viewer in Hamilton, Canada recognized Alex Cooper and immediately called authorities.

638

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:34,000

During questioning, the mystery surrounding his life began to unravel.

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00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:40,000

Alex Cooper told police that his true name was Albin Arsenault.

640

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:48,000

In 1948, he was accused of robbing an office of the Canadian Pacific Railroad where he was employed at the time.

641

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:51,000

I was young and I panicked.

642

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:59,000

And I said to myself, there is no way I'm going to take the fall for this because I didn't do it.

643

00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:06,000

I took off at that time and I became Alex Cooper at that point.

644

00:38:06,000 --> 00:38:09,000

Four years later, Alex married Margaret.

645

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:15,000

He had no idea that any criminal charges that might have been filed against him had probably been dropped.

646

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:20,000

For more than 35 years, his true identity remained a secret.

647

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:27,000

Then, as a 65th birthday neared, Alex Cooper's past began to catch up.

648

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:34,000

I was due for pension and you required to submit a birth certificate.

649

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

I knew I couldn't produce one.

650

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

Several months prior to this, I knew this was coming up.

651

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:46,000

I couldn't bring myself about to tell my family.

652

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:49,000

So I walked away.

653

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:56,000

It was a snap decision and it was a run.

654

00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:07,000

Two days after his question by Hamilton authorities, Alex Cooper returned to British Columbia and was reunited with his family after more than five years.

655

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:14,000

We were a very close family and this has been very devastating for all of us since reading that.

656

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:24,000

I'm really hoping that we can work through this and put it back together if not the way it is, maybe something better.

657

00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:29,000

We can't pick up where we left off because things have changed.

658

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:33,000

But we're going to start fresh, take it a day at a time.

659

00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:40,000

The way I feel, I don't deserve for anybody to accept my apology.

660

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:49,000

What I'd done, abandonment of your family to me is one hell of a crime.

661

00:39:49,000 --> 00:40:00,000

And the biggest job for me at this point will be to make amends and I would say it'll probably take me the rest of my life.

662

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:18,000

Several months ago we profiled the case of Charles Morgan who was found dead in the remote Arizona desert.

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00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:21,000

He had been shot once in the back of the head.

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00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:28,000

The local sheriff's department ruled his death a suicide even though the medical examiner classified it as unsolved.

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00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:39,000

In the segment we interviewed Arizona journalist Don Devereaux who discovered evidence that Morgan had been part of an elaborate money laundering operation involving huge amounts of gold.

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00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:47,000

Devereaux believes Morgan did not commit suicide but was a victim of a professional contract killing.

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00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:52,000

When the segment aired we received hundreds of calls relating to Morgan's death.

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00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:58,000

Recording to Devereaux who continued his investigation many turned out to be productive leads.

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00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:07,000

Three months later a draftsman at a Phoenix computer company, Doug Johnston, was found dead in his car outside his office.

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00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:14,000

Johnston had been shot once behind the ear and police have suggested it was a possible suicide.

671

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:21,000

Curiously Johnston worked across the street from Don Devereaux's office and drove a car that almost exactly matched Devereaux's.

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00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:27,000

In fact Devereaux is now convinced that the bullet which killed Doug Johnston was intended for him.

673

00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:40,000

I got a phone call from a journalist friend of mine from Washington DC who had been briefed by a high level CIA official that in fact that was a botched hit.

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00:41:40,000 --> 00:41:46,000

That some people thought they were hitting me when they shot the guy across the street.

675

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:57,000

And in fact there was still a contract outstanding and it was coming around again that whatever I had done was still a problem to someone.

676

00:41:57,000 --> 00:42:06,000

Two other sources in the intelligence community have confirmed to Don Devereaux that he is a target for murder and that the next attempt will be made to look like an accident.

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00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:11,000

We'll bring you a full report on this intriguing case in the near future.

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00:42:16,000 --> 00:42:24,000

Join me next time for another intriguing edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

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00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:17,000

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