

1

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

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,680 --> 00:00:06,520

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:06,520 --> 00:00:09,400

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,400 --> 00:00:12,280

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

5

00:00:16,880 --> 00:00:20,560

It began as a weekend of fun and fun at a seaside Mexican

6

00:00:20,560 --> 00:00:21,600

resort.

7

00:00:21,600 --> 00:00:24,200

But after a heated argument with his girlfriend,

8

00:00:24,200 --> 00:00:26,320

Mario Amato found himself arrested

9

00:00:26,320 --> 00:00:28,360

for the crime of murdering a woman.

10

00:00:28,360 --> 00:00:31,360

Mario Amato found himself arrested for disorderly conduct

11

00:00:31,360 --> 00:00:33,480

and tossed into jail.

12

00:00:33,480 --> 00:00:35,720

Less than 90 minutes later, Mario

13

00:00:35,720 --> 00:00:40,480

was dead under the most suspicious of circumstances.

14

00:00:40,480 --> 00:00:44,040

September 1978, Catoosa, Oklahoma.

15

00:00:44,040 --> 00:00:46,800

Chief J.B. Hamby jumps into the middle of a robbery

16

00:00:46,800 --> 00:00:49,120

attempt and a shootout erupts.

17

00:00:49,120 --> 00:00:52,920

Moments later, Hamby dies as he recites the Lord's prayer.

18

00:00:52,920 --> 00:00:56,080

Perhaps you can help catch his killer.

19

00:00:56,080 --> 00:00:58,240

A decade ago, the Texas Oil Bowl made

20

00:00:58,240 --> 00:01:00,040

at Baker a millionaire.

21

00:01:00,040 --> 00:01:02,600

But in 1988, Baker's burned-out car

22

00:01:02,600 --> 00:01:04,720

was found in a remote rice field.

23

00:01:04,720 --> 00:01:07,760

And police said the body inside was at Baker's.

24

00:01:07,760 --> 00:01:11,320

Some believe it was suicide, but others are convinced it was

25

00:01:11,320 --> 00:01:13,880

murder.

26

00:01:13,880 --> 00:01:15,240

Join me tonight.

27

00:01:15,240 --> 00:01:17,640

You may be able to help solve a mystery.

28

00:01:56,080 --> 00:02:18,920

In Oklahoma, automobile license plates are distributed through

29

00:02:18,920 --> 00:02:22,600

privately owned franchises called tag agencies.

30

00:02:22,600 --> 00:02:25,400

These businesses keep little cash on hand.

31

00:02:25,440 --> 00:02:28,000

Nevertheless, they have become tantalizing targets

32

00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:30,600

for thieves who traffic in stolen cars.

33

00:02:34,680 --> 00:02:38,360

Just after 8 AM on September 1, 1978,

34

00:02:38,360 --> 00:02:41,600

two men pulled up in front of the tag agency in Catoosa,

35

00:02:41,600 --> 00:02:43,720

Oklahoma, a suburb of Tulsa.

36

00:02:47,960 --> 00:02:49,680

This a robbery?

37

00:02:49,680 --> 00:02:50,920

Get down on the ground, lady.

38

00:02:50,920 --> 00:02:54,040

Don't look at me.

39

00:02:54,040 --> 00:02:54,940

Come on.

40

00:02:54,940 --> 00:02:55,940

I'm being robbed.

41

00:02:55,940 --> 00:02:56,940

Call the police.

42

00:02:56,940 --> 00:02:57,940

Come on.

43

00:02:57,940 --> 00:02:59,940

Move!

44

00:02:59,940 --> 00:03:00,940

Keep your head down.

45

00:03:00,940 --> 00:03:01,940

Don't look at me, lady.

46

00:03:01,940 --> 00:03:02,940

Do not look at me, lady.

47

00:03:02,940 --> 00:03:03,940

Don't hurt me.

48

00:03:03,940 --> 00:03:04,940

Please.

49

00:03:04,940 --> 00:03:05,940

Shut up.

50

00:03:05,940 --> 00:03:06,940

Don't look at me.

51

00:03:06,940 --> 00:03:09,940

Chief, there's a robbery in progress at the Catoosa Tag

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00:03:09,940 --> 00:03:10,940

Agency.

53

00:03:10,940 --> 00:03:13,940

At least one employee inside, out.

54

00:03:13,940 --> 00:03:14,940

10-4.

55

00:03:14,940 --> 00:03:16,940

The only police officer in Catoosa was Chief J.B.

56

00:03:16,940 --> 00:03:19,940

Hamby, a 24-year veteran in law enforcement.

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00:03:19,940 --> 00:03:23,940

His devotion to duty was well known.

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00:03:23,940 --> 00:03:26,940

J.B. was on call all hours.

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00:03:26,940 --> 00:03:32,940

No sleep, come in, shower, change clothes, right back out.

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00:03:32,940 --> 00:03:35,940

For those people that was on the wrong side of the law,

61

00:03:35,940 --> 00:03:38,940

he could become probably their worst nightmare.

62

00:03:38,940 --> 00:03:39,940

He was relentless.

63

00:03:45,940 --> 00:03:46,940

Freeze!

64

00:03:46,940 --> 00:03:47,940

Get out of here!

65

00:03:54,940 --> 00:03:57,940

20 rounds ricocheted through the small store in a manner

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00:03:57,940 --> 00:03:58,940

of seconds.

67

00:03:58,940 --> 00:04:01,940

One robber was killed, the other was hit twice,

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00:04:01,940 --> 00:04:03,940

but somehow managed to escape.

69

00:04:03,940 --> 00:04:06,940

Miraculously, neither of the women in the tag agency

70

00:04:06,940 --> 00:04:07,940

had been hurt.

71

00:04:10,940 --> 00:04:12,940

Chief Hamby was not so lucky.

72

00:04:12,940 --> 00:04:17,940

He staggered from the agency, bleeding profusely.

73

00:04:17,940 --> 00:04:20,940

J.B. attempted to reload his gun.

74

00:04:20,940 --> 00:04:23,940

And at that point, he probably sensed that he was, you know,

75

00:04:23,940 --> 00:04:24,940

gravely injured.

76

00:04:24,940 --> 00:04:27,940

And from there, went right on in the laundry to get him help.

77

00:04:27,940 --> 00:04:28,940

He needed help.

78

00:04:28,940 --> 00:04:29,940

J.B.

79

00:04:29,940 --> 00:04:30,940

Fuck.

80

00:04:30,940 --> 00:04:31,940

It's all right.

81

00:04:31,940 --> 00:04:33,940

Call the ambulance.

82

00:04:33,940 --> 00:04:35,940

J.B., it's okay.

83

00:04:35,940 --> 00:04:36,940

It's all right.

84

00:04:36,940 --> 00:04:38,940

The ambulance is coming.

85

00:04:38,940 --> 00:04:40,940

Repeat after me, J.B., stay with me.

86

00:04:40,940 --> 00:04:41,940

Our father.

87

00:04:41,940 --> 00:04:42,940

Our father.

88

00:04:42,940 --> 00:04:43,940

Who are in heaven?

89

00:04:43,940 --> 00:04:44,940

Our father.

90

00:04:44,940 --> 00:04:46,940

How will be thy name?

91

00:04:46,940 --> 00:04:47,940

I'll be thy name.

92

00:04:47,940 --> 00:04:48,940

Thy kingdom come.

93

00:04:48,940 --> 00:04:49,940

Thy kingdom come.

94

00:04:49,940 --> 00:04:50,940

Thy kingdom come.

95

00:04:50,940 --> 00:04:52,940

I will be thy name.

96

00:04:52,940 --> 00:04:56,940

J.B. Hamby died, a four-year finished reciting the Lord's

97

00:04:56,940 --> 00:04:57,940

Prayer.

98

00:05:01,940 --> 00:05:03,940

One of the robbers was dead at the scene,

99

00:05:03,940 --> 00:05:06,940

shot through the head by his own ricocheting bullet.

100

00:05:06,940 --> 00:05:08,940

The second robber was apprehended two hours later,

101

00:05:08,940 --> 00:05:12,940

while being treated for gunshot wounds at a nearby hospital.

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00:05:12,940 --> 00:05:15,940

He was 25-year-old David Gordon Smith, the son of a prominent

103

00:05:15,940 --> 00:05:17,940

couple from Stillwater, Oklahoma.

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00:05:17,940 --> 00:05:20,940

At first, Smith thought he was being arrested only for armed

105

00:05:20,940 --> 00:05:21,940

robbery.

106

00:05:21,940 --> 00:05:25,940

Instead, David Gordon Smith was booked on charges of first-degree

107

00:05:25,940 --> 00:05:26,940

murder.

108

00:05:32,940 --> 00:05:36,940

On June 15, 1979, Smith began serving a life sentence in the

109

00:05:36,940 --> 00:05:38,940

Oklahoma prison system.

110

00:05:38,940 --> 00:05:41,940

Ballistics tests had proved that the bullet which killed Chief

111

00:05:41,940 --> 00:05:44,940

Hamby had been fired from Smith's gun.

112

00:05:45,940 --> 00:05:47,940

Open 43.

113

00:05:48,940 --> 00:05:52,940

It was so conclusive, I mean, beyond the shout of a doubt.

114

00:05:52,940 --> 00:05:54,940

They had everybody accounted for.

115

00:05:54,940 --> 00:05:56,940

They knew who's gun had come from.

116

00:05:56,940 --> 00:05:59,940

They knew where that person was at because of the line of

117

00:05:59,940 --> 00:06:00,940

trajectory.

118

00:06:00,940 --> 00:06:04,940

They had everybody placed in that office and who had what gun.

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00:06:04,940 --> 00:06:09,940

David Gordon Smith was a classic good boy gong bad, the son of a

120

00:06:09,940 --> 00:06:11,940

respected university professor.

121

00:06:11,940 --> 00:06:15,940

This had been his first and only brush with the law, and he set

122

00:06:15,940 --> 00:06:17,940

out to become a model prisoner.

123

00:06:18,940 --> 00:06:20,940

Smith was a good prisoner.

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00:06:20,940 --> 00:06:24,940

He was well-liked by the staff that had to deal with him.

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00:06:24,940 --> 00:06:28,940

He was also well-liked by the other inmates.

126

00:06:28,940 --> 00:06:32,940

And as he served his time and as his years grew and his behavior

127

00:06:32,940 --> 00:06:39,940

was excellent, he was, according to Oklahoma law, classified to

128

00:06:39,940 --> 00:06:41,940

a trustee status.

129

00:06:41,940 --> 00:06:47,940

And his job at the time was to monitor equipment at our lake.

130

00:06:50,940 --> 00:06:54,940

Smith was assigned to live and work all alone at a small

131

00:06:54,940 --> 00:06:56,940

water pumping station.

132

00:06:56,940 --> 00:06:59,940

He was checked every hour by a prison guard.

133

00:06:59,940 --> 00:07:02,940

On three separate occasions, Smith was granted unsupervised

134

00:07:02,940 --> 00:07:05,940

furloughs for doctors' appointments.

135

00:07:05,940 --> 00:07:09,940

On June 26, 1982, with the permission of prison authorities,

136

00:07:09,940 --> 00:07:11,940

he got married.

137

00:07:13,940 --> 00:07:16,940

I don't think there's any way by any stretch of the imagination

138

00:07:16,940 --> 00:07:19,940

that he deserved any sort of lenient treatment.

139

00:07:19,940 --> 00:07:21,940

I think it's unheard of.

140

00:07:21,940 --> 00:07:24,940

You know, I think he should have got the death penalty.

141

00:07:24,940 --> 00:07:27,940

I think he should have got maximum, you know, hard time.

142

00:07:27,940 --> 00:07:29,940

I could have lived with that.

143

00:07:30,940 --> 00:07:34,940

David Gordon Smith, you're serving a life sentence for murder of a police

144

00:07:34,940 --> 00:07:35,940

officer.

145

00:07:35,940 --> 00:07:39,940

In 1984, a full ten years ahead of schedule, David Gordon Smith

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00:07:39,940 --> 00:07:41,940

was granted a parole hearing.

147

00:07:41,940 --> 00:07:45,940

What have you done while in prison to make yourself fit for society once again?

148

00:07:45,940 --> 00:07:49,940

I've got a job since I've been in prison with a clean conduct record.

149

00:07:49,940 --> 00:07:51,940

I've married.

150

00:07:51,940 --> 00:07:54,940

And should I be paroled, my wife would be a support for me.

151

00:07:54,940 --> 00:07:56,940

I've been going to church and I have a strong faith in God.

152

00:07:56,940 --> 00:08:00,940

I began to think how he would attempt to sell somebody that, you know,

153

00:08:00,940 --> 00:08:03,940

he was Joe's clean citizen, you know.

154

00:08:03,940 --> 00:08:07,940

I think he was seeing that there was such an outcry from the public

155

00:08:07,940 --> 00:08:14,940

and friends and law enforcement that he was fighting an uphill battle.

156

00:08:14,940 --> 00:08:20,940

I have recorded four name votes in the parole recommendation of David Gordon Smith.

157

00:08:20,940 --> 00:08:23,940

Smith failed in his parole attempt.

158

00:08:23,940 --> 00:08:27,940

However, he retained trustee status and continued his job at the lake.

159

00:08:27,940 --> 00:08:29,940

Next inmate, please.

160

00:08:30,940 --> 00:08:34,940

For more than a year, Smith remained a model prisoner.

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00:08:34,940 --> 00:08:39,940

But then on October 28th, 1985, a prison guard stopped for his regular

162

00:08:39,940 --> 00:08:42,940

1 a.m. check of Smith's sleeping quarters.

163

00:08:49,940 --> 00:08:56,940

The model prisoner, David Gordon Smith, had made a clean getaway.

164

00:08:56,940 --> 00:09:03,940

He probably walked from the room at the lake out to the nearest highway,

165

00:09:03,940 --> 00:09:09,940

a mile or so away, where Joe Beth, his wife, picked him up.

166

00:09:09,940 --> 00:09:14,940

They went into McAllister, which is a mile or so from the prison,

167

00:09:14,940 --> 00:09:17,940

and may owe two letters. We know that.

168

00:09:18,940 --> 00:09:21,940

Authorities learned that one week before the escape,

169

00:09:21,940 --> 00:09:25,940

Smith's wife had closed out her bank account, sold her furniture,

170

00:09:25,940 --> 00:09:27,940

and borrowed \$1,000 from friends.

171

00:09:27,940 --> 00:09:30,940

She told a travel agent she was going to Mexico.

172

00:09:30,940 --> 00:09:33,940

She never mentioned her husband.

173

00:09:34,940 --> 00:09:37,940

Then four months later, in February of 1986,

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00:09:37,940 --> 00:09:41,940

David Gordon Smith was cited with a female companion in Arkansas,

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00:09:41,940 --> 00:09:45,940

just 90 miles from the prison where he had been incarcerated.

176

00:09:45,940 --> 00:09:50,940

The authorities were notified, but by the time they arrived, Smith had vanished.

177

00:09:51,940 --> 00:09:56,940

I believe that David Gordon Smith is still dangerous today.

178

00:09:56,940 --> 00:10:00,940

He will do whatever is necessary to try to escape, again,

179

00:10:00,940 --> 00:10:04,940

if confronted by either law enforcement or by a private citizen.

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00:10:04,940 --> 00:10:09,940

That's why I would recommend that no private citizen try to apprehend him,

181

00:10:09,940 --> 00:10:12,940

because I believe that he probably is armed.

182

00:10:14,940 --> 00:10:18,940

I want to see David Gordon Smith serve his time.

183

00:10:18,940 --> 00:10:22,940

I just think it's one of the most unjust things that could ever happen.

184

00:10:24,940 --> 00:10:28,940

J.B. lived his job as a police officer 24 hours a day,

185

00:10:28,940 --> 00:10:33,940

a very intense person that took his job extremely serious.

186

00:10:35,940 --> 00:10:39,940

For a man that stood up for so many things, for so many people,

187

00:10:39,940 --> 00:10:43,940

on the right side of the law, that loss can never be filled,

188

00:10:43,940 --> 00:10:45,940

and I just don't think it's fair.

189

00:10:46,940 --> 00:10:50,940

When we first aired this story last October, we received more than 75 leads,

190

00:10:50,940 --> 00:10:52,940

but none of them panned out.

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00:10:52,940 --> 00:10:56,940

However, one thing we have learned on unsolved mysteries over the years

192

00:10:56,940 --> 00:10:58,940

is never to give up.

193

00:10:58,940 --> 00:11:02,940

The story aired again in March, and this time in a small South Dakota town

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00:11:02,940 --> 00:11:04,940

the right viewer was watching.

195

00:11:04,940 --> 00:11:09,940

He called the local authorities, and they immediately contacted the FBI.

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00:11:10,940 --> 00:11:15,940

One day following the airing of the David Gordon Smith case on unsolved mysteries,

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00:11:15,940 --> 00:11:20,940

an anonymous tip was received giving us his location.

198

00:11:21,940 --> 00:11:28,940

He was working as a service manager in an automobile dealership in Spearfish, South Dakota.

199

00:11:28,940 --> 00:11:35,940

Agents of the FBI, local authorities in South Dakota went to his place of employment.

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00:11:35,940 --> 00:11:41,940

He was arrested without incident, and he readily admitted his identity and went questioning.

201

00:11:44,940 --> 00:11:51,940

When David Gordon Smith is brought back to Oklahoma, he'll go immediately into our system.

202

00:11:51,940 --> 00:11:58,940

He'll be classified as a maximum security inmate, and because of his escape,

203

00:11:58,940 --> 00:12:04,940

he will be in our maximum security prison for a long time.

204

00:12:06,940 --> 00:12:08,940

There's a tremendous amount of relief.

205

00:12:08,940 --> 00:12:16,940

It was equivalent to a long-term, gigantic debt being paid off.

206

00:12:35,940 --> 00:12:46,940

For thousands of American tourists, the breathtaking sunsets of Mexico

207

00:12:46,940 --> 00:12:50,940

have always been an invitation for romance, fantasy and adventure.

208

00:12:50,940 --> 00:12:57,940

In June of 1992, Joe Amato and his younger brother Mario left Los Angeles with their girlfriends.

209

00:12:57,940 --> 00:13:04,940

They were headed to Rosarita Beach, Mexico, a popular seaside resort 35 miles south of San Diego.

210

00:13:04,940 --> 00:13:09,940

But their weekend in the sun would soon disintegrate into a nightmare.

211

00:13:09,940 --> 00:13:14,940

The next day, Mario Amato was arrested after a fight with his girlfriend.

212

00:13:14,940 --> 00:13:16,940

He had a father here.

213

00:13:16,940 --> 00:13:20,940

90 minutes later, he was dead.

214

00:13:20,940 --> 00:13:25,940

The local authorities claimed that Mario had committed suicide.

215

00:13:25,940 --> 00:13:28,940

I say it was murder.

216

00:13:28,940 --> 00:13:29,940

Plain murder.

217

00:13:29,940 --> 00:13:34,940

And I knew that from the beginning, because I know my brother very well.

218

00:13:34,940 --> 00:13:37,940

I mean, they stole his life away from him.

219

00:13:37,940 --> 00:13:40,940

And we're going to get to the bottom of this.

220

00:13:42,940 --> 00:13:46,940

Mario Amato is not the first American tourist to die in a foreign jail.

221

00:13:46,940 --> 00:13:51,940

His family is not the first to be haunted by the vague details of an official investigation.

222

00:13:51,940 --> 00:13:55,940

In such cases, facts or few and clues are hard to come by.

223

00:13:55,940 --> 00:14:01,940

However, Mario's brother is determined to learn exactly what happened to him during his brief captivity.

224

00:14:01,940 --> 00:14:08,940

As a result of Joe Amato's efforts, this potentially explosive case has sparked the interest of high-level government officials,

225

00:14:08,940 --> 00:14:12,940

including an American congressman and the president of Mexico.

226

00:14:17,940 --> 00:14:23,940

The Amato brothers arrived in Rosarita Beach just after 1 a.m. on June 6, 1992.

227

00:14:23,940 --> 00:14:29,940

They were staying at a condo owned by a relative of Mario's girlfriend, whom we will call Paula.

228

00:14:29,940 --> 00:14:34,940

Joe and his girlfriend Debbie eagerly accepted an invitation to come along.

229

00:14:34,940 --> 00:14:38,940

The two couples immediately broke out at Tequila.

230

00:14:38,940 --> 00:14:41,940

I said, well, what are we here for?

231

00:14:41,940 --> 00:14:43,940

To party.

232

00:14:43,940 --> 00:14:44,940

Let's have a good time.

233

00:14:44,940 --> 00:14:48,940

Everybody sat around and we started having our drinks.

234

00:14:48,940 --> 00:14:54,940

And I guess it was later on about 3.34 o'clock.

235

00:14:54,940 --> 00:14:59,940

And I was getting kind of tired and told Debbie it's time to go to bed.

236

00:14:59,940 --> 00:15:01,940

Kidding, stop it!

237

00:15:01,940 --> 00:15:07,940

About 7 o'clock we woke up and they were still up and they were bickering.

238

00:15:09,940 --> 00:15:11,940

I want to leave now.

239

00:15:11,940 --> 00:15:13,940

I want to go home. She's driving me crazy.

240

00:15:13,940 --> 00:15:15,940

Oh, Mario.

241

00:15:15,940 --> 00:15:19,940

Go to bed. Go to sleep, huh?

242

00:15:19,940 --> 00:15:32,940

I felt very disturbed because I know Mario liked this girl very much and he wouldn't have wanted to leave if it wasn't something serious that he felt that he just didn't want to stay.

243

00:15:32,940 --> 00:15:35,940

Hit the bar, have a couple drinks.

244

00:15:35,940 --> 00:15:41,940

By late the next morning, Mario and Paula had apparently patched up their differences.

245

00:15:41,940 --> 00:15:43,940

That was the last time I saw him alive.

246

00:15:43,940 --> 00:15:45,940

Hey Mario, leave the key underneath the mat.

247

00:15:45,940 --> 00:15:51,940

But I can still remember like expression on his face. He seemed very happy, like nothing was wrong.

248

00:15:54,940 --> 00:15:59,940

That afternoon, Joe and Debbie took a romantic drive along the coast of Baja, California.

249

00:15:59,940 --> 00:16:04,940

They assumed that Mario and Paula were getting along fine.

250

00:16:04,940 --> 00:16:07,940

I want you and your brother out of here. I never want to see you again.

251

00:16:07,940 --> 00:16:10,940

I can't believe it. This is your idea of a fun time out here.

252

00:16:10,940 --> 00:16:12,940

What are you talking about?

253

00:16:12,940 --> 00:16:15,940

I can't believe this.

254

00:16:15,940 --> 00:16:18,940

Hey, can I have some clothes, please?

255

00:16:21,940 --> 00:16:23,940

Yes, I want my clothes.

256

00:16:23,940 --> 00:16:25,940

Thank you.

257

00:16:34,940 --> 00:16:36,940

What's going on here, kid?

258

00:16:36,940 --> 00:16:37,940

What's your name?

259

00:16:37,940 --> 00:16:39,940

My name is Mario Amado.

260

00:16:39,940 --> 00:16:40,940

I'm out again.

261

00:16:40,940 --> 00:16:42,940

No, no, no. I don't speak Spanish, officer.

262

00:16:42,940 --> 00:16:44,940

Well, somebody gets called and they even got some problems.

263

00:16:44,940 --> 00:16:45,940

I'm stuck here.

264

00:16:45,940 --> 00:16:47,940

Fine, but look, did you make a call?

265

00:16:47,940 --> 00:16:53,940

Mario was arrested for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct and taken to the police station.

266

00:16:58,940 --> 00:17:02,940

Mario was placed in a holding cell but never formally charged with a crime.

267

00:17:03,940 --> 00:17:05,940

Look at me, yummy.

268

00:17:05,940 --> 00:17:07,940

Mario?

269

00:17:07,940 --> 00:17:08,940

Mario?

270

00:17:08,940 --> 00:17:12,940

At around 6.30 p.m., Joe and Debbie returned to the beach house.

271

00:17:12,940 --> 00:17:16,940

They were surprised to find a vacant and the key under the mat missing.

272

00:17:16,940 --> 00:17:19,940

Listen, there was some trouble here before the police came.

273

00:17:19,940 --> 00:17:25,940

A man from the condominium complex explained that there had been problems there a few hours earlier.

274

00:17:25,940 --> 00:17:27,940

The police came?

275

00:17:28,940 --> 00:17:31,940

Debbie crawled through a window to get inside.

276

00:17:31,940 --> 00:17:36,940

Almost immediately, four police officers showed up, asking for Paula by name.

277

00:17:36,940 --> 00:17:38,940

What's wrong? What's going on?

278

00:17:38,940 --> 00:17:39,940

She's looking for Paula.

279

00:17:39,940 --> 00:17:40,940

She's not here.

280

00:17:40,940 --> 00:17:42,940

Do you know what she might be?

281

00:17:42,940 --> 00:17:43,940

Is there something wrong?

282

00:17:43,940 --> 00:17:45,940

No, no. We would just like to ask her a couple of questions.

283

00:17:45,940 --> 00:17:47,940

Did you try the bar down the street?

284

00:17:47,940 --> 00:17:48,940

No, sir, no, we did not.

285

00:17:48,940 --> 00:17:49,940

Do you continue, yeah?

286

00:17:49,940 --> 00:17:51,940

Yeah, right next to her.

287

00:17:51,940 --> 00:17:52,940

Gracias.

288

00:17:52,940 --> 00:17:58,940

And that's when Debbie really started getting suspicious right about that time.

289

00:17:58,940 --> 00:18:00,940

She followed him down to the bar.

290

00:18:00,940 --> 00:18:05,940

She got in, put her clothes on and got ready and went right down to the bar

291

00:18:05,940 --> 00:18:08,940

and they were looking for her frantically.

292

00:18:08,940 --> 00:18:11,940

A little later, Mario's girlfriend does come.

293

00:18:11,940 --> 00:18:17,940

Just waltzing in the house and like nothing was wrong.

294

00:18:17,940 --> 00:18:21,940

And we asked her where's Mario and she said she didn't know.

295

00:18:21,940 --> 00:18:23,940

He's probably in some gutter somewhere.

296

00:18:23,940 --> 00:18:25,940

Oh, some gutter. Real cute. Real cute.

297

00:18:25,940 --> 00:18:26,940

Paula.

298

00:18:26,940 --> 00:18:29,940

Two hours after Paula returned, a group of detectives arrived.

299

00:18:29,940 --> 00:18:36,940

Joe still had no idea that his brother had been arrested.

300

00:18:36,940 --> 00:18:39,940

I am looking for the brother of Vicente Amador.

301

00:18:39,940 --> 00:18:43,940

I'm sorry, but we don't know Vicente Amador.

302

00:18:43,940 --> 00:18:45,940

You don't know Vicente Amador?

303

00:18:45,940 --> 00:18:49,940

My brother's name Mario Vicente Amador.

304

00:18:49,940 --> 00:18:51,940

Yes, that's him.

305

00:18:51,940 --> 00:18:54,940

I'm Sergeant Tinoco. I have some bad news.

306

00:18:54,940 --> 00:18:56,940

Your brother is dead.

307

00:19:00,940 --> 00:19:02,940

Sorry.

308

00:19:03,940 --> 00:19:05,940

What happened to my brother?

309

00:19:05,940 --> 00:19:07,940

It's better if you come with us.

310

00:19:07,940 --> 00:19:09,940

We should talk about it in my office.

311

00:19:09,940 --> 00:19:13,940

The first thing that went through my mind is they made a mistake.

312

00:19:14,940 --> 00:19:16,940

Maybe they didn't make a mistake,

313

00:19:16,940 --> 00:19:18,940

but I was hoping they had made a mistake

314

00:19:18,940 --> 00:19:21,940

and I was just in disbelief that this could be happening.

315

00:19:21,940 --> 00:19:23,940

It's like a nightmare.

316

00:19:23,940 --> 00:19:27,940

Please sit down. I need you to identify some pictures here.

317

00:19:29,940 --> 00:19:33,940

Now, is this your brother?

318

00:19:38,940 --> 00:19:41,940

The first thing I see is Marilane on the concrete.

319

00:19:41,940 --> 00:19:45,940

His eyes closed, no shirt, just his pants.

320

00:19:45,940 --> 00:19:49,940

And the jail door, and then at that time he says,

321

00:19:49,940 --> 00:19:52,940

well, how could this happen? I asked him.

322

00:19:52,940 --> 00:19:55,940

Why isn't he wearing a sweater?

323

00:19:55,940 --> 00:19:57,940

That's how he killed himself.

324

00:19:57,940 --> 00:19:58,940

What?

325

00:19:58,940 --> 00:20:00,940

He tied her around his neck

326

00:20:00,940 --> 00:20:03,940

and then he tied it around the crossbar and hung.

327

00:20:03,940 --> 00:20:06,940

Where was this crossbar?

328

00:20:06,940 --> 00:20:08,940

About three feet off the ground.

329

00:20:08,940 --> 00:20:10,940

Three feet?

330

00:20:10,940 --> 00:20:13,940

It was very drunk and very heavy.

331

00:20:13,940 --> 00:20:16,940

Oh, come on. How do you hang yourself from three feet?

332

00:20:16,940 --> 00:20:18,940

So I asked if I was in anybody in the jail.

333

00:20:18,940 --> 00:20:20,940

I would have stopped him from doing this.

334

00:20:20,940 --> 00:20:22,940

He says, oh, no, they're all sleeping.

335

00:20:22,940 --> 00:20:27,940

He says, four guys sleeping at 5.30 in the afternoon.

336

00:20:27,940 --> 00:20:29,940

I was just couldn't believe that.

337

00:20:29,940 --> 00:20:32,940

Right away, I knew there was something wrong.

338

00:20:32,940 --> 00:20:34,940

And I said, well, how did he kill himself?

339

00:20:34,940 --> 00:20:37,940

Oh, with his sweater. And I'm going, no, no, no, no.

340

00:20:38,940 --> 00:20:41,940

You can't kill yourself with a sweater.

341

00:20:41,940 --> 00:20:43,940

From where?

342

00:20:43,940 --> 00:20:45,940

Oh, from the cell door.

343

00:20:45,940 --> 00:20:48,940

And I go, no, no, right away.

344

00:20:48,940 --> 00:20:51,940

I mean, everything wasn't right.

345

00:20:51,940 --> 00:20:56,940

Mario Amado died three months short of his 30th birthday.

346

00:20:56,940 --> 00:20:59,940

Joe Amado was forced to return to the United States

347

00:20:59,940 --> 00:21:01,940

without his brother.

348

00:21:01,940 --> 00:21:04,940

The Mexican authorities refused to release the body

349

00:21:04,940 --> 00:21:06,940

until after they had completed their autopsy

350

00:21:06,940 --> 00:21:11,940

and they would not tell Joe when that would happen.

351

00:21:11,940 --> 00:21:14,940

Within a week, the Mexican autopsy was completed.

352

00:21:14,940 --> 00:21:18,940

It listed the cause of death as a loss of oxygen to the brain,

353

00:21:18,940 --> 00:21:21,940

the result of Mario hanging himself.

354

00:21:21,940 --> 00:21:24,940

Joe Amado believed that was preposterous

355

00:21:24,940 --> 00:21:27,940

and contacted his congressman.

356

00:21:27,940 --> 00:21:32,940

The Mexican autopsy confirmed the report of the jailers in Tijuana

357

00:21:32,940 --> 00:21:36,940

that Mario Amado had hung himself with his own sweater.

358

00:21:36,940 --> 00:21:40,940

When you take the notion of a report from a local

359

00:21:40,940 --> 00:21:43,940

foreign authority that a prisoner killed himself,

360

00:21:43,940 --> 00:21:47,940

it always makes sense to view that kind of report

361

00:21:47,940 --> 00:21:49,940

with some suspicion.

362

00:21:49,940 --> 00:21:53,940

This is the oldest excuse for a jail murder

363

00:21:53,940 --> 00:21:57,940

that's ever given as that the prisoner hung himself.

364

00:21:58,940 --> 00:22:02,940

As soon as his brother's body was returned to the United States,

365

00:22:02,940 --> 00:22:05,940

Joe Amado hired an independent pathologist

366

00:22:05,940 --> 00:22:07,940

to conduct a second autopsy.

367

00:22:07,940 --> 00:22:11,940

The autopsy concluded that internal injuries to Mario's liver

368

00:22:11,940 --> 00:22:15,940

were strong evidence that he had been punched in the upper abdomen.

369

00:22:15,940 --> 00:22:18,940

The report stated that in light of such injuries,

370

00:22:18,940 --> 00:22:23,940

quote, the victim would not likely have been able to hang himself.

371

00:22:24,940 --> 00:22:28,940

Mario Amado was undoubtedly and most likely hung at that time

372

00:22:28,940 --> 00:22:31,940

with an instrument, not his sweater,

373

00:22:31,940 --> 00:22:36,940

but some other instrument to use as the pretext

374

00:22:36,940 --> 00:22:41,940

for the obvious abuse and finally the murder that took place.

375

00:22:44,940 --> 00:22:46,940

Ultimately, the Los Angeles County Coroner

376

00:22:46,940 --> 00:22:49,940

reviewed both the American and Mexican autopsy reports.

377

00:22:49,940 --> 00:22:54,940

He determined that Mario Amado had probably been murdered.

378

00:22:54,940 --> 00:22:57,940

There is one other disturbing element in this case,

379

00:22:57,940 --> 00:23:01,940

the fact that Mexican authorities violated international agreements

380

00:23:01,940 --> 00:23:04,940

by not contacting the U.S. consulate

381

00:23:04,940 --> 00:23:08,940

as quickly as possible following Mario's death.

382

00:23:08,940 --> 00:23:12,940

You start to see a picture of a cover-up starting to take place.

383

00:23:12,940 --> 00:23:16,940

The people involved in this incident did not want authorities

384

00:23:16,940 --> 00:23:20,940

coming quickly to the scene of the crime

385

00:23:20,940 --> 00:23:23,940

and they wanted the period of time to elapse.

386

00:23:23,940 --> 00:23:25,940

They hoped that Joe Amado would forget about it.

387

00:23:25,940 --> 00:23:27,940

His brother was dead.

388

00:23:27,940 --> 00:23:31,940

He'd go back to the United States and drop the whole issue.

389

00:23:31,940 --> 00:23:35,940

They usually do it a very speedy way

390

00:23:35,940 --> 00:23:42,940

when there is no relative or friend when a foreign person dies.

391

00:23:42,940 --> 00:23:45,940

But when the family is there, the friends are there.

392

00:23:45,940 --> 00:23:50,940

I mean, they just do it by letter, days after, you know.

393

00:23:53,940 --> 00:23:56,940

Eventually, Congressman Berman contacted the President of Mexico,

394

00:23:56,940 --> 00:23:59,940

Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

395

00:23:59,940 --> 00:24:02,940

The President promised to reopen the investigation

396

00:24:02,940 --> 00:24:04,940

and in January of 1993,

397

00:24:04,940 --> 00:24:09,940

the body of Mario Amado was exhumed for yet another autopsy.

398

00:24:09,940 --> 00:24:13,940

The truth is going to come out of the full investigation

399

00:24:13,940 --> 00:24:17,940

that we are making with the American government,

400

00:24:17,940 --> 00:24:20,940

that we asked them to cooperate in the reason that witnesses

401

00:24:20,940 --> 00:24:23,940

and the evidence were here in the States.

402

00:24:23,940 --> 00:24:25,940

The truth will come out.

403

00:24:25,940 --> 00:24:31,940

I'd like to see the people that committed the crime suffer for it

404

00:24:31,940 --> 00:24:34,940

because we're suffering and somebody's got to suffer also.

405

00:24:34,940 --> 00:24:37,940

You know, they're just not going to go away.

406

00:24:37,940 --> 00:24:40,940

It's just something that's going to be there

407

00:24:40,940 --> 00:24:43,940

and I'm going to ruin their lives just like they've ruined mine

408

00:24:43,940 --> 00:24:45,940

and our family, you know.

409

00:24:45,940 --> 00:24:47,940

Somebody's got to pay, you know.

410

00:25:10,940 --> 00:25:15,940

When we return, the mysterious final days of the Texas Oil Millionaire.

411

00:25:28,940 --> 00:25:31,940

November 8th, 1985,

412

00:25:31,940 --> 00:25:34,940

in a remote rice field 20 miles outside Houston, Texas,

413

00:25:34,940 --> 00:25:38,940

flames ravaged an expensive Jaguar sedan.

414

00:25:41,940 --> 00:25:45,940

Inside Sheriff's deputies found a charred human body

415

00:25:45,940 --> 00:25:48,940

so disfigured that even the gender was not apparent,

416

00:25:48,940 --> 00:25:53,940

so completely burned that his weight was reduced to 32 pounds.

417

00:25:53,940 --> 00:25:57,940

The car was registered to a millionaire oil well promoter from Houston,

418

00:25:57,940 --> 00:25:59,940

Edward Gerald Baker.

419

00:25:59,940 --> 00:26:03,940

Eventually forensic tests indicated with near certainty

420

00:26:03,940 --> 00:26:06,940

that the body was indeed Ed Bakers.

421

00:26:07,940 --> 00:26:12,940

Ed Baker personified Texas in the 1980s, powerful, bold and rich.

422

00:26:12,940 --> 00:26:15,940

A one-time shoe salesman and insurance agent,

423

00:26:15,940 --> 00:26:19,940

he built a multimillion dollar oil investment business seemingly overnight.

424

00:26:19,940 --> 00:26:23,940

Then in 1985, Baker's world came to a fiery end.

425

00:26:23,940 --> 00:26:27,940

However, even now, the exact circumstances of his death are disputed.

426

00:26:27,940 --> 00:26:29,940

Some believe he took his own life.

427

00:26:29,940 --> 00:26:31,940

Others have certainly was murdered.

428

00:26:31,940 --> 00:26:34,940

Incredibly, a few people have been killed.

429

00:26:34,940 --> 00:26:39,940

Incredibly, a few people even think Ed Baker may still be alive.

430

00:26:41,940 --> 00:26:46,940

Ed Baker seemed an unlikely person to be at the center of such a deadly puzzle.

431

00:26:46,940 --> 00:26:49,940

His company Vanguard Groups International

432

00:26:49,940 --> 00:26:53,940

was one of the fastest growing businesses in the United States.

433

00:26:54,940 --> 00:26:58,940

I watched him build that company from the ground up,

434

00:26:58,940 --> 00:27:05,940

and I think that he always knew he had the potential to have a very successful business.

435

00:27:05,940 --> 00:27:10,940

And I think he tried his best to manage that business, honestly,

436

00:27:10,940 --> 00:27:12,940

and with a great deal of integrity.

437

00:27:13,940 --> 00:27:17,940

Ed Baker started promoting oil well exploration in 1980.

438

00:27:17,940 --> 00:27:19,940

His timing was perfect.

439

00:27:22,940 --> 00:27:24,940

Houston was booming.

440

00:27:24,940 --> 00:27:26,940

After his first oil wells came in,

441

00:27:26,940 --> 00:27:31,940

Baker had no trouble selling his clever tax shelters to wealthy investors.

442

00:27:31,940 --> 00:27:33,940

Okay, but here's the kicker. Here's the kicker, Frank.

443

00:27:33,940 --> 00:27:36,940

I'm going to guarantee eight to ten wells per package.

444

00:27:36,940 --> 00:27:39,940

The income from those wells is going to pay off that promissory note.

445

00:27:39,940 --> 00:27:41,940

People tended to trust him.

446

00:27:41,940 --> 00:27:46,940

He was acknowledged as a pretty brilliant strategist

447

00:27:46,940 --> 00:27:53,940

when it came to developing these little tax shelter programs at that time.

448

00:27:53,940 --> 00:27:57,940

Now, the laws have changed since then, but at that time it was brilliant.

449

00:27:58,940 --> 00:28:00,940

When Ed Baker founded Vanguard,

450

00:28:00,940 --> 00:28:03,940

his wife Mary was one of only three employees,

451

00:28:03,940 --> 00:28:06,940

and cardboard boxes served as their file cabinets.

452

00:28:06,940 --> 00:28:12,940

Four years later, Vanguard sales its skyrocketed to \$19 million.

453

00:28:16,940 --> 00:28:20,940

The flood of wealth prompted drastic changes in Ed Baker's life.

454

00:28:21,940 --> 00:28:25,940

In March of 1984, he divorced Mary, his wife of ten years.

455

00:28:27,940 --> 00:28:31,940

Soon after, he began to indulge a taste for high-stakes gambling.

456

00:28:32,940 --> 00:28:34,940

Baker also underwent two facelifts,

457

00:28:34,940 --> 00:28:38,940

took disco lessons, and purchased a flashy new Jaguar.

458

00:28:39,940 --> 00:28:42,940

In September of 1984, Baker remarried,

459

00:28:42,940 --> 00:28:44,940

only to file for divorce five months later.

460

00:28:44,940 --> 00:28:47,940

Just four days after the dissolution was final,

461

00:28:47,940 --> 00:28:50,940

he married Sandy Hoff, one of his employees at Vanguard.

462

00:28:51,940 --> 00:28:55,940

All the while, Baker's financial empire was disintegrating.

463

00:29:02,940 --> 00:29:05,940

At the time, Lord Boosie was Ed Baker's personal attorney.

464

00:29:06,940 --> 00:29:09,940

In 1985, when the oil industry heard a lot of people in Houston,

465

00:29:09,940 --> 00:29:12,940

people stopped investing in deals that Ed was selling.

466

00:29:12,940 --> 00:29:16,940

And as it turns out, he was borrowing from a lot of his investors.

467

00:29:17,940 --> 00:29:20,940

To sustain his lifestyle, always, I believe, assuming

468

00:29:20,940 --> 00:29:23,940

that he was going to be able to repay the people that he borrowed from,

469

00:29:23,940 --> 00:29:25,940

from the next group of folks.

470

00:29:25,940 --> 00:29:28,940

Sooner or later, there was not a next group of folks.

471

00:29:29,940 --> 00:29:32,940

He was looking at some serious charges from a lot of his investors.

472

00:29:32,940 --> 00:29:36,940

He was looking at, turns out, serious tax problems.

473

00:29:36,940 --> 00:29:40,940

It may have been very true that he was about to go to jail.

474

00:29:41,940 --> 00:29:45,940

By October of 1985, Baker's investors were clamoring for money,

475

00:29:45,940 --> 00:29:48,940

but Vanguard was on the edge of bankruptcy.

476

00:29:48,940 --> 00:29:51,940

Baker allegedly arranged a desperately needed cash bailout

477

00:29:51,940 --> 00:29:53,940

from a highly suspect source.

478

00:29:53,940 --> 00:29:55,940

Bob, Ed, we need to talk.

479

00:29:55,940 --> 00:29:57,940

Not on the phone, OK?

480

00:29:57,940 --> 00:30:00,940

Then he brought in his private investigator.

481

00:30:00,940 --> 00:30:04,940

I got a new impression from Ed, he was talking big money, such as millions.

482

00:30:04,940 --> 00:30:06,940

Let me get back with you, OK?

483

00:30:06,940 --> 00:30:09,940

And he thought maybe we'd have to do a little background

484

00:30:09,940 --> 00:30:14,940

on these individuals that he was preparing to have some money.

485

00:30:15,940 --> 00:30:19,940

I'm not sure what he was doing, but he was doing some financial

486

00:30:19,940 --> 00:30:24,940

dealings with in Florida, because he'd heard that they, or,

487

00:30:24,940 --> 00:30:28,940

yes, he had heard that they had some sort of mafia connections.

488

00:30:28,940 --> 00:30:30,940

What took you so long?

489

00:30:30,940 --> 00:30:32,940

I took the back roads.

490

00:30:32,940 --> 00:30:35,940

Ed Baker seemed unable to reverse his downward spiral.

491

00:30:35,940 --> 00:30:38,940

On November 6th, at around 7.30 p.m.,

492

00:30:38,940 --> 00:30:40,940

he showed up at his ex-wife, Mary's house,

493

00:30:40,940 --> 00:30:43,940

in a state of emotional disarray.

494

00:30:43,940 --> 00:30:47,940

He was afraid he was being followed,

495

00:30:47,940 --> 00:30:51,940

and this was very unusual for him to behave this way.

496

00:30:51,940 --> 00:30:55,940

It didn't fit what I normally knew.

497

00:30:55,940 --> 00:30:59,940

Now, tell me what this is all about.

498

00:30:59,940 --> 00:31:03,940

I really didn't want to get you involved with this, Mary.

499

00:31:03,940 --> 00:31:08,940

He told me that he had received death threat letters at work

500

00:31:08,940 --> 00:31:10,940

within the past two weeks,

501

00:31:10,940 --> 00:31:15,940

and that that day he had received two telephone calls

502

00:31:15,940 --> 00:31:18,940

at his unlisted home number, telling him,

503

00:31:18,940 --> 00:31:20,940

this is your day to die.

504

00:31:20,940 --> 00:31:21,940

Who was it?

505

00:31:21,940 --> 00:31:22,940

I don't know.

506

00:31:22,940 --> 00:31:26,940

He was taking it seriously, that he was really threatened

507

00:31:26,940 --> 00:31:28,940

at that point.

508

00:31:28,940 --> 00:31:30,940

Why don't you call the police?

509

00:31:30,940 --> 00:31:31,940

I can't do that, Mary.

510

00:31:31,940 --> 00:31:33,940

The police won't do anything until something happens.

511

00:31:33,940 --> 00:31:34,940

Well, don't go home.

512

00:31:34,940 --> 00:31:36,940

We're in a hotel room.

513

00:31:36,940 --> 00:31:37,940

Stay with me.

514

00:31:37,940 --> 00:31:38,940

I can't do that, Mary.

515

00:31:38,940 --> 00:31:40,940

I have to be home tonight to take a call from Sandy.

516

00:31:40,940 --> 00:31:42,940

She'd be worried if I wasn't there.

517

00:31:42,940 --> 00:31:45,940

And he got in his car and drove away,

518

00:31:45,940 --> 00:31:48,940

and that was the last time I saw him.

519

00:31:48,940 --> 00:31:51,940

According to Sandy, her husband had sent her to Austin

520

00:31:51,940 --> 00:31:53,940

out of range of the threats.

521

00:31:57,940 --> 00:32:00,940

Sandy says she spoke to Baker around 1 a.m.

522

00:32:00,940 --> 00:32:03,940

He was holed up in their bedroom and told her he had received

523

00:32:03,940 --> 00:32:06,940

yet another life-threatening call.

524

00:32:06,940 --> 00:32:17,940

Hello?

525

00:32:17,940 --> 00:32:20,940

Baker, it's time to die.

526

00:32:20,940 --> 00:32:22,940

Who is this?

527

00:32:22,940 --> 00:32:23,940

Who is this?

528

00:32:23,940 --> 00:32:37,440

Two days later, on November 8, sheriffs

529

00:32:37,440 --> 00:32:40,200

were notified of the burned out Jaguar.

530

00:32:40,200 --> 00:32:42,840

In the passenger seat were the charred remains later

531

00:32:42,840 --> 00:32:46,040

identified as Ed Bakers.

532

00:32:46,040 --> 00:32:47,160

From the evidence on the scene, it

533

00:32:47,160 --> 00:32:50,320

appeared that the subject in the car had been shot.

534

00:32:50,320 --> 00:32:52,760

There was a burnt 32 caliber revolver

535

00:32:52,760 --> 00:32:54,160

in the right front floorboard, which

536

00:32:54,160 --> 00:32:57,120

would have been at the passengers feet.

537

00:32:57,120 --> 00:33:00,320

When we opened and examined the 32 pistol,

538

00:33:00,320 --> 00:33:02,060

the cartridge underneath the firing pin

539

00:33:02,060 --> 00:33:05,040

had an indentation in it, like it had been fired.

540

00:33:05,040 --> 00:33:07,200

The other five shells looked like they had been exploded

541

00:33:07,200 --> 00:33:08,680

by heat.

542

00:33:08,680 --> 00:33:13,680

Somebody obviously was trying to burn the car.

543

00:33:13,680 --> 00:33:16,360

It appeared at the time that was rather crude effort.

544

00:33:16,360 --> 00:33:19,520

We found three gallon cans gasoline inside that vehicle

545

00:33:19,520 --> 00:33:22,080

and around that vehicle more than enough

546

00:33:22,080 --> 00:33:25,640

to sufficiently burn it up.

547

00:33:25,640 --> 00:33:27,720

As they were leaving the scene, investigators

548

00:33:27,720 --> 00:33:30,200

made another troubling discovery.

549

00:33:30,200 --> 00:33:33,680

About 1,500 feet from the car was a second body.

550

00:33:33,680 --> 00:33:37,040

A young man in his early 20s had been handcuffed and beaten

551

00:33:37,040 --> 00:33:41,000

to death, apparently just hours earlier.

552

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:42,200

We thought to start with, it might

553

00:33:42,200 --> 00:33:44,120

have been a person that killed Mr. Bakers and somebody killed

554

00:33:44,120 --> 00:33:45,640

him and shut him up.

555

00:33:45,640 --> 00:33:47,960

Our final determination, we found out it wasn't connected.

556

00:33:47,960 --> 00:33:50,520

We found out the boy that we found, the second body we found

557

00:33:50,520 --> 00:33:54,760

was killed in a dope deal and just was dumped in that area.

558

00:33:54,760 --> 00:33:58,120

It happened to be a dumping area.

559

00:33:58,120 --> 00:34:01,800

That same day, the case took another surprising twist.

560

00:34:01,800 --> 00:34:04,920

A letter from Baker arrived at the office of his attorney,

561

00:34:04,920 --> 00:34:06,880

Ward Boosie.

562

00:34:06,880 --> 00:34:09,680

It said, dear Ward, if you are reading this letter,

563

00:34:09,680 --> 00:34:11,320

it means that I am dead.

564

00:34:11,320 --> 00:34:13,280

I've had some threats on my life.

565

00:34:13,280 --> 00:34:14,600

You've been a good friend to me.

566

00:34:14,600 --> 00:34:16,080

Please take care of Sandy and the kids

567

00:34:16,080 --> 00:34:18,160

and do what you can for them.

568

00:34:18,160 --> 00:34:19,760

And enclosed is another letter that I

569

00:34:19,760 --> 00:34:24,920

would like you to take out to Sandy and give to her for me.

570

00:34:24,920 --> 00:34:27,480

In the weeks had followed, the fate of Ed Baker

571

00:34:27,480 --> 00:34:31,360

became the subject of intense speculation.

572

00:34:31,360 --> 00:34:33,880

His wife, Sandy, who today lives in Europe,

573

00:34:33,880 --> 00:34:38,920

was convinced that he was the victim of a mafia hit.

574

00:34:38,920 --> 00:34:41,920

An eyewitness told police that he saw a blue Chevy pickup

575

00:34:41,920 --> 00:34:45,000

truck with chrome rails and mag wheels speeding away

576

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:48,920

from the field where Baker's car was found.

577

00:34:48,920 --> 00:34:52,040

The truck and whoever was in it had never been located.

578

00:34:56,520 --> 00:34:58,400

Although Baker told a number of friends

579

00:34:58,400 --> 00:35:01,960

about the threats to his life, law enforcement investigators

580

00:35:01,960 --> 00:35:04,480

believe he committed suicide.

581

00:35:04,480 --> 00:35:06,720

They learned that in the days prior to his death,

582

00:35:06,720 --> 00:35:09,400

Baker called his life insurance agents.

583

00:35:09,400 --> 00:35:11,360

He specifically asked if his policies

584

00:35:11,360 --> 00:35:14,080

would pay in the event of his suicide.

585

00:35:14,080 --> 00:35:18,880

One valued at \$500,000 would not.

586

00:35:18,880 --> 00:35:21,400

I believe it's a possibility that Mr. Baker shot

587

00:35:21,400 --> 00:35:23,560

himself committed suicide.

588

00:35:23,560 --> 00:35:25,760

And he had an accomplice that set the car on fire

589

00:35:25,760 --> 00:35:28,280

to make it look like a homicide so that all of the insurance

590

00:35:28,280 --> 00:35:30,400

policies would pay off.

591

00:35:30,400 --> 00:35:32,600

We'll have a lot of people we find in a car commit

592

00:35:32,600 --> 00:35:34,240

suicide with pistols.

593

00:35:34,240 --> 00:35:36,040

And the pistols is always at their feet.

594

00:35:36,040 --> 00:35:37,400

And the pistol we would have covered

595

00:35:37,400 --> 00:35:38,560

would have been at Mr. Baker's feet

596

00:35:38,560 --> 00:35:41,520

on the passenger side of the vehicle.

597

00:35:41,520 --> 00:35:43,880

Sandy Baker refused to accept the idea

598

00:35:43,880 --> 00:35:46,600

that her husband had taken his own life.

599

00:35:46,640 --> 00:35:49,960

She hired an independent private investigator.

600

00:35:49,960 --> 00:35:53,000

I think somebody was paid to kill Ed Baker.

601

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:56,360

If you're a related professional like a mafia

602

00:35:56,360 --> 00:35:59,640

or syndication type thing, I don't think so.

603

00:35:59,640 --> 00:36:02,360

I don't know why they would burn the car.

604

00:36:02,360 --> 00:36:06,720

This seems to be just somebody was paid to kill Ed Baker.

605

00:36:06,720 --> 00:36:08,480

And that's exactly what they did.

606

00:36:08,480 --> 00:36:11,240

Ed Baker did not commit suicide.

607

00:36:11,240 --> 00:36:15,240

Baker's attorney, Ward Boosie, disagrees.

608

00:36:15,280 --> 00:36:18,680

The letter I got said, if you're reading this, I am dead.

609

00:36:18,680 --> 00:36:20,480

How did he know he was going to die that night

610

00:36:20,480 --> 00:36:23,360

unless he planned on going out and killing himself?

611

00:36:23,360 --> 00:36:29,160

I think Ed decided that he was about to probably go to jail

612

00:36:29,160 --> 00:36:31,120

and decided to get Sandy out of town

613

00:36:31,120 --> 00:36:34,560

so that she wouldn't be implicated.

614

00:36:34,560 --> 00:36:37,480

Said goodbye to everybody that he loved,

615

00:36:37,480 --> 00:36:39,560

went out to this field that he knew about,

616

00:36:39,560 --> 00:36:41,840

set his car on fire, and shot himself.

617

00:36:41,840 --> 00:36:46,440

From what I know about fire, I spent over 20 years

618

00:36:46,440 --> 00:36:47,960

in the business.

619

00:36:47,960 --> 00:36:52,040

I don't believe an individual can pour gasoline on themselves,

620

00:36:52,040 --> 00:36:56,480

ignite it, and be able to stay calm and still enough

621

00:36:56,480 --> 00:37:00,280

to reach down and put a gun to their head and pull the trigger.

622

00:37:00,280 --> 00:37:02,360

Homicide is a possibility.

623

00:37:02,360 --> 00:37:04,960

But also, I feel the possibility that Ed

624

00:37:04,960 --> 00:37:07,600

could arrange something like this with a different body

625

00:37:07,600 --> 00:37:09,840

in that vehicle.

626

00:37:09,840 --> 00:37:11,440

Ed was a very intelligent man.

627

00:37:11,440 --> 00:37:14,360

A man that took in, as he told me himself,

628

00:37:14,360 --> 00:37:18,960

\$66 million last year that he was in business.

629

00:37:18,960 --> 00:37:23,000

And a man capable of doing that is capable of faking his own death.

630

00:37:25,640 --> 00:37:28,640

Bob Gale and others believe that despite conclusive evidence

631

00:37:28,640 --> 00:37:31,880

to the contrary, Ed Baker faked his own suicide.

632

00:37:31,880 --> 00:37:38,280

They are convinced that Baker fled to an unknown location,

633

00:37:38,280 --> 00:37:41,640

perhaps a Caribbean, to live in luxury on funds

634

00:37:41,640 --> 00:37:43,080

embezzled from his investors.

635

00:37:46,840 --> 00:37:49,480

Today, the fate of Ed Baker's become something of a myth

636

00:37:49,480 --> 00:37:51,480

in parts of Texas.

637

00:37:51,480 --> 00:37:53,680

It seems unlikely that Baker is still alive.

638

00:37:53,680 --> 00:37:55,280

Yet one of his insurance carriers

639

00:37:55,280 --> 00:37:58,000

refused to pay death benefits without conclusive proof

640

00:37:58,000 --> 00:37:59,000

of his death.

641

00:37:59,120 --> 00:38:02,000

But if it was Ed Baker in the front seat of the Jaguar,

642

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:05,000

did he commit suicide or was he murdered?

643

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:07,000

And if so, by whom?

644

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:19,000

What is this?

645

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:23,000

In 1957, 13-year-old Sue Scribner

646

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:25,000

learned of a secret that her mother Kalissa

647

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:28,000

had been carrying for more than 15 years.

648

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:30,000

Yeah, honey, just a little.

649

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:33,000

When I asked her why she had been crying,

650

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

she told me about having a boy and a girl twin

651

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

that had been adopted.

652

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

It's time I told you.

653

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Told me what?

654

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:45,000

I was really surprised because I was 13.

655

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:49,000

And it's a shock to find out that you have a brother and sister

656

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:50,000

that you didn't know about.

657

00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:55,000

In 1942, Kalissa Scribner had given birth to twins,

658

00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:57,000

a boy and a girl.

659

00:38:57,000 --> 00:39:00,000

The infants were born with congenital heart defects,

660

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

and Kalissa felt she would be unable to provide them

661

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:04,000

with the care they needed.

662

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:11,000

Three weeks after they were born, the twins were adopted.

663

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:15,000

Kalissa never saw them again.

664

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:17,000

The twins were born with a baby.

665

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:20,000

Kalissa never saw them again.

666

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:24,000

The twins being adopted, it just stayed with her forever.

667

00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:25,000

She never got over it.

668

00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:32,000

For 10 frustrating years, Sue Scribner searched for the twins.

669

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

Finally in 1990, Sue wrote a poignant open letter

670

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:40,000

to the brother and sister she had never met.

671

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:44,000

And so elusive twins, I still search.

672

00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:46,000

Yet should my efforts end in emptiness,

673

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:50,000

I have not failed so completely, for I've already found you once.

674

00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:54,000

Years ago, chasmed in that deep indelible well,

675

00:39:54,000 --> 00:39:57,000

that safe place, our mother's heart.

676

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

10 days after we featured this story,

677

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:05,000

Sue Scribner received an anonymous call from one of our viewers

678

00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:09,000

who told her that the twins were living in Orlando, Florida.

679

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:12,000

Sue immediately contacted her brother and sister,

680

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:14,000

whose names are Bruce and Barbara.

681

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:17,000

The twins had no idea that they had been adopted

682

00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:19,000

and were shocked to learn about a side of their family

683

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:21,000

they never knew existed.

684

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:29,000

On March 15, 1992, Sue Scribner met her brother and sister

685

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:31,000

for the first time in her life.

686

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:39,000

The joyous reunion brought together six of the Scribner children

687

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:41,000

and their families.

688

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:46,000

The very first time I met them, I think all of our knees were shaking.

689

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:52,000

It is emotional, but I think we've all cried enough tears

690

00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:54,000

and we didn't need a lot today.

691

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:57,000

I think that my newfound family is wonderful.

692

00:40:57,000 --> 00:40:59,000

I think they're absolutely adorable.

693

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:02,000

It's like we've known each other all of our lives,

694

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:06,000

even though we haven't been around each other more than five hours.

695

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:09,000

You can lose me for another 50 years.

696

00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:15,000

I can't wait to get to know them.

697

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:18,000

I'm really very excited about it.

698

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:21,000

You have all these questions in your mind.

699

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:24,000

Gee, what did I miss out on all these years?

700

00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:26,000

What they really like as kids.

701

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:28,000

She used to be small.

702

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

I think everybody's going to get to know each other

703

00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:34,000

on both sides of the family.

704

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:38,000

And for country bumpings like we are, it's like a blessing.

705

00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:44,000

It doesn't really matter now what kind of life any of us had

706

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:47,000

because it's what's left that counts.

707

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:50,000

We know where all of the children are now.

708

00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:01,000

Tonight, the FBI has requested our cooperation

709

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:03,000

in a matter of extreme importance.

710

00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:06,000

They hope that someone watching has vital information

711

00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:08,000

about a man suspected of taking part

712

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:10,000

in the bombing of the World Trade Center.

713

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:14,000

He is a newest addition to the FBI's 10 most wanted list.

714

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:17,000

Please watch closely.

715

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:21,000

By now, we are all familiar with the graphic images

716

00:42:21,000 --> 00:42:23,000

and horrifying details.

717

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:28,000

On February 26, 1993, the explosion beneath New York's

718

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:33,000

Trade Center complex killed six people and injured more than a thousand.

719

00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:37,000

Thus far, four men have been arrested and indicted

720

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

in connection with the bombing.

721

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

And a fifth has been charged with obstruction of justice.

722

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

But another suspect thought to be a major participant

723

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

has so far eluded capture.

724

00:42:48,000 --> 00:42:51,000

He is 25-year-old Ramzi Ahmed Yosef,

725

00:42:51,000 --> 00:42:54,000

who used an Iraq passport to enter the US

726

00:42:54,000 --> 00:42:58,000

in September of 1992 seeking political asylum.

727

00:42:58,000 --> 00:43:01,000

Authorities believe Yosef may have been the roommate

728

00:43:01,000 --> 00:43:05,000

of the first suspect arrested, Mohammed Salome.

729

00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:09,000

Ramzi Ahmed Yosef was added to the top 10 list

730

00:43:09,000 --> 00:43:12,000

because he's been charged by a New York grand jury

731

00:43:12,000 --> 00:43:15,000

with participating in the bombing of the World Trade Center

732

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:18,000

on February 26 of this year.

733

00:43:18,000 --> 00:43:23,000

He's six feet tall, 180 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes,

734

00:43:23,000 --> 00:43:25,000

sometimes known to wear a beard.

735

00:43:25,000 --> 00:43:27,000

Wherever he is located, he should be considered armed

736

00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:29,000

and extremely dangerous.

737

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:32,000

It's really critical to bring him to justice

738

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

for his participation in this crime for two reasons.

739

00:43:35,000 --> 00:43:37,000

One, terrible nature of the crime,

740

00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:40,000

what it represents to American society,

741

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

the first major terrorist offensive here in this country

742

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

in many, many years.

743

00:43:45,000 --> 00:43:49,000

And secondly, because he is a key part of this conspiracy,

744

00:43:49,000 --> 00:43:53,000

and we would like to bring all the co-conspirators to justice.

745

00:43:59,000 --> 00:44:19,000

Music

746

00:44:19,000 --> 00:44:21,000

Thank you for joining us, and please join us next time

747

00:44:21,000 --> 00:44:24,000

for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

748

00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:34,000

Music

749

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

Music

750

00:44:44,000 --> 00:44:54,000

Music

751

00:44:54,000 --> 00:45:04,000

Music

752

00:45:04,000 --> 00:45:12,000

Music

753

00:45:12,000 --> 00:45:16,000

Music