1

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

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,680 --> 00:00:06,280

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:06,280 --> 00:00:09,280

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,280 --> 00:00:11,880

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

5

00:00:16,880 --> 00:00:20,720

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries, journey into the shadowy world

6

00:00:20,720 --> 00:00:24,120

of dreams and hear the startling accounts of three people who

7

00:00:24,120 --> 00:00:27,000

are convinced that their dreams predict the future.

8

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

In New Orleans, a brutal serial killer

9

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

has apparently taken the lives of several young women.

10

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

Police need your help before he strikes again.

11

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

And an intriguing profile of a devious Kahn-Hua

12

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

who preys upon lonely women taking first their hearts

13

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

and then their wallets.

14

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

Join me.

15

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

Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.

16

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

MUSIC

17

00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:41,000

MUSIC

18

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:54,000

Have you ever had a dream so vivid you thought it was real?

19

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:57,000

So compelling, you wondered if it actually happened.

20

00:01:57,000 --> 00:01:59,000

As fantastic as it may seem, you're

21

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:03,000

about to meet several people who are convinced that sometimes

22

00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:05,000

dreams do come true.

23

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Glenn Loney is a professor of theater at Brooklyn College

24

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:12,000

in New York City.

25

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:15,000

His story begins on a cold winter night 20 years ago

26

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:19,000

when he had a dream which he believed saved his life.

27

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

MUSIC

28

00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:32,000

I was driving up a hill and there was a blind curve up at the top.

29

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:36,000

It was like the road was built sort of around a hillside.

30

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:41,000

On my side, the outside lane, there's really a very steep drop.

31

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

Suddenly, there came a car around the curve.

32

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

There's a little two-wheel trailer behind it

33

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

and suddenly the outside wheel of the trailer comes off

34

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:54,000

and there was a shower of sparks like a sparkler.

35

00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:58,000

And suddenly, the wheel came skidding across the road toward my car

36

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:01,000

and I thought, step on the gas or you're a dead man.

37

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:09,000

And I woke up in a cold sweat.

38

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:12,000

I never had a dream that I remembered every particular detail of

39

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:15,000

and it was so vivid as if it had actually happened.

40

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:17,000

I mean, other dreams aren't like that.

41

00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:20,000

Other dreams are bits and pieces of things from the real world

42

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:24,000

and from the world of fantasy and things that never were or never could be.

43

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:28,000

This was just like seeing the thing that somebody else had filmed it.

44

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:31,000

That there might have been a camera in the back seat.

45

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:38,000

Six months later, Glenn was on a business trip with a fellow professor

46

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

in a part of the country where he had never been before.

47

00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:44,000

How's your classes going, by the way?

48

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:45,000

Oh, doing fine.

49

00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:46,000

Good.

50

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:48,000

Yeah, we got some good people this time.

51

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:49,000

Mm-hmm.

52

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:54,000

Halfway up, I realized this is the hill of my dream.

53

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:57,000

I suddenly realized this is the road, this is the place.

54

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,000

There was no traffic coming the other way, nothing.

55

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

You all right, Glenn?

56

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

No, I'm not.

57

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

I said, my God, the car's gonna come around that curve

58

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:10,000

and the wheel's gonna come off the trailer and it's gonna come at our car.

59

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:12,000

I've got to step on the gas or we're dead.

60

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:20,000

Oh, wow.

61

00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:31,000

Some would say that what happened to Glenn Loney was mere coincidence.

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

However, there are many people who believe that what he experienced

63

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

was a phenomenon known as a psychic dream.

64

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:40,000

A dreamers can apparently foretell the future.

65

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

There's a clear distinction between ordinary dreaming,

66

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:48,000

which we all do every night, and the psychic dream.

67

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:51,000

And the clear distinction is that for ordinary dreams,

68

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:53,000

they're very difficult to remember.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:56,000

Five minutes, ten minutes after you're awake, you forgot most of the details.

70

00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:57,000

It's very hazy.

71

00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:01,000

On the other hand, a psychic dream wakes you both upright out of bed.

72

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

It's a clear, vivid dream that literally shocks you awake.

73

00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:12,000

Dr. David Ryback is one of the leading authorities on psychic dreams.

74

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:15,000

He and freelance author Letitia Schweitzer have written a book

75

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:18,000

which contains more than 80 case studies.

76

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:24,000

Dr. Ryback has concluded that perhaps one out of 12 people have experienced psychic dreams.

77

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:33,000

When I first realized that I had the ability to see into the future through my dreams

78

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:35,000

was when I was a teenager.

79

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:39,000

Rhonda Anderson is one of the subjects in Dr. Ryback's study.

80

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:44,000

I do remember just having glimpses into the future through my dreams.

81

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

In 1980, Rhonda was living in Knoxville, Tennessee

82

00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:54,000

when she began dating Joe Anderson, the man she would later marry.

83

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:59,000

The first test of their relationship came when Rhonda told Joe about her special ability.

84

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

For me to believe something like that,

85

00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:05,000

I would probably have to have been involved in it

86

00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:08,000

or no specifically of the incident.

87

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:16,000

I typically don't believe things like that without having some proof.

88

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:23,000

Six months after Joe and Rhonda met, Joe got the proof he needed.

89

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:25,000

While he was away on a weekend camping trip,

90

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:29,000

Rhonda dreamed that he had an uninvited intruder at his campsite.

91

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

I was so shocked.

92

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:54,000

My heart was pounding so hard that I had to sit up in my bed

93

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:58,000

and I looked at the clock and it was three o'clock in the morning.

94

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

And I knew that there was really not anything that I could do about it at that time.

95

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

Hello?

96

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:10,000

Hi honey, how you doing?

97

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:13,000

Oh Joe, I'm so glad you called. Is everything alright?

98

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:17,000

The next morning, Joe called Rhonda as soon as he returned home.

99

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:21,000

She had not been expecting me until later that afternoon

100

00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:24,000

and she asked me what I was doing back so early.

101

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:26,000

I told her we had had an incident with a bear

102

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:28,000

and decided to leave and come back home early.

103

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:32,000

Joe says at around four o'clock that morning

104

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,000

he awoke when he sensed a disturbance outside of his tent.

105

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:38,000

He was certain of the time because he checked his watch.

106

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:48,000

She had had the dream about three o'clock

107

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:53,000

since I actually saw the bear after the bear had gotten into camp and torn things up.

108

00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:57,000

It must have been about the time that the bear had come into camp the first time.

109

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

It occurred to me, you know, possibly it was just a coincidence

110

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

but actually thinking back on it, the fact that she had the dream

111

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

while the situation was occurring

112

00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:16,000

and the way she described it was very similar to what actually occurred

113

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

I felt like it was been a very unusual coincidence.

114

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:23,000

About a year later, Joe and Rhonda were married

115

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:25,000

and Joe received another surprise.

116

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:29,000

His new stepdaughter Roxanne also claimed to have psychic dreams.

117

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:34,000

Researchers believe the ability can be passed from generation to generation.

118

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:40,000

We do have cases where families have psychic dreams very often.

119

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:41,000

The mother may have it.

120

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:45,000

In one family we know the mother dreamed psychic dreams.

121

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:47,000

The son did and all of the first cousins

122

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

and they were even raised in different environments

123

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:54,000

because each of the members had been adopted when the family split up.

124

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:57,000

It's hard to know whether there's a hereditary factor or not.

125

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

Clearly some families have two or three people in the family

126

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

who not only have psychic dreams but have the same psychic dreams

127

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:07,000

which is a really astounding event.

128

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:10,000

Rhonda and Roxanne have had just that experience.

129

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:15,000

In April of 1991, Rhonda dreamed that Joe was in a terrible accident

130

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

but did not tell anyone in her family.

131

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

A week later, Roxanne says she had the very same dream.

132

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Our car was on the side of the road

133

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:31,000

and then I saw a glimpse of Joe, his head, his face

134

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:34,000

and then I saw a police writing a police report.

135

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

It was really, really disturbing to me.

136

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:42,000

It really upset me because it just, you know, it scared me

137

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:45,000

and it felt like it was something that was going to happen.

138

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:50,000

And I said, well, Roxanne, I said, let's just think positively about it

139

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:54,000

and let's just pray that everything will be okay.

140

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:58,000

And from then on, I would just ask Joe to please be careful.

141

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

Two weeks later, Joe was on his way to the mountains

142

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:04,000

for another weekend of camping

143

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:07,000

when he momentarily took his eyes off the road.

144

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:16,000

Luckily, I wasn't injured.

145

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

Of course, the first thing I thought about after that happened

146

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:22,000

was that Rhonda had warned me to be very careful

147

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:27,000

and I had not paid attention to the road

148

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:30,000

and slid off and had the accident.

149

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:34,000

The car crash could have been more detrimental.

150

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,000

It could have been more disastrous.

151

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:41,000

And I hung on to the thought that people would be more careful

152

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:45,000

and I hung on to the thought that perhaps maybe that was the reason

153

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:48,000

that I had the dream and Roxanne had the dream

154

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:52,000

so that we could warn him over and over again to please be careful

155

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:56,000

because had we not, we don't know what would have happened.

156

00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:00,000

The extraordinary experiences of the Anderson family

157

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

could make even the harshest skeptics stop and think.

158

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:06,000

After all, coincidence can only account for so much.

159

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

You're about to meet a woman who says her psychic dreams

160

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:13,000

did not foretell the future but brought her news of an untimely death.

161

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

Joe, I'm so glad you're back. It's so good to see you.

162

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:19,000

Katie, it's really great to be back.

163

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:24,000

In 1942, 20-year-old Catherine Webb fell in love with a soldier named Joe Stewart.

164

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

I don't think it's really the best time for us to go into a marriage.

165

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:30,000

Both wanted to marry, but because of hardships in their families

166

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:33,000

they decided that the timing was not right.

167

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:38,000

We know the truth is, Joe, I've been thinking the same thing.

168

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:41,000

Mother's not well, Dad's not very strong.

169

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:48,000

I just don't think it's fair to you to take on that much responsibility.

170

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Yes, I've always regretted that instead of being so conscientious

171

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:56,000

about our obligations, we should have thought of ourselves.

172

00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:00,000

I didn't see him for a while, and then I saw him again,

173

00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:04,000

and from then on through the years when I'd see him, we'd go out to her three times,

174

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:06,000

but I left to go with that.

175

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:11,000

Catherine never forgot her first love.

176

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:14,000

She remained single until January of 1965,

177

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

when at the age of 47 she married her next-door neighbor.

178

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:22,000

The next year, Catherine began having a strange, recurring dream.

179

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

I kept getting this dream all the time.

180

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:29,000

All I saw was these nurses and doctors, a lot of confusion,

181

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

probably working on someone.

182

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

That would be how it would look.

183

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:37,000

The nurses were rushing around, the doctors seemed very concerned,

184

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:39,000

but I couldn't see what they were doing.

185

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:46,000

And then it seemed to me that I just got the wrong idea.

186

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:49,000

I was so confused, I couldn't see what was going on.

187

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:55,000

And then it seemed to me that I just got the intuition that it's about Joe Stewart.

188

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:03,000

And I just kept having that dream off and on, all during the month of May and June,

189

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:05,000

and it just got worse and worse.

190

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

Finally, Catherine had a dream which seemed to explain everything.

191

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:23,000

In this new dream, Catherine was in her kitchen

192

00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:26,000

when she received a most unexpected visitor.

193

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:30,000

I turned around and Joe was standing there.

194

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

Joe? What are you doing here?

195

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Kate, I came to tell you that I died.

196

00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:42,000

What?

197

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

Yes, it's true. I'm dead.

198

00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:50,000

It seemed quite natural for him to have a hold of my hand and take him in.

199

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:53,000

I believed him, I just couldn't grasp it.

200

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:54,000

Joe, I don't understand this.

201

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:56,000

I'll explain.

202

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:04,000

You see, I just had to let you know that thanks to your prayers, I'll have a Christian burial.

203

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:11,000

It's all right.

204

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

Who is this?

205

00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:17,000

It's me, Kate.

206

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:23,000

I could smell flowers and fern, and I looked down at the man in the casket.

207

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:24,000

No.

208

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:25,000

It didn't look like Joe.

209

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:27,000

It isn't you, it doesn't look like you.

210

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:29,000

Yes, I know, but it is.

211

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:35,000

And I came to tell you that I'll always love you.

212

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:40,000

And I could feel the flesh and the warmth of his hand,

213

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:44,000

and he said, I always loved you, and he kissed me.

214

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:49,000

And I felt his lips and his breath, and that was it.

215

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:07,000

My perspiration was pouring off of me.

216

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:08,000

I was shaking.

217

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

I thought, now I know why all those dreams, I saw doctors and nurses,

218

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

and I thought it was Joe, this is what it meant.

219

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:27,000

What I just saw was no dream, this was a vision, and I knew it was true.

220

00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:28,000

I just felt in my heart it was true.

221

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:32,000

I didn't want to believe he was dead, but I knew that was true.

222

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

Nobody let me know that Joe was sick.

223

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:44,000

A few days later, Catherine contacted Joe's sister and brother-in-law,

224

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:46,000

and her worst fears were confirmed.

225

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:50,000

Catherine was stunned to learn that Joe had gone into a coma

226

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:54,000

the very day that she had the first dream about doctors and nurses.

227

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:58,000

He had died of a brain aneurysm just two days before he appeared to Catherine

228

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

in her dream about the church.

229

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:04,000

We know somebody should have told me.

230

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:08,000

Well, we didn't know what to do, and even if you went to the funeral,

231

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:10,000

you wouldn't have recognized him.

232

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:13,000

The mortuary put a wig on Joe.

233

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

His body was so thin, nobody knew him.

234

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:21,000

Well, let me tell you something.

235

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:24,000

Joe came to me in a dream.

236

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:28,000

He came to me in my kitchen and told me himself that he had died.

237

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:32,000

I was convinced that everything I'd tell him, they would tell me yes,

238

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:34,000

that's the way it was.

239

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:37,000

And when I did tell them, his sister said yes.

240

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:41,000

She said, every detail you've told us, she said it's just the way it was.

241

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:49,000

William Shakespeare once wrote,

242

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:52,000

Today's dream is tomorrow's reality.

243

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:56,000

The cases we've examined tonight certainly seem to support that sentiment,

244

00:16:56,000 --> 00:17:00,000

but there is still no logical explanation for psychic dreams.

245

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:06,000

Perhaps this phenomenon will always remain inexplicable

246

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:08,000

and beyond our understanding.

247

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

Truly, an unsolved mystery.

248

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

Next, a serial killer may be stalking the streets of New Orleans.

249

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

New Orleans, home of the Mardi Gras.

250

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:26,000

The city's heartbeat is its raucous French quarter,

251

00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:30,000

where great music, street celebrations and Cajun cooking

252

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:34,000

sometimes overshadow a more unsavory side of the city.

253

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:50,000

August 4,

254

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:54,000

1991, across the Mississippi River from the French Quarter,

255

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:59,000

a lone recycler gleaned what he could along a narrow, deserted city road,

256

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

often used illegally as a dump site.

257

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:08,000

He had no idea he was about to launch one of the city's most complex murder investigations.

258

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:22,000

The body was identified as 17-year-old Danielle Britton,

259

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:24,000

who lived nearby with her mother.

260

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:29,000

She had been strangled and possibly raped approximately 12 hours earlier.

261

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:37,000

At first glance, the murder of Danielle Britton seemed an isolated incident,

262

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:40,000

but the reality was far more sinister.

263

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:43,000

Danielle Britton may have been the victim of a serial killer

264

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:46,000

who preys on women he believes are prostitutes.

265

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:50,000

By some chilling estimates, more than a hundred serial killers

266

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:53,000

roam the streets of America at any given moment.

267

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:57,000

Police are usually left to gather clues only from the silent testimony

268

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:01,000

of gruesome crime scenes, but the New Orleans case would be different.

269

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:11,000

Just 10 minutes into the investigation of Danielle Britton's murder,

270

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:16,000

Detective Elizabeth Wigginton had her first inkling that she was dealing with a serial killer.

271

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

A man approached me regarding an attack of a woman,

272

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:24,000

which had occurred approximately two weeks earlier.

273

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

At this time, I realized that there was a possibility that this attack

274

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

and the murder of Danielle Britton could be connected somehow,

275

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:36,000

with one striking difference that this victim survived her attack.

276

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:41,000

It's more scary than anything because I did realize that he assumed

277

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:44,000

that I was dead in order to leave me there.

278

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:47,000

The surviving victim, whom we will call Brenda,

279

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

had her voice permanently damaged in a strangulation attempt.

280

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:56,000

Police believe she was attacked by the same man who killed Danielle Britton.

281

00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:01,000

Brenda, I need for you to tell me as in as detail as possible what happened that night.

282

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:02,000

On the street I was on the street.

283

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:06,000

On interviewed by Detective Wigginton, Brenda was able to recall a trauma

284

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:09,000

in minute detail.

285

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:12,000

I was at my house and I decided that I wanted to go

286

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:14,000

and visit a friend of mine.

287

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:18,000

So I walked up Murrow Street and I noticed that a car was following me.

288

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

You need a ride?

289

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

So the man in the car got inside,

290

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

and he was right beside me as I was walking and asked me where I was going.

291

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:29,000

I'm just going a few blocks down.

292

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:32,000

I'm okay.

293

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:36,000

And I kept on walking and he kept on insisting that he could give me a ride

294

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:38,000

to where I was going.

295

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:40,000

The car stopped and before I knew it,

296

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:43,000

the man grabbed me and put me into the car.

297

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:45,000

What are you doing?

298

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Despite Brenda's protests,

299

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

a man drove about a half a mile past her friend's house

300

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:56,000

to the same deserted city road where Danielle Britton's body would be found

301

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

two weeks later.

302

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

What are you doing?

303

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:07,000

He got on top of me and began to choke me.

304

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:12,000

He looked at me and I looked at him and I realized this man was trying to kill me.

305

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:17,000

So, um, I tried to fight him off, but I really couldn't.

306

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:20,000

I didn't have any strength.

307

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:23,000

The killers strangled Brenda with his bare hands,

308

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:28,000

stripped off her clothes and dumped her by the side of the road.

309

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:31,000

Six hours later, shortly after dawn,

310

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:34,000

Brenda awoke and was in the car.

311

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:36,000

She was in the car,

312

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:39,000

and she was in the car.

313

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:41,000

Six hours later, shortly after dawn,

314

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:46,000

Brenda awoke to find herself covered with garbage and discarded tires.

315

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:57,000

Finding Brenda had certainly been a lucky break in this case.

316

00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:01,000

We had now a live victim who could identify an attacker,

317

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:06,000

an attacker who could be responsible for the murder of Danielle Britton.

318

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:08,000

I knew this guy was out there stalking his victims.

319

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:11,000

He was stalking women, intending to kill them,

320

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:14,000

and I was unable to come up with a suspect.

321

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:18,000

I had no idea it was going to get worse.

322

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:24,000

On September 22, 1991, the killer claimed his third victim,

323

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:31,000

Charlene Price, dumping her body within one mile of the spot where Danielle Britton was found.

324

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:33,000

On December 14th,

325

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:38,000

the fourth victim, as yet unidentified, was found in the same vicinity.

326

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:42,000

This is a sketch of the woman who was in her early 20s.

327

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:49,000

She was 5 feet 2 inches tall, weighed 125 pounds, and had protruding front teeth.

328

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

Did you touch anything when you got here?

329

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:58,000

Two and a half weeks later, on January 4, 1992, the killer struck yet again.

330

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:03,000

The nude body of 29-year-old Lydia Madison was found in an illegal dump site

331

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:05,000

under the greater New Orleans Bridge,

332

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:10,000

eight blocks from police headquarters and 400 yards from the Superdome.

333

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:18,000

Police soon learned that three other bodies had been found in a nearby jurisdiction

334

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

which borders New Orleans, bringing the total number of victims to eight.

335

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:31,000

These bodies closely resembled bodies found in our investigation in the previous months,

336

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:38,000

leading me to believe that the same killer may be responsible for all these victims.

337

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:43,000

Seven of the eight women were found within a three-mile radius,

338

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:47,000

all but one on the west bank of the Mississippi.

339

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:52,000

The killer has struck once a month, always strangling his victims,

340

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:57,000

always leaving them nude face down in or near illegal dump sites.

341

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

These women have had difficult lives,

342

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:14,000

they're in vulnerable positions and are at risk to becoming statistics of murders and rapes.

343

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:18,000

I certainly can't do anything about helping them at this point

344

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

other than trying to find out who killed these victims.

345

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

And I'm determined to get this guy.

346

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:31,000

I'm still afraid. I don't run the street at all anymore.

347

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:34,000

I don't go anywhere unless it's to church or if I go to the stores with my mother

348

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:39,000

somebody accomplished me because I still don't know where this man is.

349

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

And I know he knows me just like as well as I know him.

350

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:47,000

So I'm still very much afraid if I'm at home, I'll still locked up.

351

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:56,000

But unless someone else is in the house with me, it's more now like I'm living in fear every minute or every second of the day.

352

00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:02,000

On the night she was murdered, Danielle Britton was seen with a suspect outside a bar called Neva's Rendezvous.

353

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:06,000

The man was driving a blue late model Buick Regal or Monte Carlo.

354

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:12,000

When we return, a man searched for an anonymous hotline counselor

355

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:15,000

who saved him from a nightmare of drug addiction.

356

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:24,000

Among the unheralded heroes of modern city life,

357

00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:30,000

the men and women who answer the urgent calls coming into crisis hotlines,

358

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:34,000

at any moment a counselor may be plunged into a desperate situation

359

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:37,000

with the fate of a total stranger hangs in the balance.

360

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:40,000

Our next story is a very special mystery.

361

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:46,000

About one man searched for the anonymous hotline counselor who reached out and saved his life.

362

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:53,000

Houston, Texas 1982. James Vernon was strung out again.

363

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:56,000

He had been addicted to heroin since he was 16.

364

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:00,000

On several occasions James had entered drug treatment programs,

365

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

but inevitably he wound up back on the street still addicted.

366

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:07,000

His life stripped of everything but the daily hustle for a fix.

367

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:14,000

Nothing mattered other than where was my next shot coming from.

368

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:17,000

And that became my life.

369

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:22,000

You speak of careers when you say someone has a career in show business

370

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:24,000

or someone has a career as a doctor.

371

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:27,000

My career was getting my next fix.

372

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:30,000

That was my career.

373

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:39,000

I can remember back in 1982 I just fixed and I just done a load of heroin as it's called

374

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:43,000

and I was just walking around the streets just trying to figure out what my next move was

375

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

because I knew that things were getting bad and I looked up and saw a billboard

376

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:49,000

that said if you need help we do care.

377

00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:54,000

James felt he had nothing to lose.

378

00:26:54,000 --> 00:26:59,000

He called the number and spoke to a woman who identified herself as Libby.

379

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:02,000

Well what would you like to talk about James?

380

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:05,000

Same old song.

381

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:10,000

I'm lonely and scared and nobody cares.

382

00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:14,000

Oh by the way I'm a junkie.

383

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:17,000

Oh by the way I'm a junkie.

384

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:19,000

Okay let's start with that.

385

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:26,000

I remember her voice being soft and kind and caring and she didn't talk down to me or at me.

386

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:28,000

She talked to me.

387

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:34,000

And it was the first caring voice I'd heard in a long time that wasn't degrading to me

388

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:39,000

and she was like letting me know that it wasn't all of it wasn't my fault

389

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:42,000

that I had a problem and I needed some help.

390

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:44,000

It's not that I was a bad person.

391

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:48,000

It was just that I was sick and I needed some help.

392

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Hi James. What's new?

393

00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:55,000

Over the next few months James called Libby nearly every night.

394

00:27:55,000 --> 00:27:59,000

Mother took me back in again.

395

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:04,000

Though he had finally found someone he could trust this new friendship wasn't enough.

396

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:07,000

James was unable to resist the pull of heroin.

397

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:13,000

In desperation he stole from his own mother selling her jewelry to support his habit.

398

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:17,000

I must have really been in bad shape to do something like that.

399

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:21,000

I know it's tough facing up to it James.

400

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

I tried to make it look like someone else broke into a house but I don't think she bought it.

401

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

She was really necessary.

402

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:35,000

I remember coming home after it was over and I knew that my mother was home and she asked me about it

403

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:40,000

and she said that all her jewelry was gone and the window was broke that I knew anything about it

404

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:43,000

and I lied and said no that I had nothing to do with it.

405

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:47,000

Now you know I wouldn't take your jewelry mama.

406

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:52,000

I can't believe somebody would do this.

407

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:56,000

You know this neighborhood ain't like it used to be.

408

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

Two weeks later and with great reluctance James' mother threw him out of the house.

409

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:05,000

I didn't want to do something to keep people out.

410

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:10,000

It was just real devastating for both of us because I had to face up to it then and I just couldn't do it.

411

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:14,000

I just couldn't admit it.

412

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

James turned to his ex-wife who allowed him to move in with her and their two-year-old son.

413

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:24,000

It appeared to be a promising new start.

414

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:26,000

I'm thinking okay I can do this okay.

415

00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:28,000

I'll pull it back together.

416

00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:30,000

I've got my wife back. I've got my son back.

417

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

I'll get a job. I'll get off the drugs.

418

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:35,000

I'll make it work. You know I'll do it for them.

419

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:38,000

Hey baby guess what?

420

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:41,000

But James wasn't able to do it.

421

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:48,000

He began using drugs again and his ex-wife felt she had no choice but to walk out.

422

00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:50,000

There was no note.

423

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:53,000

I had no idea where she had gone, where my son was.

424

00:29:53,000 --> 00:30:00,000

The furniture, the clothes, the dishes. I mean everything was gone.

425

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:03,000

I think I did it. I was at a point where I just didn't want to live anymore.

426

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:05,000

I just couldn't stand anymore.

427

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:09,000

I decided that I was going to commit suicide and I knew how it was going to do it.

428

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:12,000

I was going to just overdose on heroin, just go someplace, sit down and go out.

429

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:15,000

Just sleep through it.

430

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:20,000

And then Libby ran across my mind and I wanted her to know that I really appreciated everything she had done

431

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:23,000

and for sticking with me but I just couldn't.

432

00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:26,000

I just couldn't take no more. I was ready to die.

433

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

I haven't heard from you in a while. Hope that means you went to get help.

434

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

Listen I'm going to call her any day. I can't take it. I don't want it.

435

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:40,000

But I wanted to call you and thank you for everything.

436

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:44,000

You've been a real good friend.

437

00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:46,000

Goodbye.

438

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:51,000

James, let's talk this over. Can't be that bad.

439

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:55,000

I've been living out on the street for the past couple of weeks.

440

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:59,000

I'm a junkie. I ain't got no money.

441

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:02,000

And you say it's not that bad.

442

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Well maybe it's time you went and got help for yourself.

443

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:08,000

God James, you have to realize...

444

00:31:08,000 --> 00:31:10,000

I told her I just didn't want to try no more.

445

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:12,000

This doesn't have to be the end.

446

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:18,000

And I did the last shot of what I thought would be my last shot of heroin.

447

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:21,000

And it should have been enough to kill at least three people.

448

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:25,000

And I got what's known as a slight rush and a little dizzy.

449

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:28,000

And that was it. I even messed it.

450

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

And I remember saying to Libby, she started screaming my name.

451

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:37,000

And I just started laughing. I go, I've even messed this one up lady.

452

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:41,000

I can't even kill me. And she said, alright you've tried your way.

453

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:43,000

I'm sorry. Let's give my wish.

454

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:45,000

Let's go back to treatment.

455

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:49,000

Promise me you will go to treatment.

456

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:51,000

Yeah, yeah, right.

457

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:54,000

Come on James, you have never lied to me before.

458

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:59,000

Now say those words. I'll go to treatment.

459

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:02,000

Okay.

460

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:07,000

Promise.

461

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:10,000

I'll go to treatment.

462

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:15,000

I'd never lied to Libby. She was the only person I hadn't lied to.

463

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:17,000

And I wasn't going to start then.

464

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:21,000

And just something about that voice, that caring, I went alright man.

465

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:23,000

You promised her.

466

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:26,000

James Vernon kept his promise.

467

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:33,000

The changes in his life since that evening are nothing short of miraculous.

468

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:37,000

When I say my poor, departed wife, I don't want you folks to thank my wife as dead.

469

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:41,000

She's got sick of being poor and departed.

470

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:47,000

From the brink of self-destruction, James is now confident enough to make his living as a stand-up comedian.

471

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:53,000

Nearly a decade after he last spoke to Libby, he remains drug and alcohol free.

472

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:56,000

Still going to therapy. I spoke to my therapist last week and she said,

473

00:32:56,000 --> 00:33:02,000

my mind was like a bad neighborhood. You should not go in there alone.

474

00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:07,000

She pulled me out of a spot, man, where I don't think I'd have made it out of.

475

00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:17,000

Libby, if you're watching this tonight, please call.

476

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:20,000

And I really want to talk to you. I really want to see you.

477

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:23,000

I want to give you a hug and I want to say thanks.

478

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:27,000

It's been a long time and a lot has happened.

479

00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:31,000

But you've always been that light. You've always been there.

480

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:34,000

And I want to tell you that.

481

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:04,000

Most con artists play on a basic human instinct.

482

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:08,000

The desire of their victims to make a quick, easy buck.

483

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:13,000

However, the more cunning practitioners of fraud pray not on greed, but on emotion.

484

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:19,000

You're about to meet three women who fell in love with a smooth talking swindler named JD Method.

485

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:26,000

Each discover the hard way that when it comes to the confidence game, JD Method is a master.

486

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:28,000

Well, to new friends.

487

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Oh, thank you JD. That's so nice.

488

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:38,000

Peggy Peterson, a single mother and businesswoman from the Golden Colorado area, met JD Method in 1990.

489

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:43,000

She had innocently responded to his ad in the personal's column of a local newspaper.

490

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:45,000

Have you ever been in a helicopter?

491

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:46,000

No.

492

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:48,000

No. Something I learned in Vietnam.

493

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:50,000

Really? You were in Vietnam.

494

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:52,000

I was a pilot there.

495

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:59,000

JD was a very charming person and a nice person and a fun person.

496

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:05,000

And someone with some professional credentials.

497

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:09,000

Well, you know, David, it really sounds like you like to go to swap meets and flea markets.

498

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:16,000

Linda Weaver, a divorced mother of three, got to know JD Method in 1987 through a telephone dating service.

499

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:21,000

After two weeks of phone calls, they began to see each other.

500

00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:26,000

He's extremely well-versed in everything. He's witty.

501

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:29,000

Because it's such a fascination of mine.

502

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:34,000

He just knows the answers to just about everything. He's intelligent and you just enjoy his company.

503

00:35:34,000 --> 00:35:38,000

He could talk about any subject. He knows about a little bit of everything.

504

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:42,000

In essence, he would interview these women. He would talk to them.

505

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:50,000

He would find out what they were about, their idiosyncrasies, what they liked, what they didn't like, what their style of life was.

506

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:54,000

You know, Peg, I was thinking, you really ought to have a few more credit cards.

507

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:57,000

No, I don't need more credit cards.

508

00:35:57,000 --> 00:35:59,000

Oh, with credit like yours, you ought to have five.

509

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:01,000

Oh, I hate paying all that interest, JD.

510

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:11,000

Well, one of the things that we found in our investigation was Method's ability to get his victims to extend their credit through the use of credit cards.

511

00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:17,000

And not just one, but get a lot of credit cards and even get a lot of the same kind of credit cards.

512

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:19,000

You ought to think about it.

513

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:21,000

Peg, I'd like you to meet Rick.

514

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:23,000

Hi, Rick. Hi, Peggy. Nice to meet you.

515

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:30,000

In the case of Peggy Peterson, JD spent several weeks carefully baiting his trap until she trusted him implicitly.

516

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:32,000

This guy, he helps me sell him.

517

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

Hey, Rick, I noticed that nice-looking Camaro over there. What's the story on that one?

518

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

Oh, JD, you'll love that. $1,500, private owner. Hold it down for it for $500 down.

519

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:42,000

Oh, is that right?

520

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:43,000

Yeah.

521

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:52,000

Hey, Peg, there you go. If I had $500 cash, I could buy that car today, sell it tomorrow for $1,000 profit, have $1,000 bucks in my pocket.

522

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:53,000

Is that right?

523

00:36:53,000 --> 00:36:54,000

Yeah.

524

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Wow.

525

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:56,000

Hey, what else you got, baby?

526

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:57,000

I got a nice, clean zeal over here.

527

00:36:57,000 --> 00:36:59,000

Hey, honey, I'm going to go three thousand dollars.

528

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:00,000

Red in here.

529

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

Method worked the scam so well that Peggy made the decision to invest without prompting.

530

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

I had already survived him doing several car deals over the weeks that we had been dating.

531

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:15,000

So I wrote him out a check for $500.

532

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Excuse me, excuse me.

533

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Uh, JD, honey, let's just go ahead and get that car.

534

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:22,000

Yeah, let's do it. Come on. That'll be a good business for us.

535

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:23,000

Can you believe this woman?

536

00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:25,000

Huh? What am I going to do with you?

537

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:27,000

No, I'm not going to take your money.

538

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:28,000

Okay, please.

539

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:30,000

Now, it's not a matter of the money. It's playing the game.

540

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:35,000

And he tore the check up and he said, I wouldn't take money from you.

541

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:39,000

And, uh, I said, so, you know, I mean, check was torn in half.

542

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:41,000

I didn't think anything about it.

543

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:45,000

The very next day, he calls me.

544

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:48,000

Listen, honey, I need your help this afternoon.

545

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:49,000

I had one of my...

546

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:54,000

JD told Peggy that his uncle was seriously ill and required immediate surgery.

547

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:58,000

He explained that his funds were tied up with investors and feigned great embarrassment

548

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:01,000

at having to ask Peggy for a loan.

549

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:03,000

Okay. Mm-hmm. Yeah, I'll have it ready for you.

550

00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:05,000

Well, you know, what could I do?

551

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:11,000

I mean, I've already committed myself that I could let him have $500.

552

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:15,000

And, you know, what could I do?

553

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:19,000

I can't say, well, yesterday I had $500 to loan you, today I don't.

554

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:21,000

So they found the truck?

555

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:23,000

Yeah, they found the truck.

556

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:28,000

Another victim whom we call Amelia met JD in August of 1990.

557

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:32,000

One month later, her son decided to sell his car and buy a pickup truck.

558

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:37,000

JD saw his opening and quickly talked his way into the deal.

559

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:42,000

JD told Amelia that he could sell the car and for an additional $4,000

560

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:45,000

could make a great buy on a new pickup.

561

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:47,000

So, you got the title?

562

00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:50,000

We do. It's all signed, taken care of.

563

00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:54,000

Okay. Okay, you both signed it over to me. That's good.

564

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:56,000

And, uh, $4,000 cash?

565

00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:57,000

You got it.

566

00:38:57,000 --> 00:38:58,000

That's all we need.

567

00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:03,000

I told him I had some questions about the car and was feeling anxious about the whole situation

568

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:06,000

since I didn't know him very well.

569

00:39:06,000 --> 00:39:09,000

He was saying to me, you know, how could I possibly doubt him

570

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:13,000

here he is this honest, caring, wonderful person.

571

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:17,000

At some point in the conversation, you know, I had said something to the effect that

572

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:22,000

for all I knew he could be a con artist and his immediate response was

573

00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:26,000

Amelia, you could be a con artist for all I know.

574

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:34,000

The end result was that we ended up with no truck and no money and no Mustang at the end of the situation.

575

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

That's how it got started. First it was a little amount and then it would get bigger and then bigger and bigger

576

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

and eventually it would get into the tens of thousands of dollars.

577

00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:46,000

Linda, I need your help on this deal now.

578

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:52,000

In the case of Linda Weaver, it was two months before JD began to ask for large sums of money.

579

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:53,000

Isn't that good news?

580

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:54,000

Yeah, that's great.

581

00:39:54,000 --> 00:39:55,000

I think that's great.

582

00:39:55,000 --> 00:39:57,000

But there's going to be three weeks before it gets here.

583

00:39:57,000 --> 00:40:00,000

Now we've got to get this business rolling now.

584

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

So what I'm asking for is a small loan, $15,000 to get this car.

585

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:06,000

I don't have $15,000.

586

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:10,000

Do it for you and me.

587

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:13,000

Now you know the answer.

588

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:17,000

You can do this for us.

589

00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:18,000

Okay.

590

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Good girl.

591

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:25,000

It happened so fast that I didn't realize what was coming across until afterwards I'm going,

592

00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:28,000

oh my God, what is going on?

593

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:29,000

You know, he was so good.

594

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:33,000

He hit and ran and he's doing it to all his victims.

595

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:38,000

Three months after he met Peggy Peterson, JD played out the same scene with her.

596

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:45,000

Listen dear, I need to borrow some money from you to help me have some cash for the trip.

597

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:47,000

I need about $9,600.

598

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:50,000

Oh man, that's a lot of money JD.

599

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:55,000

Well I know it seems like it, but that $9,600 is chili beans compared to what my assets are.

600

00:40:55,000 --> 00:40:58,000

His rationale was always that, well I'm going to pay you back next week.

601

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:00,000

I'll have my money next week.

602

00:41:00,000 --> 00:41:02,000

I'll pay you right back.

603

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:05,000

That night, I was just sleeping soundly.

604

00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:10,000

I was sleeping like a brick and at 2.30 in the morning I just sat bolt up right in bed.

605

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:16,000

Like God had slapped me up the side of head with a 2x4 and realized what had happened to me.

606

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:21,000

I knew Jerry for 11 months during that period of time.

607

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:26,000

He, in one way or another, extorted over $70,000.

608

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:32,000

In Amelia's case, JD also waited three months before he went for the big money.

609

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

I don't know about taking the equity out of my home.

610

00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:39,000

Well Amelia, it would only be a short term.

611

00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:44,000

Now, if it make you feel more comfortable, I've got a promissory note.

612

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:46,000

A promissory note?

613

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:52,000

Yes, it's a legally binding contract that ensures you that I'll pay you back the exact sum.

614

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:53,000

Jerry, I know.

615

00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:59,000

The problem with the promissory notes was that JD Mepid would fill out the promissory note backwards.

616

00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:04,000

He would make himself the payee and he would make the victim the maker.

617

00:42:04,000 --> 00:42:14,000

So that when you read the promissory note, it said that she owed him $30,000, $40,000, whatever the amount that was involved with that particular victim.

618

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:26,000

By looking at that timeline, what you see is that as Mr. Mepid was starting a relationship, he would either be in the middle or the end of another relationship.

619

00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:31,000

I don't believe JD Mepid knows the difference between truth and reality anymore.

620

00:42:31,000 --> 00:42:41,000

I think that he has built his life on lies for so long that he doesn't even know the truth anymore.

621

00:42:41,000 --> 00:42:48,000

I think he probably believes all of the glop that he shovels off on women.

622

00:42:49,000 --> 00:43:04,000

Update. On September 1, 1992, JD Mepid was apprehended in Beaverton, Oregon after police were contacted by a woman who lost $2,000 to a man she met through a personal's ad in the newspaper.

623

00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:08,000

Police staked out the man's home in Beaverton and arrested him when he returned.

624

00:43:08,000 --> 00:43:12,000

He was later identified as JD Mepid.

625

00:43:12,000 --> 00:43:22,000

Inside Method's house, authorities see several briefcases and a steamer trunk containing papers and documents which may have been used by Method to perpetrate his scams.

626

00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:29,000

Next Week

627

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:32,000

628

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:38,000

During prohibition, a dramatic club triangle ended in tragedy for a beautiful lady dressed in blue.

629

00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:47,000

Some say her ghost still haunts a spot where she and her husband were in the middle of the night.

630

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:54,000

And in Wilmington, California, many believe the spirits of the Civil War still roam the Drum Barracks Museum.

631

00:43:54,000 --> 00:44:02,000

Join me next time. Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.