

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 --> 00:00:12,280

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

5

00:00:16,280 --> 00:00:20,320

In 1991, a weekend fishing trip off the coast of Mexico

6

00:00:20,320 --> 00:00:22,160

apparently ended in a tragic death

7

00:00:22,160 --> 00:00:24,200

for four young Americans.

8

00:00:24,200 --> 00:00:26,560

But two of the bodies were never recovered.

9

00:00:27,320 --> 00:00:30,520

Ever since, repeated sightings of a strange young man

10

00:00:30,520 --> 00:00:34,360

have been reported up and down Mexico's Baja Peninsula.

11

00:00:34,360 --> 00:00:37,600

Convincing many that one of the victims, Gordon Collins,

12

00:00:37,600 --> 00:00:41,880

is still alive and suffering from amnesia.

13

00:00:41,880 --> 00:00:45,240

Tonight, Gordon Collins' family needs your help.

14

00:00:45,240 --> 00:00:48,240

Perhaps you hold the crucial clue that can bring their son

15

00:00:48,240 --> 00:00:49,920

back home.

16

00:00:49,920 --> 00:00:53,240

Join me for this intriguing new case and more

17

00:00:53,240 --> 00:00:56,240

on another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

18

00:01:53,960 --> 00:01:57,120

In the 1940s and 50s, a mysterious and terrifying

19

00:01:57,120 --> 00:02:02,520

epidemic swept the United States, polio.

20

00:02:02,520 --> 00:02:05,520

The victims were almost all children.

21

00:02:05,520 --> 00:02:07,320

Thousands died.

22

00:02:07,320 --> 00:02:10,920

Thousands more were crippled for life.

23

00:02:10,920 --> 00:02:16,120

In 1952, Dr. Jonas Salk developed a vaccine against polio.

24

00:02:16,120 --> 00:02:18,720

It was nothing short of a miracle.

25

00:02:18,720 --> 00:02:22,120

But for many children, it was a miracle that came too late.

26

00:02:22,880 --> 00:02:26,520

Such was a case for Judy Davis of Beverly, Ohio.

27

00:02:26,520 --> 00:02:29,480

Judy was just five years old in 1949,

28

00:02:29,480 --> 00:02:32,560

when both her legs were hopelessly crippled by polio.

29

00:02:36,200 --> 00:02:40,800

My attitude toward polio was it was a challenge.

30

00:02:40,800 --> 00:02:43,080

My parents decided that I was going

31

00:02:43,080 --> 00:02:47,360

to live as normal life as possible.

32

00:02:47,360 --> 00:02:50,240

And regardless, the doctors wanted

33

00:02:50,280 --> 00:02:52,240

to put me in a convalescent center.

34

00:02:52,240 --> 00:02:54,480

And my mother just hit the roof.

35

00:02:54,480 --> 00:02:56,200

She says, no way.

36

00:02:56,200 --> 00:03:00,360

That child is going to live as normal as possible.

37

00:03:00,360 --> 00:03:00,960

And I did.

38

00:03:03,960 --> 00:03:06,800

When she was eight, Judy was enrolled in a special elementary

39

00:03:06,800 --> 00:03:07,840

school.

40

00:03:07,840 --> 00:03:10,960

Then at the age of 12, she entered a regular school,

41

00:03:10,960 --> 00:03:14,040

where her braces and crutches provoked fear, stares,

42

00:03:14,040 --> 00:03:15,800

and uncomfortable giggles.

43

00:03:15,920 --> 00:03:21,160

September 1956, the first day of junior high for Judy Davis.

44

00:03:21,160 --> 00:03:24,520

Here, Judy would be the only handicapped student.

45

00:03:24,520 --> 00:03:26,320

Here, she would, for the first time,

46

00:03:26,320 --> 00:03:28,880

face a world which might be unintentionally cruel.

47

00:03:31,720 --> 00:03:36,760

I was petrified because I didn't know anyone in the school.

48

00:03:36,760 --> 00:03:39,680

So I was really, really scared.

49

00:03:39,680 --> 00:03:40,680

I was scared.

50

00:03:40,680 --> 00:03:41,680

I was scared.

51

00:03:41,680 --> 00:03:42,680

I was scared.

52

00:03:42,680 --> 00:03:43,680

I was scared.

53

00:03:44,240 --> 00:03:46,960

So I was really petrified.

54

00:03:53,320 --> 00:03:56,800

My father, he was the type of person

55

00:03:56,800 --> 00:04:00,520

who encouraged me to do things for myself.

56

00:04:00,520 --> 00:04:06,160

And he kind of instilled in me that there was nothing

57

00:04:06,160 --> 00:04:08,880

I couldn't do as long as I tried.

58

00:04:08,880 --> 00:04:11,480

Daddy, I want to do it myself.

59

00:04:11,480 --> 00:04:12,080

OK, honey.

60

00:04:14,400 --> 00:04:18,680

I was able to get in and out of the car by myself.

61

00:04:18,680 --> 00:04:21,880

And I would have been able to climb the stairs to the school

62

00:04:21,880 --> 00:04:23,280

if there was a railing.

63

00:04:23,280 --> 00:04:25,200

But there was no railing.

64

00:04:25,200 --> 00:04:27,920

So I was resolved to let my father

65

00:04:27,920 --> 00:04:29,120

carry me into the school.

66

00:04:32,480 --> 00:04:33,480

It's OK, honey.

67

00:04:37,800 --> 00:04:40,840

Seeing all the kids stare at me when I am in the car,

68

00:04:41,640 --> 00:04:46,720

seeing all the kids stare at me when I entered the school,

69

00:04:46,720 --> 00:04:52,320

it was really an awkward feeling because I was,

70

00:04:52,320 --> 00:04:53,560

it was something new for me.

71

00:04:53,560 --> 00:04:54,880

And I'd never had that before.

72

00:04:59,760 --> 00:05:05,040

My father carried me up the steps and sat me down

73

00:05:05,040 --> 00:05:06,720

at the top of the stairs.

74

00:05:06,720 --> 00:05:10,160

And this girl comes over and she says,

75

00:05:10,200 --> 00:05:10,920

hi, I'm Becky.

76

00:05:10,920 --> 00:05:12,280

Can I help?

77

00:05:12,280 --> 00:05:13,200

Thanks.

78

00:05:13,200 --> 00:05:14,360

When home home are you in?

79

00:05:14,360 --> 00:05:16,120

The letter said 1-0-2.

80

00:05:16,120 --> 00:05:17,120

I know the same one I'm in.

81

00:05:17,120 --> 00:05:18,440

It's Mr. Hopkins.

82

00:05:18,440 --> 00:05:19,320

He's pretty good.

83

00:05:19,320 --> 00:05:21,520

Come on, I'll show you.

84

00:05:21,520 --> 00:05:23,080

OK.

85

00:05:23,080 --> 00:05:24,120

Bye, Daddy.

86

00:05:24,120 --> 00:05:25,080

Bye, honey.

87

00:05:27,920 --> 00:05:31,840

Judy had made a real friend.

88

00:05:31,840 --> 00:05:34,400

In the weeks it followed, she and Becky Terry

89

00:05:34,400 --> 00:05:35,960

would become inseparable.

90

00:05:36,960 --> 00:05:41,240

Becky was a very warm person, very warm, very outgoing.

91

00:05:41,240 --> 00:05:45,240

I mean, she had to be to be so open with me

92

00:05:45,240 --> 00:05:46,440

the first day of school.

93

00:05:46,440 --> 00:05:48,720

One, two, three.

94

00:05:48,720 --> 00:05:51,960

But the other kids in the school, it was like,

95

00:05:51,960 --> 00:05:55,200

I was an alien from outer space.

96

00:05:55,200 --> 00:06:00,000

And I felt that way, except when Becky was around.

97

00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:03,040

When you're at your next step.

98

00:06:03,200 --> 00:06:05,520

When you're at your next step.

99

00:06:05,520 --> 00:06:09,160

Around Becky, I felt like everything was possible.

100

00:06:09,160 --> 00:06:12,480

She made me feel like there was no braces,

101

00:06:12,480 --> 00:06:17,400

there was no crutches, that I was just like her.

102

00:06:17,400 --> 00:06:21,040

All through seventh grade, the girl's friendship grew.

103

00:06:21,040 --> 00:06:23,000

In eighth grade, Becky and Judy even

104

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:25,320

took to coordinating their ward roles.

105

00:06:25,320 --> 00:06:27,160

They were often mistaken for sisters,

106

00:06:27,160 --> 00:06:32,080

and in fact, no sisters could have been closer.

107

00:06:32,080 --> 00:06:35,480

Becky and I talked about music, we talked about boys,

108

00:06:35,480 --> 00:06:39,040

we talked about marriage, we talked about everything

109

00:06:39,040 --> 00:06:41,240

under the sun.

110

00:06:41,240 --> 00:06:44,800

But Judy and Becky's favorite subject was definitely boys.

111

00:06:47,400 --> 00:06:50,240

At the junior high, serialized horror movies

112

00:06:50,240 --> 00:06:52,920

were shown each day at noon.

113

00:06:52,920 --> 00:06:57,360

Before long, a boy began sitting next to Becky.

114

00:06:57,360 --> 00:07:00,040

All of a sudden, he wasn't just sitting there,

115

00:07:00,040 --> 00:07:01,520

he was holding Becky's hand.

116

00:07:05,760 --> 00:07:08,480

Knowing Becky had a boyfriend was, I don't know,

117

00:07:08,480 --> 00:07:11,840

it was kind of sad for me, because she had a boyfriend

118

00:07:11,840 --> 00:07:13,680

and I didn't have a boyfriend.

119

00:07:13,680 --> 00:07:16,480

So I felt kind of left out.

120

00:07:19,400 --> 00:07:23,520

Becky's boyfriend was David Major, a fellow seventh grader.

121

00:07:23,520 --> 00:07:26,200

But Judy was so shy that she couldn't bring herself

122

00:07:26,200 --> 00:07:29,560

to talk to David or to any other boy.

123

00:07:30,120 --> 00:07:32,480

Judy, I can't help you toot your books.

124

00:07:32,480 --> 00:07:36,800

Well, one day Becky had a big load of books,

125

00:07:36,800 --> 00:07:41,280

and she wasn't able to carry my books on top of her books.

126

00:07:41,280 --> 00:07:42,200

I'll be fine.

127

00:07:42,200 --> 00:07:43,120

Are you sure?

128

00:07:43,120 --> 00:07:44,640

I mean, give David and one of those other boys to help you.

129

00:07:44,640 --> 00:07:45,440

They're right there.

130

00:07:45,440 --> 00:07:46,240

Can't ask boys.

131

00:07:46,240 --> 00:07:49,600

Yes, you can if it means you might fall.

132

00:07:49,600 --> 00:07:50,640

I'll be fine.

133

00:07:50,640 --> 00:07:52,000

Are you sure?

134

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:53,360

I'm sure.

135

00:07:53,360 --> 00:07:56,360

I was so shy, I would rather have died

136

00:07:56,360 --> 00:07:58,320

than to ask a boy for help.

137

00:07:58,320 --> 00:08:03,320

I was very shy at that age, especially around boys.

138

00:08:03,320 --> 00:08:07,840

So here I was trying to carry maybe three or four books,

139

00:08:07,840 --> 00:08:13,840

plus pencils, and a notebook, and they fell all over the floor.

140

00:08:13,840 --> 00:08:15,560

Oh, here, let's help me with that.

141

00:08:19,800 --> 00:08:23,920

I had a class with David, so I knew who David was

142

00:08:23,920 --> 00:08:27,760

even before Becky and he became involved.

143

00:08:29,080 --> 00:08:34,760

I mean, shortly after Becky and David became an item,

144

00:08:34,760 --> 00:08:36,480

they broke up.

145

00:08:36,480 --> 00:08:41,640

And Becky decided she liked this boy named Gordon,

146

00:08:41,640 --> 00:08:44,400

and evidently he liked her because they

147

00:08:44,400 --> 00:08:47,080

started holding hands in the movies.

148

00:08:47,080 --> 00:08:50,320

And David started holding my hand in the movies.

149

00:08:50,320 --> 00:08:52,720

So I was really thrilled about that.

150

00:08:56,080 --> 00:08:58,240

It was real exciting, because now we

151

00:08:58,240 --> 00:08:59,160

both have boyfriends.

152

00:09:03,400 --> 00:09:06,080

A few months later, Becky came to Judy's house

153

00:09:06,080 --> 00:09:08,440

in a somber mood.

154

00:09:08,440 --> 00:09:09,880

The girls had been through everything

155

00:09:09,880 --> 00:09:13,360

two friends could experience, except separation.

156

00:09:20,920 --> 00:09:21,720

Hi.

157

00:09:24,200 --> 00:09:25,840

What's wrong?

158

00:09:25,840 --> 00:09:30,040

Something awful has happened, really awful.

159

00:09:30,040 --> 00:09:31,480

My dad got a job.

160

00:09:31,480 --> 00:09:33,040

But that's good.

161

00:09:33,040 --> 00:09:34,040

It's in West Virginia.

162

00:09:34,040 --> 00:09:36,240

We're moving.

163

00:09:36,240 --> 00:09:37,840

Moving?

164

00:09:37,840 --> 00:09:38,640

We're moving tomorrow.

165

00:09:38,640 --> 00:09:40,720

He says it can't wait.

166

00:09:40,720 --> 00:09:42,720

Tomorrow?

167

00:09:42,720 --> 00:09:44,720

No.

168

00:09:44,720 --> 00:09:46,720

No.

169

00:09:46,720 --> 00:09:48,720

No.

170

00:09:48,720 --> 00:09:49,720

No.

171

00:09:49,720 --> 00:09:50,720

Are you all right?

172

00:09:50,720 --> 00:09:51,720

Are you OK?

173

00:09:51,720 --> 00:09:52,720

No.

174

00:09:52,720 --> 00:09:54,520

I'm OK.

175

00:09:54,520 --> 00:09:55,800

I'm OK.

176

00:09:55,800 --> 00:09:56,800

I'm OK.

177

00:09:59,400 --> 00:10:03,160

I was brokenhearted when Becky told me she was leaving.

178

00:10:03,160 --> 00:10:06,160

Becky's friendship to me meant that I

179

00:10:06,160 --> 00:10:12,160

was able to be accepted by the other students in the school.

180

00:10:12,160 --> 00:10:18,160

And it made me feel like I was more like everyone else,

181

00:10:18,160 --> 00:10:21,600

and that there was no difference between us.

182

00:10:21,600 --> 00:10:26,440

And at the age of 12, that meant a lot.

183

00:10:26,440 --> 00:10:29,480

And it still means a lot.

184

00:10:29,480 --> 00:10:32,360

Becky and Judy wrote to each other for several years,

185

00:10:32,360 --> 00:10:34,840

and Becky even came back to visit once.

186

00:10:34,840 --> 00:10:36,800

But eventually, they lost touch.

187

00:10:39,840 --> 00:10:42,840

In 1960, Judy's condition deteriorated,

188

00:10:42,840 --> 00:10:45,400

and she was confined to a wheelchair.

189

00:10:45,400 --> 00:10:49,000

Nevertheless, Judy went on to marry and have four children.

190

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,120

She also became an outspoken advocate

191

00:10:51,120 --> 00:10:54,760

for the rights of the disabled.

192

00:10:54,760 --> 00:11:00,240

In 1979, Judy divorced and later moved to Tucson, Arizona.

193

00:11:00,240 --> 00:11:02,800

Through it all, her friendship with Becky

194

00:11:02,800 --> 00:11:04,200

has been an inspiration.

195

00:11:07,560 --> 00:11:11,160

I would really like to find Becky.

196

00:11:11,160 --> 00:11:15,600

I'd kind of like to tell her how much she meant to me

197

00:11:15,600 --> 00:11:16,520

as a friend.

198

00:11:16,520 --> 00:11:18,800

And I'd like to get that friendship back if it's possible.

199

00:11:21,240 --> 00:11:24,740

Stop, stop, stop!

200

00:11:48,860 --> 00:11:50,500

September 1991.

201

00:11:51,120 --> 00:11:54,480

A young American, disorienting, penniless,

202

00:11:54,480 --> 00:11:56,680

and obviously out of place, wandered

203

00:11:56,680 --> 00:12:00,240

into the Mexican village of Colonia Vicente Guerrero,

204

00:12:00,240 --> 00:12:03,760

300 miles south of San Diego, California.

205

00:12:03,760 --> 00:12:06,800

He lingered for months, living on handouts,

206

00:12:06,800 --> 00:12:10,600

depending on the charity of strangers.

207

00:12:10,600 --> 00:12:14,000

For one California couple, tales of the young stranger

208

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:17,160

were a ray of hope in the search for their 34-year-old son

209

00:12:17,240 --> 00:12:22,160

Gordon Collins, who had been missing for five months.

210

00:12:22,160 --> 00:12:24,200

I know he's alive.

211

00:12:24,200 --> 00:12:27,440

We have our priority now to try to find him.

212

00:12:27,440 --> 00:12:29,880

And I can't get on with my business.

213

00:12:29,880 --> 00:12:34,360

I can't get on with nothing until we get him home.

214

00:12:34,360 --> 00:12:39,240

Inside your heart, you're always longing to just,

215

00:12:39,240 --> 00:12:41,520

to that day, you're going to be able to hold him

216

00:12:41,520 --> 00:12:42,400

and know it's for real.

217

00:12:43,400 --> 00:12:51,600

The strange saga of Gordon Collins began on April 19, 1991.

218

00:12:51,600 --> 00:12:54,800

News vacationing with his girlfriend, Anastasia Seals,

219

00:12:54,800 --> 00:12:57,320

and another couple near Santa Rosalia,

220

00:12:57,320 --> 00:13:01,080

a popular deep sea fishing spot midway down the Baja Peninsula.

221

00:13:04,280 --> 00:13:06,240

Four days after they arrived, the group

222

00:13:06,240 --> 00:13:08,880

secured a boat at a local hotel.

223

00:13:08,880 --> 00:13:10,720

Gordon's friend Wayne Schwartz had

224

00:13:10,720 --> 00:13:14,240

fished off the Baja Coast many times and knew the area well.

225

00:13:17,040 --> 00:13:20,320

As the group left port, a fisherman on his way in

226

00:13:20,320 --> 00:13:22,040

warned them that a storm was brewing.

227

00:13:36,520 --> 00:13:39,840

The fisherman's warnings apparently went unheeded.

228

00:13:39,840 --> 00:13:44,040

Several hours later, a fierce storm would indeed hit the area.

229

00:13:44,040 --> 00:13:46,600

Gordon Collins and his friends never returned.

230

00:13:53,640 --> 00:13:57,800

The next day, a hotel employee was set out to search for them.

231

00:13:57,800 --> 00:14:00,560

His search ended 28 miles northeast.

232

00:14:10,280 --> 00:14:14,880

Wayne Schwartz and Gordon's girlfriend Anastasia Seals were dead.

233

00:14:14,880 --> 00:14:18,520

But Gordon Collins and Schwartz's wife Arlene Burlington

234

00:14:18,520 --> 00:14:20,680

are nowhere to be found.

235

00:14:20,680 --> 00:14:22,840

I guess I eat!

236

00:14:22,840 --> 00:14:26,120

The bodies and all a pair of finalia out of the boat

237

00:14:26,120 --> 00:14:29,440

was all within one square mile of each other.

238

00:14:29,440 --> 00:14:33,080

Because I talked to the fellow that fished the bodies out.

239

00:14:33,080 --> 00:14:37,320

And so we say, hey, where's the other two jabs?

240

00:14:37,360 --> 00:14:38,960

Where's the other two people?

241

00:14:41,360 --> 00:14:43,840

For three days, the United States Coast Guard

242

00:14:43,840 --> 00:14:47,160

searched a 250 mile area of the Sea of Cortez

243

00:14:47,160 --> 00:14:49,080

in the Baja shoreline.

244

00:14:49,080 --> 00:14:52,480

Finally, they suspended the search, pending further evidence.

245

00:14:52,480 --> 00:14:54,680

Scott, you got anything on the left side?

246

00:14:54,680 --> 00:14:55,720

No, I don't.

247

00:14:55,720 --> 00:14:58,360

It seemed obvious that Gordon Collins and Arlene Burlington

248

00:14:58,360 --> 00:14:59,800

had perished.

249

00:14:59,800 --> 00:15:02,880

The US consulate in Mexico asked Gordon and Arlene's parents

250

00:15:02,880 --> 00:15:04,480

to sign death certificates.

251

00:15:04,520 --> 00:15:06,880

However, reports that Gordon was still alive had already

252

00:15:06,880 --> 00:15:09,760

begun to filter across the border.

253

00:15:09,760 --> 00:15:11,920

His parents came to believe that he'd been picked up

254

00:15:11,920 --> 00:15:14,560

by a fishing boat and brought ashore.

255

00:15:14,560 --> 00:15:17,040

They were certain that Gordon was suffering from amnesia

256

00:15:17,040 --> 00:15:18,560

and was unable to find his way home.

257

00:15:21,560 --> 00:15:24,280

John and Mary Lou Collins traveled from Moreno Valley,

258

00:15:24,280 --> 00:15:28,200

California, to the area where the two bodies had been recovered.

259

00:15:28,200 --> 00:15:30,280

They combed Santa Rosalia.

260

00:15:30,320 --> 00:15:34,200

Desperately hoping for a clue to Gordon's whereabouts.

261

00:15:34,200 --> 00:15:36,240

We got flyers made of them.

262

00:15:36,240 --> 00:15:38,440

And so we were spreading them all out

263

00:15:38,440 --> 00:15:41,560

when two Mexican fishermen come running up to us

264

00:15:41,560 --> 00:15:45,840

and kept pointing to the flyer.

265

00:15:45,840 --> 00:15:49,880

He said they seen a guy out of the water, come out of the water.

266

00:15:49,880 --> 00:15:51,480

He just had shorts and he was all cut up

267

00:15:51,480 --> 00:15:55,840

waiting there trying to get on a bus there at the bus station.

268

00:15:55,840 --> 00:15:57,240

And he said, I don't know.

269

00:15:57,280 --> 00:16:00,840

I was very excited.

270

00:16:00,840 --> 00:16:03,040

Things started fitting together because this is where

271

00:16:03,040 --> 00:16:04,760

the accident happened.

272

00:16:04,760 --> 00:16:08,920

They found the bodies just a mile and a half off of this shore.

273

00:16:08,920 --> 00:16:10,320

It's got to be Gordon.

274

00:16:10,320 --> 00:16:11,320

Pause.

275

00:16:15,440 --> 00:16:17,960

Around the same time, Gordon was also

276

00:16:17,960 --> 00:16:22,480

sighted on a nearby beach by a man named Jose Peralta.

277

00:16:22,840 --> 00:16:24,040

You have your blanket?

278

00:16:24,040 --> 00:16:24,920

OK.

279

00:16:24,920 --> 00:16:26,080

You have your blanket.

280

00:16:26,080 --> 00:16:27,080

I'm cold.

281

00:16:27,080 --> 00:16:29,000

Is that one of them?

282

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:32,400

Jose said that Gordon said he was waiting for friends.

283

00:16:32,400 --> 00:16:33,840

He went fishing.

284

00:16:33,840 --> 00:16:36,120

And could he have Jose's blanket because he was going

285

00:16:36,120 --> 00:16:39,840

to sleep on the beach there at Cabo and wait for his friends?

286

00:16:39,840 --> 00:16:40,840

Hey, Riddle.

287

00:16:40,840 --> 00:16:41,840

You're coming.

288

00:16:41,840 --> 00:16:42,840

Neither lead panned out.

289

00:16:42,840 --> 00:16:44,840

And the Collins returned home.

290

00:16:44,840 --> 00:16:46,840

And the others were waiting for him.

291

00:16:46,840 --> 00:16:48,840

And he said, I don't know.

292

00:16:48,840 --> 00:16:49,840

I don't know.

293

00:16:49,840 --> 00:16:51,080

Neither lead panned out.

294

00:16:51,080 --> 00:16:53,120

And the Collins returned home.

295

00:16:53,120 --> 00:16:55,680

It was a beginning of a frustrating, seemingly

296

00:16:55,680 --> 00:16:58,160

endless pattern.

297

00:16:58,160 --> 00:17:01,680

I would go down until I wouldn't get any more sightings.

298

00:17:01,680 --> 00:17:03,040

And then I'd go back home.

299

00:17:03,040 --> 00:17:05,760

And we'd get a phone call or something.

300

00:17:05,760 --> 00:17:08,080

And so, boom, I'd get on a plane.

301

00:17:08,080 --> 00:17:11,880

And we'd head back on down and hit these areas

302

00:17:11,880 --> 00:17:17,120

where the sighting was evidently was that.

303

00:17:17,120 --> 00:17:19,680

On one trip, we're headed toward the pause.

304

00:17:19,720 --> 00:17:23,240

And we stopped at a few of these taco places.

305

00:17:23,240 --> 00:17:26,760

And they said, yeah, I've seen him an hour ago.

306

00:17:26,760 --> 00:17:29,800

So we went on down for probably another three or four miles.

307

00:17:29,800 --> 00:17:31,520

And we stopped again.

308

00:17:31,520 --> 00:17:34,760

The guy says, yeah, we've seen him about 30 minutes ago.

309

00:17:34,760 --> 00:17:37,040

So we finally got right into town.

310

00:17:37,040 --> 00:17:40,840

And they said, yeah, within five minutes.

311

00:17:40,840 --> 00:17:44,160

And then they seen us all, seen us together.

312

00:17:44,160 --> 00:17:45,280

And I don't know what happened.

313

00:17:45,280 --> 00:17:47,040

But everybody just clammed up.

314

00:17:47,040 --> 00:17:50,480

We couldn't get no more information.

315

00:17:50,480 --> 00:17:54,160

I don't know if they thought we were the police, the FBI,

316

00:17:54,160 --> 00:17:56,720

or the DA, or what.

317

00:17:56,720 --> 00:17:58,320

We couldn't get no more information.

318

00:17:58,320 --> 00:18:00,680

And bam, it was just stopped.

319

00:18:03,360 --> 00:18:05,800

Over the next three months, Gordon Collins

320

00:18:05,800 --> 00:18:09,840

was spotted at least 50 times in seven different locations,

321

00:18:09,840 --> 00:18:13,360

all in the area of La Paz and Cabo San Lucas

322

00:18:13,360 --> 00:18:15,480

at the southern end of the Baja Peninsula.

323

00:18:17,680 --> 00:18:20,880

It almost seemed that Gordon Collins had wanted to disappear

324

00:18:20,880 --> 00:18:22,840

and might be hiding out.

325

00:18:22,840 --> 00:18:24,600

But Gordon had called his parents the day

326

00:18:24,600 --> 00:18:28,520

he left for Mexico, so they would know where he was.

327

00:18:28,520 --> 00:18:31,600

John and Mary Lou Collins are adamant that Gordon would never

328

00:18:31,600 --> 00:18:34,040

desert his 10-year-old son, Christopher,

329

00:18:34,040 --> 00:18:38,560

and cause his family such pain and suffering.

330

00:18:38,560 --> 00:18:41,280

I believe he can't remember what happened

331

00:18:41,280 --> 00:18:43,440

and cannot make the choice to return home,

332

00:18:43,440 --> 00:18:45,760

because he doesn't know who home is.

333

00:18:45,920 --> 00:18:48,720

And you can't leave your child wandering around

334

00:18:48,720 --> 00:18:51,760

in a country aimlessly.

335

00:18:51,760 --> 00:18:54,800

And not only were we exhausted, but our money was exhausted.

336

00:18:54,800 --> 00:18:58,240

And we began to think we weren't doing it right.

337

00:19:01,080 --> 00:19:06,240

We decided we needed a professional at this point.

338

00:19:06,240 --> 00:19:09,680

The Collins hired Bill Garcia, a private investigator who

339

00:19:09,680 --> 00:19:12,240

alerted newspapers in Baja.

340

00:19:12,240 --> 00:19:15,840

After the articles ran, Garcia received several calls

341

00:19:15,840 --> 00:19:20,080

from the village of Colonia Vicente Guerrero.

342

00:19:20,080 --> 00:19:24,160

It was four or five months here in town.

343

00:19:24,160 --> 00:19:26,320

He never worked here, never worked.

344

00:19:26,320 --> 00:19:29,760

And he only hang around here in town.

345

00:19:29,760 --> 00:19:33,360

He was walking all the time, moved too much here.

346

00:19:33,360 --> 00:19:36,880

And almost in the town, everybody knows him.

347

00:19:36,880 --> 00:19:40,160

We've shown them pictures, and everyone recognizes him.

348

00:19:40,160 --> 00:19:43,800

And they're positive that it's him, the people that have talked

349

00:19:43,800 --> 00:19:48,480

to him know some things about him, about Gordon,

350

00:19:48,480 --> 00:19:55,240

and feel confident that he is there, or was there.

351

00:19:55,240 --> 00:19:57,820

According to Amador, Gordon was eventually

352

00:19:57,820 --> 00:20:00,120

arrested for stealing food.

353

00:20:00,120 --> 00:20:03,800

The local sheriff, or Delegato, brought in James Hatfield,

354

00:20:03,800 --> 00:20:08,000

an American living in the village, to translate.

355

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:08,920

Hello.

356

00:20:08,920 --> 00:20:09,880

My name's James.

357

00:20:09,920 --> 00:20:11,840

What's yours?

358

00:20:11,840 --> 00:20:13,960

Hi, I'm Gordon.

359

00:20:13,960 --> 00:20:14,840

Gordon, good to have you.

360

00:20:14,840 --> 00:20:18,520

I got to have something to say to you.

361

00:20:18,520 --> 00:20:21,000

There's no doubt in my mind it's Gordon,

362

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:25,000

because when we met him in jail, I introduced myself to him,

363

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:27,360

and he gave me his name, Gordon.

364

00:20:27,360 --> 00:20:29,240

And then when the flyer came out, it's right there

365

00:20:29,240 --> 00:20:30,440

on the flyer, Gordon.

366

00:20:30,440 --> 00:20:32,840

And you can't get the two pictures mixed up.

367

00:20:32,840 --> 00:20:34,720

It's the same.

368

00:20:34,720 --> 00:20:38,160

He moved on shortly before we were able to get to that area,

369

00:20:38,160 --> 00:20:43,080

and we haven't been able to find where he's gone from there.

370

00:20:43,080 --> 00:20:45,920

Gordon seems to be just wandering

371

00:20:45,920 --> 00:20:47,880

through the different towns in Baja,

372

00:20:47,880 --> 00:20:50,600

not really knowing where he's going.

373

00:20:50,600 --> 00:20:53,440

I don't think he's attempting to get home,

374

00:20:53,440 --> 00:20:55,440

because he seems to go north, and he

375

00:20:55,440 --> 00:20:58,360

seems to travel back south.

376

00:20:58,360 --> 00:21:02,400

Over the next year, sporadic sightings of Gordon continue.

377

00:21:02,400 --> 00:21:04,600

The last was near the village of Rosarita,

378

00:21:04,600 --> 00:21:07,520

25 miles south of Tijuana.

379

00:21:07,520 --> 00:21:11,200

The US consulate has now officially reversed its position,

380

00:21:11,200 --> 00:21:16,480

and no longer presumes that Gordon Collins is dead.

381

00:21:16,480 --> 00:21:20,240

You just can't up and give up, because it's your son.

382

00:21:20,240 --> 00:21:23,000

I know it keeps me driving, it keeps me going,

383

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:28,360

and I want to get him home, to get him home safe,

384

00:21:28,360 --> 00:21:30,280

and back to normal again.

385

00:21:38,400 --> 00:21:41,800

Recently, we featured the story of W.B. Mac McDonald,

386

00:21:41,800 --> 00:21:44,720

a self-made millionaire who was searching for his heir,

387

00:21:44,720 --> 00:21:48,600

a child whom Mac had seen but once 43 years ago.

388

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:56,200

Mac's story began in 1948 in Pomona, California.

389

00:21:56,200 --> 00:21:59,160

That summer, he fell in love with a 16-year-old girl

390

00:21:59,160 --> 00:22:02,120

named Mary Helen Carr.

391

00:22:02,120 --> 00:22:05,360

But their courtship was cut short by Mary Helen's mother,

392

00:22:05,400 --> 00:22:08,400

she threatened to have Mac arrested if the romance continued.

393

00:22:10,920 --> 00:22:15,120

My whole life was revolving around her.

394

00:22:19,120 --> 00:22:24,120

It upset me, you know, because I was in love with a girl,

395

00:22:24,120 --> 00:22:28,440

and we were planning on a future together,

396

00:22:28,440 --> 00:22:32,560

and here were these tremendous stumbling blocks

397

00:22:32,600 --> 00:22:34,200

being thrown out into the path.

398

00:22:37,080 --> 00:22:39,080

Mac moved to Houston, Texas.

399

00:22:39,080 --> 00:22:43,120

Three weeks later, Mary Helen ran away from home and joined him.

400

00:22:45,880 --> 00:22:46,880

I got a new neighbor.

401

00:22:46,880 --> 00:22:50,080

Posing his husband and wife, the young lovers moved in together,

402

00:22:50,080 --> 00:22:52,080

but their happiness was short-lived.

403

00:22:52,080 --> 00:22:57,080

Hello? Just a minute.

404

00:22:57,080 --> 00:22:58,080

Who is it?

405

00:22:58,080 --> 00:22:59,080

I don't know.

406

00:22:59,080 --> 00:23:04,080

A friend tipped off Mac that the police are on the way to the apartment.

407

00:23:04,080 --> 00:23:07,080

Mary Helen's mother had made good on her threats.

408

00:23:07,080 --> 00:23:11,080

Authorities carried wards charging Mac the statutory rape

409

00:23:11,080 --> 00:23:13,080

and illegally living with a minor.

410

00:23:13,080 --> 00:23:15,080

That's fine. I'll call you.

411

00:23:18,080 --> 00:23:22,080

Mac made his escape with no time to spare.

412

00:23:22,080 --> 00:23:25,080

I was devastated again.

413

00:23:25,080 --> 00:23:30,080

They jerked her back to California,

414

00:23:30,080 --> 00:23:34,080

and I hadn't a way of contacting her again.

415

00:23:35,080 --> 00:23:38,080

A year later, Mac returned to California

416

00:23:38,080 --> 00:23:40,080

and was shocked to learn that he was a father.

417

00:23:40,080 --> 00:23:45,080

He visited Mary Helen and met his child for the first and only time,

418

00:23:45,080 --> 00:23:48,080

but fearing that authorities were still looking for him,

419

00:23:48,080 --> 00:23:51,080

Mac fled after only five minutes.

420

00:23:51,080 --> 00:23:53,080

He never returned to California.

421

00:23:53,080 --> 00:23:55,080

He was only five minutes.

422

00:23:55,080 --> 00:23:58,080

He never even learned if the baby was a boy or a girl.

423

00:24:01,080 --> 00:24:03,080

Now a wealthy businessman,

424

00:24:03,080 --> 00:24:08,080

Mac wants to find the child he left behind 43 years ago.

425

00:24:09,080 --> 00:24:14,080

I feel that the youngsters are entitled to my estate,

426

00:24:14,080 --> 00:24:20,080

and I'd want that youngster to know that I love them,

427

00:24:20,080 --> 00:24:22,080

and I want them to have the best.

428

00:24:26,080 --> 00:24:28,080

The night of our broadcast,

429

00:24:28,080 --> 00:24:31,080

Mac MacDonald learned that he had a daughter named Sherry.

430

00:24:31,080 --> 00:24:34,080

The long-awaited news came from a viewer in Dallas, Texas,

431

00:24:34,080 --> 00:24:37,080

Mary Helen Carr, Sherry's mother.

432

00:24:37,080 --> 00:24:39,080

Unlike many of the reunions we have featured,

433

00:24:39,080 --> 00:24:42,080

the end of this search evoked decidedly mixed emotions

434

00:24:42,080 --> 00:24:44,080

for Mac, for Mary Helen,

435

00:24:44,080 --> 00:24:46,080

and especially for their daughter Sherry,

436

00:24:46,080 --> 00:24:49,080

who'd been raised by a loving and caring stepfather.

437

00:24:50,080 --> 00:24:54,080

I'm 43 years old and pretty well set in my life and everything,

438

00:24:54,080 --> 00:24:56,080

and I didn't know what to think.

439

00:24:56,080 --> 00:25:00,080

You know, I'm very happily married and I have two great kids,

440

00:25:00,080 --> 00:25:04,080

and we just are a normal American family,

441

00:25:04,080 --> 00:25:07,080

and this is quite a shock to everyone.

442

00:25:09,080 --> 00:25:11,080

One week after our broadcast,

443

00:25:11,080 --> 00:25:15,080

Mac MacDonald arrived at Sherry's home in Denver, Colorado.

444

00:25:15,080 --> 00:25:18,080

For Mac, the reunion would bring a bitter sweet,

445

00:25:18,080 --> 00:25:22,080

and at times, unsettling reconciliation with the past.

446

00:25:25,080 --> 00:25:27,080

Hello.

447

00:25:27,080 --> 00:25:29,080

Come on in.

448

00:25:30,080 --> 00:25:32,080

Yes, hi, Mac.

449

00:25:37,080 --> 00:25:41,080

It's hard to describe the feeling that I had for my daughter

450

00:25:41,080 --> 00:25:43,080

when I opened the door and she was there,

451

00:25:43,080 --> 00:25:46,080

and I was able to hold her.

452

00:25:46,080 --> 00:25:48,080

I just wanted to sit down.

453

00:25:48,080 --> 00:25:50,080

I just wanted to sit down and I would hold you.

454

00:25:53,080 --> 00:25:56,080

I just tried to come to the realization

455

00:25:56,080 --> 00:25:59,080

that it really was my father standing there,

456

00:25:59,080 --> 00:26:03,080

and I just, you know, to see, does he look like me?

457

00:26:03,080 --> 00:26:04,080

Does he act like me?

458

00:26:04,080 --> 00:26:07,080

You know, I have all these things I need to learn about him.

459

00:26:07,080 --> 00:26:09,080

I don't know what to say.

460

00:26:09,080 --> 00:26:11,080

I'm still on a state of shock.

461

00:26:11,080 --> 00:26:14,080

At this point in my life, to find that there is someone who is my father

462

00:26:14,080 --> 00:26:16,080

who has established a relationship with me

463

00:26:16,080 --> 00:26:19,080

is just emotionally very traumatic.

464

00:26:19,080 --> 00:26:22,080

Apparently he wants to be part of her life.

465

00:26:25,080 --> 00:26:28,080

And if that's the case, it's okay.

466

00:26:28,080 --> 00:26:31,080

I hope since he's gone to this much effort to find her

467

00:26:31,080 --> 00:26:35,080

that he doesn't bring any sorrow to her.

468

00:26:35,080 --> 00:26:39,080

The fact that I didn't stay and fight the battle,

469

00:26:39,080 --> 00:26:42,080

it's most unfortunate.

470

00:26:42,080 --> 00:26:45,080

I don't believe I would do it that way again.

471

00:26:45,080 --> 00:26:51,080

However, yesterday unfortunately can't be redone.

472

00:26:54,080 --> 00:26:56,080

I'd like to.

473

00:26:58,080 --> 00:27:00,080

No matter how you look at it,

474

00:27:00,080 --> 00:27:03,080

he left my mother with a tiny baby, you know,

475

00:27:03,080 --> 00:27:05,080

and I have to deal with that.

476

00:27:05,080 --> 00:27:08,080

I have to deal with the fact that I have a father

477

00:27:08,080 --> 00:27:11,080

who loves for me, who has raised me, who has cared for me,

478

00:27:11,080 --> 00:27:16,080

that I believe there's enough room in this family for everyone.

479

00:27:16,080 --> 00:27:18,080

And I sincerely mean that.

480

00:27:32,080 --> 00:27:35,080

On the afternoon of March 11, 1992,

481

00:27:35,080 --> 00:27:37,080

paramedics were dispatched to an emergency

482

00:27:37,080 --> 00:27:40,080

at a toy store in Redwood City, California.

483

00:27:42,080 --> 00:27:45,080

Inside, sprawled on a table in the employees' lunchroom,

484

00:27:45,080 --> 00:27:48,080

was 23-year-old Gilbert Ortiz.

485

00:27:48,080 --> 00:27:52,080

He was sweating profusely and experiencing severe convulsions.

486

00:27:52,080 --> 00:27:54,080

All the cramps in the stomach?

487

00:27:54,080 --> 00:27:57,080

Gilbert, where did you drink? Did you drink or eat something?

488

00:27:57,080 --> 00:27:58,080

Shake.

489

00:27:58,080 --> 00:28:00,080

Shake. What's in a shake, Gilbert?

490

00:28:00,080 --> 00:28:02,080

Gilbert managed to tell the medics that he'd become ill

491

00:28:02,080 --> 00:28:05,080

after drinking a high-protein amino acid milkshake,

492

00:28:05,080 --> 00:28:08,080

commonly used by bodybuilders to help them bulk up

493

00:28:08,080 --> 00:28:10,080

and strengthen muscle.

494

00:28:10,080 --> 00:28:12,080

Gilbert, where did you get the shake from?

495

00:28:12,080 --> 00:28:13,080

Friend.

496

00:28:13,080 --> 00:28:14,080

Friends?

497

00:28:16,080 --> 00:28:18,080

And how long ago did you drink this, Gilbert?

498

00:28:21,080 --> 00:28:24,080

Gilbert began to slip in and out of consciousness.

499

00:28:24,080 --> 00:28:27,080

His wife was contacted, and paramedics rushed him

500

00:28:27,080 --> 00:28:29,080

to nearby Sequoia Hospital.

501

00:28:33,080 --> 00:28:35,080

Is that the shake right there?

502

00:28:35,080 --> 00:28:37,080

Doctors in the emergency room were baffled

503

00:28:37,080 --> 00:28:39,080

by Gilbert's condition.

504

00:28:39,080 --> 00:28:41,080

They found him in the plastic bottle,

505

00:28:41,080 --> 00:28:43,080

which had contained the shake and set it aside

506

00:28:43,080 --> 00:28:45,080

so the contents could be tested later.

507

00:28:48,080 --> 00:28:50,080

Within moments, Gilbert's wife, Elizabeth,

508

00:28:50,080 --> 00:28:52,080

arrived in the emergency room.

509

00:28:52,080 --> 00:28:55,080

Doctors hoped that she could provide an explanation

510

00:28:55,080 --> 00:28:58,080

for Gilbert's sudden, mysterious illness.

511

00:28:58,080 --> 00:29:00,080

The paramedics just brought him over here

512

00:29:00,080 --> 00:29:03,080

just a few minutes ago, and they said that after taking

513

00:29:03,080 --> 00:29:06,080

that sports drink over there, about 15 minutes later,

514

00:29:06,080 --> 00:29:08,080

he started vomiting. He's very disoriented.

515

00:29:08,080 --> 00:29:10,080

Anything straight out of him. Have you ever seen that bottle?

516

00:29:10,080 --> 00:29:12,080

No, never. I've never seen it.

517

00:29:12,080 --> 00:29:14,080

You know what we're thinking?

518

00:29:14,080 --> 00:29:16,080

We're thinking he might have had an overdose of drugs,

519

00:29:16,080 --> 00:29:18,080

maybe some street drugs or maybe something else.

520

00:29:18,080 --> 00:29:20,080

Gilbert doesn't do drugs. Are you sure?

521

00:29:20,080 --> 00:29:22,080

No, I'm serious. Gilbert doesn't do drugs.

522

00:29:22,080 --> 00:29:23,080

OK.

523

00:29:23,080 --> 00:29:26,080

By 10 o'clock that evening, Gilbert had developed pneumonia,

524

00:29:26,080 --> 00:29:28,080

and his kidneys had failed.

525

00:29:28,080 --> 00:29:30,080

He was admitted to the intensive care unit.

526

00:29:30,080 --> 00:29:34,080

He would later suffer cardiac arrest and slip into a coma.

527

00:29:34,080 --> 00:29:37,080

As his life hung in the balance, doctors worked feverishly

528

00:29:37,080 --> 00:29:41,080

to determine what had caused him to become so violently ill.

529

00:29:44,080 --> 00:29:47,080

Sometime that afternoon, the plastic milkshake bottle

530

00:29:47,080 --> 00:29:50,080

similar to this one mysteriously disappeared.

531

00:29:50,080 --> 00:29:53,080

It was a first in a series of bizarre incidents

532

00:29:53,080 --> 00:29:56,080

that would lead authorities to believe that Gilbert Ortiz

533

00:29:56,080 --> 00:29:59,080

had been poisoned by someone he thought he could trust.

534

00:30:01,080 --> 00:30:04,080

In 1987, Gilbert was serving in the army

535

00:30:04,080 --> 00:30:07,080

when he met Elizabeth Fuentes.

536

00:30:07,080 --> 00:30:09,080

They married three years later,

537

00:30:09,080 --> 00:30:12,080

shortly after the birth of their son, Jonathan.

538

00:30:12,080 --> 00:30:14,080

Gilbert took an entry-level position

539

00:30:14,080 --> 00:30:16,080

in the toy store in Redwood City,

540

00:30:16,080 --> 00:30:19,080

but he and Elizabeth frequently fought over money.

541

00:30:19,080 --> 00:30:22,080

In March of 1992, Gilbert received a promotion,

542

00:30:22,080 --> 00:30:25,080

and the future suddenly seemed brighter.

543

00:30:25,080 --> 00:30:28,080

Less than a week later, Gilbert was in the hospital,

544

00:30:28,080 --> 00:30:30,080

fighting for his life.

545

00:30:31,080 --> 00:30:33,080

OK.

546

00:30:33,080 --> 00:30:37,080

Gilbert's mother and sister soon joined Elizabeth at the hospital.

547

00:30:37,080 --> 00:30:40,080

They said that while they were in the waiting room,

548

00:30:40,080 --> 00:30:42,080

Elizabeth received a strange phone call

549

00:30:42,080 --> 00:30:44,080

which seemed to upset her.

550

00:30:44,080 --> 00:30:47,080

Yes, yes. OK, bye.

551

00:30:48,080 --> 00:30:52,080

She got nervous when she came back from that phone call.

552

00:30:52,080 --> 00:30:55,080

I don't know why, I don't know what they told her.

553

00:30:55,080 --> 00:30:58,080

I'm gonna go home, and I think I should check on Jonathan.

554

00:30:58,080 --> 00:31:01,080

I need to get something ready, too.

555

00:31:01,080 --> 00:31:04,080

And so she decided that she was gonna go see Jonathan,

556

00:31:04,080 --> 00:31:07,080

that she was concerned about Jonathan for some reason.

557

00:31:07,080 --> 00:31:10,080

And she was gonna go to Gilbert's work

558

00:31:10,080 --> 00:31:13,080

because she knew the combination for the locker,

559

00:31:13,080 --> 00:31:16,080

and she was gonna go see if she could find anything,

560

00:31:16,080 --> 00:31:19,080

because Gilbert wasn't getting any better.

561

00:31:19,080 --> 00:31:22,080

He's got Jonathan, that man has Jonathan!

562

00:31:22,080 --> 00:31:24,080

Elizabeth, what's going on?

563

00:31:24,080 --> 00:31:26,080

About two hours later, she came back.

564

00:31:26,080 --> 00:31:28,080

She was hysterical, and she kept saying,

565

00:31:28,080 --> 00:31:30,080

somebody has Jonathan, this guy has Jonathan,

566

00:31:30,080 --> 00:31:32,080

Jonathan, somebody has Jonathan.

567

00:31:32,080 --> 00:31:34,080

What happened?

568

00:31:34,080 --> 00:31:36,080

That man outside has Jonathan.

569

00:31:36,080 --> 00:31:38,080

What man?

570

00:31:38,080 --> 00:31:40,080

That man outside in the parking lot,

571

00:31:40,080 --> 00:31:42,080

he said he was gonna hurt Jonathan.

572

00:31:42,080 --> 00:31:44,080

Wait, he has Jonathan outside?

573

00:31:44,080 --> 00:31:46,080

No, yeah, no, he's a man said he was gonna kidnap him.

574

00:31:46,080 --> 00:31:48,080

Wait a minute, I thought Jonathan was with your mother.

575

00:31:48,080 --> 00:31:50,080

And so I was like, wait, your mom has Jonathan.

576

00:31:50,080 --> 00:31:52,080

I'm gonna call your mom.

577

00:31:52,080 --> 00:31:54,080

And I went and I called her mom,

578

00:31:54,080 --> 00:31:56,080

and her mom, you know, I asked her,

579

00:31:56,080 --> 00:31:58,080

you know, is Jonathan there?

580

00:31:58,080 --> 00:32:00,080

And then she's all like, yeah, he's right here.

581

00:32:00,080 --> 00:32:02,080

I'm like, why?

582

00:32:02,080 --> 00:32:04,080

Because Elizabeth just said that some guy had him.

583

00:32:04,080 --> 00:32:06,080

While Brenda was on the phone,

584

00:32:06,080 --> 00:32:08,080

Elizabeth blurted out a disjointed frightening story.

585

00:32:08,080 --> 00:32:10,080

She said she had been approached

586

00:32:10,080 --> 00:32:12,080

by a small boy in the hospital parking lot,

587

00:32:12,080 --> 00:32:14,080

who then directed her to a masked man

588

00:32:14,080 --> 00:32:16,080

in a parked car.

589

00:32:16,080 --> 00:32:18,080

Did you know him?

590

00:32:18,080 --> 00:32:20,080

No, he was wearing a mask, I couldn't see.

591

00:32:20,080 --> 00:32:22,080

What kind of mask?

592

00:32:22,080 --> 00:32:24,080

I couldn't see his face.

593

00:32:24,080 --> 00:32:26,080

What did you do? What did he say?

594

00:32:26,080 --> 00:32:28,080

He said that he knew what had happened to Gilbert,

595

00:32:28,080 --> 00:32:30,080

and that Gilbert had drank the wrong stuff.

596

00:32:30,080 --> 00:32:32,080

What?

597

00:32:32,080 --> 00:32:34,080

The stuff in the bag.

598

00:32:34,080 --> 00:32:36,080

He said Gilbert drank his stuff.

599

00:32:36,080 --> 00:32:38,080

Inside the paper bag was a bottle of liquid insecticide.

600

00:32:38,080 --> 00:32:40,080

I'm calling the police.

601

00:32:40,080 --> 00:32:42,080

No, don't call the police.

602

00:32:42,080 --> 00:32:44,080

He said if you call the police, he was gonna hurt Jonathan.

603

00:32:44,080 --> 00:32:46,080

I'm calling the police.

604

00:32:46,080 --> 00:32:48,080

The ICU nurse immediately made two phone calls,

605

00:32:48,080 --> 00:32:50,080

one to the National Poison Control Center,

606

00:32:50,080 --> 00:32:52,080

and the other to the Redwood City Police.

607

00:32:52,080 --> 00:32:54,080

This is a Coyote Hospital.

608

00:32:54,080 --> 00:32:56,080

I have a poisoning to report. I need to speak to an officer.

609

00:32:56,080 --> 00:32:58,080

I don't know. I didn't see it after the paramedic.

610

00:32:58,080 --> 00:33:00,080

Five days later, Elizabeth was questioned

611

00:33:00,080 --> 00:33:02,080

about the mysterious masked man

612

00:33:02,080 --> 00:33:04,080

she said had handed her the insecticide.

613

00:33:04,080 --> 00:33:06,080

So tell me about the little boy that ran after you.

614

00:33:06,080 --> 00:33:08,080

Well, when I was in my car,

615

00:33:08,080 --> 00:33:10,080

I turned on my car and I was...

616

00:33:10,080 --> 00:33:12,080

For about the first hour of the interview,

617

00:33:12,080 --> 00:33:14,080

she maintained the story that she had given the officers

618

00:33:14,080 --> 00:33:16,080

and the nurses to the police.

619

00:33:16,080 --> 00:33:18,080

I don't know.

620

00:33:18,080 --> 00:33:20,080

The man with a mask and a little boy.

621

00:33:20,080 --> 00:33:22,080

And she told me that she thought

622

00:33:22,080 --> 00:33:24,080

it was definitely a strange story,

623

00:33:24,080 --> 00:33:26,080

but it was the truth.

624

00:33:26,080 --> 00:33:28,080

Elizabeth, if what you're telling us is the truth,

625

00:33:28,080 --> 00:33:30,080

how would this guy have known that Gilbert drank this thing?

626

00:33:30,080 --> 00:33:32,080

How should I know?

627

00:33:32,080 --> 00:33:34,080

Well, how would the little boy know?

628

00:33:34,080 --> 00:33:36,080

I don't know. I don't know.

629

00:33:36,080 --> 00:33:38,080

I've never seen anything before in my life.

630

00:33:38,080 --> 00:33:40,080

Your story doesn't make sense.

631

00:33:40,080 --> 00:33:42,080

I just... I still couldn't believe what she was telling me.

632

00:33:42,080 --> 00:33:44,080

And so my partner and I,

633

00:33:44,080 --> 00:33:46,080

I had to go to the emergency room

634

00:33:46,080 --> 00:33:52,260

was telling me, and so my partner and I started to jam her by, you know, telling her certain

635

00:33:52,260 --> 00:33:56,860

things to see how she would react like we knew more than we actually did.

636

00:33:56,860 --> 00:33:58,960

And that man gave me the bottle.

637

00:33:58,960 --> 00:34:01,260

There was a witness in the parking lot.

638

00:34:01,260 --> 00:34:04,460

He didn't see a man with a mask and he didn't see a little boy.

639

00:34:04,460 --> 00:34:05,900

All he saw was you.

640

00:34:05,900 --> 00:34:09,420

There was no masked man and there was no little boy.

641

00:34:09,420 --> 00:34:11,420

Okay, alright.

642

00:34:11,420 --> 00:34:12,420

Okay.

643

00:34:12,420 --> 00:34:14,780

I made that part up.

644

00:34:14,780 --> 00:34:15,780

Why?

645

00:34:15,780 --> 00:34:21,060

Because the doctor, you know, he said that whatever Gilbert drank was in the house, okay?

646

00:34:21,060 --> 00:34:25,280

And so I went, he asked me if I had any insecticides and I looked, I searched in the house and

647

00:34:25,280 --> 00:34:27,120

that's when I found the bottle.

648

00:34:27,120 --> 00:34:31,240

Why did you make the story up about the man with the mask and the little boy?

649

00:34:31,240 --> 00:34:32,240

Because I was scared.

650

00:34:32,240 --> 00:34:35,440

I didn't know if Gilbert had done this to himself on purpose.

651

00:34:35,440 --> 00:34:39,540

She told me that maybe he was trying to hurt himself and so I asked her, you mean you think

652

00:34:39,540 --> 00:34:41,800

he was trying to take his own life?

653

00:34:41,820 --> 00:34:46,940

And she said, yeah, maybe, maybe he was depressed and I didn't want him to get in trouble.

654

00:34:46,940 --> 00:34:49,860

Elizabeth, would you be willing to take a lie detector test?

655

00:34:49,860 --> 00:34:52,660

Look, I have a job interview, okay?

656

00:34:52,660 --> 00:34:54,540

So I gotta go.

657

00:34:54,540 --> 00:34:56,660

What about the lie detector test?

658

00:34:56,660 --> 00:34:58,380

Okay, when?

659

00:34:58,380 --> 00:35:00,180

Later this afternoon, after your interview.

660

00:35:00,180 --> 00:35:03,740

Okay, I'll be back.

661

00:35:03,740 --> 00:35:07,020

Elizabeth never returned to the police station.

662

00:35:07,200 --> 00:35:11,360

The next morning, Detective Anderson reached her at her mother's house in San Francisco,

663

00:35:11,360 --> 00:35:13,480

20 minutes in Redwood City.

664

00:35:13,480 --> 00:35:15,880

This time, Elizabeth refused to come in.

665

00:35:15,880 --> 00:35:18,360

Can you talk to your lawyer about it please and give me a call back?

666

00:35:18,360 --> 00:35:21,880

Gilbert, I'm gonna ask you.

667

00:35:21,880 --> 00:35:28,040

Eleven days later, Gilbert regained consciousness and police suspicions were finally confirmed.

668

00:35:28,040 --> 00:35:31,080

Gilbert had apparently been poisoned by his own wife.

669

00:35:31,820 --> 00:35:38,900

Elizabeth, she was working for some people and she called me about 12 or so and told

670

00:35:38,900 --> 00:35:40,980

me she wanted to have lunch with me.

671

00:35:40,980 --> 00:35:45,140

Gilbert explained that Elizabeth had told him about a coworker's son who had bulked

672

00:35:45,140 --> 00:35:48,420

up by drinking amino acid milkshakes.

673

00:35:48,420 --> 00:35:56,620

You know, I live weights and all but I could never get big and that's the kind of guy she

674

00:35:56,620 --> 00:35:57,620

likes.

675

00:35:57,620 --> 00:35:59,420

Do you know this guy?

676

00:35:59,420 --> 00:36:00,860

No.

677

00:36:00,880 --> 00:36:02,880

The guy she worked for.

678

00:36:02,880 --> 00:36:05,600

So she mixed something up and brought it for you to drink?

679

00:36:05,600 --> 00:36:11,920

No, no, the guy, the guy mixed it up, gave it to her, she came to my work lunchtime and

680

00:36:11,920 --> 00:36:13,720

dropped it off.

681

00:36:13,720 --> 00:36:19,440

Gilbert said Elizabeth met him around 2 p.m. in the toy store parking lot.

682

00:36:19,440 --> 00:36:22,440

The shake was already mixed in a plastic sports bottle.

683

00:36:22,440 --> 00:36:24,960

You mean it's a shake?

684

00:36:24,960 --> 00:36:29,680

Tell me to tell you to drink it before you eat anything.

685

00:36:30,660 --> 00:36:31,660

It smells like chocolate.

686

00:36:31,660 --> 00:36:33,660

What did you say was in it?

687

00:36:33,660 --> 00:36:35,660

Amino acid.

688

00:36:35,660 --> 00:36:37,660

They're supposed to make me stronger?

689

00:36:37,660 --> 00:36:38,660

Yeah.

690

00:36:38,660 --> 00:36:42,940

This guy is real big, he's real buffed and he said it might taste a little nasty but

691

00:36:42,940 --> 00:36:44,420

that's okay, it's supposed to.

692

00:36:44,420 --> 00:36:48,100

Well actually I didn't open it until I got inside, it looked like a real shake.

693

00:36:48,100 --> 00:36:50,100

I mean like a chocolate shake.

694

00:36:50,100 --> 00:36:52,100

That's what it looked like.

695

00:36:54,100 --> 00:36:58,740

So I kind of tried it right and then I want to try to sort of like burn my throat a little

696

00:36:58,800 --> 00:36:59,800

bit.

697

00:36:59,800 --> 00:37:02,920

I said maybe that's the way it's supposed to taste, I don't know.

698

00:37:02,920 --> 00:37:09,560

I don't know if it was supposed to be sour or, I don't know, spicy because it was spicy

699

00:37:09,560 --> 00:37:12,000

but I thought that's the way it just was.

700

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:15,000

And I kept drinking and drinking and I didn't touch the food at all.

701

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:21,520

And pretty close, I almost finished the bottle.

702

00:37:21,520 --> 00:37:26,760

And then I started feeling really hot and my throat was really really really burning

703

00:37:26,780 --> 00:37:28,780

and I was all shaky.

704

00:37:29,780 --> 00:37:31,780

And then I felt like getting sick.

705

00:37:34,780 --> 00:37:36,780

Then I passed out.

706

00:37:36,780 --> 00:37:39,780

Then I was in the emergency room.

707

00:37:39,780 --> 00:37:41,780

Well, Gilbert, what I'd like to do...

708

00:37:41,780 --> 00:37:45,380

Police obtained a search warrant to see if they could trace the poison or the plastic

709

00:37:45,380 --> 00:37:47,380

bottle to Elizabeth.

710

00:37:47,380 --> 00:37:51,380

But when they arrived at the Ortiz apartment, they made a startling discovery.

711

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:59,000

Elizabeth Ortiz had vanished, along with a couple's two-year-old son, Jonathan.

712

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:03,000

Then that's when it hit me.

713

00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:05,000

She did it then.

714

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:07,000

It really really hurt it.

715

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:11,000

You know, especially when it told me, so where's the baby?

716

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:13,000

She's gone.

717

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:17,000

That's the main part that really got me.

718

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

Her, you know, fine, she's gone, she's gone, but the kid.

719

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:24,000

You know, I was too attached to the kid.

720

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:26,000

I'm still him.

721

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:33,000

Nearly one year has passed since Gilbert Ortiz was poisoned, but he still has not fully recovered.

722

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:37,000

The insecticide caused serious damage to his liver and nervous system.

723

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:42,000

His right foot is numb and he has difficulty walking without assistance.

724

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:49,000

Doctors don't know if I'm going to get back to normal or if it's permanent damage to my nerves.

725

00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:53,000

Same thing with my hands.

726

00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:55,000

Tip of my fingers.

727

00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:57,000

Numb.

728

00:38:57,000 --> 00:38:59,000

Can't feel anything.

729

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

And that really messed up my life because if I can't do anything with my feet, I can't work.

730

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:14,000

Jonathan Fuentes Ortiz has not been seen since March 17, 1992.

731

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:20,000

He was born on May 13, 1990 and has brown eyes and black hair.

732

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:30,000

An arrest warrant has been issued for Elizabeth Fuentes Ortiz, the charge attempted murder with a special consideration for torture.

733

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:37,000

Elizabeth is 23 years old, 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds.

734

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

She has black hair, brown eyes and a prominent cleft in her chin.

735

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:16,000

On a previous broadcast, we featured the agonizing story of a young Englishwoman, Delia Fezzani.

736

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:23,000

In 1964, she was 18 years old, unmarried and had just had a baby whom she named Michelle.

737

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

At her father's insistence, Delia was staying at a convent until the baby was adopted.

738

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:35,000

Two weeks after the baby was born, Delia's parents visited the convent.

739

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:42,000

Delia hoped once her father saw Michelle, he would relent, but he wouldn't even look at his granddaughter.

740

00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:50,000

In the end, Delia had no choice but to give up her daughter for adoption.

741

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:54,000

You've only got 30 minutes to say goodbye.

742

00:40:54,000 --> 00:41:02,000

What you try to do is look at her face to burn the impression into your mind.

743

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:16,000

So you feel the shawl and maybe because it's wool, but you're feeling her body because that was the last time you were going to see her.

744

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:19,000

And that was it.

745

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:25,000

I can't explain, one minute I had a baby, next minute it was gone.

746

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

Two photographs were all that Delia had to remember Michelle and she never stopped trying to locate her.

747

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:43,000

Finally, after 15 years of frustrated research, Delia's efforts began to pay off.

748

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:48,000

Last July, Delia learned that her daughter had been renamed Laura

749

00:41:48,000 --> 00:41:52,000

and adoption's official agreed to send a letter to Laura that Delia had written.

750

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:59,000

In the brief note, Delia said that she would soon appear in Unsolved Mysteries and asked her daughter to view the broadcast.

751

00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:06,000

In New York Mills, New York, on the evening our program was aired,

752

00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:13,000

Delia's daughter Laura Franklin experienced firsthand the heartbreaking events leading up to her adoption.

753

00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:28,000

When I found out my birth mother was searching for me,

754

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:35,000

that was pretty touching to know that she had looked that far to try to find me.

755

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

After the broadcast, Laura contacted our telecenter and asked to be put in touch with her birth mother.

756

00:42:48,000 --> 00:42:52,000

Against nearly impossible odds, Delia had at last found her daughter,

757

00:42:52,000 --> 00:42:56,000

a continent away amidst a population of millions.

758

00:42:58,000 --> 00:43:04,000

On September 19, 1992, Laura, her husband, their two children and Laura's closest friends

759

00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:07,000

assembled at Syracuse International Airport.

760

00:43:08,000 --> 00:43:14,000

The separation of birth mother and daughter that had lasted more than a quarter of a century was about to end.

761

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:21,000

There was a lot of anticipation, a lot of what she was going to think when she sees me

762

00:43:21,000 --> 00:43:24,000

and what is she going through right now?

763

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:31,000

I was so surprised.

764

00:43:49,000 --> 00:43:54,000

She was everything and more that I'd expected, absolutely everything.

765

00:43:54,000 --> 00:43:58,000

She's a beautiful girl, proud of her.

766

00:44:01,000 --> 00:44:06,000

Before Laura's adoptive mother died in 1989, she had shared all she knew of Laura's background.

767

00:44:07,000 --> 00:44:12,000

Delia and Laura could now fill in the remaining gaps in nearly 30 years of family history.

768

00:44:15,000 --> 00:44:21,000

Finding my birth mother now, I don't think it's really changed my life as much as it has probably enhanced it

769

00:44:21,000 --> 00:44:28,000

because now I can find out some about my past and my history and things that I never thought that I would ever find out about.

770

00:44:29,000 --> 00:44:36,000

I can't replace her mother, but I'd like to think that I could be pretty close.

771

00:44:38,000 --> 00:44:40,000

The September reunion is only a beginning.

772

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

At Christmas, Laura and her family plan to travel to England

773

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

where they will spend time with Delia and the many relatives looking forward to meeting them for the first time.

774

00:44:52,000 --> 00:44:57,000

The End

775

00:44:59,000 --> 00:45:05,000

Join me next time. Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.

776

00:45:21,000 --> 00:45:26,000

The End

777

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:53,000

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