

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,640

This program is about unsolved mysteries. Whenever possible, the actual family members

2

00:00:09,640 --> 00:00:13,720

and police officials have participated in recreating the events. What you are about

3

00:00:13,720 --> 00:00:23,520

to see is not a news broadcast.

4

00:00:23,520 --> 00:00:29,200

This is Walpole State Prison, 30 miles south of Boston, Massachusetts. A stone fortress

5

00:00:29,200 --> 00:00:34,240

housing all manner of dangerous criminals. A place where violence is an everyday fact

6

00:00:34,240 --> 00:00:46,720

of life. On the morning of November 26, 1973, an inmate was found stabbed to death in his

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

cell. The victim was Walpole's most famous prisoner and perhaps the most notorious criminal

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00:00:52,720 --> 00:01:02,000

of his time, Albert DeSalvo, a Boston strangler. Eight years earlier, DeSalvo had confessed

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:08,280

to murdering 13 women during an 18-month siege that had terrorized all of Boston. But many

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00:01:08,280 --> 00:01:13,240

people who knew DeSalvo, including some members of the police department, thought the confession

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00:01:13,240 --> 00:01:18,800

was bogus. In fact, DeSalvo was murdered the night before he was to meet with his former

12

00:01:18,800 --> 00:01:26,440

psychiatrist and a reporter, the finally reveal he claimed, the truth about the strangler.

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00:01:26,440 --> 00:01:31,320

For those most intimately involved with the investigation, DeSalvo's death added another

14

00:01:31,320 --> 00:01:39,880

layer of mystery to an ongoing controversy. Was Albert DeSalvo the Boston strangler?

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00:01:39,880 --> 00:01:48,640

I was quite sure that he was not and could not have been 30 years ago. His homicide just

16

00:01:48,640 --> 00:01:56,240

before he was going to talk to me convinced me even more. And now that I've had an opportunity

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00:01:56,240 --> 00:02:07,680

to review the tapes of his interrogation and confession, I am even more convinced that

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00:02:07,680 --> 00:02:16,640

he was not and probably could not have been the Boston strangler. Most people today assume

19

00:02:16,640 --> 00:02:21,800

that Albert DeSalvo was a Boston strangler. Yet few know that he was never convicted in

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00:02:21,800 --> 00:02:28,080

court, only in the press. Tonight in addition to Dr. Ames Roby, you'll meet Effley Bailey,

21

00:02:28,080 --> 00:02:33,440

DeSalvo's defense attorney, and George Nasser, a prison inmate who some believe was the real

22

00:02:33,560 --> 00:02:40,080

Boston strangler. Join me for this fascinating investigation as well as these other intriguing

23

00:02:40,080 --> 00:02:47,760

mysteries. Also, we'll take you to Czechoslovakia, a remarkable saga of selfless heroism. When

24

00:02:47,760 --> 00:02:53,760

an American bomber crash landed near her village during World War II, 17-year-old Helen Elash

25

00:02:53,760 --> 00:02:58,920

risked her life to shelter and protect the crew from the Nazis. Now Helen needs your

26

00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:05,920

help to find the American airman that she came to regard his family. On May 3rd, 1991,

27

00:03:05,920 --> 00:03:12,960

19-year-old Kevin Heel of Hawaiian Gardens, California was gunned down, the innocent victim

28

00:03:12,960 --> 00:03:18,360

of a gang-related shooting. Ever since, his mother and father have waged a lonely personal

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00:03:18,360 --> 00:03:23,800

crusade to track down their son's killers. Perhaps someone watching tonight has vital

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00:03:23,800 --> 00:03:26,320

information that will bring their quest to an end.

31

00:04:23,800 --> 00:04:29,520

In the 1960s, Boston was a city gripped with fear. Between June of 1962 and November of

32

00:04:29,520 --> 00:04:37,520

1963, 10 women were found murdered in their apartments. The first was Anna Sleezer's age

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00:04:37,520 --> 00:04:44,520

55. Next, Helen Blake, 65. And on the same day, Nina Nichols, 68. Then came Ida Urga,

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00:04:44,520 --> 00:04:51,520

75. Jane Sullivan, 67. Sophie Clark, age 20. Patricia Beset, 23. Beverly Sammons,

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00:04:58,920 --> 00:05:05,920

23. Evelyn Corbin, 58. And Joanne Graff, 23 years old. Four women in their early 20s,

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00:05:06,920 --> 00:05:13,920

six women, 55 years of age or older. Ten women with almost nothing in common except the

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00:05:16,440 --> 00:05:22,840

manner in which they died strangled in their own apartments. For the public, every night

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00:05:22,840 --> 00:05:29,840

was an exercise in terror. The police were frustrated. No one seemed to have any answers.

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00:05:30,840 --> 00:05:37,840

There are stories of women rushing out to dog pounds to buy every available stray mutt

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00:05:38,400 --> 00:05:45,400

for protection. Locksmiths reported a run on their businesses. People were obviously

41

00:05:46,520 --> 00:05:53,520

quite clearly frightened by whatever was out there. The police speculated that the killer

42

00:05:54,080 --> 00:06:01,080

was a rabid woman-hater who chose as victims at random. On January 4, 1964, 19-year-old

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00:06:01,360 --> 00:06:06,880

Mary Sullivan was found strangled to death in her bedroom. She would be the 11th and

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

last acknowledged victim of the Boston Strangler. Ten months later, few people noticed when

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00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:19,680

a man named Albert DeSalva was arrested on unrelated sexual assault charges. No one

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00:06:19,680 --> 00:06:26,680

imagined that this itinerant handyman would one day become a household name. Although

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00:06:26,680 --> 00:06:31,840

he was married and had two children, 32-year-old Albert DeSalva had an extensive history of

48

00:06:31,840 --> 00:06:38,040

sexual offenses. He also had a propensity for collecting nicknames. Long before the Boston

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00:06:38,040 --> 00:06:41,600

Strangler, DeSalva was dubbed the Measuring Man.

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00:06:41,600 --> 00:06:47,260

Good morning. Wow, your neighbors were right. You really are beautiful. My name is Jack

51

00:06:47,300 --> 00:06:51,300

Johnson. I'm from the Cambridge modeling agency over in Cambridge. Oh, you must have

52

00:06:51,300 --> 00:06:55,140

the wrong apartment. No, from your looks, I think I got the right doll right here.

53

00:06:55,140 --> 00:06:59,900

Under the pretense of recruiting fashion models, DeSalva would talk his way into houses. He

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00:06:59,900 --> 00:07:04,900

would measure women for clothing and then fondle them. Here's a contract I was talking

55

00:07:04,900 --> 00:07:08,740

to you about. And I'm going to need to take some measurements for the gowns. DeSalva's

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00:07:08,740 --> 00:07:14,580

escapades would eventually catch up with him. In March of 1961, he was arrested and sent

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00:07:14,620 --> 00:07:21,620

to a state correctional facility for one year. Soon after DeSalva's release, police began

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00:07:23,460 --> 00:07:28,620

receiving complaints about a sex offender whom they came to call the Green Man, a maintenance

59

00:07:28,620 --> 00:07:34,620

worker who smooth talked his way into women's apartments and then assaulted them. Good morning.

60

00:07:34,620 --> 00:07:39,100

How are you? Fine. How are you? Good. The superintendent told me to take a little

61

00:07:39,140 --> 00:07:44,640

bit of your plumbing. She would let him in. He would make an overture tour. If the overture

62

00:07:44,640 --> 00:07:51,640

were repelled, he would leave. But a surprising number of times, it wasn't according to him.

63

00:07:51,660 --> 00:07:58,660

And he ended up making love with the woman. Right down the aisle. Later, his assaults became

64

00:07:59,220 --> 00:08:06,220

much more aggressive. And eventually, these were the charges that he was arrested for,

65

00:08:06,620 --> 00:08:13,620

uh, sexually assaulting four women. DeSalva was arrested for committing unnatural acts.

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00:08:17,060 --> 00:08:23,260

He was remanded to Bridgewater State Mental Hospital. Dr. Ames Roby was a medical director.

67

00:08:23,260 --> 00:08:29,460

I, um, I see here that you've been charged with a series of molestations.

68

00:08:29,460 --> 00:08:33,180

A molestation may be too strong a word. Well, how do you mean?

69

00:08:33,460 --> 00:08:37,380

Well, I mean, all the women I was with, they had a very good time.

70

00:08:37,380 --> 00:08:42,300

Well, some of them didn't enjoy it. That is, after all, why you're here.

71

00:08:42,300 --> 00:08:45,140

Yeah, well, they, they enjoyed it at the time.

72

00:08:45,140 --> 00:08:52,140

Well, the first thing that was so obvious about Albert was his incredible need to be

73

00:08:54,300 --> 00:09:00,700

somebody important. How many women would you say you introduced yourself to with your

74

00:09:00,740 --> 00:09:07,740

measuring and repair work schemes? Uh, 600.

75

00:09:09,100 --> 00:09:16,100

600? Uh, well, um, probably more actually, uh, over a thousand.

76

00:09:17,140 --> 00:09:21,900

And how many of them enjoyed their experience with you?

77

00:09:21,900 --> 00:09:24,180

All of them. You're confident of that?

78

00:09:24,180 --> 00:09:30,180

Yeah, I am. He would brag about almost anything. He gave the feeling, although he didn't say

79

00:09:30,620 --> 00:09:37,620

so at that time, that he sort of wanted to be as well known as, in quotes, the Boston

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00:09:38,340 --> 00:09:45,340

Strangler. Albert DeSalba was about to get his wish. Three months later, George Nasser,

81

00:09:47,460 --> 00:09:52,700

a fellow inmate at Bridgewater, engaged his attorney, Effley Bailey, in an odd conversation

82

00:09:52,700 --> 00:09:54,860

about the Boston Strangler.

83

00:09:55,220 --> 00:10:00,220

Listen, um, there's one other thing I'd like to ask you.

84

00:10:00,220 --> 00:10:07,220

Go ahead. If a man was the Strangler, the guy who killed all those women, would it

85

00:10:07,900 --> 00:10:10,780

be possible for him to publish his story and make some money with it?

86

00:10:10,780 --> 00:10:14,300

You mean before or after this man strived for the crime?

87

00:10:14,300 --> 00:10:18,300

Before. It's perfectly possible to publish.

88

00:10:18,300 --> 00:10:21,900

He asked me whether or not it would be possible for someone who had done the Stranglings to

89

00:10:21,940 --> 00:10:27,100

write a book and provide money for his family. And my offhand answer was sure, but you might

90

00:10:27,100 --> 00:10:31,780

go to the electric chair as a consequence. Later on, I was asked to get down and see

91

00:10:31,780 --> 00:10:35,340

this fellow Albert DeSalba by my client.

92

00:10:35,340 --> 00:10:40,340

Albert specifically, what do you want me to do for you?

93

00:10:40,340 --> 00:10:47,340

I got a wife. I got a two-year-old son, a seven-year-old daughter, and, um, I know I'm

94

00:10:48,340 --> 00:10:52,340

going to be locked up for the rest of my life. I just hope it's in our hospital.

95

00:10:52,340 --> 00:10:56,340

It was a little incredulous because everybody develops a profile. They're looking for a

96

00:10:56,340 --> 00:11:01,340

monster, some of the, you know, jowls are dripping in. Just didn't seem to fit.

97

00:11:01,340 --> 00:11:08,340

There are obvious problems, uh, about confessing to a crime in print when there hasn't been

98

00:11:08,340 --> 00:11:09,340

a trial.

99

00:11:09,340 --> 00:11:14,900

He wanted to be able to tell his story. He said, I would like to find out why I am like

100

00:11:14,900 --> 00:11:18,500

this. Maybe people could give me tests or something, and I would like to take care of

101

00:11:18,500 --> 00:11:23,860

my family if I could. Those are the things I would like. Now you tell me what's possible.

102

00:11:23,860 --> 00:11:30,860

Before we even consider that, I need to know what that story is. I need details.

103

00:11:30,860 --> 00:11:37,860

All right. Well, his judge probably told you. I'm no one that'll look and fall. I want

104

00:11:38,820 --> 00:11:45,820

to get all the stranglers out there, teen. I thought there were only 11. There were

105

00:11:46,980 --> 00:11:52,420

two that the cops didn't know about that they haven't tagged me with yet. Okay. I had no

106

00:11:52,420 --> 00:11:57,620

way of knowing whether or not he was telling the truth, fantasizing because he was crazy,

107

00:11:57,620 --> 00:12:02,500

or had read a lot of things in the newspapers and wanted to be famous. Let's move on to

108

00:12:02,500 --> 00:12:03,500

Sophie Clark.

109

00:12:03,500 --> 00:12:08,500

Two days later, Bailey returned to Bridgewater armed with a tape recorder and a list of questions.

110

00:12:08,500 --> 00:12:14,500

With the Salvo's consent, Bailey had struck a rather unorthodox deal with a Boston police.

111

00:12:14,500 --> 00:12:20,940

They provided him with details only the strangler would know. In return, Bailey was guaranteed

112

00:12:20,940 --> 00:12:23,860

that the tapes would never be admissible in court.

113

00:12:23,860 --> 00:12:29,860

I remember that I went to the address and it gets like a stalk and something to wrap

114

00:12:29,860 --> 00:12:36,860

it up. And I knocked a pack of cigarettes on the floor. I knocked a pack of cigarettes

115

00:12:41,340 --> 00:12:48,340

on the floor. I left him there when I left. This guy has got to be it. Later, Bailey met

116

00:12:49,540 --> 00:12:55,020

with the officers assigned to the case. John Donovan was then chief of homicide. I think

117

00:12:55,020 --> 00:12:58,900

we got to follow up in every way. More questions, more details, more everything.

118

00:12:58,900 --> 00:13:05,900

We heard him answer correctly the question that I had given Mr. Bailey and we liked

119

00:13:06,580 --> 00:13:13,580

what we heard. His description of the crime scenes, it was just so accurate that that

120

00:13:17,500 --> 00:13:21,460

impressed me very much.

121

00:13:21,460 --> 00:13:26,620

Later when Dr. Ames Robey heard the tape, he was anything but impressed. He was convinced

122

00:13:26,620 --> 00:13:32,500

there was another explanation for the Salvo's knowledge of the crime scenes.

123

00:13:32,500 --> 00:13:39,500

Albert indicated to us that he had gone to the various sites that the newspapers had

124

00:13:40,580 --> 00:13:47,580

named after the police tapes and the like were off the doors in the apartments just to

125

00:13:48,420 --> 00:13:51,420

be there and see what it was like.

126

00:13:51,420 --> 00:13:56,740

I'm fascinated, you know. I just want to be there, walk around, get a feeling for it.

127

00:13:56,740 --> 00:14:00,820

Dr. Robey says that during the course of his sessions with the Salvo, he discovered that

128

00:14:00,820 --> 00:14:06,420

the Salvo had a photographic memory. Perhaps the Salvo had visited the victim's apartments,

129

00:14:06,420 --> 00:14:12,620

but perhaps he was merely repeating what someone else had described for him.

130

00:14:12,660 --> 00:14:17,900

As police began to suspect DeSalvo, Robey began to believe that DeSalvo's friend, George

131

00:14:17,900 --> 00:14:22,580

Nasser, was somehow involved.

132

00:14:22,580 --> 00:14:29,580

I first began to wonder about something going on when no other inmates would come near them

133

00:14:31,420 --> 00:14:36,860

and they would immediately stop talking if any one of the guards or staff came anywhere

134

00:14:37,260 --> 00:14:44,260

near where they could hear. But on this ward, they would have extensive conversations about

135

00:14:46,540 --> 00:14:51,260

what? Of course, we didn't know.

136

00:14:51,260 --> 00:14:55,820

For 30 years, people have speculated about George Nasser and his possible involvement

137

00:14:55,820 --> 00:15:01,060

in the killings. Nasser, a career criminal, is currently imprisoned for shooting and killing

138

00:15:01,100 --> 00:15:06,340

a gas station attendant shortly after the strangler claimed his final victim.

139

00:15:06,340 --> 00:15:12,140

Tonight, for the first time, Nasser has agreed to discuss his role in the case and his relationship

140

00:15:12,140 --> 00:15:14,620

with Albert DeSalvo.

141

00:15:14,620 --> 00:15:21,620

With Albert DeSalvo, I was simply an associate. I've done the same thing with many, many

142

00:15:22,060 --> 00:15:29,060

prisoners. People come to me and ask me for advice. I give it to them if they say, if

143

00:15:30,060 --> 00:15:35,540

it's worthy of me assisting them, I assist them. For my reasons, because I feel it's

144

00:15:35,540 --> 00:15:40,100

a worthy thing to do.

145

00:15:40,100 --> 00:15:45,140

By order of the Massachusetts Attorney General, news of DeSalvo's confession was kept under

146

00:15:45,140 --> 00:15:52,060

wraps. Privately, the authorities raised the number of strangler victims from 11 to 13.

147

00:15:52,060 --> 00:15:56,940

But within the police department, there was a split over whether DeSalvo was in fact the

148

00:15:57,020 --> 00:15:59,020

killer.

149

00:15:59,020 --> 00:16:04,180

I really couldn't break it down percentage-wise. Probably a little more than 50% believed DeSalvo

150

00:16:04,180 --> 00:16:11,180

was the strangler and a little less than 50% believed he was not the strangler.

151

00:16:11,180 --> 00:16:15,700

Inevitably, someone leaked the story of the confession to the local papers and the media

152

00:16:15,700 --> 00:16:19,980

circus ensued.

153

00:16:19,980 --> 00:16:24,780

In response to the news coverage, two women came forward. One a survivor of a possible

154

00:16:24,820 --> 00:16:30,820

strangler attack, the other a neighbor of one of the victims. On March 20, 1965, they

155

00:16:30,820 --> 00:16:36,820

were brought to Bridgewater to see if they recognized any of the inmates.

156

00:16:36,820 --> 00:16:42,820

Do you see somebody? Which one?

157

00:16:42,820 --> 00:16:46,820

The gentleman all the way in the back, right next to the guard.

158

00:16:46,820 --> 00:16:48,820

Next to the guard?

159

00:16:48,820 --> 00:16:50,820

Yes, next to the guard.

160

00:16:50,860 --> 00:16:56,860

An unfamiliar face did not belong to Albert DeSalvo, but to George Nasser.

161

00:16:56,860 --> 00:17:03,860

George Nasser would fit the profile of the Boston strangler. We found nothing that would

162

00:17:04,580 --> 00:17:10,820

rule him out. Not even one iota.

163

00:17:10,820 --> 00:17:17,820

I do not kill women. I've never conceived of it. I wouldn't conceive of it. I have

164

00:17:18,820 --> 00:17:25,820

a great respect and regard for women beginning with my mother who brought me up that way.

165

00:17:29,820 --> 00:17:34,820

We had people from all over the country with different theories wanting to get a piece of

166

00:17:34,820 --> 00:17:39,820

the action. George Nasser was eliminated as the strangler. I don't think he had the profile

167

00:17:39,820 --> 00:17:42,820

of a strangler. George Nasser used a gun.

168

00:17:42,820 --> 00:17:45,820

All right, Albert. I want you to imagine a calendar.

169

00:17:45,820 --> 00:17:50,820

Albert DeSalvo remained the state's prime and only suspect, even though there was no

170

00:17:50,820 --> 00:17:55,820

physical evidence that linked him to any of the killings. On the advice of F. Lee Bailey,

171

00:17:55,820 --> 00:17:57,820

DeSalvo underwent hypnosis.

172

00:17:57,820 --> 00:18:01,820

You tear that off and you do it with each sheet, back farther and farther.

173

00:18:01,820 --> 00:18:07,820

We had him hypnotized and age regressed right through one of the homicides and the things

174

00:18:07,820 --> 00:18:12,820

that developed in the presence of a very bright medical hypnotist were of great interest.

175

00:18:13,820 --> 00:18:17,820

I didn't want to hurt. I had to hurt her to help her.

176

00:18:17,820 --> 00:18:22,820

This recreation was based upon F. Lee Bailey's recollections of the hypnosis session.

177

00:18:23,820 --> 00:18:30,820

Albert, when you were strangling that woman, who were you really trying to hurt?

178

00:18:33,820 --> 00:18:36,820

I don't know. I think you do know Albert.

179

00:18:42,820 --> 00:18:43,820

My mother?

180

00:18:43,820 --> 00:18:47,820

Yes, Albert. Tell me how you really feel about her.

181

00:18:54,820 --> 00:18:55,820

I love her.

182

00:18:55,820 --> 00:18:58,820

No, Albert. No, you don't.

183

00:18:58,820 --> 00:19:01,820

Yes, I do. She took care of me.

184

00:19:01,820 --> 00:19:02,820

Albert.

185

00:19:02,820 --> 00:19:03,820

I love her.

186

00:19:03,820 --> 00:19:05,820

Tell me how you really feel about her.

187

00:19:05,820 --> 00:19:06,820

I love her, Albert!

188

00:19:06,820 --> 00:19:07,820

I love her!

189

00:19:07,820 --> 00:19:08,820

Albert!

190

00:19:08,820 --> 00:19:09,820

All right, get off me, Albert.

191

00:19:09,820 --> 00:19:11,820

It's all right. I love her.

192

00:19:13,820 --> 00:19:14,820

You can sleep.

193

00:19:14,820 --> 00:19:21,820

The session seemed to reveal that DeSalvo had had strained relationships with every significant woman in his life.

194

00:19:22,820 --> 00:19:25,820

We found an involvement of his wife, who he married in Germany.

195

00:19:25,820 --> 00:19:29,820

His daughter, who had a physical disability that troubled him greatly.

196

00:19:29,820 --> 00:19:34,820

His mother, for whom he had a love-hate relationship, and it was just the beginning.

197

00:19:35,820 --> 00:19:44,820

The answers were almost implied in the question, which at least from my training is something you don't do.

198

00:19:44,820 --> 00:19:49,820

Ames Roby observed the session and came to a remarkably different conclusion.

199

00:19:49,820 --> 00:19:54,820

I was not at all convinced that anything had been uncovered.

200

00:19:54,820 --> 00:20:07,820

And was a little surprised later when Mr. Bailey announced that what had occurred under hypnosis was definitive evidence.

201

00:20:09,820 --> 00:20:22,820

Albert, even with the crimes he was charged with, he was considered gentle, polite, his sexual proclivities, his general attitude.

202

00:20:22,820 --> 00:20:40,820

He was not angry and hostile, and he presented as a rather likable individual, so that for all of these reasons, as well as his being married and others, he just simply didn't fit.

203

00:20:41,820 --> 00:20:44,820

Once you were inside the apartment, what did you see?

204

00:20:44,820 --> 00:20:54,820

In the summer of 1965, the Massachusetts Attorney General's office conducted their own series of interrogations, which once again were not admissible in court.

205

00:20:54,820 --> 00:20:58,820

The transcripts of those interviews were never released.

206

00:20:58,820 --> 00:21:06,820

Recently, however, author Susan Kelly managed to obtain a copy while researching her book about the stranglings, called *Deadly Charade*.

207

00:21:07,820 --> 00:21:21,820

When you read the transcript of those interrogations and you come to a point where Albert gives an incorrect answer to a question, he is guided to give the correct answer.

208

00:21:21,820 --> 00:21:26,820

And Albert, who was a smart guy, caught on very quickly.

209

00:21:26,820 --> 00:21:33,820

I remember there were two chairs. I remember I took the chairs out and I remember laying them down in the back.

210

00:21:33,820 --> 00:21:37,820

Where did you get the chairs? From the dining room?

211

00:21:39,820 --> 00:21:41,820

Yeah, from the dining room.

212

00:21:42,820 --> 00:22:01,820

The principal reason I think the transcripts or the tapes of Albert's confession were never made public is simply that whoever read them or heard them would have reacted to them the same as I did, which was simply to say, this man was not the Boston Strangler. He didn't kill anyone.

213

00:22:01,820 --> 00:22:12,820

They had the right guy beyond question known as ever come up with anything meaningful to contradict that. The question was how could we try him as the Strangler and close the file in the public

minds?

214

00:22:13,820 --> 00:22:28,820

F. Lee Bailey struck a deal with the state. On January 10, 1967, Albert DeSalvo went on trial, but not for any of the stranglings. Instead, he was tried for sexual assault and other crimes in connection with a Green Man case.

215

00:22:28,820 --> 00:22:32,820

In return, the state agreed not to press for the death penalty.

216

00:22:33,820 --> 00:22:34,820

This session.

217

00:22:34,820 --> 00:22:49,820

That's all we wanted. Nobody ever wanted Albert on the street, including Albert, and to ask not to be executed so that he could be studied seemed to me a reasonable objective. I never heard a cogent word of argument from any of the authorities. They didn't want to kill him either.

218

00:22:52,820 --> 00:22:57,820

After less than four hours of deliberation, the jury reached his verdict.

219

00:22:58,820 --> 00:23:10,820

On all counts of breaking and entering, and on all counts of unnatural acts, the jury finds the defendant guilty.

220

00:23:10,820 --> 00:23:21,820

DeSalvo had been hoping to be institutionalized at a state mental hospital, but his insanity defense failed. In total, Albert DeSalvo was found guilty on eight criminal counts.

221

00:23:21,820 --> 00:23:39,820

It was a much more severe sentence than he would have received normally on the sex charges of which he'd been convicted, but he was being sent to prison as the Boston Strangler. It was that simple.

222

00:23:40,820 --> 00:23:57,820

I think the most difficult part of all of this was the feeling that whether they had it solved or not, they had quieted the public's concern. So, theoretically, everyone was happy.

223

00:23:58,820 --> 00:24:09,820

At Walpole State Prison, DeSalvo was reunited with his old friend George Nassar. Once again, questions were raised regarding Nassar's possible involvement with the Stranglers.

224

00:24:10,820 --> 00:24:25,820

Because Al wasn't tried, this case had become mythical. That the characters were like in a play. I mean, you can manipulate them. You can say, well, let's make him the suspect, or let's say he isn't.

225

00:24:26,820 --> 00:24:43,820

That it had become a real media event in the sense that it became part of a public fantasy of what really happened. It became a continuing mystery when it should have been resolved. And I was part of the mystery.

226

00:24:44,820 --> 00:25:03,820

The Boston Strangler continued to tantalize the public. Over the next few years, no less than three books in a Hollywood movie chronicled the life of Albert DeSalvo. Outside of prison, he had achieved immortality. But inside, he feared his notoriety and made him a marked man.

227

00:25:04,820 --> 00:25:14,820

Finally, after more than six years behind bars, DeSalvo asked to be transferred to a cell in the prison infirmary, where he would be isolated from the other inmates.

228

00:25:22,820 --> 00:25:29,820

On the evening of November 25, 1973, DeSalvo telephoned his former psychiatrist, Dr. Ames Roby.

229

00:25:30,820 --> 00:25:33,820

Hello?

230

00:25:33,820 --> 00:25:34,820

Dr. Roby?

231

00:25:34,820 --> 00:25:35,820

Yes?

232

00:25:35,820 --> 00:25:37,820

Albert DeSalvo.

233

00:25:37,820 --> 00:25:40,820

Well, Albert, this is quite a surprise. Is everything all right?

234

00:25:40,820 --> 00:25:42,820

He wanted to talk to me.

235

00:25:42,820 --> 00:25:44,820

To tell me the quote, real story.

236

00:25:44,820 --> 00:25:48,820

It's not going to be a good idea for you to come down here tomorrow. There's some things I need to talk to you about.

237

00:25:48,820 --> 00:25:51,820

Oh, can't we just talk here on the phone?

238

00:25:51,820 --> 00:25:58,820

No, no, no. It's nothing I can talk about over the phone. Listen, I got a reporter coming down here at two o'clock tomorrow. I think it'd be a good idea for you to come as well.

239

00:25:58,820 --> 00:26:09,820

He didn't say what the real story was, and I could only hope that this is what I would hear, but I never heard it.

240

00:26:11,820 --> 00:26:14,820

When everybody assembled, it was in the infirmary, in my office, as soon as possible.

241

00:26:14,820 --> 00:26:23,820

The next morning, before DeSalvo could talk to Dr. Roby and the reporter, he was found murdered in his cell, stabbed repeatedly in the chest.

242

00:26:25,820 --> 00:26:39,820

Two theories immediately surfaced among the inmates. Some believe that DeSalvo was murdered in a drug deal. Others, including George Nasser, say DeSalvo was killed in a dispute over cuts of meat he was allegedly selling on the prison black market.

243

00:26:39,820 --> 00:27:05,820

Obviously, I was not going to go for the interview, and the assumption I had was somebody found out. Somebody didn't want that interview happening, and I think they have said before, dead men tell no tales.

244

00:27:10,820 --> 00:27:20,820

Three inmates were eventually charged with Albert DeSalvo's murder, but their trials ended in hung juries and no one was ever convicted.

245

00:27:22,820 --> 00:27:34,820

For those who believe that DeSalvo was guilty, his death was a fitting climax to a brutal reign of terror, but there lies the rub. Was Albert DeSalvo in reality the Boston Strangler?

246

00:27:35,820 --> 00:27:46,820

Albert DeSalvo was the Boston Strangler. We learned that at great and tragic expense to the community, and then wasted him away. We could have learned a lot from Albert. We didn't.

247

00:27:47,820 --> 00:28:10,820

I think Albert became the Boston Strangler because he wanted so much to be the Boston Strangler. It was the most important thing in his life. For somebody who felt all his life that he was a nobody, all of a sudden he could become world renowned.

248

00:28:11,820 --> 00:28:18,820

Not many people are handed a golden opportunity to do that, if Albert was.

249

00:28:19,820 --> 00:28:38,820

In death as in life, Albert DeSalvo remained shrouded in mystery. Shortly after his murder, authorities came across a collection of poems he had written in prison. One of them provided a cryptic enigmatic footnote to the saga of the Boston Strangler.

250

00:28:38,820 --> 00:29:03,820

Here's the story of the Strangler, yet untold. The man who claims he murdered 13 women, young and old. Today he sits in a prison cell, deep inside only a secret he can tell. People everywhere are still in doubt. Is the Strangler in prison or Roman about?

251

00:29:08,820 --> 00:29:18,820

The Strangler is the man who claims he murdered 13 women, young and old. The Strangler is the man who claims he murdered 13 women, young and old.

252

00:29:39,820 --> 00:29:58,820

The Second World War, one of the darkest chapters in history. But even the tragedy of war is sometimes eased by occasional acts of kindness and compassion.

253

00:29:59,820 --> 00:30:08,820

Over the years, Unsolved Mysteries has brought you several stories about survivors searching for that one special person who offered them comfort in the midst of the hardship.

254

00:30:09,820 --> 00:30:16,820

We've even solved some of these cases and shared in the joyful celebration of friendships which have spanned more than half a century.

255

00:30:17,820 --> 00:30:26,820

But rarely is a cause for reunion touches as deeply as a story you're about to see.

256

00:30:27,820 --> 00:30:41,820

Recently we traveled to the Czech Republic to film the incredible saga of Helen Elish, a woman who showed remarkable resilience in the face of overwhelming odds, whose courage and devotion may have saved the lives of an American bomber crew.

257

00:30:46,820 --> 00:30:55,820

Helen was born in 1927 in the village of Kizmora, Czechoslovakia. When Helen's mother died, Helen's childhood became a nightmare.

258

00:30:59,820 --> 00:31:04,820

She was treated with contempt by her stepmother and regularly beaten by her father.

259

00:31:04,820 --> 00:31:24,820

I think he blamed me for my mother's death. To my sister he was good, to my brothers he was good.

Only to me he just tossed me on his side like I don't belong in a family.

260

00:31:25,820 --> 00:31:33,820

Rejected by her family and often denied the essentials, Helen was forced to learn the lessons of survival on her own.

261

00:31:35,820 --> 00:31:40,820

She found work on a nearby farm and in exchange she was given food and clothing.

262

00:31:43,820 --> 00:31:48,820

But the end of each workday met a return to the harsh realities of her own home.

263

00:31:49,820 --> 00:31:57,820

Often Helen would escape to the forest, the one place where she could find solace. Even the wild animals accepted her presence.

264

00:32:00,820 --> 00:32:14,820

The boots were very important to me because it was quiet there. Nobody yelled at me, nobody pushed me around. I was my own self there. This was my hiding place.

265

00:32:15,820 --> 00:32:23,820

That's why I loved it there. And I spent many nights over there. Many nights.

266

00:32:28,820 --> 00:32:36,820

One day while walking in the woods, Helen discovered a mysterious hidden entryway. She was instantly seized with curiosity.

267

00:32:37,820 --> 00:32:45,820

I went inside and I saw this is a tunnel. I was surprised. I didn't know where the tunnel was going to go.

268

00:32:47,820 --> 00:32:57,820

The narrow entrance gave way to a remarkable network of underground passageways. Perhaps long forgotten escape routes for a medieval castle bestowed at the outskirts of town.

269

00:32:58,820 --> 00:33:01,820

For Helen, the tunnel soon became like a second home.

270

00:33:02,820 --> 00:33:17,820

Every time I come there, I bring something with me. Like we say blanket, I bring it with me. And I bring lots of hay, you know, and that hay keeps you warm from that floor. And I made it like my home there, you know.

271

00:33:19,820 --> 00:33:22,820

And nobody knew nothing about this place. Nobody.

272

00:33:23,820 --> 00:33:32,820

However, the safe haven Helen had created for herself could not protect her from the forces of history that would soon sweep across Europe.

273

00:33:35,820 --> 00:33:44,820

In 1938, Hitler's armies marched into Czechoslovakia. Within a year, the Second World War would engulf most of the continent.

274

00:33:45,820 --> 00:33:58,820

By 1943, the medieval castle was a Nazi headquarters. Helen, then 17, had come to despise a Nazi presence. More and more, she took refuge in her secret hiding place.

275

00:34:01,820 --> 00:34:08,820

One afternoon, the quiet of the forest was pierced by the sound of a sputtering airplane engine, almost directly overhead.

276

00:34:09,820 --> 00:34:24,820

I saw a plane in buzz and fire. And I saw it coming down, down, down. And I ran. I ran there. I ran so fast.

277

00:34:25,820 --> 00:34:43,820

An American bomber had crash landed in a remote field. As the crew stumbled from the wreckage, Helen says she made a decision that would forever change the course of her life.

278

00:34:44,820 --> 00:34:49,820

Helen led the men to the one place where she knew they would be safe.

279

00:34:52,820 --> 00:35:01,820

I was so scared. I mean, I was scared. If Germans would get them, I know what they would do with them.

280

00:35:01,820 --> 00:35:06,820

I know they would kill them, every one of them. And nobody would even know that they were killed.

281

00:35:08,820 --> 00:35:16,820

Helen had placed herself squarely in danger, but she refused to shirk the responsibility of caring for the men, two of whom were severely injured.

282

00:35:17,820 --> 00:35:25,820

But the local hospital was in danger. Helen was in danger. Helen was in danger. Helen was in danger. Helen was in danger.

283

00:35:25,820 --> 00:35:29,820

The majority of caring for the men, two of whom were severely injured.

284

00:35:30,820 --> 00:35:36,820

At the local hospital, Helen scoured the trash in search of discarded bandages and ointments.

285

00:35:38,820 --> 00:35:49,820

I couldn't tell nobody. I couldn't tell nobody. I was scared that if I tell somebody, somebody will go to squeak and they are dead.

286

00:35:50,820 --> 00:35:52,820

And I just couldn't allow that to happen.

287

00:35:52,820 --> 00:35:53,820

They were in bandages.

288

00:35:54,820 --> 00:35:56,820

Get them out here.

289

00:35:57,820 --> 00:36:01,820

Helen says that as soon as the injured men began to recover, she turned to a greater challenge.

290

00:36:04,820 --> 00:36:12,820

So many men in hiding required plentiful amounts of food. Helen surreptitiously set aside portions of the harvest to take to them.

291

00:36:16,820 --> 00:36:21,820

With no money at her disposal, Helen created a clever ruse to obtain additional food.

292

00:36:22,820 --> 00:36:28,820

She charmed the local baker with a heartbreaking tale of helping a widow and her twelve hungry children.

293

00:36:30,820 --> 00:36:36,820

The longer I was with them, I cared for them more and more.

294

00:36:37,820 --> 00:36:46,820

I was doing lots of work, I mean carrying all the food so far and stealing and everything, cheating and everything.

295

00:36:46,820 --> 00:36:53,820

And this was not easy for me because I had never done it this before. But I had to do it for them.

296

00:36:56,820 --> 00:37:06,820

And they were grateful. You could see their eyes, a love for me. I know that because I felt it about them like this too.

297

00:37:07,820 --> 00:37:13,820

For several weeks Helen managed to keep up her charade, but her partisan activities did not go unnoticed.

298

00:37:15,820 --> 00:37:20,820

In August of 1943, Helen was apparently betrayed by her own stepmother.

299

00:37:22,820 --> 00:37:29,820

I saw her under the corner talking to those two men and I was scared.

300

00:37:29,820 --> 00:37:33,820

I just knew that something is not right.

301

00:37:36,820 --> 00:37:43,820

In desperation, Helen turned to the only place where she might find a sympathetic ear, the local Catholic Church.

302

00:37:47,820 --> 00:37:50,820

I would like to talk to you.

303

00:37:50,820 --> 00:37:54,820

Why are you so upset, Marcelo? What happened?

304

00:37:55,820 --> 00:37:57,820

I'm very scared.

305

00:37:58,820 --> 00:38:03,820

When I went to him, I cried. I said, somebody have to help me. I got no place to go only to you. You've got to help me, you've got to help me.

306

00:38:04,820 --> 00:38:07,820

But you have to show it to me that I can trust you.

307

00:38:08,820 --> 00:38:10,820

I'm not afraid of you.

308

00:38:11,820 --> 00:38:13,820

I'm afraid of you.

309

00:38:13,820 --> 00:38:18,820

You've got to help me, you've got to help me, but you have to show it to me that I can trust you.

310

00:38:21,820 --> 00:38:26,820

And then he told me, he says, I work for the underground. Trust me.

311

00:38:27,820 --> 00:38:29,820

I said, okay, prove it to me.

312

00:38:32,820 --> 00:38:34,820

And he says, come tomorrow.

313

00:38:37,820 --> 00:38:40,820

Helen says she returned to the church the next day.

314

00:38:41,820 --> 00:38:48,820

In the privacy of the confessional, the priest showed her the two-way radio, the underground used to communicate with England.

315

00:39:02,820 --> 00:39:04,820

It was such a relief for me.

316

00:39:05,820 --> 00:39:12,820

And so then I told him how many men and where they are and how he can find them.

317

00:39:19,820 --> 00:39:23,820

Helen says her decision to contact the underground had been made just in time.

318

00:39:34,820 --> 00:39:39,820

Helen says she was interrogated and beaten for three days.

319

00:40:05,820 --> 00:40:08,820

They didn't get nothing from me, just I don't know anything.

320

00:40:09,820 --> 00:40:12,820

I'd rather die myself before I'm going to kill all those men.

321

00:40:14,820 --> 00:40:18,820

This is a very bad man feeling and I was prepared for it.

322

00:40:19,820 --> 00:40:22,820

Really, I was prepared for this, that I'm going to die.

323

00:40:27,820 --> 00:40:31,820

But nothing could have prepared Helen for the horror she was about to endure.

324

00:40:32,820 --> 00:40:34,820

A concentration camp in Poland.

325

00:40:40,820 --> 00:40:42,820

Garniz, go.

326

00:40:47,820 --> 00:40:51,820

Helen says that she and several other women were selected as human guinea pigs

327

00:40:51,820 --> 00:40:54,820

in barbaric experiments performed by SS doctors.

328

00:40:55,820 --> 00:41:00,820

Helen was injected with unknown drugs and medications, which caused her to become violently ill.

329

00:41:05,820 --> 00:41:07,820

Don't move.

330

00:41:07,820 --> 00:41:10,820

She's very, very ill.

331

00:41:15,820 --> 00:41:18,820

The living hell lasted for two excruciating years.

332

00:41:19,820 --> 00:41:24,820

Finally in 1945, the camp was liberated by the Allies.

333

00:41:24,820 --> 00:41:27,820

Helen was among the survivors.

334

00:41:30,820 --> 00:41:34,820

In 1948, Helen married a fellow Czechoslovakian refugee.

335

00:41:34,820 --> 00:41:37,820

They later emigrated to the United States.

336

00:41:37,820 --> 00:41:43,820

Helen believes the experiments conducted by the SS left her physically unable to bear children.

337

00:41:44,820 --> 00:41:49,820

However Helen feels that saving the airmen was well worth her own personal sacrifice.

338

00:41:49,820 --> 00:41:54,820

In fact, over the years, she has come to regard the men almost as her sons.

339

00:41:59,820 --> 00:42:01,820

They are to me precious boys.

340

00:42:01,820 --> 00:42:03,820

Really precious.

341

00:42:03,820 --> 00:42:07,820

They were much older from me, but they were my boys.

342

00:42:08,820 --> 00:42:11,820

I hope to find them.

343

00:42:11,820 --> 00:42:13,820

Every one of them.

344

00:42:13,820 --> 00:42:18,820

And I would hug them and I would kiss them and I would be very happy.

345

00:42:38,820 --> 00:42:43,820

In a moment, a mother steadfast search for the gang members who murdered her son.

346

00:42:52,820 --> 00:42:56,820

In recent years, thousands of Americans have died in gang-related violence.

347

00:42:56,820 --> 00:42:58,820

Most of them in large urban areas.

348

00:42:58,820 --> 00:43:01,820

The numbers are staggering and still growing.

349

00:43:01,820 --> 00:43:04,820

In fact, for young people in a big city or at suburbs,

350

00:43:04,820 --> 00:43:07,820

it has become almost impossible to be a high school student

351

00:43:07,820 --> 00:43:10,820

and not come in contact with someone who belongs to a gang.

352

00:43:16,820 --> 00:43:18,820

This is Teresa Huy.

353

00:43:18,820 --> 00:43:24,820

On May 3rd, 1991, her only son, Kevin, was gunned down by four suspected gang members

354

00:43:24,820 --> 00:43:28,820

in Hawaiian Gardens, California, just south of Los Angeles.

355

00:43:29,820 --> 00:43:33,820

Ever since, Teresa and her husband have waged a lonely crusade

356

00:43:33,820 --> 00:43:36,820

to find out who killed Kevin and why.

357

00:43:40,820 --> 00:43:44,820

Kevin was what you might say a typical teenager.

358

00:43:44,820 --> 00:43:46,820

He loved his music really loud.

359

00:43:46,820 --> 00:43:49,820

He was a little bit on the shy side.

360

00:43:49,820 --> 00:43:52,820

He had a sense of humor you wouldn't believe.

361

00:43:52,820 --> 00:43:55,820

And he always, always had a smile on his face.

362

00:43:58,820 --> 00:44:02,820

But Kevin Wheale was not immune to the reality of life on the street.

363

00:44:02,820 --> 00:44:05,820

There was significant gang activity in Hawaiian Gardens,

364

00:44:05,820 --> 00:44:08,820

and Kevin knew several gang members.

365

00:44:08,820 --> 00:44:11,820

It was a casual association that would prove fatal.

366

00:44:16,820 --> 00:44:21,820

May 3rd, 1991, Kevin spent most of the evening at a friend's house.

367

00:44:21,820 --> 00:44:26,820

Around 11.30 p.m., he was seen driving south along Norwalk Boulevard,

368

00:44:26,820 --> 00:44:28,820

apparently on his way home.

369

00:44:30,820 --> 00:44:35,820

According to eyewitnesses, Kevin was approaching 221st Street

370

00:44:35,820 --> 00:44:37,820

when a vehicle began to follow him.

371

00:44:38,820 --> 00:44:40,820

The scene was shot down by a car.

372

00:44:55,820 --> 00:44:59,820

Kevin was struck twice in the head and three times in the back.

373

00:45:00,820 --> 00:45:03,820

An hour later, Kevin Wheale was dead.

374

00:45:04,820 --> 00:45:09,820

Investigators immediately suspected that he had been the victim of a gang shooting.

375

00:45:10,820 --> 00:45:15,820

Some of Kevin's friends were Hawaiian Gardens gang members,

376

00:45:15,820 --> 00:45:18,820

but that doesn't mean that Kevin was a gang member.

377

00:45:18,820 --> 00:45:24,820

He just associated with them, and I feel the other gang recognized the car

378

00:45:24,820 --> 00:45:29,820

that may have had some of Kevin's friends in it from time to time.

379

00:45:29,820 --> 00:45:32,820

Kevin, who were Hawaiian Gardens gang members,

380

00:45:32,820 --> 00:45:37,820

and they just keyed on the car and not the occupants of the vehicle.

381

00:45:38,820 --> 00:45:43,820

I didn't want Kevin's case to be just another gang-related shooting.

382

00:45:43,820 --> 00:45:46,820

I didn't want it to be another shooting that went unsolved.

383

00:45:46,820 --> 00:45:49,820

I made a promise that I would do everything in my power

384

00:45:49,820 --> 00:45:52,820

to catch these guys who murdered him.

385

00:45:54,820 --> 00:45:57,820

In the days and weeks after Kevin's murder,

386

00:45:57,820 --> 00:46:02,820

his parents, Teresa and Stan, posted thousands of flyers around the area where he was shot.

387

00:46:04,820 --> 00:46:08,820

They even managed to pull together \$10,000 in reward money.

388

00:46:10,820 --> 00:46:13,820

When the investigation first started, I thought, you know,

389

00:46:13,820 --> 00:46:16,820

there was so much information at first that this probably wouldn't be no problem,

390

00:46:16,820 --> 00:46:20,820

and being that Kevin wasn't a gang member, you know, people would talk.

391

00:46:20,820 --> 00:46:25,820

But, you know, I found out that I was really wrong.

392

00:46:28,820 --> 00:46:32,820

Gang shooting investigations are very frustrating.

393

00:46:33,820 --> 00:46:39,820

Within the gang culture, the reason the witnesses are not coming forward

394

00:46:39,820 --> 00:46:44,820

is because they feel that being a snitch is worse than death itself.

395

00:46:49,820 --> 00:46:54,820

The hardest part for Stan and I right now is, I think, dealing with the anger.

396

00:46:54,820 --> 00:46:59,820

The anger that our son is dead and buried in a grave at 19.

397

00:47:02,820 --> 00:47:06,820

There was no rhyme or reason why anybody would want to shoot Kevin.

398

00:47:06,820 --> 00:47:10,820

He's never been in any fights or disagreements with anybody.

399

00:47:10,820 --> 00:47:14,820

I mean, he was just, you know, a 19-year-old out having fun.

400

00:47:14,820 --> 00:47:17,820

It was just so senseless. It's so stupid.

401

00:47:17,820 --> 00:47:22,820

It was and still is such a shock that something like this could happen.

402

00:47:25,820 --> 00:47:28,820

The End

403

00:47:35,820 --> 00:47:37,820

Two weeks from tonight.

404

00:47:37,820 --> 00:47:40,820

Join me for a special two-hour season finale.

405

00:47:40,820 --> 00:47:42,820

Here's a sampling.

406

00:47:43,820 --> 00:47:46,820

When good things happen to us, is it pure chance?

407

00:47:46,820 --> 00:47:49,820

Or, as some people think, are there angels among us?

408

00:47:49,820 --> 00:47:52,820

Just ask Jeanne Chameau.

409

00:47:52,820 --> 00:47:55,820

In 1976, on a trip to the painted desert,

410

00:47:55,820 --> 00:47:58,820

she fell to what should have been her death.

411

00:47:58,820 --> 00:48:00,820

Before she still doesn't fully understand,

412

00:48:00,820 --> 00:48:03,820

apparently lifted her up to safety.

413

00:48:03,820 --> 00:48:08,820

Join a woman from Wisconsin as she sets out to find her missing husband.

414

00:48:08,820 --> 00:48:13,820

He disappeared from a Colorado motel on August 31, 1993.

415

00:48:13,820 --> 00:48:16,820

Some believe he engineered his own disappearance.

416

00:48:16,820 --> 00:48:19,820

But after he was allegedly spotted on an Amtrak train,

417

00:48:19,820 --> 00:48:24,820

disheveled and disoriented, the investigation took on a new urgency.

418

00:48:25,820 --> 00:48:28,820

For decades, rumors have circulated in the Pacific Northwest

419

00:48:28,820 --> 00:48:32,820

about Bigfoot, the fabled and elusive half-man, half-ape.

420

00:48:32,820 --> 00:48:37,820

But recent sightings have let increased credibility to the age-old rumors.

421

00:48:37,820 --> 00:48:39,820

Is Bigfoot real?

422

00:48:39,820 --> 00:48:42,820

Meet the eyewitnesses and judge for yourself.

423

00:48:43,820 --> 00:48:45,820

Join me two weeks from tonight

424

00:48:45,820 --> 00:48:49,820

for one of our most intriguing and fascinating episodes.