

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 --> 00:00:18,680

It's known as the Girdon Light.

6

00:00:18,680 --> 00:00:22,280

For more than 60 years, the same eerie, luminous apparition

7

00:00:22,280 --> 00:00:25,280

has been described by hundreds of eyewitnesses.

8

00:00:25,280 --> 00:00:27,680

Is it some of the stories that have been told

9

00:00:28,680 --> 00:00:33,680

or is it as many say, the restless ghost

10

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

of a long dead railroad man doomed to wander the tracks

11

00:00:37,680 --> 00:00:38,680

for eternity?

12

00:00:40,680 --> 00:00:42,680

This man, Stuart Heaton, was convicted

13

00:00:42,680 --> 00:00:45,680

of murdering a 16-year-old girl largely on the strength

14

00:00:45,680 --> 00:00:47,680

of DNA test results.

15

00:00:47,680 --> 00:00:50,680

But all along, Heaton has claimed that he is innocent,

16

00:00:50,680 --> 00:00:53,680

that the DNA tests were flawed, and some prominent

17

00:00:53,680 --> 00:00:56,680

scientific experts agree with him.

18

00:00:58,680 --> 00:01:01,680

Call them the real-life Thelma and Louise,

19

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

on the road and on the run.

20

00:01:03,680 --> 00:01:06,680

A middle-class wife and mother and her best friend,

21

00:01:06,680 --> 00:01:09,680

who allegedly thrilled in seducing, terrorizing,

22

00:01:09,680 --> 00:01:11,680

and then robbing men, they met through the personals.

23

00:01:14,680 --> 00:01:16,680

Also tonight, a heartwarming reunion

24

00:01:16,680 --> 00:01:18,680

brought about by your cause.

25

00:01:18,680 --> 00:01:22,680

Join me for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

26

00:01:58,680 --> 00:02:04,680

Welcome to Girdon, Arkansas, population 2700,

27

00:02:04,680 --> 00:02:07,680

a town in the United States of America.

28

00:02:07,680 --> 00:02:10,680

The city of Girdon is the most beautiful city

29

00:02:10,680 --> 00:02:13,680

in the world, and it is the most beautiful city

30

00:02:13,680 --> 00:02:14,680

in the world.

31

00:02:14,680 --> 00:02:17,680

It is the city of Girdon, Arkansas,

32

00:02:17,680 --> 00:02:20,680

and it is the city of Girdon, Arkansas,

33

00:02:20,680 --> 00:02:23,680

and it is the city of Girdon, Arkansas,

34

00:02:23,680 --> 00:02:27,680

Welcome to Girdon, Arkansas, population 2700,

35

00:02:27,680 --> 00:02:29,680

a typical small town.

36

00:02:29,680 --> 00:02:32,680

Apparently no different from hundreds of other communities

37

00:02:32,680 --> 00:02:35,680

that dot the railroad between St. Louis and Dallas.

38

00:02:37,680 --> 00:02:40,680

But as darkness descends, an air of expectancy

39

00:02:40,680 --> 00:02:42,680

settles over Girdon.

40

00:02:42,680 --> 00:02:45,680

Most nights, the locals anticipate the arrival

41

00:02:45,680 --> 00:02:48,680

of their very own Unsolved Mystery.

42

00:02:49,680 --> 00:02:52,680

For decades, on the tracks just outside of town,

43

00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:55,680

an eerie unexplained light of unknown origin

44

00:02:55,680 --> 00:02:57,680

has been magically appearing.

45

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

This time lapse photograph was taken in November

46

00:03:03,680 --> 00:03:05,680

by an Unsolved Mysteries photographer.

47

00:03:05,680 --> 00:03:08,680

It is apparently the first time that the strange phenomenon

48

00:03:08,680 --> 00:03:12,680

known locally as the Girdon Light has been captured on film.

49

00:03:13,680 --> 00:03:17,680

A few days later, the photographer returned to the railroad tracks.

50

00:03:17,680 --> 00:03:21,680

He waited until nightfall and recorded this mysterious light

51

00:03:21,680 --> 00:03:22,680

on videotape.

52

00:03:29,680 --> 00:03:31,680

This is an enlargement of the image,

53

00:03:31,680 --> 00:03:34,680

the same image seen by hundreds of eyewitnesses

54

00:03:34,680 --> 00:03:35,680

over the years.

55

00:03:35,680 --> 00:03:38,680

I'd say that I've seen it where I couldn't write it off

56

00:03:38,680 --> 00:03:43,680

as being anything else, probably 20, 25 times, at least.

57

00:03:43,680 --> 00:03:45,680

And I'm a very skeptical person.

58

00:03:45,680 --> 00:03:49,680

Over the years, I have personally seen it hundreds of times

59

00:03:49,680 --> 00:03:52,680

with my father and my family.

60

00:03:52,680 --> 00:03:55,680

I've seen the light at least 60 or 70 times.

61

00:03:55,680 --> 00:03:58,680

And of course, I've seen it more than ever.

62

00:03:58,680 --> 00:04:00,680

I've seen it more than ever.

63

00:04:00,680 --> 00:04:02,680

I've seen it more than ever.

64

00:04:02,680 --> 00:04:05,680

I've seen it at least 60 or 70 times.

65

00:04:05,680 --> 00:04:10,680

And of course, usually when you see it one time in that evening,

66

00:04:10,680 --> 00:04:13,680

you can see it several times in succession.

67

00:04:15,680 --> 00:04:17,680

What is the Girdon Light?

68

00:04:17,680 --> 00:04:19,680

A natural phenomenon?

69

00:04:19,680 --> 00:04:21,680

A long-running prank?

70

00:04:21,680 --> 00:04:23,680

Or perhaps something that cannot be explained?

71

00:04:23,680 --> 00:04:26,680

Not surprisingly, that possibility

72

00:04:26,680 --> 00:04:28,680

inevitably prompts a retelling of the legend

73

00:04:28,680 --> 00:04:31,680

that goes along with the Girdon Light.

74

00:04:33,680 --> 00:04:37,680

It all began on a chilly December evening in 1931.

75

00:04:37,680 --> 00:04:41,680

Around midnight, Will McClain, a section foreman for the railroad,

76

00:04:41,680 --> 00:04:44,680

confronted one of his workers, Lewis McBride.

77

00:04:44,680 --> 00:04:45,680

That's something I need to tell you.

78

00:04:45,680 --> 00:04:46,680

I don't want to...

79

00:04:46,680 --> 00:04:47,680

It doesn't concern any of you boys.

80

00:04:47,680 --> 00:04:48,680

Now go on and clock out.

81

00:04:48,680 --> 00:04:52,680

The day before, a freight train had derailed just outside Girdon.

82

00:04:52,680 --> 00:04:57,680

McClain suspected that McBride had sabotaged a section of the track.

83

00:04:57,680 --> 00:04:59,680

It's your last night, McBride.

84

00:04:59,680 --> 00:05:00,680

It's your pay to get on out of here.

85

00:05:00,680 --> 00:05:01,680

Why?

86

00:05:01,680 --> 00:05:03,680

I think you know why.

87

00:05:03,680 --> 00:05:04,680

I need this job.

88

00:05:04,680 --> 00:05:05,680

Well, you should have thought about that

89

00:05:05,680 --> 00:05:07,680

before you pulled that crazy little stunt.

90

00:05:07,680 --> 00:05:08,680

But I have a family...

91

00:05:08,680 --> 00:05:09,680

I don't want to hear anymore about it.

92

00:05:09,680 --> 00:05:11,680

Just pick up your pay and get off the yard.

93

00:05:11,680 --> 00:05:13,680

I need this job!

94

00:05:24,680 --> 00:05:25,680

No!

95

00:05:25,680 --> 00:05:27,680

Stay out of the way!

96

00:05:30,680 --> 00:05:32,680

No!

97

00:05:36,680 --> 00:05:38,680

No!

98

00:05:38,680 --> 00:05:40,680

No!

99

00:05:42,680 --> 00:05:44,680

When McClain failed to return home,

100

00:05:44,680 --> 00:05:47,680

a search party was hastily assembled.

101

00:05:47,680 --> 00:05:49,680

They came upon a trail of blood and followed it

102

00:05:49,680 --> 00:05:52,680

along the tracks to the edge of town.

103

00:05:52,680 --> 00:05:54,680

What is that?

104

00:05:55,680 --> 00:05:58,680

It's McClain's.

105

00:05:58,680 --> 00:06:01,680

Let's look off down yonder.

106

00:06:03,680 --> 00:06:07,680

At the end of the blood trail, lay the body of Will McClain.

107

00:06:10,680 --> 00:06:14,680

By dawn, Lewis McBride had confessed to the murder.

108

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

In February of 1932, he was executed at the State Penitentiary.

109

00:06:20,680 --> 00:06:23,680

It wasn't long before people began seeing the gird and light

110

00:06:23,680 --> 00:06:25,680

on a regular basis.

111

00:06:25,680 --> 00:06:28,680

Local law said it was the ghost of Will McClain,

112

00:06:28,680 --> 00:06:32,680

known to spend eternity walking the tracks with his ladder.

113

00:06:38,680 --> 00:06:41,680

One of the earliest sightings is one of the most memorable.

114

00:06:41,680 --> 00:06:42,680

As a train approached town,

115

00:06:42,680 --> 00:06:45,680

an elderly conductor was found on the road.

116

00:06:45,680 --> 00:06:47,680

He was a young man,

117

00:06:47,680 --> 00:06:49,680

and when he came to the train,

118

00:06:49,680 --> 00:06:52,680

an elderly conductor named John stepped onto the back of the caboose

119

00:06:52,680 --> 00:06:55,680

and was startled by what he saw.

120

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

They say that John went out on the back platform to investigate.

121

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

And the light was real far off and kind of faint,

122

00:07:11,680 --> 00:07:15,680

but it seemed to be traveling the same speed they were.

123

00:07:16,680 --> 00:07:18,680

And then all of a sudden it just shut up,

124

00:07:18,680 --> 00:07:23,680

and he was just like paralyzed and just hanging onto the grab bar

125

00:07:23,680 --> 00:07:28,680

and just transfixed, just staring right into the light.

126

00:07:31,680 --> 00:07:35,680

According to John, the light followed the train for more than a mile.

127

00:07:35,680 --> 00:07:38,680

Finally it veered off in the direction of the cemetery.

128

00:07:38,680 --> 00:07:40,680

Ever since, looking for the gird and light

129

00:07:40,680 --> 00:07:43,680

has become something of a local pastime.

130

00:07:45,680 --> 00:07:49,680

If you go down there with some regularity,

131

00:07:49,680 --> 00:07:52,680

you're definitely going to see it after a while.

132

00:07:52,680 --> 00:07:54,680

You may go a few days, you know,

133

00:07:54,680 --> 00:07:56,680

where you get frustrated and you don't see it,

134

00:07:56,680 --> 00:07:59,680

but with a little time and a little concentration,

135

00:07:59,680 --> 00:08:02,680

you most definitely will see the light.

136

00:08:03,680 --> 00:08:06,680

My friends and I always went down there

137

00:08:06,680 --> 00:08:09,680

with the hopes of seeing the light.

138

00:08:09,680 --> 00:08:14,680

Walking down the tracks, just in the total darkness,

139

00:08:14,680 --> 00:08:17,680

always left you with a little eerie feeling.

140

00:08:22,680 --> 00:08:25,680

I've seen it come on in a quick flash,

141

00:08:25,680 --> 00:08:29,680

and seen it fade in and then fade back out.

142

00:08:31,680 --> 00:08:34,680

Sometimes we've gotten pretty scared down there,

143

00:08:34,680 --> 00:08:40,680

seeing the light together with maybe some noises in the woods,

144

00:08:40,680 --> 00:08:44,680

and have sent us running out of there quite often.

145

00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:48,680

The descriptions of the lighter for the most part consistent.

146

00:08:48,680 --> 00:08:51,680

It seems to float one to three feet above the tracks

147

00:08:51,680 --> 00:08:53,680

and often changes colors.

148

00:08:55,680 --> 00:08:59,680

The light is rarely visible for more than ten seconds at a time.

149

00:09:01,680 --> 00:09:04,680

There are many times when I walk down the tracks by myself

150

00:09:04,680 --> 00:09:07,680

and spent several hours out there,

151

00:09:07,680 --> 00:09:09,680

and during the course of that time,

152

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

you can be observing the light and move toward it,

153

00:09:12,680 --> 00:09:15,680

and it'll disappear and you'll turn around and it'll be behind you.

154

00:09:15,680 --> 00:09:18,680

Almost everybody has had that kind of experience

155

00:09:18,680 --> 00:09:20,680

from time to time with it.

156

00:09:20,680 --> 00:09:22,680

The local legend is if it gets behind you,

157

00:09:22,680 --> 00:09:24,680

you can't get back to your car.

158

00:09:25,680 --> 00:09:29,680

The whole town has seen it at some point in time,

159

00:09:29,680 --> 00:09:33,680

and it's not a figment of anybody's imagination.

160

00:09:33,680 --> 00:09:35,680

It does exist.

161

00:09:35,680 --> 00:09:37,680

It is there.

162

00:09:37,680 --> 00:09:39,680

What is it?

163

00:09:39,680 --> 00:09:41,680

That's the question.

164

00:09:43,680 --> 00:09:45,680

That is indeed the question.

165

00:09:45,680 --> 00:09:47,680

Is a Gordon light, as some believe,

166

00:09:47,680 --> 00:09:49,680

the ghost of Will McClain,

167

00:09:49,680 --> 00:09:52,680

or is there a rational scientific explanation?

168

00:09:55,680 --> 00:09:57,680

For years, Dr. Charles Lemming,

169

00:09:57,680 --> 00:10:00,680

a physics professor at Henderson State University,

170

00:10:00,680 --> 00:10:03,680

took his classes to Gordon in search of an answer.

171

00:10:04,680 --> 00:10:06,680

When I first went out to see the Gordon light

172

00:10:06,680 --> 00:10:08,680

and studied the area maps,

173

00:10:08,680 --> 00:10:10,680

I was pretty confident that the light

174

00:10:10,680 --> 00:10:12,680

always originated from car headlights

175

00:10:12,680 --> 00:10:15,680

on an interstate bridge a few miles away.

176

00:10:17,680 --> 00:10:19,680

The light is usually seen in this area,

177

00:10:19,680 --> 00:10:21,680

just outside Gordon.

178

00:10:21,680 --> 00:10:24,680

The highway lies to the southwest, four miles away.

179

00:10:26,680 --> 00:10:28,680

The problem with the headlight there is

180

00:10:28,680 --> 00:10:30,680

that we're sure people were going out

181

00:10:30,680 --> 00:10:32,680

before the interstate opened in 1970.

182

00:10:32,680 --> 00:10:35,680

We could find reliable accounts of people

183

00:10:35,680 --> 00:10:37,680

that went out to see the Gordon light

184

00:10:37,680 --> 00:10:40,680

and reported the Gordon light well before the interstate bridge

185

00:10:40,680 --> 00:10:44,680

that we thought was the origin of the headlights was opened.

186

00:10:45,680 --> 00:10:48,680

A second theory is that the light is in fact swamp gas,

187

00:10:48,680 --> 00:10:51,680

a spontaneous combustion of the gases

188

00:10:51,680 --> 00:10:54,680

produced when dense vegetation decomposes.

189

00:10:56,680 --> 00:11:00,680

The theory of it being swamp gas doesn't hold up to me,

190

00:11:00,680 --> 00:11:04,680

just because I've seen it on a windy night.

191

00:11:04,680 --> 00:11:08,680

So that would eliminate any sort of swamp gas out there.

192

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

The closest theory that I've come to

193

00:11:11,680 --> 00:11:14,680

for explaining the Gordon light is the PAs of electric effect.

194

00:11:14,680 --> 00:11:17,680

And PAs of electricity is a simple phenomena

195

00:11:17,680 --> 00:11:21,680

where if you squeeze crystals such as quartz or Rochelle salt,

196

00:11:21,680 --> 00:11:23,680

you get an electric current out of them.

197

00:11:25,680 --> 00:11:28,680

Gordon sits atop an abundant deposit of quartz crystals

198

00:11:28,680 --> 00:11:32,680

in an active fault line known as the New Madrid Fault.

199

00:11:32,680 --> 00:11:35,680

Michael Klingon believes that when the plates shift,

200

00:11:35,680 --> 00:11:37,680

an electric charge is released from the crystals

201

00:11:37,680 --> 00:11:40,680

and seen above ground as the Gordon light.

202

00:11:41,680 --> 00:11:45,680

People tend to say that the light appeared

203

00:11:45,680 --> 00:11:48,680

after the murder of Will McLean.

204

00:11:48,680 --> 00:11:52,680

And looking back, that also coincides

205

00:11:52,680 --> 00:11:55,680

with a major earthquake on the New Madrid fault line.

206

00:11:55,680 --> 00:11:59,680

So that tends to support my PAs of electric theory.

207

00:12:01,680 --> 00:12:04,680

Klingon acknowledges that there is one large hole in his theory.

208

00:12:04,680 --> 00:12:08,680

He cannot explain how the charge migrates to the surface

209

00:12:08,680 --> 00:12:11,680

or why it is concentrated in a ball-like shape.

210

00:12:13,680 --> 00:12:16,680

I don't think if they came forth with a logical explanation,

211

00:12:16,680 --> 00:12:18,680

I would truly believe it.

212

00:12:18,680 --> 00:12:23,680

It is too mysterious and I don't think it can be explained.

213

00:12:23,680 --> 00:12:27,680

Do we really want to know what it is?

214

00:12:27,680 --> 00:12:30,680

Because that would take all the mystery out of it

215

00:12:30,680 --> 00:12:32,680

and all the fun.

216

00:12:32,680 --> 00:12:35,680

And I would like to see my children's children

217

00:12:35,680 --> 00:12:36,680

take their children.

218

00:12:36,680 --> 00:12:39,680

Down there, just like our parents took us down there,

219

00:12:39,680 --> 00:12:43,680

it's a perfect setting for a ghost story.

220

00:12:45,680 --> 00:12:47,680

What is the secret of the Gordon light?

221

00:12:47,680 --> 00:12:49,680

If there is a scientific explanation,

222

00:12:49,680 --> 00:12:51,680

it has certainly eluded everyone

223

00:12:51,680 --> 00:12:53,680

for the past 60 years.

224

00:12:53,680 --> 00:12:56,680

Until something better comes along,

225

00:12:56,680 --> 00:12:59,680

we're left with a legend of poor old Will McClain's ghost

226

00:12:59,680 --> 00:13:02,680

wandering the railroad tracks forevermore,

227

00:13:02,680 --> 00:13:05,680

perhaps in search of the man who killed him.

228

00:13:09,680 --> 00:13:13,680

When we return, a controversial case of Stuart Heaton

229

00:13:13,680 --> 00:13:18,680

did faulty DNA evidence put the wrong man in prison for murder.

230

00:13:22,680 --> 00:13:28,680

In recent months, most of us have at least heard

231

00:13:28,680 --> 00:13:31,680

of the legal debate over the use of DNA evidence

232

00:13:31,680 --> 00:13:33,680

in criminal cases.

233

00:13:33,680 --> 00:13:36,680

Many experts believe DNA can identify a suspect

234

00:13:36,680 --> 00:13:38,680

as reliably as a fingerprint.

235

00:13:38,680 --> 00:13:40,680

Others strongly disagree.

236

00:13:40,680 --> 00:13:42,680

Tonight, that debate has a special resonance

237

00:13:42,680 --> 00:13:45,680

for a young man named Stuart Heaton.

238

00:13:45,680 --> 00:13:47,680

He is serving a life sentence for murder,

239

00:13:47,680 --> 00:13:49,680

even though many believe there is compelling evidence

240

00:13:49,680 --> 00:13:52,680

that another man committed the crime.

241

00:13:52,680 --> 00:13:54,680

Stuart insists that he is innocent,

242

00:13:54,680 --> 00:13:58,680

and the crucial DNA evidence, which some say is deeply flawed,

243

00:13:58,680 --> 00:14:00,680

helped put him behind bars.

244

00:14:03,680 --> 00:14:06,680

Ramsey, Illinois, in the South Central part of the state

245

00:14:06,680 --> 00:14:08,680

is a peaceful rural community,

246

00:14:08,680 --> 00:14:14,680

but on July 23rd, 1991, a brutal murder shocked its citizens.

247

00:14:14,680 --> 00:14:17,680

16-year-old Crystal Knab, a high school sophomore,

248

00:14:17,680 --> 00:14:20,680

had been stabbed 81 times in the living room

249

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

of a family's trailer.

250

00:14:24,680 --> 00:14:26,680

Brian, what do you got there?

251

00:14:26,680 --> 00:14:28,680

I think I have your murder weapon.

252

00:14:28,680 --> 00:14:31,680

Looks like a pair of sewing scissors.

253

00:14:31,680 --> 00:14:33,680

I'll tell you, the person who did this

254

00:14:33,680 --> 00:14:35,680

can't stab somebody that many times without getting cuts

255

00:14:35,680 --> 00:14:37,680

on your hands.

256

00:14:37,680 --> 00:14:39,680

Look for somebody with cuts either on the outside

257

00:14:39,680 --> 00:14:41,680

or on their fingers or on their palm.

258

00:14:41,680 --> 00:14:43,680

I wonder if you happen to see anything suspicious.

259

00:14:43,680 --> 00:14:45,680

Several neighbors told police they had noticed

260

00:14:45,680 --> 00:14:48,680

a white pickup truck, most probably a Dodge,

261

00:14:48,680 --> 00:14:51,680

parked outside the Knab's trailer earlier that day,

262

00:14:51,680 --> 00:14:54,680

from around 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

263

00:14:54,680 --> 00:14:56,680

Looks like a Dodge pickup truck.

264

00:14:56,680 --> 00:14:58,680

Do you know anybody that has a truck like that?

265

00:14:58,680 --> 00:15:02,680

Next, the police talked with Crystal's brother, Curtis Knab.

266

00:15:02,680 --> 00:15:04,680

A friend of mine, I haven't seen him

267

00:15:04,680 --> 00:15:06,680

for like two or three years, though.

268

00:15:06,680 --> 00:15:07,680

Stuart Heaton.

269

00:15:07,680 --> 00:15:10,680

Stuart Heaton, do you ever know where this Stuart Heaton lives?

270

00:15:10,680 --> 00:15:12,680

He used to live about three miles up the road.

271

00:15:12,680 --> 00:15:13,680

Uh-huh.

272

00:15:13,680 --> 00:15:15,680

Is he married?

273

00:15:15,680 --> 00:15:16,680

I don't know.

274

00:15:16,680 --> 00:15:18,680

OK, you haven't seen him in that long, though, two or three years?

275

00:15:18,680 --> 00:15:19,680

It's been at least two or three years.

276

00:15:19,680 --> 00:15:20,680

OK.

277

00:15:23,680 --> 00:15:26,680

Police located Stuart Heaton in nearby Bluff City, Illinois,

278

00:15:26,680 --> 00:15:29,680

where he worked as a carpenter and roofer.

279

00:15:29,680 --> 00:15:31,680

He did, in fact, own a white Dodge pickup

280

00:15:31,680 --> 00:15:34,680

and had married two years earlier, several months

281

00:15:34,680 --> 00:15:36,680

after he lost touch with Curtis Knab.

282

00:15:36,680 --> 00:15:38,680

Mr. Heaton, if you'd step out on the porch just for a second.

283

00:15:38,680 --> 00:15:39,680

What do you want to ask me?

284

00:15:39,680 --> 00:15:41,680

Mr. Heaton, would you put your hands behind your back?

285

00:15:41,680 --> 00:15:42,680

What for?

286

00:15:42,680 --> 00:15:43,680

What are you doing?

287

00:15:43,680 --> 00:15:44,680

Just want to ask you a couple of questions.

288

00:15:44,680 --> 00:15:45,680

What is going on here?

289

00:15:45,680 --> 00:15:46,680

What about?

290

00:15:46,680 --> 00:15:47,680

I haven't done anything wrong.

291

00:15:47,680 --> 00:15:48,680

We're just going to take you down to the station

292

00:15:48,680 --> 00:15:49,680

and ask you a few questions.

293

00:15:49,680 --> 00:15:50,680

That's all.

294

00:15:50,680 --> 00:15:51,680

Stuart.

295

00:15:51,680 --> 00:15:52,680

Yeah, Karen.

296

00:15:52,680 --> 00:15:53,680

Karen, call my mom.

297

00:15:53,680 --> 00:15:55,680

Where are they taking you?

298

00:15:55,680 --> 00:15:56,680

The police station.

299

00:15:56,680 --> 00:15:57,680

They're taking you to the station.

300

00:15:57,680 --> 00:15:58,680

They're going to ask you a few questions.

301

00:15:58,680 --> 00:15:59,680

That's all, sir.

302

00:15:59,680 --> 00:16:00,680

Watch for your head.

303

00:16:00,680 --> 00:16:01,680

Where'd you get these cuts on your hands, Stuart?

304

00:16:01,680 --> 00:16:02,680

And flashing.

305

00:16:02,680 --> 00:16:03,680

I'm laying a roof.

306

00:16:03,680 --> 00:16:04,680

You see them on the spank in your hands

307

00:16:04,680 --> 00:16:05,680

when you're working construction.

308

00:16:05,680 --> 00:16:06,680

Nice.

309

00:16:06,680 --> 00:16:07,680

Oh, real stealth on me, OK, Stuart?

310

00:16:07,680 --> 00:16:10,680

See, both on the outer and on the palms, too.

311

00:16:10,680 --> 00:16:12,680

What about this one on your forehead?

312

00:16:12,680 --> 00:16:13,680

Did you, uh...

313

00:16:13,680 --> 00:16:14,680

It's not a carol.

314

00:16:14,680 --> 00:16:15,680

It's a pimple.

315

00:16:15,680 --> 00:16:16,680

Take a shot of that, Tom.

316

00:16:16,680 --> 00:16:17,680

Can I put my hands down now?

317

00:16:17,680 --> 00:16:18,680

Just to put him down, Stuart.

318

00:16:18,680 --> 00:16:19,680

Just hold real stealth.

319

00:16:19,680 --> 00:16:21,680

We've got to know a little bit about what you did today.

320

00:16:21,680 --> 00:16:23,680

What was your day like when you woke up?

321

00:16:23,680 --> 00:16:24,680

Where'd you go?

322

00:16:24,680 --> 00:16:25,680

I left my house at nine.

323

00:16:25,680 --> 00:16:26,680

I am...

324

00:16:26,680 --> 00:16:28,680

I gave an estimate for a roofing job.

325

00:16:28,680 --> 00:16:30,680

Where'd you give the estimate, Stuart?

326

00:16:30,680 --> 00:16:31,680

Stuart.

327

00:16:31,680 --> 00:16:32,680

Look, why am I answering these questions?

328

00:16:32,680 --> 00:16:33,680

I haven't done anything wrong.

329

00:16:33,680 --> 00:16:34,680

What are you doing?

330

00:16:34,680 --> 00:16:36,680

I don't know why he's doing anything wrong.

331

00:16:36,680 --> 00:16:39,680

I do crime scene technicians came back and told me

332

00:16:39,680 --> 00:16:40,680

this guy has the cuts.

333

00:16:40,680 --> 00:16:42,680

This is our man.

334

00:16:42,680 --> 00:16:44,680

From the beginning.

335

00:16:44,680 --> 00:16:47,680

And for a while, though, that was all we had.

336

00:16:47,680 --> 00:16:50,680

Connecting him to the crime scene were the cuts.

337

00:16:50,680 --> 00:16:53,680

There was just too big of a coincidence for them to say that

338

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

the guy we're looking for is going to have this,

339

00:16:55,680 --> 00:16:59,680

and I suspect they picked up Amelia had exactly what they said we'd find.

340

00:16:59,680 --> 00:17:03,680

I know for a fact that I'm innocent.

341

00:17:03,680 --> 00:17:08,680

Nobody else may know for a fact, but I know for a fact.

342

00:17:08,680 --> 00:17:11,680

If they were half the investigator,

343

00:17:11,680 --> 00:17:15,680

that he would lead the public to believe,

344

00:17:15,680 --> 00:17:23,680

then he would have checked and found out that I'll always have cuts on my hand.

345

00:17:23,680 --> 00:17:25,680

You know, there wasn't nothing abnormal.

346

00:17:25,680 --> 00:17:29,680

A carpenter without cuts on his hands is not a carpenter.

347

00:17:29,680 --> 00:17:33,680

He's an observer, and I'm a carpenter.

348

00:17:33,680 --> 00:17:35,680

We were told that he had been picked up.

349

00:17:35,680 --> 00:17:41,680

A Stuart Heaton had been picked up for her murder.

350

00:17:41,680 --> 00:17:45,680

And afterwards, we learned that there was a possibility

351

00:17:45,680 --> 00:17:49,680

because he had cuts on his hands, his forehead.

352

00:17:49,680 --> 00:17:55,680

He had a mark on his leg, and they started doing some investigation,

353

00:17:55,680 --> 00:17:58,680

and people had seen his truck.

354

00:17:58,680 --> 00:17:59,680

Steep inside.

355

00:17:59,680 --> 00:18:03,680

Stuart Heaton was indicted on September 11, 1991.

356

00:18:03,680 --> 00:18:06,680

He voluntarily waived his right to a speedy trial.

357

00:18:06,680 --> 00:18:08,680

After a search warrant was obtained,

358

00:18:08,680 --> 00:18:14,680

police took a blood sample from Stuart for DNA testing.

359

00:18:14,680 --> 00:18:17,680

An autopsy had been performed on Crystal Nab.

360

00:18:17,680 --> 00:18:21,680

She was three months pregnant and a trace of dried yellow material

361

00:18:21,680 --> 00:18:24,680

which contained semen was found on her pubic hair.

362

00:18:24,680 --> 00:18:27,680

Crystal's boyfriend had been eliminated as a suspect.

363

00:18:27,680 --> 00:18:30,680

The authorities wanted to find out if the semen matched

364

00:18:30,680 --> 00:18:34,680

Stuart Heaton's DNA.

365

00:18:34,680 --> 00:18:37,680

For more than four months, Stuart languished in jail,

366

00:18:37,680 --> 00:18:40,680

awaiting the DNA test results, which he felt would exonerate

367

00:18:40,680 --> 00:18:42,680

him once and for all.

368

00:18:42,680 --> 00:18:43,680

Beaton?

369

00:18:43,680 --> 00:18:44,680

Yes, sir.

370

00:18:44,680 --> 00:18:45,680

You got a delivery.

371

00:18:45,680 --> 00:18:46,680

Thank you.

372

00:18:46,680 --> 00:18:48,680

However, when his lawyer forwarded the test results,

373

00:18:48,680 --> 00:18:50,680

they were not what Stuart Heaton had hoped for.

374

00:18:50,680 --> 00:18:54,680

There was a chance the Stuart's DNA did match the semen sample

375

00:18:54,680 --> 00:18:56,680

found on Crystal's body.

376

00:18:56,680 --> 00:19:00,680

In spite of this, Stuart remained optimistic.

377

00:19:00,680 --> 00:19:04,680

I didn't know as much about DNA and genetic testing then

378

00:19:04,680 --> 00:19:07,680

as I do now, but when I read that, I looked at that

379

00:19:07,680 --> 00:19:10,680

and I hung under that and I said, there's only a chance.

380

00:19:10,680 --> 00:19:13,680

You know, this test isn't exact.

381

00:19:13,680 --> 00:19:15,680

They can't say, oh, it matches.

382

00:19:15,680 --> 00:19:20,680

I mean, they said there was a chance in my mind, reasonable doubt.

383

00:19:20,680 --> 00:19:21,680

I had read all that.

384

00:19:21,680 --> 00:19:23,680

I knew there was no way.

385

00:19:23,680 --> 00:19:26,680

And when I looked at it, I thought, uh-uh, it's not him.

386

00:19:26,680 --> 00:19:32,680

Besides all the other forensic evidence, they had 25 pages of

387

00:19:32,680 --> 00:19:36,680

hair, skin, tissue, blood, fingerprints, and not a one

388

00:19:36,680 --> 00:19:37,680

was Stuart's.

389

00:19:37,680 --> 00:19:39,680

You couldn't be.

390

00:19:39,680 --> 00:19:42,680

It's an impossibility to be in a place from 10 in the morning

391

00:19:42,680 --> 00:19:46,680

to 3 in the afternoon and not leave something.

392

00:19:46,680 --> 00:19:50,680

And there's nobody smart enough to clean up theirs, just theirs

393

00:19:50,680 --> 00:19:52,680

and leave everybody else's.

394

00:19:52,680 --> 00:19:53,680

It's impossible.

395

00:19:53,680 --> 00:19:55,680

It can't be done.

396

00:19:55,680 --> 00:19:58,680

The Dodge pickup and the cuts on Stuart's hands

397

00:19:58,680 --> 00:20:01,680

notwithstanding, he and his family were confident going

398

00:20:01,680 --> 00:20:05,680

into the trial, but they would be sorely disappointed.

399

00:20:05,680 --> 00:20:09,680

Curtis Knab, Crystal's brother, gave damaging testimony.

400

00:20:09,680 --> 00:20:12,680

He claimed that one night between two and three years earlier,

401

00:20:12,680 --> 00:20:15,680

he'd found Stuart in the Knab's trailer with his older sister

402

00:20:15,680 --> 00:20:16,680

Melody.

403

00:20:16,680 --> 00:20:18,680

Now, when you say he was talking to your sister,

404

00:20:18,680 --> 00:20:21,680

where was he located in the trailer at that time?

405

00:20:21,680 --> 00:20:22,680

In the bedroom?

406

00:20:22,680 --> 00:20:24,680

And where was your sister?

407

00:20:24,680 --> 00:20:25,680

In the bedroom?

408

00:20:25,680 --> 00:20:28,680

Of course, his testimony was completely different from his

409

00:20:28,680 --> 00:20:29,680

mom's on that.

410

00:20:29,680 --> 00:20:36,680

He said he answered the door and that I came in.

411

00:20:36,680 --> 00:20:40,680

He asked me to leave and all this and that.

412

00:20:40,680 --> 00:20:45,680

I think even at one point he said that he woke up and I was there.

413

00:20:45,680 --> 00:20:49,680

But that night when I stopped by, his mom answered the door.

414

00:20:49,680 --> 00:20:50,680

I asked for Curtis.

415

00:20:50,680 --> 00:20:52,680

She wouldn't got Curtis.

416

00:20:52,680 --> 00:20:57,680

And we sat down at the kitchen table and drank a couple of beers

417

00:20:57,680 --> 00:20:58,680

and talked.

418

00:20:58,680 --> 00:20:59,680

They asked me three times.

419

00:20:59,680 --> 00:21:02,680

Stuart's wife was called by the prosecution as a hostile witness,

420

00:21:02,680 --> 00:21:04,680

as was his mother.

421

00:21:04,680 --> 00:21:07,680

Their testimony indicated that Stuart might have changed clothes

422

00:21:07,680 --> 00:21:09,680

on the day of the murder.

423

00:21:09,680 --> 00:21:11,680

I can tell you that in the morning he had a t-shirt on.

424

00:21:11,680 --> 00:21:15,680

But as far as pants and stuff, it had to say sweat pants

425

00:21:15,680 --> 00:21:17,680

because he couldn't fit in his jeans.

426

00:21:17,680 --> 00:21:20,680

Why all of a sudden now do you just say sweat pants?

427

00:21:20,680 --> 00:21:21,680

Because I.

428

00:21:21,680 --> 00:21:23,680

The prosecution theorized that Stuart had

429

00:21:23,680 --> 00:21:26,680

hidden a pair of blue jeans, bloody during the murder

430

00:21:26,680 --> 00:21:27,680

of Crystal Nab.

431

00:21:27,680 --> 00:21:28,680

No further questions, Your Honor.

432

00:21:32,680 --> 00:21:34,680

Two witnesses, one woman and one man,

433

00:21:34,680 --> 00:21:37,680

took the stand to establish an alibi for Stuart between 10

434

00:21:37,680 --> 00:21:40,680

a.m. and 3 p.m. on the day of the murder.

435

00:21:40,680 --> 00:21:45,680

But the prosecutor shot holes in their testimony.

436

00:21:46,680 --> 00:21:49,680

Against his family's advice, Stuart decided not to testify

437

00:21:49,680 --> 00:21:51,680

on his own behalf.

438

00:21:51,680 --> 00:21:53,680

He says his court appointed lawyer had not prepared him

439

00:21:53,680 --> 00:21:55,680

to take the stand.

440

00:21:55,680 --> 00:21:58,680

Stuart also says his religion teaches that faith must be put

441

00:21:58,680 --> 00:22:03,680

in God rather than on any individual, including oneself.

442

00:22:03,680 --> 00:22:05,680

With regard to the semen samples,

443

00:22:05,680 --> 00:22:07,680

as the capstone of the prosecution's case,

444

00:22:07,680 --> 00:22:10,680

an expert witness testified that there was a probability

445

00:22:10,680 --> 00:22:14,680

that Stuart Heaton's DNA matched the semen sample.

446

00:22:14,680 --> 00:22:19,680

The DNA profile found in this case that matches the DNA

447

00:22:19,680 --> 00:22:24,680

profile of Mr. Heaton would be expected to be found once out

448

00:22:24,680 --> 00:22:32,680

of every 52,600 non-related Caucasians tested.

449

00:22:32,680 --> 00:22:35,680

Those odds, relative to other cases where DNA has been used

450

00:22:35,680 --> 00:22:39,680

as evidence, are not in fact very impressive.

451

00:22:39,680 --> 00:22:42,680

The odds needed before many experts feel comfortable are more

452

00:22:42,680 --> 00:22:44,680

in the neighborhood of a million to one.

453

00:22:44,680 --> 00:22:47,680

Nevertheless, the jury found the prosecution's expert

454

00:22:47,680 --> 00:22:49,680

convincing.

455

00:22:49,680 --> 00:22:53,680

The jury has returned two signed verdicts.

456

00:22:53,680 --> 00:22:57,680

First signed verdict, we, the jury, find the defendant,

457

00:22:57,680 --> 00:23:01,680

Stuart Heaton, guilty of first degree murder, cap one.

458

00:23:01,680 --> 00:23:04,680

I was expecting a not guilty verdict.

459

00:23:04,680 --> 00:23:07,680

And after I left the courtroom, I got across to the county jail

460

00:23:07,680 --> 00:23:10,680

in there with family and friends.

461

00:23:10,680 --> 00:23:13,680

And at that point I cried.

462

00:23:13,680 --> 00:23:15,680

He'll onto my wife and I cried.

463

00:23:15,680 --> 00:23:20,680

And we decided we'd go on and keep fighting it.

464

00:23:20,680 --> 00:23:22,680

I don't quit.

465

00:23:22,680 --> 00:23:25,680

I feel for the family that lost their child.

466

00:23:25,680 --> 00:23:29,680

I am not that kind of person.

467

00:23:29,680 --> 00:23:31,680

I know.

468

00:23:31,680 --> 00:23:33,680

I know what it is to lose a child.

469

00:23:33,680 --> 00:23:37,680

And they had to hurt bad.

470

00:23:37,680 --> 00:23:40,680

But the worst thing that could happen was put the wrong man

471

00:23:40,680 --> 00:23:43,680

in prison for it.

472

00:23:43,680 --> 00:23:46,680

Stuart Heaton was sentenced to life in prison at the Menard

473

00:23:46,680 --> 00:23:49,680

Correctional Center in Chester, Illinois.

474

00:23:49,680 --> 00:23:55,680

The judge ruled that Stuart would never be eligible for parole.

475

00:23:55,680 --> 00:23:58,680

I am convinced that the DNA evidence in this case

476

00:23:58,680 --> 00:24:01,680

was the lynchpin of the prosecution's case.

477

00:24:01,680 --> 00:24:06,680

That without it, the prosecution had a weak circumstantial case.

478

00:24:06,680 --> 00:24:12,680

Jurors were wowed by the scientific evidence of 52,000 to one odds

479

00:24:12,680 --> 00:24:13,680

against Stuart Heaton.

480

00:24:13,680 --> 00:24:15,680

And that did it.

481

00:24:15,680 --> 00:24:18,680

In the end of the day, a weak case was made a strong one

482

00:24:18,680 --> 00:24:22,680

based on this evidence that I believe is phony evidence.

483

00:24:22,680 --> 00:24:26,680

David Protas is an investigative journalist and professor

484

00:24:26,680 --> 00:24:29,680

at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

485

00:24:29,680 --> 00:24:32,680

His research has led him to conclude that the real criminal

486

00:24:32,680 --> 00:24:36,680

is still at large and the Stuart Heaton was railroaded.

487

00:24:36,680 --> 00:24:39,680

If he hadn't owned a white truck, he wouldn't have even been

488

00:24:39,680 --> 00:24:41,680

a suspect in this case.

489

00:24:41,680 --> 00:24:44,680

I did a search through Department of Motor Vehicle Records

490

00:24:44,680 --> 00:24:47,680

for the state of Illinois that found that in Fayette County alone,

491

00:24:47,680 --> 00:24:50,680

there were more than 100 white trucks that were similar to the kind

492

00:24:50,680 --> 00:24:52,680

that Stuart Heaton drove.

493

00:24:52,680 --> 00:24:54,680

And in fact, in narrowing that search down,

494

00:24:54,680 --> 00:24:59,680

I identified 12 white-dodged Dakotas, including Stuart Heaton's.

495

00:24:59,680 --> 00:25:02,680

One of those dodged Dakotas belonged to a man with a lengthy

496

00:25:02,680 --> 00:25:07,680

criminal history who knew the murder victim, Crystal Knapp.

497

00:25:07,680 --> 00:25:09,680

Could the DNA sample found on Crystal Knapp's body

498

00:25:09,680 --> 00:25:12,680

belong to someone other than Stuart Heaton?

499

00:25:12,680 --> 00:25:16,680

According to the statistical method used in Stuart's trial,

500

00:25:16,680 --> 00:25:19,680

there are more than 4,800 people in the United States

501

00:25:19,680 --> 00:25:21,680

whose DNA would have matched the sample.

502

00:25:21,680 --> 00:25:25,680

And when a new statistical method widely used today is applied,

503

00:25:25,680 --> 00:25:30,680

that number rises from 4,800 to around 48,000.

504

00:25:30,680 --> 00:25:34,680

There's no dispute that DNA evidence to exclude somebody

505

00:25:34,680 --> 00:25:36,680

is generally accepted.

506

00:25:36,680 --> 00:25:40,680

If we look just at one place on a gene and they don't match,

507

00:25:40,680 --> 00:25:43,680

then we know that those people don't match.

508

00:25:43,680 --> 00:25:46,680

The problem is when you try to include people.

509

00:25:46,680 --> 00:25:49,680

We can prove, for example, that somebody isn't the father of a child

510

00:25:49,680 --> 00:25:54,680

by DNA tests, and we can prove that to 100% scientific acceptability.

511

00:25:54,680 --> 00:25:57,680

But when we try to prove who is the father, who is the murderer,

512

00:25:57,680 --> 00:26:00,680

that's where we run into difficulties.

513

00:26:00,680 --> 00:26:03,680

Bob Byman and his associate, Shelly Malinowski,

514

00:26:03,680 --> 00:26:07,680

have taken on the Stuart Heaton case pro bono for no fee.

515

00:26:07,680 --> 00:26:10,680

They believe not only the Stuart is innocent,

516

00:26:10,680 --> 00:26:14,680

but the Dr. Robert Allen, the DNA expert for the prosecution,

517

00:26:14,680 --> 00:26:19,680

used a controversial method of calculating the odds against Stuart.

518

00:26:19,680 --> 00:26:22,680

Two years after he testified in the Stuart Heaton case,

519

00:26:22,680 --> 00:26:26,680

Robert Allen published an article with several other renowned scientists

520

00:26:26,680 --> 00:26:30,680

that rejected the statistical assumptions that he himself had used

521

00:26:30,680 --> 00:26:33,680

in the Stuart Heaton evidence.

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00:26:33,680 --> 00:26:36,680

And I think that the main reason that he was convicted was that

523

00:26:36,680 --> 00:26:40,680

the jurors were completely overwhelmed by the complexity of the DNA evidence,

524

00:26:40,680 --> 00:26:46,680

and they saw it as infallible, when in fact it's not.

525

00:26:46,680 --> 00:26:50,680

To across the board deny the use of DNA evidence because it's low,

526

00:26:50,680 --> 00:26:53,680

I believe it is not fair.

527

00:26:53,680 --> 00:26:55,680

I think that it should in fact be admissible,

528

00:26:55,680 --> 00:26:58,680

and here that's what a jury is for as a trier of the fact,

529

00:26:58,680 --> 00:27:02,680

let them determine whether the odds are low in relation to everything else

530

00:27:02,680 --> 00:27:06,680

and all the other evidence in the case, or whether they're significant.

531

00:27:06,680 --> 00:27:09,680

This probe here represents the...

532

00:27:09,680 --> 00:27:13,680

The single most important issue in the DNA testimony of Stuart Heaton's trial

533

00:27:13,680 --> 00:27:16,680

was interpretation of the evidence.

534

00:27:16,680 --> 00:27:22,680

This is an autoradiogram, or autorad, of DNA taken from the murder victim Crystal NAB.

535

00:27:22,680 --> 00:27:27,680

The two distinct bands represent DNA from a region in which individuals

536

00:27:27,680 --> 00:27:30,680

are very likely to be different genetically.

537

00:27:30,680 --> 00:27:36,680

Jux deposited another DNA sample taken from a different area on Crystal NAB's body,

538

00:27:36,680 --> 00:27:40,680

and the two bands also show up clearly, a perfect match,

539

00:27:40,680 --> 00:27:45,680

because both samples come from the same person.

540

00:27:45,680 --> 00:27:49,680

The trial boiled down to a debate between two expert witnesses

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00:27:49,680 --> 00:27:53,680

over whether bands were present in the semen sample found on Crystal NAB's body,

542

00:27:53,680 --> 00:27:59,680

and if they were, did they match the bands at Stuart Heaton's DNA profile?

543

00:27:59,680 --> 00:28:05,680

This autorad compares Stuart Heaton's DNA with DNA from the semen sample.

544

00:28:05,680 --> 00:28:09,680

The small pinpoint dots on the left borders marked the places where Dr. Allen said

545

00:28:09,680 --> 00:28:14,680

he saw bands which link Stuart Heaton to the semen.

546

00:28:14,680 --> 00:28:18,680

Based upon your examination of the autoradiographs,

547

00:28:18,680 --> 00:28:23,680

the defense expert, Dr. Gary Littman, said he was unable to detect those critical bands.

548

00:28:23,680 --> 00:28:27,680

As I said, there's no band. There simply is no band there.

549

00:28:27,680 --> 00:28:32,680

The sample itself was old, crusty material that was minute in quantity.

550

00:28:32,680 --> 00:28:37,680

It probably did not provide an adequate basis for even conducting a DNA test,

551

00:28:37,680 --> 00:28:41,680

and certainly not the type of DNA test that was done here.

552

00:28:41,680 --> 00:28:46,680

We unearthed a letter in which prior to his reaching conclusions,

553

00:28:46,680 --> 00:28:54,680

Dr. Robert Allen said that he hoped, he hoped, that the DNA test would end up implicating Stuart Heaton.

554

00:28:54,680 --> 00:29:01,680

Now that is scientific subjectivity that should disqualify him as an expert in this case.

555

00:29:01,680 --> 00:29:06,680

I'm certain that Dr. Allen did the best that he could with what was available to him,

556

00:29:06,680 --> 00:29:09,680

but that material simply wasn't in the best condition,

557

00:29:09,680 --> 00:29:12,680

and it didn't lead then to very clear cut results.

558

00:29:12,680 --> 00:29:20,680

There was a lot of smudges. It's difficult to say unambiguously that a band is present and a band is not present.

559

00:29:20,680 --> 00:29:26,680

Dr. Dan Crane has co-authored articles on DNA testing with Dr. Robert Allen.

560

00:29:26,680 --> 00:29:32,680

Yet in the case of Stuart Heaton, Dr. Crane disputes the conclusions of his colleague.

561

00:29:32,680 --> 00:29:38,680

Based on the DNA evidence alone, I would feel very uncomfortable sending a man to prison

562

00:29:38,680 --> 00:29:40,680

on that evidence alone.

563

00:29:40,680 --> 00:29:43,680

Now there may well have been other compelling evidence of which I'm not aware,

564

00:29:43,680 --> 00:29:50,680

but the DNA evidence by itself certainly would leave a large area of doubt in my mind

565

00:29:50,680 --> 00:29:55,680

as to whether or not that he was in fact the person who was at that crime scene.

566

00:29:55,680 --> 00:29:58,680

I mean it wasn't just DNA that convicted him.

567

00:29:58,680 --> 00:30:03,680

It was people that saw him, saw the truck, and people that testified to, you know,

568

00:30:03,680 --> 00:30:09,680

where they saw him at, the times, and I mean people that saw the truck at the home.

569

00:30:09,680 --> 00:30:13,680

That's what I think helped convict him, that plus the DNA.

570

00:30:13,680 --> 00:30:16,680

There's no doubt in my mind, no doubt whatsoever that he killed her.

571

00:30:16,680 --> 00:30:20,680

He killed her in an extremely vicious, sick manner.

572

00:30:20,680 --> 00:30:24,680

He's extremely dangerous. He has to be locked up.

573

00:30:24,680 --> 00:30:27,680

If he is released, I do believe that he will kill again.

574

00:30:27,680 --> 00:30:32,680

He has to be locked up, and the court system worked and it worked right.

575

00:30:32,680 --> 00:30:35,680

I did not kill Crystal Natt.

576

00:30:35,680 --> 00:30:38,680

I don't know the girl.

577

00:30:38,680 --> 00:30:48,680

I don't have any reason to have any grudge against her or her family or anything.

578

00:30:48,680 --> 00:30:50,680

I didn't know her.

579

00:31:03,680 --> 00:31:18,680

In June of 1994, we brought you the poignant story of Diane Handline of La Crescenta, California.

580

00:31:18,680 --> 00:31:26,680

Since 1986, Diane has battled a rare and often fatal blood disease.

581

00:31:26,680 --> 00:31:30,680

Diane has a relatively unusual blood disorder,

582

00:31:30,680 --> 00:31:33,680

normally considered to be an incurable illness.

583

00:31:33,680 --> 00:31:40,680

Now potentially could be cured by the utilization of a bone marrow transplantation.

584

00:31:40,680 --> 00:31:44,680

Frought with a lot of dangers, though, and a lot of potential complications,

585

00:31:44,680 --> 00:31:48,680

so not something to be taken lightly.

586

00:31:48,680 --> 00:31:54,680

Only one person, Diane's younger sister, Marilyn, was a potential bone marrow donor.

587

00:31:54,680 --> 00:32:00,680

But Diane had no idea where to find Marilyn.

588

00:32:00,680 --> 00:32:03,680

Hi. Hi.

589

00:32:03,680 --> 00:32:09,680

The sisters have been split up in 1954 when their parents separated.

590

00:32:09,680 --> 00:32:13,680

Marilyn went to live with her father. Diane stayed with her mother.

591

00:32:13,680 --> 00:32:16,680

Over the next few years, contact was sporadic,

592

00:32:16,680 --> 00:32:22,680

and for reasons long since forgotten, the sisters became estranged.

593

00:32:22,680 --> 00:32:26,680

I feel I'm asking a lot of my sister to do this bone marrow for me.

594

00:32:26,680 --> 00:32:30,680

But even if she doesn't agree to a transplant, if she doesn't say,

595

00:32:30,680 --> 00:32:34,680

I don't want to do this, I would still like to make peace with her.

596

00:32:34,680 --> 00:32:36,680

She's my sister.

597

00:32:39,680 --> 00:32:43,680

When we broadcast Diane's story, a private investigator from Denver, Colorado,

598

00:32:43,680 --> 00:32:45,680

Robin Lee, was watching.

599

00:32:45,680 --> 00:32:49,680

She was touched by Diane's plight, but assumed we would get the clues we needed.

600

00:32:49,680 --> 00:32:51,680

We didn't.

601

00:32:51,680 --> 00:32:55,680

As luck would have it, Robin was also watching when the segment re-ran in June.

602

00:32:55,680 --> 00:32:59,680

This time she decided to volunteer her help in tracking Marilyn down.

603

00:32:59,680 --> 00:33:03,680

The result was one of our most unusual solves ever.

604

00:33:03,680 --> 00:33:07,680

I contacted the show, got a little more information.

605

00:33:07,680 --> 00:33:10,680

Started out with the sisters name.

606

00:33:10,680 --> 00:33:12,680

Marilyn Jones was her maiden name.

607

00:33:12,680 --> 00:33:16,680

Started with that and a date of birth, and went on from there.

608

00:33:16,680 --> 00:33:20,680

And it took me about three days to find her, three working days,

609

00:33:20,680 --> 00:33:24,680

if you don't count the fourth of July holiday in between.

610

00:33:24,680 --> 00:33:27,680

And I think it's great that they're back together.

611

00:33:28,680 --> 00:33:35,680

On August 13th, 1994, Marilyn and Diane met face to face for the first time in 30 years.

612

00:33:38,680 --> 00:33:41,680

It is so good to see you.

613

00:33:41,680 --> 00:33:45,680

Once we hugged, it was like, it hadn't been 30 years.

614

00:33:45,680 --> 00:33:49,680

It had been, you know, just a short time.

615

00:33:49,680 --> 00:33:55,680

I guess maybe that's why I feel comfortable, is because I can feel the love.

616

00:33:55,680 --> 00:33:58,680

And when you feel that love, you feel comfortable.

617

00:33:58,680 --> 00:34:00,680

You haven't changed a bit.

618

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

Oh, no, you haven't.

619

00:34:02,680 --> 00:34:04,680

No, I'm just, I get cuter with age.

620

00:34:04,680 --> 00:34:06,680

Yes, you do.

621

00:34:06,680 --> 00:34:08,680

I think I'm still in shock.

622

00:34:08,680 --> 00:34:10,680

You know, it's still like, I'm not here yet.

623

00:34:10,680 --> 00:34:12,680

It's just a dream, you know.

624

00:34:12,680 --> 00:34:16,680

But it's a great dream, and we have a lot of catching up to do,

625

00:34:16,680 --> 00:34:19,680

and we'll be together forever now.

626

00:34:19,680 --> 00:34:23,680

We're going to have a lot of fun together, enjoy the time we have.

627

00:34:24,680 --> 00:34:26,680

Isn't that beautiful?

628

00:34:26,680 --> 00:34:31,680

Coincidentally, the day of the reunion was Diane's 53rd birthday,

629

00:34:31,680 --> 00:34:33,680

and Marilyn had not forgotten.

630

00:34:33,680 --> 00:34:35,680

It's beautiful.

631

00:34:35,680 --> 00:34:37,680

My name, it's spelled right.

632

00:34:37,680 --> 00:34:40,680

That's a big name.

633

00:34:42,680 --> 00:34:45,680

This is the best gift I've ever had in my whole life.

634

00:34:45,680 --> 00:34:50,680

This is the best gift ever, is to have my sister, and to have my family,

635

00:34:50,680 --> 00:34:52,680

for my birthday.

636

00:34:52,680 --> 00:34:55,680

It'll be the best birthday I've ever had in my whole life.

637

00:34:56,680 --> 00:34:58,680

We drive 60 miles to go to...

638

00:34:58,680 --> 00:35:05,680

On the day of the reunion, Marilyn's fondest wish was to prove a compatible bone marrow donor for her sister.

639

00:35:05,680 --> 00:35:07,680

Where do you drive to go to the movies?

640

00:35:07,680 --> 00:35:10,680

To the movies, we have to go all the way to Canada, and that's it.

641

00:35:11,680 --> 00:35:16,680

I want more than anything to have this work with Diane,

642

00:35:16,680 --> 00:35:26,680

but even if it doesn't, we're going to take full advantage of however long we do have together.

643

00:35:26,680 --> 00:35:30,680

We can make a week seem like an eternity.

644

00:35:37,680 --> 00:35:42,680

The End

645

00:35:52,680 --> 00:35:55,680

You would think they were just out for a joyride,

646

00:35:55,680 --> 00:35:57,680

best friends without a care in the world,

647

00:35:57,680 --> 00:36:01,680

but like everything else about Rose Turford and Carolyn Stevens,

648

00:36:01,680 --> 00:36:03,680

looks can be deceiving.

649

00:36:04,680 --> 00:36:09,680

To the police, these two women are nothing less than the real-life Thelma and Louise.

650

00:36:09,680 --> 00:36:13,680

Today, Turford and Stevens are armed, dangerous, and on the run,

651

00:36:13,680 --> 00:36:17,680

warded on multiple charges of aggravated robbery.

652

00:36:20,680 --> 00:36:21,680

Carolyn?

653

00:36:21,680 --> 00:36:22,680

Yeah, okay.

654

00:36:22,680 --> 00:36:24,680

We're running a little late.

655

00:36:24,680 --> 00:36:26,680

They met in 1992.

656

00:36:26,680 --> 00:36:30,680

Both were nurses at a psychiatric hospital in Houston, Texas.

657

00:36:30,680 --> 00:36:34,680

Eventually, Rose invited Carolyn to move in with her and her family.

658

00:36:34,680 --> 00:36:39,680

By January of 1995, the two women had embarked on a vicious game.

659

00:36:42,680 --> 00:36:47,680

Rose Turford was by all accounts a loving wife, devoted mother, and dedicated professional,

660

00:36:47,680 --> 00:36:51,680

but at night, she took on a whole new persona.

661

00:36:51,680 --> 00:36:53,680

Here we are. Got the wine, the key?

662

00:36:53,680 --> 00:36:55,680

The room's right here.

663

00:36:55,680 --> 00:36:56,680

Oh, good.

664

00:36:56,680 --> 00:36:59,680

Rose began soliciting men through the person's.

665

00:36:59,680 --> 00:37:00,680

Thank you.

666

00:37:00,680 --> 00:37:03,680

Then she would lure her dates to out-of-the-way motel rooms.

667

00:37:07,680 --> 00:37:13,680

A little soft music, a good bottle of wine, and the stage was set for Carolyn's entrance.

668

00:37:16,680 --> 00:37:18,680

Sit down on the bed!

669

00:37:18,680 --> 00:37:21,680

The Thelma and Louise bandits moved quickly and methodically.

670

00:37:21,680 --> 00:37:23,680

Now take off your clothes.

671

00:37:30,680 --> 00:37:32,680

I'm going to the bank.

672

00:37:32,680 --> 00:37:39,680

Finally, Carolyn would be left to stand guard while Rose ran out to use a victim's bank and credit cards.

673

00:37:39,680 --> 00:37:46,680

Rose and Carolyn, from the onset, wanted to be the real life Thelma and Louise.

674

00:37:46,680 --> 00:37:51,680

They wanted to experience that thrill in the spontaneity.

675

00:37:51,680 --> 00:37:56,680

The only thing is, I don't believe they ever considered what they were going to do to their families.

676

00:37:57,680 --> 00:38:04,680

Over a three-month period, Rose and Carolyn reportedly robbed at least ten men of more than a quarter of a million dollars,

677

00:38:04,680 --> 00:38:07,680

but eventually their luck ran out.

678

00:38:09,680 --> 00:38:13,680

In March of 1995, Rose and Carolyn were arrested.

679

00:38:13,680 --> 00:38:17,680

Bale was set at \$250,000 each.

680

00:38:18,680 --> 00:38:24,680

It seems as though prior to both Rose and Carolyn going to jail and being arrested,

681

00:38:24,680 --> 00:38:31,680

they had this pack that if one got out, they both got out, or they both stayed in.

682

00:38:31,680 --> 00:38:38,680

And Rose's parents were just going to get Rose out of jail.

683

00:38:38,680 --> 00:38:44,680

Look, I'm sorry I have to keep calling you, but Avery is putting pressure on me.

684

00:38:44,680 --> 00:38:49,680

In an attempt to cajole Rose's family into posting Bale for both of them,

685

00:38:49,680 --> 00:38:52,680

Carolyn phoned Rose's parents repeatedly.

686

00:38:52,680 --> 00:38:59,680

She claimed that a mysterious international private investigator named Avery was threatening Rose's children.

687

00:38:59,680 --> 00:39:04,680

But Rose and I know what he's capable of, and we should all take him seriously.

688

00:39:04,680 --> 00:39:11,680

Probably the weirdest part of this whole scenario was the man named Avery.

689

00:39:11,680 --> 00:39:15,680

I never bought that he was real.

690

00:39:15,680 --> 00:39:21,680

It was just too far-fetched.

691

00:39:22,680 --> 00:39:25,680

Rose's family, however, believed Avery was real.

692

00:39:25,680 --> 00:39:28,680

Even her in-laws were moved to act.

693

00:39:28,680 --> 00:39:32,680

They put up their house and restaurant as partial collateral.

694

00:39:32,680 --> 00:39:37,680

I tried to convince the parents, don't make both bonds.

695

00:39:38,680 --> 00:39:45,680

And it's not often that you sit and try to speak to someone about not giving you \$25,000.

696

00:39:45,680 --> 00:39:51,680

But I just knew it was a problem, and I knew it wasn't going to work, and it didn't.

697

00:39:52,680 --> 00:39:58,680

Sure enough, on May 22, 1995, Rose Turford and Carolyn Stevens took flight.

698

00:39:58,680 --> 00:40:04,680

Left behind was a letter which alleged that they had been kidnapped by the mysterious Avery.

699

00:40:07,680 --> 00:40:11,680

In reality, the Thelma and Louise Bandits were on the run,

700

00:40:11,680 --> 00:40:16,680

leaving Rose's in-laws in danger of losing their home and business.

701

00:40:17,680 --> 00:40:20,680

We wanted to help in any way we could.

702

00:40:20,680 --> 00:40:30,680

I never once, once entered my mind that they would disappear, never.

703

00:40:31,680 --> 00:40:36,680

I really hope that Rose and Carolyn, to stop and think,

704

00:40:36,680 --> 00:40:44,680

they're going to basically throw really, really good, honest, hard-working people out in the streets.

705

00:40:44,680 --> 00:40:50,680

And if they have to go to jail, well, that's just kind of the price you pay for making a mistake.

706

00:40:50,680 --> 00:40:54,680

But it's a lot better to pay a price once than to pay it all your life

707

00:40:54,680 --> 00:40:59,680

and make your kids and your family suffer for a lifetime.

708

00:41:30,680 --> 00:41:40,680

Join me next time for another intriguing edition of Bones' Saw Mysteries.

709

00:42:00,680 --> 00:42:05,680

Bones' Saw Mysteries