

1

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

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:06,800

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

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00:00:06,800 --> 00:00:09,800

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,800 --> 00:00:12,800

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

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00:00:17,800 --> 00:00:21,000

Luis Gasparado of Brazil is no ordinary artist.

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

He works at a frenzied pace, often completing drawings

7

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

and paintings in less than five minutes.

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

Incredibly, Gasparado claims that his every move is guided

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

by the spirits of long dead artists, creating new works

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

from beyond the grave.

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

Does Luis Gasparado possess stunning psychic powers?

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

Tonight you can judge for yourself.

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

For nearly three years, Tara Breckenridge was a waitress

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

in some of Houston's most fashionable adult nightclubs.

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00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:53,000

Then one evening in 1992, she left work in mysterious places

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00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:55,000

and vanished.

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00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:58,000

Tara's family believes she was a victim of foul play

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

and that her boyfriend knows more than he is admitting.

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:06,000

December 1944, the Second World War

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00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:09,000

still raged across Europe, but for a brief moment,

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00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:12,000

peace reigned in one tiny corner of Belgium.

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:15,000

On Christmas Eve, three American GIs

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:17,000

and four Nazi soldiers put down their guns

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000

to share an unlikely holiday dinner.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,000

Now the young boy, who helped make friends out of bitter enemies,

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:25,000

needs your help to find the man

27

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:28,000

who gave him an unforgettable Christmas.

28

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:33,000

To his fellow parishioners in Virginia Beach, Virginia,

29

00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:36,000

Carlos Garcia was an honest, devout Christian.

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:40,000

No one suspected that Garcia was in fact a devious con artist

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:42,000

who would eventually scam his church

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00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:46,000

and the people in his community out of more than \$2 million.

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:49,000

Join me for these intriguing cases.

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:53,000

Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:50,000

For those who love art, it is tempting to wish that the great masters

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:53,000

could return to paint just one more glorious canvas.

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:57,000

Utterly impossible? Of course.

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00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:00,000

Unless you believe in the extraordinary claims

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

of a man named Luis Gaspareto.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:22,000

As he whips color across the page, Gaspareto seems a man possessed.

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00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:28,000

Indeed, if Gaspareto's astounding assertions are true,

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:32,000

as every gesture is directed by the spirits of long dead masters

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:36,000

who continue to create new works from beyond the grave.

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00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:44,000

Bando, Monet, Renoir,

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:48,000

Montaigua, all gone now for more than half a century.

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00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:52,000

But believe it or not, Luis Gaspareto says that these paintings

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00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:56,000

are nothing less than their recent work channeled through him.

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:59,000

Is Gaspareto a gifted psychic, as he claims?

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00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:02,000

Or a flamboyant showman, as common sense would dictate?

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00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:05,000

We invite you to see for yourself.

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00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Luis Gaspareto grew up in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city.

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00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:15,000

The culture here is laced with mysticism,

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:19,000

and many consider psychic experiences part of everyday life.

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:25,000

The Gaspareto family is no exception.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:28,000

Luis's mother, Zibia, has written 13 books,

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00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:32,000

works she says were all channeled from the spirit world.

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:36,000

Luis was just a boy when he first began to believe

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00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:39,000

that he too possessed psychic abilities.

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

At the age of 13, Luis was overwhelmed by stress,

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

sleeplessness, and trouble at school.

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:50,000

Zibia thought he needed counseling

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:52,000

and took him to see Madame Laiís,

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:55,000

one of the city's best known clairvoyants.

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00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:11,000

I was embarrassed because it was the first time there

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:15,000

and, uh, but I started to feel the old that my body's shaking

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

inside and all that energy.

67

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:25,000

And something was holding my throat,

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:28,000

and I tried to control myself,

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00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:32,000

and that gets worse, so I had to let it go.

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00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:38,000

Gaspareto recalls feeling pain and tingling in his arms.

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:42,000

To Madame Laiís, it was a sign he would be able to channel writing

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00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:44,000

much like his mother.

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:48,000

But quite unexpected, Luis began to draw.

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00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:51,000

Gaspareto had found his calling.

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:57,000

Gaspareto says that over the past three decades,

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00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:01,000

he has channeled more than 20,000 paintings by some 50 artists.

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

His claims go largely unchallenged in Brazil,

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00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:09,000

and Gaspareto's reputation has begun to spread around the world.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:12,000

In January of 1995,

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

we asked to film one of his channeling sessions ourselves.

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:19,000

When you invite me for a presentation,

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00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:22,000

I ask them if they want to, if they want to come,

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:24,000

because I cannot do it myself.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:28,000

So if they say yes, I just, you know, accept the invitation.

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:33,000

Our invitation was apparently accepted,

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00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:36,000

and we filmed Gaspareto in New York City.

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Gaspareto works with such intensity,

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00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:51,000

an assistant holds down the work.

89

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:59,000

The sensation of coming in, involving me, you know,

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00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:03,000

involving my arms, and I just let it go.

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00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:05,000

And the arm goes by that force.

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

Well, me, it's not coming from the inside,

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

it comes from the outside.

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00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:13,000

During the frenetic session,

95

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:16,000

Gaspareto completed six drawings and three paintings,

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:19,000

most in less than five minutes.

97

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:23,000

He moved easily between different artistic styles.

98

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

I try not to control anything,

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

I try not to put my thoughts or my ideas.

100

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:40,000

But you see, people think that if you are unconscious,

101

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:42,000

there's going to be somebody else coming through you

102

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:44,000

or taking your body, that's impossible.

103

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:46,000

Nobody takes your body, you know.

104

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:50,000

It's just an energetical influence through you.

105

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

So I just want to be passive.

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00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:01,000

During the 45 minutes we were filming,

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00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:04,000

Gaspareto says he channeled works by seven artists

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00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:07,000

among the greatest of all time.

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

An impressive accomplishment,

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:11,000

but is it proof that the great masters

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00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:14,000

are hard at work in the afterlife?

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00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Perhaps some comparisons are in order.

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00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:23,000

A painting by Pierre Auguste Renoir completed in 1877.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:27,000

Auguste Renoir 1995,

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00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:31,000

a channel through Luis Gaspareto in roughly five minutes.

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:36,000

Claude Monet, 1880.

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00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:40,000

Claude Monet, through Gaspareto.

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00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:44,000

Vincent Van Gogh, 1890.

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00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:48,000

Van Gogh, through Gaspareto.

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:53,000

Art experts in the United States are hardly convinced.

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

The notion that any one of these artists,

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00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:59,000

take Van Gogh for example,

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00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:02,000

a man of extraordinary intensity

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00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:04,000

and seriousness of purpose,

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00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:08,000

to think that he would want to come back after his death

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00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:13,000

and produce third, fourth, fifth rate imitations

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00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:16,000

of what he successfully did during his life

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00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:18,000

seems to be incredible.

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00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:21,000

Gaspareto certainly seems to be possessed by some force.

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00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:24,000

I mean, perhaps it's the force of his own subconscious

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:27,000

playing back images that he's seen in art history books,

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00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:31,000

or perhaps he's really receiving these images from the afterlife.

133

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:33,000

I mean, I certainly can't say.

134

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:37,000

The painters are coming through me

135

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:42,000

because they want to show that there is life after death

136

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

and they want us to think about eternity.

137

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:50,000

They want to help the evolution of our consciousness

138

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:53,000

and the evolution of our conceptions of life.

139

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:56,000

They want us to see life in a different way.

140

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:03,000

Is Luis Gaspareto a window to the metaphysical side of art?

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00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:07,000

Can there possibly be any substance to his stunning claims?

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

No matter what you may believe,

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

even a skeptic has to admit

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00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:15,000

that Luis Gaspareto puts on a great show.

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00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Next, a search for a beautiful young waitress

146

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:26,000

who mysteriously vanished in 1992.

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00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:41,000

The Men's Club in Houston, Texas is an upscale adult night spa.

148

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:45,000

Clientel is mostly male.

149

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

The entertainment, topless.

150

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:51,000

For many of us, it is tempting to make assumptions

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:54,000

about the type of women who dance and work here.

152

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:57,000

But don't be deceived.

153

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:59,000

Consider the case of Tara Breckenridge,

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:04,000

who waited tables at the Men's Club from 1989 to 1992.

155

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

Tara grew up in Del Rio, Texas, population 34,000.

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

She was a third of five children

157

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:16,000

in an upstanding, devoutly religious family.

158

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:20,000

Tara was a very caring type person,

159

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:24,000

a very loving type person, very nurturing type person.

160

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

She was always very upbeat, very cheerful.

161

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:31,000

Just a real wonderful daughter to have.

162

00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:35,000

Shortly after graduating from high school in 1987,

163

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:39,000

Tara set off for Houston to pursue a career in photography.

164

00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:43,000

But in the end, financial reality forced her to take up waitressing

165

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:46,000

and ultimately landed her at the Men's Club.

166

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Yes.

167

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:51,000

Tara wasn't the type of person you would think would work

168

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:52,000

in a place like that.

169

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:55,000

It was more just for the money, you know.

170

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:57,000

She was going to school and stuff,

171

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

so it made her the money that she was comfortable with

172

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

and she was happy with that.

173

00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:08,000

When Tara Breckenridge arrived in Houston,

174

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:10,000

she was no different than thousands of small town girls

175

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

with big city dreams.

176

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:14,000

But for Tara the dreamer,

177

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:16,000

he had ended in a horrible nightmare.

178

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:19,000

In 1992, she vanished without a trace.

179

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:22,000

The police and her parents fear the worst.

180

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:24,000

They believe that Tara was murdered.

181

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:27,000

And high on the list of possible suspects

182

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:29,000

is Tara's boyfriend at the time,

183

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:32,000

a young man named Wayne Hecker.

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00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:38,000

They met in 1989, two years after Tara arrived in Houston.

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00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:41,000

Even though Tara had never danced at the Men's Club,

186

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:44,000

Wayne was less than thrilled about her job.

187

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:48,000

She was working before I met her in those kind of places

188

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:51,000

and she loved the money and she loved the atmosphere

189

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:53,000

and I guess that's just something that you want to grow out of

190

00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:56,000

and I'm not going to tell her where to work, you know.

191

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

Wayne was not happy about Tara working at a topless club,

192

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

but he, you know, accepted it because it was paying the bills.

193

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:07,000

And so Tara, you know, worked at night

194

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

and, you know, Wayne wasn't working at the time,

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

so he didn't have much of a choice.

196

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:16,000

Despite Wayne's misgivings,

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00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:18,000

the young couples soon moved in together.

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:20,000

At first they seemed happy,

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00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:25,000

but as time passed, the relationship became more and more contentious.

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00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:31,000

Tara and Wayne's relationship was kind of rocky to say the least.

201

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:35,000

She was always talking about moving out

202

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:37,000

or thinking about moving out,

203

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:40,000

and we would discuss it at times

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:43,000

and she would say she needed to talk it over with him

205

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:46,000

and occasionally we talked about her doing it

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00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:49,000

without talking it over first.

207

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:55,000

In July of 1992, Tara made a visit to her parents' home in Del Rio.

208

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:59,000

Tara's mother says she felt that something was not quite right.

209

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:04,000

I think maybe her problems were a lot bigger than we would have guessed

210

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:08,000

and we had no way of really knowing because she didn't talk to us about it

211

00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:11,000

and we didn't know to ask at the time.

212

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:15,000

Two weeks later, on August 3rd, 1992,

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00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:19,000

Tara was back in Houston working at the men's club.

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00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:24,000

It was a slow night and management decided to send two waitresses home early.

215

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

Hey, Tara.

216

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:26,000

Anybody want to go?

217

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:27,000

I'll go home.

218

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:28,000

You want to?

219

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:29,000

I need one more. Any volunteers?

220

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:30,000

I'll go home.

221

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:31,000

I'm kidding.

222

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:33,000

Yeah, it's slow. Not much happening.

223

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:36,000

Everyone was surprised when Tara volunteered to leave.

224

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:39,000

It was strangely out of character.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:40,000

I don't think so.

226

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:43,000

It'd be a little unusual for Tara to ask to go home.

227

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:45,000

She wasn't always interested in leaving.

228

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:47,000

She was there till 2 o'clock to see if she, you know,

229

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:50,000

till closing time, make as much money as she could.

230

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:55,000

Tara changed into street clothes in a 1229 a.m.

231

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:57,000

She punched out for the night.

232

00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:04,000

Tara, when she left, walked past the doorman without saying,

233

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

you know, goodbye or without responding to his goodbye.

234

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:09,000

And that would have been unusual.

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00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:16,000

Security guard indicated that he carried her tote bag that she had

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00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:17,000

when she left the club.

237

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:21,000

He physically took it from her and carried it as he escorted her to her vehicle.

238

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:22,000

It's really slow in there.

239

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:24,000

He washed her, got in the vehicle.

240

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:28,000

He told her to be safe as she drove home and then saw

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00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:30,000

that she exited the parking lot.

242

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:36,000

We asked him if anybody followed her or if he saw anybody follow her

243

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:37,000

and he said he did not.

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00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:42,000

At the very moment Tara was leaving the men's club,

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00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:47,000

her boyfriend Wayne Hecker says he was in a pool hall 15 minutes away.

246

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:50,000

Wayne had phoned Tara earlier that evening but never spoke to her.

247

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Never spoke to her.

248

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:58,000

I didn't really think anything at that time and they told me that she was on the floor.

249

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:05,000

I probably got home at around 5 and I expected to see Tara,

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00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:09,000

either laying on the sofa or in bed and she wasn't there.

251

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:13,000

So at that point, I mean, I would do like anybody else would.

252

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:19,000

I was in low as I'm one or I went to find her.

253

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:28,000

Indeed it would be Wayne who found Tara's car at 7 a.m. abandoned by the sight of a busy freeway.

254

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:37,000

When I saw the car, the first thing that comes to my mind is what's it doing there?

255

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

Apparently, she drove the car there.

256

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:46,000

The car alarm wasn't even on, the flashers weren't even on.

257

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:47,000

That really surprised me.

258

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

Tara's car was locked and a can of mace was inside.

259

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:57,000

She always carried her mace on her and when I saw the mace in the car,

260

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:00,000

I thought why is the mace in the car and why aren't the flashers on?

261

00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:04,000

And why isn't the car, we did have a car alarm while I was in it engaged.

262

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:08,000

The police fear that Tara had met with foul play.

263

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

Before long suspicion began to set her on Wayne,

264

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:16,000

investigators were especially curious about his activity the night Tara disappeared.

265

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:24,000

We have employees of a club that indicated that he left the club approximately midnight 12.30

266

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:29,000

and was next seen at approximately 1.45 in the morning.

267

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:36,000

The pool hall is located here, 15 minutes from the men's club.

268

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:40,000

Tara's car was found here just three miles from the club.

269

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:46,000

Wayne's alleged absence from the pool hall was a full hour and 45 minutes.

270

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:52,000

There's certain actions and reactions that we've got from Wayne

271

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:55,000

that cast suspicion upon himself.

272

00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:01,000

Obviously, we don't have any evidence to support a belief that he may or may not be involved in this,

273

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:04,000

but he certainly has not been eliminated as a suspect either.

274

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:09,000

Later, we put the question directly to Wayne Hecker.

275

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:23,000

To tell you the truth, I don't know an explanation to anybody but the Lord and the Lord has given me.

276

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:29,000

I'm waiting here for something and it's from him.

277

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:33,000

I can't answer anybody because there's not an answer.

278

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:40,000

I have only he has it and until there is an answer, I don't think anybody will be satisfied.

279

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:45,000

I might be pinpointed for the rest of my life and there's nothing I can do about that.

280

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:52,000

There's a lot of people that have said things, made a lot of derogatory statements and that's...

281

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:56,000

I can't help them.

282

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:02,000

With no concrete evidence of foul play, Tara Breckinridge was officially listed as missing.

283

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:10,000

Then the police obtained a series of love notes that indicated there had been another man in Tara's life.

284

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:15,000

One note said, please don't be scared, do what your heart tells you.

285

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:18,000

I'm very excited that you'll marry me.

286

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:24,000

But another one said, the more you hold out, the longer you jeopardize what I feel for you.

287

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:32,000

According to people at the club, Tara's admirer was a frequent visitor and often lavished her with \$100 tips.

288

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:36,000

He apparently had intimate knowledge of her difficulties with Wayne.

289

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:42,000

But the notes seemed to indicate that in the end, Tara rejected the man's advances.

290

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:45,000

There was nothing threatening in those notes.

291

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:49,000

We interviewed the individual, our opinion at this point,

292

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:53,000

it's he was just an individual that had an attraction toward Tara and nothing more.

293

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:58,000

But if Tara's admirer was not a suspect, who was?

294

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Once again, a shadow of doubt was cast upon Wayne Hecker.

295

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:09,000

Wayne did know about the guy, but, and I do honestly think there was some jealousy,

296

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:15,000

but I don't think that, you know, it would cause him to do anything stupid.

297

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:20,000

I haven't been charged with a crime, no. Not at all.

298

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

I didn't commit a crime, so I can be charged with one. Simple as that.

299

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:32,000

I love the woman of death. She's the best thing that ever happened to me.

300

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:41,000

She's a great girl. Yeah, I do. I love her. I love her with all my heart and, and I hope the whole world hears that.

301

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:51,000

Tara Breckenridge was today be 26 years old. She's 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 120 pounds.

302

00:20:51,000 --> 00:21:00,000

Her car was found abandoned in the 1200 block of the West Loop North in Houston, Texas on the morning of August 4th, 1992.

303

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:10,000

Next, the remarkable story of an unlikely friendship between bitter enemies,

304

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:13,000

three American GIs and four German soldiers.

305

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:29,000

The story you're about to see is one of the most remarkable tales to ever come out of the Second World War.

306

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:34,000

Remarkable for the fact that it involves no fighting and no bloodshed.

307

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:44,000

In 1973, Readers Digest magazine published the account, and in 1985, it was a focal point of a speech given by President Ronald Reagan.

308

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:52,000

Tonight, we need your help to find three unknown American GIs and write the closing chapter of this amazing saga.

309

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:07,000

December 1944, the battered German army launched its last great offensive along an 85 mile front at Belgium's Ardennes Forest,

310

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:10,000

the infamous Battle of the Bulge.

311

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:18,000

Nearly 16,000 American soldiers would lose their lives. Another 60,000 would be wounded or captured.

312

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:23,000

It was the costliest battle the United States would wage in any war.

313

00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:36,000

Within your shot of the fighting, on the edge of the Ardennes Forest stood a small, isolated cabin.

314

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:41,000

There Fritz Winken, a 12 year old German boy, lived with his mother Elizabeth.

315

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Fritz's father Hubert had moved his family to the cabin for safe keeping, but life in the forest was difficult.

316

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:58,000

While Hubert served as a civilian baker for the German army 20 miles away, Fritz and his mother struggled to put food on the table.

317

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:07,000

My father thought like everybody else that the war would be over by Christmas, but it was not to be.

318

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:14,000

And our stay in this shack was longer than we anticipated.

319

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:22,000

Christmas Eve 1944, a ride with an air of sadness and uncertainty.

320

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

Hubert is still not returned, and his family was resigned to the fact that they would be spending the holiday without him.

321

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:49,000

Fritz's mother tried to make the evening as festive as possible. She scraped together a Christmas meal of a few potatoes and a scrawny rooster.

322

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:54,000

Father?

323

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:11,000

My mother blew out the candle and went to the door and I went with her. She opened the door and there were these soldiers.

324

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:15,000

Yeah, bitter?

325

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:19,000

Um, kidding me ma'am. Do you speak English?

326

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:21,000

No.

327

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

Uh, we're Americans.

328

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:28,000

They tried to talk to us, but my mother didn't speak English.

329

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Our friend's been shot.

330

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:35,000

Can we come inside for a while, please?

331

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:39,000

My mother just looked and she looked at the guys in the snow.

332

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:41,000

Come inside.

333

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:49,000

Until finally my mother, after, it seems to be like an eternity to me, she asked them to come in.

334

00:24:54,000 --> 00:25:01,000

Fritz's mother knew full well that harboring the enemy was punishable by death, but she was more than willing to take the risk.

335

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

The injured soldier had been shot in the leg and had lost a great deal of blood.

336

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:09,000

Elizabeth did her best to make him comfortable.

337

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:11,000

What's she saying?

338

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:12,000

I don't know.

339

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:15,000

Ask her she speaks French.

340

00:25:25,000 --> 00:25:33,000

He said they had lost their unit and were wandering for the adents for the past two days and two nights.

341

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:36,000

She's going to change his bandage.

342

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:43,000

My mother was all motherhood.

343

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:50,000

She worried for them and she worried for the wounded men and she did everything she could.

344

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:56,000

They were very nice, like big boys from the neighborhood, you know.

345

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:00,000

How you doing, kid? Have a nice Christmas, son and boy.

346

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

Fritz's mother made the American GIs feel right at home.

347

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:05,000

He doesn't understand a word we're saying.

348

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:10,000

The men began to relax in anticipation of an unexpected Christmas dinner.

349

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:19,000

We thought automatically this must be more Americans.

350

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

And I went to the door and opened the door.

351

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:29,000

And there were four German soldiers.

352

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:33,000

I was petrified with fear.

353

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:41,000

He said we have lost our unit and we would like to warm up a little bit.

354

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:51,000

So my mother said you not only be allowed to warm up but you get a nice dinner if you accept our guests.

355

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:58,000

And my mother said this is Christmas night and there will be no shooting around here.

356

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:06,000

Put your arms in the wooden shed and then we come out and have a nice, nice Christmas.

357

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:14,000

Meanwhile my mother had turned to the Americans who by then had noticed that some Germans were coming and had turned to their guns also.

358

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

And I said, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

359

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:22,000

I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

360

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:24,000

I'm sorry.

361

00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:26,000

I'm sorry.

362

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

I'm sorry.

363

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:30,000

I'm sorry.

364

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:32,000

I'm sorry.

365

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:34,000

I turned to their guns also.

366

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

My mother said to me get more potatoes and more water.

367

00:27:56,000 --> 00:27:57,000

We had more mouths to feed.

368

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:08,000

For about a minute or two, maybe three, there was a tension.

369

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:10,000

Good evening.

370

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:20,000

But then it was warm, it smelled good and right away there was a sense of hospitality.

371

00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:22,000

He speaks English.

372

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

Your Conray.

373

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

He's wounded?

374

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:32,000

Yeah, he got around in the thigh earlier.

375

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:42,000

One of the German soldiers went over to the Americans that were wounded and asked the Americans in English what was wrong with him.

376

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:46,000

So what do you think?

377

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:48,000

He's lucky.

378

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:53,000

He's lost a lot of blood but the cold has prevented the wound from getting infected.

379

00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:56,000

He should recover, provide him with some rest nourishment.

380

00:28:57,000 --> 00:28:58,000

Good, good.

381

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:03,000

He had some first-aid kits and he applied the dressing to the wound.

382

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:08,000

And the whole evening he would every now and then go and look after him.

383

00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:20,000

That night, hostility ceased in at least one corner of the forest as American and German soldiers sat down together to honor the Christmas spirit.

384

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:25,000

My mother said, Grace.

385

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

Dear Lord, we thank you.

386

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:33,000

It must have been a regular prayer, it was something spontaneous.

387

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:42,000

And she said that that's all. Thank the Lord for being together tonight.

388

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:50,000

Peaceful in this terrible war and let's enjoy dinner, the little things that we have.

389

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:56,000

And let's promise to be friendly to each other forever if possible.

390

00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:03,000

Let's also pray for an end of this terrible war so that we all can go home very soon.

391

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:09,000

And by that time, by that time they were all crying.

392

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:16,000

Not profusely, but the tears were rolling. Even the German sergeant, I was very surprised.

393

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:20,000

And then we ate and the tears disappeared.

394

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:26,000

But from then on there was a feeling of friendship that permeated the whole room.

395

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:29,000

It was wonderful.

396

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:36,000

After dinner, the soldiers drifted outside one by one. Elizabeth and Fritz soon joined them.

397

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:42,000

As they gazed heavenward, each gave thanks in his own way.

398

00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:47,000

And the soldiers were all very happy.

399

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:50,000

And they were all very happy.

400

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:53,000

And they were all very happy.

401

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:57,000

And by that time, they gazed heavenward, each gave thanks in his own way.

402

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

That night the men would sleep side by side under the same roof.

403

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:08,000

The differences of war temporarily set aside.

404

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:15,000

They were so peaceful. You never think that there are two different kinds of soldiers.

405

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:19,000

That one day before they would have shot each other.

406

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:26,000

Fritz remembers that the spirit of brotherhood continued the next morning.

407

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

The German soldiers helped construct a makeshift stretcher for the injured G.I.

408

00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:35,000

And then gave the Americans directions back to their line.

409

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:45,000

That same day, Fritz and his mother left with the Germans and were soon reunited with Fritz's father.

410

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:49,000

Five months later, the war would end.

411

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:55,000

In the early 1960s, Fritz Winken immigrated to the United States.

412

00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:59,000

Today he is an American citizen living in Hawaii.

413

00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:03,000

Like his father before him, Fritz owns and operates a bakery.

414

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:11,000

But their special night in 1944 remains a defining moment of Fritz's life.

415

00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:17,000

He now hopes to find the American G.I.s who helped him learn the true meaning of Christmas.

416

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:22,000

It showed me what my mother could do.

417

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:28,000

And it showed me what one single human being can do to avoid bloodshed and to bring peace.

418

00:32:29,000 --> 00:32:33,000

And it also showed me at a very early age that we're all alike.

419

00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:40,000

Even though no matter what uniform we wear, we have the same charge, the same soul.

420

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:42,000

The same problems.

421

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:47,000

And it was a very significant experience. I never forgot it.

422

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:16,000

On a previous broadcast, we told you of Earl and Donna Shotbacks,

423

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:21,000

a young couple intent on building their dream house on this breathtaking site,

424

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:26,000

200 miles north of Denver, Colorado.

425

00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:30,000

Don't you think we ought to build a log house right here, big picture window?

426

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:36,000

In April of 1991, Earl and Donna hired a builder they knew as Mark Mitchell,

427

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:39,000

who especially was log cabin homes.

428

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:43,000

There you go. Into your new home.

429

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:47,000

A contract was drawn up and reviewed by the Shotbacks and their attorney.

430

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:53,000

Earl and Donna gave Mitchell \$25,000 as a deposit, their entire life savings.

431

00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:56,000

Then they waited for their dream house to take shape.

432

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:03,000

But weeks stretched into months and no structure ever rose on Earl and Donna's property.

433

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

Every time they questioned Mitchell, he had an excuse and told them not to worry.

434

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:15,000

The final blow came six months later when the Shotbacks banker turned up

435

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:17,000

disturbing information about Mark Mitchell.

436

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:19,000

Well, I'm afraid the news isn't good.

437

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:24,000

Now, it has nothing to do with you two. The problem is with the builder.

438

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:28,000

It appears this man is in some serious trouble. He has been taking deposit money,

439

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:33,000

just as he did yours, and then has not started construction on the homes.

440

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

Matter of fact, Mark Mitchell is not even his real name. It's Wade Mitchell Parker.

441

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:48,000

At that point, I felt nauseous. Suddenly, just was sick, feeling as though

442

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:54,000

we were going to lose all the money that we had given to Mark Mitchell.

443

00:34:57,000 --> 00:35:00,000

Wade Mitchell Parker, alias Mark Mitchell, left town soon after.

444

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:07,000

He allegedly disappeared with more than \$1 million stockpiled from at least 30 other fraud victims.

445

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:14,000

Parker avoided arrest for nearly three years, until just after the most recent broadcast of this story.

446

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:22,000

On August 11, 1994, Wade Mitchell Parker was arrested in Cobb County, Georgia,

447

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:27,000

some 1,300 miles from Colorado. There Parker was using two new aliases,

448

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

Ronald Anderson and Larry Wheeler. But information developed from our program helped reveal his true identity.

449

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:44,000

On September 26, 1994, Wade Mitchell Parker was arraigned in Colorado on fraud and theft charges.

450

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:53,000

Our cameras are not allowed inside the courtroom. However, Earl and Donna Chotnacks made sure they were on hand to see justice done.

451

00:35:54,000 --> 00:36:01,000

If he'd been an honest man, we'd be living in our home right now and raising our children.

452

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:09,000

I think that anybody who has been ripped off this way could take heart from this, you know, knowing that

453

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:21,000

with enough perseverance they may get their guy, you know, so it certainly gave me a lot of heart when I was beginning to lose hope.

454

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:45,000

These days, the church seems like one of the few places where you can expect to be safe from the harsh realities of the outside world.

455

00:36:46,000 --> 00:36:50,000

Certainly, it's the last place you'd expect to find a con artist at work.

456

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:57,000

But for a devious swindler named Carlos Garcia, the hallowed sanctuary provided the perfect setup.

457

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:07,000

The Holy Family Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia serves a small, tight-knit Hispanic community.

458

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:12,000

Parishioners are honest and hard-working, but by no means affluent.

459

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:23,000

In 1985, the church welcomed a new member, Carlos Garcia, who was a friendly middle-aged businessman who soon managed to ingratiate himself in the community.

460

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:35,000

What really struck me about him when he first came to us was how honest he seemed to be and how concerned he seemed to be for the people of our community,

461

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:48,000

for the Hispanic people, especially with the Mexicans. He was extremely close to the Mexican community, and he earned their trust immediately, just like he earned mine.

462

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:52,000

Let me just say how excited I am. We've had a great year.

463

00:37:53,000 --> 00:38:00,000

By 1988, Carlos had been elected president and treasurer of the local pastoral council, which oversaw the church budget and expenditure.

464

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:13,000

It was an important, prestigious position. No one yet suspected that Garcia was, in reality, a brazen thief who would end up stealing \$2 million from his church and his fellow parishioners.

465

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:17,000

On all the items that are haven asterisks, you'll find the explanation on page two.

466

00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:30,000

There was, for many people, almost an immediate trust that this is somebody who has come to this country, who has become successful and now is helping other people.

467

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:39,000

Unfortunately, we found out that the trust that had been put in Carlos had been betrayed in just in many ways.

468

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:50,000

Garcia used his position in the church to attract clients to a seemingly legitimate tax preparation

business.

469

00:38:51,000 --> 00:39:01,000

Over several years, Donaciano and Irma Naranjo gave Carlos more than \$13,000 to turn over to the IRS. The IRS never got a penny.

470

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:13,000

We didn't know how the system worked here for paying taxes and all that. As we come from Mexico, we didn't know a thing.

471

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:21,000

He helped us arrange our citizenship, our immigration cards, and he always helped us with everything.

472

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:30,000

So that's why we trusted him so much and that's why we trusted him with our taxes.

473

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:38,000

He takes advantage of the fact that a great many of the individuals he comes in contact with are unfamiliar with federal income tax laws.

474

00:39:39,000 --> 00:39:48,000

They trust him to guide them through what really must appear a maze. Unfortunately, they don't realize that he has no intention of taking them anywhere but to the cleaners, so to speak.

475

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:58,000

But Garcia's tax preparation scam was just the tip of the iceberg. He obtained privilege and confidential information from hundreds of community members.

476

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:05,000

He then used that knowledge to order credit cards in the names of his fellow churchgoers and their deceased relatives.

477

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:15,000

He would use the information that he obtained about other people to build resumes, obtain credit cards, establish bank accounts,

478

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:19,000

and with his credit cards he even assumed the identities of females.

479

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:30,000

And he would charge things on these credit cards and nobody would ever question the fact that he was signing what would appear to be a female name simply because it was Hispanic.

480

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:38,000

And he would explain to them that sometimes a name that you would assume would be female was not because it was a Hispanic name and he got away with it.

481

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:45,000

For most con men that would have been enough. But Carlos Garcia was also something of a ladies man.

482

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:53,000

One woman whom we will call Anna dated Carlos for six years and never got the slightest inkling that he was up to no good.

483

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:05,000

When Carlos learned that Anna's mother had a large sum of money to invest, he encouraged her to put the funds in a CD.

484

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:17,000

He had told her that the interest rate would be better at his credit union and he had already picked up the signature cards and everything and brought those with him.

485

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:24,000

So she filled out the application and signature card and he took the money and he put it in the credit union.

486

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:26,000

It's an excellent investment.

487

00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:28,000

Well thank you Carlos.

488

00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:33,000

Unbeknownst to Anna and her mother, Carlos co-signed the signature card.

489

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:38,000

Before long he had emptied the account to the tune of \$25,000.

490

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

It hurts, you know, it hurts that you know that all of these years you thought that someone cared about you and really they were just using you.

491

00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:52,000

For eight years Carlos Garcia operated at will.

492

00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:58,000

Finally one of his class became suspicious and contacted the IRS inspection office.

493

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

The taxpayer alleged that she had given Carlos cash monies for three consecutive years for Carlos to apply and send to the Internal Revenue Service.

494

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:16,000

She subsequently learned that Carlos, that IRS did not have any record of her filing or any payments made to the Internal Revenue Service.

495

00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:21,000

In 1993 the client made a phone call to Carlos to discuss her situation.

496

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:26,000

Carlos had no idea that IRS inspectors were listening in.

497

00:42:27,000 --> 00:42:31,000

Carlos I'm calling because I've received some letters from the IRS.

498

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:36,000

Carlos, I'm calling because I've received some letters from the IRS.

499

00:42:36,000 --> 00:42:40,000

And they say that they haven't received payments from me.

500

00:42:41,000 --> 00:42:44,000

And you know I paid you in cash and I don't have any record of it.

501

00:42:45,000 --> 00:42:47,000

Obviously there's been a terrible mistake.

502

00:42:48,000 --> 00:42:50,000

I will call them on Monday morning and straighten this whole situation out.

503

00:42:51,000 --> 00:42:55,000

So you do have the record then, you can prove to them that I gave you the payment in cash.

504

00:42:56,000 --> 00:42:59,000

Yes, I've got those records, I know you paid me, I've got everything right here.

505

00:43:00,000 --> 00:43:01,000

I will take care of it.

506

00:43:01,000 --> 00:43:02,000

You understand?

507

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:05,000

Okay then I'll wait to hear from you.

508

00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:07,000

Thank you Carlos.

509

00:43:08,000 --> 00:43:09,000

Bye bye.

510

00:43:12,000 --> 00:43:14,000

Carlos Garcia was arrested a few days later.

511

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:16,000

He soon posted bail.

512

00:43:17,000 --> 00:43:20,000

Within a week Garcia slipped out of Virginia Beach and vanished.

513

00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:26,000

When investigators searched through Garcia's records and documents they discovered his record was missing.

514

00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:31,000

When investigators searched through Garcia's records and documents they discovered his true identity.

515

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:33,000

Fernando Zapico.

516

00:43:35,000 --> 00:43:43,000

Zapico, a native of Argentina, is a career con artist whose life of crime spans more than four decades and includes at least 17 aliases.

517

00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:50,000

Authorities say that Zapico has built hundreds of victims up and down the East Coast out of millions of dollars.

518

00:43:51,000 --> 00:43:58,000

Probably even greater than the loss of funds from our Hispanic community has been the loss of trust.

519

00:43:59,000 --> 00:44:09,000

And the real betrayal that people have felt of someone whom they loved and respected and truly looked up to as a leader of our community.

520

00:44:10,000 --> 00:44:12,000

And now they find that they've been betrayed by him.

521

00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:19,000

Our dreams came crashing down and now we can't trust anyone anymore.

522

00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:27,000

We're afraid something like this will happen again because he was a man who belonged to the church.

523

00:44:28,000 --> 00:44:35,000

It was impossible to concede that he would steal from the church and yet that's what he did.

524

00:44:35,000 --> 00:44:39,000

I still have time when it's hard for me to accept this.

525

00:44:40,000 --> 00:44:46,000

I still have times when I feel like crying, when I feel depressed because I trusted him.

526

00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:48,000

I believed in him.

527

00:44:50,000 --> 00:44:54,000

He took money from people that were simple people.

528

00:44:55,000 --> 00:44:56,000

Again, people that trusted him.

529

00:44:57,000 --> 00:44:58,000

And that's what he did.

530

00:44:58,000 --> 00:45:01,000

He took money from people that were simple people.

531

00:45:02,000 --> 00:45:03,000

Again, people that trusted him.

532

00:45:04,000 --> 00:45:06,000

And these people will never be the same again.

533

00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:10,000

The whole community will never be the same again.

534

00:45:28,000 --> 00:45:42,000

Join me next Friday for another intriguing edition of Unsolved Mysteries.