

1

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

Next on Unsolved Mysteries, a desolate road, a teenage girl driving alone in one fatal

2

00:00:12,160 --> 00:00:13,160

bullet.

3

00:00:13,160 --> 00:00:18,000

Under hypnosis, a witness may have described her killer.

4

00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:24,040

Guests at the southern end get something extra with the price of Mayor Williams, ghosts of

5

00:00:24,040 --> 00:00:28,640

former residents who died of foul play.

6

00:00:28,640 --> 00:00:35,000

She's brutal, cunning and responsible for 10 murders and 50 rapes.

7

00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:38,800

Authorities need your help to catch her.

8

00:00:38,800 --> 00:00:43,000

Is Earth on a Doomsday collision course with a deadly asteroid?

9

00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:48,560

It's happened before and it will happen again.

10

00:00:48,560 --> 00:00:54,120

Cunning, deceit and lies, maybe you can guess who's telling the truth.

11

00:00:54,120 --> 00:00:57,480

I'm Dennis Farina and this is Unsolved Mysteries.

12

00:01:24,120 --> 00:01:39,160

Valdez, North Carolina.

13

00:01:39,160 --> 00:01:44,320

On the night of December 22, a recent high school graduate, Rhonda Hinson, attends her

14

00:01:44,320 --> 00:01:51,240

first ever company Christmas party.

15

00:01:51,240 --> 00:01:54,760

Midnight, Rhonda leaves with two girlfriends.

16

00:01:54,760 --> 00:02:00,320

After dropping off her companions, Rhonda plans to make the 10 mile drive to her home,

17

00:02:00,320 --> 00:02:04,360

where she lives with her parents.

18

00:02:04,360 --> 00:02:11,520

At exactly 1 a.m., Rhonda's mother wakes up from a sound sleep with a strange premonition.

19

00:02:11,520 --> 00:02:18,080

I woke up feeling panicky, scared because I felt like something had happened, Rhonda.

20

00:02:18,080 --> 00:02:23,840

I felt like Rhonda was dead, I felt like she had been in an automobile accident.

21

00:02:23,840 --> 00:02:28,480

I got up and I had a little sleepy scanner that you listen to, you know, accidents and

22

00:02:28,480 --> 00:02:29,480

all that stuff on it.

23

00:02:29,480 --> 00:02:33,440

And for some odd reason I just turned it on, you know, thought maybe, you know, if it

24

00:02:33,440 --> 00:02:39,280

had been an accident out here on the scanner and the minute I turned it on, it came over

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00:02:39,280 --> 00:02:41,280

which, you know, it had been a homicide.

26

00:02:41,280 --> 00:02:48,280

1.20, check a vehicle in the ditch, put a mineral spring mountain at high 40, complainant

27

00:02:48,280 --> 00:02:52,960

reports blood in the front seat of sign.

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00:02:52,960 --> 00:02:56,560

Rhonda's car was discovered just a half a mile from her house.

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00:02:56,560 --> 00:03:01,560

The driver's door was open and a few feet away, Rhonda was found dead.

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00:03:01,560 --> 00:03:08,160

She was lying on her back and her arms appeared to have been deliberately placed at her side.

31

00:03:08,160 --> 00:03:12,280

She had been killed by a single bullet fired by a high powered rifle.

32

00:03:12,280 --> 00:03:20,720

It tore through the trunk of her car, through her seat and penetrated her heart.

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00:03:20,720 --> 00:03:26,120

The hardest thing is living every day wondering who did this.

34

00:03:26,120 --> 00:03:32,120

Rhonda was the most loving, caring person that you've ever known.

35

00:03:32,120 --> 00:03:35,280

Rhonda was the type of daughter that everybody would like to have.

36

00:03:38,880 --> 00:03:45,320

At first, the murder of Rhonda Henson appeared to be a random act of violence, but as the

37

00:03:45,320 --> 00:03:51,760

investigation unfolded, disturbing clues emerged suggesting that Rhonda may have been murdered

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00:03:51,760 --> 00:03:55,840

by someone she knew.

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00:03:55,840 --> 00:04:01,000

Several weeks after Rhonda's graduation, she began to act strangely.

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00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:06,400

Previously happy to drive alone, she started asking her father to go with her on trips

41

00:04:06,400 --> 00:04:11,680

into town and on one of these trips, she made a disturbing statement.

42

00:04:11,680 --> 00:04:15,160

Dad, I've got something to tell you, but I'm afraid to.

43

00:04:15,160 --> 00:04:19,000

I said, no matter what it's good or bad, tell me.

44

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:21,120

And she said, I'll think about it.

45

00:04:21,120 --> 00:04:25,640

And she never did explain, never did tell me why, what it was, you know, she's afraid

46

00:04:25,640 --> 00:04:26,640

to tell me.

47

00:04:26,640 --> 00:04:29,960

Well, you keep your mind on your job, okay?

48

00:04:29,960 --> 00:04:34,960

Her mother also recalled a strange conversation shortly before Rhonda's death.

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00:04:35,920 --> 00:04:39,480

I was wondering if it's ever okay to go with the married man.

50

00:04:39,480 --> 00:04:44,880

I said, Rhonda, there's never a time that it's all right to go with the married man.

51

00:04:44,880 --> 00:04:49,880

The only thing that comes from that is people getting hurt.

52

00:04:49,880 --> 00:04:54,720

Rhonda's comments suggested that she was under some kind of personal pressure.

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00:04:54,720 --> 00:04:59,520

The police investigation began to uncover evidence that someone may have been stalking

54

00:04:59,520 --> 00:05:03,480

her the night that she was killed.

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00:05:03,480 --> 00:05:10,840

Between 1215 and 1230, on the morning that Rhonda Henson was murdered, a witness drove

56

00:05:10,840 --> 00:05:16,240

under the Interstate 40 Bridge on Mental Springs Mountain Road.

57

00:05:16,240 --> 00:05:23,200

She observed a blue Chevrolet facing in a northerly direction with two white males in

58

00:05:23,200 --> 00:05:25,360

the vehicle.

59

00:05:25,360 --> 00:05:29,960

The car was parked next to the same off-ramp that Rhonda used to exit.

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00:05:29,960 --> 00:05:36,040

It was spotted 30 minutes before the fatal bullet was fired and just 200 yards from where

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00:05:36,040 --> 00:05:40,720

her body was found.

62

00:05:40,720 --> 00:05:45,720

Later that evening, another witness traveling down the same road passed a similar blue car

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00:05:45,720 --> 00:05:50,280

with a single man at the wheel speeding away from the murder site.

64

00:05:50,280 --> 00:05:55,560

As he continued down the road, the witness saw Rhonda's vehicle parked at the same spot

65

00:05:55,560 --> 00:05:57,640

where her body was found.

66

00:05:57,640 --> 00:06:02,960

A woman was slumped over the steering wheel and a man was standing at her door.

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00:06:02,960 --> 00:06:08,480

The witness did not get a close look at the man and drove on, assuming the couple had

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00:06:08,480 --> 00:06:11,040

been drinking.

69

00:06:11,040 --> 00:06:16,840

There were some latent prints on the driver's door, but these latent prints have not been

70

00:06:16,840 --> 00:06:20,120

identified.

71

00:06:20,120 --> 00:06:25,200

Police put the witness under hypnosis and asked them to recall more details.

72

00:06:25,200 --> 00:06:28,920

This is the actual audio tape of that session.

73

00:06:56,200 --> 00:07:06,720

The witness also remembered seeing a second car parked down the road from Rhonda's vehicle.

74

00:07:06,720 --> 00:07:10,120

It was a black or dark blue trans-am.

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00:07:10,120 --> 00:07:16,160

Some believe that car may have been driven by the murderer.

76

00:07:16,160 --> 00:07:19,960

Who killed Rhonda Henson and why?

77

00:07:19,960 --> 00:07:24,120

Authorities are certain that she would never have stopped for a stranger.

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00:07:24,120 --> 00:07:30,600

Was Rhonda pulled over by someone she knew who then fired the fatal shot?

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00:07:30,600 --> 00:07:35,760

Was the man seen at Rhonda's car the murderer or was he someone who happened by and then

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00:07:35,760 --> 00:07:39,880

left the area when he saw that Rhonda was dead?

81

00:07:39,880 --> 00:07:44,920

We have some different stories, but to really be able to substantiate these stories, we

82

00:07:44,920 --> 00:07:48,520

don't have that information.

83

00:07:48,520 --> 00:07:49,520

That's what we're looking for.

84

00:07:49,520 --> 00:07:53,520

Those little pieces of information that we've been substantiating, what happened?

85

00:07:53,920 --> 00:08:02,680

A \$20,000 reward is being offered in this case.

86

00:08:02,680 --> 00:08:12,880

If you have any information, please log on to our website at unsolved.com.

87

00:08:12,880 --> 00:08:19,640

Next a 200-year-old mansion is now a hotel where ghosts are as common as guests.

88

00:08:23,520 --> 00:08:36,360

In St. Francisville, Louisiana sits the Myrtles Plantation, a 200-year-old mansion that's

89

00:08:36,360 --> 00:08:39,520

been converted into a bed and breakfast.

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00:08:39,520 --> 00:08:45,040

It claims to be one of America's most haunted houses.

91

00:08:46,040 --> 00:08:52,040

Shoot, poisoning and lynching.

92

00:08:52,040 --> 00:08:58,040

At least eight people have died violent deaths here and some say their spirits are still

93

00:08:58,040 --> 00:08:59,040

on the property.

94

00:08:59,040 --> 00:09:05,000

I've had enough happen to let me know that other people live here that we can't always

95

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:11,160

see.

96

00:09:11,160 --> 00:09:37,720

The Myrtles Plantation is said to be a window into the supernatural.

97

00:09:37,720 --> 00:09:42,800

Here know there's they might include a ghostly encounter.

98

00:09:42,800 --> 00:09:49,040

I guess I have to say I really didn't believe that there were actually ghosts or spirits

99

00:09:49,040 --> 00:09:52,240

there that it was just folklore and legend.

100

00:09:52,240 --> 00:09:57,080

And it wasn't until I was already in that things began to happen that convinced me that

101

00:09:57,080 --> 00:09:59,080

yes, they are here.

102

00:09:59,080 --> 00:10:02,160

But by then it was too late.

103

00:10:02,160 --> 00:10:04,280

Financially I couldn't afford to be scared.

104

00:10:05,280 --> 00:10:12,640

When Amy Campbell and her friend Michelle came to stay at the B&B in one October, they

105

00:10:12,640 --> 00:10:15,800

were well informed of its ghostly past.

106

00:10:15,800 --> 00:10:21,320

We were very hesitant if we were going to stay all night because we had heard that the

107

00:10:21,320 --> 00:10:23,080

place was haunted.

108

00:10:23,080 --> 00:10:27,880

We had heard that there were ghosts that visit people at night that tuck you in, fix your

109

00:10:27,880 --> 00:10:29,200

clothes.

110

00:10:29,200 --> 00:10:34,120

We weren't sure we wanted to experience any of that.

111

00:10:34,120 --> 00:10:41,120

I was sleeping for a little while and I woke up feeling bouncing on the end of my bed and

112

00:10:41,120 --> 00:10:45,600

I saw a little girl jumping on the end of my bed and I thought surely I'm dreaming and

113

00:10:45,600 --> 00:10:49,720

I stuck my head back under the covers.

114

00:10:49,720 --> 00:10:51,640

It kept bouncing and bouncing and bouncing.

115

00:10:51,640 --> 00:10:55,520

It felt like forever and all of a sudden it stopped.

116

00:10:55,520 --> 00:11:02,000

And I looked back at the little girl that was jumping on the bed and was gone.

117

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:07,080

The child ghost is thought to be Cornelia Woodruff, one of four people who died in a

118

00:11:07,080 --> 00:11:12,840

series of tragic events 175 years ago.

119

00:11:12,840 --> 00:11:18,200

Cornelia was the daughter of Judge Woodruff, whose family lived at the Myrtles in the early

120

00:11:18,200 --> 00:11:20,240

1800s.

121

00:11:20,240 --> 00:11:25,960

When the Woodruff's house slave Chloe was caught eavesdropping on the judge, he decided

122

00:11:25,960 --> 00:11:26,960

to punish her.

123

00:11:26,960 --> 00:11:29,440

This is the third time I've caught you.

124

00:11:29,440 --> 00:11:30,440

I wasn't listening.

125

00:11:30,440 --> 00:11:33,080

I will not tolerate this.

126

00:11:33,080 --> 00:11:38,160

The judge ordered Chloe's ear cut off.

127

00:11:38,160 --> 00:11:43,880

Afraid of also being sent to the fields to do heart labor, she devised a plan.

128

00:11:43,880 --> 00:11:49,640

She ground poisonous oleander leaves into a birthday cake hoping to make the family

129

00:11:49,640 --> 00:11:50,640

sick.

130

00:11:50,640 --> 00:11:55,120

And then she would redeem herself by nursing them back to health.

131

00:11:55,120 --> 00:11:58,640

I baked your favorite cake, Miss Sarah.

132

00:11:58,640 --> 00:12:03,280

She may have thought she was boiling just enough oleander to make the family sick.

133

00:12:03,280 --> 00:12:07,840

Already knowing what was wrong, she would take care of them, be the hero, and be left

134

00:12:07,840 --> 00:12:10,760

in the household to take care of them.

135

00:12:10,760 --> 00:12:13,720

But Chloe's scheme backfired.

136

00:12:13,720 --> 00:12:19,440

Young Cornelia, her mother and sister, all died from the poison.

137

00:12:19,440 --> 00:12:23,800

A lot of guests want to know what happened to Chloe after the poisoning.

138

00:12:23,800 --> 00:12:26,400

It's believed that she was killed by a mixed mob.

139

00:12:26,400 --> 00:12:28,120

Black and whites were probably together.

140

00:12:28,320 --> 00:12:32,480

Of course, the other slaves were probably afraid of what was going to happen to them.

141

00:12:32,480 --> 00:12:39,600

She was supposedly beaten, hung, and then thrown into the river.

142

00:12:39,600 --> 00:12:45,560

It's believed that Cornelia, along with her mother and sister, has joined Chloe in haunting

143

00:12:45,560 --> 00:12:50,560

the house.

144

00:12:50,560 --> 00:12:55,880

Several years ago, Mark and Holly Parenti spent a frightening night at the Myrtles.

145

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:00,920

Mark had been reluctant to visit, but knew that his wife would be intrigued by the hotel's

146

00:13:00,920 --> 00:13:01,920

history.

147

00:13:01,920 --> 00:13:08,640

It's known as one of the most haunted plantations in America, and I wasn't looking forward to

148

00:13:08,640 --> 00:13:09,640

finding out why.

149

00:13:09,640 --> 00:13:10,640

Come right up.

150

00:13:10,640 --> 00:13:11,640

It is.

151

00:13:11,640 --> 00:13:14,480

It's a beautiful house.

152

00:13:14,480 --> 00:13:15,480

It was scary.

153

00:13:15,480 --> 00:13:20,600

The thought of being in this haunted house was very scary, more probably tomorrow than

154

00:13:20,600 --> 00:13:24,360

me, but I was scared to.

155

00:13:24,360 --> 00:13:30,000

As Mark and Holly had reason to be nervous, another of the resident ghosts, a former owner

156

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:34,760

named William Winters, was supposedly gunned down during the late 1800s.

157

00:13:34,760 --> 00:13:38,920

He is said to haunt the main staircase.

158

00:13:38,920 --> 00:13:45,280

Mark and Holly's room was just beyond that flight of stairs.

159

00:13:45,280 --> 00:13:50,920

My mind had gotten to me a little bit because I wouldn't let her turn the lights off.

160

00:13:50,920 --> 00:13:55,520

So we're laying in bed and she's sort of having a nervous chit-chat, and what I heard

161

00:13:55,520 --> 00:13:59,400

was a very deep sounding bang.

162

00:13:59,400 --> 00:14:03,440

Sounds like someone's got the steps.

163

00:14:03,440 --> 00:14:07,440

As soon as I heard that noise, you know, the adrenaline rush.

164

00:14:07,440 --> 00:14:08,440

No, no.

165

00:14:08,440 --> 00:14:10,440

Holly, stay here.

166

00:14:10,440 --> 00:14:11,440

Oh, come on.

167

00:14:11,440 --> 00:14:12,440

No.

168

00:14:12,440 --> 00:14:13,800

I want to look.

169

00:14:13,800 --> 00:14:19,320

If I had to venture a guess, it sounded like footsteps.

170

00:14:19,320 --> 00:14:24,080

The reason William Winters was murdered remains a mystery.

171

00:14:24,080 --> 00:14:25,880

Winners!

172

00:14:25,880 --> 00:14:27,720

William Winters!

173

00:14:27,720 --> 00:14:35,120

It was late one night in 1871 when a mysterious horseman appeared on the Myrtles front lawn.

174

00:14:35,120 --> 00:14:36,840

Who's there?

175

00:14:36,840 --> 00:14:37,840

Are you William Winters?

176

00:14:37,840 --> 00:14:40,040

Yes, I'm William Winters.

177

00:14:40,040 --> 00:14:41,040

Covered.

178

00:14:42,040 --> 00:14:43,040

Covered.

179

00:14:43,040 --> 00:14:50,720

Whoever was there shot him in the chest.

180

00:14:50,720 --> 00:14:54,640

He made it back through the double doors trying to reach his wife, Sarah.

181

00:14:54,640 --> 00:14:55,640

She was upstairs.

182

00:14:55,640 --> 00:14:56,640

Sarah!

183

00:14:56,640 --> 00:14:57,640

Sarah!

184

00:14:57,640 --> 00:14:58,640

Sarah!

185

00:14:58,640 --> 00:14:59,640

Sarah!

186

00:14:59,640 --> 00:15:00,640

Sarah!

187

00:15:00,640 --> 00:15:04,640

He only made it to the 17th step.

188

00:15:04,640 --> 00:15:10,760

He died there in her arms.

189

00:15:10,760 --> 00:15:13,800

All I know was that it was enough for me.

190

00:15:13,800 --> 00:15:16,680

You know, it was enough for me to make me want to leave.

191

00:15:16,680 --> 00:15:21,200

In a way, I think we were both hoping it might have been our imagination, but it definitely

192

00:15:21,200 --> 00:15:22,200

wasn't.

193

00:15:22,200 --> 00:15:28,760

There are certain times that I'm uncomfortable here.

194

00:15:28,760 --> 00:15:32,280

Certain times that you could say I get the creeps.

195

00:15:32,280 --> 00:15:33,360

You can feel a sadness.

196

00:15:33,360 --> 00:15:38,160

Or you can walk in and you hear, especially upstairs, footsteps.

197

00:15:38,160 --> 00:15:39,520

You know you hear them.

198

00:15:39,520 --> 00:15:40,920

Someone is right behind you.

199

00:15:40,920 --> 00:15:41,920

You can stop.

200

00:15:41,920 --> 00:15:44,640

The footsteps stop.

201

00:15:44,640 --> 00:15:52,920

Once you have the encounter and you feel the sensation, you will know that their intention

202

00:15:52,920 --> 00:15:55,000

is not to harm you.

203

00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:57,560

They are truly here to protect you.

204

00:15:57,560 --> 00:16:00,920

They protect this home.

205

00:16:00,920 --> 00:16:02,240

This is their station.

206

00:16:02,240 --> 00:16:03,400

This is their life.

207

00:16:03,400 --> 00:16:09,360

This is where they live.

208

00:16:10,200 --> 00:16:13,880

Next, a series of brooding rapes stretches across 400 miles.

209

00:16:13,880 --> 00:16:27,880

And a DNA match links them to the same suspect.

210

00:16:27,880 --> 00:16:29,520

Sacramento, California.

211

00:16:29,520 --> 00:16:37,520

I remember waking up with a flashlight shining in my face.

212

00:16:38,480 --> 00:16:39,480

Sailor.

213

00:16:39,480 --> 00:16:46,280

And I was looking down the barrel of a gun and he said, don't move.

214

00:16:46,280 --> 00:16:48,520

Don't make a sound or I will kill you.

215

00:16:48,520 --> 00:16:49,520

Give me your hands.

216

00:16:49,520 --> 00:16:55,880

And within a moment's notice, my life was all of a sudden in the control of somebody

217

00:16:55,880 --> 00:16:56,880

else.

218

00:16:56,880 --> 00:16:59,440

Just do as I tell you.

219

00:16:59,440 --> 00:17:04,840

This rape victim, whose identity we are not revealing at her request, is one of more

220

00:17:04,840 --> 00:17:11,040

than 50 women believed to have been assaulted by a serial rapist who terrorized the Sacramento

221

00:17:11,040 --> 00:17:16,880

area during the 1970s.

222

00:17:16,880 --> 00:17:22,320

The mysterious attacker known as the East Area Rapist has never been identified.

223

00:17:22,320 --> 00:17:27,600

Now, advances in law enforcement technology have linked him to a series of murders that

224

00:17:27,600 --> 00:17:30,720

happened a decade earlier.

225

00:17:30,720 --> 00:17:38,000

These need your help to track down this very cunning and very dangerous criminal.

226

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:43,960

The East Area Rapist displayed some unusual habits, including lingering in the victim's

227

00:17:43,960 --> 00:17:46,720

homes for hours.

228

00:17:46,720 --> 00:17:51,960

I know that at some point he was out in the living room smoking and the police felt that

229

00:17:51,960 --> 00:17:55,320

he maybe had gotten into my refrigerator.

230

00:17:55,320 --> 00:18:02,160

I think he was in the house anywhere from two and a half to three hours.

231

00:18:02,160 --> 00:18:08,040

I lay there for what seemed like a long period of time with no noise.

232

00:18:08,040 --> 00:18:16,280

And then all of a sudden, I couldn't see, I couldn't move, and I couldn't yell.

233

00:18:16,280 --> 00:18:19,040

And I remember wondering, is this it?

234

00:18:19,040 --> 00:18:23,160

Is this the way I'm going to die?

235

00:18:23,160 --> 00:18:29,960

After sexually assaulting his victims, the rapist would quietly sneak away.

236

00:18:29,960 --> 00:18:32,920

Can you tell me maybe a little of what he looked like, maybe how tall he was?

237

00:18:32,920 --> 00:18:39,080

The East Area Rapist very definitely did a psychological rape along with the physical

238

00:18:39,080 --> 00:18:45,680

rape in the manner in which he would threaten the victims the length of time that he stayed

239

00:18:45,680 --> 00:18:47,640

in the home.

240

00:18:47,640 --> 00:18:51,440

His crime was different and unique.

241

00:18:51,440 --> 00:18:57,440

The first 15 attacks occurred in houses where only women and children were at home.

242

00:18:57,440 --> 00:19:03,280

But then the rapist began targeting homes in which a man was also present.

243

00:19:03,280 --> 00:19:09,880

When the rapist would come in, he would at gunpoint order the female to tie up the male

244

00:19:09,880 --> 00:19:11,800

in the house.

245

00:19:11,800 --> 00:19:15,960

And then he would remove the female to the other part of the house where he would also

246

00:19:15,960 --> 00:19:18,280

tie her up.

247

00:19:18,280 --> 00:19:20,760

And then he would put the dishes on.

248

00:19:20,760 --> 00:19:21,760

The husband.

249

00:19:21,760 --> 00:19:25,720

If I hear one click, I'll kill everyone in the house.

250

00:19:25,720 --> 00:19:31,040

While he was in the other room occupied with the sexual assault, he could hear whether

251

00:19:31,040 --> 00:19:37,080

or not the male was trying to get free.

252

00:19:37,080 --> 00:19:39,040

There was so much fear in the community.

253

00:19:39,040 --> 00:19:41,480

So we were holding town hall meetings.

254

00:19:41,480 --> 00:19:43,360

We understand your concern.

255

00:19:43,360 --> 00:19:49,080

They were in sense to think that a man could have been in the home when these rapes occurred

256

00:19:49,080 --> 00:19:52,040

and not have done anything about it.

257

00:19:52,040 --> 00:19:56,640

I think that he liked the excitement of the game.

258

00:19:56,640 --> 00:20:05,520

I think it was as much a game with the investigators as it was for what he was doing to the victims.

259

00:20:05,520 --> 00:20:12,200

The rapist's sadistic game sometimes extended beyond the attack itself.

260

00:20:12,200 --> 00:20:17,840

Several victims reported getting disturbing phone calls from the rapist years later.

261

00:20:18,280 --> 00:20:19,280

Who is this?

262

00:20:19,280 --> 00:20:26,000

I felt by what he said to me that he had been still watching me and stalking me.

263

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:28,400

I felt absolutely terrified.

264

00:20:28,400 --> 00:20:34,640

I think the phone calls were just his way of saying, you're still my hostage.

265

00:20:34,640 --> 00:20:38,680

Even though I'm not in your house, psychologically you're still my hostage.

266

00:20:38,680 --> 00:20:50,680

Police believe that this recording, made by one of the victims, is the actual voice of the rapist.

267

00:21:09,680 --> 00:21:17,400

By the late 1970s, the East Area Rapist had apparently moved 50 miles to Contra Costa County.

268

00:21:17,400 --> 00:21:20,240

Five more assaults were reported there.

269

00:21:20,240 --> 00:21:24,520

Then the attacks abruptly stopped.

270

00:21:24,520 --> 00:21:30,200

Everybody speculated on where this guy might have gone or why he might have stopped.

271

00:21:30,200 --> 00:21:32,960

There was nowhere to go with it.

272

00:21:32,960 --> 00:21:34,920

We had no real physical description.

273

00:21:35,920 --> 00:21:44,680

The trail grew cold, but over the years criminalist Paul Hoves continued to work the case.

274

00:21:44,680 --> 00:21:50,960

He ran DNA profiles on Seaman recovered from the five rapes in his county.

275

00:21:50,960 --> 00:21:53,960

And then he tried to track down the rapist.

276

00:21:53,960 --> 00:21:58,200

Hoves began contacting agencies across the state.

277

00:21:59,200 --> 00:22:08,240

400 miles south in Orange County, forensic scientist Mary Hong had used DNA to link six

278

00:22:08,240 --> 00:22:12,520

rape murders in her county to a single killer.

279

00:22:12,520 --> 00:22:16,600

In 2001, Mary got a call from Paul Hoves.

280

00:22:16,600 --> 00:22:18,200

Let me grab that file.

281

00:22:18,200 --> 00:22:23,080

Independently, he was thinking that this guy has to be committing these crimes somewhere

282

00:22:23,080 --> 00:22:24,080

else.

283

00:22:24,080 --> 00:22:28,960

He was actually calling these agencies and finding out if they had any cases that fit

284

00:22:28,960 --> 00:22:29,960

his profile.

285

00:22:29,960 --> 00:22:32,800

Okay, I've got D3-15-16.

286

00:22:32,800 --> 00:22:37,080

I had him read me the profile that he had on this case.

287

00:22:37,080 --> 00:22:41,640

And I compared that to the profile that I had in our cases and they matched all the way across.

288

00:22:41,640 --> 00:22:43,720

Wow, looks like we've got a match.

289

00:22:43,720 --> 00:22:48,960

At that point, we knew that we had just connected the series of sexual assaults in Northern

290

00:22:48,960 --> 00:22:54,400

California with a series of homicides down in Southern California.

291

00:22:54,400 --> 00:23:00,520

In Southern California during the 1980s, the East Area rapist began murdering his rape

292

00:23:00,520 --> 00:23:03,520

victims and their partners.

293

00:23:03,520 --> 00:23:08,120

He was the suspect in 10 such killings.

294

00:23:08,120 --> 00:23:09,360

I don't know of anyone like him.

295

00:23:09,360 --> 00:23:11,320

He's a very unique offender.

296

00:23:11,320 --> 00:23:16,120

50 rapes that we're aware of, 10 murders that we're aware of.

297

00:23:16,120 --> 00:23:22,440

I suspect that he's probably responsible for more rapes and murders and crimes outside

298

00:23:22,440 --> 00:23:25,760

of what we've identified.

299

00:23:25,760 --> 00:23:31,800

Police think a clue to the attacker's identity might be found in his habit of stacking plates

300

00:23:31,800 --> 00:23:36,480

on the victim's partner during the assault.

301

00:23:36,480 --> 00:23:39,840

It's a signature aspect of our offender.

302

00:23:39,840 --> 00:23:45,720

Is it possible that someone abused him and treated him the same way?

303

00:23:45,720 --> 00:23:52,200

Paralyzing him perhaps as a boy when he grew up is possible.

304

00:23:52,200 --> 00:24:00,280

Somebody out there has to know something about this person and if the information could come

305

00:24:00,280 --> 00:24:04,520

forward will it ever bring closure to the victims?

306

00:24:04,520 --> 00:24:09,920

Only that they would feel safe that he is not out there to attack again.

307

00:24:09,920 --> 00:24:12,240

I don't want to end my career without having solved this.

308

00:24:12,280 --> 00:24:19,000

If it's not solved by the time I retire, I'll think about it till the day I die.

309

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:22,040

Update, there are new developments in this case.

310

00:24:22,040 --> 00:24:25,480

Here's one of our staff with details.

311

00:24:25,480 --> 00:24:31,920

A suspect in the case of the East Area Rapist, now popularly known as the Golden State Killer,

312

00:24:31,920 --> 00:24:33,440

was arrested.

313

00:24:33,440 --> 00:24:39,680

More than 40 years after the initial crimes, Joseph James D'Angelo admitted to committing

314

00:24:39,680 --> 00:24:42,160

more than a dozen murders.

315

00:24:42,160 --> 00:24:48,120

He pleaded guilty to 26 charges and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility

316

00:24:48,120 --> 00:24:49,640

of parole.

317

00:24:49,640 --> 00:25:09,320

Next is Planet Earth on a collision course with a deadly asteroid.

318

00:25:09,320 --> 00:25:15,040

In the entire country devastated in less than a minute, a large city wiped off the

319

00:25:15,040 --> 00:25:17,560

map in a matter of seconds.

320

00:25:17,560 --> 00:25:19,240

A nuclear nightmare?

321

00:25:19,240 --> 00:25:20,240

No.

322

00:25:20,240 --> 00:25:31,800

A natural disaster unlike anything in human history and it will come from outer space.

323

00:25:31,800 --> 00:25:39,800

July 16, 1994, a frightening preview, the most powerful chain of explosions ever witnessed

324

00:25:39,800 --> 00:25:41,760

by scientists.

325

00:25:41,760 --> 00:25:48,000

They began when huge fragments of a giant comet called Shoemaker-Levy slammed into

326

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:50,000

the planet Jupiter.

327

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:55,520

Well out of this series of fragments, there were actually 15 that survived that we saw

328

00:25:55,520 --> 00:26:00,280

hit the planet and of those about four or five were the big ones.

329

00:26:00,280 --> 00:26:06,040

When each of those largest fragments hit Jupiter, it had about the same energy as if you had

330

00:26:06,040 --> 00:26:09,800

taken all of the nuclear bombs in the world.

331

00:26:09,800 --> 00:26:14,240

Dr. Gene Shoemaker is code discoverer of the Shoemaker-Levy comet.

332

00:26:14,240 --> 00:26:18,880

Put them all in one big pile and set them off all at once.

333

00:26:18,880 --> 00:26:25,800

That's about 10,000 million tons of energy.

334

00:26:25,800 --> 00:26:30,760

One of the explosions created a cloud of debris as large as the Earth.

335

00:26:30,760 --> 00:26:38,280

If it happened there, can it happen here?

336

00:26:38,280 --> 00:26:44,200

Large collisions like Shoemaker-Levy occur only once every 100 million years, but we're

337

00:26:44,200 --> 00:26:46,160

not entirely safe.

338

00:26:46,160 --> 00:26:51,280

There are thousands of asteroids and comets streaking through our solar system.

339

00:26:51,280 --> 00:26:54,680

Is it possible that one could collide with our planet?

340

00:26:54,680 --> 00:26:59,440

Well in fact, it's already happened and more than once.

341

00:26:59,440 --> 00:27:06,080

40 miles east of Flagstaff, Arizona is Meteor Crater.

342

00:27:06,080 --> 00:27:13,040

Long before the dawn of civilization, a massive asteroid slammed into the desert floor.

343

00:27:13,040 --> 00:27:19,520

Scientists estimate its velocity at more than 40,000 miles per hour.

344

00:27:19,520 --> 00:27:23,240

Meteor Crater is the first recognized impact crater on the Earth.

345

00:27:23,240 --> 00:27:27,600

It's 4,000 feet across, about 600 feet deep.

346

00:27:27,600 --> 00:27:32,360

It was formed by an iron asteroid about 50 yards in diameter.

347

00:27:32,360 --> 00:27:35,880

And it was formed very close to 50,000 years ago.

348

00:27:35,880 --> 00:27:39,200

But if you had been there, you wouldn't want to have been too close.

349

00:27:39,200 --> 00:27:44,000

If you had been standing where Flagstaff is today 40 miles away, you would have probably

350

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:46,440

been knocked over by the shockwave.

351

00:27:46,440 --> 00:27:49,560

Buildings would have been collapsed.

352

00:27:49,560 --> 00:27:53,280

Large meteors striking the Earth aren't just ancient history.

353

00:27:53,280 --> 00:27:58,600

In 1908, a fireball raced through the sky over Siberia.

354

00:27:58,600 --> 00:28:05,440

It exploded above the remote area of Tunguska, spraying debris with the force of a thousand

355

00:28:05,440 --> 00:28:06,920

atomic bombs.

356

00:28:06,920 --> 00:28:12,960

To get a good idea of the devastating effect of this impact event, a city that I know very

357

00:28:12,960 --> 00:28:19,040

well, Houston, has surrounding it a highway, a Beltway Highway, 610 Loop.

358

00:28:19,720 --> 00:28:23,920

Everything inside the 610 Loop would have been flattened and charred.

359

00:28:23,920 --> 00:28:29,000

All the buildings, all the infrastructure, nothing would have been standing inside that

360

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

area.

361

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:33,960

Anyone who lived there would have been dead.

362

00:28:33,960 --> 00:28:39,160

Such devastation did occur on a worldwide scale, at least once in the history of our

363

00:28:39,160 --> 00:28:40,160

planet.

364

00:28:40,160 --> 00:28:45,640

It was 65 million years ago, during the age of the dinosaur.

365

00:28:45,680 --> 00:28:51,640

A giant meteor, five miles across, plowed into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, where the

366

00:28:51,640 --> 00:28:56,600

small town of Chixaloupe now stands.

367

00:28:56,600 --> 00:29:01,640

The surface expression would not lead you to believe that there is an impact crater

368

00:29:01,640 --> 00:29:02,640

there.

369

00:29:02,640 --> 00:29:08,560

You have a nice, flat Yucatan Peninsula with really no topographic signs that a crater

370

00:29:08,560 --> 00:29:14,920

180 to 200 miles across exists below.

371

00:29:14,920 --> 00:29:20,040

So what would it be like to witness such a cataclysmic event?

372

00:29:20,040 --> 00:29:26,720

Well, immediately before the impact, we think you would see a comet.

373

00:29:26,720 --> 00:29:31,800

Keep in mind that this object is traveling at about 140,000 miles per hour.

374

00:29:31,800 --> 00:29:37,400

You don't have a lot of time between the time it goes into the atmosphere and the time

375

00:29:37,400 --> 00:29:42,440

it actually strikes the Earth, much less than a second, obviously.

376

00:29:42,440 --> 00:29:48,120

The impact at Chicaloupe was heard and felt in every corner of the Earth.

377

00:29:48,120 --> 00:29:49,640

The ground surged upward.

378

00:29:49,640 --> 00:29:56,800

Tons of rock and dust formed a massive curtain, hundreds of miles across and hundreds of miles

379

00:29:56,800 --> 00:29:58,120

high.

380

00:29:58,120 --> 00:30:03,480

As this dust started to make its way into the atmosphere, it would block the sunlight completely.

381

00:30:03,480 --> 00:30:06,800

It would be as dark as night.

382

00:30:06,800 --> 00:30:11,080

As some of this material started to re-enter the atmosphere, however, things would begin

383

00:30:11,080 --> 00:30:12,240

to light up.

384

00:30:12,240 --> 00:30:16,840

Not by the illumination of the sun, but by the illumination of countless meteorites

385

00:30:16,840 --> 00:30:21,720

shooting stars streaking through the upper atmosphere.

386

00:30:21,720 --> 00:30:28,400

These balls of fire ignited a raging inferno that spread across the entire Western hemisphere.

387

00:30:28,400 --> 00:30:35,320

The smoke joined with the impact debris and covered the Earth with a suffocating cloud.

388

00:30:35,320 --> 00:30:40,320

For at least a year, there was no sunlight triggering a new ice age.

389

00:30:40,320 --> 00:30:45,800

Roughly 75% of Earth's plant and animal life died.

390

00:30:45,800 --> 00:30:49,920

The most well-known victim was the dinosaur.

391

00:30:49,920 --> 00:30:57,640

The consensus is today that dinosaurs were doing very nicely up until this event, and

392

00:30:57,640 --> 00:31:04,000

immediately after this event, they were gone and they never came back.

393

00:31:04,120 --> 00:31:10,640

In the next generation, the NASA, more than 5,000 asteroids can be classified as near-Earth.

394

00:31:10,640 --> 00:31:16,920

Of those, nearly 1,000 are considered potentially dangerous for the planet.

395

00:31:16,920 --> 00:31:24,920

In 2004, scientists discovered a new asteroid named Apophis, a chunk of interplanetary rock

396

00:31:24,920 --> 00:31:29,240

between 700 and 1,000 feet across.

397

00:31:29,240 --> 00:31:33,760

Although it's too soon to know for sure, there's a small chance this near-Earth object

398

00:31:33,760 --> 00:31:36,920

will eventually collide with our planet.

399

00:31:36,920 --> 00:31:37,920

The date?

400

00:31:37,920 --> 00:31:42,680

April 13th, 2036.

401

00:31:42,680 --> 00:31:49,520

The hazard of impact in terms of loss of life on the Earth, you don't take out just 100,000

402

00:31:49,520 --> 00:31:51,000

lives lost.

403

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:55,800

You could wipe out half or more of the entire human population.

404

00:31:55,800 --> 00:32:01,360

If an event similar to the one that formed Chicksalub happened tomorrow, then there would

405

00:32:01,360 --> 00:32:03,360

be no civilization.

406

00:32:03,360 --> 00:32:05,360

There is no doubt about that.

407

00:32:05,360 --> 00:32:14,000

There would be widespread devastation, death like we have never even imagined.

408

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:15,800

And there's no protection for it.

409

00:32:15,800 --> 00:32:18,920

It's just one of those things that we have to live with.

410

00:32:18,920 --> 00:32:23,400

Fortunately, however, events like Chicksalub are extremely rare.

411

00:32:26,800 --> 00:32:34,600

Next, the amazing encounter of identical strangers who may be long-lost relatives.

412

00:32:34,600 --> 00:32:51,920

And later, a horrific accident leads to a rescue by a mysterious good Samaritan.

413

00:32:51,920 --> 00:32:57,960

In December of 1943, Ken Palmer was a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps.

414

00:32:57,960 --> 00:33:01,200

He was traveling from Texas to Wisconsin.

415

00:33:01,200 --> 00:33:08,280

During a change of trains, he had the most remarkable encounter of his life.

416

00:33:08,280 --> 00:33:13,800

Ken had the feeling that someone was staring at him, and then he saw why.

417

00:33:13,800 --> 00:33:19,200

He was being watched by his exact double.

418

00:33:19,200 --> 00:33:22,040

I was amazed.

419

00:33:22,040 --> 00:33:26,880

And both of us saw it, and both of us reacted so much to it.

420

00:33:26,880 --> 00:33:30,560

Both of us sat down our bags and stared.

421

00:33:30,560 --> 00:33:37,400

And until I got ahold of myself and extended my hand, he didn't move.

422

00:33:37,400 --> 00:33:44,720

He was just frozen, looking at himself in a different uniform.

423

00:33:45,680 --> 00:33:49,240

I'm Ken Palmer.

424

00:33:49,240 --> 00:33:51,480

My name is Palmer.

425

00:33:51,480 --> 00:33:56,040

My first thought, of course, was that he's closely related.

426

00:33:56,040 --> 00:34:02,280

We began to exchange our father's names, our grandfather's names, where we lived,

427

00:34:02,280 --> 00:34:04,400

things of this nature.

428

00:34:04,400 --> 00:34:06,120

And that didn't get it.

429

00:34:06,120 --> 00:34:08,280

My grandfather's from Brownsville.

430

00:34:08,280 --> 00:34:11,720

The two men couldn't find a single relative in common.

431

00:34:11,800 --> 00:34:17,920

But when Ken mentioned an old family legend, he was stunned by the stranger's response.

432

00:34:17,920 --> 00:34:22,920

My family often talks of this lost treasure in India.

433

00:34:22,920 --> 00:34:26,840

Two Palmer brothers were at a party in the Court of St. James.

434

00:34:26,840 --> 00:34:29,720

They cut the cue off a court official.

435

00:34:29,720 --> 00:34:31,480

Yeah, that's right. They had to flee England.

436

00:34:31,480 --> 00:34:32,880

I mean, that's the story.

437

00:34:32,880 --> 00:34:35,360

Well, not alone did he know about it.

438

00:34:35,360 --> 00:34:39,720

He added details that I checked out with dad later, and they were accurate.

439

00:34:39,720 --> 00:34:41,280

Things that I didn't know.

440

00:34:41,280 --> 00:34:49,400

So it was perfectly obvious that we were related, and yet we couldn't understand how we could be.

441

00:34:49,400 --> 00:34:52,480

You write down your name and address.

442

00:34:52,480 --> 00:34:55,120

When I get back home, I'm going to contact you.

443

00:34:55,120 --> 00:34:58,920

I took his name and address, stuffed it in my pocket.

444

00:34:58,920 --> 00:35:04,040

I'll write you. Goodbye. Goodbye.

445

00:35:04,040 --> 00:35:08,880

I picked up my luggage and scooted off from my train.

446

00:35:08,880 --> 00:35:15,400

If I'd had the sense that God gave geese, I would have stopped right then,

447

00:35:15,400 --> 00:35:21,800

and we would have spent some time together.

448

00:35:21,800 --> 00:35:28,320

When I got on the train and settled, I reached in my pocket to get that slip of paper.

449

00:35:28,320 --> 00:35:30,160

It wasn't there.

450

00:35:30,160 --> 00:35:36,480

It all fell apart at that moment. I was devastated.

451

00:35:36,480 --> 00:35:45,480

Ken never saw his double again, and all attempts to find him have been unsuccessful.

452

00:35:45,480 --> 00:35:49,680

These pictures of Ken Palmer were taken in the 1940s.

453

00:35:49,680 --> 00:35:53,080

The man he met looked virtually identical.

454

00:35:53,080 --> 00:35:56,000

Like Ken, his last name was Palmer.

455

00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:02,400

His first name may have been Robert or James.

456

00:36:02,400 --> 00:36:07,840

I would like very much to find him or part of his family.

457

00:36:07,840 --> 00:36:14,800

How many times are you going to walk across the station and see that double?

458

00:36:14,800 --> 00:36:19,080

Out of all the people in the United States, we walk into one another,

459

00:36:19,080 --> 00:36:23,760

and we set down our bags and stare at one another.

460

00:36:23,760 --> 00:36:27,600

Magical moment.

461

00:36:27,600 --> 00:36:31,360

Ken believes that his double lived in the eastern United States,

462

00:36:31,400 --> 00:36:33,240

possibly New Jersey.

463

00:36:33,240 --> 00:36:38,920

At the time, the man was either a technical or staff sergeant in the Army Air Corps.

464

00:36:38,920 --> 00:36:44,120

If you have any information that could help clear up this case, please log on to our website

465

00:36:44,120 --> 00:36:46,120

at unsolved.com.

466

00:36:51,120 --> 00:36:54,960

Ocala, Florida.

467

00:36:54,960 --> 00:36:58,960

Forty-eight-year-old Wilma Drew was just a mile from home.

468

00:36:58,960 --> 00:37:02,960

She had driven up this hill hundreds of times.

469

00:37:02,960 --> 00:37:08,000

But a few miles away, a car had entered the highway, going the wrong direction.

470

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:14,000

It was headed straight for Wilma at 55 miles an hour.

471

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:18,240

David Vittato was driving right behind Wilma.

472

00:37:18,240 --> 00:37:22,880

As we were approaching the crest, I saw headlights approaching us.

473

00:37:22,880 --> 00:37:26,880

And the minute the lights came into view, I immediately tried to get over in the right

474

00:37:26,880 --> 00:37:30,880

Ham Lane to avoid the collision.

475

00:37:30,880 --> 00:37:38,880

I automatically, just in my gut, knew that somebody was going to be dead.

476

00:37:38,880 --> 00:37:42,320

David stopped to help.

477

00:37:42,320 --> 00:37:46,240

The driver and passenger in the wrong way car seemed to be moving.

478

00:37:46,240 --> 00:37:48,280

But Wilma was not.

479

00:37:48,280 --> 00:37:50,280

She was pinned in her car.

480

00:37:50,280 --> 00:37:53,600

The steering column wedged up against her chest.

481

00:37:53,600 --> 00:37:59,600

The driver's window was open, but the other windows and all the doors weren't jammed.

482

00:37:59,600 --> 00:38:01,600

Go out to my truck.

483

00:38:01,600 --> 00:38:06,600

I decided to run back to the truck to grab a tire tool, try to pry the door open, or

484

00:38:06,600 --> 00:38:10,600

whatever I could do to try to get into a sister possibly better.

485

00:38:10,600 --> 00:38:15,600

Another good Samaritan, Matthew White, also stopped to help.

486

00:38:15,600 --> 00:38:21,600

The two men didn't know it, but Wilma's neck had been broken, cutting off her air passage.

487

00:38:21,600 --> 00:38:23,600

She was suffocating.

488

00:38:23,600 --> 00:38:25,600

All the doors are jammed.

489

00:38:25,600 --> 00:38:29,600

Her driver's side window was busted out, and we couldn't break the windows out, so we

490

00:38:29,600 --> 00:38:33,600

were trying to get someone who had something that could break the window.

491

00:38:33,600 --> 00:38:37,600

David tried flagging down help.

492

00:38:37,600 --> 00:38:39,600

A tanker truck stopped.

493

00:38:39,600 --> 00:38:45,600

Remarkably, the driver seemed to know exactly what to do and how to do it.

494

00:38:45,600 --> 00:38:47,600

Get it open.

495

00:38:47,600 --> 00:38:49,600

Get it open.

496

00:38:49,600 --> 00:38:51,600

Stand back.

497

00:38:53,600 --> 00:38:59,600

After I busted the window, he climbed in into the back seat and reached over and lifted

498

00:38:59,600 --> 00:39:03,600

and held Wilma's head up.

499

00:39:03,600 --> 00:39:06,600

Wilma took a breath.

500

00:39:06,600 --> 00:39:09,600

Let's get this thing off her and give her some room.

501

00:39:09,600 --> 00:39:11,600

You got it?

502

00:39:11,600 --> 00:39:16,600

Matthew and David struggled to lift the steering column off Wilma's chest.

503

00:39:16,600 --> 00:39:19,600

The trucker kept her neck motionless.

504

00:39:19,600 --> 00:39:24,600

The ambulance arrived ten minutes later.

505

00:39:24,600 --> 00:39:26,600

Sir, I need you to let go and come out of the car, okay?

506

00:39:26,600 --> 00:39:29,600

I'm not letting go until you put a brace around her neck.

507

00:39:29,600 --> 00:39:34,600

The paramedic was just insistent that he let go of her head and go out of the car.

508

00:39:34,600 --> 00:39:42,600

And the man would not let go of her head until I held it while he got out and the paramedic got in.

509

00:39:42,600 --> 00:39:43,600

You got her?

510

00:39:43,600 --> 00:39:44,600

Yeah.

511

00:39:44,600 --> 00:39:50,600

Wilma was stabilized, but during the confusion, no one saw the truck driver leave.

512

00:39:50,600 --> 00:39:54,600

No one had a chance to get more than a glimpse of what he looked like.

513

00:39:54,600 --> 00:40:00,600

Wilma's husband came upon the crash scene a short time later.

514

00:40:00,600 --> 00:40:05,600

When I saw the vehicle, in my mind, nobody could have lived through it.

515

00:40:05,600 --> 00:40:11,600

I remember a lady asked me if that was my car and I said, yes, and my wife's dead.

516

00:40:11,600 --> 00:40:12,600

And she says, no, she isn't.

517

00:40:12,600 --> 00:40:17,600

They just, you know, left here where they're in the helicopter.

518

00:40:17,600 --> 00:40:22,600

It took 11 operations and almost a year to begin to repair the damage.

519

00:40:22,600 --> 00:40:25,600

Wilma's right leg had been nearly torn in half.

520

00:40:25,600 --> 00:40:27,600

Her left ankle was shattered.

521

00:40:27,600 --> 00:40:32,600

Her brainstem was so damaged that it caused permanent double vision.

522

00:40:32,600 --> 00:40:38,600

And one of the vertebra in Wilma's neck was completely severed.

523

00:40:38,600 --> 00:40:42,600

The neurosurgeon told us he's never seen anybody survive that injury.

524

00:40:42,600 --> 00:40:45,600

And he can't understand why she's still alive.

525

00:40:45,600 --> 00:40:49,600

And that was kind of eerie.

526

00:40:49,600 --> 00:40:55,600

I don't know why it happened to me, but I know that there is a purpose for it.

527

00:40:55,600 --> 00:41:01,600

And it's even peculiar that I've never experienced any anger.

528

00:41:01,600 --> 00:41:04,600

I'm just very thankful to be alive.

529

00:41:04,600 --> 00:41:05,600

Is she breathing?

530

00:41:05,600 --> 00:41:06,600

Yeah.

531

00:41:06,600 --> 00:41:09,600

And the neurosurgeon said he did it exactly right.

532

00:41:09,600 --> 00:41:12,600

Had he done it any different, it wouldn't have worked.

533

00:41:12,600 --> 00:41:15,600

He gave the doctor something to work with.

534

00:41:15,600 --> 00:41:20,600

And he just saved her life and gave her back to us.

535

00:41:20,600 --> 00:41:27,600

Thank you just really seems so insignificant as far as the way we feel.

536

00:41:27,600 --> 00:41:35,600

That someone would take the time to get involved and to do all he did for me and then just disappear.

537

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

Update

538

00:41:41,600 --> 00:41:49,600

After seeing himself portrayed on Unsolved Mysteries, the truck driver contacted our phone center.

539

00:41:49,600 --> 00:41:52,600

We put him in touch with Wilma.

540

00:41:52,600 --> 00:42:00,600

He explained that he used to be an E&T and that's why he just knew what to do when he came upon the scene.

541

00:42:00,600 --> 00:42:07,600

Three years after her accident, Wilma was finally able to thank the man who had saved her life.

542

00:42:07,600 --> 00:42:11,600

He was thrilled to hear that she had survived the accident.

543

00:42:11,600 --> 00:42:14,600

Music

544

00:42:14,600 --> 00:42:26,600

Music

545

00:42:30,600 --> 00:42:52,600

Music