

1

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

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries.

2

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:13,040

She was sensuous, charismatic, and talented,

3

00:00:13,040 --> 00:00:16,440

one of the bright lights of Seattle's rock music scene.

4

00:00:16,440 --> 00:00:20,120

Everyone said Mia Zapata was destined for greatness.

5

00:00:20,120 --> 00:00:23,520

Then in July 1993, Mia took a lonely stroll

6

00:00:23,520 --> 00:00:25,360

through the dark streets of Seattle

7

00:00:25,360 --> 00:00:29,840

and crossed paths with a vicious, unknown killer.

8

00:00:29,840 --> 00:00:31,400

Tonight, we're in Seattle, Washington

9

00:00:31,400 --> 00:00:35,200

to investigate the tragic case of this ill-fated young singer.

10

00:00:35,200 --> 00:00:38,720

Join me for a dramatic profile of life and death of rock star

11

00:00:38,720 --> 00:00:43,520

Mia Zapata, as well as these intriguing mysteries.

12

00:00:43,520 --> 00:00:47,520

Thomas David Dixon is a very definition of career criminal.

13

00:00:47,520 --> 00:00:50,360

When he's not in prison, he's doing what he does best,

14

00:00:50,360 --> 00:00:54,920

robbing banks and brazenly taunting the authorities.

15

00:00:54,920 --> 00:00:56,760

Michelle Arkin was just a teenager

16

00:00:56,760 --> 00:00:58,640

when a late night confrontation confirmed

17

00:00:58,640 --> 00:01:00,520

what she had long suspected.

18

00:01:00,520 --> 00:01:03,880

Her mother and father were not her biological parents.

19

00:01:03,880 --> 00:01:08,960

Now Michelle needs your help to find the family she never knew.

20

00:01:08,960 --> 00:01:10,640

Meet Philip Pauley.

21

00:01:10,640 --> 00:01:12,800

If you think he looks like an average eight-year-old,

22

00:01:12,800 --> 00:01:14,480

think again.

23

00:01:14,480 --> 00:01:18,400

Philip's favorite subjects are geometry and cellular biology.

24

00:01:18,400 --> 00:01:20,840

He prefers museums and archaeological digs

25

00:01:20,840 --> 00:01:23,360

to playgrounds and ball fields.

26

00:01:23,360 --> 00:01:27,000

Philip, you see, is a genius whose extraordinary abilities

27

00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:30,680

make for a fascinating mystery of the mind.

28

00:01:30,680 --> 00:01:33,000

Stay with us for these fascinating stories

29

00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:35,680

in our special report on Mia Zapata.

30

00:01:35,680 --> 00:01:40,320

Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.

31

00:02:10,320 --> 00:02:15,320

MUSIC

32

00:02:29,320 --> 00:02:31,320

Dispatch to unit four.

33

00:02:31,320 --> 00:02:32,320

Dispatch to unit four.

34

00:02:32,320 --> 00:02:34,320

Eight miles south, room 15.

35

00:02:34,320 --> 00:02:36,320

Investigate abandoned vehicle.

36

00:02:37,320 --> 00:02:42,320

For a sheriff's deputy in Florence County, South Carolina,

37

00:02:42,320 --> 00:02:46,320

it was a routine call until he uncovered the getaway car

38

00:02:46,320 --> 00:02:48,320

from a recent string of bank robberies.

39

00:02:51,320 --> 00:02:56,320

Polaroids left in the car showed off a formidable arsenal.

40

00:02:56,320 --> 00:02:59,320

A rambling message filled seven pages of a small notebook.

41

00:02:59,320 --> 00:03:02,320

It was signed Tom Dixon.

42

00:03:02,320 --> 00:03:04,320

I know the feds are closing in on me,

43

00:03:05,320 --> 00:03:10,320

but they need an informant, so need to really watch who I trust.

44

00:03:10,320 --> 00:03:15,320

I will not go back to prison under no conditions ever

45

00:03:15,320 --> 00:03:17,320

for any length of time.

46

00:03:20,320 --> 00:03:22,320

It is hardly surprising that Tom Dixon vowed

47

00:03:22,320 --> 00:03:24,320

never to be taken alive.

48

00:03:24,320 --> 00:03:27,320

During the last 22 years, he'd been out of prison

49

00:03:27,320 --> 00:03:29,320

to scan 18 months.

50

00:03:29,320 --> 00:03:33,320

When he wasn't doing hard time, Dixon was robbing banks.

51

00:03:33,320 --> 00:03:35,320

The FBI pegged him for at least 12,

52

00:03:35,320 --> 00:03:37,320

and there were probably more.

53

00:03:41,320 --> 00:03:44,320

In 1984, after a 10-year stretch in prison,

54

00:03:44,320 --> 00:03:46,320

Dixon and a series of accomplices

55

00:03:46,320 --> 00:03:49,320

terrorized banks across North Carolina.

56

00:03:49,320 --> 00:03:51,320

Dixon's partners may have changed,

57

00:03:51,320 --> 00:03:54,320

but his MO never varied.

58

00:03:54,320 --> 00:03:57,320

Dixon was what we would call a takeover robber,

59

00:03:57,320 --> 00:04:01,320

and law enforcement jargon means that they control

60

00:04:01,320 --> 00:04:03,320

everything inside the bank,

61

00:04:03,320 --> 00:04:06,320

which means when you came into a bank,

62

00:04:06,320 --> 00:04:09,320

usually he or his partner would hold somebody

63

00:04:09,320 --> 00:04:12,320

at bay with a weapon, make announcements.

64

00:04:31,320 --> 00:04:33,320

Get up, get up, kick the keys to where I can see him.

65

00:04:33,320 --> 00:04:34,320

Do it now!

66

00:04:34,320 --> 00:04:35,320

Come on, move it.

67

00:04:35,320 --> 00:04:36,320

Just keep moving.

68

00:04:36,320 --> 00:04:37,320

Open it!

69

00:04:37,320 --> 00:04:38,320

Move it!

70

00:04:38,320 --> 00:04:39,320

Don't mess with me!

71

00:04:39,320 --> 00:04:40,320

Don't mess with me!

72

00:04:40,320 --> 00:04:41,320

Don't mess with me!

73

00:04:41,320 --> 00:04:42,320

The money!

74

00:04:42,320 --> 00:04:43,320

Just get the money!

75

00:04:43,320 --> 00:04:46,320

After a string of seven robberies, Dixon went underground.

76

00:04:46,320 --> 00:04:49,320

He holed up with a girlfriend in a remote cabin

77

00:04:49,320 --> 00:04:50,320

in North Carolina.

78

00:04:53,320 --> 00:04:56,320

Federal agents got wind of the hideout and moved in,

79

00:04:56,320 --> 00:04:59,320

but they weren't taking any chances to get to the bank.

80

00:04:59,320 --> 00:05:02,320

The police found the robber's body in the bank.

81

00:05:02,320 --> 00:05:04,320

The robber was found in the bank,

82

00:05:04,320 --> 00:05:07,320

and he was arrested for robbing the robber.

83

00:05:07,320 --> 00:05:09,320

The robber was found in the bank,

84

00:05:09,320 --> 00:05:12,320

and he was arrested for robbing the robber.

85

00:05:12,320 --> 00:05:15,320

They weren't taking any chances with Thomas Dixon.

86

00:05:23,320 --> 00:05:26,320

We were able to gather enough information about Dixon

87

00:05:26,320 --> 00:05:31,320

to know that he had certain patterns that might play in our favor

88

00:05:31,320 --> 00:05:33,320

in trying to make an apprehension.

89

00:05:36,320 --> 00:05:38,320

We knew that he was a jogger.

90

00:05:38,320 --> 00:05:40,320

Dixon has always been in excellent shape,

91

00:05:40,320 --> 00:05:42,320

and he's a good care of himself.

92

00:05:42,320 --> 00:05:44,320

Dixon, you're under arrest!

93

00:05:44,320 --> 00:05:46,320

Underground, underground!

94

00:05:46,320 --> 00:05:48,320

What are you guys doing?

95

00:05:48,320 --> 00:05:49,320

Let me go!

96

00:05:53,320 --> 00:05:56,320

When the SWAT team wanted to make the search of the cabin,

97

00:05:56,320 --> 00:05:58,320

in addition to his female companion,

98

00:05:58,320 --> 00:06:00,320

there were seven long-barreled guns,

99

00:06:00,320 --> 00:06:04,320

seven handguns of various size and caliber,

100

00:06:04,320 --> 00:06:07,320

25 sticks of dynamite,

101

00:06:07,320 --> 00:06:11,320

and we were absolutely shocked at the amount of weaponry

102

00:06:11,320 --> 00:06:13,320

he had inside the apartment.

103

00:06:13,320 --> 00:06:15,320

What is this, Mark?

104

00:06:15,320 --> 00:06:17,320

You got a weapon!

105

00:06:17,320 --> 00:06:22,320

Thomas Dixon was on his way to another decade behind bars.

106

00:06:22,320 --> 00:06:25,320

When Dixon was paroled around Christmas of 1994,

107

00:06:25,320 --> 00:06:28,320

he picked up right where he had left off.

108

00:06:28,320 --> 00:06:31,320

But now, Dixon always worked alone.

109

00:06:33,320 --> 00:06:35,320

Morning. I'll be right with you.

110

00:06:35,320 --> 00:06:37,320

This is a hold up.

111

00:06:37,320 --> 00:06:41,320

I got a police scanner, so don't do anything funny.

112

00:06:41,320 --> 00:06:45,320

Just be cool and put the money in the bag.

113

00:06:45,320 --> 00:06:49,320

He doesn't come in as a flashy guy.

114

00:06:49,320 --> 00:06:53,320

He comes in prepared.

115

00:06:53,320 --> 00:06:55,320

He's methodical.

116

00:06:55,320 --> 00:06:59,320

He thinks about things before he does them.

117

00:07:01,320 --> 00:07:03,320

During the summer of 1995,

118

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

Dixon showed up and one bank's surveillance tape after another.

119

00:07:07,320 --> 00:07:11,320

Five robberies in a seven-week period.

120

00:07:11,320 --> 00:07:14,320

Have you FBI ever heard of Thomas Dixon?

121

00:07:14,320 --> 00:07:16,320

No, should we?

122

00:07:16,320 --> 00:07:19,320

Man, there's one badass bank robber.

123

00:07:19,320 --> 00:07:22,320

Tomorrow he's going to rob a bank in North Carolina.

124

00:07:22,320 --> 00:07:24,320

During the summer robbery spree,

125

00:07:24,320 --> 00:07:26,320

Dixon began to taunt the FBI

126

00:07:26,320 --> 00:07:29,320

with advanced notice of his bank jobs.

127

00:07:29,320 --> 00:07:31,320

Hello?

128

00:07:31,320 --> 00:07:36,320

In one call, Dixon targeted a bank in Matthews, North Carolina.

129

00:07:36,320 --> 00:07:41,320

Instead, he turned up in Columbia, South Carolina, 80 miles away.

130

00:07:41,320 --> 00:07:43,320

Put it in the bag.

131

00:07:45,320 --> 00:07:47,320

Who's that in the bag?

132

00:07:47,320 --> 00:07:49,320

The best manager.

133

00:07:50,320 --> 00:07:52,320

You be cool.

134

00:07:52,320 --> 00:07:56,320

Dixon's last known heist was September 11th, 1995.

135

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

You all have a nice day.

136

00:07:58,320 --> 00:08:01,320

You can turn on that alarm now if you like.

137

00:08:01,320 --> 00:08:03,320

Excuse me.

138

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

FBI agents see Dixon's flip and self-confidence as a mask

139

00:08:07,320 --> 00:08:11,320

for an unstable personality coming apart at the scenes.

140

00:08:11,320 --> 00:08:15,320

Investigators now believe that Dixon deliberately left the photos,

141

00:08:15,320 --> 00:08:19,320

notebook and getaway car for them to find.

142

00:08:19,320 --> 00:08:23,320

Three weeks after Dixon's last robbery, they got the message.

143

00:08:23,320 --> 00:08:27,320

A deliberate taunt of a criminal ego running wild.

144

00:08:28,320 --> 00:08:32,320

Now I need a really good score so I can go underground for a few months,

145

00:08:32,320 --> 00:08:35,320

get myself back together.

146

00:08:36,320 --> 00:08:39,320

I got myself a bulletproof vest.

147

00:08:41,320 --> 00:08:46,320

So maybe it'll save my ass long enough to drop a couple of them before I die.

148

00:08:48,320 --> 00:08:51,320

Yes, you keep looking and I'll keep working.

149

00:08:51,320 --> 00:08:57,320

We'll meet up someday and we'll see if it's you or is it me.

150

00:08:59,320 --> 00:09:05,320

I don't think there's any question that Dixon has become a walking time bomb.

151

00:09:05,320 --> 00:09:10,320

Dixon was alerting us to the fact that he is heavily armed

152

00:09:10,320 --> 00:09:15,320

and he has every intention of using those arms in a confrontation with law enforcement.

153

00:09:29,320 --> 00:09:35,320

Next, when a young woman is found dead floating in the Chesapeake Bay,

154

00:09:35,320 --> 00:09:39,320

two old boyfriends emerge as suspects.

155

00:09:40,320 --> 00:09:44,320

The Chesapeake Bay

156

00:09:54,320 --> 00:09:59,320

Maryland's Natural Resource Police routinely monitor the state's coastal areas,

157

00:09:59,320 --> 00:10:03,320

tracking down poachers and enforcing game regulations.

158

00:10:03,320 --> 00:10:08,320

But on the 30th of August, 1993, an NRP patrol pulled the body

159

00:10:08,320 --> 00:10:12,320

of an attractive brunette from the Chesapeake Bay.

160

00:10:12,320 --> 00:10:16,320

The woman was identified as Nancy Manny,

161

00:10:16,320 --> 00:10:20,320

one of the few female members of the Seafarers International Union.

162

00:10:20,320 --> 00:10:24,320

Nancy had made a career sailing the world as a ship steward,

163

00:10:24,320 --> 00:10:30,320

but now, at the age of 33, Nancy was dead, drowned and possibly murdered.

164

00:10:33,320 --> 00:10:36,320

Who could have killed Nancy Manny?

165

00:10:36,320 --> 00:10:40,320

The investigation quickly narrowed in on an ex-boyfriend named Billy Mesmer,

166

00:10:40,320 --> 00:10:44,320

a self-styled poet whose dark rhymes hinted at a dangerous obsession.

167

00:10:44,320 --> 00:10:49,320

It looked like a rock-solid theory until rumors seemed to implicate another boyfriend

168

00:10:49,320 --> 00:10:52,320

and some of his associates in the Seafarers Union.

169

00:10:52,320 --> 00:10:55,320

An overshadowing awe was a second murder victim,

170

00:10:55,320 --> 00:10:59,320

a young woman identical to Nancy in almost every way.

171

00:11:00,320 --> 00:11:02,320

When was the last time you saw Nancy?

172

00:11:02,320 --> 00:11:03,320

Wednesday.

173

00:11:03,320 --> 00:11:07,320

Billy Mesmer was questioned two days after Nancy's body was found.

174

00:11:07,320 --> 00:11:12,320

Poems Billy had written to Nancy while they were lovers aroused suspicion.

175

00:11:13,320 --> 00:11:16,320

Perhaps most notable were these lines.

176

00:11:17,320 --> 00:11:21,320

Excited breath escapes his lips, but he waits without the light.

177

00:11:21,320 --> 00:11:26,320

No one will ever hear your screams as a predator begins to bite.

178

00:11:27,320 --> 00:11:30,320

The poem was signed Sweet Dreams Billy.

179

00:11:30,320 --> 00:11:33,320

The title Night Stalker.

180

00:11:34,320 --> 00:11:40,320

I've had experts look at it trying to analyze it and they have concurred that, you know,

181

00:11:40,320 --> 00:11:43,320

he did have an obsession with Nancy at this time.

182

00:11:45,320 --> 00:11:50,320

I can understand where they would come up with the word obsessive.

183

00:11:52,320 --> 00:11:54,320

Nancy was the love of my life.

184

00:11:56,320 --> 00:11:57,320

I'm a poet.

185

00:11:57,320 --> 00:12:02,320

I wrote her poetry constantly, which is a very obsessive thing.

186

00:12:02,320 --> 00:12:05,320

It's full of feelings and emotion.

187

00:12:06,320 --> 00:12:11,320

During the 17 months of their relationship, Billy had written Nancy more than 200 poems.

188

00:12:11,320 --> 00:12:15,320

Many were sent to her at seaports around the world.

189

00:12:15,320 --> 00:12:18,320

Nancy had sailed to Brazil, Greece, Iceland,

190

00:12:18,320 --> 00:12:24,320

and often worked the giant freighters at ferried natural gas from Indonesia to Japan.

191

00:12:25,320 --> 00:12:28,320

She often said she liked to play with the boys toys.

192

00:12:28,320 --> 00:12:31,320

She liked to drive the forklifts and do that kind of work.

193

00:12:31,320 --> 00:12:35,320

She was very feminine. She was very attractive and fun.

194

00:12:35,320 --> 00:12:41,320

She, you know, had a lot of boyfriends, but she hadn't really found a person that she was dust

195

00:12:41,320 --> 00:12:43,320

and spend the rest of her life with.

196

00:12:44,320 --> 00:12:45,320

She left you for someone else.

197

00:12:46,320 --> 00:12:50,320

I don't understand why you keep accusing me of things.

198

00:12:50,320 --> 00:12:53,320

I really felt that the investigation was going in the wrong direction.

199

00:12:53,320 --> 00:12:57,320

Obviously, they were crawling all over me with a microscope,

200

00:12:57,320 --> 00:13:04,320

and I was terribly frustrated that the person who actually did this was going to get away.

201

00:13:06,320 --> 00:13:08,320

Billy Masmer had a plausible alibi.

202

00:13:08,320 --> 00:13:11,320

He also had a suggestion for the police.

203

00:13:11,320 --> 00:13:15,320

Take a look at certain members of the Seafarers International Union.

204

00:13:16,320 --> 00:13:21,320

At the time of her death, Nancy had been studying at this Union Run Training Center,

205

00:13:21,320 --> 00:13:25,320

the Harry Lunderberg School of Seamanship in Piney Point, Maryland.

206

00:13:25,320 --> 00:13:29,320

She was dating a union member who was connected to the school.

207

00:13:30,320 --> 00:13:34,320

Billy says that Nancy came to his apartment a few days before her death.

208

00:13:34,320 --> 00:13:35,320

Yeah.

209

00:13:38,320 --> 00:13:40,320

Hey Nancy, come over.

210

00:13:40,320 --> 00:13:41,320

Hi Billy.

211

00:13:41,320 --> 00:13:44,320

Hey, are you okay?

212

00:13:46,320 --> 00:13:51,320

Nancy had a very, very bad falling out with her boyfriend.

213

00:13:51,320 --> 00:13:52,320

He had a fight.

214

00:13:52,320 --> 00:13:58,320

He had told her that if she didn't do things as he wanted,

215

00:13:58,320 --> 00:14:01,320

he would make things very difficult for her within the Union.

216

00:14:01,320 --> 00:14:08,320

She simply said, if you do this, then I will expose you for what you are.

217

00:14:09,320 --> 00:14:13,320

According to Billy Masmer, the secret Nancy threatened to reveal

218

00:14:13,320 --> 00:14:16,320

may have had something to do with illegal drugs.

219

00:14:17,320 --> 00:14:21,320

It's been rumored for years that certain members of the Union

220

00:14:21,320 --> 00:14:27,320

and of the school down at Piney Point have been involved

221

00:14:27,320 --> 00:14:30,320

in international drug trafficking.

222

00:14:30,320 --> 00:14:36,320

Not only that, but possible disappearances within the Union

223

00:14:36,320 --> 00:14:38,320

and within the local community.

224

00:14:38,320 --> 00:14:44,320

I've had several people come clandestinely to me to report that

225

00:14:44,320 --> 00:14:51,320

they suspected illegal activity at the school was the cause of Nancy's death.

226

00:14:51,320 --> 00:14:59,320

Again, it's been unsubstantiated and they fear for their lives or their jobs,

227

00:14:59,320 --> 00:15:02,320

which is why they don't want to be known.

228

00:15:03,320 --> 00:15:09,320

After her death, I had received some telephone calls from friends of hers

229

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

that were also Union members who had told us that they felt that her death

230

00:15:15,320 --> 00:15:20,320

was not accidental and that it was possibly linked with the Union and with the school.

231

00:15:22,320 --> 00:15:26,320

For Nancy's sister Linda, the unsettling rumor seemed even more credible

232

00:15:26,320 --> 00:15:30,320

when she received Nancy's personal effects from the school.

233

00:15:32,320 --> 00:15:36,320

In going through Nancy's things, I had noticed that a lot of things

234

00:15:36,320 --> 00:15:41,320

were missing, particularly pictures of her Union boyfriend and his family.

235

00:15:41,320 --> 00:15:45,320

And I know that she wouldn't have thrown them away.

236

00:15:45,320 --> 00:15:47,320

She would have kept those.

237

00:15:49,320 --> 00:15:54,320

There was more. Nancy's camera was empty and its internal mechanism jammed,

238

00:15:54,320 --> 00:15:57,320

as though someone had forcibly ripped out a roll of film.

239

00:15:58,320 --> 00:16:01,320

I feel that someone had tampered with her camera

240

00:16:01,320 --> 00:16:05,320

and so that led me to be more suspicious that someone in the school

241

00:16:05,320 --> 00:16:07,320

had obviously entered her room.

242

00:16:09,320 --> 00:16:13,320

There are also suspicions about Nancy's final work assignment.

243

00:16:13,320 --> 00:16:17,320

Before entering the school, Nancy sailed on the SS Mayakwes,

244

00:16:17,320 --> 00:16:20,320

a ship which employed many Union members.

245

00:16:21,320 --> 00:16:23,320

She died in August.

246

00:16:23,320 --> 00:16:28,320

In June, I got the slider from her when she was working on the SS Mayakwes.

247

00:16:29,320 --> 00:16:35,320

One paragraph says, things are so bad on this ship that I'm getting death threats now.

248

00:16:37,320 --> 00:16:40,320

And I let that go and I regret it every day

249

00:16:40,320 --> 00:16:45,320

that I didn't demand to know who exactly said that and why and what exactly was said.

250

00:16:45,320 --> 00:16:49,320

One more disturbing question hangs over this case.

251

00:16:49,320 --> 00:16:54,320

Is there a link between Nancy's death and the 1988 murder of a young woman

252

00:16:54,320 --> 00:16:56,320

named Elizabeth Greenberg?

253

00:16:57,320 --> 00:17:01,320

Elizabeth and Nancy had the same hair color, same eye color,

254

00:17:01,320 --> 00:17:04,320

were nearly identical in height and weight.

255

00:17:04,320 --> 00:17:09,320

Like Nancy, Elizabeth was a ship steward, a member of the Seafarers Union.

256

00:17:10,320 --> 00:17:12,320

Elizabeth worked in the Navy,

257

00:17:12,320 --> 00:17:15,320

and was a member of the Seafarers Union.

258

00:17:15,320 --> 00:17:20,320

Elizabeth worked the same Indonesia to Japan trade route that Nancy sailed a few years later.

259

00:17:20,320 --> 00:17:24,320

Both women were attending the Union's training school when they died.

260

00:17:25,320 --> 00:17:28,320

Although Elizabeth was killed by a blow to the head,

261

00:17:28,320 --> 00:17:31,320

she too was found floating in the Chesapeake Bay.

262

00:17:33,320 --> 00:17:37,320

It's eerie when you look at both cases,

263

00:17:37,320 --> 00:17:40,320

the similarities in their life and their lifestyles.

264

00:17:40,320 --> 00:17:46,320

As yet, we haven't found a common denominator between the two

265

00:17:46,320 --> 00:17:51,320

as far as boyfriends or close friends.

266

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

But somewhere along the line, there's got to be a thread.

267

00:17:57,320 --> 00:18:03,320

I fear that Nancy's death is going to be simply written off as unsolved.

268

00:18:04,320 --> 00:18:08,320

And even though everyone in the county knows that something wrong,

269

00:18:08,320 --> 00:18:14,320

unlawful, cloak and dagger is going on, they're terrified to talk about it.

270

00:18:16,320 --> 00:18:20,320

With the information that has been given to me on an anonymous basis,

271

00:18:21,320 --> 00:18:25,320

over the past two years since Nancy's death,

272

00:18:25,320 --> 00:18:28,320

I'm beginning to fear for my own life.

273

00:18:33,320 --> 00:18:36,320

I'm not afraid of the future.

274

00:18:36,320 --> 00:18:39,320

I'm afraid of the future.

275

00:18:39,320 --> 00:18:42,320

I'm afraid of the future.

276

00:18:42,320 --> 00:18:45,320

I'm afraid of the future.

277

00:18:45,320 --> 00:18:48,320

I'm afraid of the future.

278

00:18:48,320 --> 00:18:51,320

I'm afraid of the future.

279

00:18:51,320 --> 00:18:54,320

I'm afraid of the future.

280

00:18:54,320 --> 00:18:57,320

I'm afraid of the future.

281

00:19:04,320 --> 00:19:14,320

It's been said that the human brain is one of the last great frontiers.

282

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

Despite years of research, we have only a few hints about why some people

283

00:19:19,320 --> 00:19:22,320

become Einstein's and others' forest gump.

284

00:19:22,320 --> 00:19:27,320

The source of genius remains secret, a true unsolved mystery.

285

00:19:28,320 --> 00:19:33,320

This is Philip Pauli of Denver, Colorado.

286

00:19:33,320 --> 00:19:36,320

He may look like an average eight-year-old,

287

00:19:36,320 --> 00:19:39,320

but Philip is quite literally one in ten million.

288

00:19:39,320 --> 00:19:42,320

Philip's abilities are practically immeasurable.

289

00:19:42,320 --> 00:19:44,320

Philip is a genius.

290

00:19:44,320 --> 00:19:48,320

In fact, Philip is so smart that he is too smart for school.

291

00:19:48,320 --> 00:19:51,320

If you need any help, let me know, OK?

292

00:19:51,320 --> 00:19:52,320

Thanks.

293

00:19:52,320 --> 00:19:53,320

You're welcome.

294

00:19:53,320 --> 00:19:57,320

Philip's mother teaches him at home because even programs for gifted students

295

00:19:57,320 --> 00:20:01,320

couldn't keep up with Philip's insatiable demand for knowledge.

296

00:20:03,320 --> 00:20:10,320

Well, I'm studying algebra and geometry and the milleges and cellular biology.

297

00:20:10,320 --> 00:20:19,320

And in the milleges, I'm working on the castle defenses.

298

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

How do I explain Philip's gifts?

299

00:20:22,320 --> 00:20:26,320

That, to me, is a mystery, to be perfectly honest.

300

00:20:26,320 --> 00:20:32,320

I mean, it's not that Philip's dad or I are dumb,

301

00:20:32,320 --> 00:20:38,320

but neither of us have the IQs to match, Phil.

302

00:20:38,320 --> 00:20:44,320

So, to me, it was a gift to have a son like Philip.

303

00:20:44,320 --> 00:20:47,320

From the very beginning, it was clear that Philip was brighter

304

00:20:47,320 --> 00:20:49,320

and more alert than most babies.

305

00:20:49,320 --> 00:20:53,320

At six months, he started to talk and had enough manual dexterity

306

00:20:53,320 --> 00:20:56,320

to remove the bolts from his crib.

307

00:20:56,320 --> 00:21:01,320

At nine months, Philip displayed a highly mature emotional sensibility.

308

00:21:01,320 --> 00:21:04,320

During an experiment, he was asked to spank a doll three times

309

00:21:04,320 --> 00:21:07,320

to show he understood counting.

310

00:21:07,320 --> 00:21:10,320

Philip refused to strike the doll.

311

00:21:10,320 --> 00:21:14,320

Finally, when the examiner thought he couldn't understand what was going on,

312

00:21:14,320 --> 00:21:18,320

he patted the doll three times and then held it and hugged it

313

00:21:18,320 --> 00:21:23,320

and protected it from the examiner and tried to soothe the doll's feelings.

314

00:21:23,320 --> 00:21:27,320

This is not something his mother taught him to do

315

00:21:27,320 --> 00:21:31,320

because any mother would have a hard time trying to teach something like that

316

00:21:31,320 --> 00:21:33,320

to a nine-month-old.

317

00:21:33,320 --> 00:21:36,320

At 18 months, Philip could already read.

318

00:21:36,320 --> 00:21:39,320

For his second birthday, he asked for a violin.

319

00:21:39,320 --> 00:21:44,320

Within days, he was playing simple tunes he had composed himself.

320

00:21:44,320 --> 00:21:47,320

Philip was light years ahead of his peers.

321

00:21:47,320 --> 00:21:51,320

One particular time we took him to church and we put him in

322

00:21:51,320 --> 00:21:55,320

and at the two-year-old level and we picked him up.

323

00:21:55,320 --> 00:21:57,320

And after school, the first thing he says to me is,

324

00:21:57,320 --> 00:21:59,320

Mom, they don't talk.

325

00:21:59,320 --> 00:22:02,320

And he was two and he didn't realize that other kids, his own age,

326

00:22:02,320 --> 00:22:06,320

weren't doing those kind of same kind of skills.

327

00:22:06,320 --> 00:22:09,320

At three, Philip was studying astronomy.

328

00:22:09,320 --> 00:22:12,320

He had little use for Mickey Mouse or Winnie the Pooh.

329

00:22:12,320 --> 00:22:16,320

His hero was astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

330

00:22:16,320 --> 00:22:18,320

Hey, Mom, let's go over here.

331

00:22:18,320 --> 00:22:20,320

OK.

332

00:22:20,320 --> 00:22:23,320

By the time Philip was four, the Denver Museum of Natural History

333

00:22:23,320 --> 00:22:25,320

was his favorite playground.

334

00:22:25,320 --> 00:22:29,320

One day, he even spotted a mistake in a museum mural

335

00:22:29,320 --> 00:22:32,320

that had gone unnoticed by the curators for 30 years.

336

00:22:32,320 --> 00:22:34,320

What's the matter, huh?

337

00:22:34,320 --> 00:22:36,320

The helmets are wrong.

338

00:22:36,320 --> 00:22:37,320

What's wrong with them?

339

00:22:37,320 --> 00:22:41,320

Those are French helmets and these are conquistadors.

340

00:22:41,320 --> 00:22:43,320

How do you know that?

341

00:22:43,320 --> 00:22:46,320

Incredibly, Philip had been able to detect the subtle differences

342

00:22:46,320 --> 00:22:51,320

between a medieval French helmet and that of a Spanish conquistador.

343

00:22:51,320 --> 00:22:55,320

On another visit to the museum in that same year,

344

00:22:55,320 --> 00:22:58,320

Philip asked the curator why a dinosaur skeleton

345

00:22:58,320 --> 00:23:02,320

was missing several vertebra in his tail section.

346

00:23:02,320 --> 00:23:07,320

And the curator explained at the time that the dinosaur was too large

347

00:23:07,320 --> 00:23:10,320

for the area that they had designated for it.

348

00:23:10,320 --> 00:23:14,320

So, but with the new exhibit, they were going to get it correct

349

00:23:14,320 --> 00:23:15,320

and not to worry about it.

350

00:23:15,320 --> 00:23:17,320

But he was flabbergasted, he says,

351

00:23:17,320 --> 00:23:20,320

you're the only person that's noticed.

352

00:23:20,320 --> 00:23:23,320

Research indicates it along with heightened mental abilities.

353

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

Child geniuses often show hypersensitivity

354

00:23:26,320 --> 00:23:29,320

to humanitarian issues.

355

00:23:29,320 --> 00:23:31,320

He carries the weight of the world on him.

356

00:23:31,320 --> 00:23:34,320

He's worried about the economy within the United States

357

00:23:34,320 --> 00:23:38,320

and the government structure as well as what's going on

358

00:23:38,320 --> 00:23:41,320

around the world and how it affects,

359

00:23:41,320 --> 00:23:45,320

how what we do affects other nations.

360

00:23:45,320 --> 00:23:49,320

There's times that he gets so consumed with these worries

361

00:23:49,320 --> 00:23:51,320

that he'll stop eating.

362

00:23:51,320 --> 00:23:54,320

He bites his nails, he loses sleep.

363

00:23:54,320 --> 00:23:56,320

I mean, these are things that we have to talk about

364

00:23:56,320 --> 00:24:00,320

what he can actually do on a personal level to help mankind.

365

00:24:00,320 --> 00:24:06,320

It makes me feel sad that America does not value education

366

00:24:06,320 --> 00:24:10,320

and America is becoming more like a Roman Empire

367

00:24:10,320 --> 00:24:12,320

than the great nation it was.

368

00:24:12,320 --> 00:24:14,320

And here's a few reasons.

369

00:24:14,320 --> 00:24:20,320

Because, like, one is that we're doing the gladiators,

370

00:24:20,320 --> 00:24:25,320

like, in our movies, and we're going to have a worse fate

371

00:24:25,320 --> 00:24:27,320

than the Roman Empire.

372

00:24:27,320 --> 00:24:29,320

I just know it.

373

00:24:29,320 --> 00:24:33,320

So where would you expect a child like Philip to play?

374

00:24:33,320 --> 00:24:36,320

A baseball diamond? Not on your life.

375

00:24:36,320 --> 00:24:38,320

Try an archaeological dig.

376

00:24:38,320 --> 00:24:42,320

Okay, there you go.

377

00:24:42,320 --> 00:24:46,320

I think Philip working at the site here has fun.

378

00:24:46,320 --> 00:24:48,320

He knows it's important.

379

00:24:48,320 --> 00:24:53,320

He understands the value of what he's doing.

380

00:24:53,320 --> 00:24:58,320

It's intellectually stimulating, but he's digging in the dirt.

381

00:24:58,320 --> 00:25:02,320

Philip has a lifetime of enthusiasm for each of his favorite subjects,

382

00:25:02,320 --> 00:25:06,320

so much so that when we asked him what he wants to be when he grows up,

383

00:25:06,320 --> 00:25:09,320

he had a tough time picking just one job.

384

00:25:09,320 --> 00:25:14,320

A paleontologist, an archaeologist, a conservationist,

385

00:25:14,320 --> 00:25:17,320

and hopefully I'll be the commander to the mission to Mars.

386

00:25:17,320 --> 00:25:22,320

And the chief curator of the Denver Museum of Natural History.

387

00:25:22,320 --> 00:25:27,320

And if all of the other jobs fail,

388

00:25:27,320 --> 00:25:34,320

I would really want to be a great composer on the line of Baroque,

389

00:25:34,320 --> 00:25:39,320

Baroque classical and romantic eras in the music stage.

390

00:25:39,320 --> 00:25:41,320

And the list goes on.

391

00:25:41,320 --> 00:25:45,320

Artifact number 23.

392

00:25:45,320 --> 00:25:47,320

But what makes a genius?

393

00:25:47,320 --> 00:25:49,320

Is it nature or nurture?

394

00:25:49,320 --> 00:25:51,320

Scientists truly don't know.

395

00:25:51,320 --> 00:25:55,320

But one of the wilder explanations is that geniuses possess knowledge

396

00:25:55,320 --> 00:25:59,320

and skills acquired in other lifetimes.

397

00:25:59,320 --> 00:26:04,320

He told me one time that he had, having it open and he could,

398

00:26:04,320 --> 00:26:07,320

he had looked down and he had chose me as his mom,

399

00:26:07,320 --> 00:26:10,320

because I would be the right one for him.

400

00:26:10,320 --> 00:26:15,320

It's clear to me that many, many gifted children come in knowing

401

00:26:15,320 --> 00:26:20,320

more than it would be explainable by scientific standards.

402

00:26:20,320 --> 00:26:23,320

Where they get that knowledge from, I don't know.

403

00:26:23,320 --> 00:26:28,320

But I would not discount any possibility, including reincarnation,

404

00:26:28,320 --> 00:26:31,320

that there's something evolutionarily different about them,

405

00:26:31,320 --> 00:26:36,320

that the brain structure is different, or the function of the brain is different,

406

00:26:36,320 --> 00:26:40,320

or that they are visiting us from more evolved cultures.

407

00:26:40,320 --> 00:26:43,320

Anything is possible.

408

00:26:43,320 --> 00:26:45,320

Where's Lee?

409

00:26:45,320 --> 00:26:48,320

Philip doesn't have much time left for childhood.

410

00:26:48,320 --> 00:26:52,320

In two years, he'll be old enough to take the college entrance exams.

411

00:26:52,320 --> 00:26:55,320

He plans to enroll at the University of Denver.

412

00:26:55,320 --> 00:26:58,320

After that, the sky's a limit.

413

00:26:58,320 --> 00:27:01,320

Do I think that Philip's a genius?

414

00:27:01,320 --> 00:27:08,320

I think that the definition that society gives, the IQ test says yes.

415

00:27:08,320 --> 00:27:14,320

I think whether he will be a genius or not will be if he uses and utilizes

416

00:27:14,320 --> 00:27:20,320

the intellect and the abilities that he has to help mankind.

417

00:27:20,320 --> 00:27:23,320

Then I think he would be a genius.

418

00:27:23,320 --> 00:27:25,320

So what are we going to go see today?

419

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

The Hall of Life, the Science of Sports, and...

420

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

People used to believe genius was the rarest of gifts.

421

00:27:30,320 --> 00:27:33,320

But children like Philip can crop up anywhere.

422

00:27:33,320 --> 00:27:41,320

The danger is that the talents of these special kids often go unrecognized.

423

00:27:41,320 --> 00:27:46,320

Experts tell us that even children with learning disabilities may be hidden geniuses.

424

00:27:46,320 --> 00:27:51,320

If your child seems smarter or more talented than average, he or she should be tested.

425

00:27:51,320 --> 00:27:53,320

Who knows?

426

00:27:53,320 --> 00:27:57,320

You may be nurturing the next Einstein.

427

00:27:58,320 --> 00:28:03,320

When we return, an unexpected death puts a young family apart.

428

00:28:03,320 --> 00:28:07,320

Perhaps someone watching can bring them together again.

429

00:28:20,320 --> 00:28:26,320

Michelle Arkin was 16 when she almost discovered the family secret.

430

00:28:26,320 --> 00:28:31,320

Her mother Laverne had to improvise in order to preserve it a while longer.

431

00:28:31,320 --> 00:28:33,320

How'd it go?

432

00:28:33,320 --> 00:28:36,320

I didn't get the job.

433

00:28:36,320 --> 00:28:40,320

Personal officers said that my birth certificate was phony.

434

00:28:40,320 --> 00:28:43,320

Phony? What do you mean?

435

00:28:43,320 --> 00:28:45,320

He said that it had been amended.

436

00:28:45,320 --> 00:28:47,320

Oh, that's the one thing.

437

00:28:47,320 --> 00:28:51,320

I don't know what they're talking about. There is nothing wrong with your birth certificate.

438

00:28:51,320 --> 00:28:54,320

Data said that my birth certificate wasn't legal.

439

00:28:54,320 --> 00:28:57,320

That they had things on there that shouldn't be.

440

00:28:57,320 --> 00:29:01,320

And I was very shocked. I mean, as far as I knew, that was my birth certificate.

441

00:29:01,320 --> 00:29:05,320

That was what I grew up with. That was correct.

442

00:29:06,320 --> 00:29:10,320

You get a job at another store, okay?

443

00:29:10,320 --> 00:29:15,320

Okay. Cheer up.

444

00:29:16,320 --> 00:29:19,320

Laverne Neal had dreaded this moment for years.

445

00:29:19,320 --> 00:29:23,320

Michelle was not her biological child.

446

00:29:24,320 --> 00:29:29,320

To tell or not to tell? Then if you tell when?

447

00:29:29,320 --> 00:29:35,320

Like thousands of couples who adopt, Laverne Neal and her husband Wilburne confronted these difficult questions.

448

00:29:35,320 --> 00:29:38,320

There are no right or wrong answers.

449

00:29:38,320 --> 00:29:46,320

However, parents who decide against revealing the facts will almost certainly face years of fancy footwork to keep their secret secret.

450

00:29:47,320 --> 00:29:57,320

Laverne and Wilburne Neal will always remember the day in September of 1965 when they first set eyes on Michelle.

451

00:29:59,320 --> 00:30:05,320

The Neals had been married for four years. They were eager to start a family but had been unsuccessful.

452

00:30:07,320 --> 00:30:11,320

Hi Wilburne. Hi Raleigh. Nice to see you Laverne. Come on in. We just got home.

453

00:30:11,320 --> 00:30:17,320

Out of the blue, their friends Raleigh and Juanita Gore had offered the Neals a chance to adopt a baby girl.

454

00:30:17,320 --> 00:30:21,320

Oh, she's beautiful.

455

00:30:21,320 --> 00:30:26,320

The child's mother, a friend of the Gores, was unable to care for the infant herself.

456

00:30:26,320 --> 00:30:30,320

She had entrusted Raleigh and Juanita with finding a loving home.

457

00:30:30,320 --> 00:30:32,320

She's gorgeous.

458

00:30:33,320 --> 00:30:36,320

I loved her right off the road.

459

00:30:36,320 --> 00:30:40,320

I didn't hesitate. I didn't have no doubts.

460

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

We just looked at each other and said, what we know about raising a baby.

461

00:30:45,320 --> 00:30:50,320

Neither one of us did. And so she said, we can learn fast.

462

00:30:52,320 --> 00:30:56,320

For Wilburne and Laverne, Michelle was a dream come true.

463

00:30:56,320 --> 00:31:04,320

Two weeks fed by, then Patricia Bonner, Michelle's birth mother called. She wanted to see her baby.

464

00:31:04,320 --> 00:31:18,320

I knew that Pat was Michelle's mother and if she wanted to keep her, even though it broke my heart, I knew, you know, I'd have no choice but to let her.

465

00:31:21,320 --> 00:31:25,320

Patricia Bonner had been widowed while she was pregnant with Michelle.

466

00:31:25,320 --> 00:31:28,320

She had two sisters in the other room, Vince, now.

467

00:31:28,320 --> 00:31:34,320

She already had three young children to raise by herself, so she had reluctantly given up Michelle for adoption.

468

00:31:34,320 --> 00:31:37,320

Pat, are you sure you want to do this?

469

00:31:37,320 --> 00:31:41,320

Well, I just don't know what else to do.

470

00:31:41,320 --> 00:31:48,320

It'd be different if Johnny was still here, but I can't afford to put shoes on my three children.

471

00:31:48,320 --> 00:31:52,320

I could barely feed them. How am I going to keep her?

472

00:31:52,320 --> 00:31:55,320

Maybe things will get better and, you know...

473

00:31:55,320 --> 00:31:58,320

I know you and Wilburne will give her a good home and care for her.

474

00:32:00,320 --> 00:32:03,320

Can I just hold her one more time, please?

475

00:32:03,320 --> 00:32:05,320

Uh, of course.

476

00:32:07,320 --> 00:32:18,320

I knew that lady had to be hurting bad and I hurt for her because I knew I could feel how she was hurting.

477

00:32:22,320 --> 00:32:27,320

There's a couple of other things, Pat. We'd like to draw up some papers to make the adoption legal.

478

00:32:27,320 --> 00:32:29,320

That'll be no problem.

479

00:32:29,320 --> 00:32:34,320

But when the Niels returned two weeks later, Patricia Bonner and her children were gone.

480

00:32:34,320 --> 00:32:36,320

Vince, would you go inside and get that bag, please?

481

00:32:36,320 --> 00:32:46,320

The apartment was empty. She had moved and she left no forwarding address. Nobody knew where she went.

482

00:32:47,320 --> 00:32:53,320

The absence of formal adoption papers didn't prevent Michelle from enjoying a typical childhood.

483

00:32:53,320 --> 00:32:59,320

By the age of five, she had a brother named Stephen, Niels' biological child.

484

00:32:59,320 --> 00:33:03,320

Michelle's background was never discussed.

485

00:33:03,320 --> 00:33:10,320

Me and Laverne, we talked about it many times. Should we go ahead and tell her?

486

00:33:11,320 --> 00:33:20,320

We figured Michelle would feel like she was left out. She wouldn't be equal to Stephen if she's not belonged to us.

487

00:33:20,320 --> 00:33:25,320

And we just decided that it would be better to wait until she was older.

488

00:33:27,320 --> 00:33:30,320

The family's secret was safe for a while.

489

00:33:30,320 --> 00:33:35,320

When Michelle began school, the Niels had to submit a birth certificate.

490

00:33:36,320 --> 00:33:44,320

With the help of a relative in Kentucky, they obtained this one, listing themselves as Michelle's biological parents.

491

00:33:44,320 --> 00:33:49,320

By the time Michelle entered high school, the family's secret had started to fray.

492

00:33:49,320 --> 00:33:55,320

Michelle began to ask her parents if she had been adopted. The answer was always no.

493

00:33:55,320 --> 00:33:59,320

I don't know what he's talking about. There's nothing wrong with your birth certificate.

494

00:33:59,320 --> 00:34:06,320

I felt very bad because I never did like to say anything that wasn't true.

495

00:34:06,320 --> 00:34:13,320

And here I was doing just the opposite of what I was teaching my children.

496

00:34:13,320 --> 00:34:17,320

And it really bothered it. It hurt me quite a bit.

497

00:34:20,320 --> 00:34:23,320

Finally, the burden became too heavy for Michelle's parents.

498

00:34:23,320 --> 00:34:26,320

Michelle, come in here, please.

499

00:34:26,320 --> 00:34:29,320

Finally, they were ready to talk.

500

00:34:32,320 --> 00:34:34,320

We have to talk.

501

00:34:34,320 --> 00:34:37,320

I know. I'm late. I'm sorry. It won't happen again.

502

00:34:37,320 --> 00:34:41,320

No, it's not about that, Michelle. Sit down, please.

503

00:34:44,320 --> 00:34:51,320

She said, I've heard from too many sources that I was adopted.

504

00:34:51,320 --> 00:34:56,320

She said, you got to tell me the truth. And so I told her the truth about it.

505

00:34:57,320 --> 00:35:01,320

You see, you are sort of adopted.

506

00:35:01,320 --> 00:35:04,320

What do you mean, sort of adopted?

507

00:35:04,320 --> 00:35:07,320

You remember Raleigh and Juanita? You remember us talking about them?

508

00:35:07,320 --> 00:35:13,320

I felt that they had betrayed me only because they've always told me the truth when I've asked it.

509

00:35:13,320 --> 00:35:16,320

Mom, is this true?

510

00:35:16,320 --> 00:35:22,320

It was always, you know, bottom line. This is the way it is.

511

00:35:22,320 --> 00:35:27,320

And I just felt that they lied to me. And that's why I was so upset.

512

00:35:27,320 --> 00:35:30,320

I didn't want to hurt you. We wanted to do what we could rather.

513

00:35:30,320 --> 00:35:33,320

Oh, so you just let me live my entire life?

514

00:35:33,320 --> 00:35:37,320

Michelle, don't touch me.

515

00:35:37,320 --> 00:35:41,320

I moved out two weeks later. I got an apartment with my girlfriend,

516

00:35:41,320 --> 00:35:48,320

which my girlfriend, they could not stand. So maybe that was a little bit more of my rebellious act on my part.

517

00:35:48,320 --> 00:35:56,320

But, I mean, eventually I came around. I came back to mom and dad.

518

00:35:59,320 --> 00:36:04,320

Today, Michelle is herself a parent, the mother of a boy and a girl.

519

00:36:04,320 --> 00:36:08,320

With her parents' blessing, Michelle has begun to search for her birth mother

520

00:36:08,320 --> 00:36:11,320

and the three siblings she has never met.

521

00:36:11,320 --> 00:36:14,320

Hi, is there a Patricia Hensley Barnard there?

522

00:36:14,320 --> 00:36:16,320

No, how about a Vincent Barnard?

523

00:36:16,320 --> 00:36:19,320

Can I just hold her one more time, please?

524

00:36:19,320 --> 00:36:22,320

Of course.

525

00:36:25,320 --> 00:36:31,320

I can understand what she did back then.

526

00:36:31,320 --> 00:36:38,320

I would just feel better just knowing where I came from, what my relatives,

527

00:36:38,320 --> 00:36:45,320

what, you know, just simple basic questions that any person would have.

528

00:36:45,320 --> 00:37:05,320

In a moment, we'll come back to Seattle to investigate the tragic murder of rock and roll singer Mia Zapata.

529

00:37:16,320 --> 00:37:22,320

Since 1991, the hottest spot in rock and roll has been Seattle, Washington.

530

00:37:22,320 --> 00:37:28,320

Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Allison Chains all came out of the local music scene.

531

00:37:28,320 --> 00:37:31,320

Many people thought the next breakthrough band would be the Gits,

532

00:37:31,320 --> 00:37:41,320

a punk rock group funded by Mia Zapata, a charismatic 27-year-old with a tragic destiny.

533

00:37:46,320 --> 00:37:54,320

I went through many shows where afterwards people didn't even know I was up on stage

534

00:37:54,320 --> 00:37:57,320

because their eyes were so transfixed on Mia.

535

00:38:03,320 --> 00:38:11,320

She was someone who had something to say and she was very, very compassionate and big-hearted person

536

00:38:11,320 --> 00:38:15,320

and she brought that into the band.

537

00:38:15,320 --> 00:38:21,320

But on July 7, 1993, the good times were abruptly snuffed out.

538

00:38:23,320 --> 00:38:27,320

Around 2 a.m. Mia Zapata left a friend's apartment.

539

00:38:27,320 --> 00:38:34,320

An hour later, her body was found two miles away, reportedly laying face up in an almost Christ-like pose.

540

00:38:34,320 --> 00:38:37,320

Mia had been beaten and strangled.

541

00:38:38,320 --> 00:38:44,320

Mia Zapata's death set shockwaves with the tight-knit music community here in Seattle.

542

00:38:44,320 --> 00:38:48,320

Why had this promising and popular young singer been killed?

543

00:38:48,320 --> 00:38:53,320

Was it an obsessed fan, a jealous enemy or a complete stranger?

544

00:38:53,320 --> 00:38:59,320

In a near-recoincidence, Mia alluded to her own violent death in one of the last songs she recorded.

545

00:38:59,320 --> 00:39:06,320

The haunting lyrics spoke of someone slashing her and hinted that someone might never be found.

546

00:39:08,320 --> 00:39:12,320

You might say Mia Zapata was born to be a star.

547

00:39:12,320 --> 00:39:16,320

She grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, the daughter of two television executives.

548

00:39:16,320 --> 00:39:20,320

After high school, Mia went on to Antioch College in Ohio.

549

00:39:20,320 --> 00:39:24,320

There she met the other three members of the GITS.

550

00:39:24,320 --> 00:39:29,320

After five years together, the GITS were attracting interest for major record companies.

551

00:39:29,320 --> 00:39:34,320

The first full-scale U.S. tour was in the works and Mia had a new look.

552

00:39:34,320 --> 00:39:38,320

For the little girl from Louisville, it was like a dream come true.

553

00:39:40,320 --> 00:39:53,320

I don't think I can ever remember my daughter looking so satisfied, so content, so at ease with herself.

554

00:39:53,320 --> 00:39:56,320

It was all coming together.

555

00:39:57,320 --> 00:39:59,320

Here's to the stand.

556

00:39:59,320 --> 00:40:02,320

July 6, 1993.

557

00:40:02,320 --> 00:40:05,320

The evening began at one of Mia's favorite bars.

558

00:40:05,320 --> 00:40:08,320

She met friends there about ten.

559

00:40:08,320 --> 00:40:10,320

Mia was in town only briefly.

560

00:40:10,320 --> 00:40:16,320

She and the GITS had been on the road for three weeks and the tour was starting in a matter of days.

561

00:40:18,320 --> 00:40:24,320

When Mia left the Comet Tavern, she walked a block east up Pike Street to a local rehearsal studio.

562

00:40:25,320 --> 00:40:31,320

She then visited a friend who lived in an apartment three floors up in the same building.

563

00:40:31,320 --> 00:40:37,320

About 2 a.m. Mia left, telling her friend she planned to take a cab home.

564

00:40:37,320 --> 00:40:39,320

No, I'm going to just go get a cab.

565

00:40:39,320 --> 00:40:41,320

She could have gone anywhere from there.

566

00:40:41,320 --> 00:40:48,320

She could have gone out the front entrance, gone down to the corner and hailed a cab as she told her friend she was going to do.

567

00:40:48,320 --> 00:40:50,320

Hey, Mia!

568

00:40:50,320 --> 00:40:52,320

Oh, hi!

569

00:40:52,320 --> 00:40:53,320

Hey, where are you going?

570

00:40:53,320 --> 00:40:58,320

Because Mia didn't have a driver's license, she took taxis often and knew many of the local cabbies.

571

00:40:58,320 --> 00:41:00,320

You don't need any money.

572

00:41:00,320 --> 00:41:01,320

Come on, hop in.

573

00:41:01,320 --> 00:41:06,320

This led police and private investigator Lee Heron to one of their first scenarios.

574

00:41:06,320 --> 00:41:09,320

Perhaps Mia was murdered by a cab driver.

575

00:41:09,320 --> 00:41:11,320

You looking good?

576

00:41:11,320 --> 00:41:15,320

Mia did not have difficulty expressing her opinion.

577

00:41:15,320 --> 00:41:19,320

And sometimes this got into trouble and other people liked it.

578

00:41:19,320 --> 00:41:25,320

She could have said something to a cab driver that she knew that just made that person angry that night.

579

00:41:27,320 --> 00:41:31,320

Significantly, no cabbie reported picking Mia up that night.

580

00:41:31,320 --> 00:41:36,320

About the same time, the bars were closing and some of her friends were heading cabs of their own.

581

00:41:36,320 --> 00:41:39,320

No one saw Mia.

582

00:41:39,320 --> 00:41:42,320

Scenario number two.

583

00:41:42,320 --> 00:41:45,320

She also could have gone into the opposite direction.

584

00:41:45,320 --> 00:41:47,320

A friend had asked her to spend the night.

585

00:41:47,320 --> 00:41:49,320

She lived about five blocks away.

586

00:41:49,320 --> 00:41:55,320

She could have gone down 11th, passed a reservoir, and something could have occurred there.

587

00:41:57,320 --> 00:42:00,320

In fact, something did occur.

588

00:42:00,320 --> 00:42:05,320

Whether it had anything to do with Mia Zapata's death remains a mystery.

589

00:42:05,320 --> 00:42:11,320

One of the earliest clues that the police received was from a man who had heard a scream, a terrifying scream that night.

590

00:42:11,320 --> 00:42:16,320

He was so distraught by it that he actually rushed to see what was going on, but he saw nothing.

591

00:42:16,320 --> 00:42:23,320

He lived, however, very close to the reservoir on 11th where Mia could have gone if she had gone to visit her friend.

592

00:42:27,320 --> 00:42:29,320

Scenario number three.

593

00:42:29,320 --> 00:42:33,320

Perhaps Mia never left the building where she was last seen.

594

00:42:33,320 --> 00:42:41,320

The next day, one of Mia's friends stopped by the studio there and discovered a Gitz demo tape and Mia's personal microphone.

595

00:42:42,320 --> 00:42:45,320

This is something that she would have been carrying on her at all times.

596

00:42:45,320 --> 00:42:52,320

We don't know whether she left it there after the practice that night or whether she went back to the studio after visiting her friend.

597

00:42:52,320 --> 00:42:55,320

Something happened there and this was simply left.

598

00:42:57,320 --> 00:43:04,320

Mia's body was found about two miles from the studio and about three miles from the street where the man heard screams.

599

00:43:04,320 --> 00:43:09,320

Despite a thorough search of the area, police found little forensic evidence.

600

00:43:12,320 --> 00:43:25,320

This particular investigation has been difficult because we're faced with a situation where we don't know where the actual crime scene was, where the murder took place.

601

00:43:25,320 --> 00:43:29,320

We obviously only know where we found Mia at, which we don't believe is the same.

602

00:43:30,320 --> 00:43:35,320

Had a dream last night that I was dead.

603

00:43:35,320 --> 00:43:42,320

Without a crime scene or witnesses, leads quickly faded. However, the pain of Mia's death did not.

604

00:43:42,320 --> 00:43:51,320

People really were mad. They were angered. They were hurt. They were shocked. They were pissed off.

605

00:43:51,320 --> 00:43:57,320

And people wanted justice and people wanted to know what had happened.

606

00:43:58,320 --> 00:44:07,320

As a police investigation stalled, the remaining gets decided they needed a private investigator and hired Lee Herron.

607

00:44:07,320 --> 00:44:15,320

To raise the necessary funds, they staged benefit concerts. The response was overwhelming.

608

00:44:15,320 --> 00:44:24,320

Seattle's best musicians took up the cause, including Nirvana in one of Kirk Cobain's final performances and rocker Joan Jett.

609

00:44:27,320 --> 00:44:35,320

In their first collaboration, Jett performed Mia's songs with the Gits for a special benefit recording.

610

00:44:35,320 --> 00:44:39,320

I want more than anything for them to be able to find out what happened.

611

00:44:39,320 --> 00:44:50,320

And so there can be some resolution for everybody because everyone's been working real hard trying to find this person who did this.

612

00:44:51,320 --> 00:44:58,320

Who killed Mia Zapata and why? The police believe it was a random murder.

613

00:44:58,320 --> 00:45:07,320

Investigator Lee Herron believes otherwise. She is convinced that Mia knew her killer and that the killer may not have acted alone.

614

00:45:07,320 --> 00:45:15,320

I think it's entirely likely that a second person was involved in transporting Mia's body, if not in the actual homicide.

615

00:45:15,320 --> 00:45:25,320

I base this on the fact that Mia's body was found with her arms out and her legs crossed, as if two people had been carrying her and laid her down.

616

00:45:25,320 --> 00:45:31,320

Also, she had been beaten in the course of her attack, but her face was not touched.

617

00:45:31,320 --> 00:45:40,320

And I believe that this is more the modus operandi of somebody who knows a person and does not want to attack their face but attacks their body.

618

00:45:46,320 --> 00:45:51,320

I just remembered the look on her face of contentment and of accomplishment.

619

00:45:51,320 --> 00:45:58,320

That last day when we finished the tour and how happy she was and how she was smiling and she smiled at me.

620

00:45:58,320 --> 00:46:07,320

With a look of real sense of accomplishment. And like we had a future.

621

00:46:08,320 --> 00:46:19,320

The surviving Gits have gone on with their music, forming a new band, a dancing French Liberals of 48.

622

00:46:19,320 --> 00:46:25,320

It is they believe what Mia would have wanted, but it will never be the same.

623

00:46:25,320 --> 00:46:31,320

Playing music without Mia is very difficult.

624

00:46:31,320 --> 00:46:38,320

The chemistry that we shared as a band, having that gone forever, is a hard reality to face every day.

625

00:46:43,320 --> 00:46:49,320

I remember her as a best friend and a sister.

626

00:46:49,320 --> 00:46:55,320

One of the warmest, most caring I've ever met in my life.

627

00:47:19,320 --> 00:47:35,320

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