

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,760

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries.

2

00:00:05,760 --> 00:00:07,960

It was a blueprint for tragedy.

3

00:00:07,960 --> 00:00:10,840

In Cokeville, Wyoming, a vengeful ex-cop,

4

00:00:10,840 --> 00:00:13,120

armed with a powerful homemade bomb,

5

00:00:13,120 --> 00:00:16,440

commandeered an entire elementary school.

6

00:00:16,440 --> 00:00:19,200

As a crisis escalated, it seemed that only a miracle

7

00:00:19,200 --> 00:00:24,200

could save the lives of more than 100 innocent children.

8

00:00:24,200 --> 00:00:27,160

Bio-account Michael Short is a man with a red heart.

9

00:00:27,760 --> 00:00:30,920

Bio-account Michael Short is a man with a red-hot temper

10

00:00:30,920 --> 00:00:33,480

and an affection for guns.

11

00:00:33,480 --> 00:00:35,480

When his misdeeds landed him in prison,

12

00:00:35,480 --> 00:00:37,920

Short masterminded a daring escape

13

00:00:37,920 --> 00:00:42,000

with the help of his 20-year-old girlfriend.

14

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:45,280

Yonkers, New York, sometimes you need more than luck

15

00:00:45,280 --> 00:00:46,600

to win the lottery.

16

00:00:46,600 --> 00:00:49,480

Just ask Sam Zellikson who says he hit the jackpot

17

00:00:49,480 --> 00:00:53,840

after an eerie visit from beyond the grave.

18

00:00:53,840 --> 00:00:57,120

In Washington, DC, the aftermath of a fatal house fire

19

00:00:57,120 --> 00:00:59,880

yields the unmistakable signs of arson

20

00:00:59,880 --> 00:01:04,760

that launches a manhunt with a killer of a young businesswoman.

21

00:01:04,760 --> 00:01:05,680

Join me.

22

00:01:05,680 --> 00:01:09,680

Perhaps you can help solve one of tonight's unsolved mysteries.

23

00:01:53,840 --> 00:01:58,840

The Story of Melody Woods

24

00:02:06,600 --> 00:02:09,680

17-year-old Melody Woods was not the kind of teenager

25

00:02:09,680 --> 00:02:12,440

anyone ever expected to get into trouble.

26

00:02:12,440 --> 00:02:15,120

She enjoyed school, didn't stay out late,

27

00:02:15,120 --> 00:02:17,640

and had barely begun to cardate.

28

00:02:17,640 --> 00:02:22,000

Then in June of 1994, Melody fell in love.

29

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:23,960

Melody, Michael's here.

30

00:02:23,960 --> 00:02:24,880

I'm coming.

31

00:02:24,880 --> 00:02:26,080

Appreciate it.

32

00:02:26,080 --> 00:02:27,480

Sorry.

33

00:02:27,480 --> 00:02:28,480

Hi.

34

00:02:28,480 --> 00:02:30,160

I guess he met everybody already.

35

00:02:30,160 --> 00:02:31,720

Yeah, we're just getting to know each other a little bit.

36

00:02:31,720 --> 00:02:33,640

His name was Michael Short.

37

00:02:33,640 --> 00:02:35,840

Melody had met him during a summer session

38

00:02:35,840 --> 00:02:39,120

at her high school in Fort Worth, Texas.

39

00:02:39,120 --> 00:02:42,800

Short was 19 years old, and he made a very good first

40

00:02:42,800 --> 00:02:43,800

impression.

41

00:02:43,800 --> 00:02:46,680

Bye.

42

00:02:46,680 --> 00:02:47,960

Seems like a real good kid.

43

00:02:47,960 --> 00:02:50,160

Did you see the way he opened the door for her?

44

00:02:50,160 --> 00:02:52,280

But that first impression evaporated quickly.

45

00:02:55,120 --> 00:02:57,920

Melody's parents never guessed that the man their daughter

46

00:02:57,920 --> 00:03:03,040

loved had a criminal record and a nasty reputation.

47

00:03:03,040 --> 00:03:07,160

Michael's not afraid to use a handgun or a weapon.

48

00:03:07,160 --> 00:03:09,520

Statements from some of his acquaintances

49

00:03:09,520 --> 00:03:15,200

indicated that his favorite pastime was dressing up in black

50

00:03:15,200 --> 00:03:17,120

and shooting at cars and trains.

51

00:03:20,960 --> 00:03:22,960

Six months before he met Melody,

52

00:03:22,960 --> 00:03:25,440

Michael Short and a friend came up behind a couple

53

00:03:25,440 --> 00:03:27,360

driving down the highway.

54

00:03:27,360 --> 00:03:32,360

They were in the fast lane, moving too slow to suit Short.

55

00:03:32,360 --> 00:03:33,880

You ain't gonna drive a speed limit.

56

00:03:33,880 --> 00:03:36,760

You got no business being in the passing lane.

57

00:03:36,760 --> 00:03:38,960

Just pull over and let him drive.

58

00:03:38,960 --> 00:03:40,520

You can go and buy if you want to.

59

00:03:40,520 --> 00:03:41,400

He was right on my tail.

60

00:03:41,400 --> 00:03:44,040

He's starting to bug me.

61

00:03:44,040 --> 00:03:45,400

God, this guy's ticking me off.

62

00:03:50,160 --> 00:03:52,160

Hey grandma, why'd you learn how to drive?

63

00:03:52,160 --> 00:03:55,160

You're lucky I didn't run right over you.

64

00:03:55,160 --> 00:03:57,160

This guy's a little tick.

65

00:03:57,160 --> 00:04:00,160

Short dog the couple for 10 miles,

66

00:04:00,160 --> 00:04:01,160

getting wilder by the minute.

67

00:04:01,160 --> 00:04:02,160

Wild for a game?

68

00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:03,160

I'll put a friend in games.

69

00:04:03,160 --> 00:04:04,160

I'm a little bit there.

70

00:04:04,160 --> 00:04:05,160

Oh my god, honey.

71

00:04:05,160 --> 00:04:06,160

He's got a gun.

72

00:04:06,160 --> 00:04:07,160

Honey, he's got a gun.

73

00:04:07,160 --> 00:04:08,160

Drive to something.

74

00:04:08,160 --> 00:04:09,160

Here you go.

75

00:04:09,160 --> 00:04:10,160

He's freaking out of his mind.

76

00:04:10,160 --> 00:04:11,160

All right.

77

00:04:11,160 --> 00:04:13,160

All right, I'm gonna speed up and I'm gonna break real hard.

78

00:04:13,160 --> 00:04:14,160

All right?

79

00:04:14,160 --> 00:04:16,160

Keep your luck and you won't sue for gas.

80

00:04:16,160 --> 00:04:17,160

What's that mean?

81

00:04:17,160 --> 00:04:18,160

Rude!

82

00:04:18,160 --> 00:04:23,160

The driver was struck once in the shoulder but survived.

83

00:04:23,160 --> 00:04:26,160

Police tracked short by his license plate number

84

00:04:26,160 --> 00:04:28,160

and charged him with attempted murder.

85

00:04:28,160 --> 00:04:31,160

A few months later, while he was out on bail,

86

00:04:31,160 --> 00:04:34,160

he met Melody Woods.

87

00:04:34,160 --> 00:04:36,160

She fell head over heels for Michael and me

88

00:04:36,160 --> 00:04:37,160

from the very first day.

89

00:04:37,160 --> 00:04:40,160

She came home and was so excited about him,

90

00:04:40,160 --> 00:04:42,160

telling me that she was going to be a real killer.

91

00:04:42,160 --> 00:04:44,160

She was like, I'm gonna kill you.

92

00:04:44,160 --> 00:04:46,160

She came home and was so excited about him,

93

00:04:46,160 --> 00:04:48,160

telling me about him and just thought that he was

94

00:04:48,160 --> 00:04:53,160

everything that she had ever wanted.

95

00:04:53,160 --> 00:04:56,160

Melody's parents believe that by the time Melody

96

00:04:56,160 --> 00:05:01,160

learned about Michael's past, she was already under his spell.

97

00:05:01,160 --> 00:05:02,160

I've missed you.

98

00:05:02,160 --> 00:05:08,160

She became real secretive and always away from home

99

00:05:08,160 --> 00:05:10,160

and didn't spend a lot of time with us.

100

00:05:10,160 --> 00:05:13,160

And she never wanted Michael around us very much.

101

00:05:13,160 --> 00:05:14,160

I want you to have this.

102

00:05:14,160 --> 00:05:15,160

It's a beeper.

103

00:05:15,160 --> 00:05:16,160

Duh.

104

00:05:16,160 --> 00:05:17,160

I know what a beeper looks like.

105

00:05:17,160 --> 00:05:20,160

When I call you, I'll punch a 911.

106

00:05:20,160 --> 00:05:22,160

Drop whatever you're doing and give me a call right away.

107

00:05:22,160 --> 00:05:24,160

I don't want to have to worry about you.

108

00:05:24,160 --> 00:05:25,160

Deal?

109

00:05:25,160 --> 00:05:28,160

Deal.

110

00:05:28,160 --> 00:05:30,160

I had to talk with her and I told her,

111

00:05:30,160 --> 00:05:32,160

I said, I'm afraid that, you know,

112

00:05:32,160 --> 00:05:34,160

he's being a little bit too possessive.

113

00:05:34,160 --> 00:05:36,160

And she was like, well, you know,

114

00:05:36,160 --> 00:05:37,160

we just really enjoy being together

115

00:05:37,160 --> 00:05:40,160

and there's really nothing to it and he's not possessive.

116

00:05:40,160 --> 00:05:45,160

And, you know, every time I would try to say anything

117

00:05:45,160 --> 00:05:49,160

about the situation, she didn't want to talk about it.

118

00:05:49,160 --> 00:05:52,160

In March of 1995, Michael Short was found guilty

119

00:05:52,160 --> 00:05:54,160

on the highway shooting incident.

120

00:05:54,160 --> 00:05:58,160

He was sentenced to eight years in prison on a reduced charge,

121

00:05:58,160 --> 00:06:01,160

aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

122

00:06:01,160 --> 00:06:04,160

Melody's parents hoped that would end the affair.

123

00:06:04,160 --> 00:06:08,160

To their dismay, Melody refused to give up on Short.

124

00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:11,160

After the impact of war off, she started talking about,

125

00:06:11,160 --> 00:06:13,160

I can get through this.

126

00:06:13,160 --> 00:06:15,160

You know, I'll make it, it may just be four years

127

00:06:15,160 --> 00:06:19,160

and may not spend eight there, so we'll do the best we can.

128

00:06:19,160 --> 00:06:21,160

I can make it through this.

129

00:06:21,160 --> 00:06:24,160

By all accounts, Short was just determined to remain

130

00:06:24,160 --> 00:06:26,160

a part of Melody's life.

131

00:06:26,160 --> 00:06:30,160

He had access to a jail phone from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

132

00:06:30,160 --> 00:06:34,160

Use it to barrage Melody and her parents with collect calls.

133

00:06:34,160 --> 00:06:35,160

Where are you?

134

00:06:35,160 --> 00:06:38,160

He called us day and night, night and day.

135

00:06:38,160 --> 00:06:40,160

He was relentless with the phone calls.

136

00:06:40,160 --> 00:06:42,160

I mean, they just never would stop.

137

00:06:42,160 --> 00:06:45,160

She had to be at a specific phone,

138

00:06:45,160 --> 00:06:47,160

at a specific time for him to call,

139

00:06:47,160 --> 00:06:49,160

and if she wasn't there, then he was very angry.

140

00:06:49,160 --> 00:06:51,160

And when he did finally get a hold of her,

141

00:06:51,160 --> 00:06:55,160

it would always be a screaming match over the telephones.

142

00:06:55,160 --> 00:06:58,160

Finally, we just had our phones blocked

143

00:06:58,160 --> 00:07:00,160

for many collect calls, because that's the only way

144

00:07:00,160 --> 00:07:02,160

they could call was collect.

145

00:07:02,160 --> 00:07:05,160

And he figured out a way around that,

146

00:07:05,160 --> 00:07:07,160

by calling his parents and getting his parents

147

00:07:07,160 --> 00:07:09,160

to call us on three-way.

148

00:07:09,160 --> 00:07:17,160

The phone calls at first were a blessing for Melody.

149

00:07:17,160 --> 00:07:19,160

I mean, any contact that she could have with him,

150

00:07:19,160 --> 00:07:20,160

she was thrilled to death.

151

00:07:20,160 --> 00:07:21,160

Mom, let it ring.

152

00:07:21,160 --> 00:07:25,160

But as time went along, she started to get a little irritated

153

00:07:25,160 --> 00:07:28,160

because she couldn't do anything.

154

00:07:28,160 --> 00:07:30,160

This has got to stop Melody.

155

00:07:30,160 --> 00:07:32,160

I'm going to have to change this number again.

156

00:07:32,160 --> 00:07:34,160

It's not my fault he keeps calling me.

157

00:07:34,160 --> 00:07:38,160

She started to pull away from it a little bit,

158

00:07:38,160 --> 00:07:41,160

but then the calls would intensify,

159

00:07:41,160 --> 00:07:43,160

and Michael would say,

160

00:07:43,160 --> 00:07:46,160

you just don't understand how horrible it is for me here.

161

00:07:46,160 --> 00:07:48,160

You're the only thing I've got.

162

00:07:48,160 --> 00:07:51,160

You know, you can't, you can't forsake me now.

163

00:07:51,160 --> 00:07:52,160

You're my soulmate, you know,

164

00:07:52,160 --> 00:07:54,160

and just really would make her feel bad.

165

00:07:54,160 --> 00:07:57,160

So then she would go back to accepting all the phone calls.

166

00:07:58,160 --> 00:08:02,160

From jail, short-controlled Melody's every move

167

00:08:02,160 --> 00:08:04,160

for more than a year.

168

00:08:04,160 --> 00:08:07,160

Even his fellow inmates called him the little bully.

169

00:08:07,160 --> 00:08:11,160

On June 7th, 1996, authorities learned the full extent

170

00:08:11,160 --> 00:08:13,160

of his power over Melody.

171

00:08:16,160 --> 00:08:19,160

That morning, Melody and a girlfriend

172

00:08:19,160 --> 00:08:22,160

waited in a borrowed van outside the prison walls.

173

00:08:23,160 --> 00:08:25,160

Melody.

174

00:08:25,160 --> 00:08:27,160

Melody, maybe we should go.

175

00:08:27,160 --> 00:08:30,160

It's 7.45. He says Jim ends at 7.30.

176

00:08:30,160 --> 00:08:32,160

Chrissy, just hang on a few more minutes, okay?

177

00:08:32,160 --> 00:08:34,160

He's going to be here.

178

00:08:34,160 --> 00:08:37,160

All right, Rex over. Let's go, guys.

179

00:08:37,160 --> 00:08:38,160

You know the drill.

180

00:08:38,160 --> 00:08:40,160

Line it up two to time for the gate.

181

00:08:40,160 --> 00:08:42,160

It's about to fall.

182

00:08:42,160 --> 00:08:44,160

Let's go, Rex over.

183

00:08:44,160 --> 00:08:45,160

Before anyone could react,

184

00:08:45,160 --> 00:08:47,160

short made a bold break for freedom.

185

00:08:47,160 --> 00:08:49,160

After the break,

186

00:08:49,160 --> 00:08:50,160

when anyone could react,

187

00:08:50,160 --> 00:08:52,160

short made a bold break for freedom.

188

00:08:56,160 --> 00:08:58,160

Hey, short, hold it.

189

00:08:58,160 --> 00:09:00,160

Stop, or I'll shoot.

190

00:09:10,160 --> 00:09:12,160

Chrissy, start it up. He's coming.

191

00:09:20,160 --> 00:09:22,160

Go, go, go!

192

00:09:25,160 --> 00:09:27,160

Start to finish.

193

00:09:27,160 --> 00:09:30,160

The entire escape took less than one minute.

194

00:09:35,160 --> 00:09:38,160

At a nearby motel, short changed clothes

195

00:09:38,160 --> 00:09:40,160

and switched from the van to Melody's car.

196

00:09:45,160 --> 00:09:47,160

Hey, be careful, okay?

197

00:09:47,160 --> 00:09:49,160

I will, all right?

198

00:09:49,160 --> 00:09:50,160

I'll call you.

199

00:09:50,160 --> 00:09:52,160

I'll ring once and then hang up,

200

00:09:52,160 --> 00:09:54,160

and no one will see me, okay?

201

00:09:54,160 --> 00:09:56,160

When he left, he took Melody with him,

202

00:09:56,160 --> 00:09:58,160

possibly against her will.

203

00:10:03,160 --> 00:10:06,160

Based on my conversation with her friend,

204

00:10:06,160 --> 00:10:09,160

she indicated to me that Melody had every intention

205

00:10:09,160 --> 00:10:11,160

of coming home that night

206

00:10:11,160 --> 00:10:13,160

and that she would get in touch with her

207

00:10:13,160 --> 00:10:15,160

when she got home.

208

00:10:15,160 --> 00:10:17,160

I personally don't believe that Melody had any intentions

209

00:10:17,160 --> 00:10:19,160

on leaving with him.

210

00:10:19,160 --> 00:10:22,160

There's a lot of things she didn't take with her.

211

00:10:22,160 --> 00:10:27,160

There was clothes and girl things,

212

00:10:27,160 --> 00:10:30,160

like rollers and hairdryers

213

00:10:30,160 --> 00:10:32,160

and just a bunch of stuff.

214

00:10:32,160 --> 00:10:35,160

I just don't believe she had any intentions on leaving.

215

00:10:38,160 --> 00:10:40,160

The only thing that we've received from Melody

216

00:10:40,160 --> 00:10:42,160

since her disappearance was one postcard

217

00:10:42,160 --> 00:10:44,160

from Chattanooga, Tennessee,

218

00:10:44,160 --> 00:10:47,160

and the only thing that that postcard said was,

219

00:10:47,160 --> 00:10:51,160

I'm okay, I'm sorry, and I love you very much.

220

00:10:51,160 --> 00:10:54,160

That was about a week after her disappearance,

221

00:10:54,160 --> 00:10:57,160

and there's been nothing since.

222

00:10:57,160 --> 00:11:01,160

What concerns me the most about Melody's disappearance

223

00:11:01,160 --> 00:11:05,160

is that just that she's disappeared

224

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

and we've had three unconfirmed sightings of Michael.

225

00:11:09,160 --> 00:11:13,160

Nobody has ever seen Melody

226

00:11:13,160 --> 00:11:15,160

and one would have to wonder,

227

00:11:15,160 --> 00:11:18,160

has she already become a liability to him?

228

00:11:37,160 --> 00:11:41,160

In a moment, when a madman takes an elementary school hostage,

229

00:11:41,160 --> 00:11:45,160

the residents of a small town can only pray for a miracle.

230

00:11:45,160 --> 00:11:48,160

But first, was a young businesswoman murdered

231

00:11:48,160 --> 00:11:52,160

to keep her from blowing the whistle on illegal banking activities?

232

00:12:06,160 --> 00:12:10,160

December 11, 1995, 3.30 a.m.

233

00:12:10,160 --> 00:12:12,160

Fire units race to a blaze

234

00:12:12,160 --> 00:12:16,160

in the fashionable Georgetown District of Washington, D.C.

235

00:12:16,160 --> 00:12:19,160

A resident had been awakened by a fire alarm

236

00:12:19,160 --> 00:12:24,160

and phoned 911 to report seeing flames in a neighboring townhouse.

237

00:12:33,160 --> 00:12:36,160

Once inside, firefighters discover that the blaze

238

00:12:36,160 --> 00:12:39,160

was restricted to the upstairs bedroom.

239

00:12:39,160 --> 00:12:42,160

In fact, it was confined to the bed itself.

240

00:12:49,160 --> 00:12:52,160

Initially, it appeared that nobody was home.

241

00:12:52,160 --> 00:12:54,160

But as the smoke began to clear,

242

00:12:54,160 --> 00:12:56,160

the firefighters were stunned to discover

243

00:12:56,160 --> 00:12:58,160

that the bed was occupied by a woman,

244

00:12:58,160 --> 00:13:02,160

barely breathing, but incredibly still alive.

245

00:13:05,160 --> 00:13:08,160

38-year-old Lynn Amos was a financial analyst

246

00:13:08,160 --> 00:13:11,160

who had been living in Washington for just five months.

247

00:13:11,160 --> 00:13:13,160

She was rushed to Washington Hospital Center

248

00:13:13,160 --> 00:13:16,160

with third-degree burns, over 80% of her body.

249

00:13:18,160 --> 00:13:23,160

One of the nurses who saw her when she first was taken to the hospital

250

00:13:23,160 --> 00:13:28,160

told us later on that she asked Lynn when she was brought in

251

00:13:28,160 --> 00:13:31,160

if she knew what happened, and Lynn shook her head no.

252

00:13:32,160 --> 00:13:35,160

At first, investigators believed it was an accident.

253

00:13:35,160 --> 00:13:38,160

Lynn's blood alcohol content was .25,

254

00:13:38,160 --> 00:13:42,160

two and a half times a legal limit for driving in Washington, D.C.

255

00:13:43,160 --> 00:13:47,160

That fact, coupled with the discovery of a cigarette butt,

256

00:13:47,160 --> 00:13:50,160

seemed to indicate that Lynn Amos had been smoking in bed.

257

00:13:51,160 --> 00:13:54,160

But Lynn's friends and family rejected that scenario.

258

00:13:56,160 --> 00:13:58,160

Well, Lynn didn't smoke.

259

00:13:58,160 --> 00:14:00,160

I smoked until recently.

260

00:14:00,160 --> 00:14:03,160

If you're a closet smoker, you certainly smoke with your friends who smoke.

261

00:14:03,160 --> 00:14:05,160

There were no dirty ashtrays in the house.

262

00:14:05,160 --> 00:14:07,160

There were no matches. There were no cigarette packs.

263

00:14:07,160 --> 00:14:10,160

There was no evidence that she was smoking in bed.

264

00:14:13,160 --> 00:14:17,160

Within a few days, the police had to rethink their initial assumption.

265

00:14:17,160 --> 00:14:20,160

When insurance investigators came to the house,

266

00:14:20,160 --> 00:14:24,160

they found the presence of accelerants on the mattress, floor and pillow.

267

00:14:24,160 --> 00:14:28,160

They concluded that the fire had been deliberately set.

268

00:14:29,160 --> 00:14:33,160

The insurance investigators report showed that there was a combination

269

00:14:33,160 --> 00:14:36,160

of kerosene, gasoline and turpentine.

270

00:14:36,160 --> 00:14:42,160

And the doctor has told me that her burns were consistent with those from a fire

271

00:14:42,160 --> 00:14:44,160

that was accelerated.

272

00:14:44,160 --> 00:14:48,160

He told me at the hospital, he couldn't believe that only she in the bed burned.

273

00:14:49,160 --> 00:14:54,160

He said she looked like the result of a house having been burned around her.

274

00:14:58,160 --> 00:15:02,160

Lynn Amos hung on for 10 days, barely conscious and unable to speak.

275

00:15:02,160 --> 00:15:06,160

On December 21st, 1995, she passed away.

276

00:15:06,160 --> 00:15:11,160

A month later, the cause of death was officially listed as homicide.

277

00:15:13,160 --> 00:15:17,160

But who would want Lynn Amos dead? And why?

278

00:15:17,160 --> 00:15:22,160

She seemed an unlikely target, friendly, outgoing with no known enemies.

279

00:15:22,160 --> 00:15:25,160

But Lynn Amos apparently did have her secrets.

280

00:15:25,160 --> 00:15:30,160

In the weeks before she died, she abruptly stopped talking to her friends about her job.

281

00:15:30,160 --> 00:15:33,160

When pressed, she refused to elaborate.

282

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

To those who knew her best, a motive for Lynn's murder began to emerge.

283

00:15:40,160 --> 00:15:44,160

Lynn Amos had moved to Washington in August of 1995

284

00:15:44,160 --> 00:15:47,160

to take a position with a management consulting firm.

285

00:15:47,160 --> 00:15:50,160

As part of her job, she made frequent trips to Mexico

286

00:15:50,160 --> 00:15:54,160

to assess the lending practices of several large Mexican banks.

287

00:15:56,160 --> 00:16:01,160

Less than a month before the fire, Lynn had lunch with her close friend Emily Smith

288

00:16:01,160 --> 00:16:05,160

and offered the first indication that she was sitting on top of a bombshell.

289

00:16:07,160 --> 00:16:11,160

I realized when we were having lunch that I didn't know what she was working on

290

00:16:11,160 --> 00:16:14,160

and that was unusual because we talked about work a lot.

291

00:16:14,160 --> 00:16:17,160

We did sort of similar types things.

292

00:16:17,160 --> 00:16:19,160

So tell me about work.

293

00:16:19,160 --> 00:16:24,160

Well, I've been working on this project for the Mexican equivalent of the Federal Reserve.

294

00:16:24,160 --> 00:16:26,160

What are you doing?

295

00:16:26,160 --> 00:16:30,160

I'm in charge of examining credit issues.

296

00:16:30,160 --> 00:16:34,160

And I've seen some very bad lending practices.

297

00:16:35,160 --> 00:16:39,160

I waited and it was clear she wasn't going to say more.

298

00:16:39,160 --> 00:16:42,160

So I said, well, is your report going to be ugly?

299

00:16:42,160 --> 00:16:45,160

And she said, yes, it's going to be really ugly.

300

00:16:45,160 --> 00:16:48,160

And that was all she would say.

301

00:16:48,160 --> 00:16:51,160

They have great eggs Benedict here.

302

00:16:51,160 --> 00:16:54,160

On Sunday, December 10th, the day before the fire,

303

00:16:54,160 --> 00:16:59,160

Lynn once again hinted to friends that she was privy to some explosive information.

304

00:16:59,160 --> 00:17:00,160

That is not true.

305

00:17:00,160 --> 00:17:02,160

So how are things at the office?

306

00:17:02,160 --> 00:17:04,160

Are you still on that project with the banks?

307

00:17:04,160 --> 00:17:06,160

Yeah.

308

00:17:06,160 --> 00:17:10,160

I've seen some dangerous things in Mexico.

309

00:17:11,160 --> 00:17:15,160

He at the time thought it was a very strange comment to make.

310

00:17:15,160 --> 00:17:19,160

It wasn't the kind of dangerous the way she said it.

311

00:17:19,160 --> 00:17:26,160

In other words, she didn't mean I'm feeling a little dangerous and uncomfortable where I'm living.

312

00:17:26,160 --> 00:17:28,160

I'm living on a safe neighborhood.

313

00:17:28,160 --> 00:17:30,160

It wasn't that kind of dangerous.

314

00:17:30,160 --> 00:17:36,160

She definitely meant to me that she had seen literally some dangerous things in what she was working on.

315

00:17:37,160 --> 00:17:40,160

I'm purely speculating here.

316

00:17:40,160 --> 00:17:48,160

But it's possible that she bumped into a loan having to do with drug money or a fraudulent loan.

317

00:17:48,160 --> 00:17:52,160

That's the sort of thing you might bump into when you're reviewing credit portfolios.

318

00:17:53,160 --> 00:17:55,160

Hey, it's Lynn. What are you working on?

319

00:17:55,160 --> 00:17:59,160

The last time anyone spoke to Lynn Amos was at 10 o'clock that night.

320

00:17:59,160 --> 00:18:01,160

We're working on the credit checks.

321

00:18:01,160 --> 00:18:07,160

We do know that she called her office to confirm that she was going to be late for work the next day.

322

00:18:07,160 --> 00:18:09,160

Maybe 12. We've got a doctor's appointment.

323

00:18:11,160 --> 00:18:13,160

No, no, I'm okay. It's no big deal.

324

00:18:13,160 --> 00:18:22,160

So we know Lynn was at home. Lucid, completely fine, had a 30-minute conversation at 10 o'clock at night.

325

00:18:22,160 --> 00:18:27,160

At 10.30, she then, we then don't know what happened.

326

00:18:27,160 --> 00:18:35,160

When we first told our attorney how Lynn was killed, his first statement was that's a professional hit.

327

00:18:36,160 --> 00:18:45,160

The fire detective who came to the scene said that it had all the indications that this was a controlled fire.

328

00:18:45,160 --> 00:18:51,160

That somebody was there making sure that this fire didn't do more than it needed to do.

329

00:18:54,160 --> 00:18:59,160

Lynn's friends and family believe that sometime after midnight, the killer broke into the townhouse.

330

00:18:59,160 --> 00:19:03,160

Because there were no signs of forced entry, he may have had a key.

331

00:19:06,160 --> 00:19:11,160

You do what I tell you, and I'm gonna have to use this. Let's go.

332

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

The intruder may have then forced Lynn to swallow enough alcohol to render her unconscious.

333

00:19:24,160 --> 00:19:41,160

To achieve the level of alcohol that she was found with, it takes between 9 and 14 glass drinks in an hour for a woman her size, which is almost impossible to consume.

334

00:19:41,160 --> 00:19:45,160

That means you have a new drink every 4 to 7 minutes.

335

00:19:45,160 --> 00:19:53,160

According to the scenario, the intruder then set about making Lynn's death look like an accident.

336

00:20:15,160 --> 00:20:21,160

What was done to Lin Amis is so horrible, I really do not have the words to describe it.

337

00:20:21,160 --> 00:20:30,160

Lynn was just a great friend. She was really fun. She loved life. And people should not be allowed to get away with that.

338

00:20:33,160 --> 00:20:38,160

It's interesting to note that Lin Amis never completed her report on the Mexican banks.

339

00:20:39,160 --> 00:20:46,160

Lin's former employer declined to appear on camera for this segment. In a letter to one's solve mysteries, he wrote,

340

00:20:46,160 --> 00:20:53,160

We are troubled by the same questions being asked by investigators. We can only hope that forensic science will provide some answers.

341

00:20:55,160 --> 00:21:05,160

In a moment, the remarkable story of Sam Zellikson, who says he hit the lottery jackpot with help from an unlikely source, the spirit of his deceased son.

342

00:21:05,160 --> 00:21:14,160

And later, a small town faces unspeakable tragedy when a deranged ex-cop and his wife sees control of the local elementary school.

343

00:21:14,160 --> 00:21:19,160

The End

344

00:21:28,160 --> 00:21:37,160

Meet Sam Zellikson of Yonkers, New York. The voted father, loving grandfather, a now-to-were self-made businessman.

345

00:21:37,160 --> 00:21:44,160

Sam had been through just about everything a man could go through, until the morning of January 16, 1991.

346

00:21:44,160 --> 00:21:48,160

Sam Zellikson

347

00:21:59,160 --> 00:22:01,160

Clought for an ambulance here, Gary.

348

00:22:02,160 --> 00:22:07,160

No one who witnessed the accident could have imagined that Sam survived, but Sam proved them wrong.

349

00:22:07,160 --> 00:22:13,160

Or above all else, Sam Zellikson is a survivor, the very definition of resilience.

350

00:22:17,160 --> 00:22:24,160

It was 1941. Sam was 12 years old when the German army marched into his homeland at Latvia.

351

00:22:25,160 --> 00:22:30,160

The Zellickson and the Valk Jews were sent to a ghetto, and later a concentration camp.

352

00:22:31,160 --> 00:22:40,160

Sam was one of the lucky ones. He survived the Holocaust. But tragically, by the time he was liberated, Sam had lost his entire family.

353

00:22:43,160 --> 00:22:47,160

After the war, Sam moved to New York City, married and had five children.

354

00:22:48,160 --> 00:22:52,160

Then in 1986, he suffered another devastating blow.

355

00:22:53,160 --> 00:22:59,160

His only son, Barry, the pride of the family, died of cancer a week short of his 27th birthday.

356

00:23:02,160 --> 00:23:07,160

For Sam and his wife, Janice, the heartbreak of losing their only son was almost too much to bear.

357

00:23:10,160 --> 00:23:19,160

He was wonderful. He loved the family. He was worried by the younger sisters.

358

00:23:20,160 --> 00:23:27,160

He was protective. And he loved us very much. And we love him very much.

359

00:23:29,160 --> 00:23:38,160

My brother was the good sheep, the spirit of my family. My brother was always trying to make everybody happy.

360

00:23:40,160 --> 00:23:44,160

Although Barry was gone, his spirit and memory served a whole family together.

361

00:23:44,160 --> 00:23:50,160

By 1991, it seemed the worst was behind them. Then came the day of Sam's accident.

362

00:23:55,160 --> 00:23:58,160

All things considered, Sam came through in pretty good shape.

363

00:23:59,160 --> 00:24:03,160

A sprained neck, two broken ribs, a single cut on his forehead.

364

00:24:04,160 --> 00:24:07,160

After two weeks in the hospital, Sam was ready to go home.

365

00:24:08,160 --> 00:24:11,160

You look 100% better than when you came in here.

366

00:24:11,160 --> 00:24:20,160

You're right, my Israel. I was generally laying in bed and saying my prayer quietly.

367

00:24:21,160 --> 00:24:26,160

But this time, I felt like an arm touched me.

368

00:24:28,160 --> 00:24:35,160

And I stunned at the moment. And as I looked, I saw a son of my son.

369

00:24:36,160 --> 00:24:38,160

Like he was in a shroud.

370

00:24:39,160 --> 00:24:41,160

Barry, my boy.

371

00:24:43,160 --> 00:24:44,160

Barry.

372

00:24:45,160 --> 00:24:52,160

I couldn't believe it. I thought he came back to me. I thought God gave him a new life.

373

00:24:55,160 --> 00:25:00,160

Sam just stared, blocking a profound silent exchange with the spirit of his deceased son.

374

00:25:01,160 --> 00:25:07,160

The spell was abruptly broken when another patient began to jabber about the state lottery.

375

00:25:08,160 --> 00:25:12,160

Look Sam, look what day it is today. It's a 90 million dollar day.

376

00:25:13,160 --> 00:25:15,160

Look Sam, it's what they call the superlotto.

377

00:25:16,160 --> 00:25:18,160

It's 90 million dollars today, Sam.

378

00:25:20,160 --> 00:25:28,160

When Barry disappeared, I thought there was a sign and I had to play the lotto.

379

00:25:28,160 --> 00:25:38,160

Because he moved me towards it. He told me to play in a certain way.

380

00:25:41,160 --> 00:25:47,160

That afternoon, Sam came home from the hospital. His wife and daughters tried to keep him calm.

381

00:25:48,160 --> 00:25:50,160

But all Sam cared about was buying his lottery tickets.

382

00:25:51,160 --> 00:25:53,160

Thank you. First of all, do me a favor.

383

00:25:54,160 --> 00:25:59,160

The first thing you do, I want you to go up to my room. The top drawer in my bureau. There's money in it.

384

00:26:00,160 --> 00:26:04,160

Take it out and bring it down here. I want you to buy lottery tickets with it.

385

00:26:05,160 --> 00:26:06,160

Lottery tickets for what?

386

00:26:07,160 --> 00:26:14,160

Yes, because Barry came to me in the hospital and he said buy tickets to the lottery. It's the 90 million dollar lottery.

387

00:26:15,160 --> 00:26:18,160

When my dad came home from the hospital, he was really insistent that we play the lotto.

388

00:26:18,160 --> 00:26:22,160

He had this feeling that my brother was pushing him to buy a lotto ticket.

389

00:26:23,160 --> 00:26:31,160

And he kept telling us, let's play the lotto. We have to play the lotto. Barry was there. This was a sign from heaven that we need to play the lotto.

390

00:26:34,160 --> 00:26:35,160

So do you know what numbers you want to play, Dad?

391

00:26:36,160 --> 00:26:44,160

The Zellixons bought 16 tickets at a dollar apiece. 16 different combinations of six numbers for a chance to win 90 million dollars.

392

00:26:45,160 --> 00:26:48,160

Sam's overwhelming confidence slowly spread to the rest of the family.

393

00:26:51,160 --> 00:26:57,160

When we went to buy the lotto tickets, there was a feeling of buying it to please my father.

394

00:26:58,160 --> 00:27:06,160

And then there was this other feeling that, well, maybe something might come so you never know. Anything in life can happen.

395

00:27:07,160 --> 00:27:16,160

Nobody knows that better than Sam's Zellixon. That evening, he made sure his entire family was gathered around for the drawing of the winning numbers.

396

00:27:18,160 --> 00:27:23,160

Now tonight's winning super lotto numbers. The first winning number is 46.

397

00:27:24,160 --> 00:27:29,160

1946. The year Sam left the refugee camp after World War II.

398

00:27:30,160 --> 00:27:32,160

Tonight's second winning number is 50.

399

00:27:33,160 --> 00:27:35,160

The year Sam came to America.

400

00:27:36,160 --> 00:27:40,160

The third winning number is 35.

401

00:27:41,160 --> 00:27:43,160

The number of years Sam and Janice had been married.

402

00:27:44,160 --> 00:27:47,160

Tonight's fourth winning number is five.

403

00:27:48,160 --> 00:27:50,160

The number of children in the Zellixon family.

404

00:27:51,160 --> 00:27:55,160

The fifth winning number for tonight is 30.

405

00:27:56,160 --> 00:27:57,160

Daughter Denise's age.

406

00:27:58,160 --> 00:28:03,160

And the sixth winning super lotto number to Winnersshare, \$90 million, is 15.

407

00:28:04,160 --> 00:28:08,160

Son Barry's birthday, July 15, 1959.

408

00:28:14,160 --> 00:28:18,160

When we won, my dad smiled like an angel.

409

00:28:19,160 --> 00:28:22,160

It was as if he knew that he really did see my brother.

410

00:28:23,160 --> 00:28:26,160

He was so happy, and I've never seen him glow like that.

411

00:28:27,160 --> 00:28:30,160

He was so happy, and I've never seen him in my life.

412

00:28:31,160 --> 00:28:35,160

The odds of Sam's special numbers winning the lottery were 13 million to one.

413

00:28:36,160 --> 00:28:40,160

Sam is convinced that the loving spirit of his son improved his odds considerably.

414

00:28:41,160 --> 00:28:47,160

My son Barry definitely was responsible for winning the lotto.

415

00:28:48,160 --> 00:28:54,160

He definitely gave me the gift. You know, God works in a mysterious way.

416

00:28:54,160 --> 00:29:00,160

He takes away the best thing in your life, but they give you back a little in return.

417

00:29:01,160 --> 00:29:04,160

I felt it was like a gift. It was a gift from Barry for my son.

418

00:29:05,160 --> 00:29:06,160

And that's how I felt.

419

00:29:08,160 --> 00:29:16,160

Barry wanted his father, his mother, and his sisters should have a happy life

420

00:29:17,160 --> 00:29:21,160

and to help other people that cannot be helped.

421

00:29:21,160 --> 00:29:24,160

Because he was that kind of person, Barry.

422

00:29:25,160 --> 00:29:29,160

As it turned out, the Zellick'sans were not the only winners at night.

423

00:29:30,160 --> 00:29:36,160

Eight other people also hit the jackpot, making each ticket worth slightly more than ten million dollars.

424

00:29:39,160 --> 00:29:46,160

Sam and his family will continue to receive annual payments of roughly \$475,000 until the year 2011.

425

00:29:47,160 --> 00:29:53,160

To honor the memory of their son Barry, they have donated a significant portion of the proceeds to charity,

426

00:29:54,160 --> 00:29:57,160

a tradition they plan to uphold with each coming year.

427

00:30:00,160 --> 00:30:05,160

Next, a powerful homemade bomb demolishes a crowded school classroom,

428

00:30:06,160 --> 00:30:12,160

yet not a single child is seriously injured, an extraordinary piece of luck, or a case of divine intervention.

429

00:30:17,160 --> 00:30:19,160

The Zellick'sans

430

00:30:28,160 --> 00:30:31,160

They wheeled it into the school just after the lunch hour recess,

431

00:30:32,160 --> 00:30:36,160

a homemade bomb packing the brute force of 25 sticks of dynamite.

432

00:30:39,160 --> 00:30:40,160

No futs and around, over there, my friend.

433

00:30:40,160 --> 00:30:46,160

They herded everyone at the school, 136 students and 17 adults into one small room.

434

00:30:48,160 --> 00:30:49,160

What is all this?

435

00:30:49,160 --> 00:30:51,160

Look, shut up and sit down!

436

00:30:52,160 --> 00:30:55,160

His name was David Young, and he was no stranger to Cookville, Wyoming.

437

00:30:56,160 --> 00:31:00,160

He had served briefly as a town policeman before he was fired from misconduct.

438

00:31:01,160 --> 00:31:05,160

Young's resentment had mushroomed into a full-blown messianic tirade.

439

00:31:06,160 --> 00:31:09,160

It's a scenario that is now chillingly familiar.

440

00:31:10,160 --> 00:31:13,160

Innocent lives hanging by a thread at the whim of a suicidal madman.

441

00:31:14,160 --> 00:31:19,160

But 10 years ago when David Young and his wife, Dora, stormed the elementary school in Cookville, Wyoming,

442

00:31:20,160 --> 00:31:22,160

such horrors were still fresh and incomprehensible.

443

00:31:23,160 --> 00:31:27,160

To the people of Cookville, it seemed only a miracle could save their loved ones.

444

00:31:30,160 --> 00:31:31,160

Hey, listen!

445

00:31:31,160 --> 00:31:35,160

You are all part of a great revolution, when it began many years ago.

446

00:31:36,160 --> 00:31:39,160

The government and its schools have filled your mind with lies.

447

00:31:40,160 --> 00:31:44,160

David Young made it clear that he was prepared to kill himself and everyone in the room.

448

00:31:45,160 --> 00:31:46,160

Read it!

449

00:31:46,160 --> 00:31:50,160

Virtually every child in Cookville between the ages of 5 and 12 was at his mercy.

450

00:31:51,160 --> 00:31:54,160

Among them, Melanie Chadwick, then 8 years old.

451

00:31:55,160 --> 00:31:57,160

I didn't really realize what was happening, you know.

452

00:31:57,160 --> 00:32:02,160

Because I remember one of my friends, older brother Kevin Nate, his older brother Brian,

453

00:32:03,160 --> 00:32:07,160

he's like, well we're being held hostage and I remember Kevin saying, well what does hostage mean, you know.

454

00:32:08,160 --> 00:32:12,160

We were really young and we didn't realize what was happening.

455

00:32:13,160 --> 00:32:16,160

And when the time comes you will fully understand the plan I have for you.

456

00:32:17,160 --> 00:32:18,160

Now so far you've been pretty good.

457

00:32:19,160 --> 00:32:22,160

But if any of you tries to escape, we're going to have to shoot you.

458

00:32:22,160 --> 00:32:28,160

David told the kids that he would shoot them in the legs so that they couldn't run away.

459

00:32:29,160 --> 00:32:32,160

He said, we don't want to hurt you, but if you try to run away we will.

460

00:32:33,160 --> 00:32:34,160

You! Come here.

461

00:32:35,160 --> 00:32:36,160

You the principal?

462

00:32:37,160 --> 00:32:38,160

Yes, I am.

463

00:32:39,160 --> 00:32:40,160

Okay, you'll be my spokesman.

464

00:32:41,160 --> 00:32:43,160

You tell them I want two million dollars a piece for each of these kids.

465

00:32:44,160 --> 00:32:46,160

And you tell them I'm attached to you.

466

00:32:47,160 --> 00:32:49,160

I'm not going to let you go.

467

00:32:49,160 --> 00:32:51,160

I'm going to let you go if you try to escape.

468

00:32:52,160 --> 00:32:53,160

But I'm going to let you go.

469

00:32:54,160 --> 00:32:57,160

You tell them I'm attached to you, you tell them I'm going to let you go.

470

00:32:58,160 --> 00:33:01,160

If I go down and this wedge pulls out this school blows sky high.

471

00:33:02,160 --> 00:33:03,160

We're about half an inch from death.

472

00:33:04,160 --> 00:33:06,160

News of the crisis flashed through Cokeville and beyond.

473

00:33:07,160 --> 00:33:08,160

Police converged on the scene.

474

00:33:09,160 --> 00:33:11,160

Dev, all four of my children in there.

475

00:33:12,160 --> 00:33:16,160

Distraught parents confronted the sheriff determined to take matters into their own hands.

476

00:33:16,160 --> 00:33:18,160

The radio said that there's a bomb.

477

00:33:18,160 --> 00:33:19,160

They want it.

478

00:33:19,160 --> 00:33:21,160

They take the rifle and put it back in your rear.

479

00:33:21,160 --> 00:33:22,600

Listen, I got my boys in there.

480

00:33:22,600 --> 00:33:25,400

If you can't get them out, I will.

481

00:33:25,400 --> 00:33:28,200

David Young was a veritable human fuse.

482

00:33:28,200 --> 00:33:30,560

One tug of his wrist could destroy the school

483

00:33:30,560 --> 00:33:34,200

room and everyone in it.

484

00:33:34,200 --> 00:33:35,120

OK, now get out of the way.

485

00:33:35,120 --> 00:33:36,240

Come on.

486

00:33:36,240 --> 00:33:39,600

At one time, one of the children jostled Mr. Young,

487

00:33:39,600 --> 00:33:41,920

and he became quite upset.

488

00:33:41,920 --> 00:33:45,360

I guess he didn't want to set the bomb off.

489

00:33:45,360 --> 00:33:48,000

And either Mr. Mitchell or Mr. Moore

490

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:53,520

suggested that they put tape in an area about a nine foot

491

00:33:53,520 --> 00:33:57,480

square on the floor, what they called a magic square,

492

00:33:57,480 --> 00:34:00,960

so that the youngsters would not step inside that square

493

00:34:00,960 --> 00:34:04,320

and would not jostle Mr. Young's arm.

494

00:34:04,320 --> 00:34:06,680

There was at one point, we kept thinking, well, maybe someone

495

00:34:06,680 --> 00:34:08,360

can shoot him from the outside.

496

00:34:08,360 --> 00:34:10,360

And I'd say no.

497

00:34:10,360 --> 00:34:13,160

At the time, Amy Bagasso was 10 years old.

498

00:34:13,160 --> 00:34:15,000

I remember thinking, oh my gosh, I am going to die.

499

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:17,560

You know, I'm not going to see my family.

500

00:34:17,560 --> 00:34:19,240

How am I going to get this isn't, I'm not

501

00:34:19,240 --> 00:34:20,240

going to be able to grow up.

502

00:34:20,240 --> 00:34:22,200

I'm not going to be able to get my driver's license.

503

00:34:22,200 --> 00:34:24,120

I'm not going to be able to do anything.

504

00:34:24,120 --> 00:34:26,120

May we please open some doors and windows

505

00:34:26,120 --> 00:34:27,120

and let some air in here.

506

00:34:27,120 --> 00:34:29,360

The fumes are making the kids sick.

507

00:34:29,360 --> 00:34:32,720

There are a lot of children getting ill from, you know,

508

00:34:32,720 --> 00:34:36,840

throwing up and so forth from the smell of the gasoline fumes.

509

00:34:36,840 --> 00:34:39,520

As the time went on and the fumes got stronger,

510

00:34:39,520 --> 00:34:43,240

most of us felt pretty nauseated.

511

00:34:43,240 --> 00:34:46,400

Our dear heavenly father, we thank you for that watch.

512

00:34:46,400 --> 00:34:49,040

We prayed a lot.

513

00:34:49,040 --> 00:34:51,440

I remember just sitting there with my hands clenched so tight,

514

00:34:51,440 --> 00:34:52,920

you know, just praying, heavenly father,

515

00:34:52,920 --> 00:34:57,880

that to let something happen, you know.

516

00:34:57,880 --> 00:35:00,400

Many of those in the classroom believe that the praying

517

00:35:00,400 --> 00:35:02,640

heralded a coming miracle.

518

00:35:02,640 --> 00:35:04,680

First, David Young became agitated

519

00:35:04,680 --> 00:35:05,920

and appeared to lose confidence.

520

00:35:08,760 --> 00:35:12,160

Moments later, he had a control of the bomb over to his wife

521

00:35:12,280 --> 00:35:13,040

and left the room.

522

00:35:17,080 --> 00:35:20,400

By then, the children had been immobile for nearly two hours.

523

00:35:20,400 --> 00:35:23,120

They were restless, eerily.

524

00:35:23,120 --> 00:35:24,960

Could you please do something about the noise

525

00:35:24,960 --> 00:35:28,320

and help me get these kids quiet right now?

526

00:35:28,320 --> 00:35:31,640

Eyewitnesses remember Doris Young gesturing carelessly,

527

00:35:31,640 --> 00:35:34,600

even though one false move would trigger a catastrophic

528

00:35:34,600 --> 00:35:35,600

explosion.

529

00:35:35,600 --> 00:35:37,200

We have to move around a little bit.

530

00:35:37,200 --> 00:35:39,040

And we can get everybody from that side.

531

00:35:39,040 --> 00:35:40,560

We can move some of the kids over here,

532

00:35:40,560 --> 00:35:42,040

then we can move some of the kids over here.

533

00:35:42,040 --> 00:36:10,440

I had a fifth grader, third grader, and a first grader in that room.

534

00:36:10,440 --> 00:36:13,240

When I seen that smoke coming out of the windows,

535

00:36:13,240 --> 00:36:16,480

I expected to see this school go in a million pieces.

536

00:36:19,320 --> 00:36:21,200

A few children stumbled from the smoke

537

00:36:21,200 --> 00:36:23,080

within seconds of the blast.

538

00:36:23,080 --> 00:36:24,680

Others were trapped in the classroom.

539

00:36:28,160 --> 00:36:31,400

My teacher's worth throwing children out of the windows.

540

00:36:31,400 --> 00:36:35,240

And I could feel flames feel hot on my back.

541

00:36:35,240 --> 00:36:36,840

And didn't realize that I was on fire.

542

00:36:36,840 --> 00:36:39,880

And I saw flames coming from the corner of my eye,

543

00:36:39,880 --> 00:36:42,240

on my right shoulder, and started to burn.

544

00:36:42,240 --> 00:36:45,080

So I dropped and rolled.

545

00:36:45,080 --> 00:36:47,800

And as I looked up, I could see all these little feet just

546

00:36:47,800 --> 00:36:50,080

scurrying out into the hallway.

547

00:36:50,080 --> 00:36:51,640

All these kids were just stepping over me

548

00:36:51,640 --> 00:36:54,200

and stepping on me and jumping over me.

549

00:36:54,200 --> 00:36:58,120

Out of nowhere, I felt big hands just pick me up.

550

00:36:58,120 --> 00:37:01,360

And I looked up and saw Mr. Moore and Jack Mitchell.

551

00:37:01,360 --> 00:37:03,880

And they were beating the fire off of me.

552

00:37:03,880 --> 00:37:08,600

And they picked me up and they shoved me to safety.

553

00:37:08,640 --> 00:37:12,440

Ambulance rushed injured children to area hospitals.

554

00:37:12,440 --> 00:37:14,200

Some of those who emerged unharmed

555

00:37:14,200 --> 00:37:16,520

were taken home by their parents.

556

00:37:16,520 --> 00:37:19,200

No one knew how many youngsters had survived

557

00:37:19,200 --> 00:37:23,880

or how many might lay lifeless in the ashes.

558

00:37:23,880 --> 00:37:25,760

Just inside the classroom, police

559

00:37:25,760 --> 00:37:28,120

found the body of Doris Young.

560

00:37:28,120 --> 00:37:31,600

David Young had also died, but not from the explosion.

561

00:37:31,600 --> 00:37:35,600

He had killed himself with a single gunshot to the head.

562

00:37:35,640 --> 00:37:38,280

Grimm's search for Cokeville's children commenced.

563

00:37:42,880 --> 00:37:47,240

After an hour, dread turned to hope, then hope to joy.

564

00:37:47,240 --> 00:37:50,960

Not a single child had perished in the flames.

565

00:37:50,960 --> 00:37:53,680

It seemed that Cokeville had been blessed with a miracle.

566

00:37:57,720 --> 00:38:01,800

There's many, many things that point to something

567

00:38:01,800 --> 00:38:05,040

happening and higher power just happening

568

00:38:05,120 --> 00:38:06,840

and helping this case.

569

00:38:06,840 --> 00:38:07,760

OK, now get out of the way.

570

00:38:07,760 --> 00:38:08,680

Come on.

571

00:38:08,680 --> 00:38:11,240

At the very least, an extraordinary run of luck

572

00:38:11,240 --> 00:38:13,480

helped the children survive.

573

00:38:13,480 --> 00:38:16,360

By staying outside the so-called Magic Square,

574

00:38:16,360 --> 00:38:20,320

they were away from the bomb when it exploded.

575

00:38:20,320 --> 00:38:23,080

With the doors and windows open, much of the bomb's force

576

00:38:23,080 --> 00:38:25,920

blew harmlessly out of the classroom.

577

00:38:25,920 --> 00:38:28,920

And then there was the bomb itself.

578

00:38:28,920 --> 00:38:33,880

Remnants sifted from the rubble told the incredible story.

579

00:38:33,880 --> 00:38:35,640

Now look at this.

580

00:38:35,640 --> 00:38:38,880

It's a fully intact blasting cap.

581

00:38:38,880 --> 00:38:42,480

This bomb didn't even completely detonate.

582

00:38:42,480 --> 00:38:44,760

The potential of this explosive device

583

00:38:44,760 --> 00:38:47,800

could have and should have destroyed

584

00:38:47,800 --> 00:38:52,360

that whole end of the class of the school building.

585

00:38:52,360 --> 00:38:56,560

Had it functioned the way it was supposed to.

586

00:38:56,560 --> 00:39:00,160

Police learned that Young had built and exploded several bombs

587

00:39:00,160 --> 00:39:03,520

exactly like the one he brought to Cokeville.

588

00:39:03,560 --> 00:39:08,960

Yet in the classroom, Young's bomb had unexpected problems.

589

00:39:08,960 --> 00:39:12,200

A container of blasting powder had become thoroughly soaked,

590

00:39:12,200 --> 00:39:15,560

rendering it a useless paste.

591

00:39:15,560 --> 00:39:19,200

Detonational wires to other tubs of powder had been cut.

592

00:39:19,200 --> 00:39:22,720

No reason, no explanation.

593

00:39:22,720 --> 00:39:27,400

There should have been 162 people dead in that room.

594

00:39:27,400 --> 00:39:30,400

We should have been in there just picking up bodies.

595

00:39:30,400 --> 00:39:32,400

Hard to have any father.

596

00:39:33,400 --> 00:39:36,040

The people of Cokeville came to their own conclusion

597

00:39:36,040 --> 00:39:38,640

about the improbable turn of events.

598

00:39:38,640 --> 00:39:43,840

The hostages must have been saved by a modern day miracle.

599

00:39:43,840 --> 00:39:45,480

I just had this overwhelming feeling

600

00:39:45,480 --> 00:39:49,040

that Heavenly Father was there, that he was watching out

601

00:39:49,040 --> 00:39:50,080

over us.

602

00:39:50,080 --> 00:39:53,040

To me, I knew that the Lord was there with me.

603

00:39:53,040 --> 00:39:55,920

And I knew that he would make it all right

604

00:39:55,920 --> 00:39:59,280

and that we'd make it through it.

605

00:39:59,280 --> 00:40:01,720

A few students were adamant about seeing what they

606

00:40:01,720 --> 00:40:04,240

called a presence hovering above the room

607

00:40:04,240 --> 00:40:06,240

the moments before the bomb ignited.

608

00:40:19,040 --> 00:40:21,840

Some of the youngsters said that the mysterious presence

609

00:40:21,840 --> 00:40:25,040

actually directed them to move, advice that may have

610

00:40:25,040 --> 00:40:26,040

helped save their lives.

611

00:40:31,880 --> 00:40:33,560

In my mind, the only way out of that thing

612

00:40:33,560 --> 00:40:36,480

would have been to find intervention.

613

00:40:36,480 --> 00:40:39,160

We've always said guardian angels,

614

00:40:39,160 --> 00:40:41,120

to help people out.

615

00:40:41,120 --> 00:40:43,520

And I believe that there is people

616

00:40:43,520 --> 00:40:47,360

that have went on before us that help us out.

617

00:40:47,360 --> 00:40:48,160

What?

618

00:40:48,160 --> 00:40:48,960

What are you going to do?

619

00:40:48,960 --> 00:40:51,680

Sheriff Deb Wolfland says that outside the school room,

620

00:40:51,680 --> 00:40:55,160

he too felt the touch of heavenly guidance.

621

00:40:55,160 --> 00:40:56,120

What are you going to do?

622

00:40:56,120 --> 00:40:59,200

I remember very clearly thinking in my mind,

623

00:40:59,200 --> 00:41:00,440

what am I going to do?

624

00:41:00,480 --> 00:41:04,880

Here's a man in here with a bomb who wants to blow our kids up.

625

00:41:04,880 --> 00:41:06,080

How am I going to handle that?

626

00:41:06,080 --> 00:41:08,080

Deb, get my boys out of there.

627

00:41:08,080 --> 00:41:11,480

And I know that without a shadow doubt

628

00:41:11,480 --> 00:41:16,240

that our God in heaven had answered my prayers.

629

00:41:16,240 --> 00:41:19,440

A voice said to me, everything will be OK.

630

00:41:24,880 --> 00:41:26,560

One final discovery.

631

00:41:26,560 --> 00:41:29,280

This ghostly image singled into the north wall

632

00:41:29,280 --> 00:41:32,000

of the classroom, led some to conclude

633

00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:34,440

that an angel had been in school that day,

634

00:41:34,440 --> 00:41:35,880

protecting innocent lives.

635

00:41:49,080 --> 00:41:51,880

10 years have come and gone since a crazed gunman named David

636

00:41:51,880 --> 00:41:54,680

Young nearly wiped out an entire generation in Cookville,

637

00:41:54,680 --> 00:41:56,120

Wyoming.

638

00:41:56,120 --> 00:41:59,120

Since then, the town has resumed as quiet ways.

639

00:41:59,120 --> 00:42:02,160

But most folks there still believe that only a divine miracle

640

00:42:02,160 --> 00:42:04,720

stood between themselves and unspeakable tragedy.

641

00:42:14,600 --> 00:42:18,080

Join me next time for another fascinating edition

642

00:42:18,080 --> 00:42:19,200

of Unsolved Mysteries.