

1

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

The End

2

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

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries

3

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

Susan Walsh was a woman who lived on the edge,

4

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

a stripper turned journalist who's chosen assignments plunge into a hazardous stew of Russian mobsters and self-proclaimed vampires.

5

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

In the end, however, Susan Walsh's walk on the wild side may have led to her death.

6

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

His name is Oliver. He walks and acts like a human being.

7

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

His very existence is a source of mystery and wonder.

8

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

Perhaps Oliver is just a talented chimpanzee, but perhaps he is something more.

9

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

Her death has become America's tragedy.

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

Jean-Benet Ramsey, molested and murdered in her own home.

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00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:52,000

Five weeks later, police have yet to confirm a motive or name a suspect.

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

In Newport News, Virginia, the young mother's joy turns to despair when her newborn baby is diagnosed with a light-threatening blood disorder.

13

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

The only hope is an emergency transfusion, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:12,000

Join me for another intriguing edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

15

00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:56,000

The Life of a Wild Life Sanctuary

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:08,000

This is a primarily primate wildlife sanctuary in San Antonio, Texas.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:16,000

A retirement home of sorts for some 500 wild animals who have been rescued from circuses, side shows and medical labs.

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:24,000

In April of 1996, a dozen chimpanzees, released from a research facility, arrived at the preserve.

19

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:31,000

After years of confinement, most moved in pained halting steps.

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00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:35,000

But one was remarkably different. His name is Oliver.

21

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:37,000

Hi, Ollie.

22

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:42,000

Wow, Ollie, you stand up. Look at you.

23

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:48,000

When Oliver came outside for the first time, he'd been nine years in a lab cage.

24

00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:56,000

He walked out and he walked upright in a way that no chimp who was trained to walk upright would ever walk.

25

00:02:56,000 --> 00:02:57,000

Ollie.

26

00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:04,000

His back is straight, his shoulders back, and his knees are locked. It's unique.

27

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:15,000

Unique would be an understatement. In his youth, Oliver had been an international celebrity, heralded as proof of the legendary Bigfoot, or perhaps the elusive missing link.

28

00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:27,000

Some speculated that Oliver was a member of a new, as yet undiscovered species, or even the offspring of an unspeakable union between human and chimpanzee.

29

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:36,000

Since long before I helped start Primarily Primates, I had heard about the ape called Oliver.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:43,000

I'd collected old tabloid articles, and I really wondered, is this the same Oliver?

31

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:51,000

I wasn't quite sure until I saw him. And there's no doubt.

32

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:56,000

This is the upright walking ape who had become a living legend.

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:04,000

For a legend, Oliver's origins were unremarkable. He was imported from Africa as an infant in 1960.

34

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

From the outset, animal trainer Frank Berger knew he had a very special ape on his hands.

35

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:18,000

The first thing I noticed with him, he was ball-headed. Chimbs have hair, brightly thick.

36

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:25,000

His bone structure, his head was smaller. He had a narrower face.

37

00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:32,000

But looks weren't the only thing that made Oliver different. His human-like behavior was equally startling.

38

00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:41,000

One day I sat at the desk, and he come crawled to me, and all of a sudden he took a hold of my pants slack, and he stand straight up.

39

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:52,000

I almost faint. And within one and a half years that animal stand up in front of me, and never I saw him without.

40

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:59,000

I've seen a lot of chimps, but I've never seen one just like him.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:06,000

Over the next decade, Oliver's unique characteristics made him a popular sideshow attraction in various circuses.

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00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:13,000

Then in 1975, a magazine article caught the attention of a Manhattan attorney named Michael Miller.

43

00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:18,000

Miller vividly recalls his first encounter with Oliver.

44

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:27,000

In walks this almost four and a half foot or five foot creature, his hair bristling, and walking absolutely upright.

45

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:31,000

As they say, as advertised, I could not believe what I saw.

46

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:35,000

Miller took these snapshots that day.

47

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:40,000

A few hours later, he purchased Oliver from Frank Burger for the sum of \$8,000.

48

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:44,000

The news hit the wires and sparked a media onslaught.

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:49,000

There were many, many, many questions about Oliver.

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00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:55,000

Enthusiastic to the point of being wild. People were offering me money for the story. I had no interest in it.

51

00:05:55,000 --> 00:06:01,000

I said, I really want the story to get out, but I want to get the story out to attract serious attention from the scientific community.

52

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

This creature may have interest and importance. That turned me on.

53

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:14,000

That spring, at the Explorers Club annual banquet in New York City, Oliver created a sensation.

54

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:22,000

It was an amazing experience because it was King Kong. I mean, that was truly King Kong.

55

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:32,000

I would say that there was a consensus there too, that this is a very aberrant chimpanzee.

56

00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:36,000

They were always grounding it in, this is a chimpanzee who's aberrant.

57

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:40,000

And I understood that because I wasn't offering them as something else.

58

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:45,000

But when I would say, can you explain the aberration? That would be interesting.

59

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:47,000

The answer was always the same. No, we can't.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:52,000

The Explorers Club was the start of a whirlwind career.

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00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:57,000

In 1976, Oliver was invited to appear on a television program in Japan.

62

00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:02,000

For three weeks, he toured the country, causing a stir wherever he went.

63

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

You could feel the interest, the intent looking at this creature.

64

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:12,000

But my favorite evening is we were on the road going from city to city.

65

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:18,000

And they have wonderful traditions in Japan. When you travel, you go to these country ends.

66

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:23,000

You get undressed, you bathe, and then you put on a cotton, a cotta or robe.

67

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:27,000

Then you sit down and have dinner, and somebody asked if he enjoys eating and drinking.

68

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:33,000

I said, well, I know he enjoys a beer. And they gave him a liter of beer, which he drank chagoluk style.

69

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:37,000

Didn't come up for air, and then let out this enormous burp.

70

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:40,000

And he's got a very big chest, so it was a very loud burp. We all laughed.

71

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:44,000

And then Oliver sat back and had a cigar, and we sat there.

72

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:49,000

And after a while, it was like, it was no longer a spectacle.

73

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Throughout the tour, Oliver underwent a series of medical exams.

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:02,000

The results were presented on a television special entitled Mr. Oliver, Man or Ape.

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00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:10,000

A blood test suggested that Oliver had 48 chromosomes, the number normally associated with a chimpanzee.

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00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Curiously though, two of the 40 cells contained 47 chromosomes, one more than a man and one less than a chimp.

77

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:22,000

The Japanese doctors, however, attributed the discrepancy to human error.

78

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:28,000

When the Japanese tour ended, Michael Miller found he could no longer support Oliver,

79

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:33,000

and reluctantly donated him to a wild animal park in California.

80

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:38,000

He was billed as a missing link.

81

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:43,000

They had a window where the public could walk past him and look in and see him in his exhibit.

82

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:50,000

They did take him out a number of times onto a stage for the press to take a look at him for publicity.

83

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:56,000

But otherwise, he was generally in this enclosure alone where people could walk past the window and see him.

84

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:02,000

When the animal park went out of business, Oliver bounced from trainer to trainer.

85

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:05,000

He eventually wound up in a research lab.

86

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:10,000

There he languished in a 5 by 7 foot cage for nine long years.

87

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:18,000

Fortunately, Oliver was never used in any experiments, and just last year he was rescued by primarily primates.

88

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:25,000

Behavioral primatologist Linda Brent observed some of Oliver's early rehabilitation.

89

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:35,000

I had the impression when I saw Oliver walking by Peterly that he had possibly been trained to walk by Peterly.

90

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:38,000

He could do it for quite a while.

91

00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:41,000

I don't think he's anything but a chimpanzee.

92

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:49,000

And I think a lot of the both physical and behavioral characteristics can easily be explained by his past.

93

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:56,000

However, the folks at Primarily Primates refused to speculate until all of the evidence is in.

94

00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:02,000

I know that there are other animals out there we haven't found yet.

95

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:15,000

Oliver very well could be very special in that he could be the only example around of a whole new species.

96

00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Last December, a very special reunion took place between Oliver and his first owner, Frank Berger.

97

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

They hadn't seen each other in 20 years.

98

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:28,000

Where's Oliver?

99

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:34,000

Oliver, my God, where you been? Where you been? Oh, God!

100

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:39,000

Attorney Michael Miller was also present.

101

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:44,000

He looks happier. He looks much more peaceful than I remember.

102

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:49,000

It's delightful to see that he's in such a great environment and that he's cared for finally.

103

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:52,000

That's very, very satisfying, very rewarding.

104

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:59,000

Science hopes that Oliver's golden years will be rewarding in other ways as well.

105

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:06,000

In the near future, genetic testing may finally solve the mystery of who or what Oliver truly is.

106

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:13,000

At the age of 36, Oliver could very well live for another 20 years.

107

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:20,000

Even if he proves to be just an ordinary chimpanzee, those who norm in full agreement on one thing,

108

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:27,000

Oliver is a remarkable creature whose warm and gentle personality has touched countless lives.

109

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:35,000

Next, when Dustin Johnson was five years old, his mother was murdered by her own brother.

110

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

Now Dustin believes his uncle has killed again.

111

00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:46,000

And later, in New York City, an exotic dancer turned reporter vanishes without a trace.

112

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:54,000

Also, the shocking murder of Jean-Benet Ramsey has outraged the nation and put investigators on the defensive.

113

00:11:55,000 --> 00:12:00,000

The End

114

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:17,000

It was June 27, 1982. But to Dustin Johnson, it still seems like yesterday.

115

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:19,000

Get your coat up.

116

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

You gonna have fun with Daddy this weekend?

117

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:26,000

Dustin was five years old. His father picked him up for a custody visit.

118

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:31,000

Dustin didn't know it, but he was saying goodbye to his mother for the last time.

119

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:33,000

Give Mommy a hug.

120

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:35,000

Give me a kiss. I love you.

121

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:37,000

Where's your bag?

122

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:41,000

Remember my mom getting me ready to go with my dad?

123

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:45,000

She gave me a hug and a kiss. Goodbye. I told her she'd see me when I come back.

124

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

But then I come back and Mom wasn't there.

125

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:55,000

That weekend, Patricia Johnson was murdered.

126

00:12:55,000 --> 00:13:00,000

Nine days would pass before her naked, decomposing body was found.

127

00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:03,000

Two weeks later, another shock.

128

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:07,000

Patricia's own brother, Dennis Keith Smith, confessed to the crime.

129

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:12,000

He was sentenced to life in prison on a charge of second-degree murder.

130

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:17,000

Dustin was taken in by his mother's parents.

131

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:22,000

When Dennis Smith was paroled ten years later, he moved into the same house.

132

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:28,000

On a daily basis, in the hallway and over dinner,

133

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Dustin Johnson had to face the man who had killed his mother.

134

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:38,000

The uneasy truce lasted about a year, until another local woman mysteriously disappeared.

135

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:44,000

Dustin soon became convinced that his uncle Dennis Keith Smith was somehow involved.

136

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:50,000

Your lunch is made.

137

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:51,000

Thanks, honey.

138

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:55,000

Dan and Carolyn Killaby lived just three miles from Dustin.

139

00:13:55,000 --> 00:14:01,000

The morning of Saturday, November 11, 1995, found the Killabies patching up an argument.

140

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

You know, you're making something out of nothing.

141

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:06,000

Well, it's something to me.

142

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:09,000

I know. I know it is.

143

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:12,000

We didn't have to hash everything out and yell and scream at each other.

144

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

We didn't do it that way.

145

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

Often times, we were just a wink and a smile would do it.

146

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:22,000

You know, and that would be the end of it.

147

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:27,000

We don't have the kids tonight, so why don't we just get together and have dinner,

148

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:29,000

spend some time together?

149

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:31,000

OK. All right.

150

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:35,000

It promised to be a romantic evening, just the two of them.

151

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:40,000

But before Dan left work, his brother would call and invite him to drop by.

152

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

I figured I'd still make it home in plenty of time.

153

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:50,000

So I went to see my brother, Dave, and we ended up going down to Tavern down the street.

154

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:53,000

We had a beer and we started shooting some pool.

155

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:57,000

Turned out there was a blazer game on. We started watching that.

156

00:14:57,000 --> 00:14:59,000

We had a couple more beers.

157

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:05,000

And I had decided just to stay behind at his place and chose not to drive home.

158

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:09,000

Dan didn't call home until 1 a.m.

159

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:12,000

Hi, Carolyn.

160

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:16,000

It's me. Listen, I'm going to stay at Dave's tonight.

161

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:19,000

I had a few beers, so you know, I better just stay here.

162

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:22,000

I will see you in the morning.

163

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:23,000

Home.

164

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Sunday morning, Dan returned to an empty house.

165

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:28,000

His message was still on the machine.

166

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:29,000

Honey?

167

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:34,000

Carolyn.

168

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:38,000

Dan assumed that Carolyn was deliberately not calling home,

169

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:41,000

giving him a taste of his own medicine.

170

00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:43,000

On Sunday night, he began to worry.

171

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Hello, Susan.

172

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:46,000

Yeah, this is Dan.

173

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:49,000

Dan went through his wife's phone book A to Z,

174

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:53,000

but no one could account for Carolyn Killaby.

175

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Carolyn still hadn't shown up by 6 a.m. Monday morning when she was due at work.

176

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Dan and his brother cruise the streets of Vancouver looking for any sign of Carolyn.

177

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:09,000

They found her car in the parking lot of a popular nightclub.

178

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:10,000

There's her car.

179

00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:17,000

The morning barmaid was the guy that worked there Saturday night,

180

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:20,000

and she said, yeah, I saw your wife.

181

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:24,000

She was in Saturday night. That's the last time I saw her.

182

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:30,000

So at that point, you know, panic set in.

183

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:33,000

The car was there, and my wife was nowhere to be found.

184

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:41,000

When the story hit the local paper, one fact jumped out at Dustin Johnson.

185

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:45,000

I found a name by the name of Dennis in the newspaper,

186

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:49,000

and I continued to read that the lady was missing,

187

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:54,000

and I had this feeling that that person by the name of Dennis might be my uncle.

188

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:56,000

This might be a weird conversation.

189

00:16:56,000 --> 00:17:00,000

Dustin found Dan Killaby's number in the local phone directory.

190

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

Yeah.

191

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:04,000

I just was reading through there and found the name of Dennis.

192

00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:06,000

Do you know what Dennis' last name is?

193

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:09,000

He called me and said he'd saw the article,

194

00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:15,000

and if this Dennis that was mentioned in the article was, in fact, Dennis Keith Smith,

195

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:23,000

that that was his uncle, and he wanted to let me know that he had murdered his mother in 1982.

196

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:27,000

Authorities have not yet released the last name of the man seen with Carolyn.

197

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:30,000

Dan called detectives to check out Dustin's hunch.

198

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:37,000

But he said that he thinks that the man Dennis that you're looking for, his name is Dennis Smith,

199

00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:40,000

and he said that this guy is a murderer.

200

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:42,000

Is that true?

201

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:49,000

There was a long pause from the detectives, and I knew right then it was the person.

202

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:59,000

At that point in time, I think right then and there, I knew my wife had been killed.

203

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:04,000

Right there.

204

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:15,000

A witness helped police reconstruct what was very likely Carolyn Killaby's last evening alive.

205

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:20,000

You can tell on her face she's been crying.

206

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:25,000

She was alone. She didn't want to be with anybody. She's upset.

207

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:31,000

If she would have one more drink, she would have been passed out probably going to the hospital.

208

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:33,000

She was really bad off.

209

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:35,000

She's trouble.

210

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:38,000

Dennis Smith was a club regular.

211

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:42,000

According to the witness, Smith had had his eye on Carolyn all night long.

212

00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:45,000

At around 11.30, he made his move.

213

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:55,000

It's just the way he walked up to her is as if his old friends, but she didn't know who she was with.

214

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:58,000

He spoke to her for a few seconds.

215

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

She lifted her head up.

216

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:08,000

She had one arm around his neck and had a hold of it and walked out with her.

217

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:12,000

Carolyn disappeared the night of November 11th.

218

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:18,000

Less than 72 hours later, detectives decided it was time to have a talk with Dennis Smith.

219

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:20,000

Who was it you talked to?

220

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:21,000

He was the bouncer.

221

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:23,000

You talked to the bouncer. What did you tell him?

222

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:25,000

We talked to him for quite a long time.

223

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:26,000

Did you tell the bouncer about this person?

224

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:31,000

His story changed a little bit, but not enough to make a big difference.

225

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:34,000

Okay, he said the waitress or bartender?

226

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:38,000

Which is it? Probably isn't both of them at this point, right?

227

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:48,000

He would laugh at times for no real apparent reason, which is very indicative of someone that's trying to be deceitful.

228

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:50,000

You were in your truck for 45 minutes.

229

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Yeah, it was.

230

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:53,000

What happened?

231

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Come on.

232

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:58,000

Come on, Dennis, we're all adults. What's going on?

233

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

What happens?

234

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

She attacked me, so I'm winded and I'm pretty tired after that.

235

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:06,000

Maybe she attacked you.

236

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:08,000

No, no.

237

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:12,000

So I'm talking about, come on, we had sex, and then I left.

238

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

And then as I got out of the truck, and I go around, and then I see this guy, and he's got the stickiness in him.

239

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

Smith went on to claim that the stranger threatened him and then took Carolyn away.

240

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:25,000

It was a stick.

241

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:31,000

Detectives had a hard time believing the story, especially when they inspected Smith's pickup truck.

242

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:36,000

Oh, man, that's more than a cigarette burn.

243

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:39,000

Yeah, it looks like he took a torch to it.

244

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:43,000

It was not just the gaping hole in the seat that aroused suspicions.

245

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:49,000

The seat cover had been removed, and every inch of carpentry had been stripped off the floor.

246

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:55,000

At that point, basically, I knew that Dennis was hiding something from us.

247

00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:02,000

Maybe any evidence that Carolyn was in his truck, or that something bad happened to her in the truck.

248

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:12,000

However, without proof that Carolyn was dead, suspicions alone were not enough to keep Dennis Smith in custody, let alone bring him to trial.

249

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:17,000

By the time authorities amassed enough evidence to charge him with murder, Smith had left town.

250

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:20,000

Our program flushed him out of hiding.

251

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

Here's Keely Shay Smith with the dramatic details.

252

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:30,000

Bob Dennis Smith fled Washington and kept running until he reached the other side of the country.

253

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:35,000

He ended up in the town of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, where he introduced himself as Dave Sanborn.

254

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:39,000

But by any name, he still looked like Dennis Keith Smith.

255

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:49,000

On the night we profiled the accused killer, Tracy Hoddleman and John Cummings got together to watch the show with their new friend Dave Sanborn.

256

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:55,000

He kind of started getting nervous, and I said, oh my gosh, Johnny, look who that looks like.

257

00:21:55,000 --> 00:22:01,000

And he was sitting right next to me, and they started describing the color of his tattoos that were on his arm.

258

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:06,000

And I looked over and I said, you have those color tattoos, you know?

259

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:09,000

And he asked me, is there anything else on? He didn't want to watch the show.

260

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:11,000

And I said, no, I like the show. I'll watch it.

261

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:16,000

And he, you know, got up and went in the kitchen and he started pacing around.

262

00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:21,000

When Smith drove off in their car and disappeared, John and Tracy notified authorities.

263

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:25,000

Police caught up with Smith two days later at this intersection.

264

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:28,000

He did not give up easily.

265

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:32,000

He turned and charged the officers in a fight ensued.

266

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:38,000

During the course of that fight, he attempted to remove the firearm from one of the officers.

267

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:48,000

He was beginning to successfully remove that firearm when the second officer fired a single shot, striking Mr. Smith in the neck.

268

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:51,000

Smith was also shot in the wrist during the struggle.

269

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:56,000

After two weeks in the hospital, he had recovered enough to appear in a Florida court.

270

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:16,000

Music

271

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:21,000

Coming up, the tragic and perplexing death of Jean Benet Ramsey.

272

00:23:21,000 --> 00:23:24,000

What do the police know about her killer?

273

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:34,000

But first, a dangerous blood disorder leaves a newborn infant at serious risk until an anonymous good Samaritan comes to the rescue.

274

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:40,000

Music

275

00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:49,000

Music

276

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:54,000

June 22, 1966, Newport News, Virginia.

277

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:56,000

Hello?

278

00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:59,000

An urgent call for help in the middle of the night.

279

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:02,000

But the young man who responds is not a surgeon or a paramedic.

280

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:08,000

He is a blood donor, an unsung hero, someone to help save the life of a newborn infant.

281

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:10,000

All right, I'll get there since I can.

282

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:18,000

Music

283

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:21,000

Come on, Ann. Good, good.

284

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:26,000

Twenty-four hours earlier, Ann Wilson had given birth to her second daughter, Renee.

285

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:32,000

Ann's first child was born Breach, and she prayed that Renee would be delivered without complication.

286

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:34,000

Ann!

287

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:40,000

You have yourself a girl. Look at this. Oh my gosh.

288

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:43,000

Ann!

289

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:47,000

Labor went very smoothly, very quick. Renee was born in 1102.

290

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:54,000

I was excited and happy to be having any baby, and of course I checked her fingers and checked her toes and all that to make sure she was all there.

291

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:59,000

And I thought she was the most beautiful baby I had ever seen in my life because she was so pretty.

292

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:04,000

And nothing abnormal about her looking at all to me.

293

00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:07,000

Did you say hi, Daddy? Say hi, Daddy.

294

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:16,000

We'd had a problem with the first daughter, and we thought the doctor assured us that everything was okay with Renee.

295

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:23,000

We just thought everything was good to go, and then this problem came up with her blood.

296

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:32,000

It was more than just a problem. Renee was in serious trouble. She had a rare blood disorder, which can be fatal.

297

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:40,000

Well, we've just completed all the tests on your little girl, and I'm afraid the results confirmed that she's going to need a complete blood transfusion.

298

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:46,000

And what that means is she needs to have all of her blood replaced by that of a donor, a life donor.

299

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:49,000

So we are looking right now to find that donor and make that transfusion.

300

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:51,000

I'll give her my blood.

301

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:56,000

I wish it was that simple, but your blood type isn't right, and neither is your husband's, so we need to find her first...

302

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:06,000

The first test that was done told them that the white corpuscles were eating up her red blood corpuscles, and that they were going to have to give Renee a transfusion.

303

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:14,000

This would be a complete transfusion if they were going to have to drain all the blood out of her body and put blood back in from a donor.

304

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:24,000

It was very scary not realizing really what was going on and not having anybody to ask any questions, and in the middle of the night as well.

305

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:31,000

There were only three potential donors within driving distance of the hospital.

306

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:39,000

For whatever reason, fate, luck, or mere happenstance, the anonymous young stranger was a donor who responded first.

307

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:44,000

OK, thanks, Sheriff.

308

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:53,000

As far as knowing who that person was or how they would contact them, I didn't really have any idea, and I think I was so caught up in the thought of, you know,

309

00:26:53,000 --> 00:27:01,000

what was taking place with Renee that I didn't really think about the donor.

310

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:04,000

With no time to spare, the transfusion began.

311

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:12,000

By Ann Wilson's account, the procedure lasted until 3 a.m.

312

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:19,000

I drifted off into, like, a twilight sleep, I guess, and then I must have, you know, really gone to sleep,

313

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:24,000

because the next thing I remember was the doctor came in and tapped me on my hand.

314

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:26,000

Mrs. Wilson.

315

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:31,000

Good news. I just checked on Renee and she's going to be just fine.

316

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:34,000

The transfusion was a complete success.

317

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:37,000

I'm so happy.

318

00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:41,000

Well, I'm going to go get some sleep. You have some pleasant dreams now.

319

00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:42,000

You too.

320

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:44,000

See you in the morning.

321

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Baby Renee quickly recovered and soon went home with her parents.

322

00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:56,000

She led a perfectly normal childhood and was as happy and healthy as both of her sisters.

323

00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:05,000

It wasn't until she was a teenager that Renee learned about the mysterious stranger who singed her act of kindness and saved her life.

324

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:13,000

I want to find him just to shake his hand or just to give him a hug and say thank you for saving my life.

325

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:16,000

I have a lot to look forward to.

326

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:20,000

And I'm just very grateful that he didn't say no.

327

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

You know, I can't come to the hospital to give the blood now or I'm too tired or no, I have to be up in three hours for work.

328

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

Sorry, you know, because I wouldn't be here if he had done that.

329

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:39,000

Unfortunately, there are no records that would help identify the unknown good Samaritan.

330

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:45,000

Ann Wilson recalls that he was in his mid-twenties and had dark hair and eyes. He was now being as mid-fifties.

331

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:51,000

In 1966, the man lived near the Riverside Hospital in Newport News, Virginia.

332

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:57,000

Next, stripping took her inside the sex industry and close to the mob.

333

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:01,000

Curiosity drew her to the bizarre rituals of modern-day vampires.

334

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:05,000

And no one knows what made Susan Walsh disappear.

335

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:15,000

The End

336

00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:24,000

Hey, David, why are you over here today? Don't watch so much television, OK? Read a book or something.

337

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:32,000

July 16, 1996. Susan Walsh was in a hurry. She dropped off her son, David, with her estranged husband.

338

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:34,000

She never said exactly where she was going.

339

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:35,000

Thanks, Mark.

340

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:36,000

You'll be back, right?

341

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:43,000

Oh, yeah. I got to make a couple of phone calls and run a few errands, OK? In just a few minutes, right?

342

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:46,000

But it wouldn't be a matter of minutes at all.

343

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:52,000

That morning, 36-year-old Susan Walsh walked away from her home and her life.

344

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:58,000

She disappeared into the streets of Nutley, New Jersey, the brief commuter train trip from Manhattan.

345

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:06,000

What happened to Susan Walsh? The police believe she simply chose to disappear.

346

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:14,000

But the truth is elusive and may be far more sinister. Some say Susan Walsh was murdered by mobsters.

347

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:21,000

Some say she overdosed on drugs. Others believe she vanished into a subterranean culture of sex and danger

348

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:24,000

that lured her in and never let go.

349

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:32,000

From the time Susan Walsh was a little girl, her dream was to be a poet and writer.

350

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:37,000

But a broken home and unhappy childhood made reaching that goal a constant struggle.

351

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:46,000

By the time Susan was in her 20s, she was instead an admitted alcoholic, a drug addict, a stripper.

352

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:51,000

Still, she kept her dream alive. Stripping paid her way through college.

353

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:56,000

When Susan graduated in 1984, she cleaned up her act.

354

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:00,000

Mark!

355

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:02,000

Yeah. Okay.

356

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:09,000

By 1988, Susan had been sober for four years. She had married and most important, she'd become a devoted mother.

357

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:11,000

We're making cookie faces.

358

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:14,000

Looks just like me.

359

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:19,000

Susan loved her son very much and she was always there for her son.

360

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:26,000

The two things that meant a lot to her were her son and her career as a journalist.

361

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:36,000

Eventually, Susan and her husband separated. Though Susan still dreamed of being a writer, she had a tough time getting breaks.

362

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:42,000

To support her son, she went back to stripping, unable to resist the easy money and seductive lifestyle.

363

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:49,000

Susan would say she was like an addict and that the whole sex business was kind of like an addiction.

364

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:52,000

And she was trying to break this addiction.

365

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:57,000

She will talk endlessly on an intellectual level against dancing.

366

00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:02,000

And sometimes with great articulation, you know, you feel like this is great, profound stuff.

367

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:05,000

And then, you know, she's out there doing it.

368

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:08,000

Hey, Natalie, lunch in half an hour, okay?

369

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:13,000

Ironically, stripping helped provide the critical boost to Susan's journalistic career.

370

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:20,000

Eventually, she landed an internship at New York's free-wheeling village voice, researching the sex industry.

371

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:29,000

She soon turned up a hot story. Russian mobsters in New Jersey were allegedly forcing young Russian women to work in strip clubs like slaves.

372

00:32:29,000 --> 00:32:31,000

Hi, Susan. How you doing?

373

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

That's the call I've been waiting for.

374

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

The van guy?

375

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:35,000

I think he's going to take me to the head guy.

376

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:37,000

The head of the mob?

377

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:39,000

When he's supposed to be out there?

378

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:40,000

Tonight, 11 o'clock, right?

379

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:42,000

Susan was a fantastic researcher.

380

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:44,000

She really poured herself into this.

381

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:46,000

She spent hour after hour, day after day.

382

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:52,000

Then she got into the situation where a lot of these clubs in New Jersey have silent partners.

383

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:55,000

Some of the people were alleged to be in organized crime.

384

00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:01,000

The managers in these clubs began to side with the Russian women against the Russian manager.

385

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:03,000

So it was like the two mobs meet.

386

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:07,000

And Susan then, of course, loved this thing, and she got right in the middle of it.

387

00:33:07,000 --> 00:33:12,000

Susan earned praise for the Russian mob article, but she also got threats.

388

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:14,000

Susan felt she may have made enemies.

389

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:20,000

Her next big project may also have put her in jeopardy.

390

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:22,000

Susan, watch for the village voice.

391

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:25,000

Do you know what, Jericho?

392

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:31,000

In the early 90s, bizarre vampire clubs began springing up in New York's Greenwich Village.

393

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:34,000

The clubs boasted a dicey clientele.

394

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:39,000

Many claimed to be real blood drinkers.

395

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:41,000

This is the first time I've been in, actually, one of the clubs.

396

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:47,000

And what I was really hoping was to find somebody that I could actually just maybe go down to the village, you know, have a group.

397

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:54,000

Susan was so taken by the vampire world, she even started dating a man who claimed to be one of the undead.

398

00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:55,000

The village voice?

399

00:33:55,000 --> 00:34:02,000

Susan wrote a detailed article, but in this case, her journalistic judgment seemed skewed.

400

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:05,000

She sort of, like, took it and whole clothed.

401

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:13,000

And she believed a lot of the things that these guys were telling her, you know, about how there were secret murders and so on and so forth in the vampire world.

402

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:16,000

Are there a lot of regular or so at the clubs?

403

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:23,000

She would come and say to me, I met these two guys and they got this van and it was very scary and I don't know whether she fell in their van.

404

00:34:23,000 --> 00:34:31,000

And so I said, you know, hey, look, don't go in the van because they might not be vampires, you know.

405

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:36,000

To Susan's disappointment, the village voice never ran her article on vampires.

406

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:42,000

But in June of 1996, the month before she disappeared, Susan's career was again on an uptick.

407

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:50,000

She had done the primary research for a book by James Ridgway and Sylvia Plachy, Red Light, inside the sex industry.

408

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:56,000

However, the night of the publishers' party, James Ridgway noticed that Susan's wrists were bandaged.

409

00:34:56,000 --> 00:34:59,000

Susan, something I want to answer.

410

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:02,000

What is this?

411

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:06,000

OK, this is nothing, all right. This is me in the shower, just, you know, want to see what it felt like, OK?

412

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:07,000

Want to see what it's like.

413

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:09,000

Yeah, it's cool, OK? It's totally cool.

414

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:15,000

Ridgway was also concerned that Susan was taking tranquilizers and it started drinking again.

415

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:17,000

Right, I'm going to see you right here.

416

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

And I just said, oh, Susan, you know, for an alcoholic to do this is like really bad, you know.

417

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:27,000

And I said, you've got to go to AA. Please go to AA. Please go to the doctor.

418

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:29,000

He's still dancing, so why are you still dancing?

419

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:32,000

By now Susan was back to dancing full time.

420

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:38,000

In a documentary being made by an old friend, Susan talked about what a toll stripping had taken.

421

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:43,000

It's draining me, and I've been in it four and a half years, four years too long, I'd say.

422

00:35:43,000 --> 00:35:46,000

And I'm stuck in this conundrum because I feel so drained.

423

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:52,000

And on damage right now, I will get that. Very damaged from this business. I'm hurting. Very bad.

424

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:58,000

I was with her two days before she disappeared and she said she had bronchitis, emphysema, and an ulcer.

425

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:01,000

She said she had been in the hospital twice that week.

426

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:12,000

She's talked about her mood swings and being depressed and about just holding on to live.

427

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:14,000

You'll be back, right?

428

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:17,000

Yeah, just a few minutes, right?

429

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:22,000

48 hours after Jill last saw Susan, the mystery began.

430

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:26,000

Did Susan collapse somewhere because of her depression and poor health?

431

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:32,000

If so, police say her body would have been found or she would have surfaced in a hospital.

432

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:40,000

Her continued absence forces her friends and family to paint scenarios that are much darker.

433

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:45,000

I think Susan was probably pretty hooked on drugs.

434

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:49,000

And I think she went out and probably called somebody to come and get her.

435

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:55,000

And then she went and she may very well have OD'd.

436

00:36:55,000 --> 00:37:04,000

And she may very well have OD'd in the presence of someone who knew her and was frightened to do anything about it.

437

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:07,000

The police have a completely different theory.

438

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:10,000

I believe that Susan Walsh is alive.

439

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:20,000

For someone no reason to meet this time, she opted to leave her family at home, which she has a perfect right to do.

440

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:30,000

Detective Ryan has talked to a number of people who believe they've actually seen Susan, including her old friend Melissa Hines.

441

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:32,000

Susan!

442

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:35,000

Susan!

443

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:43,000

I definitely think it was her. I'm positive that I seen Susan on one day after she disappeared.

444

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:48,000

A license plate number that Melissa Hines provided to us, we did track down.

445

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:51,000

We spoke to the owner and operator of that vehicle.

446

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:54,000

He had been with a woman fitting the description of Susan.

447

00:37:54,000 --> 00:38:04,000

He did view photographs and felt he was pretty sure that had been her, but again, we had no positive identification of Susan Walsh at that time.

448

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:11,000

Melissa believes that if Susan is alive, she may be deliberately hiding out.

449

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:23,000

Susan definitely felt that she was in danger. She was scared for her life and I think she was also scared her son's life could be in danger too.

450

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:32,000

Susan actually told me that she wasn't going to make it. In the next year, she felt that she was going to be killed.

451

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:37,000

I believe there's a chance that the mob was after her.

452

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:44,000

People in organized crime were concerned that Susan had information that would send them to jail.

453

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:48,000

According to Susan, that was the case.

454

00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:51,000

Someone was definitely following Susan.

455

00:38:54,000 --> 00:39:00,000

I thought at first that it was just her imagination, but I seen it with my own eyes.

456

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:15,000

I would see cars follow her. Both of us, people follow my car. She was in my car, so it was definitely somebody was stalking her.

457

00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:21,000

Who could have been following Susan Walsh? Was she the target of a mob hit?

458

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:25,000

Did she cross paths with the wrong person in the vampire clubs?

459

00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:30,000

Or was she the victim of her own paranoia brought on by drug use?

460

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

Susan Walsh is 36 years old. She is 5'6", weighs 110 pounds and has blue eyes and bleach blonde hair.

461

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:51,000

Next, she was poisoned, accomplished beyond her years. She is mourned by the entire country. Who

killed Jean-Benet Ramsey?

462

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:11,000

The following story originally aired on January 31, 1997. It does not include the most recent developments in the case.

463

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:23,000

In death, she has become America's sweetheart, but the haunting images of a poised, sophisticated woman child cloaked the reality.

464

00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:26,000

She could have been anyone's daughter, anyone's neighbor.

465

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:34,000

Offstage, Jean-Benet Ramsey was probably like most other 6-year-old girls, sensitive, fragile and vulnerable.

466

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:42,000

Now she is gone, sexually assaulted and strangled in the basement of her own home on Christmas night, 1996.

467

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:50,000

It's been 5 weeks and the entire country is demanding to know who committed this horrible crime.

468

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:57,000

The initial shock is given away to a kind of national anxiety and given rise to other questions.

469

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:04,000

Why is it taking so long? What do the police know? Why haven't they found a suspect or cleared the family?

470

00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:12,000

The questions may seem unfair to investigators, but they are understandable. After all, there is a killer at large.

471

00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:20,000

This elegant home in Boulder, Colorado is where Jean-Benet Ramsey lived and died.

472

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:29,000

Boulder itself is a place where murder almost never happens. Jean-Benet was a city's only homicide victim during all of 1996.

473

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:33,000

Her father, John, is a millionaire businessman.

474

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

Her mother, Patricia, is a former Miss West Virginia who guided Jean-Benet's well-documented career as a child beauty queen.

475

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:49,000

Today the details of the case, like the fairy tale family history, are agonizingly familiar.

476

00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:56,000

The ransom note found the morning after Christmas demanding the peculiar sum of \$118,000.

477

00:41:57,000 --> 00:42:01,000

The discovery of full 8 hours later, her Jean-Benet's body in the basement.

478

00:42:02,000 --> 00:42:10,000

John Ramsey's panic-stricken decision to carry his daughter upstairs, thus disturbing the crime scene and destroying crucial evidence.

479

00:42:11,000 --> 00:42:18,000

The stunning revelation that the ransom note and an apparent practice note were written on notepad

paper from the Ramsey home.

480

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:27,000

And finally, widespread speculation that someone in the family was involved, coupled with widespread criticism of the police investigation.

481

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:37,000

They have said that they're playing it exactly by the book. They may be withholding evidence that they can use to identify the killer.

482

00:42:38,000 --> 00:42:41,000

I think they would say this is proper procedure.

483

00:42:42,000 --> 00:42:53,000

It appeared to me that the beginning of the investigation, the police did not seem to be doing as thorough a job as they would, which would be try to get every piece of information.

484

00:42:54,000 --> 00:43:05,000

And in this particular case, it may have something to do with the prominence of the family or that they were, you know, unused to a murder investigation or something like that, in boulders.

485

00:43:07,000 --> 00:43:16,000

We have never contended that anyone is or is not a suspect. We have not ruled anybody in nor have we ruled anybody out. We are continuing the investigation.

486

00:43:18,000 --> 00:43:28,000

Despite the lack of a known suspect or suspects, the Boulder Police Chief has assured local residents that they have nothing to fear. There is not a crazed child killer on the loose.

487

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:41,000

Stranger child homicide is rare. So I would be likely to place my investigative resources more on people who had access to the child rather than people on the outside.

488

00:43:42,000 --> 00:43:52,000

All the things that I've learned about the family would point away from the immediate family. Obviously, you can't rule out anyone in this, and I'm sure the police have not ruled out anyone.

489

00:43:53,000 --> 00:44:04,000

In the eyes of many, the fact that the crime scene was essentially closed, limited to the home itself, makes John and Patsy Ramsey natural suspects.

490

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:14,000

In addition, much has been made of the Ramsey's apparent reluctance to cooperate with the police, and the fact that they both hired individual attorneys within days of their daughter's death.

491

00:44:15,000 --> 00:44:27,000

For their part, the Ramsey's have repeatedly denied any knowledge of the murder. Friends and neighbors have been quick to come to their defense, insisting that the family is above reproach and beyond suspicion.

492

00:44:28,000 --> 00:44:31,000

But if not one of the Ramsey's, then who?

493

00:44:32,000 --> 00:44:43,000

That is a \$64,000 question. If it were as simple as a family member, I would have expected an arrest very early in this case.

494

00:44:44,000 --> 00:44:49,000

I would have thought that they would have come up with some lab evidence that would have tied someone to the murder.

495

00:44:50,000 --> 00:45:07,000

Either that hasn't happened, or they don't have a suspect, or they have a suspect, but they're trying to make sure that they have dotted every I and crossed every T, and they've got this person dead cold, before they actually make an arrest.

496

00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:32,000

On our next Unsolved Mysteries, when rock and roll star Kurt Cobain was found dead in his home, all the experts said it was suicide. But this private investigator is convinced that the truth about Cobain's death has yet to be revealed.

497

00:45:32,000 --> 00:45:39,000

Join me next time for another fascinating hour of Unsolved Mysteries.