

1

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

The End

2

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

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries

3

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

Get your hands on the ground!

4

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

In 1975, a notorious band of radicals known as the SLA

5

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

allegedly gunned down an innocent woman during a bank heist.

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

Finally, some 27 years later,

7

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

they're being brought to trial on murder charges.

8

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

Except this man.

9

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

Incredible. Jim Kilgore is still on the loose.

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

Mike Tullesti and Laura Law were together 11 years.

11

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

Then, according to Laura, Mike abruptly packed his bags and left.

12

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

But after police questioned her about Mike's whereabouts, Laura also vanished.

13

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

But investigators found on the property would shock everyone.

14

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

A beautiful restored Southern mansion is now a bed and breakfast.

15

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

But many guest report experiences that can only be described as supernatural.

16

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

At least eight ghosts were said to haunt the property.

17

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

Spirits of adults and children who died of foul play.

18

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:12,000

Pam, codented son, was viciously murdered by a street gang.

19

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:16,000

Despite her tragic loss, Pam refuses to be overwhelmed by grief.

20

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:22,000

She is pursuing the killers and fighting to rid her neighborhood of gangs once and for all.

21

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:26,000

Perhaps someone watching holds a key that will unlock the secrets of a mystery.

22

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

Perhaps it's you.

23

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:34,000

Join me for Unsolved Mysteries.

24

00:01:52,000 --> 00:02:18,000

Music

25

00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:22,000

April 21st, 1975.

26

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:26,000

On the cool spring morning, three volunteers from a local church in Carmichael, California,

27

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:30,000

a suburb of Sacramento, entered the Crocker National Bank.

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:34,000

The women had come to deposit the collection from weekend services,

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:38,000

when suddenly they were surrounded.

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

Authorities contend the four armed robbers were members of the notorious Symbionnes Liberation Army,

31

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:46,000

or SLA, a rag tag group of power-hungry radicals

32

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

who advocated the violent overthrow of the U.S. government.

33

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:54,000

Get your hands on the ground! Get your hands down!

34

00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:58,000

Get down! Nobody gets hurt! Get down, lady!

35

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:02,000

The shotgun-toting bank robber was especially menacing.

36

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:06,000

Her manner was chilling as her words. Just ten feet away, 42-year-old Myrna Opsol froze.

37

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:10,000

Then the unimaginable happened.

38

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:12,000

Let her get down!

39

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:14,000

She was gunned down in cold blood.

40

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:18,000

My mother evidently didn't move fast enough.

41

00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:22,000

The bank employees pleaded with the robbers to come to assistance,

42

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:26,000

and they shouted more obscenities and threatened more injury,

43

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:30,000

and wouldn't let anyone come to her assistance.

44

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:34,000

The bank robbers appeared to be following a script, every word and movement precise.

45

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:38,000

Get off!

46

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:42,000

It was very well-coordinated. Everybody had a role,

47

00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:46,000

and the robbers were very conscious of the time ticking.

48

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:50,000

At some point, some of the tellers were grabbed.

49

00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:54,000

One woman was kicked, so all of them actually had weapons,

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:58,000

and it was very, very violent.

51

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:02,000

And all the time, Myrna Opsol was not dead yet.

52

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:06,000

She laid on the ground, and she literally bled to death on the ground.

53

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:10,000

All the bank robbers ran out of the bank to a car that was waiting for them.

54

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:14,000

The driver of the getaway car was 20-year-old newspaper heiress Patty Hearst.

55

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:20,000

She had been kidnapped by the Symbianese Liberation Army some 14 months earlier.

56

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:24,000

However, within weeks of her abduction, Hearst assumed the name Tanya

57

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:28,000

and declared herself a revolutionary.

58

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

The SLA had a marquee name, but the search for Patty Hearst also unleashed

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:36,000

the biggest FBI manhunt since John Dillinger.

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00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:40,000

The massive effort paid off.

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:44,000

In September 1975, the SLA's 22-month reign of terror came to an end

62

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:48,000

with several arrests, including Patty Hearst.

63

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:52,000

However, the story was far from over.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:56,000

Eyewitnesses to the Crocker Bank heist and the murder of Myrna Opsol could not positively identify the assailants.

65

00:04:56,000 --> 00:05:00,000

24 long years had passed before a stunning twist in the case led to murder indictments.

66

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

All of the suspects involved in the murder were found dead.

67

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:10,000

All of the suspects involved in the crime have been arrested and are awaiting trial, except one.

68

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:14,000

The FBI needs your help to bring him in.

69

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:18,000

His name, Jim Kilgore.

70

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:26,000

Jim Kilgore's Autism began nearly a year before the shooting at Crocker National Bank.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:32,000

In the spring of 1974, at a San Francisco drive-in theater,

72

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:38,000

Kilgore's girlfriend, Kathy Solia, introduced him to SLA Kingpin's Bill and Emily Harris.

73

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

That's my boyfriend, Jim Kilgore, and he's a great guy.

74

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:48,000

Kilgore agreed to join the group. Smart and tough, he was a prize catch.

75

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:52,000

He was born in Portland, Oregon. He was vice president of the senior class.

76

00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:58,000

He participated in varsity golf. He was on the high school basketball team.

77

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:04,000

He was very athletic. He attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, graduating in 1969.

78

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:12,000

During that time period, he became acquainted with Kathy Solia.

79

00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:16,000

Solia and Jim Kilgore were welcomed into the group's small inner circle,

80

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

where Kilgore reportedly proved especially adept at creating false IDs.

81

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:27,000

With the SLA on everyone's most wanted list, he was kept plenty busy.

82

00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:33,000

We know that members of this group would steal credit cards and driver's licenses, for example,

83

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

at local gymnasiums and other health clubs.

84

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:45,000

We know that they engaged in special missions to steal existing identifications.

85

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:52,000

In the fall of 1974, the SLA convened at a safe house in a quiet neighborhood of Sacramento.

86

00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:55,000

And we come up with a new structure for this group.

87

00:06:55,000 --> 00:07:00,000

With a small but faithful army gathered around him, Bill Harris allegedly laid out his plan

88

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

to escalate the SLA's violent revolution against the U.S. government.

89

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:17,000

But Anarchy came with a price, and robbing banks offered the quick cash needed to further the group's agenda.

90

00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:25,000

According to police, in late February 1975, SLA members held up the guilt savings and loan in Sacramento.

91

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:29,000

Allegedly, the point man in the heist was Jim Kilgore.

92

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:31,000

He was a central member of the group.

93

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:33,000

He was not peripheral.

94

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:36,000

He was actively involved in the violence.

95

00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:38,000

He embraced it.

96

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:41,000

You know, that bank robbery was a violent act.

97

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:44,000

He was right there inside the bank.

98

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:51,000

Two months later, on April 21st, 1975, Emily Harris, Michael Borton, Kathy Solia and Jim Kilgore

99

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:56,000

reportedly executed the daring holdup at Crocker National Bank,

100

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

killing customer Mona Opsall, a mother of four.

101

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:06,000

Allegedly, Emily Harris fired the fatal blast.

102

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

They all stormed the bank knowing someone could get hurt.

103

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

What was their backup plan at that point?

104

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:15,000

They all chose to let my mother lie on the floor and bleed to death

105

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:19,000

and didn't let people come to her assistance.

106

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:22,000

The robbers netted more than \$15,000.

107

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:27,000

According to police, Bill Harris was a mastermind behind the heist.

108

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:32,000

The SLA changed modes, essentially, after killing Mona Opsall

109

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:36,000

and taking the money that they got from robbing the bank and killing her.

110

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:44,000

They now were looking to place bombs in locations that were targeted to kill people.

111

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:49,000

They seemed to be more hungry to take other human lives, and that's what they set out to do.

112

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:57,000

By the summer of 1975, investigators say the operation has shifted to San Francisco

113

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:01,000

where SLA members worked odd jobs painting houses.

114

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

In their spare time, they allegedly planted pipe bombs.

115

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:11,000

Then, in late August, Kathy Solia, Bill Harris and Jim Kilgore

116

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:15,000

made the 375-mile trek south to Los Angeles,

117

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

reportedly to create more carnage.

118

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:25,000

Authorities believe they were hauling an arsenal of deadly explosives in the back of the car.

119

00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:30,000

Most of them were pipe bombs using either two-inch or three-inch pipe,

120

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:34,000

which is big. The pipe bombs used in Los Angeles were three-inch pipe,

121

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

and those are very substantial bombs.

122

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:43,000

They filled those pipe bombs with concrete nails and with gunpowder.

123

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:52,000

Fun in Los Angeles, Jim Kilgore and the other SLA members

124

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:56,000

allegedly planted a pipe bomb beneath an LAPD patrol car.

125

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:00,000

But the triggering mechanism malfunctioned,

126

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

and the officer narrowly escaped serious injury or death.

127

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:07,000

Authorities say it was not an isolated incident.

128

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:12,000

A call then went out to all the other police cars in the county.

129

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

Check under your vehicles, and sure enough,

130

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

an officer with Hallenbeck Division went out and checked underneath all the vehicles

131

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:22,000

and found an identical device under one of the cars there.

132

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:29,000

Over the next few days, Harris, Soli and Kilgore returned to San Francisco

133

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:32,000

to rejoin their comrades.

134

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:34,000

But the heat was on.

135

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:38,000

FBI agents acting on a tip finally got a break.

136

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:42,000

The owner of several apartment buildings recognized some house painters

137

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:45,000

he had recently hired as SLA members.

138

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:49,000

It kind of looks like one of the guys over in the Pacific, a young man.

139

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:54,000

Within hours, Jim Kilgore and the others were under surveillance.

140

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:58,000

The next morning, September 18, 1975,

141

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:02,000

agents followed one of the suspects to a safe house on Presida Avenue.

142

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:06,000

So they started to watch Presida Address,

143

00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:08,000

and from watching the Presida Address,

144

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:12,000

they see Bill Harris and Emily Harris coming out of the house.

145

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

When the Harrises returned from jogging,

146

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:20,000

they were confronted by FBI agents carrying guns and handcuffs.

147

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:22,000

Put your hands in the air, turn around, pass the door.

148

00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:27,000

An hour after that, having identified a second safe house in San Francisco,

149

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:30,000

agents and members of the San Francisco Police Department

150

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:33,000

raided a second location in San Francisco,

151

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:37,000

and during that raid, they apprehended Patty Hearst.

152

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:42,000

592 days after being abducted at gunpoint,

153

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:45,000

Patty Hearst's days on the lam ended.

154

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:49,000

The high-profile arrests of Hearst and Bill and Emily Harris

155

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:53,000

instantly hit radio and television broadcasts nationwide.

156

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:59,000

Meanwhile, the dragnet closed in on Kathy Solia and Jim Kilgore,

157

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:03,000

who thought he's now believed were painting a home in nearby Pacifica.

158

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:10,000

They raided that house later that afternoon,

159

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:13,000

and when they showed up the house,

160

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:16,000

all the remnants of the painting, the buckets of paint,

161

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

and the paintbrushes were just left drying in the room.

162

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:23,000

A radio was on with an all-new station.

163

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

Kathy Solia and Jim Kilgore had simply vanished.

164

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

On agent search Kilgore's apartment that afternoon,

165

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:35,000

they found boxes of bomb-making materials.

166

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:40,000

The evidence, FBI lab technicians later determined,

167

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:44,000

positively linked Kilgore to the SLA crime spree.

168

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:48,000

At that location, they found a fully manufactured bomb

169

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

similar to the bombs that were placed under the police cars

170

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:54,000

in Los Angeles and also up in San Francisco.

171

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:58,000

When they inspected that bomb, they found his fingerprint.

172

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:01,000

It was a very good break for law enforcement

173

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:06,000

because it allowed us to charge James Kilgore with a serious offense.

174

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

Still, no charges had been filed in the murder of Myrna Opsall.

175

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

However, some 24 years later, in June 1999,

176

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:21,000

Kathy Solia was arrested in an upscale Minnesota suburb,

177

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:24,000

where she had been living as a homemaker and community activist

178

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:27,000

under the alias Sarah Jane Olson.

179

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

Olson was brought to Los Angeles to stand trial for planting explosives

180

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

under a police car in 1975.

181

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:38,000

Her testimony and new advances in forensic science

182

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:43,000

led Sacramento District Attorney Jan Scully to re-examine the Opsall murder case.

183

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:47,000

The state of the evidence today has convinced me

184

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:50,000

now is the time to seek justice for Myrna Opsall.

185

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:54,000

I still miss my mother intensely

186

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:57,000

and she's missing out on the best years of her life

187

00:13:57,000 --> 00:13:59,000

and her grandkids and all,

188

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:03,000

but this isn't about revenge or paybacks.

189

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:07,000

It's just a matter of justice that they chose to do this

190

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:10,000

and they need to be held accountable.

191

00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:15,000

SLA members Bill Harris, Emily Harris, Michael Borton,

192

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

Kathy Solia and Jim Kilgore have all been indicted in the case.

193

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:21,000

Under the felony murder rule,

194

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:25,000

they're all potentially responsible for the death of Myrna Opsall.

195

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:28,000

Patty Hearst, who had been granted immunity in exchange

196

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:30,000

for her testimony about the shooting,

197

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:33,000

is expected to be the prosecution's star witness.

198

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

No date has been set for the trial.

199

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:40,000

Now the only missing suspect is Jim Kilgore.

200

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:42,000

He's still on the loose.

201

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:47,000

The heat has definitely been set for the trial.

202

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:51,000

The heat has definitely been turned up more and more

203

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:53,000

throughout the course of the last two and a half years

204

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:56,000

for Mr. Kilgore, so I'm sure he's probably looking over his shoulder

205

00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:58,000

a little bit more every day.

206

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

This is a picture of Jim Kilgore in 1975 at age 27.

207

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:07,000

Kilgore is now in his mid-50s.

208

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:12,000

Authorities believe he has used as many as 13 different aliases

209

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

and he may have altered his appearance.

210

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:19,000

The case is still under investigation.

211

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Laura Launder, boyfriend of 11 years,

212

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:48,000

Mike Talusti, enjoyed entertaining in their Artdale, Wisconsin home.

213

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:52,000

Denise Bikioni and her husband were often guests.

214

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Denise was Mike's cousin and Laura's best friend.

215

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:01,000

Laura was just a wonderful person.

216

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:05,000

She had wonderful family dinners and she was good to Mike.

217

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:07,000

I saw Mike very happy.

218

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:11,000

I never saw them argue or fight and there were a lot of fun to be with.

219

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

Where is it? Where is the money?

220

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:15,000

I almost broke it.

221

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

However, one night in March 2001, Mike Talusti was ready to argue.

222

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:22,000

When he tracked Laura down at a nearby casino

223

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:24,000

where she'd gone to gamble with Denise and her mother.

224

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:27,000

Denise, you're a freak.

225

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:28,000

I gotta go.

226

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:29,000

What's wrong?

227

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:31,000

Mike showed up.

228

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:33,000

He's in the truck. He's so upset.

229

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:34,000

He wants me to go.

230

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:35,000

Laura, look at me.

231

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:37,000

She was just trembling. She was shaking.

232

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:39,000

And I said, well, what's wrong?

233

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:41,000

And she said, I don't know. He's depressed.

234

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:43,000

Something's wrong with him. We gotta go.

235

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:45,000

You guys stay and have a good time.

236

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Were you calling?

237

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:49,000

Yeah, tomorrow. I'll call you tomorrow.

238

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

And I said, you know, my something's just not right here

239

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:55,000

because he doesn't get mad. He doesn't have a temper.

240

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:59,000

He has a temper, but he usually says what he needs to say

241

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:01,000

and it's over.

242

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:05,000

After that night, Mike Talusti would never be seen again.

243

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:08,000

According to friends and family,

244

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

Mike's behavior in the casino may indeed have been out of character,

245

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:14,000

but for him to completely avoid contact with them

246

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

was incomprehensible.

247

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:18,000

Strangely, however, one person who claimed

248

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:20,000

and all where Mike went,

249

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:22,000

his longtime girlfriend, Laura Law.

250

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:25,000

Ultimately, she too would disappear.

251

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:28,000

Mike, please stop, girl.

252

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:30,000

When they returned from the casino,

253

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:32,000

Laura said Mike packed some clothes

254

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:35,000

and \$73,000 in cash,

255

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:38,000

which she said came from the graphics business they owned.

256

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:41,000

He then set out on foot from their rural home

257

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:43,000

in the middle of the night.

258

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:46,000

I said, that's so strange.

259

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:48,000

He left on foot and she said, yeah.

260

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:51,000

And I said, Laura, why would he leave all of his vehicles?

261

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:53,000

I said, this doesn't make any sense.

262

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:57,000

And she said, well, I think he had a trucker pick him up.

263

00:17:57,000 --> 00:17:59,000

He's my cousin. He's like the sweetest guy in the world.

264

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:01,000

Why would he just disappear?

265

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:03,000

That's what I want to know.

266

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:05,000

I thought she was lying,

267

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:07,000

but I thought she was trying to cover her embarrassment.

268

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:10,000

Maybe he said, I'm leaving you for another woman.

269

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:12,000

Well, we had that big fight the first night.

270

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:15,000

I thought I need to give her the benefit of the doubt

271

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:20,000

because we truly loved her as a family member also.

272

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

I didn't want to actually take sides with either one of them.

273

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:28,000

And then two weeks after Mike disappeared,

274

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:31,000

she called me up and she goes, well, he just called.

275

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

And he's out west.

276

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

And I said, well, when's he coming home?

277

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:37,000

And she goes, well, I asked him, are you ready to come home yet?

278

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:40,000

And he said, no.

279

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:44,000

Four months passed and there was still no sign of Mike to Lusty.

280

00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:47,000

But because Mike and Laura ran their own business,

281

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:51,000

few knew Mike was gone.

282

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:55,000

By mid-summer, though, Denise insisted Laura talk to Mike's family.

283

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:59,000

They are still not been told about his strange disappearance.

284

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:03,000

I'm going to tell him that he's on an extended fishing trip

285

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:05,000

and went a peg.

286

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:07,000

What?

287

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:09,000

And I said, this is going on too long.

288

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:11,000

If this was my son, I'd be furious if somebody didn't tell me

289

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:12,000

that he's been missing.

290

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:13,000

I don't want to worry them.

291

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:14,000

I don't care.

292

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:18,000

You've got to tell them, all right?

293

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

Oh, all right.

294

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

OK, I'll tell them the truth.

295

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:26,000

To Denise's shock, Laura lied to Mike's mother anyway

296

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:29,000

and told her that Mike had gone to Canada.

297

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:32,000

It was so bizarre.

298

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:33,000

That scared me.

299

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:38,000

It scared me that she would be so underhanded to plat and say,

300

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:42,000

this is what we're going to say.

301

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:46,000

With her suspicions now aroused, Denise recalled other instances

302

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:49,000

of Laura's increasingly bizarre behavior.

303

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:50,000

Hello?

304

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

Hi, this is Denise.

305

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

Oh, hi, Denise.

306

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:57,000

I'm going to come today and get my snowmobiles, OK?

307

00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:01,000

Well, sure, but I don't have the keys.

308

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:04,000

Denise's snowmobiles were stored in a shed in Mike and Laura's

309

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:08,000

backyard, and Laura seemed determined to prevent anyone

310

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:10,000

from entering the padlocked shed.

311

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:12,000

I don't know what's going on with you,

312

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:15,000

but for the past three weeks, every time I called about the snowmobiles,

313

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:17,000

you have some of the reason why I can't come get them.

314

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

I said, Laura, if you don't hand the snowmobiles out of that shed,

315

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

I'm coming with a locksmith, and I'll replace a locks and pay

316

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:25,000

for it and give you new keys and new locks.

317

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:28,000

I said, but I need my snowmobiles.

318

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:31,000

I don't know what you're making such a big deal about this for.

319

00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:33,000

Because you put me through the ring trying to get these snowmobiles.

320

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:34,000

I'm telling you something.

321

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

If that shed isn't open, I'm going to break it open.

322

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Denise?

323

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Laura had removed the snowmobiles by herself,

324

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:44,000

but she was still preventing anyone else from entering the shed.

325

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:47,000

The thought now crossed Denise's mind.

326

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Could something could do with Mike's disappearance

327

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:52,000

be hidden in the shed?

328

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:53,000

It was destroyed.

329

00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:55,000

It broke the camel's back.

330

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:59,000

I called Mike's brother and I said, Mark, we have to talk.

331

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:01,000

I said, something's wrong.

332

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:04,000

Something's terrible wrong.

333

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:06,000

Four months after Mike Tellusty disappeared,

334

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:11,000

Mark Tellusty filed a missing persons report with the local authorities.

335

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:15,000

Because of the way the stories weren't jiving and things didn't add up

336

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:19,000

and no one's heard from him, I didn't hesitate at all.

337

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:24,000

And he left everything and that also made me very suspicious

338

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:27,000

that something happened to him.

339

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:31,000

The case was ultimately assigned to investigator Gary Silke.

340

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:32,000

Did you find anything?

341

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:36,000

Laura seemed to be very cooperative the day that we were there.

342

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:40,000

She also invited me to look around on the property if I desired.

343

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:42,000

What do you normally keep in the shed?

344

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:47,000

Laura threw a roadblock in front of me when I asked to go into that building.

345

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:49,000

Can we take a look?

346

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:53,000

Well, actually, I cleared all of that stuff out a couple months ago

347

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:55,000

so that I could rent it.

348

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:56,000

Do you have a key?

349

00:21:56,000 --> 00:21:59,000

Oh, no. The man I rented it to has the key.

350

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:00,000

You don't have a spare?

351

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

Oh, no, but I couldn't let you in there anyway.

352

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:04,000

And what's his name?

353

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:08,000

George. George Giuliani.

354

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Laura agreed to make arrangements for Mr. Giuliani

355

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:13,000

to drive up to the Arctale property

356

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:19,000

and then meet law enforcement so we could continue the search inside the shed.

357

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

Authorities now believe that within hours of being questioned by investigators,

358

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:26,000

Laura Law hastily fled her home.

359

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:31,000

Her whereabouts are still not known.

360

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:33,000

It would take several more months of investigation

361

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:38,000

before Gary Silke was granted a search warrant for the property.

362

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:44,000

On January 22, 2002, investigators finally entered the mystery shed.

363

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:47,000

The minute that we stepped inside,

364

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:50,000

I could smell the strong pungent odor of what I believe to be

365

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:54,000

that of a decomposing human body.

366

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:57,000

In the near empty shed, under several pieces of wood

367

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:00,000

and covered in a blanket and plastic wrapping,

368

00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:04,000

police found the decomposed body of Mike Tullusti.

369

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:08,000

He had been dead between nine and 10 months.

370

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:12,000

The autopsy showed cause of death.

371

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:17,000

It was attributed to a single gunshot wound to the back of the victim's head.

372

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:21,000

Several years before the incident,

373

00:23:21,000 --> 00:23:25,000

Laura Law had purchased a 9mm handgun.

374

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:33,000

We believe that that is the weapon that was used in the homicide of Michael Tullusti.

375

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:39,000

Despite the evidence, those who knew them were stunned to conclude Laura had murdered Mike.

376

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:43,000

I was with her for 11 years and I thought she was a wonderful person.

377

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:44,000

Is it the best?

378

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:46,000

Did I know her at all?

379

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:49,000

Is Laura the one that we had so much fun with and did things with?

380

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:50,000

Is it Laura?

381

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:53,000

Or is this Laura the one that shot him?

382

00:23:53,000 --> 00:23:55,000

Who is Laura?

383

00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:57,000

It's unbelievable.

384

00:23:57,000 --> 00:23:59,000

What happened?

385

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

That's bottom line. What happened?

386

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:07,000

I'm almost sure that she has a gambling problem.

387

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:11,000

And I think that's probably what triggered this.

388

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:13,000

We're about broke.

389

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:16,000

Michael may have told her that enough was enough

390

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

and that she needed to consider leaving.

391

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

And Laura, you didn't want to leave that relationship and didn't want to leave the life as she knew it.

392

00:24:50,000 --> 00:24:59,000

A summer lightning storm thunders over St. Francisville, Louisiana, illuminating the Myrtles plantation.

393

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

The Myrtles is an infamous 200-year-old antebellum mansion.

394

00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:11,000

Converted to a bed and breakfast decades ago, it seems to be one of America's most haunted houses.

395

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:30,000

Shooting, poisoning, lynching are just a few of the deadly means by which the ghosts of the Myrtles met their mortal demise.

396

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:34,000

At least eight people died violent deaths here.

397

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:41,000

And legend has it their spirits remain on the premises, appearing regularly to guests and staff alike.

398

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

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

399

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:53,000

Perhaps the Myrtles plantation was destined to be haunted.

400

00:25:53,000 --> 00:26:02,000

Legend has it that in 1796 the original owner, General David Bradford, built the house directly on top of an ancient Indian burial ground.

401

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:07,000

Since that time literally hundreds of sightings of the unexplained have occurred.

402

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Could spirits be haunting the plantation?

403

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:13,000

Thousands believe they are.

404

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:22,000

This mysterious mansion is said to be a window into the supernatural.

405

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:27,000

Guests here are well aware of the possibility of having a ghostly encounter.

406

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:36,000

I guess I have to say I really didn't believe that there were actually ghosts or spirits there, that it was just folklore and legend.

407

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:42,000

And it wasn't until I was already in that things began to happen that convinced me that yes, they are here.

408

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:44,000

But by then it was too late.

409

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:47,000

Financially I couldn't afford to be scared.

410

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:59,000

When Amy Campbell and her friend Michelle came to stay at the B&B last October 30th, they were well informed of its ghostly past.

411

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:05,000

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

412

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:11,000

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

413

00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:14,000

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

414

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:24,000

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

415

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:30,000

And I saw a little girl jumping on the end of my bed and I thought surely I'm dreaming and I stuck my head back under the covers.

416

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

It kept bouncing and bouncing and bouncing. It felt like forever.

417

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:35,000

And all of a sudden it stopped.

418

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:39,000

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

419

00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:51,000

The child ghost is thought to be Cornelia Woodruff, one of four people who died in a tragic set of events 175 years ago.

420

00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:58,000

Cornelia was a daughter of Judge Woodruff, whose family lived at the Myrtles in the early 1800s.

421

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:04,000

When the Woodruff's house slave Chloe was caught eavesdropping on the judge, he was compelled to punish her.

422

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:07,000

This is the third time I've caught you.

423

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:09,000

I wasn't listening. I will not tolerate this.

424

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

Oh, sir, please no.

425

00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:12,000

This time you will be punished.

426

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:14,000

Oh, sir, please no.

427

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:17,000

The judge had Chloe's ear cut off.

428

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:23,000

Fearful of also being sent to the fields to do hard labor, Chloe made a plan.

429

00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:30,000

She decided to grind poisonous oleander leaves into a birthday cake hoping to make the family ill.

430

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:34,000

Then she would endear herself by nursing them back to health.

431

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:37,000

I baked your favorite cake, Miss Sarah.

432

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:41,000

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

433

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:48,000

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

434

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:52,000

But Chloe's scheme backfired.

435

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:57,000

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

436

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:02,000

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

437

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:05,000

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

438

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:07,000

Black and whites were probably together.

439

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:11,000

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

440

00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:16,000

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

441

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

It is said that Cornelia, along with her mother and sister, have joined Chloe in eternally haunting the house.

442

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:35,000

I think I've been frightened more in the day than at night.

443

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:40,000

Arlandes owned and restored Myrtles Plantation over 30 years ago.

444

00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:44,000

He remembers his first ethereal encounter very well.

445

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:47,000

It was 1970, and he was mowing the north lawn.

446

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:52,000

First of all, I never thought that I would see any type of ghost.

447

00:29:52,000 --> 00:30:05,000

It was in the afternoon, approximately four or five o'clock, and as I was mowing, I simply looked up and there was this vision.

448

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:10,000

And then with a blink of an eye, it was gone.

449

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:17,000

Well, needless to say, there's a chill factor that comes over one when that occurs.

450

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

The vision Arlandes saw is said to be the ghost of the elderly caretaker who was robbed and killed on the estate in 1927.

451

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:36,000

Three years ago, Mark and Holly Parente spent a frightening night at the Myrtles.

452

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:42,000

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

history.

453

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:50,000

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

454

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:53,000

Come right up. It is. It's a beautiful house.

455

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

I asked her if the tour guide came out, and she says, you know, welcome to the Myrtles.

456

00:30:57,000 --> 00:30:59,000

Oh, and by the way, you're the only guest here tonight.

457

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

Really?

458

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:01,000

Yeah.

459

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:03,000

Come on. Don't worry about that.

460

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:05,000

Tell him he's fine.

461

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:16,000

It was scary. The thought of being in this haunted house by ourselves and no one else in here was very scary, more probably to Mark than me, but I was scared to.

462

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:24,000

Perhaps the Parentes had reason to be nervous. A former Myrtles owner is said to haunt that very staircase.

463

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:29,000

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

464

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:35,000

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

465

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:44,000

So we're laying in bed, and she's sort of having a nervous chit-chat, and what I heard was a very deep, sounding bang.

466

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:46,000

Sounds like someone's on the steps.

467

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:51,000

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

468

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:52,000

I'm going to go.

469

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:54,000

No. No. Holly, stay here.

470

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:55,000

Oh, come on.

471

00:31:55,000 --> 00:31:56,000

No.

472

00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:57,000

I want to look.

473

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:02,000

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

474

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:07,000

The reason for the murder of the prominent homeowner remains a mystery.

475

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:11,000

Winners! William Winners!

476

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:18,000

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

477

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:20,000

Who's there?

478

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

Are you William Winners?

479

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:24,000

Yes, I'm William Winners.

480

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:34,000

Whoever was there shot him in the chest.

481

00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:39,000

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

482

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

She was upstairs.

483

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:43,000

Sarah! Sarah!

484

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:46,000

No, William!

485

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:48,000

He only made it to the 17th step.

486

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:51,000

Oh, no. No.

487

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:52,000

William.

488

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:54,000

Why?

489

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:57,000

He died there in her arms.

490

00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:06,000

I wish someone would be able to explain it other than the story that I heard, but I can't tell you

for sure what it was.

491

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:10,000

All I know was that it was enough for me, you know.

492

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:12,000

It was enough for me to make me want to leave.

493

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:18,000

In a way, I think we were both hoping it might have been our imagination, but it definitely wasn't.

494

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:26,000

For all who ventured to Myrtles' plantation for a glimpse of the hereafter,

495

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

perhaps they should take advice from those who have actually braved the halls of this haunted house.

496

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

There are certain times that I'm uncomfortable here.

497

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:40,000

Certain times that you could say I get the creeps.

498

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:42,000

I can't explain it.

499

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:44,000

It's no certain hour.

500

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:46,000

It's just times.

501

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:49,000

You can walk in, and as I said before, you can feel a sadness.

502

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:53,000

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

503

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:55,000

You know you hear them.

504

00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:57,000

Someone is right behind you.

505

00:33:57,000 --> 00:33:59,000

You can stop. The footsteps stop.

506

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:04,000

Once you have the encounter and you feel the sensation,

507

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:10,000

you will know that their intention is not to harm you.

508

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:13,000

They are truly here to protect you.

509

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

They protect this home.

510

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:19,000

This is their station. This is their life. This is where they live.

511

00:34:23,000 --> 00:34:27,000

If Myrtles' plantation truly haunted, we can't say for sure,

512

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

but our production crew certainly had more than their share of unexplained technical difficulties.

513

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:37,000

Electrical equipment including cameras, cell phones, and walkie-talkies constantly malfunctioned.

514

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:41,000

Well, these just mysterious mishaps are ghostly intervention.

515

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:52,000

The tetanus shots, those are what hurt.

516

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:56,000

For Pam Coretti, it was just another day of running errands

517

00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:00,000

in her quiet working-class neighborhood of Freeport, New York.

518

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:04,000

As Pam was driving her teenage son to the doctor,

519

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:08,000

she saw what appeared to be a terrible car accident.

520

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:11,000

What's going on? I can't see anything.

521

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:14,000

I said to myself, look over there and see what's going on.

522

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:17,000

So he just looked over and said, I don't see anything. You can't see anything.

523

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:19,000

There's just ambulances all over.

524

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:24,000

So I passed it. I took him to the doctor's office. We came back home.

525

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:30,000

It was then that Pam received an unusual phone call about her eldest son,

526

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:33,000

21-year-old Damien Coretti.

527

00:35:34,000 --> 00:35:36,000

No, he's not made. Take a message.

528

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:40,000

And I got a phone call from one of his friends asking me, is Damien there?

529

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:45,000

I said, no, he's not. He was going to go out to see his friends, aren't you, with him?

530

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:48,000

No. OK, never mind. And they hung up.

531

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:49,000

Hello?

532

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:51,000

And that was just the whole thing was odd.

533

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:56,000

After paging Damien to no avail and with the accident still fresh in her mind,

534

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:58,000

Pam decided to check local hospitals.

535

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

I called South Nassau Hospital.

536

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

Hi, my name's Pam Coretti.

537

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:06,000

And said to Damien Coretti there, yes, who is this?

538

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:08,000

I said, this is his mom.

539

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:11,000

I said, is he there? Is he OK? Why didn't anybody call me?

540

00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:14,000

Why aren't you, why aren't I being informed?

541

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:16,000

What's going on? Just tell me what's going on.

542

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:20,000

And she said, didn't the detective come to your house yet?

543

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Within minutes, Pam was at the hospital.

544

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:28,000

Her son Damien had been involved in the incident she saw earlier,

545

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:30,000

but it was no traffic accident.

546

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:34,000

My son was there on the bed.

547

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:38,000

And he was in a hospital can.

548

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:42,000

And he looked like a complete angel.

549

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:47,000

And I went to hug him.

550

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:49,000

And there was blood on my hand.

551

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:51,000

Oh, God.

552

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:56,000

When they told me he was shot five times in the head,

553

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:59,000

I couldn't comprehend it.

554

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

Everything went crazy at that point.

555

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:08,000

I saw my wife crying on the other side of the door.

556

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:10,000

There wasn't a nurse.

557

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:13,000

And then I said to her, what's wrong?

558

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:15,000

I said, he's dead.

559

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:18,000

Just like that.

560

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:20,000

I'm so sorry.

561

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:24,000

Something died in me that day, too.

562

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:30,000

Pam Coretti and her husband Damien all soon learned

563

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:33,000

that their son had died in a gang shooting.

564

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:35,000

Now the grieving parents had to deal with insinuations

565

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

that Damien was himself a gang member

566

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

and had somehow played a role in his own murder.

567

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:44,000

But to Pam Coretti, that just didn't make any sense.

568

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:50,000

Damien was a pre-med student at Stony Brook University.

569

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:53,000

And he had an ambition.

570

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:56,000

And that was to go to college and get his degree

571

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:58,000

and become an anesthesiologist.

572

00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:02,000

My son had absolutely no gang affiliation.

573

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:05,000

That was proven over and over.

574

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:08,000

It was written in every newspaper.

575

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:10,000

He was absolutely not a part of a gang

576

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:12,000

and had no gang affiliation.

577

00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:14,000

Yeah, that's fine. Why don't you go ahead and fax me?

578

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:16,000

Mom, I'm taking off.

579

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:18,000

Could you hold on one second?

580

00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:19,000

Honey, could you do something for me?

581

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:20,000

Can you run this by the bank?

582

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:21,000

Okay.

583

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:22,000

Okay.

584

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:23,000

What time are you going to be back?

585

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:24,000

Before dinner.

586

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:25,000

Dinner is at 6.30.

587

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:26,000

All right.

588

00:38:26,000 --> 00:38:27,000

Okay, thanks honey. I appreciate it.

589

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:30,000

After his leading up to his death, Damien had returned home

590

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:32,000

for winter break and had rekindled friendships

591

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:34,000

he formed in high school.

592

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:37,000

One of those friends,

593

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:40,000

there was a man by the name of Harold Zambrano.

594

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Good luck, you kid.

595

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:43,000

Yo, popping chump for me, yo?

596

00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:44,000

Yeah, sure.

597

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:46,000

Harold was a 19-year-old

598

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:49,000

member of a local gang called Niantas.

599

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:52,000

Yo son, can you go by the school

600

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:54,000

or by the laundromat and stuff?

601

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:56,000

I was just looking for these punks.

602

00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:57,000

These punks?

603

00:38:57,000 --> 00:38:58,000

Why? What's up?

604

00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:00,000

Harold told Damien that two days earlier

605

00:39:00,000 --> 00:39:03,000

he was jumped by members of MS-13,

606

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:05,000

a violent El Salvadorian street gang

607

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:07,000

originally from Los Angeles.

608

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:09,000

They jumped you?

609

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:10,000

Yeah, man, look at that.

610

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:11,000

They cried over the bottle.

611

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:12,000

Oh, that's horrible.

612

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:13,000

Yeah, no son.

613

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:15,000

Harold asked Damien for help.

614

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:19,000

Damien had the biggest heart in the world

615

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:21,000

that was part of his problem.

616

00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:24,000

Anybody asked him for anything,

617

00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:26,000

he would do it and he would be there,

618

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:28,000

even if he had his own plans.

619

00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:29,000

That's not right.

620

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:31,000

I know, yo, that's why you got my back, son.

621

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:33,000

You better go look for these cats.

622

00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Yeah, yeah, I got your back.

623

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

Damien Corente, on the day that he died,

624

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

I'm sure had no idea as to what he was getting involved in.

625

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:45,000

Harold Zambrano, being a gang member,

626

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:48,000

probably never publicized that fact to Damien.

627

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:50,000

At a local strip mall,

628

00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:52,000

Harold found what he was looking for.

629

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:53,000

Yo, that's one of them.

630

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:54,000

That's one of them right there.

631

00:39:54,000 --> 00:39:56,000

Stop the car, stop the car.

632

00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:59,000

19-year-old Hermon de Leon.

633

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:02,000

Hermon de Leon is a known MS-13 member

634

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:04,000

and was wearing the colors,

635

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:06,000

so there was no question in their mind

636

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:08,000

that they had found somebody.

637

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:10,000

Yo, we're friends now, son.

638

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:12,000

They approached Hermon de Leon.

639

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:13,000

Were you?

640

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:14,000

Don't play stupid, son.

641

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:15,000

Did you do this?

642

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:18,000

They confronted him with the injury to Harold Zambrano.

643

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:19,000

I didn't do that.

644

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Yo, I was over here waiting for my girl.

645

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:21,000

Yo, what you talking about?

646

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:22,000

Wait for your girl.

647

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:23,000

You liar.

648

00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:25,000

He was there at the laundromat with his girlfriend.

649

00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:28,000

De Leon admitted that he was an MS-13 member

650

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:29,000

and told him that he had nothing to do

651

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:31,000

with that particular incident.

652

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:32,000

Do nothing like that, son.

653

00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:33,000

It's not worth it.

654

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:34,000

Get him out of here.

655

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:37,000

Zambrano and those guys indicated that they respected the fact

656

00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:38,000

that he was with his girlfriend,

657

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

and it wouldn't cause him any trouble

658

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

while he was with his girlfriend.

659

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:46,000

Damien, Harold and the others returned to their car,

660

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:48,000

and the incident would have ended right there

661

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:52,000

if it weren't for a tragic coincidence.

662

00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:58,000

Two more members of the MS-13 stumbled onto the scene.

663

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:03,000

The confrontation then exploded into violence.

664

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:08,000

Harold Zambrano was shot in the neck and critically injured.

665

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:11,000

Damien Corrente was fatally shot five times in the head.

666

00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:15,000

A police investigation quickly revealed

667

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:19,000

the identity of the alleged shooters.

668

00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:25,000

Hermonde De Leon, Mario Portillo, and Juan Gil Ferrufino.

669

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:29,000

But the suspects could not be found.

670

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

The whole family was absolutely devastated.

671

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:34,000

And detectives started coming to my house,

672

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:36,000

and police started coming to my house,

673

00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:39,000

and all my children's friends started coming to my house,

674

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

and they would sit the kids down and say to them,

675

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

tell me about gangs.

676

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:45,000

And the kids started telling me about gangs.

677

00:41:45,000 --> 00:41:47,000

And I was shocked.

678

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:51,000

I said, why didn't you tell me about gangs?

679

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:54,000

Then I began driving around to look for myself.

680

00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:56,000

And I saw exactly what they said.

681

00:41:56,000 --> 00:41:58,000

I went up to the junior high school and the high school,

682

00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:00,000

and I saw them, and you can tell by their colors,

683

00:42:00,000 --> 00:42:03,000

and you can tell by their bandanas.

684

00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:08,000

I was totally unaware, totally unaware.

685

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:10,000

And I saw kids hanging out in different...

686

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:12,000

It never occurred to me.

687

00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:14,000

I just thought it was just groups and groups.

688

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:16,000

These groups are extremely violent.

689

00:42:16,000 --> 00:42:20,000

Males between the ages of 18 and 25, sometimes younger.

690

00:42:20,000 --> 00:42:23,000

Later that week, Pam attended a police forum on gangs

691

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:26,000

held in reaction to her son's murder.

692

00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:29,000

When someone asked the question point blank,

693

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:32,000

are there gangs here in Freeport?

694

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:33,000

The answer was...

695

00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:35,000

I would have to say at this moment, not really.

696

00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:37,000

And that's when I went berserk.

697

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:40,000

How dare you tell these people there's no gang activity here?

698

00:42:40,000 --> 00:42:41,000

My son did...

699

00:42:41,000 --> 00:42:43,000

And I stood up in front of everyone,

700

00:42:43,000 --> 00:42:45,000

and I started screaming.

701

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

How do you even say that when my son was murdered

702

00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:49,000

on your doorstep?

703

00:42:49,000 --> 00:42:51,000

By gangs, and you're going to tell them

704

00:42:51,000 --> 00:42:53,000

there's no gangs in Freeport?

705

00:42:53,000 --> 00:42:55,000

There's graffiti all over the town,

706

00:42:55,000 --> 00:42:57,000

all the repetitive patterns we've been seeing.

707

00:42:57,000 --> 00:43:00,000

It was at that moment that Pam Corrente had an epiphany.

708

00:43:00,000 --> 00:43:04,000

She would lead the charge to rid her neighborhood of gangs.

709

00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:07,000

Perhaps you would like to join me for a closed meeting

710

00:43:07,000 --> 00:43:10,000

with the mayor tomorrow night on this very topic.

711

00:43:10,000 --> 00:43:12,000

I would love to, yes. Thank you.

712

00:43:12,000 --> 00:43:13,000

Don't you make it.

713

00:43:13,000 --> 00:43:14,000

I would love to come. Thank you.

714

00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:16,000

I had no choice. I had to fight.

715

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:20,000

It was either that or go with the rage and the anger and the hate.

716

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:22,000

So I can't do that.

717

00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:24,000

But I can fight back by trying to educate our children

718

00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:26,000

and trying to find a way for them

719

00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:29,000

and to educate the parents to educate the children.

720

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:33,000

Pam and the Freeport Police Department formed GASP,

721

00:43:33,000 --> 00:43:35,000

the Gang Awareness Suppression Program.

722

00:43:35,000 --> 00:43:36,000

Hi, I'm Pam Corrente.

723

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

Hi, I'm here in the neighborhood.

724

00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:39,000

I'm trying to raise awareness of the gang problem we have here.

725

00:43:39,000 --> 00:43:41,000

We have a gang problem in this neighborhood?

726

00:43:41,000 --> 00:43:42,000

Yes, actually we do.

727

00:43:42,000 --> 00:43:44,000

We're opening their eyes to a very big problem

728

00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:47,000

that maybe didn't exist when we were kids.

729

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:50,000

And it was such a good, healthy outlet,

730

00:43:50,000 --> 00:43:53,000

instead of the hate and the anger and the rage

731

00:43:53,000 --> 00:43:55,000

and the frustration that I was feeling,

732

00:43:55,000 --> 00:43:58,000

living only blocks from the mother and father

733

00:43:58,000 --> 00:44:01,000

of the kids who killed my son.

734

00:44:01,000 --> 00:44:03,000

Thanks a lot. I appreciate your help.

735

00:44:03,000 --> 00:44:04,000

Thank you.

736

00:44:04,000 --> 00:44:05,000

Bye-bye.

737

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:07,000

I hope I can make a difference.

738

00:44:07,000 --> 00:44:10,000

I don't know that I am, but I hope I can.

739

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

Since Pam founded GASP,

740

00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:17,000

not one person has died from gang violence in the Freeport area.

741

00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:23,000

But even though Pam finds her new work rewarding,

742

00:44:23,000 --> 00:44:26,000

it will never take away the pain of losing her son.

743

00:44:26,000 --> 00:44:28,000

When the bloom is going to be beautiful.

744

00:44:28,000 --> 00:44:30,000

There is only one thing that would help,

745

00:44:30,000 --> 00:44:33,000

catching the alleged killers of Damien Corente.

746

00:44:38,000 --> 00:44:40,000

Although police trace Hermón de León,

747

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

María Portillo, and Juan Gilferro Fino to El Salvador,

748

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

they now believe the suspects may have returned

749

00:44:46,000 --> 00:44:48,000

to the United States.

750

00:44:50,000 --> 00:44:52,000

All three are young Hispanic males

751

00:44:52,000 --> 00:44:55,000

and may be hiding in Los Angeles or Miami.

752

00:44:59,000 --> 00:45:02,000

With every mystery one critical clue may lead to a solution.

753

00:45:02,000 --> 00:45:05,000

Join us again for Unsolved Mysteries.

754

00:45:58,000 --> 00:46:01,000

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