

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 --> 00:00:14,000

Mizar clues to a murderer left for the police.

4

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

A woman's skull and an anonymous note.

5

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

Was young Linda Sherman killed by her husband?

6

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

Hey!

7

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

Or did her tragic fate lie in someone else's hands?

8

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

From the moment John Fuget began dating Erica Richardson,

9

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

it seemed like they were destined to be together.

10

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

But Erica soon found out that Fuget was a ticking time bomb

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

and the fuse was burning.

12

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

Donna Tyson claims her digital clock

13

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

suddenly began to blink the exact time

14

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

of her son's fatal car crash.

15

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

Sharon Troupe believes her deceased daughter

16

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

appears to her in ghostly visions.

17

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

Is it possible these mothers are receiving messages

18

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

from their dead children?

19

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

It seemed that she had the perfect life,

20

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

but in truth Donna Morrow was suffering

21

00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:08,000

silently in a troubled marriage.

22

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:11,000

Six days before Christmas, Donna mysteriously disappeared,

23

00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:14,000

leaving behind four children.

24

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:17,000

Did she voluntarily walk away escaping her unhappy life?

25

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:22,000

Or was Donna Morrow a victim of foul play?

26

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:24,000

Join me for this fascinating edition

27

00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:27,000

of Unsolved Mysteries.

28

00:01:54,000 --> 00:02:20,000

Brighston, Missouri, the Casa Gallardo restaurant.

29

00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:22,000

Two women having lunch notice something strange

30

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:24,000

outside the window.

31

00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:25,000

Is there a...

32

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,000

a serve?

33

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

A shocking piece of evidence that would turn

34

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:35,000

an unsolved missing person case into a murder mystery.

35

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:39,000

There in the bushes was a human skull.

36

00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:41,000

It's a very well manicured area,

37

00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

plants and gravel and what have you.

38

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:47,000

And the way it was situated, it would give one the impression

39

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:51,000

that somebody put it there so that you would see it.

40

00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:55,000

The skull was determined to be that of an adult female.

41

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:59,000

Third row examination revealed little else.

42

00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:02,000

Well during that time period there was the relocating

43

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

of a cemetery that was in the area and a lot of bodies

44

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

were being exhumed, graves were being moved.

45

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:13,000

So it gives you the impression now that this may be a prank

46

00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:16,000

and there'd be no reason to suspect that there

47

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:19,000

were any foul play.

48

00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:22,000

The skull was catalogued, stored in the evidence room

49

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:28,000

at the Brighston County morgue and forgotten.

50

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:33,000

One year later, 25 miles away at the Vanita Park police station,

51

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

a mysterious letter arrived.

52

00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:41,000

It stated that the Brighston police had L. Sherman's skull.

53

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:46,000

Give me the Brighston police department.

54

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:49,000

Dental records confirmed that the anonymous skull was

55

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:53,000

the remains of Linda Sherman, a 26 year old wife and mother

56

00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:57,000

whose last seen April 22, 1985.

57

00:03:57,000 --> 00:03:59,000

Her disappearance is clouded with intrigue,

58

00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:03,000

involving an allegedly jealous husband and an unknown lover.

59

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:07,000

Years later, troubling questions still remain.

60

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:09,000

Who killed Linda Sherman?

61

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Why was her skull left outside a local restaurant?

62

00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:15,000

And where is the rest of her body?

63

00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:20,000

At 16, Linda Sherman was a typical teenager.

64

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:23,000

She grew up in the St. Louis suburb of Vanita Park,

65

00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:25,000

the youngest of four.

66

00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:27,000

With siblings more than 10 years older,

67

00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:31,000

she was sheltered, quiet and reserved.

68

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:34,000

Linda was kind of a shy girl, I guess, growing up.

69

00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:39,000

She wanted to be more outgoing and more athletic, I think,

70

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:44,000

but she was more at home type of a girl, I guess.

71

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:48,000

Linda was a junior when she fell for her high school sweetheart,

72

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

17 year old Don Sherman, and got married.

73

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:55,000

Hi, Mama. Hi.

74

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

When her daughter Patty was born,

75

00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:00,000

the young mother was determined to finish school.

76

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

Linda's mom would watch the baby while she completed her senior year.

77

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

Dad, get out here.

78

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:12,000

To support his new family, Don took a job at a local gas station.

79

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:15,000

It was hard, but it was rewarding.

80

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:17,000

We were very happy together.

81

00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:20,000

The relationship was rocky later on in our marriage several times,

82

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:23,000

but not in the early years.

83

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:27,000

Working opposite shifts and money trouble

84

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:29,000

strained their relationship.

85

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

In their nine-year marriage,

86

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

Linda had taken Patty and moved out several times,

87

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:35,000

but the couple always reconciled.

88

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:37,000

When we be home.

89

00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:39,000

I'll call you later.

90

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:44,000

Hello.

91

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:46,000

Come on, Don.

92

00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:48,000

According to Linda's older brother, Dennis,

93

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:51,000

Don was obsessed with knowing Linda's every move.

94

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:53,000

This is not your fault in that, Don, all right?

95

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:55,000

No, she's not here.

96

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:57,000

Don was very possessive over her.

97

00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:00,000

She said, when I get off of work, if I'm not home within five minutes,

98

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

he wants to know what's going on, who you're seeing,

99

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

what are you doing out that late?

100

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:08,000

He was always hitting her, and things just weren't right.

101

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,000

I go to work every day, and I come home.

102

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:12,000

I don't run around on you.

103

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

Linda told her family that she feared Don's violent temper

104

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:19,000

once she even got a restraining order to keep him at a distance.

105

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:23,000

Some family members claimed by April of 1985 she had had enough.

106

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Linda was making final plans to take Patty and leave.

107

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:31,000

She'd already made a decision to move out.

108

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:33,000

She had filed for divorce,

109

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:37,000

and she had definitely made plans to start a new life.

110

00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:40,000

We can't do this anymore. We're leaving.

111

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:43,000

She was going to do it this time, and she really meant that

112

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:46,000

she was going to leave Don for good.

113

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:54,000

On April 22nd, Linda left her night job at 2.16 in the morning.

114

00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:57,000

What are you doing?

115

00:06:57,000 --> 00:06:58,000

She accepts 3 o'clock in the morning.

116

00:06:58,000 --> 00:06:59,000

Yeah.

117

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:00,000

Where you been?

118

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

I've been working.

119

00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:06,000

She didn't come home from work until about 3 o'clock in the morning.

120

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:08,000

You made me sick.

121

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

We got into an argument about the fact that she wouldn't tell me where she'd been.

122

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:19,000

And we stayed up until at least 4 o'clock in the morning discussing that.

123

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:24,000

Linda was still on the sofa later that morning when Patty left for school.

124

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:26,000

She always took me to school.

125

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:29,000

But my dad took me to school that day,

126

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:33,000

and I remember her laying on the couch with her face to the back of the couch.

127

00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:37,000

And she didn't get up.

128

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:39,000

She didn't get up to kiss me goodbye.

129

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:40,000

She didn't say anything to me.

130

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:42,000

She was just laying there.

131

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:46,000

That would be the last time Patty saw her mother.

132

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Don claims that when he returned to the house that afternoon, Linda was on edge.

133

00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:00,000

When I came back home, Linda was still there.

134

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

She should have been at work by then.

135

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:02,000

I'm gonna go home late.

136

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

Hold on, I just got home.

137

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:05,000

I'm gonna have to go.

138

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

She was mad because she was running late.

139

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:13,000

Don says Linda drove off at about 6 p.m.

140

00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:16,000

But there are no witnesses that saw her leave.

141

00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:20,000

Linda never arrived at work and never came home.

142

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:28,000

When she didn't come back, I assumed it was typical of the previous times that she had left.

143

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:31,000

And I thought that she took off with somebody.

144

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

Although Linda's family suspected she was having an affair,

145

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:40,000

they had reason to believe something terrible had happened to her.

146

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:44,000

We knew that if she left, there's no way she's leaving without the daughter.

147

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:46,000

And the daughter was still at home.

148

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:50,000

And so, there was definitely foul play.

149

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:53,000

I was coming home from a meeting.

150

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:57,000

According to the Millers, at their insistence,

151

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

Don went to the Vanita Park police station and filed a missing persons report.

152

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:06,000

That's the last time I've seen her.

153

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:08,000

That was Monday.

154

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:12,000

Meanwhile, Sam and Fran frantically searched for Linda.

155

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

On a hunch, they headed to the local airport.

156

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:20,000

As we pulled into the short-term parking,

157

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:23,000

there was Linda's car sitting right there.

158

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:24,000

Is that her car?

159

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:26,000

I know my sister's car.

160

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:28,000

Yeah, I know.

161

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:33,000

We could see inside the car and we could see her school books and her hat and everything.

162

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:38,000

So we contacted the airport police and they come and the car was locked,

163

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

but they tried the trunk and the trunk was open.

164

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:45,000

And when they opened the trunk,

165

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:50,000

they'd say, well, we fully expected Linda to be in there.

166

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:52,000

And she wasn't.

167

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:57,000

Could it be possible that Linda had abandoned her daughter

168

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

and run off with another man?

169

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:06,000

Don claims he saw Linda with another man, days after her disappearance.

170

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

She drove past him in a van and quickly ducked out of sight.

171

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:12,000

Hey!

172

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Five years later, when Linda's skull appeared, suspicion fell on Don.

173

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

In a bizarre coincidence, her skull was found outside the Casa Gallardo restaurant.

174

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

One was sitting there eating and she looked down and saw a skull looking right at it.

175

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

One of Don's favorite hangouts.

176

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,000

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

177

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:40,000

I was at the restaurant that evening after the skull had been found.

178

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:43,000

I'd heard about it that day when it happened,

179

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:48,000

but never had any connection to it until later on.

180

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:53,000

No one connected it until a year later,

181

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:57,000

when the anonymous letter arrived at the Vanita Park police station.

182

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:59,000

I was rather astounded.

183

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:03,000

It was obvious to me that someone wanted us to know

184

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:07,000

that we had obviously missed something and was trying to tell us

185

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

that Linda's remains had been recovered.

186

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:14,000

It was scary.

187

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:19,000

Somebody that put those remains there at the restaurant

188

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:23,000

obviously knew me, knew that I hung out there.

189

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:25,000

I mean, it wasn't...

190

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:28,000

We're not talking about a place that I casually visited.

191

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:32,000

We're talking about a place that I would visit two or three times a week.

192

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Did Don have reason to be frightened?

193

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:41,000

Or did he have a secret motivation for placing the skull there himself?

194

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:49,000

Some speculate Don was making plans to remarry and needed proof Linda was dead.

195

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:54,000

For Don, the skull provided the perfect evidence of Linda's demise.

196

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:58,000

But for Patty, the find was devastating.

197

00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:04,000

When the skull was found, I just kind of lost all hope in life.

198

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:07,000

I didn't know that she was dead.

199

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:15,000

I guess there was always some hope that she had just left.

200

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:22,000

16 years after the murder, Lieutenant Webb still hopes to find Linda's killer.

201

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:27,000

The only suspect that I've been unable to eliminate is Don Sherman.

202

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:31,000

At this point in time, he has never been ruled out as a suspect.

203

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:35,000

In my heart, I think that he might have done it.

204

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:39,000

You know, I can't think of anybody else who would have.

205

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:45,000

I had nothing to do with Linda Sherman's disappearance, nor her death.

206

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:54,000

I still think that she left with someone and obviously met with foul play.

207

00:12:54,000 --> 00:13:01,000

And died.

208

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:11,000

I would really like to find the rest of her wherever it's at so that we can have a proper burial for her.

209

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

She can rest in peace.

210

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

And I'd like to know what happened to her and who did it.

211

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:23,000

And they should serve the agony that we have for 15 years.

212

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

Linda Sherman, a young mother's life tragically taken and shrouded with uncertainty.

213

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:37,000

Today, police hope new technology and soil sampling will someday lead them to Linda's body and eventually her killer.

214

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

In a quiet neighborhood in Tampa, Florida,

215

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:49,000

Erica Richardson was excited and a bit apprehensive about her first date with John Fuget.

216

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

Thank you.

217

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:56,000

Erica was shy and dated infrequently.

218

00:13:56,000 --> 00:13:59,000

She was a little bit shy and a little bit shy.

219

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:02,000

But she was a little bit shy and a little bit shy.

220

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:09,000

Erica was shy and dated infrequently, while Fuget had a reputation as a ladies' man.

221

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:11,000

But they hid it off right away.

222

00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:16,000

And as a relationship developed, they seemed more and more like the perfect fit.

223

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:20,000

Erica's family found Fuget likable and charming.

224

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:28,000

When I first saw them together, they looked nice and I thought that, you know, they would make a good, a nice couple.

225

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:32,000

A couple that soon became inseparable.

226

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:39,000

Erica was literally swept off her feet by Fuget, who held down a steady job as an electrical technician.

227

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:43,000

Erica was convinced John Fuget was Mr. Right.

228

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:47,000

Apparently she was wrong, dead wrong.

229

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:53,000

Family and friends first became concerned when Erica invited Fuget to move in with her.

230

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:55,000

The decision seemed out of character.

231

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Erica was a smart, successful woman who held a degree in microbiology,

232

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:03,000

managed a large pharmacy, and valued her independence.

233

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:07,000

However, despite a good job, great friends and a close knit family,

234

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:13,000

Erica was missing a special man in her life, a boy she hoped John Fuget would fill.

235

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:17,000

Okay, honey.

236

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:21,000

I am off to the mall and I will be back in about a couple of hours.

237

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:22,000

The mall?

238

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

Yeah, go to the mall.

239

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:29,000

The trouble started not long after Fuget moved into the comfortable home Erica had recently purchased.

240

00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:30,000

Look, don't be paranoid.

241

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:33,000

I could see that he was wearing a mask.

242

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:40,000

I discovered him to be a jealous, mean, controlling person.

243

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:42,000

He was just too possessive.

244

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:45,000

He wanted Erica all to himself.

245

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:46,000

Don't be so paranoid and jealous.

246

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:47,000

I am not being jealous.

247

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:48,000

Yes, you are.

248

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:49,000

I'm going to the room you're going with.

249

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Not only was he possessive,

250

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:58,000

he wanted to isolate her, not only from her family, but from friends too.

251

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:03,000

Over the next several months, the relationship continued to unravel.

252

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:07,000

According to police, Fuget was on a downward spiral.

253

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:10,000

A friend and lover turned abuser and stalker.

254

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

Pharmacy.

255

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

It took you so long to get to the phone, girl.

256

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:23,000

John, you cannot continue to call me here at work like this.

257

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:24,000

We talked about this.

258

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:32,000

He exhibited wild mood swings and repeatedly called Erica at the pharmacy, accusing her of being unfaithful and making unreasonable demands.

259

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:36,000

All right, thank you very much.

260

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:40,000

Fuget moved out of the house, but his erratic behavior persisted.

261

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:42,000

What was that?

262

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:48,000

Reportedly, he began showing up at Erica's workplace unannounced, harassing her and threatening physical harm.

263

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:49,000

What are you doing here?

264

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

You got to get smart with me. Answer my question, girl.

265

00:16:52,000 --> 00:17:02,000

Erica was really afraid of John because of the threats, what he said he would do to her.

266

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:06,000

Erica was forced to fight a restraining order.

267

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

Still, Fuget would show up at the house at all hours.

268

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

Finally, with the help of her father, she found the courage to call the police and have him arrested.

269

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

No need to trouble, let's go.

270

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:22,000

Undeterred by the threat of jail time, Fuget continued to pursue Erica.

271

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:23,000

Watch your head.

272

00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:30,000

A few weeks before Christmas, she met her mother at a local mall to do some shopping.

273

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

They bought some gifts and a comforter.

274

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:39,000

It was too big for us to carry so they said that we could pick it up in the back.

275

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:48,000

When we came to the car, we heard somebody say, hey there.

276

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:50,000

Hey, babe, come here.

277

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:54,000

Don't worry, Mike, I can handle it, OK?

278

00:17:58,000 --> 00:17:59,000

What is it?

279

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

I miss you.

280

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

You miss me, and?

281

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

I just want to talk, that's all.

282

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:11,000

Erica's mother heard little of the conversation, but she says she wasn't surprised when her daughter agreed to Fuget's request to meet.

283

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:12,000

I don't know.

284

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:21,000

Well, John was a tight person that he could sweet talk a lady, and he made promises that, you know, things were going to get better.

285

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:23,000

He was going to do better.

286

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

And of course, she took him at his word.

287

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:33,000

Fuget's behavior followed an all too familiar pattern.

288

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:43,000

And the sight of him following Erica out of the parking lot was alarming to her mother.

289

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:48,000

Still, Imogene Richardson believed there was little she could do.

290

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:51,000

Sunday came and went.

291

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:54,000

Imogene heard nothing from her daughter.

292

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

I didn't hardly sleep that night thinking about it.

293

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:05,000

Monday morning, I called Erica's house, and I didn't get an answer.

294

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

So I called her job.

295

00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:11,000

The conversation was short and chilling.

296

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:15,000

Erica had not shown up at the pharmacy, nor had she called in.

297

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

Frightened, Imogene went over to her daughter's home.

298

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:23,000

John's pickup truck was in the driveway.

299

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:26,000

I went to the door.

300

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:31,000

And that's when I looked in the window.

301

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:35,000

And nothing seemed to have been disturbed.

302

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:44,000

I started to my car, and something told me to go back.

303

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:53,000

And I went back, and I looked through another window.

304

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:58,000

And that's when I saw a knife and blood.

305

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:07,000

And I knew then something had happened to my daughter.

306

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:13,000

Minutes later, police confirmed Imogene's worst fears.

307

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:16,000

Erica had been stabbed repeatedly in the upper body.

308

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:19,000

The shock and grief was overwhelming.

309

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

Erica was my daughter, my friend.

310

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:31,000

She was successful, she was bright, she was caring, loving.

311

00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:37,000

She was just a daughter that any mother would love to have.

312

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:41,000

When I lost Erica, I lost part of me.

313

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:46,000

While Erica's parents tried to make sense of a senseless act,

314

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:49,000

police cordoned off the crime scene.

315

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:54,000

Inside detectives and members of the CSI unit went to work.

316

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:58,000

There were some articles that were strewn about the home,

317

00:20:58,000 --> 00:21:01,000

which were indicative of a struggle.

318

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:06,000

There were no items of value that appeared to us at that point

319

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:08,000

in time missing from the home.

320

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:13,000

Indicating to us that someone maybe she knew might have been in the home.

321

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:16,000

We found, of course, Erica Richardson's blood,

322

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

but we also found the blood of a second party mixed in with her blood.

323

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:27,000

Detectives suspected the blood of a second party belonged to John Fuget,

324

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:30,000

but they couldn't prove it without a sample of his DNA.

325

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:35,000

Fuget's fingerprints were all over the crime scene.

326

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

But that didn't implicate him either since he had lived in the same house.

327

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:44,000

However, there was one solid lead to pursue.

328

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:49,000

An eyewitness report is seeing Fuget driving Erica's 1992 Honda

329

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:52,000

a short time after she had died.

330

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:58,000

We issued the warrant for his arrest based on those facts.

331

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:02,000

The vehicle was ultimately located on December 23rd in Lafayette,

332

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:05,000

Louisiana, where Mr. Fuget is from.

333

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:08,000

That's where he has a lot of family and friends.

334

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:14,000

Detectives questioned Fuget's relatives who claimed they hadn't seen him in several weeks.

335

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:18,000

Today John Fuget is still on the lam.

336

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

He is wanted for grand theft, auto and unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

337

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:27,000

Fuget remains the number one suspect in the murder of Erica Richardson.

338

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:32,000

The only way we feel John Fuget would be able to stay hidden for this amount of time

339

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:36,000

would be to disappear to a new location,

340

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:41,000

not tell anyone of his whereabouts and start a new identity or a new life from there.

341

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:47,000

Due to the fact that John Fuget is a mechanic or mechanically inclined,

342

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:52,000

that he very well may be employed on an oil rig or something of that nature.

343

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:57,000

Meanwhile, a loving family continues to mourn the loss of their only daughter,

344

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:02,000

while maintaining hope that justice will be served before it's too late.

345

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:09,000

There is some young lady I'm sure that he's involved with at this time

346

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:13,000

who doesn't know what he has done.

347

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:17,000

I'm sure he's involved with a lot of other people.

348

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:22,000

I'm sure he's involved with at this time who doesn't know what he has done.

349

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

And I just pray that it doesn't happen again.

350

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

And I wish that someone would come forward and help us get him brought to justice.

351

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:52,000

The loss of a loved one is a traumatic experience,

352

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:56,000

especially in the case of a parent losing a child.

353

00:23:56,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Donna Tyson and Sharon Trooper, two mothers who believe they have received messages

354

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

from their deceased children.

355

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:05,000

They have been in the hospital for a long time,

356

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:08,000

but they have not been able to get a child.

357

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:11,000

They have been in the hospital for a long time,

358

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:14,000

and they have been in the hospital for a long time.

359

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:17,000

They have received messages from their deceased children.

360

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:21,000

Can those who have passed away communicate from beyond the grave,

361

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

or should the events you are about to see be considered pure coincidence?

362

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:32,000

Mothers are supposed to protect their children,

363

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:36,000

and this continues even when they're adults.

364

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:39,000

And it's worse that because you have no control over them

365

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:42,000

as you do when they're small.

366

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:45,000

At 34, Michael Owen was a recovering alcoholic.

367

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:49,000

His mother, Donna, and family were grateful that he was attending AA meetings

368

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:52,000

and holding down a steady job as a boat mechanic.

369

00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:56,000

But in late January, Michael gave in to temptation.

370

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:02,000

Michael had partied the night before with some friends.

371

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:09,000

He was two blocks from his home, going approximately 65 miles an hour.

372

00:25:09,000 --> 00:25:13,000

When he hit a parked recycling truck.

373

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:26,000

He basically died instantly.

374

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:33,000

It's like a part of you's gone, and it's like there's a big hole in your heart.

375

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:37,000

It was just two months later, in a gift shop,

376

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:41,000

that Donna believes she felt an emotional connection to Michael.

377

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:45,000

In the middle was a huge rack of the little porcelain cups

378

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:48,000

that have your names on them from A to Z.

379

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:52,000

Sitting off to one side were two cups, and one said,

380

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:56,000

I love you, Mom, and the other one said, Michael.

381

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:03,000

And I felt like Michael was there with me, and he was telling me it was okay.

382

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:05,000

Weeks later, while in the market,

383

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:08,000

another unusual incident occurred.

384

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:11,000

Donna was surprised when she happened upon an out-of-place book

385

00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:13,000

that seemed destined for her.

386

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:17,000

And I thought, this strange, this book, why is it sitting here?

387

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:22,000

And there was no writing on the cover, and I opened it up.

388

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:28,000

What Donna found was a message she feels was meant specifically for her.

389

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:32,000

I am the ancient mariner who had a tale in his heart to be told to all.

390

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:37,000

To someone I am always saying, someday you must meet my mother.

391

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:44,000

It mentioned the ancient mariner, and Michael was a boat mechanic.

392

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:48,000

And he often used to refer to himself as the ancient mariner.

393

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:52,000

I started crying when I read it, and I said, I have to have this book.

394

00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:54,000

Michael's sending this to me.

395

00:26:55,000 --> 00:27:00,000

Donna says the most convincing communications involve both the time of Michael's accident,

396

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

6.20, and his time of death, 6.33.

397

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:10,000

While working at her home office, Donna claims something happened to the digital clock.

398

00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:16,000

Michael's clock was flashing, 6.20, and it was not 6.20.

399

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:21,000

I know you're here. You don't have to do that.

400

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

That was the time of the accident.

401

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

And all the other digital clocks in the house were fine.

402

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

He was just letting me know that he was there.

403

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:33,000

What happened next was very unsettling.

404

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

14 months after his death, Donna says she heard Michael's voice on her answering machine.

405

00:27:40,000 --> 00:27:44,000

The message was supposedly recorded at 6.33.

406

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:52,000

The operator voice that is on your voicemail said Saturday, 6.33.

407

00:27:53,000 --> 00:27:56,000

Which is the time that Michael died.

408

00:27:57,000 --> 00:27:59,000

And I heard Michael's voice.

409

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:02,000

He only says two words. He says, follow me.

410

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:05,000

Saturday, 6.33 p.m.

411

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:06,000

Follow me.

412

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:08,000

And the message.

413

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:11,000

And I was dumbfounded.

414

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:15,000

I had his friends come over and listen to it.

415

00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:19,000

His sisters listen to it, and it is Michael's voice.

416

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:24,000

Donna has convinced the messages from Michael are designed to bring her comfort.

417

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

But others have a different explanation for encounters like these.

418

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:32,000

There's no greater loss than the loss of a child.

419

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:35,000

And that is exactly what the explanation is.

420

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:41,000

Is that emotionally driven people in a state of grief

421

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

tend to see things in their environment that connect them to their lost loved ones.

422

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:53,000

Donna's experience resonates with thousands of other parents

423

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:56,000

who believe their deceased children are in contact with them.

424

00:28:56,000 --> 00:29:01,000

Sharon Troupe believes her daughter Wendy has appeared to her several times.

425

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:06,000

Wendy was a freshman in college when she became a victim of a date rape.

426

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:12,000

Shortly thereafter, Wendy became depressed and tragically committed suicide.

427

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:15,000

Wendy was only 19 years old.

428

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:23,000

Sharon, Wendy's mother, was devastated and spent the days after her daughter's death in an emotional fog.

429

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:27,000

I was sitting there and I had been sobbing off and on.

430

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

I was just a mess.

431

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

And I leaned my head back and I saw it's like a movie picture came on.

432

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:42,000

It was then that Sharon claims Wendy came to her in a vision.

433

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:47,000

I was looking down a hallway and it was very bright.

434

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:53,000

And she looked at me as if to say, I am so sorry.

435

00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:58,000

I made the hugest mistake and I can't take it back.

436

00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:03,000

And she turned around and she walked through the door and that was it.

437

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:05,000

It was gone.

438

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:10,000

And I just bawled because I wanted her back.

439

00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:14,000

And she was gone.

440

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:20,000

Sharon's second sighting came a few months later when Owen, a friend of Wendy's,

441

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

rented a movie to try and bolster Sharon and her husband Bill's spirits.

442

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

Something caught my eye, I looked over by the door and Wendy was standing there.

443

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

She was dressed in a real comfortable girl type flannel shirt and she smiled at me

444

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:40,000

and she looked over at Owen and then she was gone.

445

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:43,000

This time I didn't cry.

446

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:46,000

This time I was like, wow, I know I saw her.

447

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:50,000

I mean, I wasn't even thinking about her in that instant and she's there.

448

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:55,000

So I honestly felt that she was letting me know that she was so pleased

449

00:30:55,000 --> 00:31:00,000

that Owen was spending time with us and we were together so that we could help one another.

450

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:06,000

It was Christmas a year later when Sharon received what she calls

451

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:11,000

undeniable confirmation of Wendy's continued presence in her life.

452

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:12,000

You're doing okay.

453

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:14,000

I just really miss her.

454

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:15,000

I know, sweetie.

455

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:16,000

We all do.

456

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:17,000

We all miss her so much.

457

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:21,000

At a holiday party across the street from their home, Sharon and Bill were visiting

458

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:26,000

with friends they hadn't seen in over a year when Sharon became upset and went home.

459

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

I'm fine.

460

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:28,000

I'm fine.

461

00:31:28,000 --> 00:31:33,000

I was in home about 10 minutes and Bill called me from across the street

462

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:38,000

and he said, I have something to tell you and it's really important and I want you to stay up.

463

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:44,000

When Bill returned home, he told Sharon that Pam, a friend of their neighbors,

464

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:50,000

claimed to have had an unusual experience involving Wendy just weeks after she died.

465

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:52,000

She saw Wendy.

466

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

She just saw her face.

467

00:31:54,000 --> 00:32:02,000

And there weren't any words but she was absolutely positive that it was Wendy.

468

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:08,000

And the way she described it was exactly the same way that you've told me.

469

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:12,000

It was probably about a month after Wendy had died.

470

00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:16,000

I went to bed, I think, before everyone else that night.

471

00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:21,000

I saw a girl and it was kind of just a headshot.

472

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:24,000

It just kind of zoomed in on me.

473

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:27,000

And I felt this tremendous energy.

474

00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:35,000

Kind of like if you've ever been shocked by electrical fence, you know, the little warm surge of current that you feel through your body.

475

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:40,000

But I could just sense that she wanted to tell her parents that she was okay now.

476

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

And she was finally at peace.

477

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

And it happened that quickly and then it was gone.

478

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:53,000

It seemed obvious to me, you know, who it was and what the purpose of that visit was.

479

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:55,000

She saw her.

480

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:57,000

I think it was a gift from God.

481

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

So to let her come back for us to see.

482

00:33:00,000 --> 00:33:05,000

Because somebody could tell you that, you wouldn't believe them.

483

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:08,000

Seeing something is totally different.

484

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:20,000

The real question here, I think that touches us deeply is, is there actually an afterlife that people who die go to and that they're actually not gone?

485

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:29,000

And if we're going to look at this question objectively and scientifically and not emotionally, then we have to answer, nobody knows.

486

00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:37,000

Sharon and Donna will continue to find solace in the messages they believe are left for them by their children.

487

00:33:38,000 --> 00:33:42,000

I believe that there is something more out there.

488

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

They don't just go away.

489

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:49,000

Some people say to me, do you believe in the afterlife? Do you believe that there's something beyond?

490

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:51,000

Yes, I do.

491

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:56,000

If you choose not to believe that, that is your privilege.

492

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:59,000

Me, I'm going to believe it.

493

00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:06,000

With only five days left to Christmas, 37-year-old Donna Morrow had just finished her last minute shopping.

494

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:12,000

She looked forward to spending the holidays with her four young children.

495

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:14,000

Where you been?

496

00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:16,000

Honey, I've been Christmas shopping.

497

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:18,000

I've been waiting for you for a long time.

498

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:22,000

But her relationship with her husband Joe was rapidly disintegrating.

499

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:24,000

It's nice to see you.

500

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:28,000

But her relationship with her husband Joe was rapidly disintegrating.

501

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:33,000

We interviewed several of Donna's friends who asked not to be identified by name.

502

00:34:33,000 --> 00:34:42,000

She had told me that Joe was very controlling and she didn't indicate to me that he was physically abusive,

503

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:45,000

but I got the impression that she was afraid of him.

504

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:49,000

Listen, I want to get in here. We're going to talk right now.

505

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:53,000

It had not always been this way.

506

00:34:53,000 --> 00:34:58,000

When Donna first met Joe, he seemed the ideal partner, charming, wealthy and kind.

507

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:02,000

Donna's family, however, had a different impression.

508

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

He was arrogant. He thought he was better than everybody else.

509

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:08,000

And he was condescending.

510

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:13,000

He was just basically a jerk with money.

511

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:20,000

Within months of meeting, the couple married and began the large family both had always wanted.

512

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:24,000

They moved into a luxurious home and upscale Menlo Park, California,

513

00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:28,000

and Donna settled in to be a full-time mom.

514

00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:31,000

For 13 years, Donna appeared happy with her life.

515

00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:37,000

Then one Thanksgiving, Donna revealed the truth about her seemingly perfect marriage.

516

00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:40,000

I'm not that good, Mom.

517

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

I don't want to talk about me.

518

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:44,000

Why? What's the matter?

519

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:49,000

She told me that she did not love Joe anymore, that she wanted a divorce.

520

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:55,000

And she said, but Mom, until after the holidays, I won't do anything

521

00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:58,000

because I don't want to ruin Christmas for the children.

522

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

Do you want to cook it?

523

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

That Christmas, Donna's mother and her relatives gathered in White Plains, Missouri to celebrate.

524

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:10,000

Donna could not make it, so her stepfather called California to wish her a happy holiday.

525

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:15,000

Hello?

526

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:17,000

Hey, Joe, Merry Christmas.

527

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:19,000

Hey, Frank, Merry Christmas to you too.

528

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:21,000

Hey, I want to talk to Donna.

529

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:22,000

She's not here right now.

530

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Well, where is she?

531

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:30,000

Well, you know, I don't know. We have an argument on the 19th, and she walked out, and I haven't heard from her since.

532

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:34,000

Joe didn't bother to give us any kind of a story, just that she was gone.

533

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

What's happening?

534

00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:37,000

He says she's not there, huh?

535

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

It was like the whole atmosphere over Christmas just died right there.

536

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:49,000

It was terrible because we were so far away, and there was nothing that we could do.

537

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:58,000

Joe Morrow maintains that his wife, Donna, voluntarily left him and their children to start life anew.

538

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:02,000

But Donna's friends and family are convinced that she fell victim to foul play.

539

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:06,000

There's no compelling physical evidence to support either conclusion.

540

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:08,000

No body has ever been found.

541

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:11,000

There's also no sign that Donna Morrow is still alive.

542

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Without your help, Donna's fate may never be known.

543

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:19,000

What happened the night your wife disappeared?

544

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:23,000

In an interview with Menlo Park Police shortly after Donna's disappears,

545

00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:29,000

Joe Morrow stated that he last saw his wife on December 19th at approximately 10 p.m.

546

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:34,000

Well, we had somewhat of a heated argument, and she got very upset, and she was fine.

547

00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:38,000

In an argument, Donna stormed out the front door taking her person keys.

548

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:40,000

Did she take her car?

549

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:41,000

No.

550

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:42,000

She didn't take her car?

551

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:46,000

We asked him if he had any explanation as to why she had not taken the car.

552

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:52,000

He didn't have an explanation other than that she is known to go out for walks from time to time.

553

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:54,000

I thought that she was seeing another man.

554

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Morrow also suggested his wife was having an affair.

555

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:05,000

Further police investigation established that Donna had indeed formed a close friendship with another man.

556

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:13,000

I think he was kind and understanding and was giving her a shoulder cry on, so to speak.

557

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:21,000

But due to her marital status, it was not going beyond that other than seeking friendship.

558

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:23,000

Hey, it's me.

559

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:29,000

Police discovered that Donna called this man on the night she disappeared at 7.30 p.m.

560

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:33,000

So we knew that she was alive and well at that point.

561

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:40,000

Donna had wanted to get together with him, and he declined the invitation.

562

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:47,000

Donna's friend provided authorities with an alibi and passed a lie detector test.

563

00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:51,000

He has been ruled out as a suspect.

564

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:56,000

Police then found a witness who could tell them what happened next.

565

00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:02,000

Donna and Joe's own 8-year-old daughter.

566

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:07,000

She told the Texas that at 9.30 p.m. she awoke to her parents screaming at each other.

567

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:14,000

According to the daughter, the yelling got quieter and quieter and then stopped altogether.

568

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:20,000

Shortly thereafter, she ended up hearing one set of footsteps leading to the front door area.

569

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:25,000

She didn't see whether it was her father or her mom who was walking to the front doorstep.

570

00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:27,000

She just heard them.

571

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:32,000

Was this the sound of Donna Moro leaving the house, just as Joe Moro claimed?

572

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

Donna's daughter seemed to confirm that scenario with what she next told investigators.

573

00:39:39,000 --> 00:39:47,000

A few hours later, she went into her parents' bedroom. Only Joe Moro was there asleep.

574

00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:54,000

Did Donna Moro, trapped in an allegedly abusive marriage, simply walk out the front door to start a new life?

575

00:39:54,000 --> 00:40:00,000

Donna would never just walk out. She lived for her children.

576

00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:08,000

She would never just go and leave him with the man that she planned to leave in a couple of weeks.

577

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:15,000

But there was no compelling evidence to contradict Donna leaving voluntarily.

578

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:24,000

Then police discovered the first potential clue. On the side of a bucket, a small splatter of blood.

579

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:26,000

Hey Simpson, I'm going to come take a look at this.

580

00:40:26,000 --> 00:40:36,000

We don't have Donna's blood to compare it to, but we were able to exclude the children and Joe as being the donors of that blood.

581

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:43,000

The fact that Donna is not here, the question remains, could it be Donna's?

582

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:52,000

But without a body, a crime scene or any compelling forensic evidence, the police investigation ground to a halt.

583

00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:56,000

Hot keeping! Hello?

584

00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:01,000

Three weeks later, in a motel room 95 miles from the Moro's home.

585

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:07,000

Hello, sir? Are you okay?

586

00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:14,000

Joe Moro was sprawled on the bed, semi-conscious. He had taken an overdose of barbiturates.

587

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:20,000

The other thing that was odd was that they found a large number of suicide notes to various people.

588

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:28,000

None addressed to his allegedly missing wife, and she was not mentioned in any of those letters.

589

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:31,000

Yes, I'm a maid in the hotel.

590

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:39,000

Joe Moro recovered from the suicide attempt and continued to deny any involvement in Donna's disappearance.

591

00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:46,000

But two years later, Moro was sued in civil court for wrongful death by Donna's parents on behalf of her children.

592

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:54,000

At the same time, Moro pled guilty to an unrelated fraud charge, and was scheduled to surrender on June 24th.

593

00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:58,000

He never showed up.

594

00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:07,000

I think that Joe Moro was shrewd enough that he knew if he could stagger around us for as long as he did,

595

00:42:07,000 --> 00:42:12,000

that he could build an exit strategy, and that's what he did.

596

00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:19,000

After Joe's disappearance, his estate settled the wrongful death suit and agreed to pay \$2 million.

597

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:24,000

Guardianship of his four children was given to his brother and sister-in-law.

598

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:31,000

Ultimately, an arrest warrant citing probable cause was issued for Joseph Moro for the murder of his wife.

599

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

Family, friends, and the police are now convinced that he killed her.

600

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

My impression is that perhaps Joe found out about this other person, this young man,

601

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

and in a fit of rage just threw Donna down or she hit her head or something.

602

00:42:48,000 --> 00:42:52,000

I just feel like it was a crime of passion.

603

00:42:52,000 --> 00:43:01,000

I think that she probably left the residence dead and was dragged to the garage where she was placed in a vehicle.

604

00:43:01,000 --> 00:43:10,000

The location of where the blood was found on the bucket speaks for itself that it was probably during a cleanup process in the garage.

605

00:43:10,000 --> 00:43:16,000

I would like to see Joe put behind bars or put to death. It wouldn't bother me.

606

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:25,000

And I want my daughter found. I want to at least know what he did with her so I can put her to rest.

607

00:43:46,000 --> 00:43:53,000

Join me next time.

608

00:43:53,000 --> 00:44:04,000

Perform more intriguing stories. Cases where you may have that one vital clue that can help solve a mystery.

609

00:44:46,000 --> 00:44:53,000

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