

1

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

The Story of the Dead

2

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

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries

3

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

A woman is listed among the hundreds of missing following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

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

She would be assumed dead if it weren't for one troubling fact.

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

She disappeared the night before the Twin Towers collapsed.

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

Best Friends' Childhood

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

Diane Shockroth and Jennifer Luth moved to a suburb of Phoenix, Arizona

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

and immersed themselves in the local single scene.

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

Two months later, both would be dead.

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

Authorities now need your help in finding their killer.

11

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

A divorced mother disappears under bizarre circumstances.

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

Suspicion focuses on her estranged husband, who is ascribed by some as a loving father,

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

but by others as a sadistic psychopath.

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

And now he is a fugitive from justice.

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

A young, beautiful girl becomes lost in the neon glitter of Reno.

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:11,000

She leaves behind paranoid emails, gruesome drawings, and books on how to change her identity.

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00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:17,000

Her family prays that someone in our audience can help start Palumbo find her way home.

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000

Join me for these fascinating stories.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:25,000

Perhaps someone somewhere has at one vital clue that can solve a mystery.

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:29,000

Perhaps that someone is watching. Perhaps it's you.

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:23,000

Everywhere you looked, they stared back.

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:29,000

Painful reminders of the human toll taken by the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:36,000

Following September 11th, New York City was blanketed with homemade posters of missing loved ones.

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00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:45,000

Joining the thousands of distraught family and friends canvassing the city was Ron Lieberman.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:51,000

His wife, a 31-year-old physician of Indian descent named Sneha Philip,

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:55,000

was last seen in the vicinity of the World Trade Center.

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:02,000

But Sneha's story is drastically different from the other hundreds of people still listed as missing and presumed dead.

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:12,000

In fact, Sneha Philip disappeared on September 10th, 14 hours before the Twin Towers catastrophic collapse.

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

While she may have been caught in the World Trade Center disaster,

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

Sneha may have also succumbed to foul play.

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00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:25,000

Her fate remains a mystery.

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00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:34,000

I think this is a very difficult situation because of the confusion with September 11th that leaves every single possibility open.

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:37,000

I mean, in our heads right now, anything is possible.

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:45,000

I pronounce them, they are husband and wife in the name of God.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:50,000

Only one year earlier, Ron and Sneha were exchanging vows of everlasting love.

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00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:53,000

Their future happiness seemed assured.

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:59,000

There are certain people that you meet in your life who just, you connect with so strongly and right away we knew

38

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

and basically inseparable since the first day we met.

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

The newly-wed shared an apartment in Battery Park City,

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00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:12,000

an exclusive neighborhood just four blocks from the World Trade Center.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:21,000

At 11.15 a.m. on September 10th, Ron left for his shift as a doctor at Jacobi Hospital.

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:26,000

Sneha, who is also a doctor, had the next three days off.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:30,000

Kissed her, I told her I loved her and I left.

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:39,000

Luckily I left my keys at home, so I went back and I got to kiss her again,

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:42,000

and that was the last time that I saw her.

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:49,000

When Ron returned at 11.15 that night, Sneha was not home,

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:52,000

but Ron felt there was no reason to be concerned.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:58,000

My schedule is so crazy, so sometimes she would feel uncomfortable staying by herself at home

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00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:02,000

and her brother lives very close by and her cousin also lives very close by.

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

So she would sometimes go spend the night with them and I thought,

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

well, maybe she just decided to stop at her brother's house or her cousin.

52

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

The following morning Ron rose early and headed to work for an 8 a.m. meeting.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:22,000

He expected Sneha to call him once she woke up.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:26,000

September 11th began as a perfect day.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:30,000

The weather was unseasonably warm and the sky a brilliant blue.

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00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:36,000

Like Ron, millions of New Yorkers went about their daily routines,

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:41,000

unaware that the entire world teetered on the verge of disaster.

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:44,000

What happened?

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:47,000

There was an accident, a plane hit the World Trade Center.

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:53,000

After the meeting I came outside and we saw the TVs were on and we saw the first plane hit.

61

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:56,000

So I immediately went and called home.

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00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:58,000

Sneha, if you're there, pick up the phone.

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,000

And there was just the message machine on.

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

I need you to call me and let me know that you're okay.

65

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

I love you.

66

00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:11,000

And then we learned that there's a second plane hit and now everyone realized that this is an attack.

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00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:17,000

And then when the buildings came down, everyone was just, you know, people were crying but still trying to work.

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00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:21,000

And it was a very, very emotional time, I think, obviously for everyone.

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00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:26,000

I called back again about 10 o'clock in the morning, still just the message machine was on

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:28,000

and then after that the phones went dead.

71

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:33,000

I was frightened for my wife because I could get in touch with her.

72

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

I was sad of what happened, devastated by the whole situation.

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

You know, there's so many emotions, everyone is in shock.

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

And where's my wife? I don't know.

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Ron Lieberman's personal nightmare.

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00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:52,000

Cone sided with one of the worst global nightmares in history.

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00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Imagine trying to find your wife in the chaos and confusion following the tragedy of the World

Trade Center.

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:05,000

Any evidence of what happened to Sneha Philip was most likely buried under 1.2 million tons of rubble.

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:11,000

Still, Ron Lieberman prayed that Sneha was simply lost in the turmoil enveloping New York City

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00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:14,000

and that she would soon find her way home.

81

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Ron's hopes were based on Sneha spending the previous night with her brother or cousin.

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:28,000

But when he finally got through to them, both said they had not seen or heard from Sneha in over 48 hours.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:36,000

Realizing that no one had spoken to her yet, I realized that this is a serious situation.

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:39,000

At that point I decided, you know, I'm going to try to get down to the apartment.

85

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:43,000

All roads into Lower Manhattan were closed.

86

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:47,000

Only emergency vehicles were being permitted through the barricades.

87

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:50,000

Ron hitched a ride in an ambulance.

88

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:57,000

And then made his way on foot to the apartment.

89

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

The scene down there was just chaos.

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

It was one of the most scariest sights I've ever seen in my life.

91

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

As I started approaching my apartment building, I started seeing trucks blown up,

92

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

fire engines turned upside down, pieces of the building, or what looked like the building on the ground also.

93

00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:19,000

Ron's apartment in Battery Park City was changed shut.

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00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:27,000

He soon learned from a neighbor that Sneha was not in the building.

95

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

So now at this point I didn't know what to do.

96

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:36,000

With all the chaos going on, I thought, well, how am I going to find her right now?

97

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:39,000

And I went back to my friend's place and I spent the night.

98

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:41,000

And that was a very difficult night.

99

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:47,000

I was by myself on the couch, wondering where my wife was, frightened that something awful happened.

100

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:53,000

The day following the attacks,

101

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:57,000

Ron filed a missing persons report with the NYPD.

102

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:59,000

We knew she was missing since Monday.

103

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:04,000

And when we told the detective, they just said, OK, we'll take your missing persons report.

104

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

But that was lumped into the World Trade Center.

105

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

You got the feeling that the police were just completely overwhelmed

106

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

and that they had very little time or effort to be able to put forth towards this.

107

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:22,000

The NYPD believes that Sneha was more than likely one of the many lost in the World Trade Center disaster.

108

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:26,000

But Ron was convinced that she disappeared the night before.

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:30,000

He hired a private eye and launched an investigation of his own.

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:33,000

They would uncover several disturbing questions.

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00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:37,000

But one above all others had haunted Ron from the start.

112

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

Where was Sneha on the night of September 10th?

113

00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Ron discovered that an employee at the couple's apartment building

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:50,000

remembered seeing Sneha that evening.

115

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:57,000

At 5.15 pm, he saw her leaving alone, wearing a brown dress and sandals.

116

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:03,000

By tracing credit card receipts,

117

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

Ron found evidence that Sneha may have then gone shopping

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00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:09,000

at a department store near the World Trade Center.

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

At 7.15 pm, shoes, lingerie and bed linens were purchased with Sneha's credit card.

120

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

But was it Sneha who used the card or an imposter who had stolen it?

121

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:24,000

Excuse me.

122

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:27,000

From what was purchased, it sounded like it was her.

123

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:32,000

Sheets for the beds and things like that, so we assumed it was her, without proof yet.

124

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:37,000

Ron hoped to find that proof on the department store's surveillance video.

125

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:42,000

For about two weeks, I sat and watched this tape for about five hours a day.

126

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:46,000

Frame by frame, it's one of those stop-action photos.

127

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:49,000

Where I actually found my wife on the tape shopping alone.

128

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

After the department store, Sneha's trail turns completely cold.

129

00:10:56,000 --> 00:10:59,000

She leaves the store and then she just disappears.

130

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:02,000

There is not a trace of her, nothing.

131

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:06,000

Not a credit card transaction, no money taken out of her account,

132

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

no emails, no phone calls, nothing.

133

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:10,000

How does that happen?

134

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

It's a complete mystery.

135

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

Where did Sneha go after leaving the department store?

136

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:19,000

She was carrying two large bags of merchandise.

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00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:24,000

But neither the bags nor the merchandise were found at Sneha's apartment,

138

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

suggesting that she never made it back home.

139

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:32,000

Near the department store stood the Millennium Hotel.

140

00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:35,000

Inside was a Connoisseur barn grill.

141

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:40,000

The private investigator hired by Ron

142

00:11:40,000 --> 00:11:43,000

theorized that Sneha could have stopped in for a drink.

143

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:46,000

Is it possible that something happened here

144

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

that ultimately led to her disappearance?

145

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:54,000

The Millennium Hotel was closed down after the attack,

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00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:59,000

frustrating Ron and the investigators' efforts to see if she went there.

147

00:12:01,000 --> 00:12:05,000

In fact, the entire area where Sneha was last seen lay in ruins.

148

00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:11,000

As a result, any theory about what happened to her was virtually impossible to prove.

149

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

Was Sneha a victim of random violence?

150

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:20,000

Could she have left on her own accord to start a new life?

151

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:22,000

The question seemed endless.

152

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

Any answers were surely destroyed along with the Twin Towers.

153

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:29,000

But then a mysterious clue emerged,

154

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:33,000

spinning the investigation into an entirely unexpected direction.

155

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:42,000

A clerk at the department store saw the missing flyer of Sneha and stepped forward,

156

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:46,000

giving Ron and Sneha's family renewed hope.

157

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:50,000

From the shoe sales clerk, told us that she remembers my wife

158

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:53,000

and that she'd known her as somewhat of a regular customer.

159

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:56,000

Is that your sister?

160

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:58,000

Oh, no, she's just a friend of mine.

161

00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:00,000

And that she remembered her there that day

162

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

and said that she was with another person, an Indian woman,

163

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:05,000

that she just said was her friend.

164

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:06,000

You too.

165

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:07,000

Bye-bye.

166

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Have a good day.

167

00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:09,000

You too.

168

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:12,000

And then they said after she went to buy shoes

169

00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:14,000

that they were thinking about going to the lingerie area.

170

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:18,000

Based on this new information,

171

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:21,000

Ron reexamined the department store's surveillance tape.

172

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

Two women are captured leaving the store together.

173

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

Could this be Sneha and her companion?

174

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Kay, do you want to get something to eat?

175

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:36,000

More all-overs to identify the mysterious woman have failed.

176

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:40,000

We have no idea who this person is

177

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:42,000

and that she never existed in Sneha's past.

178

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:44,000

We've gone through her phone books.

179

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:45,000

We've gone through her email.

180

00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:50,000

There is no, like, phone call even made to this person during that day.

181

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:53,000

She doesn't exist anywhere else.

182

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

I mean, it could be very possible that Sneha ran into her.

183

00:13:56,000 --> 00:13:58,000

It could be an old-time friend.

184

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

Is it possible that Sneha stated the unidentified woman's house

185

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:05,000

on the night of September 10th?

186

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

If that was the case,

187

00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:11,000

then Sneha could well have been heading home the next morning

188

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

at the approximate time of the World Trade Center attack.

189

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

If Sneha was near the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11th,

190

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:22,000

knowing the kind of person she was,

191

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:25,000

it would just be instinctual with her to try to help

192

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:27,000

and she might have gone into the building

193

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

or she might have helped people out.

194

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:30,000

It would have just been...

195

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:32,000

That's the kind of person she is.

196

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:34,000

She just cares about people.

197

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:37,000

If Sneha was inside the World Trade Center,

198

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:39,000

she had no chance of surviving.

199

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

But that scenario assumes that Sneha was alive the previous night

200

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

and spent it somewhere other than with Ron, her family,

201

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:49,000

and all of her known friends.

202

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:52,000

She's never just spent a night out

203

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:56,000

without informing us where she is, informing her husband where she is.

204

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

It's never happened.

205

00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:01,000

Why would this night be any different?

206

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:05,000

So, I mean, I really think that something happened to her September 10th.

207

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

It's difficult to continue.

208

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:10,000

Each day is a day that we suffer because we don't know.

209

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,000

Sometimes I think she might just walk through the door

210

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

or she might just call.

211

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

But it just... Each day doesn't happen.

212

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:23,000

And it's really torture.

213

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:54,000

The Cedar Creek Apartments

214

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:56,000

Outside of Phoenix, Arizona

215

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

A brutal heat wave passes through the region.

216

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

After graduating from high school,

217

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:02,000

Diane Shaw-Crawl,

218

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:04,000

a former state college student,

219

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:06,000

and a former state college student,

220

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:08,000

she has been a part of the Cedar Creek Apartments

221

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:10,000

outside of Phoenix, Arizona.

222

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:13,000

A brutal heat wave passes through the region.

223

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

After graduating from high school,

224

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

Diane Shaw-Crawl,

225

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

20, and her best friend Jennifer Luth, 19,

226

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:22,000

had left their homes in Colorado

227

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:25,000

for the sunny suburb of Glendale, Arizona.

228

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:29,000

They moved in with Diane's older sister, Christina.

229

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:32,000

But three young women living in a one-bedroom apartment

230

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:34,000

soon led to tension.

231

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:36,000

When did you become mom?

232

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:38,000

I said no smoking.

233

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:40,000

That was my last cigarette.

234

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

Fine. Maybe I'll just go then.

235

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:44,000

Maybe you should.

236

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:46,000

They said they were going to walk to the store

237

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:48,000

to get cigarettes and a pop,

238

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:51,000

and that they would be back in a little while.

239

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:53,000

They didn't take anything with them,

240

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:55,000

and they never went anywhere without their makeup,

241

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:58,000

so that's what made me think they were coming right back.

242

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:01,000

Come on. I'll talk it out with her.

243

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:03,000

No.

244

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

Diane and Jennifer headed for the mini-mart two blocks away.

245

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

They never returned.

246

00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:11,000

For the first time in their lives,

247

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:15,000

Diane Shockcroft and Jennifer Luth were living away from home.

248

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

The girls began to explore the boundaries

249

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

of their newfound freedom.

250

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:21,000

They were swept into an accelerating whirlwind

251

00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:25,000

of late nights, new friendships, and lively parties.

252

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:27,000

But authorities now fear that Diane and Jennifer's

253

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:33,000

carefree lifestyle may have ultimately put them in harm's way.

254

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Diane and Jenny were very, very close.

255

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

They were probably closer than most sisters.

256

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:40,000

I think he was a little more flirtatious.

257

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

Diane was a little quieter and more shy,

258

00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:45,000

but she's the one that basically took care of both of them,

259

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:47,000

I believe.

260

00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:49,000

We're so happy now.

261

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:51,000

Hi.

262

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

Hi. You guys having fun?

263

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:56,000

They were pretty open to just about anybody.

264

00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:58,000

They liked to hang out. They liked to have lots of friends.

265

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:00,000

But they liked to go, go, go.

266

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

They wanted to be doing something all the time.

267

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

They didn't care if it was three in the morning

268

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:06,000

or three in the afternoon.

269

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:08,000

On the day they disappeared,

270

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:10,000

Diane and Jennifer were seen at a mini-mart

271

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:13,000

at approximately 7 p.m.

272

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:15,000

Hey girls. Hey.

273

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:17,000

How are we doing? Good.

274

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

According to the cashier, the girls bought cigarettes and soda.

275

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:22,000

They came out.

276

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:26,000

But instead of going home, they lingered outside the store.

277

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

Two hours passed.

278

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

The girls were still in front of the mini-mart

279

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

when the cashier saw a man pull up in a blue truck.

280

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:45,000

They conversed for quite a while.

281

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

They got into the truck and then the truck drove off.

282

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:51,000

And that's the last time that anyone that we know of

283

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:53,000

has seen them alive.

284

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:57,000

I believe she knew this person

285

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:00,000

because she would never, ever get into a vehicle with strangers.

286

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

She just wouldn't do it. She wasn't the kind that would hitchhike

287

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:04,000

or do anything like that.

288

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:06,000

She was very careful and very cautious.

289

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:12,000

Three months later,

290

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

two men were hunting in a remote desert 100 miles north of Phoenix.

291

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

As they traversed a steep incline,

292

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

they came across a gruesome sight.

293

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:28,000

Diane Lynn Shockroft lay on top of Jennifer Sue Luth.

294

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:30,000

Both had been murdered.

295

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:32,000

Even in death,

296

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:35,000

Diane seemed to be protecting her best friend.

297

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:39,000

Because the investigation is ongoing,

298

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:41,000

police are withholding the cause of death.

299

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:43,000

But the location of the girls' bodies

300

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:47,000

offered several clues as to who the killer or killers might be.

301

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:54,000

The area is extremely isolated,

302

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:56,000

16 miles from the nearest highway,

303

00:19:56,000 --> 00:20:00,000

and accessible only by pickup truck or four-wheel drive.

304

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:06,000

We feel that this person has probably been in this area,

305

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

or frequent in this area,

306

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

or certainly was aware of this area in some way

307

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:13,000

by their own four-wheel driving or hunting

308

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:17,000

or at least some personal knowledge of the area.

309

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:24,000

The deepness of the ravine also raised another troubling possibility.

310

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

They were both fairly decent-sized girls,

311

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

so you would have had to have handled each one of those.

312

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

So, either we had a very strong person,

313

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:35,000

or we had more than one person possibly that were involved

314

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:37,000

in taking these bodies out.

315

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Jennifer was a strong girl,

316

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

and she was a scrapper if she needed to be.

317

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:48,000

It wouldn't be easy for one person to overpower Jennifer alone,

318

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:50,000

but with two of them,

319

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:53,000

it's just sort of inconceivable to me

320

00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:58,000

that one person was able to do that to two girls.

321

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:02,000

The police investigation centered on finding

322

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:05,000

the mysterious man in the blue truck,

323

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:07,000

believing that both girls knew this man.

324

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:10,000

Police delved into their personal lives.

325

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:13,000

Ron and Phoenix,

326

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

Diane and Jennifer had attended numerous parties and nightclubs.

327

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

They had a lifestyle with a lot of males involved in it.

328

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:31,000

They were a lot of male friends, male relationships.

329

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:33,000

They were involved in so many people's lives.

330

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:36,000

They were involved in many strangers' lives to the point

331

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:38,000

it could have been somebody they just met.

332

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:40,000

Where are you from?

333

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:43,000

I'm from Colorado.

334

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:47,000

From this really small town where it's like zero degrees right now,

335

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

we're so happy to be here.

336

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

I think both Ginny and Diana were very naive and very innocent.

337

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

I think like most 19-year-olds,

338

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:58,000

they think they're invincible and can just conquer the world.

339

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:01,000

It reminds me of my friends having a little pool party tonight.

340

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:02,000

There's going to be gangs, lots of people.

341

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:04,000

The guys should come down.

342

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:05,000

Really?

343

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:06,000

Yeah.

344

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

And I think whoever got involved with them knew that,

345

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:12,000

could read them like a book and took advantage of them.

346

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:17,000

There is one final strange twist to this case.

347

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

The family is erected a shrine where the bodies were found.

348

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:31,000

Pictures of both girls were placed at the foot of two wood crosses.

349

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:34,000

Police decided to occasionally survey the site,

350

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:37,000

hoping for a morbid visit from the killer.

351

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:40,000

No one ever showed up,

352

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:42,000

at least while authorities were at the scene.

353

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:45,000

On September 29, 2000,

354

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:48,000

detectives discovered that both photos of the girls

355

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:50,000

had been removed from their frames.

356

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:56,000

Only police and the victim's family knew the precise location

357

00:22:56,000 --> 00:22:58,000

where the girls' bodies had been found.

358

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:03,000

Nothing else seemed to be disturbed

359

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:07,000

and definitely raised questions as to who would want to be found.

360

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:10,000

The police found that the victims were not found.

361

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:12,000

As to who would want the pictures,

362

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:16,000

who would go to that much effort to go back in as far as it is,

363

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:19,000

get the pictures and take them.

364

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

Hard to even imagine who it would be or why they would do it,

365

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:26,000

unless it's the perpetrator.

366

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:32,000

Had the killer returned for a macabre souvenir of his brutal act,

367

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:34,000

police can only speculate.

368

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:39,000

No evidence that might identify the murder has ever been found.

369

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:45,000

The search for Diane and Jennifer's killer or killers continues.

370

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

Authorities would especially like to question the man

371

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

who was the last person seen with the girls.

372

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

He may be driving a blue pickup truck.

373

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:08,000

Hello.

374

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:13,000

Two friends of 44-year-old Brenda Bowen

375

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:15,000

arrive at her rural Alabama home

376

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:18,000

after she fails to show up for a prayer meeting earlier that morning.

377

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

Brenda.

378

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

But Brenda is nowhere to be found.

379

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:25,000

Hello, anybody home?

380

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Within hours, the Shelby County Sheriff's Office responds to the scene.

381

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:37,000

Brenda's clothes were laid out on her bed as if to dress

382

00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:39,000

after she got through with her shower.

383

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

On her dresser was her jewelry.

384

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:44,000

Everything was laid out real nice and neat.

385

00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:51,000

Also, they saw her curling iron was in the own position in the bathroom.

386

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

But there was no other signs that, you know, Brenda was there at all.

387

00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Brenda Bowen lived a life most of us would envy.

388

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

She was blessed with two healthy teenage children,

389

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:05,000

a thriving real estate business

390

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:09,000

and a sprawling home in the beautiful Alabama countryside.

391

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Her friends and family could find no reason why she would suddenly vanish.

392

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:18,000

When Brenda went missing, it was devastating to us.

393

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

I stayed at home.

394

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:22,000

I thought she might call, you know.

395

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:26,000

But in my heart, I knew that something had happened to Brenda, something bad.

396

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:32,000

The only source of friction in Brenda's life was her ex-husband, Jerry Lee Bowen.

397

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:39,000

Two years earlier, Brenda's long-lasting marriage to Jerry had abruptly fallen apart.

398

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

They were together for about 18 or 19 years and they'd worked good together.

399

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:54,000

But Jerry, Jerry got out and found a girlfriend.

400

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:56,000

He asked her for a divorce.

401

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:02,000

Jerry, you've agreed to give Brenda complete and un-cumbered use of the house

402

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:05,000

until your daughter turns 19.

403

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Brenda, you will give Jerry use of the guest house in the back as his own.

404

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:15,000

With the help of a divorce attorney, Jerry and Brenda separated on good terms

405

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:18,000

and even agreed to a very unusual living arrangement.

406

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:24,000

Jerry would reside in the guest house behind the main residence.

407

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:28,000

He also gave Brenda the bulk of the couple's assets.

408

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:36,000

Jerry lived quietly in the shadow of his ex-wife until he ran into financial difficulties.

409

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:39,000

Brenda, I'm asking for your help here.

410

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:43,000

I don't know, Jerry. You're asking me to live a lie.

411

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:46,000

It's only a business arrangement.

412

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:51,000

And he told us he was in financial trouble and they had to get back together.

413

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:53,000

He had to have some relief.

414

00:26:54,000 --> 00:26:58,000

Brenda's answer was, I'd have to think about that, Jerry.

415

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

So you're not going to help me?

416

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:06,000

I don't know, Jerry. Can't we talk about this in the morning?

417

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:13,000

Jerry? Jerry, we can talk about it in the morning.

418

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:18,000

I'm going to take you back to court.

419

00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:23,000

Four days later, Brenda Bowen vanished.

420

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

Anything you'll find, I want a bag, I want it filed.

421

00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:34,000

Police began their investigation at the Bowen Home.

422

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

Jerry Bowen was fully cooperative and even offered his own theory on what happened to Brenda.

423

00:27:40,000 --> 00:27:46,000

As I started to leave, Jerry says, well, Don, what do you think happened to Brenda?

424

00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Well, let's just hope she's on a beach somewhere down on Florida, tanning her bun. You're wrong.

425

00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:55,000

She's dead.

426

00:27:55,000 --> 00:27:59,000

I said, well, if she's dead, where do you think we could find her?

427

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:03,000

And Jerry looked at me and he says, you could find her in water somewhere.

428

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:11,000

That same night, Brenda's car was found stuck in the mud 43 miles from her home.

429

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:18,000

We found personal items belonging to Brenda there. We found her purse. We found this cell phone.

430

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:24,000

There was checkbooks there. So that told us that this was not a robbery.

431

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

That perhaps the car was left where it was just as a decoy, that Brenda would not be found there.

432

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:37,000

Brenda's own son raised an even more troubling question about the car.

433

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:41,000

I was wondering what the position of the driver's seat was in.

434

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:43,000

All the way back, right?

435

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:45,000

Yeah, it was all the way back.

436

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:48,000

Well, my mom, she's only five or two.

437

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:55,000

With the car seat completely pushed back, Brenda's feet could not have reached the pedals.

438

00:28:55,000 --> 00:29:02,000

But the strangest question of all came out of Jerry Bowen's own mouth when he unexpectedly appeared at the crime scene.

439

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

Is that the car that belongs to the woman who's missing?

440

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:07,000

Yes.

441

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:13,000

Now, this was his ex-wife's car. He knew whose car that was.

442

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:21,000

And it turned out later to be a question that we felt was very important to pinning down who was responsible for Brenda's death.

443

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:30,000

Jerry was taken to the Shelby County Sheriff's Office for an interview, where his behavior continued to raise red flags.

444

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:34,000

He was not of any help to us whatsoever.

445

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

He showed no concern for her well-being.

446

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

And during the process of the interview, he actually went to sleep.

447

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:51,000

But Jerry's friends and family adamantly claimed that he was in a state of shock and overcome with worry for his former wife.

448

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

Jerry was very concerned about her, but he was also upset that the police thought it might be him.

449

00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:05,000

He said often that he was innocent, so there was no way he was going to be pinned with a murder.

450

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:12,000

They stripped him down. They checked him for any cuts or bruises or bites or anything.

451

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:15,000

They didn't find a scratch on him anywhere.

452

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:21,000

But they got in his face and told him, we know you did something to her, whatever happened to her.

453

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

We know you did it, and we will prove it.

454

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

And they had television from that night on.

455

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:34,000

My honest, zero doubt in my mind that Jerry Bowen killed my daughter Brenda.

456

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:36,000

No doubt.

457

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:43,000

But there was no evidence linking Jerry Bowen to his wife's disappearance, and he was released.

458

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:52,000

Several months later, three fishermen saw something floating in the murky waters of the Cousa River.

459

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:58,000

It was the body of Brenda Bowen, bound and tied inside a sheet.

460

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:05,000

The advanced state of decomposition made it impossible for the coroner to determine the cause of death.

461

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:13,000

When Brenda Bowen's body surfaced, she was, for lack of a better way of saying it, packaged in a certain manner.

462

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:17,000

We got the call late this afternoon. Three fishermen found the body.

463

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:24,000

Around her body was a green top sheet off of a bed.

464

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:30,000

Around that was a length of nylon rope.

465

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

Secure the area all the way up to the road before the forensic boys get here.

466

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:39,000

The sheet was positively identified as coming from the Bowen home.

467

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:43,000

And there were several curious aspects about the rope.

468

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:51,000

It was tied with two specific knots, a bowline and a slip, and the ends had been deliberately burnt.

469

00:31:52,000 --> 00:32:02,000

The son asked to look at the rope that was around his mother's body, and he looked at it and tears filled his eyes.

470

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:07,000

He said, I've seen that same combination of knots from Jerry Bowen dozens of times.

471

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:10,000

He said, I've never seen anybody else do it.

472

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:18,000

In addition to that, every time Jerry Bowen cut a piece of nylon rope, he would take a cigarette lighter and burn the ends of it.

473

00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:27,000

The knots, the car seat, the burned ends of the rope, it all starts pointing back to Jerry Bowen.

474

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

Jerry Bowen was arrested and tried for the murder of his wife Brenda.

475

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:38,000

The case against him was almost entirely circumstantial, except for one crucial element.

476

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:44,000

Jerry could not account for his whereabouts prior to 9.30 in the morning of Brenda's disappearance.

477

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:47,000

Jerry took only six hours to decide his fate.

478

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:49,000

Guilty.

479

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:53,000

But the bizarre story of Jerry Bowen did not end with his conviction.

480

00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:59,000

While awaiting sentencing, Bowen was released on bond.

481

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

The day of the hearing, Jerry's sister received a blunt letter.

482

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:11,000

It read, this may be a dumb move on my part sis, but I don't feel I should serve time for a crime I didn't commit.

483

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:13,000

Therefore, I am running.

484

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:18,000

When Jerry was convicted, my thought was, it's payday.

485

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:23,000

When Jerry fled, I felt like payday evaporated.

486

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:27,000

And it did.

487

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

The FBI descended on Jerry's home looking for any clues as to his whereabouts.

488

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:38,000

But no one was prepared for what was found on Jerry's computer.

489

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:43,000

Thousands of violent and sadistic pornographic images.

490

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

Jerry is very polite, respectful to others.

491

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:56,000

But when he's back in his own secret place, within his own residence, the bizarreness of his behavior starts to emerge.

492

00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:08,000

When he's visiting websites of women being abused, tied up, shackled and tortured, as well as a fascination for pregnant women that are naked.

493

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:16,000

No other evidence was recovered from Jerry's home that would lead detectives to the convicted killer.

494

00:34:17,000 --> 00:34:20,000

He has now evaded capture for over a year.

495

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:26,000

He's still on the loose and we can't have closure until he's found.

496

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:32,000

And come back to the Sheriff's Department where he belongs. I hope they bring him and change.

497

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:08,000

In the early morning hours of April 26, 2000, a young woman is spotted wandering in a restricted area of the Reno Tahoe International Airport.

498

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:14,000

She appears disoriented and frightened. An airport police officer is called.

499

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:18,000

He finds a woman cowering near a truck.

500

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:20,000

Are you okay?

501

00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:28,000

The woman identifies herself as star Palumbo. She then claims she's trying to find her younger sister who was running loose on the tarmac.

502

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

Okay, we searched the grounds for your sister with the description that you gave us. She knows

where to be found.

503

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

The airport police officer felt there was a possibility the star's story was not true.

504

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

But he also believed the star had no criminal intent for being out on the runway.

505

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

He had no idea why she was out there. She could give no logical explanation. But instead of arresting her, he decided to release her.

506

00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:02,000

Star Palumbo has dropped off near a hotel and disappears into the kaleidoscope of blinding neon lights.

507

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:07,000

The next day, an illegally parked car is discovered at the airport.

508

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:16,000

And while I ran a routine license check on it, to put on the impound sheet, the registered owner

came back to start Palumbo.

509

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:23,000

As I was going through the vehicle during the impound, I found it appeared to be loaded with all her personal possessions.

510

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:29,000

Also in the car were stars Cell Phone and Purse, including \$600,000 in cash.

511

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:33,000

And Star had left behind other items that caused even more concern.

512

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:39,000

Copies of three emails sent to the White House indicated the star felt the government was trying to murder her.

513

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:44,000

A morbid drawing depicted a woman who looked like Star bound and gagged.

514

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

And finally, there were two books on how to change your identity.

515

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Star never showed up to claim her car. She has now been missing for over a year.

516

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

There are two very likely possibilities. The first is that she is suffering from some type of either organically caused or drug induced psychosis and is a sick woman and doesn't know who or where she is.

517

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:14,000

And the second possibility, sadly, is that she's been the victim of a serious crime and has either been murdered or is in a position where she can't contact her.

518

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:21,000

The mystery of what happened to Star Palumbo began long before the 25 year old woman vanished.

519

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:25,000

Star was once a vivacious brunette full of hope and promise.

520

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:33,000

But authorities believe that she tragically drifted into another world of drugs and desperation, placing her life in a state of emergency.

521

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

Her family is convinced that Star is alive. And with your help, one day, will one day come home.

522

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:46,000

Star lived very happy childhood. She's very dependable and she's a very trusting person.

523

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:54,000

She has a life-giving services. Not only has she turned past her marriage but is also very sophisticated and humble and skeptical of her ■individuality.

524

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:56,640

Star lived a very happy childhood,

525

00:37:56,640 --> 00:37:59,200

and she's very dependable.

526

00:37:59,200 --> 00:38:02,760

And she's a very trusting person.

527

00:38:02,760 --> 00:38:05,480

She's a very happy person, sociable person,

528

00:38:05,480 --> 00:38:12,480

and she really, I guess, trusted people too much.

529

00:38:12,480 --> 00:38:14,480

One year prior to her disappearance,

530

00:38:14,480 --> 00:38:16,760

Star left her home in Tucson, Arizona

531

00:38:16,760 --> 00:38:18,760

and moved to Reno, Nevada.

532

00:38:18,760 --> 00:38:22,440

She lived there with her grandmother.

533

00:38:22,480 --> 00:38:25,960

It was in Reno investigators believe the Star's life began

534

00:38:25,960 --> 00:38:28,240

a Karinov course.

535

00:38:28,240 --> 00:38:30,120

Interviews with Star's friends there

536

00:38:30,120 --> 00:38:35,440

revealed a portrait of a troubled woman who had lost her way.

537

00:38:35,440 --> 00:38:38,600

In this particular case, Star seems

538

00:38:38,600 --> 00:38:41,640

to have fallen in with a very bad crowd

539

00:38:41,640 --> 00:38:47,960

and had been involved in a more increasing degree of drug

540

00:38:47,960 --> 00:38:51,160

use, and specifically with methamphetamine

541

00:38:51,160 --> 00:38:56,200

at a level that could only be disastrous.

542

00:38:56,200 --> 00:38:58,400

According to her friends, in the weeks leading up

543

00:38:58,400 --> 00:39:00,720

to her disappearance, Star's drug habit

544

00:39:00,720 --> 00:39:05,200

costs more than she could make as a cashier at a pawn shop.

545

00:39:05,200 --> 00:39:07,680

Police believe it is possible that the increasingly

546

00:39:07,680 --> 00:39:12,000

distraught woman began to look for other ways to make money.

547

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:15,120

There is an indication that Star had been

548

00:39:15,120 --> 00:39:17,600

dabbling in prostitution.

549

00:39:17,600 --> 00:39:21,800

In her phone books, there was reference to a number of men.

550

00:39:21,800 --> 00:39:23,280

We really don't have a good feeling

551

00:39:23,280 --> 00:39:25,600

for the extent of the relationships

552

00:39:25,600 --> 00:39:27,680

with a number of those men.

553

00:39:27,680 --> 00:39:32,120

However, certainly prostitution is a high risk occupation

554

00:39:32,120 --> 00:39:34,760

and one of the factors that causes us concern

555

00:39:34,760 --> 00:39:39,680

about what has befallen Star in her disappearance.

556

00:39:39,680 --> 00:39:42,320

While in Reno, Star continued to call her mother

557

00:39:42,320 --> 00:39:45,640

on a weekly basis and seemed in good spirits.

558

00:39:45,640 --> 00:39:49,160

But on the day she disappeared, Star made a final phone

559

00:39:49,160 --> 00:39:53,840

call that took on an ominous and paranoid tone.

560

00:39:53,840 --> 00:39:57,440

She would only talk to us for a little bit.

561

00:39:57,440 --> 00:40:01,120

She said that she felt somebody was following her.

562

00:40:01,120 --> 00:40:03,120

And when she talked on the phone,

563

00:40:03,120 --> 00:40:05,320

she thought maybe the phones were tapped

564

00:40:05,320 --> 00:40:06,800

and somebody was listening.

565

00:40:06,800 --> 00:40:10,080

And she mentioned how something was going on

566

00:40:10,120 --> 00:40:12,960

and she was afraid for her life.

567

00:40:12,960 --> 00:40:15,760

And she wouldn't discuss it any more than that.

568

00:40:15,760 --> 00:40:18,360

According to her mother, Star expressed the desire

569

00:40:18,360 --> 00:40:20,520

to turn her life around.

570

00:40:20,520 --> 00:40:24,280

She then talked about flying home to Tucson and starting over.

571

00:40:24,280 --> 00:40:26,320

I love you.

572

00:40:26,320 --> 00:40:28,720

OK, bye.

573

00:40:28,720 --> 00:40:31,640

Gail Palumbo has not heard from her daughter since.

574

00:40:36,440 --> 00:40:38,560

Following Star's disappearance, her parents

575

00:40:38,600 --> 00:40:41,480

mounted a massive effort to locate their daughter.

576

00:40:41,480 --> 00:40:43,520

Thousands of flyers were distributed

577

00:40:43,520 --> 00:40:47,320

and Star's picture was posted throughout the state of Nevada.

578

00:40:47,320 --> 00:40:51,440

It appears that those efforts have paid off.

579

00:40:51,440 --> 00:40:54,200

Linda Fields, owner of the Silver Dollar Casino

580

00:40:54,200 --> 00:40:57,440

in Elko, Nevada, claims to have seen Star there

581

00:40:57,440 --> 00:41:00,640

a full eight months after her disappearance.

582

00:41:00,640 --> 00:41:02,240

Honey.

583

00:41:02,240 --> 00:41:04,160

Honey, are you all right?

584

00:41:04,160 --> 00:41:08,000

Miss Fields described seeing a young woman who,

585

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:12,800

in her mind, she was very certain, was Star Palumbo,

586

00:41:12,800 --> 00:41:19,080

who had come into the bar one evening, had looked frightened,

587

00:41:19,080 --> 00:41:23,720

was alone, and that the young woman had volunteered to her

588

00:41:23,720 --> 00:41:27,680

that her name was Star and that she was being chased

589

00:41:27,680 --> 00:41:32,360

or was trying to escape from a pimp.

590

00:41:32,360 --> 00:41:35,440

Linda Fields says that Star became extremely agitated

591

00:41:35,440 --> 00:41:39,240

when a man peered through the bar's window.

592

00:41:39,240 --> 00:41:41,840

A short time after that, Star left the bar

593

00:41:41,840 --> 00:41:44,280

with another young woman.

594

00:41:44,280 --> 00:41:46,800

If the woman was Star, then where did she go

595

00:41:46,800 --> 00:41:49,000

after leaving the bar?

596

00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:51,960

Maybe there really was somebody after her.

597

00:41:51,960 --> 00:41:53,880

Could she have used the books found in her car

598

00:41:53,880 --> 00:41:57,200

to change her identity and escape?

599

00:41:57,200 --> 00:42:00,960

It is this scenario the Star's family clings to.

600

00:42:00,960 --> 00:42:04,520

I'd like to say Star, that your mom and dad really love you.

601

00:42:05,600 --> 00:42:10,280

And no matter what you've done or anything,

602

00:42:10,280 --> 00:42:13,960

that we should contact us to see if we could help you.

603

00:42:24,800 --> 00:42:28,280

Join me next time for another fascinating edition

604

00:42:28,280 --> 00:42:29,960

of Unsolved Mysteries.

