

1

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

The End

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

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries

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

For decades, many believed that this man, Albert DeSalvo,

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

was one of the most notorious serial killers in history,

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

the Boston Strangler.

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

Now shocking new DNA evidence seems to dispute DeSalvo's guilt,

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

raising a disturbing question.

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

Is the Boston Strangler still on the loose?

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

A 22-year-old college honor student seems to have it all,

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

until he is blamed for causing three deaths in a fatal traffic accident.

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

Free on bail, he has disappeared.

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

Authorities need your help to bring him to trial.

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

An ambitious young mother returns to the workforce

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

and crosses paths with a hot tempered coworker.

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

The woman is then brutally murdered.

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

And now authorities need your help to catch her alleged killer,

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

Carlos Berdeja.

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00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:02,000

Also, the doctor accused of poisoning his patients

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:05,000

and fleeing to Zimbabwe has been captured.

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:10,000

This update and more on Unsolved Mysteries.

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:55,000

MUSIC

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00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:57,000

On a previous broadcast, we brought you the story

23

00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:00,000

of one of the most infamous serial killers in history,

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

the Boston Strangler.

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

At that time, we questioned whether the man held responsible

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:08,000

for murdering 11 women, Albert DeSalvo, was in fact guilty.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Recently, major new information has come to light

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:15,000

that potentially proved DeSalvo did not commit at least one of the murders.

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00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:19,000

Join us as we examine the latest theories and evidence in this intriguing case.

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:24,000

Perhaps the real identity of the Boston Strangler will finally be revealed.

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:29,000

MUSIC

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:34,000

Today it is quiet, but 40 years ago these very streets exploded in horror.

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:36,000

## MUSIC

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:41,000

The year 1962, the place Boston, Massachusetts,

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:46,000

the first known serial killer in American history was on the prowl.

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

Victim number one, Anna Schleser's 55,

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:54,000

strangled with her bathrobe and raped with a blood object.

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

Victim number two, Helen Blake, 65, sexually mutilated and strangled.

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

Her bra twisted into an enormous bow under the chin.

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00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:12,000

Victim number three, Nina Nichols, 68, strangled.

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:16,000

Her nylons tied into yet another gruesome bow.

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

MUSIC

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00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:21,000

It was only the beginning.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Over the next two years, eight more women fell victim to the psychopath.

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

All but one were brutally choked to death in their own homes,

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,000

their bodies posed in hideous positions.

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:37,000

The city buckled under a frenzy of fear and paranoia.

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:44,000

Stepping into this maelstrom was Albert DeSalvo,

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:49,000

already facing a lengthy prison term for an unrelated series of rapes.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:52,000

DeSalvo admitted that he was a Boston strangler.

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

A wave of relief and calm passed over the residents of Boston.

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

Order had been restored.

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

The sadistic killer was finally behind bars.

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:09,000

But many believed DeSalvo had reason to falsely confess.

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:17,000

First day, I put my arm around backwards, right?

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:21,000

And then I put the pillowcase around the neck.

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:27,000

The first thing that Albert hoped to get out of being known as the Boston strangler

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

was the fame of it, because he desperately wanted to be famous,

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:33,000

even if it were something terrible.

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:38,000

His second goal was to avoid a prison sentence.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:42,000

He had apparently been convinced that if he confessed to the stranglings,

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00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:49,000

he would be sent not to prison, but to a very fancy private institution

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:51,000

where doctors would study him.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:54,000

Do you remember tying any knots in it?

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00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:57,000

Yeah, I did. I did.

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00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:01,000

But if he was lying, DeSalvo's confession was uncannily accurate.

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

I think many investigators were convinced he had to be the killer.

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:08,000

At least two.

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:15,000

If you had heard him go in a detail and tell you exactly how the furniture was

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:18,000

and what it was adjacent to and so forth,

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

you know, nobody could tell you that unless they were there.

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:28,000

After eight years of research on this case,

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00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:34,000

one thing I'm certain of, and that is that Albert DeSalvo was not the Boston strangler.

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00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:37,000

There are a number of very good suspects.

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:40,000

None of them happened to be Albert DeSalvo.

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:48,000

On November 24th, 1973, Albert DeSalvo called his former psychiatrist from prison,

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

stating he was ready to tell the truth about the Boston strangler.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:56,000

But he was murdered that night before he could meet with the psychiatrist.

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00:05:56,000 --> 00:06:02,000

Now, startling new DNA evidence suggests the real killer or killers were never actually caught.

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00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:05,000

Was Albert DeSalvo the Boston strangler?

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00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:09,000

Evidence found on the last victim suggests that the answer is no.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:14,000

Mary!

83

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:20,000

Mary!

84

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:24,000

Mary.

85

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:31,000

On January 4th, 1964, Mary Sullivan was found by her roommate,

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,000

strangled to death and sexually assaulted.

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00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:40,000

In a final morbid gesture, a happy New Year card was placed at her feet.

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00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:49,000

The killer left semen on Mary's body that the police collected in 1964.

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:56,000

Forensic technology at the time wasn't capable of determining to whom it belonged.

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00:06:56,000 --> 00:07:02,000

Mary Sullivan officially became the 11th and final victim of the Boston strangler.

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00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:06,000

Albert DeSalvo later confessed to her murder.

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

But recently, two families have formed an unlikely alliance to challenge that assertion more forcefully than ever before.

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00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:19,000

The family of Mary Sullivan and the family of her alleged killer, Albert DeSalvo.

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:24,000

I never believed my brother was the Boston strangler from day one.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:28,000

I just want the name cleared. That's all.

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00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:34,000

Albert was not perfect. Albert did some bad things. Albert was not a murderer.

97

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:41,000

Mary's sister Diane also believes that DeSalvo was not the killer.

98

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:47,000

I mainly come here to say hi to Mary.

99

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:51,000

And I'm going to try to do what I can.

100

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:55,000

I'm going to do everything I can to find her murderer.

101

00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:58,000

To find the murderer, Mary.

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

To the DeSalvo and Sullivan families, there was an obvious solution to the controversy.

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:14,000

One of the most powerful forensic tools ever created, DNA profiling.

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:24,000

If the Boston police departments still have the biological evidence from Mary Sullivan's crime

scene, her killer could be found.

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00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:36,000

I made several inquiries to the Boston police department and they told me flat out that they did not have any physical evidence left in the Boston strangler case to test for DNA evidence.

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00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Casey Sherman and his mother Diane were then forced to turn to the only evidence available to them, the body of Mary Sullivan.

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00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:56,000

We had to do the exhumation of my aunt's body. It was a horrible experience. We didn't want to do it, but it was our last and only recourse we thought.

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00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:59,000

And it was the only chance to find her killer.

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

To supervise the exhumation, the Salimons asked for the help of world-renowned professor of law and forensic science, James E. Starrs, and a team of experts.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:18,000

We were obviously looking for any seminal fluid and we do know that seminal fluid will fluoresce under UV light.

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00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:27,000

So we looked and seminal fluid fluoresced and it also was in the right location for seminal fluid. It's on pubic hair.

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

Could this be the evidence a team had been hoping for? A chilling clue reaching across decades to identify the killer.

113

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:43,000

A sample of her pubic hair was transferred to forensic molecular biologist David Foren and his team.

114

00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:52,000

So we examined that and went after that as far as could we get any DNA from it. We had to be extra careful because obviously her hair is going to have her DNA in it.

115

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:59,000

So one of the tricky parts becomes isolating DNA only from this material that's stuck in the pubic hair and not from the hair itself.

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

Dr. Foren successfully isolated a DNA sequence from the sample.

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

Foren then compared it to Albert DeSalvo's by using DNA taken from his brother Richard.

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00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:22,000

The results were virtually indisputable. The DNA found on Mary Sullivan's body did not belong to Albert DeSalvo.

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

Some went to our surprise and no instances did we find anything from Albert DeSalvo. It wasn't there.

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00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:37,000

On the other hand we did find DNA sequences that are from someone and they're not someone we can account for despite how hard we tried.

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00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:44,000

A well of emotions came over me because there have been a lot of times where I didn't know if we had done the right thing.

122

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:52,000

But when he said that there was DNA they believed from Mary's killer on her body and that DNA didn't match Albert DeSalvo.

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00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:55,000

It was just complete vindication as far as I was concerned.

124

00:10:56,000 --> 00:11:06,000

For those who say that Albert DeSalvo did do it, the shoe is on their foot now. It's for them to come forward and show the evidence to prove that Albert DeSalvo did do it.

125

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

As of now we've got evidence indicating in all scientific probability that he didn't do it.

126

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

If Albert DeSalvo did not kill Mary Sullivan then who did?

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00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:27,000

Before DeSalvo's confession put an end to the investigation the police were pursuing a number of promising suspects.

128

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:39,000

The original investigators of Mary's murder found a strange piece of evidence in her bathroom implicating Mary's allegedly abusive ex-boyfriend.

129

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

They found an ascot caught up in the toilet.

130

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:51,000

When my sister dated this person that's all she bought him for presents. He loved ascots.

131

00:11:52,000 --> 00:12:00,000

So I could see him definitely cutting that ascot up in the bathroom and I could absolutely see him killing Mary.

132

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

The second suspect is based on an eyewitness account. A neighbor saw a man in Mary's apartment at the approximate time of the murder.

133

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:17,000

So they give any of you a hard time at work huh? What'd they say?

134

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

Mary Sullivan's roommate had a boyfriend who matched the neighbor's description.

135

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:24,000

The other girls. Why don't you just beat them up?

136

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:28,000

The roommate's boyfriend may have also had access to Mary's apartment.

137

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

Explaining why there were no signs of forced entry.

138

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:38,000

At the height of the Boston Strangler case my aunt was well versed in what was going on.

139

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:41,000

She wouldn't let a stranger into the apartment.

140

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:47,000

She would have had to have known that man or that man would have had to have gotten into the

apartment with a key.

141

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:48,000

So?

142

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:56,000

The day before Mary's murder her roommate had spent the entire day with the prime suspect and Mary's killing.

143

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:57,000

I want a steak.

144

00:12:57,000 --> 00:12:59,000

Okay so I'll go to the dining room.

145

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:03,000

What are these for?

146

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:08,000

They're the keys to the apartment. An extra set. I'm gonna go pat on my nose.

147

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

Her apartment key had gone missing the day before she was killed.

148

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

Now this key hadn't fallen off the key chain. It was taken off.

149

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:19,000

Do you live in Vermont?

150

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:20,000

No.

151

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

The suspect was brought in for a lie detector test.

152

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:31,000

Did you take a key from Mary Sullivan's apartment?

153

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:32,000

No.

154

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:35,000

Did you kill Mary Sullivan?

155

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:36,000

No.

156

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:37,000

Face front please.

157

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:42,000

According to police his responses were deemed untruthful.

158

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:50,000

Once to Sal will confess however investigations into this suspect and Mary's ex-boyfriend were closed.

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

And what about the other murders?

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00:13:54,000 --> 00:14:02,000

Author Susan Kelly's extensive investigation has revealed that the police had promising suspects in many of these cases as well.

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

If Albert wasn't the Boston Strangler who was the Boston Strangler?

162

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:15,000

From what my research indicates there wasn't one. There were many.

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00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:29,000

On June 14th 1962 the maniac claimed his first victim. 56 year old Ann Slessers.

164

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:35,000

Earlier that day a painting crew was working at her apartment.

165

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:44,000

16 days later the same painting crew arrived at the apartment building of Helen Blake. She became victim number two.

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00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:54,000

The only thing that connected those murders was a painting crew working on the exteriors of the women's apartment buildings at the approximate times they were killed.

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00:14:54,000 --> 00:15:04,000

Two of the members of the painting crew their alibis couldn't be corroborated by their boss or by their fellow workers and that's an unusual connection.

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00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:12,000

As was first uncovered by Susan Kelly's research police also had a suspect for victim number six.

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

20 year old Sophie Clark.

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

The suspect in the Sophie Clark case was seen entering her apartment building.

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00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:28,000

He was seen fleeing her apartment building covered in sweat.

172

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:36,000

Police identified the man and learned that he had dated Sophie at least once.

173

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:43,000

He was given lie detector tests on two separate occasions and according to authorities failed both.

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

Victim number seven was 23 year old Patricia Bisette.

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00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:56,000

In this case too Susan Kelly discovered that police had a viable suspect.

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00:15:57,000 --> 00:15:58,000

Patricia?

177

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:01,000

Patricia's boss who discovered her body.

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00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:10,000

The detectives found out that Patricia Bissette was having an affair with her happily married boss at the time she was killed.

179

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:12,000

Well I found her eye tops of your report.

180

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

It shows that she was one month pregnant when she was murdered.

181

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

Not only do you have motive but you have a suspect there.

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00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:29,000

Like the suspects in Mary Sullivan's murder investigations into every one of these individuals stop code when Albert DeSalvo confessed.

183

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

That there were more than one strangler.

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00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:39,000

There's a possibility that some of the older women died at the hands of the same person.

185

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:48,000

Each of the young women who died was murdered by a different individual who had his own motives.

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00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:54,000

If you hated a woman back in the early 1960s you could kill her,

187

00:16:54,000 --> 00:17:00,000

loosely wrap a stocking around her neck and hope that the police would think it was the boss and strangler.

188

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:08,000

I mean clearly the killers that were murdering these women they had a diagram on how to commit a Boston strangling

189

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:12,000

because all the grizzly details were printed in the papers at the time.

190

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:15,000

If you wanted to commit a murder here was your diagram.

191

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

The Sullivan family continues to hope that Mary's killer will one day be held accountable.

192

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:26,000

I went closure from my mother.

193

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

My mother has had to live nearly 40 years without any answers in this case.

194

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

We want to publicly identify Mary's killer, look him in the eye and tell him what he stole from us.

195

00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:12,080

The

196

00:18:12,080 --> 00:18:15,000

headlight came right right into the driver's side window.

197

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:27,000

I woke up about 10 minutes later I had glass my eyes.

198

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:35,000

I couldn't really see much just because of all the glass and I just kind of looked around and kind of clicked to me

199

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

that there's no way everybody could have made it out of there.

200

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:41,000

And saw my friends on the road.

201

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:44,000

It was ugly.

202

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:46,000

It was real ugly.

203

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:56,000

Matt Wagner had somehow survived the devastating four-car accident on state route 270 outside of Pullman, Washington.

204

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

Three of his closest friends were not so lucky.

205

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:08,000

Brandon S. Clements is best friend Ryan Sorensen and Ryan's girlfriend Stacy Morrow.

206

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

Stacy was my daughter Stacy Gretchen Morrow.

207

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:25,000

She was 21, got in turn 22, a student at Washington State University and just one of the most beautiful young ladies I ever knew.

208

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:35,000

Shortly after the fatal crash, Stacy Morrow along with Brandon and Ryan were honored at a Washington State University Memorial.

209

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:45,000

I didn't know what to do and I had mixtures of course of sadness and just rage that something like this would happen.

210

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:47,000

I mean nothing's been the same since.

211

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:49,000

It was just a nightmare.

212

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:58,000

A nightmare that could have been easily avoided and was totally unnecessary.

213

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

Police believe that Fred Rick Russell, a 22-year-old honor student, had recklessly caused the accident.

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00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:12,000

He was charged on three counts of vehicular homicide and four counts of vehicular assault.

215

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

But Fred has his share of supporters.

216

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

Do I believe that that accident was caused primarily by my son? I don't.

217

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:29,000

I think there were a lot of causes and I think there were a lot of people responsible for what happened on that road that night.

218

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

That doesn't make it any better or any worse.

219

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:36,000

That's just an interpretation of the facts.

220

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:46,000

My sense of what Gregg Gressel is doing in this case is that he is defending his son beyond a reasonable amount

221

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:56,000

and is making statements that are trying to cloud the issue, spread the responsibility and excuse his son

222

00:20:56,000 --> 00:21:04,000

to try to get this young man off the hook for the deaths of my daughter and Brandon and Ryan.

223

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:09,000

Could Fred Russell have been innocent of the charges against him?

224

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Russell is from a respected family whose father is a chair of the Criminal Justice Department at Washington State University.

225

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:20,000

He doesn't believe Fred is solely responsible for what happened that night.

226

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

But the victims' families vehemently disagree.

227

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:29,000

This tragic case has put the college town of Pullman, Washington in a warring camps.

228

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:32,000

Many believe it only the driver that night.

229

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:39,000

Fred Russell can stop the outbursts of rage and grief, but Fred Russell is nowhere to be found.

230

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Investigators have pieced together Fred's activities in the hours leading up to the deadly crash.

231

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:53,000

I think I will have a drink today.

232

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:59,000

Several witnesses claim they saw Fred and his friend Jacob McFarland drinking at a local bar.

233

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

I'm driving! I'm driving!

234

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:07,000

At approximately 10.15 p.m. Fred and Jacob were seen leaving the bar.

235

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:15,000

Fred then got behind the wheel and headed onto Route 270.

236

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:24,000

Pick it up! This is ridiculous! Lady, pick it up!

237

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:29,000

According to police reports, Fred came upon a slower moving vehicle in front of him.

238

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:32,000

Lady, you're moving at like 10 miles an hour.

239

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:39,000

Although he was in a no-passing zone, Fred illegally tried to go around the car at 90 miles an hour.

240

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Police believe that Fred's Chevy Blazer first struck a geoprism heading in the opposite direction.

241

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:55,000

Then a Cadillac carrying seven college students.

242

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:04,000

Brandon Clements, Ryan Sorensen and Stacy Moro were killed on impact.

243

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

Matt Wagner and three other students were critically injured but survived.

244

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

The Blazer then smashed into a third vehicle before bursting into flames.

245

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

Amazingly, Fred Russell and his friend Jacob escaped relatively unscathed.

246

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:31,000

Two hours after the accident, Fred's blood alcohol was tested at a nearby hospital.

247

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:37,000

It measured .12, well above the legal limit.

248

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:45,000

Later, Fred Russell was arrested at his home and charged with three counts of vehicular drugs.

249

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:51,000

After the accident, Fred was charged with three counts of vehicular homicide.

250

00:23:54,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Fred Russell's bail was set for \$5,000, which his father, Greg, had no problem posting.

251

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:03,000

Fred would remain free until his trial.

252

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:07,000

In fact, he was even allowed to drive to and from work.

253

00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:11,000

That was pretty hard to take, you know.

254

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

When you lose your three friends, it feels like somebody murdered him.

255

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

He shouldn't be able to be out in public anymore.

256

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:26,000

That the bail is so low is to be nothing other than a slap on the wrist is almost insulting to victims and their families.

257

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:29,000

We believe that he poses no flight risk.

258

00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:34,000

Now, whether there was a personal connection between Judge Frazier and Greg Russell,

259

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:38,000

the Dean of the School of Criminology at WSU, I don't know.

260

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:49,000

I do believe, though, that Greg Russell's standing in the community was one of the reasons why Frederick Russell was allowed to be out on bail

261

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:51,000

and why that bail was so low.

262

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:58,000

I would imagine that 99.9% of the time, most judges in this country, in the same situation, would have done the same thing.

263

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:05,000

Public anger began to grow as Fred's team of lawyers prepared his defense.

264

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:10,000

A motion was filed disputing the blood alcohol finding.

265

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:15,000

And challenges were made as to whether Fred was really responsible for the accident.

266

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:21,000

I was shown toxicology reports of the deceased driver of the Cadillac.

267

00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:27,000

That indicated there were drugs and alcohol in his system.

268

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:37,000

I was shown toxicology reports of other occupants that showed that there were drugs and alcohol in their systems as well, meth and marijuana.

269

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:45,000

There was absolutely nothing in the system of the decedents that contributed in any way, either to the collision or to their subsequent death.

270

00:25:46,000 --> 00:26:01,000

I think that the accusation by Greg Russell that is clearly intended to cloud the issue of his son's responsibility in this case is sinful.

271

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Within weeks, Fred Russell and his supporters claim that he became the target of the community's growing outrage.

272

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:24,000

The death threats that he indicated that he received were two phone calls in early July.

273

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:42,000

And then we received information that a card was left at the front doorstep of the residents that he was at indicating that he wouldn't live to see his trial.

274

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:51,000

Four weeks later, Fred Russell disappeared. Both his lawyers and family claim to have not heard from him since.

275

00:26:52,000 --> 00:27:00,000

Shortly after he jumped bail, Greg Russell and several local newspapers received the letter signed by Fred. It read in part.

276

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:09,000

I left because I had no choice. Since the first day after the tragic accident, horrible things have been printed about me.

277

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:14,000

Now people are so enraged that they would rather see me dead than receive a fair trial.

278

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:20,000

I maintain my innocence, but my life has been repeatedly threatened, so I cannot stay.

279

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:28,000

Fred Russell's whereabouts are currently unknown.

280

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:33,000

I think Fred has an expensive lifestyle. I think Fred's accustomed to good things.

281

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:45,000

Being able to go out and party and drink and socialize, I would find it impossible for Fred to make his ends meet without assistance in some manner from some family member or friend.

282

00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:54,000

Since that letter, nobody in the family to my knowledge has heard anything from him. We don't know anyone who has heard from him.

283

00:27:54,000 --> 00:28:03,000

I would hope that if anyone did, if any of my friends knew, if anyone in the family heard from him, that they'd tell us.

284

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:17,000

What I would say to Fred Russell is, we'll get you. You can't hide forever. And I've got a long time left in this life and I'll find you.

285

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

I'll find you.

286

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:46,000

10-Year-Old Joanna Molina of Merced, California

287

00:28:46,000 --> 00:29:06,000

10-Year-Old Joanna Molina of Merced, California will soon be reunited with her mother Jean. Jean Molina has recently moved to Tustin four hours to the south and is now ready for her oldest child to join her.

288

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:17,000

Jean was real happy because Joanna was going to come and live with her and we made arrangements to take her down that weekend.

289

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:31,000

Two months earlier, feeling a need to take a sabbatical from her marriage, Jean had taken a job as a cook. It would be a chance to assert some independence. However, other forces may have prompted her move as well.

290

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:44,000

She had had a dream that I was going to badly beat her up and she felt that she should get out of my house. And I never understood why she would have a dream like that and believe that dream.

291

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:57,000

When her parents and Joanna stopped by Jean's new home, no one was there. Not knowing where else to turn, the Hitchcocks checked the restaurant where Jean worked.

292

00:29:58,000 --> 00:29:59,000

Excuse me, Miss.

293

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

Yeah, I'll be right with you.

294

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:09,000

Yes.

295

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:10,000

Is Jean here?

296

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:11,000

Jean Molina?

297

00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:13,000

Jean, no. She didn't come in today.

298

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:16,000

Maybe we made a mistake.

299

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:22,000

I was just really not sure what to do. If she said she was going to be there, she would have been there.

300

00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:33,000

The next morning, the Hitchcocks rushed to Jean's room hoping to find a sign of her. Sadly, there were no clues to where she might be.

301

00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:47,000

It was very difficult because at that point we were so worried. And Joanna, she kept watching me. She wanted to see how I was reacting, how frightened I was, or how bad the situation was by my reaction.

302

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:49,000

Oh, excuse me, sir.

303

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

The Hitchcocks immediately went to the Anaheim Police Department to file a missing person's report.

304

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:58,000

Yesterday we were supposed to meet with my daughter.

305

00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:07,000

Deep down I did know that something was very wrong. But I tried not to think about it because I knew that it would just make things worse.

306

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:08,000

Thank you.

307

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:17,000

Joanna and the Hitchcocks returned home empty-handed without a single clue to Jean Molina's whereabouts.

308

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:26,000

Over the next several days, they would anxiously wait by their phones, hoping for news that Jean

was safe and unharmed. Sadly, that call would never come.

309

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Jean Molina was raised in Merced, California. Following a tour of duty with the Navy, Jean returned home and began a family. She married Frank Reed and had three children, Joanna, Elizabeth, and John.

310

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:47,000

Though she and Frank had their ups and downs, it was a fulfilling marriage.

311

00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:59,000

We had a lot of fun. We had a lot of respect for each other. She just had all of the things that I've always wanted. I mean, she was, she made me want to be married for a long time.

312

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

But when her youngest child was two years old, Jean felt her need for some changes in her life and decided to go back to work.

313

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:16,000

Merced is such a small town and she didn't feel she could go far here, so she went to Southern California.

314

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:21,000

Jean's experience as a cook in the Navy helped her land a job with a restaurant chain.

315

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:30,000

Within six weeks, she had been promoted. She was going to be training all of the new hires at each restaurant as they opened up.

316

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:39,000

She had planned to take Joanna with her, so it was kind of, it was kind of a neat experience for her. She was really excited about it. She was real happy.

317

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:45,000

Then just when everything was going so well for her, 33-year-old Jean Molina vanished.

318

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:57,000

The very day the Hitchcocks drove to Tusnton to see Jean, a gruesome discovery was made in Westminster, a town 10 miles away.

319

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:04,000

A badly battered body of an unidentified woman was found near an abandoned construction site.

320

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:10,000

It was one of the more vicious crime scenes that we've investigated and we've investigated an awful lot of homicide.

321

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

Just after daybreak that Sunday, a husband and wife witnessed a man acting suspiciously near his car.

322

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:30,000

He picked up some type of large object and we later found that to be a piece of asphalt and with both hands above his head just thrust it down hard.

323

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:40,000

And then looked up and saw her and in her words she panicked and jumped back in this compact vehicle and sped off in the scene at a high rate of speed.

324

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:49,000

We didn't feel that Robbery was a motive. She had some money on her. She had a ring on her finger.

325

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:58,000

We felt that probably under the circumstances the suspects that did this knew her in some way.

326

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:01,000

They were trying to prevent us from finding out who she was.

327

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:10,000

She was so badly damaged that we couldn't tell if she was a female Asian, white, Hispanic.

328

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:20,000

An autopsy revealed that she had been sexually assaulted, strangled and bludgeoned before being run over by a car.

329

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Three days after Jean Malina vanished, her landlord read a newspaper article about the unidentified female victim found in Westminster and thought it might be Jean.

330

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

He immediately contacted authorities who contacted Jean's husband.

331

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:49,000

Possibly the most difficult thing in my life I ever had to do to go down and identify somebody who was beaten so badly she was unrecognizable.

332

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

This ring was found with a victim.

333

00:34:53,000 --> 00:35:00,000

It wasn't until Frank was shown the ring the victim was wearing that he was certain his beloved Jean had been murdered.

334

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:02,000

I'm really sorry.

335

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:09,000

Frank had called me and told me that he had had to identify the body. I didn't handle that very well.

336

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:17,000

That was a horrible week and it was the day it was worse but somehow at least I can't say it was a relief. It was just, it made me angry.

337

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:26,000

Despite Jean's dream about her husband beating her, investigators were able to quickly eliminate Frank Reed as a suspect.

338

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

I've kind of come to believe that the dream wasn't about me. It was a dream about something else and she had foreseen what was going to happen to her.

339

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

Detectives went to the restaurant and questioned Jean's co-workers.

340

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:41,000

Thank you for your time.

341

00:35:41,000 --> 00:35:42,000

The reason we're here.

342

00:35:43,000 --> 00:35:50,000

One of the things we found out was that she had worked on July 16th just about till 11 o'clock at night.

343

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:58,000

One witness stated that she did come back after signing out on the time card.

344

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:02,000

She did come back and talk to this particular individual for a few minutes.

345

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:06,000

That individual was short order cook Carlos Verdeja.

346

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:08,000

Surprise!

347

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:09,000

Hey!

348

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:10,000

Hey!

349

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:11,000

I'm glad you made it.

350

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:18,000

Investigators theorized Jean might have left with Verdeja to celebrate her daughter's impending arrival.

351

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:21,000

I thought they were all going to come with us.

352

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:25,000

She'd already bought a bed for her daughter. She'd already stocked up the refrigerator.

353

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:31,000

I mean this was an exciting time for her. This was something that she was really, really looking forward to.

354

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:38,000

Police would soon learn that Carlos Verdeja reportedly admitted committing a previous murder.

355

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:40,000

He's got a temper.

356

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:42,000

Okay, can you tell me what that means?

357

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:47,000

You know, I was working one day and was just joking around with him.

358

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:51,000

Carlos, we'll never go out with you on account of your ugly.

359

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:54,000

The line cook thought it was just miniscule. He was just kidding with him.

360

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:59,000

And he said the guy just went off and pulled a butcher knife out and threatened him with a butcher knife.

361

00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:02,000

It's not funny!

362

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:03,000

You'll be the housewife!

363

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:05,000

Oh, you're going to kill me?

364

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:09,000

Yeah, I killed a doctor.

365

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Berreira then came back in, according to the person that we interviewed, the next day and had some kind of paperwork with him,

366

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:21,000

stating that he was wanted someplace in Mexico for an additional homicide.

367

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:24,000

He came in the morning, but he didn't show up at night.

368

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:30,000

Jean's co-workers also informed police that Carlos Verdeja had abruptly resigned from his job.

369

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:32,000

Yes, that was Sunday.

370

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:40,000

When investigators went to Verdeja's residence, they learned that he and his common law wife had vacated the premises the day of the murder.

371

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

He left his clothes behind.

372

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:43,000

Some of his clothes, you see.

373

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:49,000

That afternoon, another neighbor caught Carlos Verdeja behaving oddly around his car.

374

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:55,000

Berreira was then seen attempting to clean out parts of the vehicle.

375

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:06,000

The sedan registered to Carlos Verdeja was later found abandoned nearby.

376

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:10,000

The car provided a wealth of physical evidence in the case.

377

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:17,000

Evidence not only in the vehicle, but on the undercarriage of the vehicle that secured in my mind,

378

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:24,000

what's beyond a shadow of a doubt that this was the vehicle that had been used to run over Jean Molina.

379

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:28,000

Authorities have been searching for Carlos Verdeja ever since.

380

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:34,000

They believe he may have additional wives and families in Mexico who are helping him evade capture.

381

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Well, I hope they catch him, and I just hope to be able to tell him what I think of him.

382

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:45,000

You're a coward. You hide under the skirt of your mother's skirt.

383

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:50,000

You're a coward, and you hide beneath your mother's skirts.

384

00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:55,000

Carlos Garcia Verdeja is wanted for the murder of Jean Molina.

385

00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:01,000

Verdeja is 37 years old, 5'7", tall and weighs 180 pounds.

386

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:07,000

He is adept at creating aliases and should be considered extremely dangerous.

387

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:19,000

On a previous broadcast, we profiled a suspected serial killer who fled halfway around the world to avoid being charged with murder.

388

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:24,000

In a remarkable twist of fate, he is now in custody.

389

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:29,000

The story of Michael Swango was a bizarre one.

390

00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:34,000

As a medical student, he used his hospital internship to secretly kill.

391

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

When mysterious deaths occurred on his watch, hospital officials became suspicious.

392

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

When co-workers became ill, they believed Swango was poisoning them.

393

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:47,000

Swango represents the ultimate betrayal.

394

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:51,000

We trust doctors. We put our lives and health in their hands.

395

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:56,000

And Swango held himself out as someone who was willing to help, but in fact, he was looking to hurt.

396

00:39:57,000 --> 00:40:01,000

Using various aliases, the doctor spent years evading the law.

397

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:06,000

And when police began to close in, he quietly fled to Zimbabwe, Africa.

398

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:13,000

Soon after, authorities issued a warrant for Swango's arrest for the only thing they could, fraud.

399

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:16,000

He had lied on a federal job application.

400

00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:19,000

That warrant would eventually come back to haunt him.

401

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:23,000

Update

402

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:31,000

Three years later, Swango was fleeing Africa to Saudi Arabia, but had to stop in the U.S. to renew his visa.

403

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:39,000

At Chicago O'Hare Airport, an alert customs agent ran his name through the computer, found the warrant, and Swango was arrested.

404

00:40:40,000 --> 00:40:47,000

It was June 1997, and little did officials know that they had captured possibly the most prolific serial killer of the century.

405

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:57,000

Nothing compares to Swango, the unbelievable strange motives that he had, and the length of time for which he did it, and the number of times he got away with it.

406

00:40:58,000 --> 00:40:59,000

I mean, nothing compares.

407

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

While serving time on the fraud charge, federal prosecutors had three years to develop a murder case against Swango that could put him away for life.

408

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:19,000

We had to prove that there was a homicide. Normally, that's not a problem in a murder case. You have a dead body, there's a bullet, there's a stabbing, there's a strangling, beating.

409

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:24,000

In this case, people had passed on, and it had been assumed that they died naturally.

410

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:33,000

Exhumed bodies, complicated toxicology tests, an eyewitness, and even Swango's own diaries sealed the deadly doctor's fate.

411

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:42,000

Page after page of his personal writings are filled with morose texts like, I love it, sweet husky close smell of an indoor homicide.

412

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

We can tell from Michael Swango's writings that he simply liked to kill people.

413

00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:55,000

For him, the thrill was doing the killing and getting away with it.

414

00:41:56,000 --> 00:42:02,000

And that's why it was difficult to establish a pattern with him, because he was something of an opportunistic killer.

415

00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:05,000

He would kill whenever he had the chance to kill.

416

00:42:13,000 --> 00:42:18,000

The End

417

00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:34,000

Join me next time. For more fascinating stories from the realm of Unsolved Mysteries.