

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 --> 00:00:12,000

A Florida woman meets a man of her dreams.

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

Soon they chart a life together sailing around the world.

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

But suddenly she vanishes.

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

Could her boyfriend have had anything to do with her disappearance?

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

A decaying marriage.

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

A shocking case of arson.

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

A wife is dead and her husband is on the run.

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

A California teenager's vacation to Carson City, Nevada

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

sparks a seemingly innocent summer romance.

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

Does that relationship lead to her unexplained death just days later?

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

What happened to Natasha?

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

A young woman working two jobs struggles to support her daughter.

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

Then when she ends a relationship with a possessive man, she ends up dead.

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

Now police need your help to find her alleged killer, Michael Alfonso.

17

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

Join me. Perhaps you hold the key.

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:07,000

Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:09,000

The Story of the Dead

20

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

In April 1998, 51-year-old Colleen Wood moved from Dayton, Ohio to Boca Raton, Florida.

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

Living in the Sunshine State was a culmination of a lifelong dream.

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00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:13,000

The charming former high school homecoming queen went to work at Lighthouse Point Marina as office manager.

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:19,000

Then in December 2000, following a whirlwind romance with the former professional race driver

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:26,000

and Wall Street wizard named John Paul, Colleen suddenly vanished without a trace.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:34,000

To those who know her, it is unimaginable that she would not call or write.

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:40,000

In the months following Colleen Wood's disappearance, a mystery only deepened and police are baffled.

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

There is no body, no suicide note and no evidence of foul play.

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00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:49,000

In fact, legally there is no crime and no suspect.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:55,000

While Colleen is listed as a missing person by Fort Lauderdale Police, her family and friends fear the worst.

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

Detectives would like to talk to one person who might be able to shed some light on Colleen's fate, John Paul.

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00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:09,000

But months after Colleen was last seen, he too mysteriously disappeared.

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:12,000

Well, here she is, my island girl.

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:20,000

Sometime in early 2000, Colleen Wood, a divorced mother of two grown kids, decided to give Cupid another chance.

34

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:24,000

Wow, when you said you had a sailboat, I never imagined she'd be this big.

35

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:27,000

She's big enough to sail the Atlantic and the Pacific.

36

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:32,000

My mother met John Paul through a personal ad looking for a sailing companion.

37

00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:34,000

And she was impressed with his credentials.

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:41,000

He said he was a, he had an MBA from Harvard and in the racing circle he was early famous.

39

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:48,000

And he was also reputed to be wealthy due to his success in the ownership of Mutual Fund Company.

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00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:54,000

Within a few months of their first date, Colleen and John had become inseparable.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:04:01,000

One evening following an intimate dinner, Colleen shared some of her hopes and dreams.

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00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:03,000

Here's to dreams.

43

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:05,000

Here's to our dreams.

44

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

What is it that you'd like to do that you've never done before?

45

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:10,000

Hmm.

46

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

Well, I've always thought it'd be pretty fun to sail around the world.

47

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:16,000

Well, why don't we do that?

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

Colleen was surprised and thrilled when John suggested they make the voyage together,

49

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

aboard his 55-foot schooner Island Girl.

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00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:30,000

It was a wild adventure torn from the pages of a steamy romance novel.

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:39,000

Within a few weeks, Colleen had sold her condominium and entrusted John with investing the net proceeds, \$43,000.

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

A short time later she moved in with him aboard Island Girl, then quit her job.

53

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:46,000

Yeah, would you get some teak oil?

54

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:47,000

Sure.

55

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:52,000

I was very, very shocked when Colleen told me that she was leaving.

56

00:04:52,000 --> 00:05:00,000

I personally was very concerned about her selling all of her assets to take this trip.

57

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

Colleen, are you sure about this?

58

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

I mean, selling your car and your condo and everything?

59

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:07,000

It seems a little risky putting all your eggs in one basket.

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00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:10,000

I know, but you know what? This is something I've always wanted to do.

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:13,000

Let's face it, I'm not getting any younger.

62

00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:15,000

Might be the only chance I have.

63

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:16,000

You want to take a break?

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:19,000

Yeah, in a minute. I've got to call Mike before I forget about it.

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:23,000

On December 3, 2000, Colleen placed a call to her son in Ohio.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:24,000

Hello?

67

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:25,000

Hey, Mike, it's Mom.

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:30,000

She told a Island Girl was setting sail in a few weeks and she would be in touch soon.

69

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:32,000

I keep hoping if I ignore them.

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00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:41,000

According to Maureen Canada, she spoke to Colleen about 10 days later, on December 13 or 14, to invite her to the office Christmas party.

71

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,000

Maureen, it's right here from here.

72

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

Her cell phone number.

73

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

And she happened to be in Key West at a bar with John Paul.

74

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:53,000

She sounded fine. She sounded like she was having a good time.

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

Great, so you can make the party.

76

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:56,000

I wouldn't miss it for the world.

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

All right, I'll see you Tuesday. Bye.

78

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

Tuesday, the party came and went and she didn't show up.

79

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

But I just assumed that something happened where there was possibly rough seas and they couldn't make it back on the boat.

80

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

She didn't call us for Christmas, Christmas Eve.

81

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:14,000

And after New Year, everyone was really worried.

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:16,000

Friends of family were asking, haven't you heard?

83

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:18,000

Because we know she would have called.

84

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:22,000

I tried to call her on her cell phone and the account had been closed.

85

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Michael immediately contacted the police in Florida, but there was no evidence of any crime.

86

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

Days turned to weeks, then months.

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

Still, there was no sign of Colleen Wood.

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00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:45,000

We spent the best part of January and February calling back and forth with the Coast Guard and FCC just trying to, in some way, identify and locate this boat.

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

Back in Ohio, Colleen's son searched the Internet in hopes of finding an address or phone number for John Paul.

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00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:56,000

What he discovered gave him grave concerns.

91

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

I ran across an article that said that he had served time in prison.

92

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

That he went to a federal penitentiary for approximately 15 years serving time for an attempted murder.

93

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

I'm still thinking they're on a boat, but I'm thinking she's on a boat with a killer, a possible killer.

94

00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:24,000

It turned out Colleen's boyfriend was a mastermind behind a drug smuggling ring in the early 80s and tried to kill his partner in crime for allegedly ratting him out.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:30,000

John Paul was paroled in 1999 and met Colleen less than a year later.

96

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:37,000

His plan to sail around the world was a direct violation of his parole.

97

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:42,000

Family and friends were certain Colleen knew nothing about John Paul's past.

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00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:47,000

However, his prison record wasn't the only thing that had some people troubled.

99

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:54,000

John would later give three different accounts of his relationship with Colleen, which he says ended on the rocks.

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00:07:54,000 --> 00:08:00,000

John allegedly told version one to his daughter.

101

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

According to Michael, she said Colleen had become irate over an incident involving one of her father's old girlfriends and ended the relationship.

102

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

When I heard that she had broken up in December, I was panicked, completely panicked.

103

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:28,000

Michael pleaded with John Paul's daughter to have her father call him. Three days later, he did. And a second version of the story emerged.

104

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

He told me that they had an argument. He said he didn't remember what it was about.

105

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:40,000

But after the argument, she left the boat and then she came back with her football player boyfriend.

106

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:46,000

She gathered all of her belongings and she left the boat and he hasn't seen her since.

107

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:52,000

I found a missing person's report immediately with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

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00:08:52,000 --> 00:09:01,000

In April 2001, some four months after Colleen was last heard from, detectives Mark Shotwell and Al

Stone were assigned to the case.

109

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

Their investigation quickly led to some suspicious activity on Colleen's credit cards.

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00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:20,000

In a two-month period between mid-December to mid-February, in excess of 80 transactions, cash advancements totaling over \$40,000 had occurred on Colleen Wood's cards.

111

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:32,000

We were able to come up with good solid physical evidence that not only did Colleen Wood not make any of the transactions, they were not made with her consent.

112

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:36,000

If Colleen wasn't withdrawing cash from the ATMs, then who was?

113

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:42,000

The police are still investigating and would only say it was a woman, perhaps more than one.

114

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:48,000

Also raising suspicion were two ads that appeared in a local newspaper.

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:53,000

Both of these ads were placed in the name of Colleen Wood using her credit cards.

116

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:59,000

Both of the ads were ordered by a male.

117

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:09,000

The first ad that ran in early December was in the help wanted section looking for a first mate on the boat.

118

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

The second ad that ran mid-December was in the romance male-seeking female section.

119

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:22,000

Had the ads been placed by John Paul, detectives weren't sure.

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00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:27,000

They did know the second ad began running on December 16, 2000.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:31,000

About the same time Maureen Canada had spoken to Colleen by phone.

122

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:39,000

According to Maureen, Colleen told her then that she was partying with John in Key West and everything was fine.

123

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:47,000

Detectives Shot Well and Stone were anxious to hear about the events of December 2000 from John Paul himself.

124

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:52,000

They finally tracked him down in May 2001.

125

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:58,000

It was then, according to detectives, that John offered his third version of the breakup with Colleen.

126

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:01,000

I'd like to ask you a few questions about Colleen Wood.

127

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:03,000

Sure, how can I help you?

128

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:05,000

Have you heard from her lately?

129

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

Well, no, I can't help you there.

130

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:10,000

John Paul said that in mid-December.

131

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:14,000

He and Colleen had a large fight over money.

132

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:18,000

That Colleen Wood owed him money and it made no effort to repay it.

133

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:25,000

But the alleged inconsistent stories weren't all the detectives claimed had them troubled.

134

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:30,000

My partner and I both noticed that he was becoming increasingly more nervous.

135

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:38,000

I found it unusual that he seemed to have so little concern over a woman that he lived with that he loved.

136

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:41,000

I haven't seen her since, you know?

137

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Just a very unusual interview, very little compassion shown on his part.

138

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:51,000

Or if you can think of anything else that may help us out, we'd appreciate it if you'd give us a call.

139

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Of course.

140

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:59,000

Despite the allegations of suspicious behavior and the inconsistent stories regarding John and his breakup with Colleen,

141

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:04,000

there is no solid evidence to indicate he had anything to do with her disappearance.

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00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:10,000

In fact, John Paul may have no knowledge whatsoever about the mystery surrounding Colleen Wood.

143

00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:13,000

He has not been named a suspect in the case.

144

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:22,000

We have nobody, no physical evidence to show us what happened to Colleen, but I can tell you it's not good.

145

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:25,000

I don't believe Colleen Wood is with us anymore.

146

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:27,000

I know she's gone.

147

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:32,000

It's scary to know that something like this can happen to someone who's so close to you.

148

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:38,000

You think it happens to everybody else, but you know what? I'm everybody else.

149

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:42,000

We need to find out what happened. We need to know.

150

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:48,000

If indeed he's responsible for the death of my mother, I really want to see justice served.

151

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

John Paul has apparently left town, violating the terms of his parole.

152

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

Detectives would like to find him, to question him again about the disappearance of Colleen Wood.

153

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:16,000

According to her family, Jean Weaver's troubled marriage is nearing its end.

154

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:22,000

Let's be done with this joke of a relationship that we're saying is a marriage, that we're saying is a family.

155

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:28,000

They say that after 17 years together, she tells her husband Gordon she is seeking a divorce.

156

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

This is done, Gordon. This is done.

157

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:34,000

This is done.

158

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:39,000

Jean's family says they are concerned.

159

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:46,000

They claim they have always considered Gordon strange, a reclusive loner who never attended any family functions.

160

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:50,000

They are uncertain how he will react.

161

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:52,000

I'm going to try her again.

162

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:57,000

Two days after Jean's decision, her sister Kathy becomes worried.

163

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:04,000

Jean almost compulsively punctual is 45 minutes late for a family gathering.

164

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:09,000

Kathy and her husband Tom are driving to her home to discover why.

165

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

We get to the house and I'm panicking by then.

166

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

I heard this beeping noise. I didn't know what it was.

167

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:22,000

I was thinking, I don't understand this.

168

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

And then it hit me that was the fire alarm.

169

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:32,000

It was smoke obscuring the windows and I screamed at Tom.

170

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

Tom, the house is full of smoke.

171

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

Dial 911. Jean.

172

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:47,000

As firefighters race to the scene, Kathy and Tom try to determine if Jean is in the house.

173

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:51,000

But the thick smoke is too stifling to penetrate.

174

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:58,000

Three minutes later, the firefighters arrive.

175

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:08,000

In the basement, they discover that the fire's intensity has caused water pipes to burst.

176

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:13,000

They also discover Jean Weaver.

177

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:17,000

A valiant effort is made to save her life.

178

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

And then the police chief comes over and says she's gone.

179

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

I just ran and I ran and I screamed and I screamed.

180

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:31,000

I was so scared.

181

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:33,000

I was so scared.

182

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:38,000

I just ran and I ran and I screamed and I screamed.

183

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:52,000

I just can't begin to say how special Jean was.

184

00:15:54,000 --> 00:16:00,000

Investigators in White Bear Lake, Minnesota determined that the fire causing a death of Jean Weaver was deliberately set.

185

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Burn patterns were consistent with the case of arson.

186

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:10,000

An autopsy revealed that Jean had sustained a head injury but died from smoke inhalation.

187

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

The police believed Jean had been murdered.

188

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:18,000

They and Jean's family turned a suspicious eye on her husband, Gordon Weaver.

189

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

Gordon Weaver had every advantage in life, yet seemed destined to struggle.

190

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:29,000

He was a son of wealthy parents but was plagued by financial problems.

191

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:34,000

He had a high IQ but experienced deep bouts of depression.

192

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:42,000

As a golf and tennis club he owned was failing, he witnessed Jean build a successful career in the human resources industry.

193

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

Her family wondered if his disintegrating relationship with Jean had led him to a desperate act.

194

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:57,000

We wanted so much to find out that it was just a horrible accident that he had nothing to do with it.

195

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:08,000

But the more time passed, I started to think that Courtney had actually killed Jean.

196

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

It was unbelievable, but I believed it.

197

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

Jean's family claims that almost from the beginning her marriage to Gordon was troubled.

198

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

They say that Joy Jean rarely experienced as a wife she found as a mother.

199

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:30,000

As the years passed, her love for her son grew, but her devotion to Gordon withered.

200

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:36,000

Yeah, Gordon, could you just look at me while we talk about this?

201

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:41,000

What Jean would say about Courtney is that he would withdraw into himself.

202

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:50,000

For many years I just felt sorry for him because he seemed unhappy and just couldn't have a normal relationship with Jean.

203

00:17:50,000 --> 00:18:00,000

And she wasn't happy at all, but she thought it was the best for their son to remain together as a family.

204

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:05,000

A family crisis forced Jean to reevaluate her marriage.

205

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:09,000

Her third sister, Patty, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer.

206

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

Patty died and that is what precipitated Jean into thinking life is too short to stay married.

207

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

I'm asking Gordon for a divorce.

208

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:28,000

According to Jean's sisters, Gordon reacted to her divorce plans by asking her an ominous question.

209

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

He said, have you told anyone this?

210

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:36,000

And Jean goes, no, we left.

211

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:43,000

Because we said, you know, as if you wouldn't tell your sisters that you were going to get a divorce.

212

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:48,000

You know, and now I think, why didn't that hit me?

213

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:49,000

Why didn't I say Jean?

214

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:53,000

Make sure you tell him that everyone knows you're going to get a divorce.

215

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:57,000

But I can't explain why that didn't occur to me.

216

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:04,000

Just three days after Jean's alleged conversation with her sisters, she was found dead.

217

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:13,000

That morning, her son was at a soccer game and Gordon said he divided his time working at his office and running errands.

218

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

Gordon returned home immediately after police contacted him by phone.

219

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:26,000

We were not able to give him a whole lot of information at that time and he was asked to voluntarily come up to the police.

220

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:30,000

To speak to one of our investigators, which was myself.

221

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

Was my wife in the house? Is she alright?

222

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:37,000

Mr. Weaver, I'm afraid I've seen bad news.

223

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:38,000

Was she hurt?

224

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:41,000

I'm afraid your wife passed away.

225

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:43,000

I'm sorry.

226

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Some of his mannerisms or behavior was not what one would expect.

227

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:58,000

Having come home and finding his house surrounded by evidence tape and then being told that his wife was killed in the fire.

228

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:03,000

And we began to suspect that he was possibly involved in the death of Jean Weaver.

229

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:10,000

Detective Braun secured Gordon's permission to have forensics experts examine the clothes he was wearing that day.

230

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:16,000

On them, they found traces of two flammable liquids that they also found on Jean's body.

231

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:27,000

Investigators also learned that Jean's life insurance policies, totally more than \$350,000 were due to lapse just two days after she was killed.

232

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:30,000

The sole beneficiary was Gordon.

233

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:35,000

Jean's sister, Kathy Riesgaard, believes she knows what happened.

234

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:41,000

I believe Gordon went to confront Jean and I believe he pushed her or shoved her.

235

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:48,000

She had a wound to the head and he panicked.

236

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:59,000

And he set my sister on fire.

237

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:08,000

My sister was alive when he set her on fire.

238

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:15,000

Because of the fire, some water pipes burst in the basement.

239

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:29,000

The water pipes appeared to contain the fire to the Laundromere area and also help preserve her body to the point that the medical examiner could do a complete autopsy and locate the head injury and some other physical evidence.

240

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

Twelve days after Jean's death, Gordon Weaver was arrested for her murder.

241

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:38,000

He was soon released on bail.

242

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:44,000

The FBI says a \$300,000 cash bond was provided by his parents.

243

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Four months later, while awaiting his indictment hearing, he borrowed his parents' car.

244

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:58,000

They said he was going to Chicago for a vacation alone.

245

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

Two days later, the car was found abandoned in Summit, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

246

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:15,000

Blood stains found inside appear to indicate that Gordon Weaver had been the victim of a violent carjacking.

247

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

Forensics experts determined the blood was human, but were unable to determine if it was Gordon's.

248

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

The timing of things is just all too coincidental for him to disappear or be carjacked.

249

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:35,000

It's a week before that he is going to be indicted by a Ramsey County grand jury for first degree murder.

250

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:37,000

It doesn't make any kind of sense at all.

251

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:46,000

Did Gordon stage his disappearance or did he indeed meet with foul play, as his parents say they firmly believe?

252

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:53,000

Two days after his car was found, an unexpected phone call apparently solved the mystery.

253

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:54,000

Hello, Golf and Tennis.

254

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

It was received by a business associate of Gordon's.

255

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:00,000

This individual identified the person as Gordon Weaver.

256

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:10,000

Gordon Weaver asked if they found his car, this coworker, spoke to them for just a very brief time, and then Gordon Weaver hung up.

257

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:15,000

We do not believe in any way, shape or form, that Gordon Weaver is dead.

258

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

His family has indicated that that is what they believe, but the phone call makes it all crystal clear

259

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:25,000

that Gordon Weaver did not die in that vehicle on that night.

260

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:28,000

Gordon Weaver is still on the run.

261

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:36,000

Why should he be off somewhere and Jean, the most beautiful person that you could imagine, is gone forever?

262

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:43,000

If I knew them, what I knew now, I would never have left Jean alone for a second.

263

00:23:52,000 --> 00:24:19,000

A summer afternoon in Carson City, Nevada, Sandra Jennings receives an urgent call from her brother, Clarence.

264

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:25,000

He's trying to locate his 16-year-old daughter Natasha, who's visiting them from California.

265

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

Natasha?

266

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

I had called home. My sister answered the phone. I asked her if Natasha was home.

267

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:37,000

She set the phone down. She peeked out the back door. She didn't see her, so she went upstairs.

268

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:39,000

Oh my God!

269

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:43,000

Natasha!

270

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:47,000

That's why I heard her scream.

271

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:51,000

Clarence, I found Natasha. She's on the floor. She's not breathing.

272

00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:55,000

I told her, well, hang up right now. Call 911. I'm on my way.

273

00:24:55,000 --> 00:24:56,000

I'll call.

274

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

Tragically, Natasha Jennings was already dead when the paramedics arrived.

275

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:13,000

Ultimately, three theories on the cause of her death would emerge, involving accusations of drug abuse, sexual assault, and murder.

276

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:20,000

Along the way, the reputations of Natasha and her family will be subjected to Salacious Rumor and Innuendo.

277

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

And of this day, how Natasha Jennings died remains a mystery.

278

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:32,000

Natasha Jennings lived with her mother in Southern California.

279

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:38,000

When she was very young, her parents divorced, a situation that affected Natasha deeply.

280

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:45,000

In fact, Natasha had hoped her visit to Carson City would spark a stronger relationship with her father.

281

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:53,000

I told her, no, at first. I said, no, you're not going. But then I didn't want to put her in the middle of our disagreements.

282

00:25:54,000 --> 00:26:00,000

What I feel towards her father is my own business, and doesn't involve her that is her father.

283

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

Among her circle of friends, Natasha was a sensitive one.

284

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:13,000

As soon as she met someone, they were her friend. She always had something good to say. She was

outgoing.

285

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:18,000

The most caring person I've ever met. She just kept everyone that she knew close to her heart.

286

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:25,000

Sadly, Ingrid Kotar would now only have those cherished memories of her best friend to hold on to.

287

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

Natasha's last day began uneventfully. She had lunch with her aunt at one.

288

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:39,000

Later that afternoon, Clarence Jennings placed several calls to his daughter.

289

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

He had become increasingly worried when he was unable to reach her.

290

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:54,000

When police arrived at the scene, they found Natasha and her mother.

291

00:26:55,000 --> 00:26:59,000

Natasha has her aunt at father, slumped across the bedroom floor.

292

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

Her hair was damp as if she had just bathed. An electric fan inexplicably lay on top of her.

293

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:16,000

Anytime you have a young individual that's deceased for no specific apparent cause or reason,

294

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:24,000

it's suspicious, it's treated as a homicide. Until such time as we can shift gears and say that it's something else.

295

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:34,000

Although there were no outward signs of trauma to Natasha's body, investigators quickly developed their first theory.

296

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:42,000

Attention was directed at a young Carson City man Natasha had become close to, whom we will call Chris.

297

00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:48,000

Allegations had already been raised that Chris had sexually assaulted her just days before.

298

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:55,000

The investigation revealed that Natasha and Chris had joined a group of friends at an impromptu party.

299

00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:03,000

The get-together dragged late into the night. Those who had been drinking were invited to wait until morning to drive home.

300

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:09,000

No one saw what Natasha and Chris did the rest of the night.

301

00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:13,000

Good morning.

302

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:15,000

Good morning. Take care.

303

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:26,000

According to Ingrid Kotar, her friend in California, a confused and traumatized Natasha called the following morning to tell her something had happened after the party.

304

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

Natasha, what's up?

305

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:38,000

Natasha told me she had blacked out from, she was drinking and she had blacked out and that Chris had raped her.

306

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:41,000

Do you know where Natasha lives?

307

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:43,000

I don't remember.

308

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Chris was interrogated. However, detectives concluded that whatever may have happened between him and Natasha, his actions had not been criminal.

309

00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:58,000

The autopsy report was conclusive that she was not sexually assaulted.

310

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

As soon as Natasha's mother learned of her death, she rushed to Carson City.

311

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:20,000

I spoke with everybody that she was around. I went to places that she had been. I handed out flyers, I mean, thousands upon thousands upon thousands.

312

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

Tammy Stelton's efforts brought a new and unexpected theory to light.

313

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

I was at the shopping center passing out flyers when a woman approached me.

314

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

And she was very scared.

315

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:46,000

She was very skittish in watching over her shoulder and she says, I know what happened to your daughter.

316

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:50,000

She wrote her telephone number down and she goes here and she goes, call me.

317

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:59,000

The woman claimed that Natasha's father, Clarence, was a drug informant for local law enforcement authorities.

318

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

She said drug dealers had found out and killed Natasha in retaliation.

319

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:16,000

My ex-wife had asked me, is there any possibility that they might have had something to do with it in retaliation for my being an informant for the police department?

320

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:24,000

And my job dropped. I've never, never been an informant for the police department.

321

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

Led by Natasha's mother, a group of relatives confronted one of the Carson City detectives assigned to Natasha's case.

322

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:43,000

And we asked him if, you know, if he was aware that Clarence was, or Natasha's father was an informant, you know, and he didn't deny it at all.

323

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:45,000

He said yes, he was aware of it.

324

00:30:46,000 --> 00:31:01,000

I can say based upon our records and the records of the Nevada Division of Investigations, which would be more typified as state narcotics, Clarence Jennings was not, nor was he ever a documented informant for either agency.

325

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:04,000

How long have you known Natasha Jennings?

326

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:10,000

But soon yet another theory, the third, would redirect the course of the investigation.

327

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:18,000

Authorities still believed the drug connection could have played a vital role in Natasha's death, but with a stunning new twist.

328

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:22,000

Do you ever see Natasha use any kind of drugs?

329

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:24,000

No, Natasha would never use drugs.

330

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

Investigators were now speculating that Natasha had brought about her own death by overdosing on drugs.

331

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

They focused on two pieces of evidence.

332

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:46,000

A scrap of plastic recovered on a landing outside Natasha's bedroom contained traces of methamphetamine, commonly known as speed, and cocaine.

333

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:53,000

And an examination of Natasha's body had revealed a minute amount of the drugs in her nostrils.

334

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

The cocaine and methamphetamine can lead to increased body temperature, hyperthermia.

335

00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:09,000

I think she probably took a bath to cool down, and she was then in the process of drying her hair when she collapsed, most likely a spasm.

336

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:17,000

They said she was on a five-day drug and drink and sex party.

337

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:21,000

And I was like, uh-uh.

338

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

I just, I know my daughter.

339

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:27,000

She wouldn't have used.

340

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:36,000

The official investigation reports states that the medical examiner found no drug residue in Natasha's system during autopsy.

341

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:51,000

If you snored cocaine on Monday and you're deceased on Friday and we do a toxicology, we may find remnants of the drug, perhaps in your nose or maybe an injection point or something like that.

342

00:32:52,000 --> 00:33:01,000

But the actual toxicology of your blood and urine and whatnot may produce a zero amount.

343

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:05,000

Today the investigation has hit a dead end.

344

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:13,000

For Tammy Stelton, all the theories and endless speculation have only produced frustration and more questions.

345

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:21,000

All I wanted was answers. For somebody to talk to me and explain to me what's been going on with her. But nobody will. Nobody has.

346

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:27,000

The unfortunate part is, I don't have an answer for the mother.

347

00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:39,000

This girl was 16 years old. She had her entire life ahead of her. And we don't have any answers. We don't have the bottom line.

348

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:45,000

I didn't want her to go.

349

00:33:52,000 --> 00:34:00,000

And I was kind of mad at myself because I had felt it and didn't take heed to those emotions.

350

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:08,000

I had actually sent her a note telling her that I wanted her to come home. She didn't make it back.

351

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:15,000

Officially the investigation into the 1997 death of Natasha Jennings is still open.

352

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

At a motel room in Elgin, Illinois, Michael Alfonso has reached a breaking point.

353

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

Desperately willing to go to any lengths to save a relationship.

354

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:45,000

His girlfriend, single mother Josephina Gonzalez, has agreed to meet with him to listen to his final plea.

355

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:48,000

But Michael refuses to accept her decision.

356

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:51,000

No, no, no, no!

357

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:57,000

After Alfonso stabs her, he tries to escape with Josephina's two-year-old child.

358

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:06,000

Although severely wounded, Josephina fights back. She saves her son by punching Michael Alfonso's own knife into his back.

359

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

He drops a child and bleeding flees into the night.

360

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:19,000

Josephina Gonzalez and her son recovered from the 1994 attack.

361

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:23,000

Michael Alfonso was arrested when he sought treatment for his wounds.

362

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

Alfonso would be convicted of aggravated battery and served four years in prison.

363

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

Tragically, Josephina Gonzalez would not be the last of Alfonso's relationships to allegedly end in violence.

364

00:35:39,000 --> 00:35:46,000

In June 2001, Hena Velasquez, separated from her husband, was working two jobs to support her young daughter.

365

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:54,000

Unfortunately for Hena, Michael Alfonso also worked at one of those companies, and he had Hena in his sights.

366

00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:56,000

He scared me.

367

00:35:57,000 --> 00:36:02,000

I was not going away before anybody saw me. I've got like five minutes now. I came in here just to ask you out to dinner.

368

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Tonight?

369

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:06,000

Yeah, tonight.

370

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

I'm off around eight, so if you want to come back around eight.

371

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:14,000

Hena's relationship with Michael Alfonso continued to grow as her own marital relationship deteriorated.

372

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:22,000

She didn't talk about any relationship with him, but she always said, I'm alive right now. I got to do what I can right now.

373

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:27,000

And she also wanted a good future for her and for her daughter.

374

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

Hena's second job was at a local fast-food restaurant.

375

00:36:31,000 --> 00:36:35,000

She had shared with a co-worker the difficulties she was having with her estranged husband.

376

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

Hello.

377

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:43,000

Hena was having marriage problems. I said, you just got to communicate with each other, and everything will be okay.

378

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:51,000

And then, about a few days later, Hena starts getting these phone calls at work.

379

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:53,000

Hena, for you.

380

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Hello?

381

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:57,000

Yeah, we're busy right now.

382

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:01,000

And this man starts calling like every other day there.

383

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:07,000

Then I asked her, I says, who is this man calling you at work? And she would not answer me.

384

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:09,000

She would not tell me.

385

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:11,000

Yeah, we're just friends, everything's fine.

386

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:15,000

She said, I know what I'm doing, I know what I'm doing. I said, okay, then, fine.

387

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:20,000

But Rene Anderson's concern for her young friend would prove prophetic.

388

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:28,000

When Hena Velazquez made a decision to reconcile with her husband, she would see Michael Alfonso's darker side.

389

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:30,000

My husband and I are getting back together.

390

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

Me and my husband.

391

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:34,000

What does that mean? That means you're leaving me? No, you're not going to leave me.

392

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Michael Alfonso is an aggressive, violent man. When he doesn't get his way, he gets angry.

393

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:46,000

Many of his friends tell us that they're scared of him, that they don't know which way he's going to turn because he's so unpredictable.

394

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:48,000

Hena, I'm talking to you.

395

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:50,000

Did you hear me?

396

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:52,000

Okay, there's nothing.

397

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:56,000

You're not going anywhere. You don't break up with me, or I hurt you and your family.

398

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:09,000

Hena was so frightened by Alfonso's threats that she notified authorities.

399

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:14,000

Hi, this is Hena Velazquez. This guy was seen as threatening me.

400

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:20,000

She did not want to pursue any criminal charges at the time because she was deathly afraid of retaliation by Michael Alfonso.

401

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:24,000

No, you can't talk to him. I know he's going to do something.

402

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:29,000

A pretty clear pattern of Michael Alfonso's behavior has emerged here.

403

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:37,000

It seems as though when he begins to date a woman and the relationship goes sour, he gets angry at the woman and does not want them to leave.

404

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

And what he does is he reacts with violence.

405

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:49,000

The day after Hena's altercation with Michael Alfonso, Alfonso reportedly confronted her at the restaurant where she worked.

406

00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:51,000

I told you it's over between us.

407

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:58,000

According to what one customer told me, some man comes up to her and they start arguing.

408

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:01,000

It was a very heated argument from what the customer told me.

409

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:12,000

Hena's husband, who also worked at the same restaurant, was taking a rest break in his car on the other side of the building and had no idea his wife was in danger.

410

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:19,000

Don't run away from me. I told you don't turn your back on me. Do not leave me. Do you regret this?

411

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

One of the witnesses was in an automobile waiting in the drive-thru line for food.

412

00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:40,000

Michael walked directly at her vehicle and walked between her car and the drive-thru and she looked at his face and noticed that he had a smirk on his face.

413

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:46,000

Another witness reported the hooded desalant ran toward a dark colored car.

414

00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:54,000

There was a person that noticed a black firebird type of a vehicle drive away at a high rate of speed.

415

00:39:55,000 --> 00:40:02,000

We know from records that Michael Alfonso owns a 1994 black colored Pontiac Firebird.

416

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:07,000

Oh baby. Oh my god. Look at her.

417

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:14,000

I'm holding Hena and I said to her, hold on Hena, hold on. Everything's going to be okay.

418

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:21,000

Surrounded by her friends and coworkers, 28-year-old Hena Velazquez struggled for life.

419

00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:29,000

Hena would not win that fight. She was pronounced dead shortly after being taken to a hospital.

420

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:37,000

When an all-points bulletin went out for the capture of Michael Alfonso, police learned they were in search of a career criminal.

421

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:46,000

Before Alfonso served a four-year prison term for the attack on Josefina Gonzalez, he had served time for a 1989 rape.

422

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:55,000

Even then, investigators knew Alfonso was a threat to society, but were disappointed by the leniency of the court.

423

00:40:57,000 --> 00:41:05,000

We asked for lengthier prison sentence. The judge disagreed with us and didn't feel that Alfonso posed a threat to the community.

424

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:13,000

Of course, history has proved differently. He is a tremendous threat to any woman who he becomes involved with.

425

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:21,000

Authorities were also suspicious of Alfonso's involvement in the unsolved 1992 disappearance of a young woman he was dating.

426

00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:32,000

Sumonir Yang reportedly informed Alfonso she intended to break up with him and return to her husband and was never seen alive again.

427

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:42,000

Any woman that he gets involved in a relationship with is in grave danger unless they accede to all his demands and remain his loyal servant.

428

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:45,000

They are in danger of being raped or killed.

429

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:53,000

Two months after her disappearance, the body of Sumonir Yang was discovered in a remote area.

430

00:41:56,000 --> 00:41:57,000

She had been shot in the head.

431

00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:08,000

But despite the suspicions of law enforcement, Michael Alfonso was currently wanted only for the murder of Hena Velazquez.

432

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:14,000

And for the friends and family of Hena, the grieving has just begun.

433

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:20,000

I can't accept that she's dead.

434

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:28,000

I'm hoping one day she'll come up to me and tell me that this is a joke.

435

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:30,000

This is a lie.

436

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:36,000

This guy doesn't deserve to be helped or he doesn't deserve anything.

437

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

I mean, he doesn't even deserve to live because he's taking other human beings' life.

438

00:42:44,000 --> 00:42:49,000

So if anyone is helping him, he doesn't deserve no help.

439

00:42:50,000 --> 00:42:52,000

He deserves to be behind bars.

440

00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:19,000

Every mystery has a potential to be solved.

441

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:27,000

It may take months, may take years, or it may occur during our next edition of Unsolved Mysteries.