

TIGER KING

CREATED BY

Rebecca Chaiklin | Eric Goode

EPISODE 2.02

"The Carole Diaries"

Renewed interest in Don's disappearance leads authorities, journalists, and his children to investigate how, when – and even if – he was killed.

WRITTEN BY:

Rebecca Chaiklin | Eric Goode

DIRECTED BY:

Rebecca Chaiklin | Eric Goode

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SERIES CAST

Joe Exotic	... Self - G.W. Zoo
Carole Baskin	... Self - Big Cat Rescue
Howard Baskin	... Self - Big Cat Rescue
Bhagavan Antle	... Self - Myrtle Beach Safari
James Garretson	... Self - Businessman
Allen Glover	... Self - Former Handyman, G.W.
	Zoo/"Hitman"
Jeff Lowe	... Self - Businessman
Lauren Lowe	... Self - Jeff's Wife
Dillon Passage	... Self - Joe's Ex-Husband
Tim Stark	... Self - Wildlife in Need
Jeff Duncan	... Self - Dillon Passage's Manager
John Reinke	... Self - Former Manager, G.W. Zoo
Kelci Saffery	... Self - Former Animal Keeper, G.W. Zoo
Brittany Peet	... Self - Captive Animal Law Enforcement,
	PETA
Eric Love	... Self - Leader, Team Tiger
Jeff Hoover	... Self - Joe's Lawyer
Francisco Hernandez	... Self - Joe's Lawyer
Mike Busey	... Self - Podcaster
Yarri Schreibvogel	... Self - Joe's Brother
Kimberly Craft	... Self - Joe's Ex-Fiancée
Brian Rhyne	... Self - Joe's First Husband (archive)
Chealsi Putman	... Self - Joe's Niece
Ronnie O'Neal	... Self - Former Sergeant, Eastvale PD
Heidi Somers	... Self - Former Board Member, G.W. Zoo
Gaylynn Eastwood	... Self - Former Employee, G.W. Zoo
John Finlay	... Self - Joe's Ex-Husband
Joshua Dial	... Self - Joe's Campaign Manager
Ripper Jack	... Self - Armchair Detective
Jerry Mitchell	... Self - Investigative Reporter
Sheriff Chad Chronister	... Self - Hillsborough County Sheriff's
	Office
Alan Schreier	... Self - Carole's Ex-Boyfriend
Todd Schreier	... Self - Alan's Son
Anne McQueen	... Self - Don's Executive Assistant
Donna Pettis	... Self - Don's Daughter
Lynda Sanchez	... Self - Don's Daughter
Gale Rathbone	... Self - Don's Daughter
Corporal Moises Garcia	... Self - Detective, Hillsborough County
	Sheriff's Office
Judy Watson	... Self - Former Volunteer, Big Cat Rescue
Jim Moore	... Self - Former Volunteer, Big Cat Rescue
Joseph Fritz	... Self - Don's Attorney
Rey Rodriguez	... Self - Don's Associate
Henry Porras	... Self - Don's Notary
Valo Murillo	... Self - Don's Farmhand
Genaro Rodriguez	... Self - Aircraft Mechanic
Mary LeBouef	... Self - Don's Hotel Manager
Lenora LaPeter Anton	... Self - Journalist, Tampa Bay Times
Kenny Farr	... Self - Don's Handyman
Alex Mora	... Self - Don's Chauffeur

Giocondia Bulgarelli	... Self - Don's Neighbor
John Phillips	... Self - Civil Rights Lawyer
Sandra Wittkopp	... Self - Notary & Don and Carole's Former Housekeeper
Ira M. Lockhart	... Self - Process Server
Trish Payne	... Self - Kenny Farr's Ex-Husband
Tim Bengston	... Self - Former Volunteer, Big Cat Rescue
Matthew Marvel	... Self - Trish's Son
Troy Griffin	... Self - Psychic Investigator
Scott Shoemaker	... Self - Tiger Owner, Rexano
Zuzana Kokol	... Self - Tiger Owner, Rexano
Joe Barth	... Self - Owner, Hwy.21 Drive-In Theater
Darcy Spears	... Self - Journalist, KTNV-TV
Timothy Clark	... Self - Former Volunteer, Wildlife in Need
Evelyn Stark	... Self - Tim Stark's Mother
Roy Hardin	... Self - Neighbor of New Zoo
Erik Cowie	... Self - Head Keeper, G.W. Zoo
Taryn Walker	... Self - Former Keeper, G.W. Zoo
Tyrone Jackson	... Self - Former Volunteer, G.W. Zoo
Ashley Webster	... Self - Former Employee, G.W. Zoo
Aimee Perry	... Self - Former Employee, Wildlife in Need
Shay McAlister	... Self - Investigative Journalist, WHAS
Curtis Hill	... Self - Attorney General of Indiana
Pat Craig	... Self - The Wild Animal Sanctuary
Barney Long	... Self - Conservation Biologist

1
00:00:10 --> 00:00:12
[Alan Schreier] You ever see Tiger King?

2
00:00:12 --> 00:00:13
[man] Yeah.

3
00:00:13 --> 00:00:15
[Alan] I dated Carole Baskin
for two and a half years.

4
00:00:15 --> 00:00:17
[man] So did she do it?

5
00:00:18 --> 00:00:19
[Alan] That's the question.

6
00:00:19 --> 00:00:21
[man] That is the question.

7
00:00:21 --> 00:00:22
I didn't think so,

8
00:00:22 --> 00:00:24
but the more that comes out,
the more I think it's possible.

9
00:00:24 --> 00:00:26
[man] You ever
feel like your life was threatened?

10
00:00:26 --> 00:00:28
No. I wouldn't
have lived with her if I did.

11
00:00:29 --> 00:00:31
[intriguing music playing]

12
00:00:36 --> 00:00:39
[Alan] When I met her, it was
a year and a half after Don disappeared.

13

00:00:39 --> 00:00:44
It was '98,
and the dating apps came about,

14
00:00:44 --> 00:00:45
and that's how I met Carole.

15
00:00:46 --> 00:00:47
[automated voice] You've got mail!

16
00:00:47 --> 00:00:49
[Alan] She says,
"I don't think you know who I am."

17
00:00:49 --> 00:00:53
"And if you want to see about me,
I'll be in People magazine this week."

18
00:00:53 --> 00:00:55
People wrote the article about her,

19
00:00:55 --> 00:00:59
that maybe she killed her husband
and fed him to the animals.

20
00:00:59 --> 00:01:01
[Carole] What a good girl!

21
00:01:01 --> 00:01:04
[Alan] But I believed in my heart
that she didn't kill him.

22
00:01:04 --> 00:01:06
[chuckling] And sparks flew.

23
00:01:06 --> 00:01:09
"Life is wonderful. I am in love."

24
00:01:09 --> 00:01:11
"Alan has taught me so much."

25
00:01:11 --> 00:01:16

"He pulls me close. I feel him breathe,
hot upon my shivering skin."

26

00:01:16 --> 00:01:20

"This magic web around me weaved
as I become one flesh with him."

27

00:01:21 --> 00:01:23

[woman] And why
do you think she sought you out?

28

00:01:23 --> 00:01:25

Hey, man, I'm not chopped liver.

29

00:01:27 --> 00:01:29

Carole was very kind to me,

30

00:01:29 --> 00:01:30

but you talk to my son, Todd,

31

00:01:31 --> 00:01:33

he's going to tell you a different story.

32

00:01:33 --> 00:01:35

[school bell ringing]

33

00:01:35 --> 00:01:38

I was coming home from high school.
I throw my backpack in my room.

34

00:01:38 --> 00:01:40

I gotta go take a piss.

35

00:01:40 --> 00:01:42

I open the bathroom door.

36

00:01:42 --> 00:01:44

There's a bobcat. [imitates cat growling]

37

00:01:44 --> 00:01:48

And I'm like, "Dad, what the fuck, man?"

38

00:01:49 --> 00:01:51
Carole did not want me there.

39

00:01:52 --> 00:01:54
She dresses up in all this kitty cat crap,

40

00:01:55 --> 00:01:57
prances around in her kitty cat robes.

41

00:01:57 --> 00:02:00
And I was a kid.
I'm like, "What are you doing, lady?"

42

00:02:00 --> 00:02:02
And so I just hid in my room
as much as I could.

43

00:02:02 --> 00:02:05
I was not allowed
in a certain part of the house.

44

00:02:05 --> 00:02:08
I had these curfews.
I could never have friends over.

45

00:02:08 --> 00:02:10
But their biggest rule,

46

00:02:10 --> 00:02:14
I was told very strictly,
"Don't talk about Don."

47

00:02:14 --> 00:02:16
"Do not talk about it."

48

00:02:17 --> 00:02:20
I don't think
Carole necessarily killed her husband.

49

00:02:21 --> 00:02:23
I think she can point people
in the right direction,

50

00:02:24 --> 00:02:25
but she's not going to.

51

00:02:26 --> 00:02:28
She doesn't care about people.

52

00:02:29 --> 00:02:31
She cares about cats.

53

00:02:32 --> 00:02:34
[dramatic music playing]

54

00:02:41 --> 00:02:43
"June 1st, 2002."

55

00:02:43 --> 00:02:46
"The dilemma of Don's disappearance."

56

00:02:46 --> 00:02:48
"I didn't kill Don."

57

00:02:48 --> 00:02:51
"I have loved him since I was 19,

58

00:02:51 --> 00:02:53
and he taught me
everything I know about business."

59

00:02:54 --> 00:02:59
[Jerry Mitchell] My opinions of Carole
beyond what I've read, what I've seen,

60

00:02:59 --> 00:03:02
the main source, I guess you'd say,

61

00:03:02 --> 00:03:04
is her own diaries.

62

00:03:06 --> 00:03:09
[Carole] I post my diary entries

every day right now

63

00:03:09 --> 00:03:13

because so many people said,
"Oh, she knows more than she's telling."

64

00:03:13 --> 00:03:16

But I'll tell you everything I ever said,

65

00:03:16 --> 00:03:18

everything I ever even thought
and wrote down.

66

00:03:19 --> 00:03:20

You're welcome to read through it.

67

00:03:20 --> 00:03:23

It's all out there
for everybody to investigate,

68

00:03:23 --> 00:03:27

but they don't want to
because they would rather believe the lie

69

00:03:27 --> 00:03:30

than prove to themselves
what the truth was.

70

00:03:30 --> 00:03:34

[Joe Exotic on phone] Her diary that she's
reading online, the woman is ludicrous.

71

00:03:34 --> 00:03:37

I watched them all last night.
I laughed my ass off.

72

00:03:37 --> 00:03:42

"I remember going to elaborate extents
to create a mystery story line,

73

00:03:43 --> 00:03:46

where little clues would be left in places
for the kids to find."

74

00:03:47 --> 00:03:48
"I really like story lines

75

00:03:48 --> 00:03:51
where you keep thinking
you've discovered the plot,

76

00:03:51 --> 00:03:55
only for it to twist and turn
and surprise you again."

77

00:03:55 --> 00:03:59
[Joe] I had the whole diary up until '97.

78

00:03:59 --> 00:04:02
We just happened to have gotten
in the mail today..

79

00:04:03 --> 00:04:04
Carole's diary.

80

00:04:05 --> 00:04:08
Don would never spend money on her,
and he gave her this cheap wedding ring.

81

00:04:08 --> 00:04:13
"Don has been so mean lately
that it seems like I'm always crying."

82

00:04:13 --> 00:04:17
[Joe] Then he was wanting to leave Carole,
and go to Costa Rica with his animals.

83

00:04:17 --> 00:04:21
[sighs] "Don got so mad
that he said he wanted a divorce

84

00:04:21 --> 00:04:24
and \$1,000,000 to move to Costa Rica."

85

00:04:25 --> 00:04:27

"He said he also wanted 47 of the cats."

86

00:04:27 --> 00:04:29
[continues indistinctly]

87

00:04:29 --> 00:04:31
[Jerry] So if you
go back to the earliest entries,

88

00:04:32 --> 00:04:36
the thing it reminds me of
is just a marriage on fire.

89

00:04:38 --> 00:04:41
You don't see any way
this marriage is gonna make it.

90

00:04:41 --> 00:04:45
[Carole on video] "He's all I've ever
known and the only man I've ever loved."

91

00:04:46 --> 00:04:48
"I wish there were some way out for me."

92

00:04:48 --> 00:04:53
[Joe] The last line says,
"I have to find a way out." It's crazy.

93

00:04:53 --> 00:04:54
Hey, all you cool cats and kittens...

94

00:04:54 --> 00:04:59
She overshares.
What is behind that, I don't know.

95

00:05:00 --> 00:05:05
But you can begin searching for clues
within her words.

96

00:05:06 --> 00:05:09
It's just a puzzle, and you're just trying
to piece it together.

97

00:05:11 --> 00:05:13
[mysterious music playing]

98

00:05:13 --> 00:05:16
[Anne McQueen] Honey, I'll be leaving!
I love you.

99

00:05:17 --> 00:05:19
[mysterious music continues]

100

00:05:21 --> 00:05:24
[man on radio] Sheriff Chronister,
in between being ruled out

101

00:05:24 --> 00:05:25
and being called a person of interest,

102

00:05:26 --> 00:05:27
where does Carole fall on the list?

103

00:05:27 --> 00:05:30
[Chronister on radio]
We'll continue to look at everybody.

104

00:05:30 --> 00:05:33
When you have a cold case,
you're looking at everyone.

105

00:05:33 --> 00:05:37
There is absolutely
enough circumstantial evidence

106

00:05:37 --> 00:05:40
for them to bring her in
at least for questioning.

107

00:05:41 --> 00:05:43
Chad Chronister
can't be making those comments

108

00:05:43 --> 00:05:45
unless he knows

what the heck he's talking about.

109

00:05:46 --> 00:05:48

[Nancy Grace] What's your next move,
Sheriff?

110

00:05:48 --> 00:05:52

Trying to figure out exactly,
"Who was Don Lewis 23 years ago?"

111

00:05:52 --> 00:05:54

What was his life like then?

112

00:05:54 --> 00:05:56

There's been a theory

113

00:05:56 --> 00:05:59

he had fled the country
and just left everyone behind.

114

00:05:59 --> 00:06:02

We know he was dealing
with some shady characters

115

00:06:02 --> 00:06:03

down in Costa Rica.

116

00:06:03 --> 00:06:06

Well, you know what?
That opens up a Pandora's Box.

117

00:06:07 --> 00:06:09

[mysterious music continues]

118

00:06:13 --> 00:06:16

The sheriff assured us
they have their own suspicions,

119

00:06:16 --> 00:06:19

but they can't share those with us.

120

00:06:19 --> 00:06:21

They just have to keep eliminating things.

121

00:06:22 --> 00:06:24

You know, they, um...

122

00:06:24 --> 00:06:28

all but apologized for
how it was handled years and years ago.

123

00:06:29 --> 00:06:32

So they said, "We can't do anything
about how it was handled back then,

124

00:06:33 --> 00:06:34

but we want to solve it."

125

00:06:37 --> 00:06:39

[Detective Garcia] The Don Lewis case is

126

00:06:39 --> 00:06:43

the most high-profile missing person's
case that I've ever dealt with.

127

00:06:43 --> 00:06:47

But if there's one thing I've learned
in the 12 years of doing homicides is

128

00:06:47 --> 00:06:50

when you think you've seen it all,
you haven't quite seen it all.

129

00:06:51 --> 00:06:54

The Tiger King phenomena has been
somewhat of a double-edged sword.

130

00:06:54 --> 00:06:56

It's been good
because it's got a lot of interest

131

00:06:56 --> 00:06:58

and generated a lot of conversations.

132

00:06:58 --> 00:06:59

On the back edge,

133

00:06:59 --> 00:07:02

it's a lot of information out there
that we wouldn't want out there.

134

00:07:02 --> 00:07:06

As an investigator, I gotta look at things
in the context of a court of law,

135

00:07:06 --> 00:07:10

not what I can find
on some internet and speculate on.

136

00:07:10 --> 00:07:13

Hey, what's up, everyone?
It's Ripper here.

137

00:07:13 --> 00:07:15

I've been looking for Carole.

138

00:07:15 --> 00:07:18

I can't find her.
She's not returning my call.

139

00:07:18 --> 00:07:23

[Garcia] I know there's a whole
subculture of online investigators,

140

00:07:23 --> 00:07:25

but I don't know
what their backgrounds are.

141

00:07:25 --> 00:07:26

I don't know what drives them.

142

00:07:27 --> 00:07:29

I don't really make anything of them.

143

00:07:30 --> 00:07:34

[Ripper] When it comes to
the Hillsborough Sheriff's Department,

144

00:07:34 --> 00:07:39

I think it's about time
they get some answers for this family.

145

00:07:39 --> 00:07:41

[intriguing music playing]

146

00:07:42 --> 00:07:44

[Ripper] When was the last time
you saw your dad?

147

00:07:45 --> 00:07:50

June 14th, 1997.

148

00:07:50 --> 00:07:53

[Ripper] Two months
before he went missing.

149

00:07:53 --> 00:07:55

He told me to come
at a specific time in the afternoon.

150

00:07:55 --> 00:07:58

He said Carole would not be there
and that would be best.

151

00:07:59 --> 00:08:02

[Carole] It's all right! Pet it.
You can pet these. These are bigger ones.

152

00:08:02 --> 00:08:03

[Don] Don't be scared of him!

153

00:08:03 --> 00:08:06

[Gale Rathbone] I don't
remember the exact conversation,

154

00:08:06 --> 00:08:10

but he got the point across to me
that there was trouble.

155

00:08:10 --> 00:08:14
I know he was making plans
to go to Costa Rica.

156
00:08:14 --> 00:08:18
[Ripper] Do you think he would have left
and didn't tell you guys?

157
00:08:18 --> 00:08:19
-[Gale] No.
-[Ripper] No?

158
00:08:19 --> 00:08:22
[Gale] But law enforcement
was still very divided.

159
00:08:22 --> 00:08:25
Half of them thought he had just...

160
00:08:26 --> 00:08:28
-flown off to Costa Rica.
-Mm-hmm.

161
00:08:28 --> 00:08:30
And half of them thought,

162
00:08:30 --> 00:08:33
"No, there might have been
something mysterious happen."

163
00:08:35 --> 00:08:39
[reporter] The flamboyant entrepreneur
left pending business deals, his cats,

164
00:08:40 --> 00:08:42
and a very worried wife behind.

165
00:08:43 --> 00:08:45
He had made that comment to me, you know?

166
00:08:45 --> 00:08:49
He was gonna leave her,
move to Costa Rica, and take all the cats.

167

00:08:49 --> 00:08:54

He said that out loud to me one day
'cause he was mad, out on the property.

168

00:08:55 --> 00:08:57

[woman] Do you
remember when he said that to you?

169

00:08:58 --> 00:09:00

When the clouded leopard died.

170

00:09:03 --> 00:09:07

They had a clouded leopard they
were moving from one enclosure to another,

171

00:09:08 --> 00:09:10

and they were moving
this leopard in a box.

172

00:09:10 --> 00:09:13

But they forgot the box on a path.

173

00:09:16 --> 00:09:17

It was hot.

174

00:09:18 --> 00:09:21

The leopard died.
He suffocated in that box.

175

00:09:24 --> 00:09:27

Don was angry,
and I guess they had a fight.

176

00:09:29 --> 00:09:33

There was a lot of turmoil there,
a lot of jealousy, a lot of drama,

177

00:09:34 --> 00:09:36

which I avoided like the plague.

178

00:09:37 --> 00:09:40

[Carole] "Don's first day
back from Costa Rica, he wakes up,

179

00:09:40 --> 00:09:43
and calmly tells me that he
is going to tear down the caracal pens."

180

00:09:43 --> 00:09:47
"He said that he would poison
all of the cats with antifreeze."

181

00:09:48 --> 00:09:51
"I told him to get off
the property and not come back."

182

00:09:51 --> 00:09:54
"I told him that if he did not go,
I would have him arrested."

183

00:09:56 --> 00:09:59
[Jim Moore] The whole Costa Rica project,
Carole, I don't think, was a fan of that.

184

00:09:59 --> 00:10:02
She was not on board with that at all.

185

00:10:02 --> 00:10:05
There was talk
of moving the animals down there,

186

00:10:05 --> 00:10:06
and that was something

187

00:10:06 --> 00:10:09
that would certainly cause friction
when he came back into town.

188

00:10:11 --> 00:10:13
He had talked to me
about going down there with them.

189

00:10:13 --> 00:10:15
They were gonna have this great facility.

190
00:10:16 --> 00:10:19
Just to him,
it was like his Jurassic Park.

191
00:10:20 --> 00:10:24
I'm not going to discuss any other
properties that he had in Costa Rica,

192
00:10:24 --> 00:10:26
due to it being an open investigation.

193
00:10:27 --> 00:10:29
[woman] Let me just ask you this,
do you know what he was up to?

194
00:10:29 --> 00:10:32
Anything relating to Costa Rica,
I'm not gonna speak about.

195
00:10:34 --> 00:10:38
There was very little to no regulation
of anything in Costa Rica.

196
00:10:38 --> 00:10:41
That's why he had a frickin' ocelot, okay?

197
00:10:41 --> 00:10:43
It's a South American cat, for God's sake.

198
00:10:44 --> 00:10:47
I will tell you this. After Tiger King,

199
00:10:47 --> 00:10:51
I got a call from a detective
at the sheriff's department.

200
00:10:51 --> 00:10:53
And when you deal with a murder detective,

201
00:10:53 --> 00:10:56
information is a one-way street,

from you to them.

202

00:10:56 --> 00:11:00

They don't give you a damn thing,
but when we were talking about Don,

203

00:11:01 --> 00:11:03

the detective got mad at me,
and slipped up,

204

00:11:04 --> 00:11:07

and told me there were federal reports
of him alive and well

205

00:11:07 --> 00:11:09

in Costa Rica that he had to overcome.

206

00:11:10 --> 00:11:12

He did tell me that.

207

00:11:12 --> 00:11:14

[suspenseful music playing]

208

00:11:14 --> 00:11:18

[Joseph] So I had a buddy who's very high
in federal law enforcement

209

00:11:18 --> 00:11:19

search that out for me.

210

00:11:22 --> 00:11:24

[suspenseful music continues]

211

00:11:34 --> 00:11:37

[woman] So have you heard
about this Homeland Security document?

212

00:11:38 --> 00:11:40

Can you read part of it?

213

00:11:40 --> 00:11:45

[Anne] "Lewis owns property in Costa Rica

and has traveled regularly."

214

00:11:46 --> 00:11:50

"In the latter part of August 1997,

215

00:11:50 --> 00:11:53

Lewis' wife Carole
filed a missing person's report."

216

00:11:53 --> 00:11:55

"Blank has learned

217

00:11:55 --> 00:12:00

that Don is currently alive and well
in Costa Rica."

218

00:12:00 --> 00:12:03

"Lewis has loaned money
to various individuals

219

00:12:03 --> 00:12:05

and could live quite well."

220

00:12:05 --> 00:12:10

"Lewis could reside
in Costa Rica indefinitely."

221

00:12:10 --> 00:12:13

[suspenseful music continues]

222

00:12:15 --> 00:12:16

[airplane PA chiming]

223

00:12:16 --> 00:12:19

[pilot on PA] Cabin crew,
start to descend.

224

00:12:23 --> 00:12:25

[Rey Rodriguez] When Don disappeared,

225

00:12:25 --> 00:12:29

some detective came to Costa Rica

and started asking questions.

226

00:12:29 --> 00:12:31

And I told them what I knew.

227

00:12:32 --> 00:12:38

And I said, "Well, I met Don Lewis
in San José, Costa Rica in '96."

228

00:12:38 --> 00:12:44

He needed a translator, and a driver,
and a whole bunch of other stuff.

229

00:12:44 --> 00:12:48

So he picks me as his, uh...

230

00:12:50 --> 00:12:51

guide. Let's call it "guide."

231

00:12:53 --> 00:12:54

I was his protection.

232

00:12:56 --> 00:13:00

He talked about moving to Costa Rica
to start all over fresh.

233

00:13:01 --> 00:13:03

[Carole] "October 17th, 1996."

234

00:13:03 --> 00:13:06

"On the day
of our fifth wedding anniversary,

235

00:13:06 --> 00:13:09

Don left for another week in Costa Rica."

236

00:13:09 --> 00:13:13

"As always, no card, no flowers,
no recognition of our time together."

237

00:13:13 --> 00:13:16

"He is too busy

creating a new life for himself."

238

00:13:17 --> 00:13:21

[Rey] Don told me that he was there
to get away from Carole.

239

00:13:22 --> 00:13:26

And so,
he'll put investments into my name.

240

00:13:26 --> 00:13:28

You know, I'm a front man.

241

00:13:28 --> 00:13:31

[suspenseful music playing]

242

00:13:31 --> 00:13:35

[Henry Porras in Spanish] Back then,
Costa Rica was a fiscal paradise.

243

00:13:35 --> 00:13:40

The laws were very flexible here.

244

00:13:41 --> 00:13:44

For Don, that was just perfect.

245

00:13:45 --> 00:13:48

[Rey in English] We bought properties
all over Costa Rica.

246

00:13:48 --> 00:13:52

And I remember
we acquired a house in Rohrmoser.

247

00:13:53 --> 00:13:57

Then we got a building
in downtown San José.

248

00:13:58 --> 00:14:01

And then, of course, the Bagaces Farm.

249

00:14:01 --> 00:14:05

Don was planning
to fill it up with all kinds of cats.

250

00:14:11 --> 00:14:15
[Valo Murillo in Spanish] Don built
a little house and cage for the cats.

251

00:14:16 --> 00:14:19
That's all he had on the farm
before he left.

252

00:14:21 --> 00:14:23
[Don in English] The mama's feeding them,
taking care of them good,

253

00:14:23 --> 00:14:27
and she lets me pick them up
almost anytime I want to.

254

00:14:27 --> 00:14:29
[Valo in Spanish] I knew him
well back then. He was a good man.

255

00:14:29 --> 00:14:32
But, honestly, I never saw him again.

256

00:14:32 --> 00:14:35
Since he disappeared,
I've never seen him again.

257

00:14:35 --> 00:14:37
Never.

258

00:14:37 --> 00:14:39
And I'd recognize him anywhere.

259

00:14:39 --> 00:14:42
Even all these years later,
I'd recognize him.

260

00:14:43 --> 00:14:46
People say he lives somewhere else now.

261
00:14:47 --> 00:14:51
That's the story,
but I don't know if it's true.

262
00:14:53 --> 00:14:55
[Joseph in English]
I knew something was going on.

263
00:14:56 --> 00:14:57
But far as I was concerned,

264
00:14:58 --> 00:15:02
it had to do with some illegal things
called importation of cats, Felidae.

265
00:15:02 --> 00:15:05
And I wanted nothing to do
with anything illegal.

266
00:15:05 --> 00:15:07
[woman] Was he bringing cats back here?

267
00:15:08 --> 00:15:09
Was he? Oh, hell yes.

268
00:15:11 --> 00:15:14
Don bought and sold planes in the past.

269
00:15:14 --> 00:15:18
He had a pilot's license at one time.
It was revoked for the number of crashes.

270
00:15:18 --> 00:15:21
But just because
he didn't have a pilot's license

271
00:15:21 --> 00:15:22
didn't mean he didn't fly.

272
00:15:22 --> 00:15:25
It meant he flew unlicensed.

273

00:15:27 --> 00:15:32
[Rey] Don used to fly a Cessna plane
back and forth from Costa Rica.

274

00:15:33 --> 00:15:38
He'd have to stop along the way
in the banana air strips.

275

00:15:38 --> 00:15:41
You can land
in one of those banana plantations,

276

00:15:42 --> 00:15:44
and it's under the radar, so...

277

00:15:45 --> 00:15:48
People say, "No, it can't be done." No.
Yes, it is done all the time.

278

00:15:51 --> 00:15:55
[in Spanish] I met Don because he needed
maintenance on his airplane.

279

00:15:56 --> 00:15:59
One time,
he wanted to take a cat with him.

280

00:15:59 --> 00:16:03
He tried to fit the cage there.

281

00:16:04 --> 00:16:07
He liked the jungle areas,
away from the city.

282

00:16:08 --> 00:16:11
He could've landed
in any of those airports.

283

00:16:11 --> 00:16:13
[man] Did they keep
records of these flights?

284

00:16:13 --> 00:16:17
No. If you wanted, you'd take off,
and if you stay below 1,000 feet,

285
00:16:17 --> 00:16:19
you don't have to
notify air traffic control.

286
00:16:22 --> 00:16:26
[in English] Don liked to
play with dangerous stuff, okay?

287
00:16:28 --> 00:16:31
But if you want to really know
the real story,

288
00:16:32 --> 00:16:33
forget the cats.

289
00:16:34 --> 00:16:35
Trust me.

290
00:16:36 --> 00:16:41
When he comes in to Costa Rica
by private plane, he'll bring boxes.

291
00:16:42 --> 00:16:44
One, two, three, sometimes four.

292
00:16:44 --> 00:16:47
Used clothes on top,

293
00:16:48 --> 00:16:51
\$100 bills rolled up at the bottom.

294
00:16:51 --> 00:16:54
[woman] Was it a couple thousand dollars?
Was it ten thousand--

295
00:16:54 --> 00:17:00
No, it was \$200,000,
\$100,000 each box, you know?

296
00:17:00 --> 00:17:03
It was a lot of money. A lot of money.

297
00:17:03 --> 00:17:05
Heavy.

298
00:17:05 --> 00:17:06
I have to fucking carry it.

299
00:17:08 --> 00:17:10
[mellow music playing]

300
00:17:10 --> 00:17:14
[Rey] Don would take all that cash money
down to Costa Rica

301
00:17:14 --> 00:17:17
and put it in different companies.

302
00:17:17 --> 00:17:19
He's just hiding money.

303
00:17:21 --> 00:17:24
[in Spanish] He would tell me they
needed to create a company with this name,

304
00:17:24 --> 00:17:26
this much capital...

305
00:17:27 --> 00:17:30
So I would create those companies for him.

306
00:17:30 --> 00:17:32
I would legalize their books.

307
00:17:32 --> 00:17:35
What they did with those companies
is their problem.

308
00:17:39 --> 00:17:43
[in English] That sounds like Dad.

That sounds like he would have been

309

00:17:43 --> 00:17:46
trying to get his money out of the States,

310

00:17:46 --> 00:17:48
so that when he divorced Carole,

311

00:17:48 --> 00:17:51
there would be less
that he would have to give her.

312

00:17:52 --> 00:17:56
I don't think he was dealing
with completely illegal things down there.

313

00:17:56 --> 00:17:58
Dad always walked a fine line.

314

00:17:58 --> 00:18:01
He was doing
the same things he's always done.

315

00:18:01 --> 00:18:05
He was doing his street hustle.

316

00:18:05 --> 00:18:09
Deep down, what Don was doing,
it was illegal.

317

00:18:10 --> 00:18:11
He wanted clean money.

318

00:18:12 --> 00:18:15
That's why he was running cash
through all these properties.

319

00:18:17 --> 00:18:21
The first building he bought
was the Rohrmoser house.

320

00:18:21 --> 00:18:25

Later on, they turned it into a hotel.
It was worth a lot of money.

321

00:18:28 --> 00:18:30
[Mary LeBouef] People told me
that Don Lewis was a millionaire.

322

00:18:30 --> 00:18:34
I couldn't believe it
because he looked like a homeless person.

323

00:18:35 --> 00:18:37
But he would show you the money.

324

00:18:38 --> 00:18:41
Kind of bragging.
Like, "This is what I got in this time."

325

00:18:43 --> 00:18:46
[Rey] That's when I start thinking,
"It's too much money."

326

00:18:46 --> 00:18:51
I didn't want to be part
of the dirty stuff.

327

00:18:51 --> 00:18:55
And I was warned,
through a contact from the CIA,

328

00:18:55 --> 00:19:00
there was an investigation on Don
with federal stuff.

329

00:19:01 --> 00:19:05
They told me, "Do not get
any more involved with this guy."

330

00:19:05 --> 00:19:10
[woman] Do you think he was involved
with mafia or criminal enterprises?

331

00:19:10 --> 00:19:12

[sighs] I don't know.

332

00:19:12 --> 00:19:14

And if I knew,
I would not tell you either.

333

00:19:18 --> 00:19:21

[Leonora LaPeter Anton] When I covered
the Don Lewis disappearance,

334

00:19:21 --> 00:19:26

I talked to a detective,
and they didn't think he was dead.

335

00:19:26 --> 00:19:28

They thought he'd fled the country.

336

00:19:28 --> 00:19:29

That changed their investigation,

337

00:19:29 --> 00:19:32

or the nature
of their investigation initially.

338

00:19:33 --> 00:19:36

They had investigated at one point in time

339

00:19:36 --> 00:19:39

this lounge down the street
from Don Lewis's office.

340

00:19:40 --> 00:19:43

It was part of a criminal investigation.

341

00:19:43 --> 00:19:47

Don would go into the bar,
cash a check without it hitting his bank.

342

00:19:48 --> 00:19:52

And then you can move the cash
to wherever your heart desires,

343

00:19:52 --> 00:19:53
take it out of the country.

344
00:19:54 --> 00:19:56
He said, "Start following the money."

345
00:19:58 --> 00:20:00
[Kenny Farr] Don didn't
want nobody to know what he had.

346
00:20:01 --> 00:20:05
He definitely didn't want the government
knowing anything about his business.

347
00:20:05 --> 00:20:08
He wanted his cash where it was his
and nobody knew about it.

348
00:20:09 --> 00:20:11
I remember one time I was asked to move

349
00:20:11 --> 00:20:15
one of the semi-trailers
that was way out back behind his house,

350
00:20:15 --> 00:20:17
and I picked the trailer up,

351
00:20:17 --> 00:20:19
and there was money
underneath that trailer.

352
00:20:21 --> 00:20:25
When he disappeared,
Don Lewis was probably worth 20 million,

353
00:20:25 --> 00:20:27
maybe a little more.

354
00:20:29 --> 00:20:31
[Mary] He was very proud of his money

355

00:20:31 --> 00:20:34
and he was very concerned

356
00:20:34 --> 00:20:37
about Carole taking all his money
in a divorce.

357
00:20:38 --> 00:20:40
He said, "She's not getting a dime."

358
00:20:41 --> 00:20:45
He didn't want to be married
to Carole anymore. He just hated her.

359
00:20:46 --> 00:20:48
He was planning his escape.

360
00:20:49 --> 00:20:52
Costa Rica was the perfect place
to have it done.

361
00:20:54 --> 00:20:57
[Henry in Spanish] It was very easy
to get a fake passport in Costa Rica.

362
00:20:57 --> 00:21:03
There were gangs
dedicated to falsifying passports.

363
00:21:03 --> 00:21:06
They would register the person
with a fake name

364
00:21:06 --> 00:21:08
or the name of a dead person.

365
00:21:08 --> 00:21:11
A person could travel with that.

366
00:21:13 --> 00:21:15
[Mary in English]
When the People magazine came out,

367
00:21:15 --> 00:21:17
and I saw Don Lewis and Carole's pictures,

368
00:21:18 --> 00:21:21
the first thing I thought was,
"He's not dead."

369
00:21:21 --> 00:21:25
"He has changed his identity.
He has the money to do it."

370
00:21:25 --> 00:21:28
"He's gone on with his life."

371
00:21:32 --> 00:21:36
[Anne] It's a letter that I wrote to Don
on September 27th, 1997.

372
00:21:36 --> 00:21:39
"Dear Don, I'm writing you this letter
because I need your help."

373
00:21:39 --> 00:21:42
"Some think that you are dead.
Some think that you just ran away

374
00:21:42 --> 00:21:45
because you were scared
that you were going to prison

375
00:21:45 --> 00:21:48
and that Carole has something
over your head."

376
00:21:48 --> 00:21:51
"I am hoping
that you just got tired of all the shit

377
00:21:51 --> 00:21:53
and are some place that you are happy."

378
00:21:53 --> 00:21:57

[voice breaking] "I need for you to,
just for a little while, to come back."

379

00:21:57 --> 00:22:01

"Then you can go back in hiding
if that is what you want to do."

380

00:22:01 --> 00:22:03

"I miss you so much. Love, Anne."

381

00:22:04 --> 00:22:07

"P.S. If you will just call me
or come back,

382

00:22:07 --> 00:22:10

I will quit smoking no matter what,

383

00:22:10 --> 00:22:13

and I will pay my debt
and with all the interest."

384

00:22:16 --> 00:22:22

I'd like to think that I knew
more about Don than what maybe I did.

385

00:22:22 --> 00:22:27

Maybe he didn't tell me because he knew
that it would have completely upset me.

386

00:22:29 --> 00:22:32

[Joseph] Don Lewis would not
walk away from the cats he had,

387

00:22:32 --> 00:22:34

he would not
walk away from his daughters, period.

388

00:22:34 --> 00:22:37

[woman] Even if he was in trouble
and planning to escape?

389

00:22:37 --> 00:22:38

Oh, hell no.

390

00:22:38 --> 00:22:41

He loved his daughters.

He loved his cats. He loved his assets.

391

00:22:43 --> 00:22:46

[Jerry] Usually people who disappear,

392

00:22:46 --> 00:22:48

you know how they eventually get found?

393

00:22:48 --> 00:22:50

They make contact with somebody.

394

00:22:50 --> 00:22:54

It's been 23 years
without contact from Don.

395

00:22:55 --> 00:22:57

If there's a disappearance,

396

00:22:58 --> 00:23:01

you should treat it initially
as a homicide.

397

00:23:01 --> 00:23:07

And what you don't want is to wait weeks,
or months, or however long

398

00:23:07 --> 00:23:12

and go, "You know,
I think maybe that was a homicide."

399

00:23:12 --> 00:23:14

"Well, let's investigate that."

400

00:23:14 --> 00:23:16

Well, you've lost some evidence.

401

00:23:17 --> 00:23:21

You talk to everybody as a suspect

402
00:23:21 --> 00:23:26
and you'd think about
who had a motive to take Don out.

403
00:23:28 --> 00:23:31
While he was with me, he was safe.

404
00:23:31 --> 00:23:33
We kept him safe.

405
00:23:33 --> 00:23:38
But once I started seeing
all these characters showing up

406
00:23:38 --> 00:23:41
and asking, "Where is he?"

407
00:23:42 --> 00:23:45
I'm like, "What is going on here?"

408
00:23:46 --> 00:23:49
But you see, Don, he lived two lives.

409
00:23:50 --> 00:23:52
Business during the day,

410
00:23:53 --> 00:23:54
fun time during the night.

411
00:23:55 --> 00:23:58
I would have nothing to do with fun time.

412
00:23:58 --> 00:23:59
Not me.

413
00:24:03 --> 00:24:06
[Alex Mora in Spanish] Don Lewis.
I remember him like yesterday.

414
00:24:06 --> 00:24:10
Of all the clients I had...

415

00:24:10 --> 00:24:12
Don Lewis was most important.

416

00:24:13 --> 00:24:16
He always needed
a beautiful woman next to him.

417

00:24:17 --> 00:24:21
He was a charmer.
He treated people nicely.

418

00:24:21 --> 00:24:24
He had money.
What more could a woman want?

419

00:24:25 --> 00:24:30
Whenever he came to Costa Rica,
I would take care of him.

420

00:24:31 --> 00:24:34
And he always liked
everything to be perfect.

421

00:24:37 --> 00:24:42
I remember every day
we would go and buy The Tico Times.

422

00:24:44 --> 00:24:48
[in English] Don put ads in
The Tico Times, the local San José paper,

423

00:24:48 --> 00:24:51
looking for a female companion.

424

00:24:53 --> 00:24:57
He would bring these suitcases
full of old clothing from garage sales,

425

00:24:58 --> 00:25:01
so the girls could come in
and pick out whatever they wanted.

426
00:25:01 --> 00:25:03
"I've got all this."

427
00:25:03 --> 00:25:06
"You can have all this
if you just marry me."

428
00:25:06 --> 00:25:08
[soft music playing]

429
00:25:11 --> 00:25:14
[Gioconda Bulgarelli in Spanish]
We moved to this neighborhood in 1996.

430
00:25:14 --> 00:25:17
It's a very quiet neighborhood.

431
00:25:17 --> 00:25:19
But in that house next door,

432
00:25:19 --> 00:25:24
lived a man we all knew as "El Gringo."

433
00:25:25 --> 00:25:28
In fact, some people call it
"The Cursed House."

434
00:25:29 --> 00:25:34
It always had odd tenants
and strange things going on.

435
00:25:36 --> 00:25:38
There was a lot of movement
outside that house.

436
00:25:38 --> 00:25:40
A lot of women.

437
00:25:41 --> 00:25:46
Men would line up outside the house
and look at them.

438

00:25:46 --> 00:25:48

They were all young.

439

00:25:51 --> 00:25:56

[Rey in English] Don was attracted
to Costa Rica because it was a paradise

440

00:25:56 --> 00:25:58

where little girls are sold.

441

00:25:59 --> 00:26:02

People needed money badly.

442

00:26:02 --> 00:26:04

And they do all the time.

443

00:26:05 --> 00:26:10

The Rohrmoser house became like a brothel.

444

00:26:11 --> 00:26:14

[Alex in Spanish] I would bring girls
to the house for him.

445

00:26:14 --> 00:26:17

If he liked one,
she would spend the night there.

446

00:26:18 --> 00:26:21

He paid them well.

447

00:26:21 --> 00:26:25

But he liked them young and beautiful.

448

00:26:27 --> 00:26:30

[Rey in English] Don's favorite girl
was Corina.

449

00:26:30 --> 00:26:32

I believe she was about 15.

450

00:26:34 --> 00:26:35

I told Don,

451

00:26:36 --> 00:26:38

"Be careful what you're doing."

452

00:26:38 --> 00:26:40

"These little girls have family."

453

00:26:40 --> 00:26:43

"People will find out, and..."

454

00:26:45 --> 00:26:46

they'll kill you for that."

455

00:26:46 --> 00:26:48

[suspenseful music playing]

456

00:26:50 --> 00:26:54

[Jerry] If you're talking about suspects,
look at motive and opportunity.

457

00:26:54 --> 00:26:58

Who had the motive?

Who had an opportunity to do it?

458

00:26:59 --> 00:27:03

Maybe someone

Don was having an affair with,

459

00:27:04 --> 00:27:07

their family got angry and killed him.

460

00:27:07 --> 00:27:09

[gun firing]

461

00:27:09 --> 00:27:12

[Jerry] Or maybe someone

who got mad at Don in business.

462

00:27:13 --> 00:27:17

[Alex in Spanish] During his
last few trips, Don looked worried.

463

00:27:17 --> 00:27:19
He told me he was in danger.

464

00:27:19 --> 00:27:21
He said it was over money.

465

00:27:22 --> 00:27:25
He had some problems
with some people in the US.

466

00:27:25 --> 00:27:27
They were really bad men.

467

00:27:27 --> 00:27:30
I asked, "Bad men?"
He said, "Very, very bad."

468

00:27:30 --> 00:27:32
"They will kill you," he said. "Bang."

469

00:27:35 --> 00:27:37
[in English] Carole told me
that he hung around with a lot of

470

00:27:37 --> 00:27:39
unscrupulous type of people.

471

00:27:39 --> 00:27:43
Maybe he stuck somebody for some money,
and they caught up with him.

472

00:27:45 --> 00:27:49
When I first got with her, I asked her
the questions to make me feel comfortable.

473

00:27:49 --> 00:27:51
"What happened?"
What was your husband like?"

474

00:27:51 --> 00:27:52
"What was the story?"

475

00:27:53 --> 00:27:55
You want to know the truth?

476

00:27:55 --> 00:27:58
He was a piece of shit, Don Lewis.

477

00:27:58 --> 00:28:00
He did horrible stuff to Carole.

478

00:28:02 --> 00:28:07
[Rey] After all, whatever Don liked to do,
I believe he was a good man.

479

00:28:07 --> 00:28:11
But by the end, he made a mess.

480

00:28:12 --> 00:28:14
[somber music playing]

481

00:28:16 --> 00:28:20
[Rey] I remember I was driving him
to the airport,

482

00:28:20 --> 00:28:22
and Carole called.

483

00:28:23 --> 00:28:26
So he tells me to stop,
and he gets out of the Jeep.

484

00:28:26 --> 00:28:27
I'm like,

485

00:28:28 --> 00:28:30
"What's going on?"

486

00:28:31 --> 00:28:33
He goes and talks to her,

487

00:28:34 --> 00:28:35

and then he comes back.

488

00:28:36 --> 00:28:40

He told me, "I'm sick and tired of it."

489

00:28:40 --> 00:28:42

"I need freedom."

490

00:28:42 --> 00:28:47

"If she ever finds out
what I'm doing in here, she'll kill me."

491

00:28:52 --> 00:28:53

[Carole] "I visit Costa Rica."

492

00:28:54 --> 00:28:56

"When I arrived in town late that night,

493

00:28:56 --> 00:29:00

Don was standing out front,
and the room was a shambles."

494

00:29:00 --> 00:29:05

"Later I found out that Don had
his girlfriend Corina staying with him,

495

00:29:05 --> 00:29:08

and she didn't know that Don was married
and threw a temper tantrum,

496

00:29:08 --> 00:29:11

which would explain the clothes
all over the place."

497

00:29:12 --> 00:29:14

[Rey] She used to keep tabs on him.

498

00:29:14 --> 00:29:17

Obviously, she knew exactly
what was going on.

499

00:29:17 --> 00:29:21

"I am finding out what kind of person
I am really married to,

500

00:29:21 --> 00:29:25
and I think other people will realize
who is the real villain."

501

00:29:27 --> 00:29:31
[Jerry] When there's a homicide,
the spouse is automatically a suspect,

502

00:29:31 --> 00:29:35
especially if it's a situation
where there's tension in the marriage.

503

00:29:36 --> 00:29:40
She was not happy about some of the things
that were happening in Costa Rica.

504

00:29:40 --> 00:29:44
Does that mean that Carole did it?
I certainly wouldn't say that.

505

00:29:44 --> 00:29:46
But I just keep coming back to the fact

506

00:29:46 --> 00:29:51
that she was the last known person
to see Don alive.

507

00:29:51 --> 00:29:53
My husband left early in the morning

508

00:29:53 --> 00:29:55
and said that he wanted me
to get a truck ready,

509

00:29:55 --> 00:29:57
that he was gonna be driving down to Miami

510

00:29:57 --> 00:30:01
to put on the freight cargo
down to Costa Rica the next day.

511

00:30:01 --> 00:30:04
And he didn't show up
that day for feeding,

512

00:30:04 --> 00:30:07
which he always comes back
at least in time for feeding.

513

00:30:07 --> 00:30:12
[Jerry] We've just started to scratch
the surface of the truth in this case.

514

00:30:12 --> 00:30:16
Nobody ever got held accountable for this.

515

00:30:17 --> 00:30:21
But in order for there to be justice,

516

00:30:21 --> 00:30:23
there has to be truth.

517

00:30:23 --> 00:30:24
And we don't have truth.

518

00:30:28 --> 00:30:30
[Donna] There's just so much out there.

519

00:30:30 --> 00:30:37
We may never know the complete truth,
but hopefully we will have a conclusion.

520

00:30:37 --> 00:30:40
Hopefully there will
be some charges brought.

521

00:30:40 --> 00:30:42
[suspenseful music playing]

522

00:30:43 --> 00:30:47
[Donna] But the sheriff's office
can only tell us so much.

523

00:30:49 --> 00:30:53

Hi, Donna. Detective Garcia.

Um, the camera crew's not gonna come in.

524

00:30:53 --> 00:30:54

-[Donna] No.

-Okay. Fine.

525

00:30:55 --> 00:30:58

[Garcia] We routinely
meet with the daughters.

526

00:30:58 --> 00:31:02

But Ripper Jack,
I've interacted with him one time.

527

00:31:02 --> 00:31:04

He had a lot of conspiracy theories

528

00:31:04 --> 00:31:08

without realizing how committed
the sheriff was to solving this case.

529

00:31:08 --> 00:31:11

If you're gonna investigate the case,
investigate the case.

530

00:31:11 --> 00:31:14

Don't go around saying you are
when you're not.

531

00:31:15 --> 00:31:18

[Garcia] I know the daughters want some
answers to what happened to their father.

532

00:31:18 --> 00:31:23

And the internet investigators out there,
they think they know a lot.

533

00:31:23 --> 00:31:27

I can't let you guys
see access to my files here.

534

00:31:27 --> 00:31:28
Carole may be watching.

535

00:31:28 --> 00:31:30
She might want to
see what's in here, I bet.

536

00:31:31 --> 00:31:36
If Carole's innocent, then fine.
But she knows something.

537

00:31:36 --> 00:31:39
I was searching YouTube
and documenting examples

538

00:31:39 --> 00:31:41
of people who are disparaging my name.

539

00:31:41 --> 00:31:44
I came across RipperJack Media.

540

00:31:45 --> 00:31:48
He has made a career
out of trying to trash me.

541

00:31:48 --> 00:31:50
He is such a troll.

542

00:31:51 --> 00:31:55
She's planting a seed is what she's doing,
and she's probably looking for a reaction.

543

00:31:56 --> 00:31:59
Well, Carole Baskin,
are you trying to scare me?

544

00:32:00 --> 00:32:02
[thunder rumbling]

545

00:32:03 --> 00:32:06
[Ripper] Wow! I'm wondering

if Carole Baskin put a spell on me.

546

00:32:07 --> 00:32:09
[thunder continues]

547

00:32:12 --> 00:32:14
[Ripper] Carole needs to come forward,

548

00:32:15 --> 00:32:17
but until she does,

549

00:32:17 --> 00:32:18
I told Don's daughters,

550

00:32:19 --> 00:32:24
"We need to get you a kick-ass attorney
and go to court."

551

00:32:30 --> 00:32:32
[Wayne Brady] Welcome back
to Let's Make a Deal. Hey, John.

552

00:32:32 --> 00:32:34
-How are you?
-I'm doing well! How are you?

553

00:32:34 --> 00:32:35
-Very good!
-What do you do, John?

554

00:32:36 --> 00:32:39
-I'm a civil rights lawyer.
-Give this man a round of applause.

555

00:32:39 --> 00:32:40
[audience cheering]

556

00:32:40 --> 00:32:43
[John Phillips] I'm no stranger
to the limelight.

557

00:32:43 --> 00:32:45

[announcer] It's a new Sea-Doo!

558

00:32:45 --> 00:32:49

[John] I know there are gonna
be lawyers who look at Don's case

559

00:32:49 --> 00:32:52

and they want this level of attention,

560

00:32:52 --> 00:32:57

but I know a lot of times those lawyers
fly so close to the sun

561

00:32:57 --> 00:32:59

that they burn up.

562

00:33:00 --> 00:33:02

You do have to be careful.

563

00:33:02 --> 00:33:06

But I want to say something
to Carole Baskin.

564

00:33:06 --> 00:33:10

Howdy-do, ma'am.
We're here. Let's just do the damn thing.

565

00:33:10 --> 00:33:13

Happening Today, a major announcement
from the family of Don Lewis.

566

00:33:13 --> 00:33:17

[reporter] The family has teamed up
with Tampa attorney John Phillips.

567

00:33:17 --> 00:33:22

We've been retained to do discovery,
to get subpoenas, to take depositions,

568

00:33:22 --> 00:33:27

and find out more about the death
and disappearance of Don Lewis.

569

00:33:28 --> 00:33:31
Carole Baskin was able to provide
the sheriff's office

570

00:33:31 --> 00:33:33
enough information 23 years ago

571

00:33:33 --> 00:33:37
to make them believe
that Don Lewis just disappeared.

572

00:33:37 --> 00:33:41
I'm very worried,
but I don't feel that separation.

573

00:33:41 --> 00:33:44
[John] We'd love to
have their participation.

574

00:33:44 --> 00:33:49
But at this point,
we're going to do our own thing.

575

00:33:50 --> 00:33:54
So, I'm out here working in Tampa
and I just happen to be with...

576

00:33:55 --> 00:33:57
-John Phillips.
-Surprise!

577

00:33:57 --> 00:34:01
John Phillips, part-time
driver for Ripper, full-time attorney!

578

00:34:01 --> 00:34:02
[both laughing]

579

00:34:02 --> 00:34:03
[John] Ripper reached out and said

580

00:34:03 --> 00:34:07

he'd befriended the family
and gotten the family's trust.

581

00:34:08 --> 00:34:12

We know Don Lewis was a deeply flawed man.

582

00:34:13 --> 00:34:16

But that's their father,
and so they deserve answers.

583

00:34:20 --> 00:34:21

How long have you
been waiting for justice?

584

00:34:22 --> 00:34:23

-Almost 24 years.

-Okay.

585

00:34:23 --> 00:34:27

-You're gonna do it, aren't you?
-We're gonna help you bring justice.

586

00:34:27 --> 00:34:29

-Everybody grab a drink.
-[camera clicking]

587

00:34:29 --> 00:34:33

To Don, to finding answers for Don,
with love.

588

00:34:33 --> 00:34:35

[glasses clinking]

589

00:34:35 --> 00:34:38

[reporter] An attorney says
there is new information and a reward

590

00:34:38 --> 00:34:40

in the search for a man
who disappeared more than 20 years ago.

591

00:34:40 --> 00:34:43

The family has erected four billboards

across Tampa asking,

592

00:34:44 --> 00:34:45
"Who murdered Don Lewis?"

593

00:34:45 --> 00:34:47
[Ripper] There's \$100,000
sitting on the table.

594

00:34:48 --> 00:34:51
It's set up for someone
just to come forward and say,

595

00:34:51 --> 00:34:53
"Here's what I know.
I want the hundred grand,

596

00:34:53 --> 00:34:55
and I'll tell you what happened."

597

00:34:56 --> 00:34:59
[John] Besides there
being a \$100,000 reward,

598

00:34:59 --> 00:35:02
we are sending a message to Carole.

599

00:35:02 --> 00:35:07
Carole Baskin's responded saying,
"I believe it is a publicity stunt."

600

00:35:07 --> 00:35:08
[thunder rumbling]

601

00:35:08 --> 00:35:11
[John] She's been
able to weaponize litigation,

602

00:35:11 --> 00:35:14
vanquish her enemies time and time again.

603

00:35:14 --> 00:35:16

But we want to sit at a table...

604

00:35:16 --> 00:35:20

And there can be as many lawyers
as everybody wants to have,

605

00:35:20 --> 00:35:24

but I want to ask a lot of questions

606

00:35:24 --> 00:35:27

about what happened to Don Lewis.

607

00:35:28 --> 00:35:30

-[protester] What do we want?
-[crowd] Justice for Don!

608

00:35:30 --> 00:35:32

-[protester] When do we want it?
-[crowd] Now!

609

00:35:32 --> 00:35:35

-[protester] What do we want?
-[crowd] Justice for Don!

610

00:35:35 --> 00:35:38

-[protester] When do we want it?
-[crowd] Now!

611

00:35:38 --> 00:35:41

[reporter] Attorney John Phillips.
If you could repeat that number.

612

00:35:41 --> 00:35:45

[John] \$100,000 reward for finding out
who murdered Don Lewis.

613

00:35:45 --> 00:35:48

646-450-6530.

614

00:35:49 --> 00:35:53

Well, get ready for your phone to ring
with all sorts of good tips, bad tips.

615
00:35:53 --> 00:35:56
Yeah, um..
but I mean, you knew that was coming.

616
00:35:57 --> 00:35:59
Tip line. Yes, hello?

617
00:35:59 --> 00:36:02
[man 1 on phone] Y'all can go ahead
and stop because we all know

618
00:36:02 --> 00:36:04
Carole Baskin did that.

619
00:36:04 --> 00:36:07
That man did not go missing
in a plane overseas.

620
00:36:07 --> 00:36:12
He went missing in a cage,
with a lion, turned into cat shit.

621
00:36:12 --> 00:36:16
[automated voice] You have
two old messages.

622
00:36:16 --> 00:36:17
[beeping]

623
00:36:17 --> 00:36:19
[man 2 on recording] Mr. Lewis was killed.

624
00:36:19 --> 00:36:22
They took out his eyes and his tongue.

625
00:36:22 --> 00:36:24
-Believe me--
-[beeping]

626
00:36:25 --> 00:36:29
[man 3] He is in a Wisconsin penitentiary
for murdering a tattoo artist.

627

00:36:29 --> 00:36:32

But I don't want nothing to do with it.
I don't want to get killed, man.

628

00:36:32 --> 00:36:34

-Big cat people are sick f--
-[beeping]

629

00:36:35 --> 00:36:38

Hello, my name is Sandra Wittkopp.

630

00:36:39 --> 00:36:42

I used to be a housekeeper
for Don and Carole Lewis.

631

00:36:43 --> 00:36:49

I suspect that Carole's dad and Kenny Farr

632

00:36:50 --> 00:36:52

had something to do with Don's murder.

633

00:36:52 --> 00:36:56

-[suspenseful music playing]
-[Sandra] I don't have any proof,

634

00:36:56 --> 00:37:00

but somebody forged my name
on a bunch of papers.

635

00:37:01 --> 00:37:03

Don's will, for one thing.

636

00:37:04 --> 00:37:06

So, I just wanted to let you know.

637

00:37:08 --> 00:37:10

Thank you very much. Bye.

638

00:37:11 --> 00:37:13

[suspenseful music continues]



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