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**N** SERIES

# TIGER KING

## MURDER, MAYHEM AND MADNESS

**CREATED BY**

Rebecca Chaiklin | Eric Goode

**EPISODE 1.03**

**"The Secret"**

An incident in Carole's past casts her in a suspicious light, and while she maintains her innocence, Joe is all too happy to point the finger at her.

**WRITTEN BY:**

Rebecca Chaiklin | Eric Goode

**DIRECTED BY:**

Rebecca Chaiklin | Eric Goode

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**EPISODE CAST**

Bhagavan Antle	...	Self - Myrtle Beach Safari
Carole Baskin	...	Self - Big Cat Rescue
Howard Baskin	...	Self - Big Cat Rescue
Bobbie Cooper	...	(archive footage)
Gladys Lewis Cross	...	Self - Don's Ex-Wife
Joe Exotic	...	Self - G.W. Zoo
Kenny Farr	...	Self - Don's Handyman
Joseph Fritz	...	Self - Don's Attorney
Dennis Hill	...	Self - Former Exotic Animal Owner
Rick Kirkham	...	Self - Producer, Joe Exotic T.V.
Don Lewis	...	Self - Carole's Late Husband (archive footage)
Dale Lively	...	Self - Don's Mechanic
John Marsicano	...	Self - Lead Homicide Detective
Mark McCarthy	...	Self - Former Employee, Mario Tabraue
Anne McQueen	...	Self - Don's Executive Assistant
Jamie Murdock	...	Self - Carole's Daughter
Gale Rathbone	...	Self - Don's Daughter
Lynda Sanchez	...	Self - Don's Daughter
Debra Sandlin	...	Self - Former Volunteer, Big Cat Rescue
Vernon Stairs	...	Self - Carole's Father
Wendell Williams	...	Self - Don's Business Associate
Vernon Yates	...	Self - Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

1

00:00:14,556 --> 00:00:15,849  
[Antle] What a story.

2

00:00:16,891 --> 00:00:18,560  
It's so wild, it must not be true.

3

00:00:19,227 --> 00:00:22,981  
That's the first thing people think:  
"Oh, come on, that can't be true.

4

00:00:23,064 --> 00:00:27,694  
It's 20 years ago. Cold case,  
20-year-old murders don't get solved."

5

00:00:29,946 --> 00:00:33,575  
Well, it all starts, you know--  
Carole Baskin,

6

00:00:33,658 --> 00:00:37,120  
who was Carole Lewis at the time,  
was married to Don Lewis.

7

00:00:37,203 --> 00:00:39,330  
[lions murmuring]

8

00:00:39,414 --> 00:00:42,542  
I did see Don Lewis  
about maybe a month or so

9

00:00:42,625 --> 00:00:44,836  
before he disappeared.

10

00:00:46,254 --> 00:00:49,507  
And he did mention to me  
that he felt his life was in danger.

11

00:00:51,051 --> 00:00:54,179  
[man] There are so many strange twists  
in that story,

12

00:00:55,055 --> 00:00:56,598  
you would have to write books

13

00:00:56,681 --> 00:01:00,310  
and volumes of the stuff that went wrong  
there, the lies that are there.

14

00:01:01,352 --> 00:01:04,773  
All the circumstantial evidence,  
somebody did something to Don.

15

00:01:09,652 --> 00:01:13,073  
There's a lot of stories  
about Carole having some finger in it...

16

00:01:15,533 --> 00:01:16,785  
but nobody can prove it.

17

00:01:33,134 --> 00:01:35,804  
[Carole] I really believe  
that everything happens for a reason.

18

00:01:36,346 --> 00:01:39,224  
Everything is unfolding  
the way that it has to

19

00:01:39,307 --> 00:01:42,435  
for us to become  
our highest possible self.

20

00:01:43,019 --> 00:01:47,524  
I don't regret any  
of what I have lived through.

21

00:01:48,108 --> 00:01:51,736  
I wouldn't be standing here today  
doing what I'm doing

22

00:01:51,820 --> 00:01:54,739  
if it hadn't been  
for all of those... things

23

00:01:54,823 --> 00:01:56,616  
that have happened  
over the course of my life.

24

00:02:00,370 --> 00:02:03,957  
[visitors chatting indistinctly]

25

00:02:07,544 --> 00:02:09,587  
[woman] The last day that I saw Don,

26

00:02:10,463 --> 00:02:12,590  
he told me that he was done,

27

00:02:12,674 --> 00:02:14,384  
that he was divorcing her,

28

00:02:14,717 --> 00:02:17,679  
that she was one of the worst people  
he had ever met in his life,

29

00:02:17,762 --> 00:02:19,514  
and she was very dangerous.

30

00:02:20,056 --> 00:02:23,893  
He did come to Mom  
and say for us to stay away from her.

31

00:02:23,977 --> 00:02:27,939  
He was afraid of her.  
We didn't know exactly why.

32

00:02:28,940 --> 00:02:31,734  
He indicated to me  
that he was going to tell Carole...

33

00:02:32,819 --> 00:02:34,904  
that he wanted a divorce.

34

00:02:38,950 --> 00:02:40,118  
Never saw him again.

35

00:02:45,665 --> 00:02:49,210  
[officer] I was the supervisor  
in charge of the homicide section

36

00:02:49,294 --> 00:02:52,172  
with the Hillsborough County  
Sheriff's Office in Tampa, Florida,

37

00:02:52,255 --> 00:02:56,176  
which also works adult missing persons.

38

00:02:57,927 --> 00:03:02,891  
In the case of Don Lewis, the call came in  
as a typical missing adult.

39

00:03:05,351 --> 00:03:07,770  
Initially on  
a missing person investigation,

40

00:03:07,854 --> 00:03:09,856  
you just think,  
"Well, things are gonna work out.

41

00:03:09,939 --> 00:03:12,483  
Maybe this guy just went somewhere  
and didn't touch base."

42

00:03:15,028 --> 00:03:17,989  
However, I would say  
within the first week or two

43

00:03:18,072 --> 00:03:20,575  
that detectives were starting  
to look at the possibility

44

00:03:20,658 --> 00:03:23,661  
that we had... foul play or something

45

00:03:24,245 --> 00:03:26,456  
that was unexplainable  
at that point in time.

46

00:03:27,332 --> 00:03:30,501  
It pays to have buckets with straw in it,  
so they can't get out.

47

00:03:32,503 --> 00:03:34,589  
We've got four kitties we're gonna feed.

48

00:03:34,964 --> 00:03:38,134  
[Carole] I met Don in January of 1981,

49

00:03:38,218 --> 00:03:39,844  
so I was 20 when I met him.

50

00:03:39,928 --> 00:03:41,679  
-Um--  
-And he was how old?

51

00:03:42,347 --> 00:03:44,265  
He was 22 years my senior.

52

00:03:44,349 --> 00:03:45,391  
-Okay.  
-So he was 42.

53

00:03:45,975 --> 00:03:47,352  
Yeah, she's just jealous.

54

00:03:48,519 --> 00:03:51,648  
You have to understand  
that Don Lewis was married with kids,

55

00:03:52,023 --> 00:03:55,860  
but apparently, he was coming down,  
I think it was Nebraska...

56

00:03:58,071 --> 00:04:02,450  
and late one night he seen this young girl  
walking down the street crying,

57

00:04:02,533 --> 00:04:05,245  
and Don Lewis stopped to see  
if he could help her.

58

00:04:05,328 --> 00:04:08,665  
[Carole] I had been in a fight  
with my first husband.

59

00:04:09,999 --> 00:04:13,336  
I actually had to throw a potato  
across the kitchen

60

00:04:13,419 --> 00:04:16,256  
and into the dining room at him  
in order to get out the door.

61

00:04:17,173 --> 00:04:19,467  
I deal with stress  
I think the same way cats do.

62

00:04:19,550 --> 00:04:21,970  
I just pace and pace and pace and pace.

63

00:04:22,053 --> 00:04:24,847  
And I remember Don pulls around,

64

00:04:24,931 --> 00:04:27,809  
and he asks me if I would get in the car,  
and I told him no.

65

00:04:28,810 --> 00:04:30,937  
Pulls around again,  
and I think it was on the third time

66

00:04:31,020 --> 00:04:34,482  
he pulled around, and he had a gun  
sitting on the front seat of his car.

67

00:04:35,733 --> 00:04:37,986  
And he said,  
"You can hold this gun on me,

68

00:04:38,069 --> 00:04:39,862  
I just need somebody to talk to."

69

00:04:40,113 --> 00:04:42,824  
So I picked up the gun, held it on him,

70

00:04:42,907 --> 00:04:44,659  
and we drove around town and he talked.

71

00:04:48,121 --> 00:04:50,540  
And I ended up  
spending the night with him.

72

00:04:52,917 --> 00:04:55,753  
[Yates] Don Lewis deserted, basically,  
his wife and kids

73

00:04:55,837 --> 00:04:58,798  
because he was in love  
with the younger blonde woman...

74

00:04:59,424 --> 00:05:00,633  
known as Carole.

75

00:05:02,051 --> 00:05:04,679  
[Lewis Cross]  
He told me that he had met her.

76

00:05:05,722 --> 00:05:10,518  
I was speechless. I adored him.

77

00:05:11,811 --> 00:05:14,355  
I told him that I'd love him  
till the day I died,

78

00:05:14,856 --> 00:05:16,566  
but it was over.

79

00:05:18,735 --> 00:05:20,403  
He used to call her angel,

80

00:05:21,154 --> 00:05:23,531  
and I said, "Well,

81

00:05:24,449 --> 00:05:27,994  
she's an angel sent straight from hell,  
and one day, you'll find out."

82

00:05:38,254 --> 00:05:42,133  
[woman] At first it seemed like

they were really gonna make it.

83

00:05:42,216 --> 00:05:43,217  
I liked Carole.

84

00:05:43,426 --> 00:05:44,260  
I mean...

85

00:05:44,844 --> 00:05:46,763  
I really, really did like Carole,

86

00:05:46,846 --> 00:05:47,680  
but...

87

00:05:48,723 --> 00:05:51,476  
[sighs] Don was not an easy man.

88

00:05:52,018 --> 00:05:55,855  
Don was a millionaire,  
he was a multi-millionaire, okay?

89

00:05:55,938 --> 00:05:58,358  
And he didn't like her spending his money.

90

00:05:58,608 --> 00:06:00,276  
She was very ambitious.

91

00:06:00,360 --> 00:06:02,528  
She wanted to go somewhere  
and be somebody,

92

00:06:02,612 --> 00:06:05,573  
and she didn't want to stay  
walking down the street

93

00:06:05,656 --> 00:06:07,033  
in the middle of the night.

94

00:06:07,825 --> 00:06:09,243  
I've got her diary.

95

00:06:09,369 --> 00:06:10,578  
I've got it all.

96  
00:06:11,829 --> 00:06:12,997  
Good evening, world!

97  
00:06:13,331 --> 00:06:16,167  
Welcome to saga six of the Carole story.

98  
00:06:16,834 --> 00:06:17,919  
Okay, well, tonight

99  
00:06:18,336 --> 00:06:20,922  
we just happened to have gotten  
in the mail today...

100  
00:06:22,382 --> 00:06:23,800  
Carole's diary.

101  
00:06:23,883 --> 00:06:27,929  
"He said he wanted to be loved  
for the man he was inside,

102  
00:06:28,012 --> 00:06:30,348  
and if women knew how rich he was,

103  
00:06:30,431 --> 00:06:33,768  
he would never know if they loved him  
for him or his money."

104  
00:06:34,811 --> 00:06:36,938  
[McQueen] Don started out with nothing.

105  
00:06:38,564 --> 00:06:40,316  
You could not have looked at Don

106  
00:06:40,733 --> 00:06:42,485  
and even had an inkling

107  
00:06:42,568 --> 00:06:45,571  
that he had amassed the wealth  
that he had.

108

00:06:47,824 --> 00:06:50,034  
[man] You never saw Don dressed up.

109

00:06:50,118 --> 00:06:51,994  
He had his blue jeans and his t-shirt...

110

00:06:53,538 --> 00:06:56,416  
but he carried a 500-dollar-bill around  
in his pocket...

111

00:06:57,083 --> 00:06:59,001  
just because he could.

112

00:07:01,379 --> 00:07:03,423  
We said he had a green thumb,

113

00:07:03,506 --> 00:07:05,007  
a green thumb for money,

114

00:07:05,091 --> 00:07:07,844  
because anything he touched,  
practically...

115

00:07:08,553 --> 00:07:09,846  
he made money on.

116

00:07:12,223 --> 00:07:15,685  
I worked for Don Lewis for ten, 15 years,

117

00:07:15,768 --> 00:07:17,437  
but knew him much longer than that.

118

00:07:18,855 --> 00:07:21,315  
And you'd have to know Don  
to know his properties.

119

00:07:22,775 --> 00:07:26,112  
He liked to hide his stuff.  
Like, he would hide money, bury money.

120

00:07:26,195 --> 00:07:29,031  
You know, hide gold bars,  
bury the gold bars.

121  
00:07:29,115 --> 00:07:31,409  
Don Lewis didn't want people knowing  
what he had

122  
00:07:31,492 --> 00:07:32,743  
and what he was worth,

123  
00:07:32,827 --> 00:07:36,038  
but I'm gonna say  
Don Lewis was probably worth, um...

124  
00:07:37,123 --> 00:07:39,500  
20 million? Maybe a little more.

125  
00:07:39,625 --> 00:07:44,130  
I think it was closer to...  
seven to seven and a half million dollars,

126  
00:07:44,213 --> 00:07:45,214  
is what he was worth.

127  
00:07:45,298 --> 00:07:46,507  
I don't think anybody knew,

128  
00:07:46,591 --> 00:07:49,093  
but I know at least five million,  
if not ten million.

129  
00:07:49,927 --> 00:07:51,053  
I knew him as his lawyer,

130  
00:07:51,137 --> 00:07:52,472  
I knew what he was doing,

131  
00:07:52,555 --> 00:07:54,182  
I knew a lot of what he was doing.

132  
00:07:55,475 --> 00:07:57,977

[Lewis Cross]  
Don had money when he met Carole.

133  
00:07:58,436 --> 00:08:00,521  
Carole pretty much had nothing.

134  
00:08:00,646 --> 00:08:02,064  
He had something she didn't.

135  
00:08:03,065 --> 00:08:05,735  
Were you having fun? Were you having fun?

136  
00:08:05,818 --> 00:08:07,570  
[tiger yowls]

137  
00:08:08,321 --> 00:08:12,074  
[Carole] Growing up,  
my parents were very plain folk.

138  
00:08:12,158 --> 00:08:14,160  
We usually lived in mobile homes.

139  
00:08:21,042 --> 00:08:24,879  
I never really got how poor we were  
until I was a teenager.

140  
00:08:31,594 --> 00:08:34,889  
I had been raped at knifepoint  
by three men

141  
00:08:34,972 --> 00:08:37,808  
that lived across the street from me  
when I was 14.

142  
00:08:41,562 --> 00:08:44,690  
In my family,  
they were fundamental Christians

143  
00:08:44,774 --> 00:08:48,653  
that believed if a woman was involved  
in something like that,

144

00:08:48,736 --> 00:08:50,988  
she must have been asking for it  
in some way.

145

00:08:52,823 --> 00:08:54,575  
Well, I left home at the age of 15.

146

00:08:56,035 --> 00:08:59,580  
I got married to Michael when I was 17.

147

00:09:00,289 --> 00:09:03,751  
He was Jamie's father,  
and he was extremely abusive...

148

00:09:04,544 --> 00:09:08,422  
but the idea of leaving  
and having to raise a child on my own

149

00:09:08,506 --> 00:09:09,674  
was terrifying.

150

00:09:11,133 --> 00:09:14,095  
I was 20 when I met Don,

151

00:09:14,512 --> 00:09:17,181  
and 24 before I left my husband.

152

00:09:19,392 --> 00:09:22,019  
Don had a fascination with animals,

153

00:09:22,103 --> 00:09:23,646  
so we were a great team.

154

00:09:24,355 --> 00:09:26,857  
[woman] He was  
more of an animal collector, I think.

155

00:09:27,358 --> 00:09:28,859  
He definitely liked the idea

156

00:09:28,943 --> 00:09:31,904  
of having a lot of different kinds

of animals.

157

00:09:32,530 --> 00:09:33,364  
[snarls]

158

00:09:33,531 --> 00:09:34,574  
See?

159

00:09:34,740 --> 00:09:37,034  
He gets along with the rest of the cats  
real good out here,

160

00:09:37,118 --> 00:09:38,661  
though he just don't like people.

161

00:09:39,662 --> 00:09:41,455  
[auctioneer speaking indistinctly]

162

00:09:41,539 --> 00:09:45,960  
They started out  
by going to the exotic animal auctions.

163

00:09:47,587 --> 00:09:49,755  
We started in 1992

164

00:09:49,839 --> 00:09:51,048  
with the purchase of a bobcat

165

00:09:51,132 --> 00:09:54,010  
who was going to be killed by taxidermists  
at an auction.

166

00:09:54,510 --> 00:09:58,598  
The following year, we bought 56 bobcats  
and lynx from a fur farm.

167

00:09:58,681 --> 00:10:00,850  
The next year, 28 bobcats and lynx.

168

00:10:00,933 --> 00:10:03,311  
The following year,  
22 more bobcats and lynx.

169

00:10:03,394 --> 00:10:05,146  
And by the time we did that,

170

00:10:05,229 --> 00:10:08,774  
there were no more fur farms in the US  
that were killing bobcats and lynx.

171

00:10:10,610 --> 00:10:13,946  
[reporter]  
It's called Wildlife on Easy Street.

172

00:10:15,573 --> 00:10:18,993  
Guests tour the sanctuary,  
take tons of pictures,

173

00:10:19,076 --> 00:10:20,536  
and even help feed the cats.

174

00:10:21,120 --> 00:10:24,040  
[McCarthy]  
When they started Wildlife on Easy Street,

175

00:10:24,915 --> 00:10:31,881  
they bought, sold,  
bred big cats for years.

176

00:10:31,964 --> 00:10:34,425  
Now, I would like to remind you, Carole,

177

00:10:34,508 --> 00:10:37,470  
that you are the one who spent  
94,000 dollars

178

00:10:37,553 --> 00:10:40,306  
to buy animals  
to fill your so-called sanctuary.

179

00:10:40,389 --> 00:10:42,099  
You still have them there  
at your facility,

180

00:10:42,183 --> 00:10:45,728  
you're still tagging them as rescues,  
and you're still 'frauding the public.

181  
00:10:50,191 --> 00:10:52,068  
[man] I believe  
that I sold Don and Carole Lewis

182  
00:10:52,151 --> 00:10:54,945  
their very first tiger in 1995.

183  
00:10:56,530 --> 00:10:59,575  
They flew their private plane  
up to Shelbyville,

184  
00:11:00,451 --> 00:11:03,496  
and that's how I met them,  
and they seemed to be good people.

185  
00:11:05,414 --> 00:11:07,291  
Sold 'em Scrappy, was his name.

186  
00:11:07,375 --> 00:11:09,627  
He was an... excellent little tiger.

187  
00:11:17,218 --> 00:11:21,013  
This is the VHS that she made  
back in the day.

188  
00:11:21,097 --> 00:11:24,308  
The last time I probably seen it was 1996.

189  
00:11:24,392 --> 00:11:26,644  
You'll get a kick out of it, I'm sure.

190  
00:11:28,104 --> 00:11:30,564  
[Carole]  
Our names are Don and Carole Lewis.

191  
00:11:30,815 --> 00:11:33,776  
We have really enjoyed our exotics.

192

00:11:33,859 --> 00:11:38,155  
Throughout this tape, we'll show you  
how we take them from the mother,

193  
00:11:38,698 --> 00:11:41,534  
acclimate them  
to social life with people...

194  
00:11:41,617 --> 00:11:44,787  
She had called me up  
and asked about raising baby animals,

195  
00:11:44,870 --> 00:11:47,206  
said she was gonna do a "how to" video.

196  
00:11:47,289 --> 00:11:49,500  
[Carole] They have to be taken this young  
from the mother

197  
00:11:49,625 --> 00:11:52,628  
in order to make  
good quality pets from them.

198  
00:11:53,421 --> 00:11:56,465  
A lot of people don't believe  
that it's right

199  
00:11:56,590 --> 00:11:59,385  
to raise up exotic animals as house pets.

200  
00:11:59,969 --> 00:12:04,432  
[Joe] You know, back in the early '90s,  
she bred and sold cats.

201  
00:12:04,515 --> 00:12:07,143  
And... [chuckles] it's so funny,

202  
00:12:07,226 --> 00:12:10,187  
because the very people  
that are against breeding

203  
00:12:10,271 --> 00:12:12,064  
used to do the same thing.

204

00:12:12,148 --&gt; 00:12:13,983

[Carole]

I think you'll see throughout this tape

205

00:12:14,066 --&gt; 00:12:15,985

that they are very happy...

206

00:12:17,319 --&gt; 00:12:18,988

and they're so much fun!

207

00:12:21,490 --&gt; 00:12:23,242

Okay, now we're gonna jump around

208

00:12:23,325 --&gt; 00:12:25,077

because I'm sure  
you don't want to hear about

209

00:12:25,161 --&gt; 00:12:28,664

all the cats they bought,  
all the kittens they bred,

210

00:12:28,748 --&gt; 00:12:31,041

and how many died  
because they didn't have any clue

211

00:12:31,125 --&gt; 00:12:32,084

what they were doing.

212

00:12:34,336 --&gt; 00:12:40,217

I think that Carole did start feeling bad  
about selling the animals

213

00:12:40,301 --&gt; 00:12:43,679

and maybe breeding them  
and crossbreeding them.

214

00:12:46,182 --&gt; 00:12:50,561

Carole wanted the animals  
just to collect and love...

215

00:12:51,437 --&gt; 00:12:53,647

and he looked at it more as a business.

216

00:12:56,942 --> 00:13:02,156  
Don and I had differing feelings  
about conservation and breeding.

217

00:13:02,323 --> 00:13:04,658  
He loved cubs, he loved breeding cats.

218

00:13:05,242 --> 00:13:07,703  
He would go down to Costa Rica  
once a month,

219

00:13:07,787 --> 00:13:09,747  
and every time he was in Costa Rica,

220

00:13:09,830 --> 00:13:11,081  
I'd have the vet out here

221

00:13:11,165 --> 00:13:14,335  
and I would neuter and spay as many cats  
as fast as I could.

222

00:13:17,004 --> 00:13:19,590  
The attraction for Don in Costa Rica

223

00:13:19,673 --> 00:13:21,425  
was the lack of regulations, you know.

224

00:13:21,509 --> 00:13:25,888  
If they could have the cats down there,  
he would've been free to breed them.

225

00:13:25,971 --> 00:13:27,264  
[Carole humming, singing]

226

00:13:27,348 --> 00:13:30,392  
[man] Was that consistent  
in what Carole wanted to do?

227

00:13:31,644 --> 00:13:34,480  
Apparently, not.

They were arguing about it.

228

00:13:34,563 --> 00:13:36,899  
She didn't want to take the cats  
and go there.

229

00:13:37,900 --> 00:13:41,403  
[Lewis Cross] That is when we learned  
that they weren't getting along real good.

230

00:13:43,113 --> 00:13:46,033  
He also had a girlfriend in Costa Rica...

231

00:13:47,535 --> 00:13:50,412  
so I think one of their main problems was

232

00:13:50,955 --> 00:13:53,457  
she couldn't be the only one in his life.

233

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:58,087  
[Sanchez] I think she thinks  
she would be the one to change him.

234

00:13:58,671 --> 00:14:01,048  
[Lewis Cross]  
She thought she was pretty enough,

235

00:14:01,131 --> 00:14:04,927  
young enough,  
that she would be all he needed...

236

00:14:05,511 --> 00:14:07,888  
and that was never going to happen.

237

00:14:10,224 --> 00:14:11,684  
[man] Did he have other women?

238

00:14:12,393 --> 00:14:13,811  
I suspected it.

239

00:14:13,894 --> 00:14:15,020  
I never saw it in person,

240

00:14:15,104 --> 00:14:18,399  
but I've heard enough to book--  
to say that's probably true.

241

00:14:19,149 --> 00:14:20,734  
[Lively] He liked ladies, I'm sure.

242

00:14:21,443 --> 00:14:24,822  
I would see him with two  
or three different ones, you know?

243

00:14:24,905 --> 00:14:25,739  
[chuckles]

244

00:14:27,324 --> 00:14:31,287  
[Lewis Cross] Don was 17 and I was 14  
when we got married.

245

00:14:31,912 --> 00:14:35,624  
My mom had to sign the papers  
and so did his mother,

246

00:14:35,708 --> 00:14:37,376  
because he was too young.

247

00:14:38,335 --> 00:14:39,295  
Life was good.

248

00:14:39,920 --> 00:14:44,717  
The only thing that went wrong was  
when someone would call me and say,

249

00:14:44,800 --> 00:14:46,802  
"I've seen Don with so and so."

250

00:14:46,886 --> 00:14:50,973  
[Sanchez] That was a problem with him,  
because he did have a roaming eye.

251

00:14:51,056 --> 00:14:53,559  
There's names, you know: sexaholic.

252

00:14:54,935 --> 00:14:58,397  
If my dad had anything,  
that would have been it.

253

00:15:00,149 --> 00:15:02,776  
"What is my sick need  
that I'm trying to fill

254

00:15:02,860 --> 00:15:04,820  
with this venomous man?

255

00:15:05,946 --> 00:15:08,198  
I've asked forever,  
but I still don't know.

256

00:15:09,783 --> 00:15:11,118  
He's all I've ever known,

257

00:15:11,201 --> 00:15:13,287  
and he's the only man I've ever loved.

258

00:15:13,370 --> 00:15:15,497  
I hope Jamie never finds herself

259

00:15:15,581 --> 00:15:20,544  
in such a sick  
and perverted relationship."

260

00:15:22,838 --> 00:15:25,633  
[McQueen] At the end,  
I know there was talk of divorce.

261

00:15:27,051 --> 00:15:31,388  
I think he was preparing his estate  
and assets in a way

262

00:15:31,472 --> 00:15:35,059  
that he could get a divorce  
without losing everything,

263

00:15:35,142 --> 00:15:38,270

and I think he thought she was there...

264

00:15:38,729 --> 00:15:40,898  
solely for the purpose  
of getting his money.

265

00:15:41,482 --> 00:15:44,693  
And that was  
what he was trying to protect.

266

00:15:49,031 --> 00:15:51,867  
[Farr] If Don Lewis had have gotten  
a divorce with Carole...

267

00:15:53,035 --> 00:15:55,204  
the way Don would have worked,

268

00:15:55,287 --> 00:15:57,539  
she would have been left  
with really nothing.

269

00:15:58,374 --> 00:15:59,625  
She would have lost the cats,

270

00:15:59,708 --> 00:16:03,837  
she would have lost everything  
down to the house and a car.

271

00:16:03,921 --> 00:16:06,006  
Would have been a devastating blow.

272

00:16:06,090 --> 00:16:09,468  
Oh, yes, he's a good boy.  
Yes, he's a good boy.

273

00:16:09,551 --> 00:16:12,846  
[Joe] "I listened while he told me  
that all of his money is his,

274

00:16:12,930 --> 00:16:18,018  
and everything he earned by himself  
and brought into this marriage by himself.

275

00:16:18,102 --> 00:16:20,521  
I wish there was some way out for me."

276

00:16:20,604 --> 00:16:23,691  
I'd say she found a way out, wouldn't you?

277

00:16:23,774 --> 00:16:28,362  
-[indistinct chatter]  
-[panther yowling]

278

00:16:33,450 --> 00:16:36,078  
[McQueen]  
Don started looking a little bit funny,

279

00:16:36,787 --> 00:16:38,414  
and then one day he came in

280

00:16:38,497 --> 00:16:40,666  
and he brought me a piece of paper.

281

00:16:41,041 --> 00:16:42,918  
It was in an envelope, and he said,

282

00:16:43,002 --> 00:16:46,005  
"Here, you need to take this home,  
you need to keep it.

283

00:16:46,088 --> 00:16:48,966  
If anything happens to me,  
give it to the police."

284

00:16:49,758 --> 00:16:52,094  
He'd given me a copy  
of the restraining order

285

00:16:52,177 --> 00:16:53,220  
that he had filed for.

286

00:16:56,932 --> 00:16:58,559  
[Rathbone] "This is the second time

287

00:16:58,642 --> 00:17:02,479  
Carole has gotten angry enough  
to threaten to kill me."

288

00:17:03,731 --> 00:17:05,858  
"Carole and I got into a big fuss,

289

00:17:05,941 --> 00:17:08,986  
and she ordered me out of the house  
or she would kill me.

290

00:17:09,737 --> 00:17:14,450  
She has a .45 revolver  
and she took my .357 and hid it."

291

00:17:18,996 --> 00:17:24,001  
Daddy never really involved "the law"  
in anything.

292

00:17:24,418 --> 00:17:26,920  
Um, it was just something  
that he resisted.

293

00:17:27,004 --> 00:17:29,631  
For him to go down there

294

00:17:29,715 --> 00:17:32,926  
and write that out  
and present it before a judge

295

00:17:33,510 --> 00:17:35,721  
-was major, in my eyes.  
-[Lewis Cross] So wise.

296

00:17:35,804 --> 00:17:39,391  
That is not something he would do  
unless he was at his wits' end...

297

00:17:40,142 --> 00:17:41,518  
with how to protect himself...

298

00:17:42,853 --> 00:17:44,938  
but he was denied protection.

299

00:17:46,148 --> 00:17:48,442  
It doesn't show stalking,  
it doesn't show battery,

300

00:17:48,525 --> 00:17:49,610  
it doesn't show anything.

301

00:17:49,693 --> 00:17:51,028  
It shows a verbal argument,

302

00:17:51,320 --> 00:17:53,238  
and that's not enough  
to get an injunction.

303

00:17:53,530 --> 00:17:55,616  
[man] And so that's why you think  
it was denied?

304

00:17:55,699 --> 00:17:57,076  
That's why I know it was denied.

305

00:17:57,367 --> 00:17:59,578  
-But obviously--  
-That was dead on arrival.

306

00:17:59,661 --> 00:18:02,498  
What raises my eyebrows  
is "she threatened to kill me."

307

00:18:02,581 --> 00:18:04,500  
-That's not enough to get a--  
-Nope.

308

00:18:04,583 --> 00:18:06,710  
-a restraining order?  
-There's free speech.

309

00:18:06,794 --> 00:18:09,088  
We don't restrain free speech  
in this country,

310

00:18:09,171 --> 00:18:10,631  
we punish it after it's done.

311

00:18:11,924 --> 00:18:14,468  
I'm sure in the judge's eyes  
it was hearsay,

312

00:18:14,968 --> 00:18:18,388  
but that happened in June,  
and he disappeared in August.

313

00:18:28,649 --> 00:18:31,068  
[reporter] A local millionaire vanishes  
without a trace,

314

00:18:31,151 --> 00:18:32,986  
but did he simply walk away?

315

00:18:33,070 --> 00:18:35,364  
Or did something more ominous  
happen to him?

316

00:18:35,781 --> 00:18:37,032  
I never threatened him.

317

00:18:37,783 --> 00:18:40,744  
[reporter 2] His wife, Carole Lewis,  
says he was planning to transport cars

318

00:18:40,828 --> 00:18:41,995  
to Costa Rica.

319

00:18:42,079 --> 00:18:44,373  
He said to be sure  
and get the Costa Rica truck ready

320

00:18:44,498 --> 00:18:47,584  
'cause he was leaving early, early,  
early in the morning for Miami...

321

00:18:48,544 --> 00:18:50,420  
and that was the last thing  
that he said to me.

322

00:18:50,504 --> 00:18:52,422  
The last thing he said to me was

323

00:18:52,506 --> 00:18:54,925  
that he needed me  
to have Kenny get a truck ready

324

00:18:55,008 --> 00:18:59,805  
because he was going early, early, early,  
he said, the next day to Costa Rica...

325

00:19:01,723 --> 00:19:05,185  
and that was the last I saw of him,  
so I just don't know.

326

00:19:07,646 --> 00:19:09,481  
[Farr] We was building this cage,

327

00:19:10,149 --> 00:19:12,818  
and Don started to tell me something.

328

00:19:12,901 --> 00:19:15,904  
He said, "Kenny, if I can pull this off,

329

00:19:15,988 --> 00:19:18,824  
it will be the slickest thing  
I ever did in my life."

330

00:19:21,243 --> 00:19:24,163  
And I know  
that there was more to follow...

331

00:19:24,830 --> 00:19:27,166  
like he didn't finish  
what he was saying...

332

00:19:28,625 --> 00:19:32,880  
and he left with a phone call,  
and he left out.

333

00:19:34,173 --> 00:19:35,966

I never got to see him again after that.

334

00:19:36,049 --> 00:19:38,218  
That was the last thing  
that Don Lewis ever said to me...

335

00:19:38,844 --> 00:19:40,554  
was, "If I can pull this off,

336

00:19:40,637 --> 00:19:43,390  
it will be the slickest thing  
I ever did in my life."

337

00:19:45,058 --> 00:19:47,769  
[McQueen] He was shipping some cars  
down to Costa Rica.

338

00:19:48,478 --> 00:19:51,440  
Everything had to be down in Miami  
Monday morning...

339

00:19:52,608 --> 00:19:56,570  
and I had to get all the titles  
to the cars and stuff ready,

340

00:19:56,653 --> 00:19:59,156  
but I needed him to tell me something.

341

00:19:59,573 --> 00:20:02,159  
I kept waiting for him to call me.  
He didn't call me.

342

00:20:02,242 --> 00:20:05,454  
I started calling him.  
Didn't answer the phone.

343

00:20:05,537 --> 00:20:06,663  
He didn't answer the phone.

344

00:20:07,581 --> 00:20:11,168  
This continued all through Saturday,  
all through Sunday.

345

00:20:11,251 --> 00:20:12,669  
I got no answer.

346

00:20:12,753 --> 00:20:14,671  
[phone ringing]

347

00:20:14,755 --> 00:20:16,757  
[McQueen] I finally got ahold of Carole.

348

00:20:17,758 --> 00:20:19,885  
She says, "Do you think  
I should call the police?"

349

00:20:20,344 --> 00:20:22,012  
And I said, "Do you think?"

350

00:20:26,141 --> 00:20:30,896  
[Marsicano] Jack Don Lewis was last seen  
on August the 18th.

351

00:20:32,231 --> 00:20:35,651  
He was reported missing on the 19th  
by his wife

352

00:20:35,734 --> 00:20:37,361  
at about 1:30 in the afternoon.

353

00:20:40,822 --> 00:20:44,159  
The detectives walked the property  
and drove the proper--

354

00:20:44,243 --> 00:20:45,827  
Now, you're talking about 40 acres.

355

00:20:47,663 --> 00:20:49,665  
Apparently there was nothing there  
that suggested

356

00:20:49,748 --> 00:20:52,584  
that they should pursue that area  
any further.

357

00:20:54,044 --> 00:20:57,589  
There were aerial searches done...  
but found nothing.

358

00:21:01,426 --> 00:21:05,973  
Then, after three or four days,  
we found his van abandoned at an airport.

359

00:21:07,516 --> 00:21:11,645  
With the keys still in it,  
his briefcase in it, but no Don Lewis.

360

00:21:13,021 --> 00:21:14,398  
[Farr] And it didn't make sense.

361

00:21:14,940 --> 00:21:17,025  
Like, with what he said to me,

362

00:21:17,109 --> 00:21:20,153  
if he was truly wanting to disappear  
and nobody know where he was at,

363

00:21:20,237 --> 00:21:23,073  
would you leave your van  
where you got in a plane to take off?

364

00:21:23,156 --> 00:21:25,409  
You wouldn't want nobody to know  
you was in the plane,

365

00:21:25,492 --> 00:21:28,495  
-because that's now a clue.  
-[man] You think it was planted?

366

00:21:29,746 --> 00:21:31,957  
I think someone else drove the van there.

367

00:21:32,040 --> 00:21:33,959  
I don't know if it was planted there.

368

00:21:35,419 --> 00:21:37,546  
[Farr] I think the police did

a horrible job...

369

00:21:38,171 --> 00:21:40,257  
at the investigation side of it.

370

00:21:40,340 --> 00:21:43,302  
The cops never looked at the van  
when it was at the airport...

371

00:21:44,052 --> 00:21:46,972  
and they let them bring that van  
back to Easy Street.

372

00:21:47,055 --> 00:21:51,018  
And it was there for a couple of days  
before the cops came to look at the van.

373

00:21:51,226 --> 00:21:52,811  
To even look in the van.

374

00:21:53,478 --> 00:21:55,105  
A couple of days that van sat there.

375

00:22:06,116 --> 00:22:07,576  
[Lively] They came and spoke with me

376

00:22:07,659 --> 00:22:10,412  
because they found my fingerprints  
inside of his van.

377

00:22:11,621 --> 00:22:13,415  
Four days before he disappeared,

378

00:22:13,498 --> 00:22:16,209  
he dropped his van off  
for me to do some work to it,

379

00:22:16,543 --> 00:22:18,962  
but he tried to talk me into  
going to Costa Rica.

380

00:22:19,046 --> 00:22:21,214

He said, "Come on  
and go to Costa Rica with me."

381

00:22:21,631 --> 00:22:23,633  
[man] Why did he want to go  
to Costa Rica so badly?

382

00:22:24,092 --> 00:22:25,886  
He liked it down there.

383

00:22:29,973 --> 00:22:33,310  
The long-term plan,  
according to the investigation,

384

00:22:33,393 --> 00:22:38,106  
was that he would eventually move  
the Big Cat Rescue,

385

00:22:38,190 --> 00:22:41,318  
or Wildlife on Easy Street  
as it was known then,

386

00:22:41,401 --> 00:22:42,986  
down to the Costa Rica area.

387

00:22:44,738 --> 00:22:47,741  
We actually sent myself  
and another detective

388

00:22:47,824 --> 00:22:50,077  
and did multiple interviews  
down in Costa Rica.

389

00:22:50,911 --> 00:22:53,872  
We spent about four or five days  
in the area

390

00:22:54,456 --> 00:22:57,250  
to try and determine  
if there was any link there at all.

391

00:22:58,460 --> 00:23:00,212  
[man] And how would he get to Costa Rica?

392

00:23:01,213 --> 00:23:04,966  
He flew commercial out of Miami.

393

00:23:05,467 --> 00:23:07,803  
But Don did fly a lot of airplanes.

394

00:23:07,886 --> 00:23:10,806  
He owned--  
I don't know how many airplanes he owned.

395

00:23:13,725 --> 00:23:15,477  
But all of his planes were small...

396

00:23:16,436 --> 00:23:19,064  
and you could not fly those things  
that far.

397

00:23:20,232 --> 00:23:23,068  
It's impossible with the size  
and types of planes that Don had,

398

00:23:23,151 --> 00:23:27,072  
that I know of, that he could nonstop  
go from here to Costa Rica.

399

00:23:27,155 --> 00:23:29,783  
You'd have to make four fuel stops.

400

00:23:29,866 --> 00:23:31,410  
It's just not in the cards.

401

00:23:32,619 --> 00:23:36,790  
[Mariscano] I don't believe  
that Jack Don Lewis flew to Costa Rica.

402

00:23:36,873 --> 00:23:42,045  
There's nothing at all to indicate  
that Don left his van there

403

00:23:42,129 --> 00:23:44,172  
and got in a plane

and crashed it somewhere.

404

00:23:44,798 --> 00:23:48,593  
There was no record of any take-off  
of an airplane,

405

00:23:48,677 --> 00:23:51,680  
there was no flight filed. Nothing.

406

00:23:54,349 --> 00:23:57,060  
Don lost his pilot's license  
the day after he got it,

407

00:23:57,144 --> 00:23:59,354  
so he never flew legitimately again.

408

00:23:59,438 --> 00:24:02,232  
Every flight he ever did after that,  
and there were a lot of them,

409

00:24:02,441 --> 00:24:05,110  
he was flying illegally,  
so, no, he wasn't reporting.

410

00:24:06,153 --> 00:24:08,488  
He would go down over the Gulf of Mexico,

411

00:24:08,572 --> 00:24:12,033  
down underneath the level  
where radar picks you up.

412

00:24:13,952 --> 00:24:16,079  
[Fritz] My understanding was--  
is he went to...

413

00:24:16,830 --> 00:24:19,374  
evaluate some new plane that was for sale.

414

00:24:19,458 --> 00:24:22,919  
I was told  
that he was pushed out of the plane

415

00:24:23,003 --> 00:24:25,547  
out of the door 50 feet over the Gulf,  
way out.

416  
00:24:26,840 --> 00:24:29,551  
[Carole] If he had any kind of an accident  
out over the Gulf,

417  
00:24:29,634 --> 00:24:31,178  
we never would have found anything.

418  
00:24:36,850 --> 00:24:39,019  
He had had several plane crashes

419  
00:24:39,102 --> 00:24:42,230  
and had really damaged himself  
in one of them,

420  
00:24:42,314 --> 00:24:45,942  
and I don't think  
he was ever completely right

421  
00:24:46,026 --> 00:24:48,069  
after that last crash.

422  
00:24:50,113 --> 00:24:53,950  
I was seeing behavior in him  
that just didn't make any sense.

423  
00:24:54,034 --> 00:24:57,621  
Like, he could remember things  
from way back when he was a kid,

424  
00:24:57,704 --> 00:25:00,457  
but he couldn't remember where he was  
for the last five minutes.

425  
00:25:00,540 --> 00:25:03,001  
And one of our volunteers came to me  
and said

426  
00:25:03,084 --> 00:25:05,086  
that that looked like Alzheimer's to him.

427

00:25:05,962 --> 00:25:07,714  
Maybe he doesn't know who he is.

428

00:25:07,797 --> 00:25:09,674  
Maybe he doesn't know where to call home.

429

00:25:13,261 --> 00:25:14,554  
That's all bull.

430

00:25:15,514 --> 00:25:18,391  
I don't believe a word about dementia

431

00:25:18,475 --> 00:25:21,520  
or forgetfulness or any of that crap.

432

00:25:22,604 --> 00:25:24,773  
No, no, no.  
He knew exactly what was going on.

433

00:25:24,856 --> 00:25:26,942  
Who, what, where, when, how, why,  
he knew all of that.

434

00:25:27,025 --> 00:25:28,235  
That's not a problem.

435

00:25:28,318 --> 00:25:30,570  
[reporter]  
Carole says he was an unusual man.

436

00:25:31,404 --> 00:25:33,240  
Eccentric is a good word to use.

437

00:25:33,865 --> 00:25:34,950  
[Williams] Carole's smart.

438

00:25:35,325 --> 00:25:37,077  
She's setting the stage for...

439

00:25:37,160 --> 00:25:40,413

"He just up and disappeared,  
and we don't know what the hell happened."

440

00:25:40,997 --> 00:25:44,292

She spent, I'm sure,  
a lot of time setting the stage

441

00:25:44,376 --> 00:25:47,087

for the dementia and the forgetfulness.

442

00:25:47,170 --> 00:25:50,340

[reporter] According to diary entries  
allegedly written by Carole,

443

00:25:50,465 --> 00:25:53,802

she was feeling boxed in  
by Don's notorious cheating.

444

00:25:54,094 --> 00:25:55,637

[Williams] "It's no use to leave him."

445

00:25:55,720 --> 00:25:57,764

"I wish there was some way out for me."

446

00:25:57,847 --> 00:25:59,516

[reporter] Police combed the area.

447

00:25:59,599 --> 00:26:02,602

But after a year and a half  
of investigating numerous theories,

448

00:26:02,686 --> 00:26:04,437

police still have no suspects.

449

00:26:06,189 --> 00:26:08,942

[Fritz] Somebody, sometime,  
someplace, somewhere, somehow,

450

00:26:09,025 --> 00:26:11,278

wanted to be rid of Don Lewis.

451

00:26:13,530 --> 00:26:15,407

And apparently, they got their way.

452

00:26:15,490 --> 00:26:18,785  
My understanding was that he was killed.

453

00:26:20,078 --> 00:26:20,912  
[man] By?

454

00:26:25,333 --> 00:26:26,585  
Won't go there.

455

00:26:27,752 --> 00:26:29,754  
[growling]

456

00:26:36,678 --> 00:26:38,138  
[man] I need my clapper!

457

00:26:38,221 --> 00:26:40,265  
I need my clapper, Mark,  
what are you doing?

458

00:26:40,599 --> 00:26:42,809  
[cameraman] Go in front of the camera  
and say, "Take two!"

459

00:26:43,393 --> 00:26:44,394  
[man] Take two.

460

00:26:45,145 --> 00:26:48,773  
♪ Everything was fine  
Just as sweet as wine ♪

461

00:26:48,857 --> 00:26:52,986  
♪ But her husband went and disappeared ♪

462

00:26:54,738 --> 00:26:58,908  
♪ But then it got a little crazy  
It got a little hazy ♪

463

00:26:58,992 --> 00:27:03,038  
♪ And the cops said  
There's something wrong here ♪

464

00:27:04,497 --> 00:27:07,167  
♪ Oh, here, kitty kitty ♪

465

00:27:08,084 --> 00:27:10,503  
The best thing he's done,  
it's worth just bringing up:

466

00:27:10,587 --> 00:27:14,174  
the music video, "Here Kitty Kitty,"  
about Carole killing her husband.

467

00:27:14,799 --> 00:27:17,302  
And a look-alike Carole  
walking along with him

468

00:27:17,385 --> 00:27:20,138  
while he's singing,  
feeding body parts to her cats.

469

00:27:21,640 --> 00:27:23,433  
He's got extreme shit.

470

00:27:23,516 --> 00:27:26,269  
You haven't seen "Here Kitty Kitty,"  
you don't know what you're missing.

471

00:27:27,437 --> 00:27:30,982  
[Kirkham] Joe had everyone convinced  
she'd murdered her husband,

472

00:27:31,066 --> 00:27:33,985  
and we were all going with it.  
And me, as a reality show producer?

473

00:27:34,069 --> 00:27:37,405  
Oh, I was... "Fuck yeah, man,  
roll the cameras," you know?

474

00:27:37,489 --> 00:27:39,199  
So the whole world's wondering,

475

00:27:39,282 --> 00:27:40,992  
did you actually grind your husband up

476

00:27:41,368 --> 00:27:43,453  
and feed him to the tigers  
so there's no evidence?

477

00:27:44,245 --> 00:27:45,747  
I'm gonna show you some stuff

478

00:27:46,122 --> 00:27:48,083  
that will put that right in your head.

479

00:27:48,166 --> 00:27:50,835  
♪ But you can't prosecute  
There's just no use ♪

480

00:27:50,919 --> 00:27:56,007  
♪ There's nothing left but tiger tracks ♪

481

00:27:58,051 --> 00:28:02,222  
People want to believe something  
that's just totally outlandish,

482

00:28:02,305 --> 00:28:04,849  
and so it has been a problem.

483

00:28:05,517 --> 00:28:06,351  
[snarls]

484

00:28:07,310 --> 00:28:10,647  
[Joe]  
These tigers have such an acidic stomach

485

00:28:11,147 --> 00:28:14,150  
that when you feed them a whole turkey,

486

00:28:14,234 --> 00:28:18,113  
there's no bones that come out, okay?  
It's gone.

487

00:28:18,196 --> 00:28:21,116

[lions murmuring]

488

00:28:21,199 --> 00:28:23,702

[man] Is there any chance  
Don had been killed by one of his cats?

489

00:28:23,785 --> 00:28:25,078

-No.  
-Why?

490

00:28:25,870 --> 00:28:26,955

Didn't happen.

491

00:28:27,038 --> 00:28:30,542

There'd be a body, there'd be blood,  
there'd be this, there'd be that.

492

00:28:30,625 --> 00:28:35,338

No. There wasn't a cat out there  
that could eat 100 pounds of flesh.

493

00:28:36,756 --> 00:28:39,426

There'd be a skeleton. There'd be bones.  
There'd be something.

494

00:28:40,176 --> 00:28:45,014

His own kids demanded  
that they DNA test the meat grinder.

495

00:28:47,308 --> 00:28:49,102

Sheriff's office wouldn't do it.

496

00:28:49,853 --> 00:28:51,312

We had a meat grinder.

497

00:28:51,396 --> 00:28:53,565

If you've ever seen  
a Butcher Boy meat grinder,

498

00:28:53,648 --> 00:28:55,233

it's about that big around.

499

00:28:55,316 --> 00:28:58,778  
That became, like,  
this wholly exciting thing,

500

00:28:58,862 --> 00:29:01,364  
that I ran him through that grinder,  
and it's like,

501

00:29:01,698 --> 00:29:05,118  
I couldn't have run his hand  
through the grinder, much less a body.

502

00:29:08,413 --> 00:29:11,332  
I mean, there's another theory  
that one of the buildings they built,

503

00:29:11,416 --> 00:29:14,586  
there's a septic tank underneath it--  
that he was put in that.

504

00:29:15,920 --> 00:29:19,424  
[Joe] If we could ever get the law  
to go in there

505

00:29:19,507 --> 00:29:21,134  
and dig up that septic tank,

506

00:29:21,217 --> 00:29:23,678  
I promise you  
he's underneath that damn thing.

507

00:29:24,262 --> 00:29:27,390  
[Joe]  
Hey, Carole, it's a voice from your past.

508

00:29:28,057 --> 00:29:31,102  
Get me the fuck out  
from under the septic tank.

509

00:29:32,061 --> 00:29:34,856  
It was in the ground, it was operational,

510

00:29:34,939 --> 00:29:37,817

Judy had moved into the property  
before Don ever disappeared,

511

00:29:37,901 --> 00:29:40,737  
so how would I have then  
put him in the septic tank?

512

00:29:46,075 --> 00:29:48,661  
I believe  
that there's a lot of people out there

513

00:29:48,745 --> 00:29:51,998  
that are speculating  
and don't have anything to back it up.

514

00:29:52,582 --> 00:29:54,959  
One day, somebody's gonna stub their toe.

515

00:29:56,169 --> 00:29:57,295  
There is a god...

516

00:29:58,046 --> 00:29:59,422  
her name is karma,

517

00:29:59,547 --> 00:30:01,007  
and she has a sick sense of humor.

518

00:30:05,720 --> 00:30:07,555  
[Mariscano]  
Yeah, we heard all the stories.

519

00:30:08,389 --> 00:30:13,228  
We've done everything we could do  
in terms of trying to put those to rest,

520

00:30:13,311 --> 00:30:15,313  
but sometimes legally, there--

521

00:30:15,396 --> 00:30:17,649  
You can't pursue exactly  
what you'd like to do.

522

00:30:17,732 --> 00:30:19,484  
You have to stay within the bounds  
of the law.

523

00:30:21,945 --> 00:30:25,657  
Anybody could be a suspect.  
Now, having said that,

524

00:30:25,824 --> 00:30:27,784  
clearly the most information  
that we're gonna get

525

00:30:27,867 --> 00:30:30,745  
are the people that were closest to Don,  
so that's where we've looked.

526

00:30:31,621 --> 00:30:35,625  
[Fritz] Anne McQueen was probably  
the closest person alive to Don Lewis.

527

00:30:35,834 --> 00:30:38,795  
She watched out for his best interests,  
he watched her back.

528

00:30:39,254 --> 00:30:43,258  
Don trusted Anne with every penny he had.

529

00:30:43,341 --> 00:30:45,218  
He would've been lost without her.

530

00:30:46,594 --> 00:30:52,559  
I cooperated in every form and fashion  
that they wanted me to cooperate.

531

00:30:53,017 --> 00:30:54,727  
[man] Who were the other suspects?

532

00:30:54,811 --> 00:30:56,145  
I think it was me and Carole.

533

00:30:58,898 --> 00:31:02,652  
[Mariscano] In any investigation  
like this, you go to...

534

00:31:03,403 --> 00:31:05,572  
the husband or the wife

535

00:31:05,655 --> 00:31:09,826  
or whatever close family member  
that is still surviving

536

00:31:09,909 --> 00:31:11,911  
or still around that you can interview.

537

00:31:14,080 --> 00:31:16,749  
[Williams] Carole's brother was a member  
of the sheriff's department,

538

00:31:17,417 --> 00:31:19,961  
and I think he maintained

539

00:31:20,044 --> 00:31:21,754  
some sort of, well, you know...

540

00:31:21,838 --> 00:31:24,924  
"That's my sister,  
I want you to tread lightly."

541

00:31:25,008 --> 00:31:27,719  
And I don't know that happened, but...

542

00:31:30,722 --> 00:31:32,932  
I'm sure he wouldn't just stand there  
and do nothing.

543

00:31:33,016 --> 00:31:34,851  
Her brother worked  
for the sheriff's department,

544

00:31:34,934 --> 00:31:39,272  
but I don't think... I don't think  
that there was collusion there.

545

00:31:43,902 --> 00:31:46,362  
[Carole]

I never really knew my brother, because--

546

00:31:46,946 --> 00:31:50,867  
Fosh, by the time I was 15,  
he would have been, what, nine.

547

00:31:52,744 --> 00:31:55,038  
So we never had much of a relationship.

548

00:31:55,246 --> 00:31:57,874  
It's funny,  
he grew up to be a sheriff's deputy,

549

00:31:57,957 --> 00:32:00,710  
which was the last thing I ever thought  
my brother would grow up to be,

550

00:32:00,793 --> 00:32:03,296  
because he was so shy.

551

00:32:04,130 --> 00:32:06,090  
[Mariscano]  
The day that Don went missing...

552

00:32:07,091 --> 00:32:12,722  
the investigation indicated  
Carole had left Wildlife on Easy Street

553

00:32:12,805 --> 00:32:16,517  
to drive to a nearby store  
named Albertsons

554

00:32:16,601 --> 00:32:18,937  
to pick up some milk byproducts  
for the cats.

555

00:32:19,020 --> 00:32:20,480  
At three o'clock in the morning.

556

00:32:21,648 --> 00:32:25,944  
Her car broke down,  
and Carole ran into her brother,

557

00:32:26,027 --> 00:32:28,863  
who was accompanied by another deputy.

558

00:32:28,947 --> 00:32:34,243  
The second deputy gave her a ride  
back to her home.

559

00:32:34,953 --> 00:32:36,079  
After that,

560

00:32:36,871 --> 00:32:40,291  
Carole indicated the last time  
that she saw her husband

561

00:32:40,375 --> 00:32:44,045  
was just several hours later,  
and he was never seen again.

562

00:32:44,629 --> 00:32:46,339  
And I don't know, but I would have hoped

563

00:32:46,422 --> 00:32:49,050  
that the detectives would have  
pursued that and made sure that...

564

00:32:49,759 --> 00:32:53,388  
there was nothing...  
out of the ordinary about that.

565

00:32:55,848 --> 00:32:58,518  
Maybe if you have a sheriff  
that's in there that's saying,

566

00:32:58,601 --> 00:33:02,939  
you know, this guy is kinda crazy  
and, you know, dementia,

567

00:33:03,022 --> 00:33:04,899  
and he does this all the time,  
he's probably in--

568

00:33:04,983 --> 00:33:07,986

Maybe the sheriff's department would drag  
their feet at that point and be like,

569

00:33:08,069 --> 00:33:10,029  
"Well, let's just wait and see  
where it goes."

570

00:33:13,741 --> 00:33:17,870  
In her family,  
there just wasn't a lot of love for Don.

571

00:33:19,122 --> 00:33:22,875  
I know her father, Carole's father,  
Vernon, could not stand him.

572

00:33:22,959 --> 00:33:24,836  
Absolutely could not stand Don.

573

00:33:25,294 --> 00:33:28,673  
[Farr] So, Carole's dad, Vernon,  
come and built cages with me.

574

00:33:30,174 --> 00:33:31,759  
He definitely had his daughter's back.

575

00:33:32,343 --> 00:33:37,598  
I just felt like Carole did something,  
and they needed to protect her...

576

00:33:38,099 --> 00:33:40,852  
and get the money. Let's get the money.

577

00:33:42,937 --> 00:33:46,441  
[Farr] After Don disappeared, Carole  
and Vernon, her dad, had asked me...

578

00:33:47,942 --> 00:33:50,695  
"Kenny, we need to get something  
from the office."

579

00:33:52,613 --> 00:33:54,782  
And I'd like to say,  
I had did this kind of stuff

580

00:33:54,866 --> 00:33:56,993  
for Don Lewis for years.

581

00:33:57,076 --> 00:33:59,245  
When he needed something done,  
I would go do it for him.

582

00:34:02,749 --> 00:34:07,128  
I got a phone call stating  
that the office alarm had gone off,

583

00:34:07,211 --> 00:34:09,005  
and Carole was there.

584

00:34:09,088 --> 00:34:13,718  
Her and Kenny Farr had cut the locks  
on the gate,

585

00:34:14,093 --> 00:34:16,095  
cut the locks on the office.

586

00:34:16,929 --> 00:34:21,392  
Cut the power to the trailer,  
cut the water, cut the sewer.

587

00:34:21,476 --> 00:34:23,478  
The cops came because the alarm went off.

588

00:34:23,561 --> 00:34:27,482  
Anne McQueen come up  
because that was her office,

589

00:34:27,565 --> 00:34:29,358  
know what I mean?  
She's been here for years.

590

00:34:29,442 --> 00:34:33,488  
There were two wills,  
and there were two power of attorney

591

00:34:34,030 --> 00:34:37,533

in my office in a box underneath my desk.

592

00:34:37,617 --> 00:34:41,412  
But whatever paperwork  
or whatever they needed,

593

00:34:41,496 --> 00:34:45,416  
there was nothing...  
that the cops could do

594

00:34:45,500 --> 00:34:48,669  
to stop the wife taking anything.

595

00:34:50,046 --> 00:34:51,756  
[McQueen] The will  
and the power of attorney,

596

00:34:51,839 --> 00:34:53,925  
they were all taken out of the office  
that day.

597

00:34:58,054 --> 00:35:01,599  
I was executor for both of their wills.

598

00:35:02,475 --> 00:35:05,394  
I was the power of attorney  
for both of them.

599

00:35:06,979 --> 00:35:10,233  
[man] Who was the power of attorney  
on the new documents Carole produced?

600

00:35:11,651 --> 00:35:12,568  
Not me.

601

00:35:14,737 --> 00:35:18,658  
That new power of attorney  
gave her control over the estate.

602

00:35:19,951 --> 00:35:22,995  
[Joe] But she prepared  
his power of attorney.

603

00:35:25,832 --&gt; 00:35:28,793

A normal person would put  
"Upon my death," you know.

604

00:35:29,460 --&gt; 00:35:31,712

First sentence, "Upon my disappearance."

605

00:35:33,214 --&gt; 00:35:37,510

[man] Isn't it suspicious that the power  
of attorney says, "Upon my disappearance"?

606

00:35:37,760 --&gt; 00:35:39,220

Is that normal verbiage?

607

00:35:39,846 --&gt; 00:35:45,309

I have, in 37 years,  
never seen it say, "Or disappearance."

608

00:35:45,935 --&gt; 00:35:46,811

Never have.

609

00:35:47,520 --&gt; 00:35:50,356

Um, in that respect,  
this is terribly unusual.

610

00:35:50,857 --&gt; 00:35:52,775

I don't know who anticipates--

611

00:35:52,859 --&gt; 00:35:54,318

Everybody anticipates their death,

612

00:35:54,402 --&gt; 00:35:57,071

but who in the world  
anticipates disappearance?

613

00:35:59,448 --&gt; 00:36:03,161

[man] And how did Carole behave  
in the aftermath of his disappearance?

614

00:36:03,578 --&gt; 00:36:05,538

[Farr] After Don disappeared,

615

00:36:05,621 --> 00:36:10,001  
Carole and her family got rid of  
everybody that worked for Don.

616

00:36:11,127 --> 00:36:15,882  
They got rid of everything...  
that he owned.

617

00:36:18,050 --> 00:36:21,095  
[Rathbone] There was a note pinned  
to the refrigerator door that said,

618

00:36:21,179 --> 00:36:24,473  
"Never speak that man's name again  
in this house."

619

00:36:26,601 --> 00:36:28,394  
Do you remember that,  
Donna telling us that?

620

00:36:28,477 --> 00:36:29,937  
-I forgot.  
-I remember that very well.

621

00:36:34,734 --> 00:36:36,569  
[man] But then what about  
all of Don's assets?

622

00:36:36,652 --> 00:36:38,196  
Not the insurance policy. Was there--

623

00:36:38,279 --> 00:36:39,614  
I had nothing to do with that.

624

00:36:39,697 --> 00:36:41,699  
[man] All his real estate,  
all of his holdings?

625

00:36:42,533 --> 00:36:43,993  
All went under his will, didn't it?

626

00:36:44,702 --> 00:36:48,706

The will wouldn't have come into play  
because if you disappear,

627

00:36:49,248 --> 00:36:52,376  
you can't do anything for five years.

628

00:36:54,420 --> 00:36:57,882  
So Carole had him declared legally dead

629

00:36:58,633 --> 00:37:01,135  
five years and one day  
after he disappeared.

630

00:37:04,513 --> 00:37:05,932  
[man] Here's the latest on the case.

631

00:37:06,015 --> 00:37:08,643  
A judge has just declared Lewis dead

632

00:37:08,726 --> 00:37:10,186  
since he's been missing five years,

633

00:37:10,269 --> 00:37:12,063  
but Hillsborough County  
Sheriff's deputies say

634

00:37:12,146 --> 00:37:15,650  
they will keep the case open  
until they have proof.

635

00:37:19,237 --> 00:37:21,948  
A lot of things happened  
during those five years.

636

00:37:22,448 --> 00:37:24,784  
A lot of things were moved around.

637

00:37:24,867 --> 00:37:27,703  
She took out a lot of good things  
for herself

638

00:37:27,787 --> 00:37:30,039

and put in bad things in their accounts.

639

00:37:30,122 --> 00:37:31,916  
We ended up with all the yucky stuff.

640

00:37:33,125 --> 00:37:38,172  
[Lewis Cross] She was taking property  
out of Don's name and our names

641

00:37:38,256 --> 00:37:39,882  
and putting it in her name.

642

00:37:41,342 --> 00:37:44,220  
[Carole] I was the other woman for years.

643

00:37:44,512 --> 00:37:45,930  
After the kids came back

644

00:37:46,013 --> 00:37:48,766  
and they said that the mother didn't get  
a fair settlement

645

00:37:48,849 --> 00:37:51,435  
and they tried to take him back to court,  
get more money out of him,

646

00:37:51,519 --> 00:37:55,356  
that's when he disowned them.  
And so he said to nullify their trust,

647

00:37:55,439 --> 00:37:57,441  
but I didn't because I felt like  
those are his kids.

648

00:37:57,566 --> 00:37:59,360  
And someday  
he's going to feel differently,

649

00:37:59,443 --> 00:38:00,945  
so I left it in place.

650

00:38:05,366 --> 00:38:07,702

[man] So what's the theory  
that makes the most sense?

651

00:38:09,537 --> 00:38:11,289  
Well, there's no proof.

652

00:38:12,790 --> 00:38:15,710  
I feel the one that would benefit the most

653

00:38:15,793 --> 00:38:18,087  
from something happening to my father...

654

00:38:18,629 --> 00:38:20,256  
um... is Carol.

655

00:38:21,173 --> 00:38:22,174  
She knows.

656

00:38:24,051 --> 00:38:26,387  
You've got to look at it  
in the eyes of the law.

657

00:38:26,470 --> 00:38:30,391  
I mean, I can sit here on this interview  
and tell you I'd kill 37 people a week.

658

00:38:30,975 --> 00:38:31,934  
Well, that's okay...

659

00:38:33,060 --> 00:38:34,603  
but you got to have the bodies...

660

00:38:34,687 --> 00:38:36,897  
[laughs] or it doesn't count.

661

00:38:37,481 --> 00:38:38,733  
[Carole] Oh! You got me!

662

00:38:38,941 --> 00:38:41,319  
[reporter] His wife says the worst part  
is not knowing.

663

00:38:41,610 --> 00:38:44,322  
No closure and no redemption for her.

664

00:38:44,488 --> 00:38:45,990  
There's no way that I can finally say,

665

00:38:46,115 --> 00:38:47,908  
"See! I didn't do it!"

666

00:38:49,035 --> 00:38:49,869  
I can't do it.

667

00:38:51,329 --> 00:38:54,707  
Nothing has ever shown up  
on this case whatsoever.

668

00:38:54,790 --> 00:38:57,793  
That poor woman is having to live  
under a cloud of suspicion all this time.

669

00:38:57,877 --> 00:38:58,711  
She sure is.

670

00:38:58,794 --> 00:39:00,171  
Hell, for the fun of it, let's see,

671

00:39:00,254 --> 00:39:01,714  
Carole's bitching that...

672

00:39:01,797 --> 00:39:03,716  
she has this black cloud over her head

673

00:39:03,799 --> 00:39:06,677  
of people thinking  
that she fed her husband to the tigers.

674

00:39:07,845 --> 00:39:11,057  
I mean, imagine that maybe  
she didn't have anything to do with it,

675

00:39:11,682 --> 00:39:13,726

and let's say she did love Don,

676

00:39:13,809 --> 00:39:17,021  
and she did mourn his death tremendously.

677

00:39:17,855 --> 00:39:19,440  
To live with people

678

00:39:19,857 --> 00:39:23,486  
constantly saying those things  
and making those accusations,

679

00:39:24,070 --> 00:39:28,491  
you know, that can be hurtful  
and can change a person too.

680

00:39:31,827 --> 00:39:35,331  
-[man] Was there ever a formal memorial...  
-No.

681

00:39:35,414 --> 00:39:36,791  
...or funeral or anything?

682

00:39:36,874 --> 00:39:38,542  
-No.  
-So no one...

683

00:39:38,918 --> 00:39:42,129  
I remember the day  
his death certificate came...

684

00:39:43,255 --> 00:39:47,051  
I opened the letter and I just--

685

00:39:47,134 --> 00:39:49,136  
I remember looking out the window

686

00:39:49,428 --> 00:39:52,348  
and then the next time  
that I remembered anything

687

00:39:52,431 --> 00:39:53,682

it was pitch black outside.

688

00:39:53,766 --> 00:39:56,394

It was just like  
I had just completely zoned out.

689

00:39:56,477 --> 00:39:58,229

I don't know where I went,

690

00:39:58,312 --> 00:40:02,233

but that was the closest thing  
that I had to a memorial.

691

00:40:03,776 --> 00:40:05,986

[man] And what about the money in the end?

692

00:40:06,070 --> 00:40:11,158

We definitely did not end up, um,  
with, um...

693

00:40:12,451 --> 00:40:14,745

If I had to say it, probably ten percent.

694

00:40:16,080 --> 00:40:19,792

[man] You inherited only ten percent  
of his estate?

695

00:40:20,793 --> 00:40:21,794

Mm-hmm.

696

00:40:22,253 --> 00:40:23,629

[man] And where did the rest go?

697

00:40:25,047 --> 00:40:25,965

Carole.

698

00:40:31,470 --> 00:40:33,556

[Carole]

There is a science of getting rich,

699

00:40:34,014 --> 00:40:36,142

and it is an exact science.

700

00:40:37,309 --> 00:40:41,021  
The ownership of money and property

701

00:40:41,105 --> 00:40:43,983  
comes from doing things in a certain way.

702

00:40:44,400 --> 00:40:47,027  
Those who do things in a certain way,

703

00:40:47,361 --> 00:40:50,865  
whether on purpose or accidentally,

704

00:40:50,948 --> 00:40:52,783  
get rich.

705

00:41:01,459 --> 00:41:06,130  
Relative to most... animal people,

706

00:41:07,256 --> 00:41:11,260  
I would characterize her  
as reasonably rational.

707

00:41:11,343 --> 00:41:12,511  
[Carole chuckles]

708

00:41:15,264 --> 00:41:17,641  
[Carole] We met on November 1st in 2002.

709

00:41:18,767 --> 00:41:21,812  
On November 1st of 2004, we got married.

710

00:41:24,064 --> 00:41:27,610  
[Howard] My number one goal in life  
is gonna be to make this woman happy.

711

00:41:37,077 --> 00:41:39,330  
[McQueen]  
I'd love to be able to attend a funeral,

712

00:41:41,040 --> 00:41:42,291

see a headstone.

713

00:41:44,168 --> 00:41:45,503  
I would like closure.

714

00:41:46,462 --> 00:41:47,630  
[man] And what about justice?

715

00:41:48,422 --> 00:41:49,590  
That would be nice...

716

00:41:50,549 --> 00:41:53,135  
but I've never been a greedy person.

717

00:41:56,347 --> 00:41:57,640  
We all feel...

718

00:41:57,932 --> 00:42:01,602  
that Carole knows more  
than what she's telling.

719

00:42:04,480 --> 00:42:08,067  
There's nothing that I really want to say  
to any of these people.

720

00:42:08,484 --> 00:42:10,402  
I know that the only reason

721

00:42:10,486 --> 00:42:12,655  
that they are saying the things  
that they're saying

722

00:42:12,738 --> 00:42:14,740  
is because they see me as a threat

723

00:42:14,823 --> 00:42:17,159  
to their livelihood and to their ego.

724

00:42:17,535 --> 00:42:21,914  
And with that being  
their driving motivation,

725

00:42:21,997 --> 00:42:24,792  
there's nothing I'm gonna say or do  
that's gonna change that.

726

00:42:31,757 --> 00:42:35,469  
[Sanchez] We never felt  
that it was investigated well enough.

727

00:42:36,887 --> 00:42:41,016  
They did say Carole was the prime suspect  
at the time,

728

00:42:41,100 --> 00:42:43,727  
but until, like she said,  
until someone comes forward...

729

00:42:43,811 --> 00:42:45,187  
Until someone would come forward...

730

00:42:46,981 --> 00:42:51,485  
I cannot tell you that we have zeroed in  
on any particular suspect.

731

00:42:51,569 --> 00:42:53,362  
I'd be remiss if I said that.

732

00:42:53,445 --> 00:42:58,409  
There is absolutely no physical evidence  
at this point in time

733

00:42:58,492 --> 00:43:00,869  
that would point  
at one particular individual.

734

00:43:03,455 --> 00:43:05,332  
[Sanchez] When we started to speak out...

735

00:43:07,376 --> 00:43:09,128  
we did People magazine.

736

00:43:09,545 --> 00:43:15,426  
Inside Edition came to talk to us,

and Hard Copy I believe wanted to.

737

00:43:15,509 --> 00:43:18,971  
That's when we got the thing  
from Carole to stop.

738

00:43:19,054 --> 00:43:21,307  
"I have the money, you do not,

739

00:43:21,974 --> 00:43:24,101  
and if you continue talking,

740

00:43:24,476 --> 00:43:28,564  
I will take everything away from you  
and your family."

741

00:43:31,275 --> 00:43:33,068  
[Lewis Cross]  
That's why we haven't spoken out.

742

00:43:33,652 --> 00:43:35,696  
[man]  
'Cause you're afraid of Carole Baskin?

743

00:43:35,779 --> 00:43:37,281  
Oh, yes, I am.

744

00:43:38,157 --> 00:43:39,199  
I am.

745

00:43:46,290 --> 00:43:48,125  
[Joe over the phone] I'm taking Carole on

746

00:43:48,959 --> 00:43:51,211  
because everyone else is scared to.

747

00:43:53,756 --> 00:43:55,924  
She has a lot of answering to do.

748

00:43:58,260 --> 00:43:59,386  
Her day is coming.

749  
00:44:09,271 --> 00:44:12,566  
[closing music plays]

**N** SERIES  
**TIGER KING**  
**MURDER, MAYHEM AND MADNESS**



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