

Detective Bureau

The most infamous unsolved murder cases are reexamined by an elite team of true crime experts, who debunk the prevailing theories, reassess potential subjects and shine a new light that may reveal the key to finding the real killer...

SERIES SYNOPSIS:

In the 20th Century, mass media, universal law enforcement and the deployment of technological and scientific advances has meant that when a high profile crime is committed it becomes instant news. When that crime remains unsolved it quickly becomes legend. Cases that have fascinated and shocked us, making those involved dig deeper, work longer and go further in their desire to find answers and deliver justice.

In this 10-part series our team of detectives go back through some of the most iconic and enduring unsolved cases of the 20th Century to look at the questions that challenged the detectives that investigated, puzzled the journalists that reported and frustrated the lawyers that prosecuted.

Our multidisciplinary team is authoritative and confident. They will use their backgrounds in Criminal Psychology, Serious Crime Detection, Forensics, Criminal Law and Prosecution and Social History to piece together the known contemporary views, historical details and particulars of each case and the cast of characters involved at the time.

EPISODE STRUCTURE:

Our team will dissect previous theories and cut through the noise and provide a complete understanding of what has gone before and what we know now. Each episode will also feature a specialist on the case, from former detectives who worked on the crimes to journalists and authors who know every critical detail about the unsolved mystery. Together, they will explore the theories, both speculative and fact-based. We will cover the usual suspects, the outliers, those brought in and let go. Has crime detection moved forward enough for us to say now with any confidence what we couldn't prove back then? As we move through suspects and theories considering and discounting them based on evidence alone at the conclusion of the episode the viewer is left with a sense that if this criminal mystery is something so enduring, so lost in the sands of time that it cannot be explained - at least it can be understood.

Episode 1: Black Dahlia

(1947 / CALIFORNIA, USA)

Perhaps one of the most famous unsolved murder cases in American history, Elizabeth Short, known posthumously as the Black Dahlia, was an American woman found murdered in the Leimert Park neighborhood of Los Angeles on January 15, 1947. The gruesome nature of the crime helped bolster its infamy - which included the mutilation of her corpse, which was bisected at the waist. Over the years new evidence has been found, but many still believe that it is a murder that will never be solved. It is one of the oldest unsolved cases in Los Angeles County.

SOURCES:

James Ellory, author of The Black Dahlia (1987)

TOLICE BEFAR MENT

Episode 2: Annecy Shootings

(2012 / HAUTE-SAVOIE, FR)

The Annecy Shootings were the deaths of three members of a British family and a French citizen on the Route Forestière Domaniale near the southern end of Lake Annecy. Four people were killed and two daughters both survived the attack. One, aged 4, was hidden under the legs of her dead mother in the rear footwell for eight hours. The elder daughter, aged 7, was shot in the shoulder and also suffered a head wound. As recently as January 2022 a man was arrested in connection with the murders. However, he was released after prosecutors said the man had been ruled out as the killer.

SOURCES:

Tom Parry, author of The Perfect Crime (2015)



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Episode 3: Zodiac Killer

(1968-1969 / CALIFORNIA, USA)

The Zodiac Killer is amongst the most famous unsolved murder cases in American history. Rampant in the 1960s, there are five known victims, murdered in the San Francisco Bay Area between December 1968 and October 1969. The serial killer earned their pseudonym from a series of taunting letters and cards that they mailed to regional newspapers, in which they threatened killing sprees and bombings if they were not printed. Some letters included cryptograms or ciphers, in which the killer claimed to be collecting victim slaves for the afterlife. Even though these written communications ceased in 1974, the case remains open in the San Francisco, Vallejo, Napa, Solano and the California Department of Justice.

SOURCES:

Michael Morford & Michael Ferguson, hosts of the Criminology podcast and authors of The Case Of
The Zodiac Killer: The Complete Transcript (2018) / Robert Graysmith, author of Zodiac (1986) / Brenda
Haugen, author of The Zodiac Killer: Terror and Mystery (2011) / Frances J. Armstrong, author of The
Zodiac Killer: The Mystery Behind America's Most Feared Serial Killer (2017)



Episode 4: Tupac & Biggie

(1996 & 1997 / NEVADA/CALIFORNIA, USA)

The drive-by murders of infamous rappers Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls have gone unsolved for over twenty years. Tupac and Biggie are both widely considered two of the most influential and successful rappers of all time and are among the best-selling music artists. In 1996, while in Las Vegas, Tupac was shot four times in a drive-by shooting. Mere months later, rap rival The Notorious B.I.G was also shot in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles. The deaths of rap's biggest icons has caused controversy and countless conspiracies. Many believe the case will never be solved as the LA Police Department and Las Vegas Police Department are rumoured to be behind both these hip-hop legend's demise.

SOURCES:

Greg Kading, author and former detective on the Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls cases / Randall Sullivan, journalist and author of Labyrinth: The True Story of City of Lies, the Murders of Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. and the Implication of the Los Angeles Police Department (2003) & Dead Wrong: The Continuing Story of City of Lies, Corruption and Cover-Up in the Notorious B.I.G. Murder Investigation (2019)

Episode 5: Jill Dando

(1999 / LONDON, UK)

British journalist, TV presenter and newsreader Jill Dando was shot dead outside her home in Fulham on the morning of April 26th, 1999. Her death prompted the biggest murder inquiry conducted by the Metropolitan Police and the country's largest criminal investigation since the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper. A local man, Barry George, was convicted and imprisoned for the murder, but after eight years in prison he was acquitted following an appeal and retrial. In 2012, the Serbian "warlord" Arkan was named as a suspect in the case, although he had died in 2000. No other suspect has been charged with Dando's murder, and the case remains unsolved.

SOURCES:

Scott Lamax, human rights campaigner and author of The Case of Barry George (2004), Who Killed Jill Dando?
 (2005) and Justice for Jill (2007)



Episode 6: JonBenét Ramsey

(1996 / COLORADO, USA)

JonBenét Ramsey was just six-years-old when she was murdered. The mini beauty pageant star was found bludgeoned and strangled hours after a ransom note was found at her family house on December 25 1996. Her father, John, found her body in the basement of their house about seven hours after she had been reported missing. It became a highly publicized case due to JonBenét's brief beauty pageant career, her parents' wealth and the unusual evidence found in the case. The crime is still considered a cold case and remains an open investigation.

SOURCES:

 Tom Daney, Homicide Detective on the case. / Steve Thomas, former Bolder Police Detective and author of JonBenét: Inside the Ramsey Murder Investigation (2000) / Paula Woodward, Emmy-award winning investigative reporter and author of We Have Your Daughter (2016) and Unsolved: The JonBenét Ramsey Murder 25 Years Later (2021)

Episode 7: The Boy in the Box

(1957 / PHILADELPHIA, USA)

For over 65 years Joseph Augustus Zarelli was known as The Boy In the Box. At just four years old he was found naked, extensively beaten and dead on the side of the road in a cardboard box. He appeared to have been cleaned and freshly groomed but was severely malnourished and covered in scars. Despite the publicity of the case throughout the years, his identity remained unknown...until now. On November 30th 2022, Philadelphia Police Department announced that detectives had determined the boy's identity using DNA and genealogical databases. While Joseph now has a name, his killer remains unknown.

SOURCES:

 Colleen M. Fitzpatrick, American forensic scientist, genealogist and entrepreneur who helped identify Joseph's body. / Misty Gillis, a forensic genealogist who helped identify Joseph's body / Philadelphia Police Captain Jason Smith / Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw

Episode 8: Jack The Stripper Murders

(1959 - 1963 / LONDON, UK)

The Jack The Stripper Murders were a series of six murders in West London, England, in 1964 and 1965. The victims, all prostitutes, were found undressed in or near the River Thames, leading the press to nickname the killer Jack the Stripper. Two earlier murders, committed in West London in 1959 and 1963, have also been linked by some investigators to the same perpetrator. This string of murders sparked one of the biggest manhunts in Scotland Yard's history and garnered intense media coverage, yet the case remains unsolved. All forensic evidence gathered at the time is believed to either have been destroyed or lost.

SOURCES:

· Neil Milkins, author of Who Was Jack The Stripper? The Hammersmith Nude Murders (2011)

Episode 9: Roberto Calvi

(1982 / LONDON, UK)

"God's Banker" - that's what they called Milan native and chairman of Banco Ambrosiano, Roberto Calivi before his controversial death in 1982. In a series of remarkable events, Calvi went missing from his Rome apartment on the 10th June, having fled to Venice he traveled to Zurich before landing in London. Just eight days after his disappearance Calvi's body was found hanging from the scaffolding beneath London's Blackfriars Bridge. Calvi had five bricks in his pockets and \$14,000 in three different currencies. Popular speculation has linked the Vatican Bank, the Mafia, and the clandestine Propaganda Due to his death. It remains unsolved to this day.

SOURCES:

Angela Mary Cecilia Gallop, British forensic scientist who worked on the Roberto Calvi case.

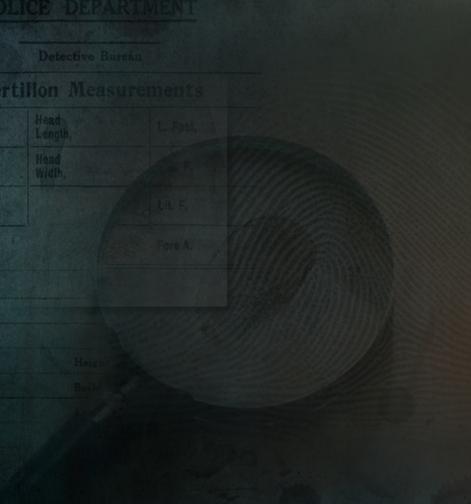
Episode 10: Natalie Wood

(1981 / CALIFORNIA, USA)

Natalie Wood was at the height of fame in 1981, having transitioned from a successful child actor in Rebel Without A Cause and The Miracle on 34th Street to more mature roles in iconic films such as West Side Story and Gypsy. Married to Robert Wagner, they enjoyed a life of luxury until one evening, while spending a weekend boat trip on Wagner's yacht with Christopher Walken and Wagner himself, she died under mysterious circumstances aged 43. Authorities recovered her body one mile away from the boat, with a small inflatable dinghy beached nearby. Cause of death was declared to be accidental drowning and hypothermia but there were also unexplained abrasions on her arms, wrists, knees, neck and forehead. In 2018 Wagner was declared a person of interest by the police, but to this day Natalie Wood's death remains a mystery.

SOURCES:

Suzanne Finstead, author of Natalie Wood: The Complete Biography (2020)



Other Potential Cases:

MURDER OF DANIEL MORGAN - (1987 / LONDON, UK)

KEN MCELROY - (1981 / MISSOURI, USA)

MINERAL WASHINGTON MURDERS - (1985 / WASHINGTON, USA)

FROG BOYS - (1991 / DAEGU, ROK)

MURDER OF YASUKO WATANABE - (1997 / TOKYO, JPN)

SOMERTON MAN - (1948 / ADELAIDE, AUS)

Head Length,

Head Width

NO JUSTICE

UNSOLVED MURDERS

BIG