UNSOLVED MYSTERIES PODCAST | MISSING FROM THE BRIDGE

S1E26 Transcript

ROY CAVAZOZ: For somebody just to disappear like that. I mean, I know it happens, and it happens thousands of times across the United States a year, but it's just baffling that, you know, in the day and the age we're in, and the technology we have, that somebody can just utterly disappear.

BARBARA RUSSELL: My first thoughts when I heard about it was, "Oh, she's probably just out driving around, doing something." And when I heard about the way the accident happened and everything, it's like, no, there's more to this story. And I kept thinking every day, "Where is Kim Flint?"

NARRATION: ON SEPTEMBER 26TH 2018, DEEP IN RURAL EAST TEXAS, STORM CLOUDS GATHER AS A GREEN SUV SPEEDS DOWN HIGHWAY 84. REACHING SPEEDS OF OVER 80 MILES AN HOUR, THE SUV SUDDENLY SMASHES INTO A GUARDRAIL ON A BRIDGE OVER THE ANGELINA RIVER. THE VEHICLE CAREENS OUT OF CONTROL BEFORE COMING TO A STOP AT THE END OF THE BRIDGE. LESS THAN A HALF-HOUR LATER, POLICE FIND THE CRASHED CAR. THE KEYS ARE INSIDE, ALONG WITH A PAIR OF GLASSES BELONGING TO 57-YEAR-OLD KIM FLINT, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF KIM, OR ANYONE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER. KIM FLINT HAS VANISHED, AND NO ONE KNOWS IF SHE'S DEAD OR ALIVE.

I'M STEVE FRENCH, AND THIS IS UNSOLVED MYSTERIES: "MISSING FROM THE BRIDGE."

ROY CAVAZOZ: September the 26th, our sheriff's department, they received a call down on US Highway 84, east of Reklaw, Texas in reference to a one-vehicle accident.

NARRATION: ROY CAVAZOZ IS AN INVESTIGATOR WITH THE RUSK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IN EAST TEXAS.

ROY CAVAZOZ: Once they got down there, there was no one around the vehicle. Our dispatch was able to search our in-house for the registered owner, which was James Flint, and able to find a phone number for him.

NARRATION: JAMES FLINT IS ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK WHEN INVESTIGATORS CALL TO EXPLAIN THE MYSTERIOUS ACCIDENT SCENE. HE TELLS THEM THAT HIS WIFE, KIM, WAS THE PERSON WHO DROVE THE SUV AND SAYS HE LAST SPOKE WITH HER JUST A LITTLE OVER AN HOUR BEFORE. SHE WAS AT THEIR HOUSE AT THE TIME, AND DIDN'T MENTION ANY PLANS TO LEAVE BEFORE HE GOT HOME. AT THE CRASH

SCENE, A BRIDGE OVER THE ANGELINA RIVER IN A RURAL WOODED AREA, DETECTIVE CAVAZOZ BEGINS HIS INVESTIGATION.

ROY CAVAZOZ: I was expecting, if she had the wreck and, and bumped her head, or became disoriented, that she would have just maybe wandered into the woods and hopefully we would find her, you know, because we found no blood inside the vehicle. Nothing like a broken windshield where she may have gone into the windshield, or something like that. So, I, I wasn't sure exactly if she was injured or to what extent but, first glance, that's what we were looking for is we've got somebody that was hurt in this accident and we need to find them.

CORBETT FLINT: I tried to call the house that morning, and nobody answered, which wasn't out of the norm. You know, my mom, she liked to sleep a little later.

NARRATION: CORBETT FLINT IS KIM'S SON. ON THE DAY OF THE CRASH, HE HAD JUST FINISHED A TWO-MONTH TRUCK DRIVING JOB AND PLANNED TO VISIT HIS PARENTS, BUT NEEDED A RIDE HOME.

CORBETT FLINT: So, I called my dad and I was like, "Hey, um, you almost here?" And he's like, "Well, we got a situation." And I'm like, "What's going on?" And he's, "Well, they found your mother's vehicle crashed on highway 4. She's not around it, and I'm here at the house, and she's not home, and the vehicle's gone."

NARRATION: JAMES PICKS UP HIS SON CORBETT AND THEY HEAD TO THE ANGELINA RIVER BRIDGE, BAFFLED BY WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED ON THAT HIGHWAY, AND WHERE KIM MIGHT BE.

CORBETT FLINT: From the, what I seen on the, the, crash scene there, you know, it looks like, right before the end of the bridge, she veered to the right. Not like a, like a sharp right turn, but like a, just a, like a gradual turn right into the bridge, and just, just slid along the bridge and the front right tire hit the metal guardrail that connects to the concrete and uh, it left road scarring on a few hundred yards up the road till it came to a stop. In a way, it looked to me, with my little bit of, you know, few years I did accident investigations Marine Corps. It looked like somebody that was dozed off, or just kind of, how you daydream? You kind of just drift over somewhere. That's how it looked to me, but I don't know what happened. You know, if it was the malfunction of the vehicle, if it was her. I don't think she was trying to run off the bridge, because the Angelina River there, it's a, in some places the Angelina River can be big. I've seen it was bigger. We had a, I think there was a drought that year, so there wasn't a lot of water in the bridge.

NARRATION: IT APPEARS THAT AFTER CRASHING HER CAR, KIM MAY HAVE BEEN CONFUSED AND WANDERED AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT. POLICE

COORDINATE A SEARCH FOR THE MISSING WOMAN, CERTAIN SHE COULD NOT HAVE GONE FAR, SINCE HER FAMILY REPORTS THAT SHE SUFFERS FROM GOUT IN ONE FOOT WHICH LIMITS HER MOBILITY. BUT, A HEAVY RAINSTORM IS APPROACHING AND THE ANGELINA RIVER IS KNOWN TO FLOOD.

CORBETT FLINT: It's not cloudy. It's not raining yet. I'm doing a hasty search of the scene. I don't see any smudge marks, any disturbed grass from the scene trailing out into the woods. I don't see anything disturbed too much, going down to the river. We looked in the river the best we could because I don't have any equipment. I don't have any, you know, flare type equipment for infrared. I don't have search dogs. You know, we just got a flashlight and our feet. My mom, she's probably out there suffering if she's in the woods, you know, laying there, hurt. Now at six, seven hours, I'm thinking the worst. I was praying and hoping that they would find her and, you know, we'll call the ambulance and get her some help. But that's not what happened.

NARRATION: THE DISAPPEARANCE OF KIM FLINT MYSTIFIES HER FAMILY AND THEY'RE DEVASTATED BY THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY HAVE LOST HER FOREVER.

CORBETT FLINT: We loved her. Her friends loved her. My mom was very caring, giving person. She would help people out. She volunteered to help the elderly lady that lived down the road, helped her out, taking her to appointments. And always growing up, she was very strong. We moved around a lot. So, I mean, every time we moved, my mom seemed to always find friends and build rapport with anybody. And she's very involved with churches, so she would find a local church to go to and she's always big into gardening, and she had a green thumb, and can bring anything back to life. She was a wonderful mom. As I got older, especially once I got in the military, I would come home and, and thank my parents for how they raised me and the sacrifices they had to endure to provide for me and my brother, you know, to have a good education in life and get a start.

NARRATION: KIM WAS KNOWN AMONG HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR BEING OUTGOING, GREGARIOUS, AND COMPASSIONATE TO EVERYONE SHE ENCOUNTERED. HER FRIEND BARBARA RUSSELL RAN A GENERAL STORE IN MT. ENTERPRISE, THE CLOSEST TOWN TO THE FLINT'S HOME.

BARBARA RUSSELL: She would come into the store, and we would discuss things like Young Living oils and refinishing products, because she loved to restore old furniture. And, she would tell me about her kids, and her grandkids, and how much she really enjoyed them. And she sometimes would come by and say, "Oh, I'm on my way to Louisiana. I gotta go babysit." And she's just, like, in hog heaven at that point.

NARRATION: IN THE LAST FEW YEARS BEFORE HER DISAPPEARANCE, HOWEVER, KIM'S FAMILY BEGAN TO NOTICE SOME CONCERNING CHANGES IN HER PERSONALITY AND MENTAL STATE.

CORBETT FLINT: She would always be, uh, pretty interested on where I was at, what I was doing when I first started trucking, what I'm seeing, where I'm going. And my mom was very, she would always probe me for information. Talking, talking, you know, get me to talk. I'm usually was the one more reserved, then it went to where I was asking her questions. And she was just given, you know, yesno answers. I could feel something in my gut. Something was wrong, but I wasn't there at the time to see it. I can tell through our conversations that she was declining, just over the phones. It hurts. I don't know if I could've done more, or I don't know what else I could have done. Two years before she disappeared, she actually hurt herself. She attempted her own life. She was just kind of talking about, people are after her, and stuff because, like, she was kind of out of her mind. When that happened, you know, state law mandates that you go through behavioral health. She had to go through the East Texas Behavioral Health Clinic. Once they got her on the right medication, she kind of snapped out of it. She went from about 30% to about 110%. During that time, you know, them two years, she was up and down. Um, she was a very, spiritual person, very God-fearing person. Um, she also believed in, like, natural remedies and stuff. So, the medication she was on, she would kind of try to get off of them, and, you know, we would plead for her to, you know, stay on them. But I'm not there all the time. My dad, he, he was working at the time, pretty much from five to five every day. And, it's just hard to regulate and help her out with that. I just let her know people, you know, people care about you, love you. They don't want, want to see you like this, or see you hurt yourself or anything.

NARRATION: AT THE TIME OF HER DISAPPEARANCE, POLICE LEARN THAT KIM MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN TAKING HER MEDICATION, WHICH COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO AN UNSTABLE MENTAL STATE. BUT ON THE DAY SHE WENT MISSING, NO ONE NOTICED ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

CORBETT FLINT: I think around 3:10, my mom calls my dad and, uh, asks him to bring her chicken finger basket that she likes to get so he's like, "Okay, well, do you want to wait and come with me to pick up, you know, Corbett?" She's like, "No, I'll see him when he gets home," which was, wasn't out of the norm now, you know, she was like that. But that's the last time my dad talked to her, you know, then they, he gets a call from the sheriff's office, hour, like 10, 15 minutes later that her vehicle's crashed on that road. So, in that hour, something happened.

NEWS CLIP: Search crews were back and forth today looking for any clues in the disappearance of a missing East Texas woman.

NEWS CLIP: They searched around Flint's home, nearby fields and ponds, and on county roads. With teams of dogs and ATVs, members of first priority search and rescue set out to cover every inch of ground that could possibly hold a clue near the community of Laneville.

NARRATION: POLICE VISIT KIM'S HOME TO SEARCH FOR CLUES — ANYTHING THAT COULD INDICATE WHY SHE LEFT THE HOUSE THAT AFTERNOON. WHEN THEY ARRIVE, THEY FIND THE DOOR UNLOCKED AND THE FAMILY DOG, ZIGGY, OUTSIDE.

ROY CAVAZOZ: There was nothing out of place in the home. Nothing appeared to be disturbed. There was no signs of any type of struggle or anything like that in the home. She did take both sets of keys to that vehicle and her purse was left at home.

NARRATION: WHY DID KIM TAKE TWO SETS OF KEYS WITH HER? KIM'S FRIEND, BARBARA RUSSELL, BELIEVES IT'S A CLUE THAT SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN KIM'S DISAPPEARANCE. SHE LEARNED THAT THERE WERE TWO AMAZON PACKAGES ABANDONED ON KIM'S FRONT PORCH, AND BECAUSE OF A RECENT SERIES OF THEFTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, BARBARA HAS A THEORY THAT KIM FELL VICTIM TO SOME OPPORTUNISTIC THIEVES.

BARBARA RUSSELL: When they saw those two boxes, they were going to proceed up to pick the boxes up from the porch. When they got there, Kim opened the door. She startled them, they startled her, and at that point, they forgot the boxes and then grabbed the keys and Kim. My speculation is there were two different vehicles out there. And if you're not familiar with a set of keys that goes to that vehicle, you're going to grab what's on the wall, and they grab both sets of those to try to figure out which one worked. And that would be the reason that they took both of them, and threw them in the vehicle when they got the vehicle started.

NARRATION: ASIDE FROM THE MYSTERY OF WHY SHE LEFT THE HOUSE, THE STRETCH OF HIGHWAY WHERE KIM'S VEHICLE CRASHED WAS NOT AN AREA KIM WOULD USUALLY TRAVEL. IN FACT, KIM HAD HARDLY BEEN DRIVING AT ALL.

CORBETT FLINT: She barely driven in a couple years and why would she take off that day, knowing my dad was coming home with her food that she asked for, and knew what I was waiting just to come home?

NARRATION: POLICE INTERVIEW SEVERAL NEIGHBORS IN THE AREA, HOPING ONE OF THEM MAY HAVE SEEN KIM AS SHE LEFT HER HOUSE.

ROY CAVAZOZ: The Flints live on a dead-end county road. And on the corner of that road, there's a gentleman that lives there. We spoke to him. He explained to us that he is disabled and that he's home all

day and that he has a recliner that faces a window that allows him to see that intersection all day long. And he told us the only time that he left the day in question was him to go pick his son up at school. He said he left the house probably right around 3/3:05. And he said, "We were back home just a little before four." Well, I know from phone records that Kim spoke to James at 3:10pm that day, from their landline phone at the house. So, if she hung that phone up and then sometime within the next 10, 15, 20 minutes she left, the neighbor was not there to see her leave.

NARRATION: KIM'S LAST CONTACT WITH HER HUSBAND WAS THE PHONE CALL AT 3:10PM, AND THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED 15 MILES FROM KIM'S HOME. THE ACCIDENT REPORT CAME IN AT 4PM, WHICH MEANS THE VEHICLE CRASHED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 3:30 AND 4PM. ONCE THE CAR IS TOWED TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, INVESTIGATOR CAVAZOZ AND HIS TEAM EXAMINE THE VEHICLE, HOPING TO FIND A CLUE TO KIM'S DISAPPEARANCE.

ROY CAVAZOZ: We looked at the vehicle, all sides of it, to see if she was possibly rammed or pushed into the bridge. There's no markings on any other part of the car, except where she struck the bridge. So, there's no evidence pointing in that direction. The trooper said that the driver's seat was pulled way up, which would make sense because she's five foot two. She did have glasses and those were found in the vehicle, in the passenger side floorboard. From the impact, it would have thrown her forward into the side, towards the passenger side. So, she very well could have lost her glasses at that point in time. There was a couple other detectives that I assigned to do the processing. I know that they took what we would call just swabs of certain areas of the vehicle. And what you're looking at there is for any potential of any touch-DNA or anything like that. There was no blood in the vehicle, no airbags were deployed. We didn't find any fingerprints of any significance. We completely photographed the car, 360 photographs of it. Now, in the state of Texas, most agencies, with the exception of huge agencies, do not have a forensic crime lab. We have to use the, uh, Texas Department of Public Safety's crime lab. And there's criteria for DNA testing is you must have a felony offense for them to test, do any testing. This is a missing persons case. So, at this point in time and even today, we do not have a criminal offense. So, I could not submit this stuff to a, uh, a DPS lab to have it tested. We still have the swabs. They are in evidence here at the sheriff's department, but they have not been tested.

NARRATION: ONE KEY PIECE OF EVIDENCE THE POLICE RECOVER IS THE BLACK BOX INSIDE THE JEEP THAT RECORDED DATA FROM THE CAR'S FINAL MOMENTS BEFORE THE CRASH.

ROY CAVAZOZ: She was not wearing a seatbelt because the seatbelt sensor was not on. I know that there was no one in the passenger seat because the airbag sensor that picks up the weight of a person to activate the airbag, it was not on. I'm pretty confident that she was alone in the car. Prior to the accident, the vehicle was traveling at 83 miles an hour, traveling straight, with the accelerator fully depressed. 0.06 seconds prior to the impact, there was a 45 degree turn to the right. Now the vehicle struck the

concrete guard rail at an angle, because it wasn't a front impact — it was an angled impact — it did not set off the airbags in the vehicle. So, it's kind of like if you're banking a cue ball, she hit the guardrail but then kind of bounced off of it, and then the accelerator completely comes off, and then immediately is punched back down. I know that the brakes were never applied. And you can see along that concrete where the vehicles slides along that concrete until it comes off the bridge, and then it goes maybe another 50, 75 yards. It started to go up a hill at this point. And then what I believe happened is, the tire finally folded up under the car and it couldn't go any further. The data I get from that black box tells me this was an intentional act.

NARRATION: BUT ALL THE HARD EVIDENCE THEY COLLECT DOESN'T GET INVESTIGATORS ANY CLOSER TO FINDING THE MISSING KIM FLINT, SO THEY TURN TO THE COMMUNITY MAKING A PUBLIC PLEA ASKING ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAVE PASSED BY THE ACCIDENT SCENE TO COME FORWARD.

ROY CAVAZOZ: I was contacted by a gentleman that, uh, stated that he had drove by there and that he had saw a white, Dually pick-up. He wasn't able to give me many details about that pick-up because, and like he said, "Quite honestly I wasn't, I just wasn't paying that great of attention. I saw the vehicle there that had been wrecked. I saw a white pickup there," and he said, "I just drove on by."

NARRATION: TO UNLOCK THE WITNESS'S VAGUE MEMORY, CAVAZOZ DECIDES TO TRY ONE OF THE MORE UNCONVENTIONAL TOOLS IN HIS INVESTIGATIVE ARSENAL.

ROY CAVAZOZ: Texas Department of Public Safety, their Investigation Division, they have certain investigators that are trained forensic hypnotists. So, I asked one of them to come down and I brought that gentleman in, and we did a hypnosis session with him to try to get a little more detail out of him. And we were able to, through the hypnosis, determine more information about the vehicle. He then gave us a description of the truck and he said it was a Chevrolet, due to him seeing the Chevy emblem on the tailgate. The truck has a chrome-bumper, big Magnum wheels. He said he then saw something in the center of the back windshield and was able to recall it was a clover that was around six inches and he said it was white in color. Based upon that information, I had a friend that was part of the Rusk 4H shooting sports, their emblem's of clover. And so, I ended up calling him to ask him, if he recalled ever giving one to, you know, someone driving a vehicle of that type, which he told me he had printed out hundreds of these stickers and that he could not recall giving one of them to anybody of that type of vehicle.

NARRATION: NEITHER THE CLOVER STICKER NOR THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUCK GENERATE ANY SOLID LEADS. BUT THE MAN WHO SAW THE WHITE TRUCK REVEALS UNDER HYPNOSIS THAT HE MAY HAVE CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF KIM HERSELF.

ROY CAVAZOZ: As he was passing the truck, he stated that he saw a person near the SUV at the back driver side, as he was approaching it from a ways off. He stated the person was small. He said the person squatted down like they were looking at something on the SUV. He said that he thinks it may have been a female due to the hair, said the person was wearing long pants, and as he continued to approach the vehicle, that the person turned away from him and then disappeared. He cannot recall where the person went. So, that's the information we were able to get from him during the hypnosis session. We've never located the white truck. We've put out multiple times advertising for someone that, you know, may recognize the description of the truck or may have been driving the truck that we simply wish to talk to him to tell us what they saw. Because they very well may have come upon the vehicle, saw it there, saw no one was around it, got out to check it and then got back in and drove off without calling law enforcement, you know? We don't know, because we've never been able to locate it.

NARRATION: THE TIP ABOUT THE WHITE PICKUP TRUCK ADDS A SUSPICIOUS LAYER TO THE MYSTERY OF KIM'S DISAPPEARANCE. IF SOMEONE SAW KIM OR INSPECTED HER CRASHED CAR, WHY DIDN'T THEY COME FORWARD? WAS IT JUST A GOOD SAMARITAN TRYING TO HELP? OR COULD THEY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN KIM'S DISAPPEARANCE?

CORBETT FLINT: Just like right time, right place, where hardly nobody was there at the time and, and maybe the wrong person stopped after she crashed. Just luck of the draw. You get the bad person that's wanting to do ill intentions. And they find a, you know, a helpless lady out there and take advantage of her vulnerability. I don't know. I mean, say if my mom was abducted by that person, or for whatever reason, I mean, I'm just thinking like, why would you want a 57-year-old woman, what purpose? But there's sick people in this world.

ROY CAVAZOZ: I mean, it, it could have been someone that drove up on it, saw it, got out, looked at the vehicle, didn't see anybody around it and got back in and drove off. They couldn't have been there for long simply because, on average, there was a vehicle coming through there about every 11 seconds. If someone stopped and did something that was nefarious toward Miss Flint, surely somebody would have been driving by to see something going on. I'm not saying that's not within the realm of possibility. It's just not the most probable answer.

NARRATION: DESPITE THE MANY POSSIBLE THEORIES ABOUT KIM'S DISAPPEARANCE, THE ONE THAT POLICE AND FAMILY AGREE IS MOST PROBABLE INVOLVES KIM FLINT HAVING A MENTAL HEALTH EPISODE THAT CAUSED HER TO LEAVE THE HOUSE AND INTENTIONALLY CRASH HER CAR.

ROY CAVAZOZ: Based upon the history that the family gave me as to her mental state at the time, the fact that she had stopped taking her medications, the fact that she had become really reclusive, I think there's a possibility that Kim may have had some type of a mental break, that she left the house just driving around. The information and data that I got off the black box indicates that the running into that

bridge in the manner that it was done was an intentional act, and that there was no other person in the vehicle. Now from that point forward, did she hit her head and was disoriented and got out of the vehicle and wandered off into the woods? I don't know. Did she get out of the vehicle? Was she trying to kill herself with a wreck and it didn't succeed? So, she gets out of the vehicle, and she realizes that once law enforcement and others get here, there's a possibility they may put me back into a mental institution for treatment? She may have decided, "I'm not gonna stick around here to find out," and walked off into the woods somewhere. That's a possibility.

CORBETT FLINT: I really just think that she had a mental breakdown and grabbed the keys and took off for whatever reason. People in that state of mind, you don't know what they're gonna do. But, let's say after the crash, my mom walked down to the river, which would have been about 150 yards and looked at it and jumped in where she knew it wasn't that deep. I guess, if you were out of your mind, you would do it. But, if you're somewhat of a stable mind, you know, that would be a pretty painful death. And it is not like a flowing river. It's a, it's a stagnant type, very slowly moving river. It's not like something that I would think, do you want to kill yourself, you're not going to go jump in that river.

NARRATION: OTHERS WHO KNEW KIM, SUCH AS BARBARA RUSSELL, REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT SUICIDE IS A VIABLE THEORY.

BARBARA RUSSELL: I honestly don't believe that she would have committed suicide. For one thing, she had everything right there at the house to do it. She didn't have to leave to go somewhere. Where was she going to do a suicide? I mean, if she were going to run off the bridge, she would have ran off at the beginning of the bridge and gone into the river. She would not have waited till the end and then jerked into the bridge rail. I think that she loved too much to take her own life. I could be wrong, but that is the feeling that I got from her.

NARRATION: REGARDLESS OF WHAT MOTIVATED KIM TO LEAVE HER HOUSE AND HEAD TO THE ANGELINA RIVER BRIDGE, THE BIGGER MY STERY IS WHERE DID SHE GO AFTER THE CRASH?

ROY CAVAZOZ: During the course of the investigation, there's been four searches. One was the night of the, uh, accident which was conducted by our patrol staff. Second search was that next morning that uh, I orchestrated and put together. On October the fourth of 2018, we went ahead and got another search together. At this time, because we've had a period of time that's gone by and she's not been located, my concerns are; did she pass away in the woods somewhere, and we need to find her remains? I contacted five separate teams of trained cadaver dogs to come out and assist us. None of them hit on anything or found anything.

CORBETT FLINT: I've submitted DNA to NamUs, and, uh, no Jane Does have popped up anywhere. So, she could still be alive. I just, missing person, you just don't know, you know, it's hard to

grieve. And I don't know if she's dead or alive. Now we're here today, over two years, and I still have no trace of my mom.

NARRATION: KIM'S FAMILY MUST FACE THE GRIM POSSIBILITY THAT IF SHE DID DIE AFTER WANDERING THROUGH THE WOODS, IN THE MIDDLE OF A RAINSTORM, HER REMAINS MAY NEVER BE FOUND.

ROY CAVAZOZ: One of my concerns is if she got down in there that evening, and she walked quite a ways south into those woods, which is the way the Angelina river runs, and then we had this uh, rain come in, and really flooded out that bottom, she could have very well been isolated, trapped by the waters, to where she couldn't find a way out. If she ended up in the river itself and, or something of that effect occurred, it could have washed her down that river, who knows how far. Down there by that river, you're going to have alligators. And what an alligator'll do, if they attack you in water, they're going to drag you under and drown you. And then what they'll do is they'll find somewhere underwater to stash your body, because they want you to decompose a bit before they try to eat you. So, they will stuff you up under some debris or some type of a structure to keep you from floating up, but you will be there for when they get ready for their meal. Also, if you're not familiar with East Texas, we have a very large feral hog population. They run in packs, and a feral hog will eat anything. They will eat human remains, and there will not be much left if they in fact come across, uh, human remains. For somebody just to disappear like that, I mean... I mean, I know it happens and it happens thousands of times across the United States a year. But it's just baffling that, you know, in the day and age we're in and the technology we have, that somebody can just utterly disappear. I take all my cases seriously, that's why I've been doing this for 30 years. She's a mom. She's a wife. She's, she's got kids. She's got grandkids, and they need to know what happened to their loved one, and I take that seriously. And we're gonna have to catch a break where somebody saw something, or a hunter's out one year deer hunting and he runs across some type of remains and they call it into us, or we get a tip of some type that leads us in a direction that allows us to come to a resolution in this case.

BARBARA RUSSELL: I kept thinking every day, they're going to come back and they're going to find her and they're going to find her okay. And it was just.. went day, after day. And you keep thinking, "Well, tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow." And tomorrow never came, and that family is devastated because that important person is missing in their life. And she was, always loved family, so it's heartbreaking to know that someone like that has just disappeared and nobody has the nerve to come in and say "Oh, by the way, she's here. She's there. This happened to her." Even if they don't say who did whatever. Where is Kim Flint? That's the main thing that I've been thinking from day one is where is, "Where is Kim Flint? What happened?"

CORBETT FLINT: The other day, I was walking into a house I was like, "Man, I wish I could just walk, open this door, and my mom will be sitting in that chair and I'll be like, 'What the heck? Where have you been?" You know, and she'd be like, "Let me tell you a story, you know, just some

adventures" because she's, you know, she was adventurous lady before all this happened. I just want closure to know if she's alive, if she's passed and what happened, you know? Not only for me, but for my dad, for my brother, for her grandbabies, for her friends, you know? They all want to know, we want to know what happened and if there's justice to be had, because there was a criminal intent, then hopefully that can be pursued if that, you know, if we can but we don't know.

NARRATION: IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT KIM FLINT'S DISAPPEARANCE, PLEASE CALL THE RUSK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT 903-657-3581 OR SUBMIT A TIP TO UNSOLVED.COM.

NEXT, ON UNSOLVED MYSTERIES...

AMERY EWING: The last time anyone saw my daddy was on Sunday morning. Nobody saw him again until they saw his body on Monday morning. They never reported, all of Sunday, that he was missing to anyone. It could tell me they were thankful he had just disappeared, or that they were a part of helping him disappear.

Unsolved Mysteries is a production of Cosgrove Meurer Productions and Cadence 13. It is executive produced by Terry Dunn Meurer and Chris Corcoran. Produced by Lloyd Lochridge, Christine Lenig, Courtney Ennis, Paige Hymson, and Paul Yates. The Story Producer for this episode was Ann Toler, and it was edited by Ryan Dann.

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The original theme music was composed by Gary Malkin and Michael Boyd.

THANKS FOR LISTENING TO EPISODE 26 OF UNSOLVED MYSTERIES.