

## UNSOLVED MYSTERIES PODCAST | RECRUITER ON THE RUN

### S1E35 Transcript

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: He's just a horrible person. I think he just, like, looks for this high in life that he just wasn't getting through the military, through marriages, through kids, through drugs, through drinking. And he just kept pushing and pushing until he got it. I just hope he's not out there hurting anybody else, or hurting anybody else's family and the way he did mine. He's done enough damage.

NARRATION: IT'S OCTOBER 24TH, 2016. 22-YEAR-OLD CATI BOYTER BLAUVELT IS FINISHING HER SHIFT AT A PET STORE IN HER HOMETOWN OF SIMPSONVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA. AS SHE LEAVES THE STORE, HER CELL PHONE RINGS. IT'S HER 18-YEAR-OLD NIECE, ASKING CATI TO HANG OUT. THEY MAKE PLANS TO MEET IN ONE HOUR, BUT CATI NEVER ARRIVES. CALLS AND TEXT MESSAGES TO CATI'S PHONE GO UNANSWERED. HER FAMILY HAS NO IDEA WHERE SHE COULD BE. TWO DAYS LATER, CATI IS FOUND, STABBED TO DEATH IN THE BASEMENT OF AN ABANDONED HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN. FIVE YEARS LATER, HER SUSPECTED KILLER REMAINS AT LARGE, AND AUTHORITIES NEED YOUR HELP TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE.

I'M STEVE FRENCH, AND THIS IS UNSOLVED MYSTERIES: "RECRUITER ON THE RUN."

PATRICIA PIVER: Cati had turned 22 in August, and then she was murdered in October, so she was just over 22 years old.

NARRATION: PATRICIA PIVER IS CATI'S MOTHER.

PATRICIA PIVER: I've always been a devoted mom. I mean, when I was young, first thing I kept saying about having kids was I only want a daughter, because I didn't think I could handle boys. And I was blessed with three daughters: Brandi, Cati and Taylor. Cati was the middle one. She was like a free spirit. A great friend to everybody. Just very sweet, very kind. She just had a heart of gold and would help anybody.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: Cati was short, with brown hair. She had dark hair like me. It always curled out in front of her ears. She caught it elephant ears, because my hair does it, too. When we put our hair up and don't mess with it all day, we'll get elephant ears, is what she said.

NARRATION: CHYANNE DAVENPORT IS CATI'S NIECE. THEY WERE CLOSE IN AGE, AND DEVELOPED A SPECIAL BOND GROWING UP TOGETHER.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: Cati and I were four years and one week apart. Both born in August. We were always really close. We always had similar interests and we were the closest in age to each other in the family. So that made us a lot closer. She loved to read books and play with animals. She loved to be outside. She was pretty much to herself, unless she knew you well, then she could be loud and funny just like everybody else.

NARRATION: IT'S EARLY 2015, AND CATI IS 21 YEARS OLD. SHE IS LIVING AT HOME IN SIMPSONVILLE, WORKING ALONGSIDE CHYANNE IN A STRIP MALL SANDWICH SHOP. CATI HAS BEEN CONSIDERING JOINING THE NAVY, BUT ANOTHER BRANCH OF THE MILITARY RECENTLY CAUGHT HER EYE. ONE OF HER REGULAR CUSTOMERS IS A HANDSOME 27-YEAR-OLD ARMY RECRUITER NAMED JOHN BLAUVELT.

PATRICIA PIVER: Cati worked at Firehouse Subs. She'd been there for a while, and John was an army recruiter, and his office was right next door to Firehouse Subs. So, I guess, at lunch, you know, him and the guys would go next door. And he saw Cati and Cati saw him, and they would strike up a conversation because they saw each other quite a few times during the week. She thought he was good looking, which he, he was attractive. And Cati, I guess, was infatuated with him. And they started talking more and hanging out more and he had a way of getting girls to like him, knowing what to say and what to do.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: When John came around, it just seemed like he was a super easygoing guy, and, like, he was very understanding, and he was just fun to hang out with. And that was the same thing for her. I think a big part of it had to do with the military. We are a military family. Her stepdad was in the military. Our grandparents were in the military. We have aunts and uncles who were in the military. I guess that attracted her a little bit. It was something familiar.

NARRATION: CATI DEVELOPED STRONG FEELINGS FOR JOHN VERY QUICKLY. SHE HAS NEVER HAD A SERIOUS BOYFRIEND BEFORE, AND FINDS THE ATTENTION FROM A HANDSOME OLDER MAN EXCITING.

PATRICIA PIVER: Cati didn't really date at all in high school. It was all hanging out with her friends. She even went to the prom by herself. She got a friend to drive her there and then pick her up and bring her home, but she went by herself. She didn't have any guys. Probably longest she dated anybody was a week.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: I remember the first time she told me she thought she loved him. We were sitting on the trampoline in the backyard at my mom's house. And I remember thinking in my head, I was like, wow, that was really fast. Even at a young age, I didn't think that she knew what she was talking about. It was her first big relationship. So, you know, everybody falls pretty hard the first time anyways.

NARRATION: CATI'S NEWFOUND RELATIONSHIP QUICKLY BECOMES SERIOUS. SHE BRINGS JOHN HOME TO MEET HER PARENTS, BUT HER MOTHER IMMEDIATELY HAS CONCERNS.

PATRICIA PIVER: I had grown up with military men because my dad was in the Navy. My brother was in the Navy, my other brother was in the Air Force. And my first impressions of John was not very good. There's an air about military men. They're very polite, very respectful, and John was not like that. He was very standoffish and wouldn't hardly talk to you at all, wouldn't even look you in the eye. And I thought that was just strange.

NARRATION: THERE ARE OTHER RED FLAGS AS WELL. THE FACEBOOK PAGE JOHN USES WITH CATI IS NOT UNDER HIS LAST NAME. HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT HIS ARMY SUPERIORS TO FIND OUT ABOUT

THEIR RELATIONSHIP. THE MILITARY HAS RULES AGAINST SOLDIERS DATING WHEN THEY ARE ALREADY MARRIED.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: We knew he was married as soon as we met him because he had his ring tattooed on his ring finger. He had a black band tattooed. So of course, you're gonna ask, you know, he can't take that off. He said that they were already separated, and that they were working towards a divorce. And so that he wasn't really, like, in a committed relationship, is how he put it.

PATRICIA PIVER: I had mentioned to her about how he wasn't very open or respectful, and she just said that was his way. I said he's married. She said, "Yeah, well, he's going to get divorced, and he promised me we'll be together," and all this. She was infatuated with him, and she wanted to be with him. And Cati, like some kids, you know, they, they want their way. And the more you discourage them, the less they want to tell you. And since she knew I didn't approve of him, she just didn't bother telling me.

NARRATION: IN SPITE OF PATRICIA'S CONCERNS, CATI CONTINUES HER ROMANCE WITH JOHN. SHE DOESN'T DISCUSS THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HER MOTHER AGAIN UNTIL SHE HAS A BIG ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.

PATRICIA PIVER: She just came to me one day and said, "I'm moving in with John." I wasn't too sure about that. I didn't think they had dated long enough. I thought they should have dated longer, really got to know each other. But she told me that they were getting an apartment together and I mean, she was an adult by then. So, I, I really couldn't tell her no. I just told her I wasn't happy with it.

NARRATION: CATI MOVES INTO JOHN'S APARTMENT AGAINST HER MOTHER'S WISHES. IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE CHYANNE SEES SIGNS OF TROUBLE IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: They fought a lot, and they always put me in the middle of their arguments. So, you know, one of them would call me and tell me what was going on and say, "Will you come get him," or her, whatever, you know, just trying to get me to help them break it up. I didn't know, at that point, how much arguing was normal in relationship. I thought they just argued a lot.

PATRICIA PIVER: Cati didn't really tell me anything about the relationship. I heard more from her sister, Brandi. He was an alcoholic. So, when he would get overly drunk or whatever, he would get mean. I know there were few times Brandi told me that Cati had come to her house to stay because John was getting mean and yelling at her. She would go to Brandi's. And Cati would stay with her until he calmed down and then eventually he'd tell her, "Oh, I love you. I want you back. I'll behave," whatever. And Cati would go back to him, and then it would just happen again later.

NARRATION: THE PATTERN CONTINUES UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2015, WHEN CATI ANNOUNCES A BIG CAREER CHANGE. SHE'S DECIDED TO CONTINUE HER FAMILY'S TRADITION OF MILITARY SERVICE, BUT NOT IN THE WAY THEY HAD EXPECTED.

PATRICIA PIVER: She had talked to my husband, because he was in the Navy. And he, of course, he would tell her, you know, "The Navy's the best way to go," and explain why and all this. So, she was

more set on joining the Navy. But then when she got with John, all the sudden Cati's like, "Oh, I joined the army today," and we're like, "Where did that come from? We thought you planned on joining the Navy." She said, "Well, John talked to me about this and this and said the army would be the best way to go," and stuff. So, she ended up joining the army, which surprised us.

NARRATION: CATI SOON HEADS OFF TO BASIC TRAINING AND EMBRACES HER NEW CHALLENGE. WHILE SURPRISED BY HER DAUGHTER'S SUDDEN ANNOUNCEMENT, PATRICIA HOPES THE ARMY MIGHT GIVE CATI'S LIFE SOME DIRECTION, AND HELP HER TO ENVISION A FUTURE THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE JOHN.

PATRICIA PIVER: I got a letter from her, and she was talking about how much fun it was, especially the runs they would have to do with the pack on their back, and stuff like that, how she was really enjoying it. And John would even, believe it or not, text me pictures, or what she was doing every now and then that she would call him and tell him what they were doing that day, or whatever. And how of course, she was scared and nervous, and he would give her encouragement, and she was loving it.

NARRATION: BUT CATI'S MILITARY CAREER IS SHORT-LIVED. THE PHYSICAL DEMANDS OF BASIC TRAINING LEAVE HER LEGS IN CONSTANT PAIN. DOCTORS DISCOVER THE CAUSE: A PREVIOUSLY UNDIAGNOSED SPINAL CONDITION, AGGRAVATED BY THE INTENSE EXERTION OF BOOT CAMP. AFTER ONLY A FEW WEEKS IN THE ARMY, CATI IS GIVEN A MEDICAL DISCHARGE.

PATRICIA PIVER: When Cati found out that she was going to get a medical discharge, she was devastated because she was just so... it's like she was a failure. She thought she was a failure. I kept having to tell her, "You are not a failure. That's something you couldn't help. There's nothing you can do about it. We're proud of you for trying." But she was, she was really upset when she got discharged.

NARRATION: PATRICIA REQUESTS CATI CALL HER ONCE SHE KNOWS THE DAY SHE WILL BE RELEASED FROM TRAINING. SHE WANTS TO PICK CATI UP, AND HOPES TO CONVINCHE HER DAUGHTER TO MOVE BACK HOME. BUT PATRICIA NEVER GETS THE OPPORTUNITY.

PATRICIA PIVER: We were sitting there, I think just sitting around the table eating and her and John just walked in the door and she's like, "I'm back." I was disappointed because she called him and, with me basically being her next of kin, I always thought I would have to go pick her up. But Cati let John come pick her up.

NARRATION: CATI REVEALS THAT JOHN PURCHASED A 4-BEDROOM HOME FOR THEM IN THE NEARBY TOWN OF FOUNTAIN INN. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, ON DECEMBER 7TH, PATRICIA RECEIVES ANOTHER UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT.

PATRICIA PIVER: All a sudden, she texted me and said, "By the way, me and John got married today." A I just kind of stared at the text. And, and then I texted her back, I said, "I wasn't invited?" You know, joking, because I thought she was kidding. And she says, "No, we just went to the Justice of the Peace and did it." Getting it from a text was kind of cold, but I guess she knew we didn't want her to marry him anyway, so the best way to do is just tell me in a text.

NARRATION: PATRICIA IS CRUSHED. ALL SHE CAN THINK TO REPLY IS THAT GETTING MARRIED ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR SEEMS LIKE A BAD OMEN. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THERE ARE SIGNS SHE MIGHT BE RIGHT.

PATRICIA PIVER: When she moved in with him in the apartment, she really didn't take anything but her clothes and stuff because John already had his furniture. When they moved into the house, she wanted to get more of her stuff. So, he brought in, like, a U-haul truck and they backed in THE driveway. And when they open the back, there was already furniture and stuff in there. I'm like, "Well, whose stuff is that?" And they said, "Well, some of it's John's but the rest is Chyanne's. Chyanne's moving in with us." I'm like, "But you just got married. Don't y'all want to just have time to yourselves for now?" And Cati looked at me. She says, "I do what John does and he wants Chyanne to move in with us."

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: I was 17 and I had personal issues at home that made me want to leave, and John told me I just had to work and stay in school and that I could come live with them, and it seemed like the perfect opportunity to live with people who understood me. Cati was not thrilled about the fact that I was starting to rebel as a teenager. She felt like she would be responsible if I didn't finish high school. She went along with it because it's what John wanted to do, and it's what I wanted to do and, in the beginning, it was really fun. I mean, we did a lot of house decorating. We would drink and smoke and hang out. But the more we drink and smoke, the less Cati was happy.

NARRATION: BEFORE LONG, CHYANNE'S HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS ARE ATTENDING THE HANGOUTS, TOO. JOHN INVITES STUDENTS HE'S MET THROUGH HIS JOB AS A RECRUITER. THE HOUSE BECOMES NOTORIOUS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR WILD PARTIES, FUELED BY THE ALCOHOL AND DRUGS JOHN BUYS FOR HIS TEENAGE GUESTS.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: We would trip acid, or trip shrooms, smoke weed, get drunk, whatever it was that day. And eventually, Cati just stopped being a part of it. And it would be everybody else but Cati. She was so mad at him, and she wanted him to admit that he was wrong and stop doing the things he was doing. And so, it would irritate her, and then he would just laugh about it, like, because he knew that would piss her off more.

PATRICIA PIVER: Cati didn't like the parties at all. She had asked John to stop doing this. It was wrong. It was illegal, whatever. But John had threatened her to shut up and mind her own business and he was going to do what he wanted. And I think she still loved John. Cati still loved him. And she, like most people, you know, they go, ah, I can change you and make him better. And Cati couldn't change John. Nobody can change John.

NARRATION: LESS THAN 3 MONTHS IN, JOHN AND CATI'S MARRIAGE IS DETERIORATING QUICKLY. HER PARENTS SUSPECT JOHN MAY BE ABUSIVE. AND ALTHOUGH HE DENIES IT, CATI BELIEVES JOHN IS DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH A YOUNG GIRL NAMED HANNAH THOMPSON.

PATRICIA PIVER: Hannah, who was also a girl that was friends with Chyanne and Cati, she was like some of these other kids from school that John had recruited to come for parties, and she would hang

around a lot. I guess he might've showed her some special attention because I think they were seeing each other behind Cati's back. And I think, at one time, Cati had walked in on Hannah and John and caught them together.

NARRATION: ONE NIGHT IN FEBRUARY OF 2016, HANNAH'S PARENTS FIND OUT SHE IS AT JOHN'S HOUSE, DRINKING AND DOING DRUGS WITH OTHER TEENAGERS. HER FATHER IMMEDIATELY FILES A COMPLAINT WITH THE FOUNTAIN INN POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THEY SEND A PATROL CAR TO INVESTIGATE. CHYANNE IS THERE WHEN THE OFFICERS ARRIVE.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: That night, Cati wasn't home. I believe she was at work or something. And me and some friends were tripping acid with John. So, the police came and knocked on the door and they said they wanted to talk to Hannah. And John said, "Well, we don't have to open the door because we're doing nothing wrong." And he told us not to open the doors. So, we were in there and we were just, I mean, literally just in there with the lights off, just freaking out.

NARRATION: WITHOUT A WARRANT, POLICE ARE UNABLE TO ENTER THE HOUSE. THEY TRACK DOWN CATI AND ASK HER TO COME TO THE POLICE STATION. DURING QUESTIONING, SHE VERIFIES THAT JOHN HAS BEEN PROVIDING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TO MINORS. SHE ALSO TELLS THEM ABOUT A DISTURBING INCIDENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

PATRICIA PIVER: Cati let them know that John had threatened her and put a gun to her head and threatened to kill her. And then, when she just stood there, you know, wasn't gonna back down from it, then he put it to his head, said, "Well, I'll just kill myself." And she still didn't back down. So, then he says, "Well, I'll just go out and kill everybody you love."

NARRATION: CATI'S INFORMATION IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR POLICE TO GET A WARRANT. JOHN IS LOCKED INSIDE A HOUSE FULL OF CHILDREN AND POLICE NOW FEAR HE COULD BE ARMED. THEY TREAT THE SCENE LIKE A HOSTAGE SITUATION.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: The street was lined with cops. They had lights on the house. I saw them with their guns walking around outside and John just said that we weren't doing anything wrong and that if we went out there, they could take us. It just got more intense as the night went on. We called family members from the inside and we're just, like, freaking out like, what should we do because John's telling us to do one thing, but it feels like we should do another, and our family's telling us just to calm down and go outside. So, at one point, Hannah Thompson called her aunt and her aunt told us, if we go outside, everything would be over. And so, Hannah and I walked out the door. And as soon as we did, we were put in cop cars, and they put red dots on John and put him on the ground and arrested him.

NARRATION: JOHN IS TAKEN TO THE FOUNTAIN INN POLICE DEPARTMENT. HE IS BOOKED ON CHARGES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OF MINORS. CATI RETURNS TO JOHN'S HOUSE WITH HER MOTHER.

PATRICIA PIVER: I remember when we walked in, there was four or five kids still in the house. So, she looked every one of them in the eyes. She said, "I want every one of you out of this house." And they

all left. She just kind of sat down like she was lost. She didn't know what to do. John had done what he did, and it was finally out in the open to everybody. It's like she apologized to me, I think, and I'm like, "You got nothing to be sorry for. This has nothing to do with you, this is John."

NARRATION: JOHN IS SOON RELEASED AND MOVES BACK TO THE HOUSE IN FOUNTAIN INN WHILE HE AWAITS TRIAL. CATI TAKES HER THINGS AND GOES TO LIVE WITH HER MOTHER AND STEP-FATHER IN SIMPSONVILLE. SHE SLOWLY BEGINS THE PROCESS OF BUILDING A NEW LIFE FOR HERSELF — A LIFE WITHOUT JOHN BLAUVELT.

PATRICIA PIVER: I know Cati was done with John, but she didn't file for divorce at first. She was just trying, I guess, to get her life straightened back out again. Cati worked at PetSmart, which was her dream job because she was around dogs all day long. That was her therapy. That was the best thing that could have happened to her was that, so she was really looking forward to going to school and getting her certificate so she could become a dog groomer. And it's like a light switch went off and she started being happier. So, she was just trying to move on with her life.

NARRATION: IT'S OCTOBER 24TH, 2016, AND NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE JOHN'S ARREST. CATI IS NOW 22 YEARS OLD AND HAPPY WITH THE NEW DIRECTION HER LIFE IS TAKING. SHE'S RECONNECTED WITH HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS, ENROLLED IN CLASSES AT A LOCAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AND BEGUN THE PROCESS OF FINDING A DIVORCE LAWYER. AS SHE IS LEAVING WORK, CATI ANSWERS A PHONE CALL FROM CHYANNE. IT'S THE LAST TIME CATI WILL SPEAK TO ANYONE IN HER FAMILY.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: I called her to see if she wanted to hang out. On the phone, she sounded real weird and unsure, which at the time I didn't think anything of, and I laid down to take a nap after I got off the phone with her. And when I woke up, she had never called me back, and her phone was dead and nobody had heard from her, but at first nothing was thought of it.

PATRICIA PIVER: It was around 4:30, Brandi called me and said, "Have you seen Cati?" And I said, "Nah, I just got home, but I haven't seen her. Why?" She said, "Well, she was supposed to meet up with Chyanne and she never showed up." And I said, "Well, you know how Cati is. Maybe she decided go to a movie or, you know, go to her brother's." She said, "No. We called his house. He hasn't seen her." So, I, you know, tried texting her. And I tried calling her, of course it went straight to voicemail. Me and my husband kinda, you know, jumped in the car and drove around to a few of the restaurants we knew she liked, the movie theater, didn't see her car there. We even rode down past John's. I thought, what if she's meeting John? So, we rode down past John's, but she wasn't there either. So, we came back home and said, "Well, you know, she probably just, you know, at a friend's or whatever. You know, she'll come in late. We'll see." And so, I got up the next morning and first thing I did was jump up and run look in her bedroom to see if she was there. It hadn't been slept in. I looked outside, car's still not there. And so, I told my husband, I said, "I'm going down the police station to fill out a missing persons report." My husband and me, and my stepdaughter, all went down there and filled out a report and explained to them her and John had had problems and, you know, we don't know what's going on. This is just not like her.

NARRATION: CATI'S FAMILY SPENDS THE REST OF THE DAY TRYING TO LOCATE HER. THEY CONTACT HER FRIENDS AND ASK THEM TO JOIN IN THE SEARCH, BUT THERE ARE NO LEADS. CATI HAS DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.

PATRICIA PIVER: We was constantly calling her friends and asking them to help out. You know, everybody was looking and nobody knew anything. So, we went back home. We went to bed and then around two or 2:30 in the morning, Brandi called me again and she was crying. She says, "Mom, the cops are at this place, and I think they might have found something." So that's kind of how I found out that she was dead.

REPORTER [NEWS CLIP]: Police say they have located the car 22-year-old Catherine Boyter Blauvelt was driving Monday when she left work.

REPORTER [NEWS CLIP]: She was from Fountain Inn, found dead in an abandoned and rundown house early this morning.

REPORTER [NEWS CLIP]: Friends found her body in an abandoned house in Simpsonville, stabbed to death under a pile of lumber.

JIM DONNELLY: My name is Jim Donnelly. I'm one of the investigators here at Simpsonville Police Department. I was the initial investigator that responded to the incident.

NARRATION: JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT ON OCTOBER 26TH, SIMPSONVILLE POLICE RECEIVE A CALL FROM TWO OF CATI'S FRIENDS. THEY'VE BEEN OUT SEARCHING FOR HER, AND HAVE MADE A DISTURBING DISCOVERY.

JIM DONNELLY: They decided to check this abandoned house that's on the south end of town that was a frequent hangout place, because it was kind of off the road in the woods, secluded. And when they went downstairs to the root cellar, that's when they discovered Cati's body.

NARRATION: WHO HAD KILLED CATI, AND WHAT WAS SHE DOING IN THIS ABANDONED HOUSE? EVIDENCE FOUND AT THE SCENE LEADS INVESTIGATORS TO BELIEVE SHE DID NOT GO THERE ON HER OWN.

JIM DONNELLY: Based on the initial scene investigation, we didn't think the murder occurred there. There was some blood on some of the shrubbery outside. We had a cadaver dog walk the property line and found a button from one of her jeans. So, we know she was moved to the house. John became a suspect almost immediately. With these kinds of incidents, you obviously start with the people that found her and work your way back, and I think having the missing persons report on file pointed us to him quickly.

NARRATION: INVESTIGATORS INTERVIEW JOHN LATER THAT DAY. NOTHING FOUND AT THE HOUSE IMPLICATES HIM IN CATI'S MURDER, BUT THERE ARE REASONS TO BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

JIM DONNELLY: Talking to John during his interview, he made it clear that they were involved in a domestic situation, and that his job was on the line of the outcome of this trial that was getting ready to come to fruition. John did give an alibi of being home, but, we were never able to pinpoint that alibi. He never asked how she was killed, or if we knew who killed her, or anything like that, which is kind of uncommon.

NARRATION: COULD JOHN HAVE MURDERED CATI? PATRICIA PIVER HAS PLENTY OF REASONS TO THINK SO. HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN SHOWING UP UNANNOUNCED AT CATI'S JOB, DEMANDING TO SPEAK WITH HER, AND CATI HAD RECENTLY CONTACTED THE ARMY TO REQUEST A PART OF JOHN'S PAY BE SENT TO HER AS SPOUSAL SUPPORT.

PATRICIA PIVER: Eventually, she got that portion that John was supposed to be getting for being married to her. And I think that really made John mad because that was taking his money away, even though it was for her to start with. I had no question in my mind he did it. He blamed Cati for everything. She ruined his military career because she had those domestic violence charges against him. She spoke up against him when he had the kids there with the drugs and alcohol. That's another hit against his military career. He figures, I guess, if Cati was gone, you know, the charges would go away.

NARRATION: LACKING THE HARD EVIDENCE NEEDED TO CHARGE JOHN WITH CATI'S MURDER, INVESTIGATORS DIG DEEPER. THEY SUBPOENA HIS CELL PHONE RECORDS, AND TRACE CATI'S MOVEMENTS ON THE DAY SHE WENT MISSING USING EVIDENCE FOUND IN HER CAR.

JIM DONNELLY: The insurance companies give you a thing that plugs into your car. It gives you basic information like speeds, distances, braking. So, we were able to look back at it and kind of build a timeline and kind of know dates and times of when certain things occurred. We were also able to determine some information from cell phones as to who was around the car at the time.

NARRATION: OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THE POLICE CONTINUE TO GATHER MORE EVIDENCE IN CATI'S MURDER, AND ALL THE CLUES KEEP LEADING THEM BACK TO JOHN BLAUVELT.

JIM DONNELLY: After the second interview with John, when we obtained his car and his DNA samples, I think he knew, at that point, he was suspect number one. We hadn't signed the warrants. And then, when we were able to get the warrants after the interview, he had already disappeared. We invoked the assistance of the US Marshal service, and that's where the hunt started.

NARRATION: SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE AUTHORITIES COULD OBTAIN AN ARREST WARRANT, JOHN PACKS HIS TRUCK AND FLEES THE STATE, AND HE'S NOT ALONE.

REPORTER [NEWS CLIP]: Hannah Thompson's mother reported her missing yesterday to the Fountain Inn police department. Hannah's mother told police that her daughter is believed to be with John Blauvelt, the known homicide suspect. He worked as an army recruiter and is now considered AWOL.

NEWS INTERVIEW: We're dealing with a very unstable individual. And we're dealing with a 17-year-old that doesn't quite know what she's into.

ROBERT MARKUM: The Marshal service became involved with the case shortly after the arrest warrant was issued for John Blauvelt on November 18<sup>th</sup> of 2016.

NARRATION: ROBERT MARKUM IS A SENIOR INVESTIGATOR WITH THE US MARSHALS SERVICE.

ROBERT MARKUM: He had at least a one-week head start from the time that the authorities could detain him legally, and that's just a big challenge in itself. We were also told that he had ran off with the 17-year-old female acquaintance named Hannah Thompson. We had concern about her safety at the time, due to what he was accused of doing just a few weeks prior, and her age. So, we were focusing on locating her safely. It was the same investigation, but there were two components there that we were looking at.

NARRATION: WAS HANNAH IN DANGER OF BECOMING JOHN'S NEXT VICTIM? THE POSSIBILITY CREATES A SENSE OF URGENCY FOR AUTHORITIES AS THEY TRACK THE COUPLE'S PATH WEST FROM SOUTH CAROLINA. THEY PURCHASE CAMPING EQUIPMENT FROM A STORE IN ALABAMA. THEY ARE SPOTTED IN TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO NEAR THE MEXICAN BORDER. A LICENSE PLATE READER CATCHES JOHN'S GMC YUKON HEADING NORTH THROUGH CALIFORNIA, AND IT'S EVENTUALLY FOUND ABANDONED IN A FOREST. IT TAKES NEARLY A MONTH ON THEIR TRAIL BEFORE INVESTIGATORS FINALLY CATCH A BREAK.

ROBERT MARKUM: We were notified on December 12th of 2016 that Hannah Thompson had reached out to family in the area of Eugene, Oregon. She was by herself, and she needed help and it's my understanding that John Blauvelt had more or less abandoned her.

JIM DONNELLY: We were able to interview Hannah when she came back from Oregon. She was nervous about coming to speak with us. And, during that time, John had kind of alluded to her that he did kill Cati and she kind of got a fear in her head that she might be next. She was cooperative, but very scared.

NARRATION: THE LAST CONFIRMED SIGHTING OF JOHN BLAUVELT WAS ON DECEMBER 12TH, 2016. THE SAME DAY THAT HE ABANDONED HANNAH, HE WAS CAPTURED ON SURVEILLANCE VIDEO AT A WALMART IN EUGENE, OREGON. HE HAS EVADED THE AUTHORITIES EVER SINCE.

ROBERT MARKUM: The search is very much concentrated around Oregon, Washington, and Northern California. That's where the majority of our tips have come in. That's where we last know where he was at. The amount of time that's passed is quite a bit. For him to have completely relocated to the other side of the world is possible. But I think the most simple explanation in a case like this is you look to where the person was last known to have been located. I think the most likely scenario is that he's living in an area where he doesn't have to interact with a lot of people, but I don't think he's a survivalist. He's not the type of guy that's just going to completely fall off the grid. There's definitely a need on his part to get acceptance from others. I think there's a potential that somebody's out there

who is helping him, and they're not aware of the criminal charges. There's going to be gaps in their knowledge about his history, because he's going to want to have isolated his previous life from the way he's living now. And the more interactions he has with people from his past, the greater likelihood that he's going to be caught. I think there's definitely people that, if they see pictures of him, they listen to this podcast, they're going to realize that this is the same person they've known for a year, two years, during this time. I think there's a great deal of danger surrounding a person like this, and anybody that's done this once is very capable of doing it again. His intelligence, his motivation, and just his ability to blend in to wherever he's at now, there is absolutely a public safety risk wherever this individual is at.

JIM DONNELLY: The challenging part of this case, I think, is really just trying to find John, trying to run down every little lead that we get. We work really hard at wanting to get closure for the family, to bring him to justice. We're a small town so, you know, you run into people every day that are family and friends. And when they ask, you know, where are we at? What are we doing? What's going on? You know, it's, it's, you want to give them answers. But, uh, unfortunately, it's, it's hard sometimes. The important part is to keep it fresh in everybody's minds and keep the search going and not give up hope. Eventually, he's going to slip up. Eventually, he's going to be seen, caught. I just don't see how somebody can just disappear.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: I just hope he's not out there hurting anybody else, or hurting anybody else's family and the way he did mine. He's sadistic and narcissistic, and I think he gets a high off the fact that he knows that people are looking for him and that they can't find him. Wherever he is, he enjoys that.

NARRATION: WHERE IS JOHN BLAUVELT, AND WILL HE EVER BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR CATI'S MURDER? THOSE QUESTIONS CONTINUE TO HAUNT HER FAMILY TO THIS DAY. THE LACK OF CLOSURE IS A DARK CLOUD HANGING OVER THEIR MEMORIES OF CATI, MAKING HER LOSS ALL THE MORE PAINFUL.

CHYANNE DAVENPORT: I have posts on Facebook from where she said things like, "I don't want to go before you and leave you alone in the world, but I also don't want you to go before me, and I have to live the rest of my life without you," and I never really thought about those things too much. I loved her for the things she said, but I never really thought that I would actually have to live without her. I've had kids, and I know that she would love my kids. So, that's really hard for me, knowing that she would be 27 years old this summer and she could have had kids. She could have fell in love with somebody who really loved her back. It's hard living life without her and knowing that I'll never get that back. It's hard knowing that she didn't get a chance to really enjoy her life before it was gone.

PATRICIA PIVER: I know there's somebody out there who's seen him. They may not know who he was at the time. Or they think oh, he's, he's different. He couldn't have been this awful murderer, but he is. He needs to be in jail. So, I'm going to be sharing this until they catch him. And maybe the right people will finally see it and say, "Hey, I know that guy. He works down the road," or, "he hangs out with this friend," and, and turn him in, and help him get caught. Because that's all we want, is for John to be in jail where he belongs, and to face justice for what he did to Cati.

NARRATION: JOHN TUFTON BLAUVELT IS A 33-YEAR-OLD CAUCASIAN MALE WITH BROWN HAIR AND BROWN EYES. HE IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 8 INCHES TALL, AND AT THE TIME OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE, WEIGHED 185 POUNDS. HE HAS 4 KNOWN TATTOOS: A PIRATE AND BANNER WITH A ROSE AND SUNSET ON HIS RIGHT ARM, A YIN YANG SYMBOL ON HIS LEFT FOREARM, THE NAME "MADISON" ON HIS LEFT WRIST, AND A PARROT ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS CHEST. AUTHORITIES BELIEVE BLAUVELT COULD BE LIVING SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, AND COULD BE USING AN ALIAS. HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF JOHN BLAUVELT, PLEASE CONTACT THE US MARSHAL SERVICE AT 202-307-9100, ONLINE AT [USMARSHALS.GOV/TIPS](https://usmarshals.gov/tips), OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [UNSOLVED.COM](https://unsolved.com). NEXT, ON UNSOLVED MYSTERIES...

MICHAEL VINCENT: He said, "Did you tell Rob anything, or give him access to anything of yours?" I said, "No." He said, "He just asked about a ramp that Joffrey is telling him that was made for him." So that just really, like, sealed it for us. It's like, wow. There is something to this, because there's no way Rob would even know about that.

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Unsolved Mysteries is a production of Cosgrove Meurer Productions and Cadence 13.

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Thanks for listening to episode 35 of Unsolved Mysteries.