

00:00:01.50

Valerie

Scott, welcome to the show.

00:00:03.69

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Hey, how are you?

00:00:05.69

Valerie

Great.

00:00:09.41

Valerie

Do you want to listen and see if that sounded okay?

00:00:10.21

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Oh, I can hear it's, it's a little stilted still.

00:00:15.24

Valerie

Oh, it is.

00:00:16.33

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah.

00:00:16.97

Valerie

you know if I was a little too relaxed.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Let me go ahead.

00:00:18.53

Valerie

Okay, here we go.

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Valerie

Scott, welcome to the show.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Hey, how are you?

00:00:25.38

Valerie

I'm doing great.

00:00:27.07

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, it is good to be here. I'm not used to being a guest on my own show, but we're going to do the old switcheroo here. And do you want to introduce yourself?

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Valerie

ah Yes, I am Valerie Fomer. I am your wife.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Really?

00:00:45.21

Valerie

And we've been married 34 years. And we have three amazing kids and a wonderful daughter in law. And I don't know what else to say.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, that's a great introduction. everyone I feel like everyone knows both of us now so well. um yeah so fireway So we're going to just switch things around, folks. I'm going to be the guest. Valerie is going to be hosting. And she's going to be asking the questions. So fire away, babe.

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Valerie

Will do. So aside from hosting a study in crime, you've been a private investigator for 30 years. How did that happen? What made you want to become a PI?

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You know, I mean, it it started when I was a kid. I really loved mysteries. I would read Sherlock Holmes and the three investigators, even Hardy Boys. I mean, I think I even read a Nancy Drew or two. I just really loved mysteries. Encyclopedia Brown was another one. And so that was something I always enjoyed. And then when I turned 16, my uncle George Kane was a private investigator in San Antonio.

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And he ended up taking me on a couple of, uh, surveillances. And of course they were exciting to me. He didn't, he, you know, they were kind of routine to him, but I thought we were going to solve a Watergate or something huge and at any second. And one day he was, uh,

him and I were together and we were on a surveillance on the northwest side of San Antonio in this neighborhood.

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And I'm sitting there eating a water burger and we're both drinking Dr. Peppers. And he turns to me and says, ah hey, I got this for you. And i and he handed me a paperback book. and It's called JJ Arms Investigator. and It is a a biography, a true story of a private investigator, probably the world's ah best known PI named JJ Arms. and he I'm not making this up. When he was a kid, he was handling some

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dynamite around a railroad area with another child. And he ended up blowing his hands off. I know it's a shocker. And he was fitted with prosthetic hooks. So his name was Arms, but he had hooks on his hands. Again, I don't make this up. And he became a private investigator out of El Paso, Texas. He ended up working for Elizabeth Taylor and Howard Hughes and John Lennon and worked all over the world. Very famous.

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And so this book detailed his whole life. And as soon as I read it, I was hooked. I wanted to be like JJ arms. And, uh, incidentally, he died, uh, this year, earlier this year at the age of, I think 98, maybe 92, but you know, in his nineties. So, and so that's what I became.

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Valerie

Wonderful. So is being a PI like it is on TV?

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Yes, exactly. No, actually it's not. No. um As you know, when you and I are watching TV shows, I always say, well, they wouldn't do that. A PI wouldn't do that. FBI wouldn't do that. But we don't break an inner like ah Jim Rockford did on The Rockford Files. We don't steal evidence like they always do in every episode. We don't get beat up like, ah you know, Magnum PI or others would. We don't hack into the Pentagon.

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We don't hack into other people's Facebook accounts. It's illegal. And ah so it can be kind of boring at times. It's like any job. There are times when it's very exciting and there's times when it's boring, but it's primarily watching people, interviewing people, talking to people or finding out information about them.

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Valerie

In 30 years, I'm sure you've come across of some interesting cases. What was your most dangerous?

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You know, I don't know if I've had one that was the most dangerous. I haven't. I'm i'm a careful guy. So I try to stay out of danger. I had a Hell's Angel I was doing surveillance on and he ran after me because he saw me in the car. I don't know how he he noticed I was there. He probably was doing something illegal. And so he was on the lookout for people conducting surveillance. He ran after me and I just drove away. That's about as dangerous as it got. I mean, he didn't get on his bike or anything.

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But, uh, when I had been burned, it's called being burned or made. That's when you're following somebody and they realize that, uh, Hey, there's someone following me. The first time it happened to me was probably, I'd only been a PI for about a few months, maybe three or four months. And I ended up following this couple from South of San Antonio, all the way into town, all the way to this, uh, clinic.

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rehab clinic that they were going to. It was a a workers' comp case. It was a workers' comp case. And I followed them on the highway and the back roads and through traffic from the country and into the city, right downtown. And it was pretty hairy, but I got through it all. I didn't lose them and they parked their car. I parked mine, pulled my camera up, you know, getting ready to to shoot video of them as they step out. They stepped out of the car.

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It's a husband and wife. They turned to me and they waved. Smiling boys, smiling wave. And so I knew I was burned at that point. And then, you know, so at that, point and it happens to everybody. ah Any PI who tells you, oh, I've never been burned is either lying or doesn't do surveillance or or just started surveillance yesterday. It's very difficult to do, but eventually you can, you get a ah feel for it. And so I rarely get burned these days at all.

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Valerie

What was your most unusual case?

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Well, I've had a lot of weird stuff, a lot of weird cases, a lot of strange things. I did have one that was kind of unusual. It's funny, but it's also kind of sad, but it's unusual. So let me tell you about that one. There was this guy ah on the mountain. There was a theft claim, an insurance company.

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ah Had sent me to go out there and check out this theft claim this gentleman had filed a ah claim saying that his house had been burglarized and He had an entire list of all these things that have been stolen from his house. I mean and and one of those all-terrain vehicles weapons silverware lots and lots of stuff ah but they had kind of red flag that they thought there was something the insurance company thought there was something strange about about the case and so are about the claim so they sent me out there and so this guy lives on a mountain on top of the mountains when the big one obviously we lose on top of a mountain uh... near uh... near montrose colorado and i go out there i i go up to this drought gravel road winds its way around the mountain i get to the top there's about three or four houses is still rural area obviously there's about three or four houses you know half a mile apart

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And his was a very nice house. I drove up to his, I parked, he came out, ah greeted me. He was about 83 years old, very nice guy, you know, very alert, very kind. He said, welcome, come on into the house. I told him I was there. I said, I'm just investigating this claim to have you tell me, you know, I didn't say, hey, we think it's a fraud. You don't do that. I said, we're just checking out. I want to find out what was stolen. do If you have receipts, tell me, you know, how, how it happened, that type of thing.

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Incidentally, one of the strange things about it was that a police report was not filed. So typically when you have a theft and people make an insurance claim, they file a Report with the police saying hey i've been robbed or i've been burglarized and that generally becomes part of the record Well, there wasn't one in this case and that was the kind of the first red flag. That was really strange and and so we sit there and uh, I look through the list and we're comparing the lists and he has some receipts and I I don't have some of them and he makes copies and he describes all the items and and uh, I asked him well, how did they get in the house?

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He says, I don't know. I'm always home, but there was a two hour period. um Sorry. There was a two hour period where I left to go into town and that's probably when it happened. And we checked his doors. We checked his windows. I said, was there any, I'm trying to think of the word. Um, were there any signs of entry where someone broke into a window or a door? He said, no.

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And he said, yeah, they all think I'm crazy, but all this stuff is gone. And he had a really, ah really high speed, state of the art security camera system. And went into his bedroom, he had the the system in there with a monitor. And he had cameras on every angle of his house, the front, the side, the back, inside, all over the place. And he said, I've got, we oh even on his shed, he had a shed, which is where the altering vehicle was stolen.

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And he said, now, if we go to the period where it was stolen, you'll see that the video just blacks out. So that's what we did. We pulled up the day of the theft. We backed it up a little bit. Everything looked normal. And then suddenly, boom, the the screen goes black. And then I fast forward. And a couple hours later, it goes back to normal. And again, he says, yeah, they all think I'm crazy. But I you know don't i don't make this stuff up.

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So I started to think, well, maybe these things are kind of strange here. I kind of had a feeling of what I thought was going on, but I, it wasn't anything I was going to tell him. But every time he said, they all think I'm crazy. I thought maybe, maybe he, he forgets. Maybe he, you know, I don't know what happened to these things, but he may forget what happened to him but because there was no signs of burglary at all.

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And so I ended up thanking him, got the information, told him the insurance company will get back with you. And I went and talked to one of his neighbors and I explained who I was. I talked about the theft. And as I'm talking, I'm looking at the neighbor's face and I could tell she was like, yeah I know what the deal is. Do I tell him or not tell him? And she tells me, I think he is experiencing the early stages of dementia.

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And so I think he's he's forgotten this stuff. She says, I don't know what happened to it, but he doesn't remember. And that's why the hard thing about that was he was so just clear and concise and just spot on with his information, very, very ah precise. So he didn't seem like you know anyone's suffering from dementia.

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But the case all kind of came to a head when I went down the mountain and met his daughter, his adult daughter in town. And the first thing I asked her was, why didn't they file a police report? And she says, well, because there was no burglary. And she stated that what had happened was he is, he was in the early stages of dementia as sharp as he was. He was in the early stages of dementia. And as the day wore on, I think they call it sundowners where he could, he would no longer forget, he would forget things.

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And she said he had given all of that stuff away or sold it in the last couple of years. But for some reason he can't remember and he thinks he's been burglarized. So it was kind of sad. So I called the insurance company. I said, all right, you're not going to believe this one. I said, there was no theft and there's no fraud. He's not trying to defraud you. He just is suffering from dementia, the bidding beginning stages, and he doesn't remember. And they said, OK, so they I don't know how they dealt with him because ah he he, of course, continued to de press and say that he had been burglarized and he wanted money for compensation based on his policy. But that was probably one of the most unusual cases that I've had.

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Valerie

very sad experience um and situation.

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Valerie

What has been your most exciting case?

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Well, I've had a lot that have been exciting. I mean, as I said, sometimes the job is boring, but there have been a lot of exciting cases. And I think the most exciting one was a a custodial, non-custodial parent kidnapping. So there was a six-year-old boy named Cruz Guzman, and that's of course a yeah ah pseudonym. That's not his real name.

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Anybody I mentioned in this podcast, in this episode, anyone I mentioned in this episode, I'm using pseudonyms or I've changed the details. So Cruz Guzman was about six years old. He lived with his father. His father was this mild-mannered architect, good guy, real quiet guy. They had a quiet life. And Cruz's mother was named Dolores, and she ah had issues with drugs in the past and some other things. And so they ended up getting a divorce.

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And the because of some criminal activity and some drug and alcohol issues, the custody was given to Cruz's father. And she was allowed visitation, just a ah not just a little bit of visitation. And she was allowed visitation. So one day on visitation, so one day while Cruz is in school,

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Suddenly, his mother bursts into the classroom and takes him out of class, which is really bizarre ah because the the school, the principal, and the teachers knew that she was not supposed to do that, that only the father could pick the child up and drop the child off, even if it was a medical appointment or something like that. so Short story long, Cruz has been kidnapped by the his mother who does not have custody, although she does have some visitation rights. And she, you know, disappears and nobody knows where she's at. And so this went on for a couple of months. And, you know, obviously Cruz's father is getting very concerned. And we end up talking to cru Cruz's grandparents, his grandfather and grandmother,

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And they hired us to find Cruz, which is like a needle in a haystack. And so we continued surveillance. We we actually started surveilling. So we actually started surveillance on Dolores's sister's residence, this apartment complex. And Dolores had a sister that looked a lot like her and her sister had a son that looked a lot like Cruz, which is not good because you don't want to take the wrong kid. Then we'd be charged with kidnapping.

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But we did surveillance to see if, you know, Dolores shows up, if the kid shows up, nothing. Just went on for a couple of weeks and they were starting to get, you know, antsy. And obviously it's expensive to hire private investigators the longer you you ah use them, but we were doing the best we could at that point. But then we we got some information.

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We found out that Dolores was gonna be in a certain town on a certain day, at a certain afternoon to pick up her W-2 so she could file her taxes. And so we went up there. I went up there with myself along with another investigator. And I also took the client. Now normally you would not do that. You would never take a client with you on surveillance. That's a recipe for disaster.

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Excuse me, that's a recipe for disaster. But in this case, because Cruz had a cousin that looked so much like him, we had to have the father there to identify Cruz for us. Otherwise, we would you know take the the wrong child and we'd end up being in trouble.

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So we parked, we did our surveillance. We're sitting there in front of this office building. We're all three in different vehicles. And I told Cruz's father, now, as soon as you see them come in and get out of the car, I need to know, you'd tell me, is that Cruz or is it not Cruz? If he's, if she's, if he's even with his mother, we didn't even know if he's going to be there. If he wasn't, then we were going to put a a GPS tracker on her car and then we'd be able to follow her and find out where she went.

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So we were waiting and waiting because we knew what kind of car she had. So we're waiting and waiting and suddenly her car pulls in and she parks in the parking lot. And I'm looking at my cell phone and this is before texting capabilities. I'm looking at my cell phone and I'm waiting for the phone call for Cruz's father to tell me, hey, that's that's him, he's there. And Dolores gets out.

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And a woman that had to be the sister gets out because they look very similar, same color hair, same body build, same length of hair. And they come out with a ah young boy about six years old. Obviously, I didn't know who it was, Cruz or his cousin. They walk up these this long set of stairs and go into the office building. I finally called Cruz's father and said, hey, what happened, man? Did you see them? And him not being a a trained PI, I said, no, I didn't see anybody show up.

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I said, all right, well, you need to keep your feet, your, you need to keep your eyes glued to that front door, that building. And tell me,

as soon as you see them, is that your son or not? So I think 15, maybe 20 minutes went by, suddenly the doors open and people are coming and going the whole time. So we're watching everybody, the doors open and this kid starts, you know, hopping down the stairs behind him as Dolores and his, her sister, and they're kind of walking slower.

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And I get the call and Cruz's father says, that's him. That's my son. That's Cruz Guzman. I said, all right, grab him. So he goes out, grabs him, and he's going back to the car. And the father is so happy, and the son is so happy to see his father. They're embracing, and they're spending too much time looking at each other, which I understand, and embracing, because it had been a few months. Instead of getting in the car and leaving,

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that Dolores sees it and she runs down and she grabs the car keys from him because he's got his car keys he's getting ready to get in the car and she takes them and you know puts them somewhere and so he can't leave and so at that point he places crews on the hood of his car and wraps his arm around him and we have a pretty bad uh stalemate at that point And so she was trying to, Dolores was trying to talk sense into him, trying to tell him, you know, Cruz is better off with me, that kind of thing. So everything was not, the situation i had not, what's the word, accelerated. The situation hadn't got out of hand yet.

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So anyway, but it was getting but it was getting to that point. So at that point, I decided to call the police. I called the police. The police showed up. I had documents, when well, not only was Cruz's father there, but I had court documents provided saying that he had full custody. If you know anything about the police, this is ah can a civil matter and they don't like to get involved in civil matters. And so,

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They called the Child Protective Services. So a young woman from CPS comes out, she's in her mid 20s and they they defer to her. And I showed them the court documents, they don't care. I asked a cop asked the i asked the police officer, so what's gonna happen? He said, well, she's gonna talk to all the parties and she will make the decision and she will let us know and then I'll let you know.

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So I watched this young woman walk from Dolores, who's in one police

car, to Cruz's father, who's in in another police car, to Cruz, he's in a third police car and has conversations with all of them. Then she comes back and talks to this police officer and I could hear, I could see him talk and I could hear it, but I couldn't understand what they were saying. And the next thing I noticed,

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Cruz's father is is taken out of that police car and he's released to his son. And so obviously she had told him that because of the court documents, because of the stories that she holds,

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because of the stories that she was told, she was going to release him to his father. And at that point, me, my investigator, Cruz and his father, we got the heck out of Dodge quickly before Dolores could get behind us. And the last thing I saw was her in the rear view mirror, you know, complaining or yelling at the police officer. We ended up going a few miles down the road and meeting at an Arby's, Arby's restaurant.

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And we were we went there to meet the clients because the clients were the Cruz's grandparents, his father's mother and father. We waited a few minutes and then they came in and they were so excited. and He was so excited to see them. He ran and hugged his grandmother and his grandfather and and everybody was just so happy. and when they And then the grandmother came to me and she she didn't speak very well and then the gram like And then the grandmother came over to me. And then the grandmother, let me try that again. And then Cruz's grandmother walked over to me. She did not speak English very well. I don't speak Spanish. I know a few words, but that's it.

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But I could tell from the look on her face and what she was saying is she was so grateful, so thankful. And then she did something that's never happened to me and hadn't happened to me before or since she hugged me. I've never had a client hug me, but she just hugged me. And I could tell she was so grateful for us for finding her grandson.

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And interestingly, we found out later on that after he had been taken by his mother, she took him to Mexico and he was in Mexico for a couple of months. And he hadn't gone to school during that timeframe. He was surrounded by people that spoke Spanish. He did not speak Spanish, so he didn't understand what was going on. And he was, he was

really scared. So we were able to get him back, get him back to his father and all's well that ends well.

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Valerie

I'm sure that not all of your cases have turned out well. Have you ever had to give a client bad news?

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Hold on. I'll edit this out. I'm going to see how many pictures.

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Valerie

you want me to read Do you want me to that?

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Okay.

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Valerie

I don't think I did it well.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

No, ah but you're fine. um I got to know when to take the break. um when i and When I take a break, I'm going to say, let's take a quick break and I'll be right back. I'm going to actually have you say that.

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Valerie

Okay.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

You say, let's take a quick break and I'll be right back.

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Valerie

All right.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And then I want you to wait about three seconds and then say, and we're back. Can you do that?

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Valerie

Yes.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Okay. Well, we'll do that here in a second.

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Valerie

You want me to do that now or ask the next question?

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

um

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

after after question eight.

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Valerie

Got it.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Okay, so go ahead and start with six again.

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Valerie

I'm sure not all of your cases have turned out well. Have you ever had to give a client bad news?

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Well, yeah, unfortunately you have. um When a client hires a private, unfortunately I have. When a client hires a private investigator, Because of television, they think that we're hiring them to to solve their particular problem. And sometimes we can't do that. When you when you pay for a PI, you are paying for their time and their expertise. You can't pay for a pre predetermined outcome. We can't guarantee specific outcomes. Even with the kidnapping case with Cruz, we couldn't guarantee that we would find him. Now we did, and it worked out great.

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But I did had one case in particular that the client did not take the news very well. So it was this dentist and it was a it was a domestic case, again, just like the Guzman case. It was a dentist and him and his ex-wife shared custody of their son. They called their son Pinto. That was his his his nickname, Pinto. I don't remember his real name was, but anyway, his name was Pinto.

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And they shared custody of him. I think he was about, he was also about six or seven, maybe eight years old. The father had primary custody. The mother also had custody and she would get him, you know, once a week. And then on every other weekend, every other holiday, that type of thing.

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But they had it they had had a rather acrimonious divorce. And so when I'm talking to this dentist, he's telling me she's a horrible mother. She does drugs. She sells drugs. She hangs out with drug dealers. She has sex with all kinds of men. There's always men coming to her house at all i'll hours of the day and night to give her drugs or to sell her drugs or to have sex with her. And she abuses alcohol. She's a horrible mother.

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and so he wanted us to conduct surveillance of Pinto when he was with his mom to see or to provide evidence that these things were as he said they were which would help him in court for future child custody ah arrangements to get better a better custody arrangement. And so we, of course, went and did surveillance. I did it myself. Did it over the course of two weeks. There were several days and nights that I followed them. There were evenings. There was weekends. And in all that time, I never saw a hint of any of the things he said.

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I had no doubt they had an acrimonious divorce, that I get. But she was a loving mother. She took him places. She made sure he ate. She held his hand in you know parking lots and things like that. She showed affection to him. She kissed him and hugged him. Never saw any evidence that anybody was coming over for drugs, any evidence that people were coming over for sex or anything. She lived with her father.

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in a a rather nice apartment complex. And we could see on the balcony, they would come out and enjoy the the weather. Must have been the winter. But anyway, they would enjoy the weather. and And so through all of that, there was just no evidence. Now, could it have happened on other days? Yes, it could. And that's why we did the surveillance over the course of about two weeks. Because if any of this was going to happen, it certainly would have happened within the two-week timeframe.

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Case ended. I filed my report. I sent it to the client and then it was crickets. I didn't hear anything for like three days. And so I called the client up.

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I said, I actually called. And so I called the client up and talked to his secretary. She said, yes, yeah he'd he'd like you to come in. And, uh, and so I went back in. Hey, hold on.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I think I did this on the phone. Let me, me I'll edit all this out.

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Valerie

Okay.

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A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, I did it on the phone. so So after not hearing from him for three days, I called him up on the telephone at the end of the day and asked him had he received the report and did he have any questions.

00:28:06.89

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And he laid into me like a pit bull on a poodle. And he said, well, she fuel full she fooled you. You guys don't know what you're doing. You're terrible private investigators. You must have not watched her good enough or well enough. You didn't see what was happening. She's drinks alcohol. She uses drugs. She has sex with all kinds of, you know, on and on the same old thing. She says, I even, you're even the second private investigation firm I've hired. The first one had the same problems. They didn't see anything too.

00:28:35.15

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

So at that point, i I think I just hung up on him.

00:28:35.50

Valerie

and Interesting.

00:28:38.05

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

But I realized this guy was looking for answers he was not going to find, but he was really angry.

00:28:39.22

Valerie  
Interesting.

00:28:43.81

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
But hey, you can't always, ah we don't make outcomes happen. We just  
ah find the facts.

00:28:50.72

Valerie  
Sometimes we think we are convinced that something is true. um And in  
many cases, they are not true or accurate.

00:28:58.69

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Yeah, absolutely.

00:29:01.14

Valerie  
Do you remember any of the cases we worked on?

00:29:05.01

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Yeah, we had, i remember we booked several cases together. It was  
cool. I think the the best one, the most exciting one was the girls  
night out. Do you remember that one?

00:29:15.16

Valerie  
I do.

00:29:16.14

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Yeah, that was down on the river walk here in San Antonio. And it was  
a client that hired me because his wife was having a girls weekend. I  
think Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, something like that with her  
college friends. And there was, I think there's about five or six of  
these ladies that went to school together. Now they were they were  
older, they were married. And because of some things that had happened  
previous, he thought his wife might be having an affair or she might  
use this girls' night out opportunity to you know have a one-night  
stand or something like that. He didn't trust her, bottom line. And so  
they were staying at a hotel right on the Riverwalk.

00:29:55.99

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
And we stood there, are we waited in the lobby and we saw the gaggle  
of women come out, they're talking, they're laughing. It was the



first, they hadn't seen each other for a long time. So they were happy. They were happy. They were laughing. They were talking and they weren't paying attention to anything. So you and I followed them. I think they went to Hooters first and then they went down on the Riverwalk and they went to a restaurant and they all sat down to have a nice meal. And you and I sat down to have a nice meal because, Hey,

00:30:25.86

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

If they're going to eat, we're going to eat. And at one point the, you several of the women, including the, the subject got up to use the restroom. And, uh, so I asked you Valerie to go into the women's restroom and just see if you overhear them saying, if she says anything about a guy or what their plans are or something like that, which you did. And you found out, uh, what they didn't, she didn't say anything, did she?

00:30:50.90

Valerie

She didn't, it was just normal girl talk, having a good time, ah nothing about men or anything like that.

00:31:01.52

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

yep so After the meal, we followed and they ended up going to a ah ah bar. I say a bar, it's more like a a dance club there on the Riverwalk, a country western one. and They, you know, are dancing. They're dancing with each other. A couple of the girls are dancing with some other guys, but the subject, she either was dancing with her friends or she wasn't, dance you know, she didn't, she wasn't having anything to do with another guy. And so that continued through the weekend. And again, there was no evidence that she was, at least not during that girl's weekend, was having anything to do with any other man or woman for that matter.

00:31:38.16

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

But so again, the client didn't particularly like that news, but we can only provide what we see, what we ah observe. But it was fun to work that case with you.

00:31:47.89

Valerie

Yeah, we had a lot of fun. Since we're on the topic of you and me, and do you want to talk about how you and I met?

00:31:57.11

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yes, I have a theory that all great couples have a really interesting way in which they meet. And we are no exception. So it was 1990.

00:32:05.75

Valerie  
It was.

00:32:09.06

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Right? Yeah, I was in the army at Fort Hood, Texas, and you were in Rexburg at a private college called Rick's College at the time. And your roommate happened to be my sister. Or should I say, my sister happened to be your roommate. Either way, it was serendipitous.

00:32:30.24

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

because on the weekends, i because on the holidays, my sister, Jennifer, would come home from school and would regale us with all her fun and everything she's doing at at Rick's college. And this was back in the day of photo albums. I know I'm aging me and you, but people actually used to take photos with cameras and then take the photo, develop it, and put it in an album so you could look at them. They didn't have cell phones with the, yeah you know, cameras at that point.

00:32:59.24

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I don't think we had cell phones at that point. Yeah. Didn't even have cell phones. so And there was this really hot chick that I keep so i kept seeing in all these pictures. And i i ask I'm trying to be coy. I asked my sister, hey, yeah who's that? And who's this? and Oh, and and by the way, who's that that lady there? And she says, that's Valerie. She's my roommate. And I'm still trying to be cool. Oh, cool. Well, ah tell me about her.

00:33:24.80

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And again, short story long, I decided to go back, right and again, so I, let me stop. So at one point, my sister ah left school and went back home. And typically on weekends, I would go from Fort Hood to San Antonio and spend time with my family and then go back during the week for work. And my sister at one point, ah Jennifer decided that she was going to go up and just visit some friends back at the college.

00:33:52.43

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And I said, hey, I'm gonna come with you because I wanted to meet Valerie. I didn't i had no plan i didn't know what I was gonna do, but I thought I but um wanted to meet you anyway. And so Jen and I got in the car and we drove a couple of days or whatever.

00:34:04.85

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

It took two and a half days to get up there to Rick's college and we met you and she, you know, let me start over.

00:34:13.52

Valerie

Can I,

00:34:13.54

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

We drove, we got to Rick's college and I think the first time I met you, I was standing on the balcony of an another apartment complex.

00:34:18.06

Valerie

may I, may I, sorry, hello?

00:34:22.35

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

It was Cheryl Lynn's apartment. Is that right?

00:34:24.75

Valerie

Scott, can we stop, um can we backtrack with the letter that you sent to me ah and and start from there, is that okay?

00:34:26.19

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah.

00:34:35.05

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Oh, yeah. All right.

00:34:39.69

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah. So what we'll do is I will i'll start from the letter. I'll ask you to explain it. And then I'll say when I because when I was in Germany and then when I got back, that's when Jennifer and I went up to Rick's.

00:34:51.62

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

OK. All right.

00:34:53.88

Valerie

So do you want me to ask the question again or just?

00:34:53.96

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Here we go.

00:34:56.69

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
No, no, I'm going to edit this all ah out and I'll just add it in.

00:34:59.80

Valerie  
Okay.

00:35:00.56

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
OK. So anyway, I'm at Fort Hood. At some point I go to this military exercise called re forger. I'm in Germany and I'm sitting in Germany in a tent in the middle of winter, in the middle of a forest. And, you know, being in the military can be kind of boring at times so and had nothing to do. So I decided to write you a letter and me.

00:35:25.37

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
having a strange sense of humor. Well, actually, why don't you tell us what what the letter said, the beginning of the letter that I wrote to you.

00:35:32.58

Valerie  
absolutely so yes you wrote the letter i believe in december of 1989 i received it when i went back to school in january after the break and i was pretty excited because i i kind of already knew about you jennifer and i had become really good friends um

00:35:52.89

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
And i I should say, I just wrote this out of the blue. You you had no idea.

00:35:55.34

Valerie  
Yes, yes, this this was a surprise.

00:35:55.65

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
I just just decided to write it.

00:36:00.06

Valerie  
But yes, um the our first year together, I met your mother, she had come to visit. And Jennifer had told me quite a bit about your family and you.

00:36:11.74

Valerie

And she had pictures as well. And um yeah, so, you know, when I first got the letter, um On one point, on one hand, um I felt like you weren't a complete stranger because i I'd known ah already so much about you from Jennifer and seen lots of pictures. And on the other hand, I was quite shocked, but also pleasantly surprised. And the letter began, Dear Valerie, Hi, how are you? I love you. Will you marry me? And I cracked up.

00:36:52.21

Valerie

And I continued to read the letter and could not stop laughing. And I think I fell in love with you right there and then. It was hilarious.

00:37:03.26

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And you've been laughing ever since, right?

00:37:03.50

Valerie

And so absolutely most of the time.

00:37:08.78

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

So after having written written this letter and taking a chance with my bold language, ah Jennifer at this point had already gone back home from school and her and I decided to go back to Ricks because I wanted to meet you. and She said, I'll come with you.

00:37:23.86

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And so we went up there. So we went up there. I spent two weeks at Rick's college, Jennifer visiting her friends and me visiting you. And I think the first time I met you when I got up there, it was the first day, it was an evening, cause we had just driven in and I followed Jen to her friend Cheryl Lynn's apartment and they called you to tell you to come over. And, uh,

00:37:52.58

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I'm standing on the balcony. It's the second floor, waiting for you to show up. And I see you and some other woman coming this way walking. And as you got closer and closer, I was really more and more nervous. I had butterflies in my stomach. I was like, I hope she likes me. But I was also like, if she doesn't, it's going to be OK. But I hope she does. And as you got closer and closer, you just look more and more beautiful, except for the pants that you were wearing. You want to tell folks about the pants?

00:38:21.61

Valerie

Yeah, the plaid green pants.

00:38:23.82

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Hideous.

00:38:25.95

Valerie

They weren't they weren't mine, by the way, I borrowed them.

00:38:29.45

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, you showed up and I. Oh, you share it with Cherlin with you.

00:38:36.42

Valerie

I don't remember.

00:38:37.86

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I don't remember. Anyway, so you showed up with a friend and I, you were introduced to me and I gave you a hug and you looked absolutely gorgeous. Breathtaking. I didn't, I was, I didn't know what to say.

00:38:50.67

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

So we went in the apartment and we just started, we sat on a couch and started talking and we haven't stopped talking since. And, uh, that was in, was that in March of 90?

00:38:58.31

Valerie

that's right Yes, it was

00:39:06.64

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And then I went back after two weeks, I went back to Fort Hood and we're, we continued writing letters. You know, this was before email and I thought, I, I'm in love.

00:39:17.48

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

So I called you on the phone. Was it a week later?

00:39:22.76

Valerie

yes

00:39:23.34

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah. A week after getting back, I called you on the phone and said, ask you if you would marry me.

00:39:23.61

Valerie

so

00:39:28.82

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And you said,

00:39:30.04

Valerie

Yes, yes, yes.

00:39:31.90

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Awesome. And we got married six months later in August.

00:39:37.96

Valerie

That's right.

00:39:38.78

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And right after that, I went to the Gulf War. So that was your introduction to the Army. But yeah, we've got a great story of how we met.

00:39:45.92

Valerie

Absolutely. Let's take a quick break. We'll be right back.

00:40:01.64

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

you can You can say, and we're back.

00:40:03.99

Valerie

ah yeah Oh, OK.

00:40:05.62

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And then go on to question nine.

00:40:12.83

Valerie

I'm going to have to hold this paper.

00:40:15.28

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

It's okay.

00:40:16.03

Valerie

So because it's making me look down and I don't want to look down.

00:40:20.36

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

No, we don't want that. That's fine.

00:40:23.21

Valerie

So let me fix this really quick.

00:40:26.08

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Sure.

00:40:28.58

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

No problemo.

00:40:31.47

Valerie

And we are back. Let's talk about pros and cons.

00:40:36.10

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Okay.

00:40:38.33

Valerie

What are your favorite things about being a private investigator?

00:40:41.92

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, there's a lot of things. I am not, as you know, and I'm sorry, it's just the way I am, I'm not the kind of guy that can sit at a desk. Monday through Friday, 9 to 5, punch in, punch out for 20 years. i just It's soul crushing to me. I can't do it. I like to be out and doing things. and so Some of the favorite things I like about being a PI, first is the freedom. The freedom to do what I want, take the cases that I want, turn down cases I don't want.

00:41:12.53

A Study in Crime™ Podcast



The independence of being able to be to rely on just myself and to try to solve other people's problems. Working for myself, being self-employed is a real thrill. Not always, but most of the time it's a real thrill. I also like the mystery of dealing with mysteries and trying to to help other people solve these problems that seem insurmountable in their lives.

00:41:44.50

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
How about 10?

00:41:44.52

Valerie  
Okay, I want to turn the paper over now.

00:41:46.51

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
That's fine, I had to do that same.

00:41:55.30

Valerie  
Let me get situated here.

00:41:58.86

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
v

00:42:05.08

Valerie  
I'm sure there are, dumb let me redo that.

00:42:11.24

Valerie  
I'm sure there are downsides to the job. What are they?

00:42:15.23

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
And there there is. i And obviously there's downsides to all jobs. um One of the things that I've already mentioned is zi it can be boring at times. I mean, think about it. I'm sitting in a car staring at someone's front door for eight hours or 10 hours or even four hours waiting for them to leave. And you can't sit and read a ah paperback book or, you know, you've got to you got to stay focused. I listen to podcasts or music or that type of thing. So some of the downsides are are the boredom at times.

00:42:45.78

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Another downside, of course, is the weather. So i've done i've done I've conducted surveillance all over most of the US, not all of it,

but much of it. I've conducted surveillance throughout much of the US and you know I've conducted surveillance in winter in Nebraska.

00:43:01.98

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

where it was extremely cold. And I've done it here in Texas in the summer where it's extremely hot and humid. And so you are kind of dealt with the the the extremes of the weather. So that's one thing that is not always great. Another thing is the taxes. You've got to pay taxes, which I i get. I've got no problem with that. But you also have to file paperwork. You've got to be on top. There's deadlines. You've got to do all these things with taxes. And it's kind of a headache.

00:43:30.71

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And the other thing is clients. Now clients obviously are how you make money, but when I say clients are a downside, some clients occasionally are downside. And that's the ones that either are unreasonable, like ah the dentist I mentioned.

00:43:47.30

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Or there are those that call you all hours of the day, all hours of the night, and want to speculate and talk forever about what's happening and what might happen and what could happen in their case when you want to just tell them, look, okay, give me time. I'm going to work the case. I will give you an update. So clients can be kind of demanding in that way. But other than that, I think the upside definitely beat the downside.

00:44:15.69

Valerie

And we have lovely summers here in Texas.

00:44:18.90

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Indeed.

00:44:19.06

Valerie

What is it like doing surveillance in the heat?

00:44:22.21

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Like the surface of the moon. I mean, the surface of the like the surface of the sun. So i am ah I need to get a new surveillance vehicle. And the next my next one is going to be a hybrid because I can actually run the air conditioner with the engine off. And that is a game changer.

00:44:40.92

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

i um I get chills just thinking about it. But yeah, um what you usually do if it's particularly bad, I mean, you try to find shade, you crack your windows, there's fans, there's tint, there's all kinds of things like that. But sometimes it becomes unbearable on specific days. Sometimes it becomes unbearable on certain days. And that's when you just turn the car on, you turn their air conditioner on and cool off.

00:45:04.26

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

and you cool off, then you turn it off until you start sweating again, then you turn it back on. You kind of repeat that process. And the the whole time youre you're praying, please leave, please go somewhere so I can run my AC and follow you. But yeah, that's how we that's how we survive in the heat.

00:45:22.15

Valerie

Has anybody ever walked up to you while you were on surveillance?

00:45:26.32

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I actually say it has even caught you following them.

00:45:30.10

Valerie

Well, I wanted to ask that one first.

00:45:34.16

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

What's that?

00:45:35.17

Valerie

I wanted to ask that one first. I made up one.

00:45:38.56

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Oh, okay. Go ahead. Go ahead. Say it again.

00:45:41.23

Valerie

has anybody anybody Has anybody walked up to you while you were on surveillance?

00:45:46.98

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

yeah Yeah, it's happened. It's happened more in the past than it is, than it has happened lately. As you get better at doing surveillance, you get better at, you know, knowing where to set up, how to set up so that you look naturally like your, your car is just naturally in this place and and belongs there. But, you know, I've had people, I had a guy, I was, I was, uh, doing surveillance. I wasn't a pickup, I think. Yeah. Waiting for the subject to leave. And some guy, I see him come out of his house. He's walking towards me. I'm like, Oh, here we go.

00:46:17.08

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

He walks over and knocks, you know, but knocks on the, sorry, he knocks on the driver's side window. I roll the window down and he says, uh, you've been outside in front of my house for a long time. What are you doing here? Now there's a couple of ways to take approach this. I knew a PI would say, you know, you can tell you where to go and how to far to do it. He didn't care because it's a public street. There's nothing this guy can do, but I think it's, you're you're better off being kind to people and, uh,

00:46:44.99

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

people like to know you're better off being kind to people. So I told the guy, i don't I didn't tell him I was a private investigator following watching his neighbor. I said, I'm a process server. I'm waiting for someone to come visit somebody at a house down the road so that I can follow them and serve them. And then he said, he's holding me in a change. Oh, oh, all right. Well, that's fine. I just wanted to make sure if you were OK, see who you were.

00:47:10.99

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

But, uh, oh, I had another time, by the way, I ended up in surveillance. I have a friend, uh, named Ronnie. I did surveillance on her street down the block, waiting for someone to leave. And her dad and mother were saints. They were such awesome people. They let me sit in the driveway under the shade and like every 30 minutes they would bring me something. Her dad would come out and give me a Sprite ice cold Sprite and his mother would come out and give me a sandwich. I'm like, this is really great. I could get used to this. So yeah, it's worked both ways. so

00:47:40.20

Valerie

What about police officers? Have they ever known?

00:47:42.12

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, that's happened as well. Um, I'll tell you one case that was very embarrassing. I actually fell asleep. Now you should, I'm being

honest here, folks. You should never fall asleep on surveillance, but it was in the heat and the, just the heat was weighing on me. I had gotten up really early and I think I just dozed off and all of a sudden I hear another knock.

00:48:01.02

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And I look into police officer and like, Oh, lovely. Now he's going to think I'm a doofus once he finds out what I'm doing. So I roll the window down. He asked me the same question. What are you doing here? And I said, I'm a private investigator waiting for someone to leave. And he said, all right, no problem. I showed him my ID. They run your plates to make sure, you know, there's no warrants out for you, that type of thing. And then they left.

00:48:24.50

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And it wasn't a problem. I mean, normally if the police show up, you you figure your subject's going to see it. But in the way we were but the way I was set up, I could see the subject leave, but they wouldn't be able to have seen the police officer. So it worked to my advantage.

00:48:41.10

Valerie

Has anybody ever caught you following them ah on the road?

00:48:44.81

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, you know, I mentioned that earlier about getting burned or getting made. And there was a period in in time where, you know, when you start surveillance, you're not very good at it. And you're getting burned, you're getting made, you're losing people. And then you get good at it and you start learning things. And then you get really good at it. And then you get really cocky, like I'm invisible. They're not going to see me, you know, don't see me. And ah it was a a ah elderly couple and I did so set up surveillance.

00:49:15.41

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

a couple of houses down from them because and I knew that they had a medical appointment and so I see them get out of the car and they take forever to get out of the car they take forever to get in the car and I drive as I drive by I have my camera I do a little video shot as as I drive by because I'm cocky I'm like they don't notice me and I pull over and they pass me up And I follow them through several stop signs, through several stoplights, all the way to um a medical center where they go to a an area where there's a hospital and a bunch of medical offices where they had the appointment. And so I pull around the corner, getting ready to videotape them of you know coming out of the vehicle. And they get out of the vehicle and they're looking all over.

I think they're looking for me. But I wasn't sure yeah as of yet.

00:50:07.77

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

So they're looking all over and suddenly a yeah ah security officer pulls up in a golf cart and they're talking to him and they're pointing everywhere and they're pointing in my direction. And so obviously I was burned. I was made. And so the security guard starts driving my way. I got in the car and I, so well, I was already in the car. I just split. I took off and I went home and changed vehicles.

00:50:31.84

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

because obviously these this elderly couple, because they were elderly, I thought, yeah, they're not paying attention. They're slow. Now that I'm getting elderly, I find out, no, they do pay attention.

00:50:43.05

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

They're not necessarily slow.

00:50:45.50

Valerie

Maybe more than.

00:50:45.73

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

ah So I, of course, got a different vehicle set in a different area of the parking lot. And when they came out, they were escorted by the security officer. And they're looking left.

00:50:56.90

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

They're looking right. They're looking all over for me. And at that point, I followed them home. But they never realized at that point that I was on to a mic, because I was very careful. Once you know ah that people have, you know, you've been burned, you've got to be extremely careful.

00:51:13.97

Valerie

What kind of people make good private investigators?

00:51:17.29

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

People like me and you and others. No, um lots of people can make good private investigators. A lot of occupations, librarians, claims adjusters, skip tracers, former military, people who are in law enforcement. Those are the kind of folks that make really good PIs, people who are curious, people who have an insatiable appetite for

understanding how things happen and what happens, solving mysteries, having a

00:51:49.47

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

power of observation, having a really great power of observation of noticing things. Those are the types of folks that owe in patients. You've got to have an immense amount of patients. But those are the kind of things that would that make good private investigators.

00:52:06.49

Valerie

what um ah What advice would you give somebody who's just starting out um and wants to be a private investigator?

00:52:14.44

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, I get this a lot on LinkedIn or or people email me and want to know, can you hire me? Or how do I become a PI? Or Scott, I want to do what you do, that type of thing. So what I would say is it depends on where you're licensed. There's 50 states in the US, obviously, and all but I think four of them have state licensing of private investigators. So there's a so government body that regulates the licenses.

00:52:41.68

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

The other four states, which are like North Dakota, Mississippi, Colorado, I think Wyoming, they do not have a state license. So you can get up in, you can get up one morning in Worland, Wyoming and say, I think I'll be a PI today and boom, you're a PI.

00:52:59.41

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

but most everywhere else you have to have a license. and And typically two types of licenses. One is a license where you, like I have, you have your own company, you can take clients, you can do whatever you want. Another is a license where you can only work for a company. You can't take your own cases. You only work for someone else and you have to do what they, take the cases that they give you. So typically you would start out that way. And what I would recommend is that you,

00:53:25.07

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you get a job with a private investigation firm and use that company it's not nice but use that company to make your mistakes so you work for them for three years or two years or whatever you do you learn the craft you learn how to do surveillance you learn how to use proprietary databases how to search for court records those types of things and you make your mistakes and learn everything, you know, cut

your teeth with that company. So then when you start your own company as a PI, you'll be prepared and you'll be all a lot better off. So that's what I would recommend.

00:54:02.82

Valerie

Before the break, you mentioned your book, Confessions of a Private Eye.

00:54:06.32

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Actually, I forgot to do that. So just tell me, ask me about the book.

00:54:09.91

Valerie

Okay. Your book, okay. You wrote Confessions of a Private Eye. What um made you decide to write the book?

00:54:20.94

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Well, I mean, I come from a yeah a family of writers. My mother is a published, my late mother, I come from a family of writers. My late mother was a published author. I think she published 14 different books on Amazon, Evil and Fulmer, EVA, LYN, in case you're interested, some suspense and mystery and drama, pretty good, pretty good books.

00:54:42.30

Valerie

Excellent books.

00:54:42.33

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And so go ahead and say it again.

00:54:45.14

Valerie

Excellent books.

00:54:46.42

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Absolutely. And so it was in the blood already, but As I would travel by airplane or check into hotels, you know, in California or I'm in Idaho or I'm in New Mexico or wherever I'm at, people would always ask, what do you do? And I tell them I'm a private investigator. And the first thing they say is, ooh, I would be a good PI. And they want to know stories. They want to know the war stories. So I would oblige them by telling them a story or two, like I've told you folks here today.

00:55:18.83



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And eventually I got a blog and I started blogging about being a PI. And after a while I decided I'm going to take the, uh, what I've been doing as a blog and I'm going to put it into a book. And so the book is confessions of a private eye, my 30 years investigating cheaters, frauds, missing persons and crooks. And it,

00:55:42.67

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It goes through the last 30 years as a private invest. It goes through my 30 year career thus far as a private investigator where I talk about how I became one. I talk about all the different types of cases that I have and tell some really great war stories and you can find it on Amazon. It's available in It's available in Kindle, ebook, audio, paperback, and hardback. But yeah, after talking to people about it, I just decided to write a book and it was, uh, it was difficult. It took about a year to write it. I didn't spend every day on it, but ah overall it took a year to write the book. And I had to change, you know, details and locations and use pseudonyms and things like that. But it was really cathartic to, to lay down all this information in a book. And, uh, I'm actually re-editing it right now.

00:56:34.27

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And I'm still enjoying the book.

00:56:39.22

Valerie

I might be a little biased, but I think it's a great book.

00:56:42.33

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, thank you.

00:56:42.64

Valerie

Very interesting.

00:56:47.82

Valerie

you started ah studying

00:56:53.73

Valerie

you started the you started the sorry um You started the podcast in April this year.

00:57:01.42

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Okay.

00:57:07.03

Valerie

What made you decide to do the podcast?

00:57:10.27

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, this is my 35th episode of A Study in Crime. And season two starts February 4th, by the way, for all you folks at home. And after writing my book, I decided to start a podcast. And so after finishing my book, let me let me stop, think a second, hold on.

00:57:34.11

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I've always been a fan of true crime because I love mysteries and I love nonfiction. And so I decided to start a study in crime to look at particular crimes that have happened, some ones that you may be aware of, others that you're not aware of, and to talk about how and why these crimes happened.

00:57:53.26

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And so I have all types of guests, as you know. i don't know if this is your first epi I don't know if this is your first episode listening, but if it is, I would go back and start with episode one. But I interview investigators, journalists, authors, and others about crime.

00:58:08.28

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

and usually almost all of these episodes are someone who was either the victim or was the subject the investigator uh somebody who was in prison that type of thing and so you get a kind of a firsthand account of the crime and it's all different types i don't like i'm not a fan of these murder of the week you know podcasts where everything is the same every week it's just different way the person was killed under a different person i don't find any joy in that i think it's uh a little schadenfreude, if you ask me. And so I talk about um computer hacking crimes. I talk about murder, of course, serial killers, ah fraud, securities fraud, ah being in a motorcycle gang. I have all different kinds of crimes in all these different episodes. And it's just something that's interested me. And I am having a ball doing it.

00:59:01.22

Valerie

while you are doing a very good job, I must say.

00:59:04.83

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, thank you. I appreciate that.

00:59:08.24

Valerie

I wanted to ask or say one more thing before finishing.

00:59:12.26

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Sure.

00:59:13.52

Valerie

So Scott, before I ask you the last question, I just wanted to tell you that you are an amazing man. ah You're not just a good private investigator or podcaster.

00:59:27.66

Valerie

You are a good husband and father. And it is a privilege to be married to you. And I support you 100%. And I look forward to future podcasts and maybe helping out some more. And I think 2025 is going to be a great year.

00:59:49.65

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, thank you. That's very kind of you to say that. When you first started, I thought you were going to tell me you're pregnant or something. That was going to freak me out.

00:59:57.77

Valerie

That would be funny.

01:00:00.23

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

No, but thank you. Seriously, I appreciate that.

01:00:04.50

Valerie

Well Scott, I'll give you the last word. What are your plans for the future?

01:00:09.53

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing. ah I think one of my plans, of course, is to continue the podcast and to continue to find engaging guests and tell criminal and tell engaging to continue to find engaging guests and to tell stories about how and why specific crimes occurred, see what we can learn about them, learn about. ah Let me just I don't like any of that. Let me just start over again. Hold on. Well,

01:00:38.59

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I want to continue doing the podcast, A Study in Crime, and continue to find and interview engaging guests. I am going to go from just audio to video in 2025, date to be determined. It won't be the first few months, but eventually I'd like to go to video as well. And I will continue being a private investigator.

01:01:01.93

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

getting a hybrid car so I don't sweat like a gravy-sucking pig, but I have a cool air conditioner running ah through my golden locks when I'm on surveillance. And just continue doing that, being a good husband to you, and being a grandfather next year as well, which will be a first for me. Okay, that's it. You like that ending or should I say something else?

01:01:28.09

Valerie

i I loved it. Maybe you could say ah something that about, we will be grandparents.

01:01:33.52

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Okay. Yeah. All right.

01:01:34.46

Valerie

You and I.

01:01:34.72

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I must say that like it's the last thing I say.

01:01:36.98

Valerie

OK.

01:01:37.95

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And finally, the last thing that I'm looking forward to in the future is that in March of next year, Valerie, Valerie and I will become grandparents for the first time.

01:01:49.89

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

My son and my daughter-in-law will, are pregnant and we we're excited to be grand folks. So we're looking forward to that. All right. How's that?

01:02:00.74  
Valerie  
That was great.