

# Cappelen Damm

## Agency *Spring 2024*



### Unsolved Mysteries from Around the World

In *Unsolved Mysteries from Around the World* readers will find out about all kinds of sinister and unexplained happenings from every corner of the world – and get a chance to dig around in all the clues and evidence.

Who was Jack the Ripper, the murderer who killed several women on the streets of London in 1888? What happened to the Sodder children who vanished without a trace after a fire in West Virginia on Christmas Eve in 1945? And is Himeji Castle in Japan really haunted?

*Unsolved Mysteries from Around the World* is a collection of 33 mysterious, unsolved spooky stories that are guaranteed to raise the hairs on the back of readers' necks – young and old alike!

Illustrator Jannicke Hansen has filled the book with mysterious, eerie, spooky drawings that will absorb and fascinate young readers.

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**Unsolved Mysteries from Around the World**  
Pernille Tufte Radeid & Jannicke Hansen (ill.)

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Jannicke Hansen (ill.)**

Pernille Tufte Radeid (born 1987) is known as a screenwriter and host for several spooky and mysterious podcasts. She has written two children's books about unsolved mysteries.

Jannicke Hansen is a fulltime illustrator. She was nominated for the Ministry of Culture's Illustration Prize in 2023 for her illustrations in *Unsolved Mysteries*.



## UNSOLVED MYSTERIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- The Mystery at the Lighthouse of Eilean Mor
- Haunted dolls
- Poveglia – The haunted island
- Jack the Ripper
- La Llorona – The Weeping Woman
- The Dyatlov-mystery
- Dracula's Castle
- Who placed Bella in the elm tree?
- Haunted houses
- The Roswell Incident
- The Lead Masks Case
- When the Sodder-children disappeared
- The trenches of WW1
- Mystical Phenomenons
- The Panama Disappearance
- The Ghost of Wychwood Forest
- The Prisoners of Novaja Semlja
- The Disappearance of Bobby Dunbars
- The Haunted Hospital of Gonjiam
- Tamám Shud: The Body on the Beach
- Himeji – Japan's Haunted Castle
- The Mysterious Lines in the Nasca Desert
- The Catacombs of Paris
- Anne Boleyn
- The World's Largest Art Theft
- Malaysian Airlines Flight 370
- The Curse of Tutankhamon
- Ludvig II of Bavaria
- The Flying Dutchman

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Pernille Radeid

*Unsolved Mysteries from Around the World*

Children's non-fiction, 2024

Translated from the Norwegian by Rosie Hedger

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Translation © Rosie Hedger

## The World's Largest Art Theft

It is the middle of the night on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1990, an ordinary night in Boston, USA. The majority of people are fast asleep in their beds, and it is several hours yet before they need to get up for school or work. It is dark outside and there is a chill in the air. A large van trundles towards the side entrance of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. The van parks up, and two men in police uniforms exit the vehicle, neither in any particular hurry. Both are acting normally, drawing no attention to themselves as they wander in the direction of the museum door. They ring the bell and a guard answers. The men tell him they are responding to a police call alerting them to a disturbance in the museum. In spite of the fact that there hasn't been a sound from the museum, the guard lets them in. The guard no doubt gives it very little thought; the museum is in safe hands with the police around. There is a problem, though: the two men are not, in fact, police officers, but thieves. After gaining access to the museum, they overpower the guard in the control room, tying his hands behind his back. The second guard is busy on his rounds in the museum, unaware of the events unfolding. Upon his return to the control room, he spots two police officers waiting for him. He goes to greet them, but as he approaches, he senses that something isn't quite right. He also notices that one of the officers is wearing a fake moustache and behaving in a suspicious manner. And where is his colleague? The thieves realise that the security guard is onto them and leap into action. They usher the two guards, aged 23 and 25, into the museum basement, taping their eyes and mouths closed. They search the guards' pockets and find their ID cards, threatening them and stating that they know where they live. The thieves also promise that if the men stop struggling, they'll be rewarded one year later. The two guards are handcuffed to pipes against the wall. The thieves enter the museum and imprison the guards in the space of just fifteen minutes.

The two thieves work their way through the museum systematically, setting off one alarm after the next as they move from room to room, but the guards locked up in the basement are unable to call the police. The thieves loot the museum of 13 works by renowned artists such as Rembrandt, Vermeer, Degas and Manet, with just 81 minutes passing from the moment they ring the bell to the moment they leave the museum. In that time, they steal almost 600 million dollars' worth of art. These works of art remain missing to this day, more than thirty years after the spectacular theft took place. The case has not yet been cracked, and remains unsolved. The two thieves who posed as police officers have never been caught, and appear to have executed a perfect robbery. The museum offered a finder's fee of 10 million dollars for any information that could lead to the return of the artworks, but there remains no trace of them.

## The Curse of Tutankhamun

When pharaohs and other important ancient Egyptian figures were buried, it was typical for their tombs to be filled with valuables including art, gold, furniture, chests, statues and any other items deemed necessary for the pharaoh in the afterlife. It was also customary that some of the pharaoh's servants would be sacrificed, with people convinced that he would need them in the next life. It was well known that tombs were filled with priceless items, and unsurprisingly this proved attractive to many grave robbers; in an attempt to keep such criminals at bay, curses were put on the tombs. British archaeologist Howard Carter and his colleagues became painfully aware of this after taking the decision to open Tutankhamun's tomb.

The year 2022 marked 100 years since the stone steps leading into Tutankhamun's tomb were first discovered. On the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1923, the tomb itself was opened for the first time after being sealed for more than 3000 years. It was an archaeological sensation, and the discoveries made by Howard Carter and his team hold great fascination to this day. The archaeological team discovered not only art, food, weapons and other ancient artifacts inside the burial chamber, but also the mummified body of one of the world's most prominent and widely-discussed pharaohs. Tutankhamun was made pharaoh at the age of nine, and died just nine years later. There have been numerous theories about how he died, including the belief that he fell from a fast-moving carriage while out hunting, or that he was murdered by one of his closest advisors as part of a plot against him. More recent studies have revealed that he is most likely to have died after a period of illness, but some believe that Tutankhamun was killed by a curse. He became pharaoh at a very young age, and many would have been extremely jealous of the young king, including some of his closest family members. But could one or more of these individuals have been so jealous that they desired the young king dead? It certainly wouldn't be the first time in history that such a thing should happen.

It is said that something was written on the wall inside Tutankhamun's burial chamber: 'Death shall come on swift wings to whomsoever opens this chamber'. This certainly proved to be true for Carter's team. Before the tomb itself was opened, Carter's dearly beloved canary died in mysterious circumstances; servants mentioned hearing strange noises coming from inside Carter's office, and when they entered, they found that a cobra had found its way into the bird's cage. This worried the servants, who believed the cobra had been sent as a warning not to open the pharaoh's tomb. Lord Carnarvon, who paid for both the dig and the expedition itself, was bitten by a mosquito a few months after the tomb was unsealed. One morning as he was shaving, his razor caught the mosquito bite. This tiny cut led to a serious infection, and Lord Carnarvon died shortly afterwards - it is said that all of the lights in the Egyptian capital of Cairo unexpectedly went out the moment he died. At the same time back at home in England, his serving staff witnessed their master's dog Susy wake from her sleep and start barking and howling before abruptly dropping down dead. Radiologist Sir Archibald Douglas Reid never actually stepped foot in Tutankhamun's tomb, but he did carry out the x-ray examination of the pharaoh's mummy; he fell ill the day after taking the x-rays, and three days later, he also died. Sir Archibald Douglas Reid's secretary, Richard Bethell, was one of the first to enter Tutankhamun's tomb. Six years after the dig he was found dead in a gentlemen's club in London. His murder remains unsolved to this day.

Following the inexplicable series of events after the unsealing of Tutankhamun's tomb, many people speculated that there might be some truth to the ancient curses. People also discussed whether Carter and Lord Carnarvon's motives were any better than those of the grave robbers; they, too, had hoped to become wealthy following the discovery of the pharaoh's tomb.



## The Mystery of the Dyatlov Pass

On the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1959, ten Soviet university students and researchers set out on an expedition in the Siberian mountains. One of the participants, Yuri Yudin, was taken ill and was forced to cut his trip short, travelling back to the city to be treated by a doctor. He bid his friends farewell, taking a final photograph of the group before leaving, unaware that he would be the last person to see the other researchers alive. Around a month later, the group was found dead. The manner of their deaths was so bizarre that it remains a subject of discussion around the world to this day.

The researchers' logbooks were discovered alongside their bodies, offering us a little insight into the days leading up to their deaths. They also took many photographs, revealing that the group was well-dressed for the conditions and fully prepared for the expedition. They had packed warm clothing, sufficient food and weapons in case they should come across predators, as well as tents, sleeping bags, ferro rods, primus stoves and equipment for documenting their journey. The leader of the group was Igor Dyatlov, and his group consisted of eight men and two women between the ages of 20 and 38, each one well-acquainted with the difficult conditions in the Siberian mountains. The expedition was intended to last two weeks.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January, the group were due to climb a peak known as Mount Otorten. The weather took a turn for the worse, and the hike took longer than the group had anticipated. On the 1<sup>st</sup> February they attempted to cross the mountain pass, but their logbooks report the approach of a snowstorm. Visibility became so poor that the group wandered further west than planned, taking them off their intended course. They found themselves approaching a different mountain pass that was longer and more dangerous. The mood among the group was low, and leader Igor Dyatlov struggled to lift peoples' spirits. The group was cold and tired after their detour, and the future of their project looked uncertain. The wind picked up and it became difficult for them to continue on cross-country skis. Eventually Igor Dyatlov decided it was time to call it a day and set up camp. They opted to pitch up on an open plain to ensure they wouldn't be injured by falling trees. In the group's logbooks it states that they managed to pitch their tents after a short while and proceeded to warm up some food. It seems that the group were optimistic as they considered the following day, hopeful that the high winds would subside and allow them to ascend Mount Otorten.

The date the group had intended to return home came and went. Neither the university nor any friends or family of the group heard anything from Igor Dyatlov and the researchers. This was an experienced group, so nobody was particularly concerned. Expeditions of this nature could be demanding, and if the group was delayed by a few days, it was unlikely to be anything to worry about. The issue was simply that they never did receive any telegram, and the group never reappeared.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> February, a search party was launched. Initially it was only friends, colleagues and family members who began looking for the researchers, but the conditions in the mountains were so poor that the Soviet military was called in to assist with the search. After six days spent searching, a tent was found. It had been abandoned and was partly covered in snow. Under the tent canvas were sleeping bags, backpacks, clothing, shoes and food. The groups' skis were discovered in the snow beside the collapsed tent. Upon further examination, it became clear that the canvas of the tent had been

slashed open from the inside, as if someone had been in a hurry to get out of it. The researchers were nowhere to be seen. Where could they have gone? Had they fled from their tent in the middle of a winter storm without any clothes or shoes? The search team could see bare footprints leading away from the tent. Whatever it was they had been running from was unclear. They followed the footprints leading away from the camp, and around 500 metres from the tents, not far from a cedar tree, the search party found the remains of a fire. Beside the fire were two bodies, both in nothing but underwear. The first five metres of the cedar tree trunk were badly damaged. The bark had been shredded and the branches broken. It looked almost as if an enormous beast had attacked it.

A further three researchers were found just beyond the cedar tree, also in a state of undress. It appeared that the researchers had been fast asleep in their tents only to be woken in the middle of the night, cut open the canvas above them and flee as fast as their legs would carry them. Everyone wondered what could possibly have happened.

It took more than two months for the final four researchers to be found on 4<sup>th</sup> May. They were wearing slightly more clothing than the first few, and one had a camera around his neck. The photographs were developed, but the images showed only large circles of light. There was nothing that might reveal what had happened to the group of researchers.

The military cordoned off the area as soon as the researchers were found, and their bodies were sent for analysis to find out how they had died.

It was revealed that none of the researchers had any injuries significant enough to have caused their deaths, besides one who had sustained a fatal head injury. The rest of the deaths remained a mystery, and the more examinations that took place, the stranger everything appeared to be. At first, the forensic examiner believed the researchers to have died from hypothermia - that they had frozen to death, in other words. That could also explain why the researchers were wearing so little: as you freeze to death, your brain tricks your body into believing it is hot, when actually it is ice cold. People who find themselves freezing to death sometimes begin to undress, and the researchers had been discovered in nothing but their underwear.

The researchers had very few external injuries, but things were very different internally. Their internal organs had essentially been crushed. Exactly how such a thing might occur was difficult to ascertain.

During the joint burial, numerous people remarked upon the researchers' appearances. The young researchers looked much older than their years. Their hair had turned white, and their skin was yellowish-brown and wrinkled. Two of the researchers had been found in clothing that was said to be radioactive.

The investigation failed to reveal a great deal of information. There had been no snowfall in the area since the day the researchers were likely to have disappeared, leaving their footprints intact. However, no footprints besides those of the researchers themselves were found in the area, whether animal or human. The case received widespread media attention and gripped the population, but the military shared very little information. Not even the researchers' families were told anything.

When cases are kept top-secret in this way, rumours begin to swirl. People debated all sorts of ideas from UFO attacks and the appearance of the abominable snowman known as the Yeti, to avalanches and infrasound. It was even speculated that the Soviet military had accidentally fired a missile in the direction of the camp, killing the researchers in the process.

The truth of what happened to the researchers in what is now known as the Dyatlov Pass in Siberia remains unknown to this day. Nothing makes sense in this case, and each new lead inspires only more questions.

Yuri Yudin dedicated a great deal of time to trying to find out what happened to his friends. He died in 2013, at the age of 75. Yuri never did receive any answers, and with so many questions remaining, it seems our fate will be the same.

## The Ghost of Marie Antoinette in the Palace of Versailles

As the last queen to rule France before the French revolution, Marie Antoinette lived a charmed life in the enormous Palace of Versailles, located just outside Paris. The palace itself is a glorious sight, both outside and in. Vast, ornately embellished rooms and ballrooms, furniture crafted from solid gold and mirrors many metres high. The Queen lived in Versailles with her husband, King Louis XVI, and their children.

In spite of the fact that the French people were starving, the royal family had more than they could eat and never thought to extend any help to the people of their country. When Marie Antoinette was informed that French citizens had no bread, she is said to have remarked: 'Then let them eat cake'. It's certainly possible to argue that Marie Antoinette knew no better, having lived a sheltered existence in a world of wealth, knowing nothing of the plight of the ordinary people. Nonetheless, many were angered by her statement, and with good reason.

The lives of Marie Antoinette and her family ended in the worst possible way. They were executed by the notorious guillotine, a machine designed to behead its victim in one fell swoop. Following Marie Antoinette's death, sightings of her were often reported in Versailles, whether in the palace's lengthy corridors, the various rooms she lived in, or the many gardens and forests on the palace estate. She may have lost her life, but she never left her beloved Versailles.

In 1901, two highly educated women visited Versailles. The women took a walk in the vast grounds and noticed several workers dressed in clothing from the 1800s. They also spotted a fair-haired, very beautiful woman in a spectacular gown, and the women were surprised to see her out and about in such an outfit on an ordinary day. The fair-haired woman seemed anxious and distraught, but given the fact that the visitors were unacquainted with her, they left her alone and carried on walking.

The following day they began to consider the things they had observed, and both agreed that it had been a strange experience. They wondered if they might have seen Marie Antoinette herself, shortly before she was imprisoned and executed. The women were able to recount what they had seen in such detail that together they wrote a book to describe their experience.

The strangest aspect of the entire incident was that the women were able to describe the gardens and various buildings of Versailles exactly as they had appeared when Marie Antoinette had lived there. They recounted crossing a beautiful bridge on their walk, a bridge that was removed several years before their visit, and where the queen was said to enjoy looking out across the water. Other details, including their account of a missing window, left those who knew Versailles utterly baffled. These specifics could not have been known by anyone in 1901, given that there were so few photographs of Versailles.