**Megan Huntsman**

***Note : the broad headlines are not for VO***

***Note for Editor : Please use the crime scene visuals in the whole video and try to use less stock, we have enough of the real visuals that can be played throughout the video***

***Note : the strategy used in the case was to place every clip in a manner to focus only on revelations and shocking events while also giving breaks in between and playing with the emotions, change of scenes.***

***FINAL VIDEO LINE:*** [***https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HkC0j5fN1v-iWnRLEWylwPmfzJNKQ8Ox/view?usp=sharing***](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HkC0j5fN1v-iWnRLEWylwPmfzJNKQ8Ox/view?usp=sharing)

***RAW VIDEO :***

| **Voiceover** | **Visuals** |
| --- | --- |
| **Introduction**  This is Darren West who had just found a dead body hidden in his garage. But **that was nothing compared to what chilling discovery the officers were about to make.**  When officers first arrived at the gruesome scene**, they had no idea what dark secrets were hidden behind the doors**. But as they began uncovering a series of damning clues, it quickly became clear that this wasn’t just a meticulously planned murder—**it was something far more sinister and the killer was much closer to home than anyone expected**. | Start with this bodycam  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drive_link>  (00.01.31 - 00.01.40)  (00.05.16 - 00.05.35)  **(Reason : 911 call is panicking and giving a good start by generating curiosity and building suspence**)  Play this clip after this line ‘were about to make.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drive_link>  911 call  (00.00.28 - 00.00.30)  (00.00.34 - 00.00.40)  Darren crying bodycam  (00.05.59 - 00.06.06)  Detectives dialogues  03.41 - 03.45  26.29 - 26.47  (**Instructions:** have to just use the best line from this timespan)  27.06 - 27.11  (My heart just sunk, dear God no, not another one)  27.35 - 27.38 (extra clip)  Try to use bodycam and crime scene pics for background visual  Play this clip after this line ‘than anyone expected.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drive_link>  (00.28.22 - 00.28.31)  (**Reason : this clip gives the gruesome nature of crime and giveaway of the plot while concealing the major count of the bodies found)** |
| **Horrifying discovery**  On April 12, 2014 Darren had returned home after serving time in prison for drug charges only to stumble upon a horrifying scene in his garage and make this disturbing 911 call.  When police arrived at Pleasant Grove, Utah, they saw the garage door wide open and Darren stood outside with his family, who had come to help him move in. **Just one look at him, and the officers knew they were in for something dreadful.**  The house had once belonged to Darren’s mother, and before he went to prison, he had lived there with his wife, Megan Huntsman, and their three daughters. But now, the place was a chaotic mess with piles of boxes scattered everywhere.  The box in question was an ordinary-looking fruit box, sitting just outside the garage and its exterior was tightly sealed with electrical tape. Inside, they found a bag, also wrapped in layer upon layer of duct tape, as if someone desperately wanted to keep whatever was inside hidden forever. When the investigators finally peeled it open, **what they discovered would haunt them for years to come**. It was the lifeless body of a fully decomposed baby.  The officers quickly sealed off the scene, unsure of what had truly happened, but one thing was clear—it was now a homicide investigation. They began searching the area, moving from box to box, not knowing that **what they had just uncovered was just the beginning of a much darker and more chilling story.**  But the question was where was Megan? Right now she was the only person who could hold the answers to this troubling mystery.  Darren had already called Megan, and what she told him was almost impossible to believe. She claimed the baby was his, from way back in 2006: a child he had no idea even existed **but could that even be possible?**  So, for the time being, the officers focused on Megan to understand about the unfolding events.  It wasn’t just Darren who was disturbed—the neighbors had also noticed a strange, foul smell coming from the garage. As more officers arrived at the scene they were tasked with meticulously searching every inch of the property of **what was quickly becoming known as the “house of horror”.** | Play this clip after this line ‘disturbing 911 call.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.00.08 - 00.00.40)  (**Reason : 911 call gives the real start of the story from where it all began)**  Play this clip after this line ‘for something dreadful.’(with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.01.31 - 00.01.48)  **(Reason : starting with bodycam gives a better start specially with day footage and police arrival scenes work actually better)**  Play this clip after this line ‘boxes scattered everywhere.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.02.09 - 00.02.30)  **(Reason : keeping the story in flow and connecting the dialogues with the real voice and actions)**  Play this clip after this line ‘body of a fully decomposed baby’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.03.34 - 00.03.51)  **(Reason : in continuation of the scene and information and making the interesting dialogues go raw)**  Play this clip after this line ‘and more chilling story.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.04.43 - 00.05.02)  **(Reason : it was making the finding more elaborate and gruesome for the audience to move forward)**  Play this clip after this line ‘this troubling mystery.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.05.16 - 00.05.42)  **(Reason : giving a slight background in between adds volume as audience always are on verge to know the back story n giving it in cuts n in small pieces keep the curiosity intact)**  Play this clip after this line ‘that even be possible?’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.05.56 - 00.06.19)  **(Reason : have to keep giving the bodycam but subtle and more connected)**  Play this clip after this line ‘the unfolding events’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.06.51 - 00.07.31)  **(Reason : this call displayed that Megan was more concerned of her truth been revealed rather than her babies which makes audience question about her cruelty and starting the real story)** |
| **Megan questioning**  Meanwhile, Megan was brought in for questioning by Detective Beckstrom. His first goal was to understand why she had hidden the baby instead of reporting it to the authorities or seeking medical help. However, in a few moments, the story took a **turn more twisted than ever.**  Megan repeated the same story she had told Darren—that the baby had been a stillborn. Despite appearing visibly upset, there were many details in Megan’s account that **just didn't add up**.  Megan’s story seemed like a justification- with her husband gone to prison, she was left overwhelmed with stress and was deeply influenced by drugs which clouded her state of mind. **But the more the detective spoke with her, the more their doubts grew.**  What struck as odd was Megan’s fear of going to jail if the baby was truly a stillborn. If no crime had been committed, aside from the unlawful disposal of the body, why did she carry such a heavy guilt? There was something deeper she wasn’t saying, and the detective could feel it. Meanwhile, at the house, the officers pressed on with their search which led them to another suspicious box. Inside, **they uncovered a deeply disturbing scene— that was just the start.** | Play this clip after this line ‘more twisted than ever.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.08.24 - 00.09.58)  (**Reason : starting it directly with the first point of question that everyone have on there mind is about babies make them stick to it as they are getting all they want to know from the start without any unnecessary conversation)**  Play this clip after this line ‘just didn't add up.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.10.11 - 00.11.17)  **(Reason : from here started to give a little insight to why it all happened and from Megan POV it will make the audience angry and watch more to get a clear answer. It's more like playing with thoughts)**  Play this clip after this line ‘the more his doubts grew.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.11.44 - 00.13.14)  (00.13.27 - 00.13.38)  **(Reason : every clip is placed in a way to reveal new information and this time it showed her fear for herself rather than any care for babies which is the next step of taking the emotions higher)**  Play this clip after this line ‘it was just the start.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.14.03 - 00.14.29)  **(Reason : the case was moving in real time and it was giving the next shock while revealing the count of babies and giving a break from interrogation for a few seconds as well. Like this everything keeps connecting and make audience sticked with the next step)** |
| **Shocking revelations**  Each box they opened carried an overpowering stench, with a strange liquid seeping through the bottom of the bags inside. The officers immediately reported it to Detective Beckstrom who confronted Megan in hopes to get answers, **but nothing could have prepared him for her response.**  Megan had a long history of drug abuse, particularly methamphetamine, and was known to drink heavily as well. These addictions had ruined her ability to make rational decisions, but they were no excuse for taking a life. Despite her claims, it was clear she was still hiding something—a **truth so gruesome, which would shake everyone to the core.**  After hearing that more bodies were hidden in the garage, Detective Beckstrom quickly contacted the officers on the scene. Over 20 to 30 officers combed through every inch of the house, searching for hours and while the investigation continued, so did the interrogation.  It was painfully evident that this case was far from straightforward. While it wasn’t unheard of for a woman to hide a pregnancy but doing so multiple times raised serious doubts. The idea seemed almost impossible to believe, and as the detectives pieced things together, a **chilling realisation began to take shape.** | Play this clip after this line ‘prepared him for her response.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.15.25 - 00.16.03)  **(Reason : this clip again gives the next shock where she herself is scared and frustrated how they found it. Every clip is strategically placed to give the next surprise with every next question in mind)**  Play this clip after this line ‘everyone to the core.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.16.16 - 00.18.27)  **(Reason : with bodies been found after two steps it was time to reveal the next body count but with one one body it can be boring so after one baby been discovered this time we have big revelation that how many actually could be there)**  Play this clip after this line ‘so did the interrogation.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.19.15 - 00.19.41)  (00.20.11 - 00.21.14)  **(Reason : it was continuous form to keep the story going and connecting the dots )**  Play this clip after this line ‘began to take shape.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.21.48 - 00.23.05)  (00.23.17 - 00.23.48)  **(Reason : it was time as the major question why they were watching it was for babies so the major giveaway comes at this crucial point and it was actually murders)** |
| Detective Beckstrom was left stunned when Megan finally admitted the unthinkable—it wasn’t an accident, but actual murders. So now **he asked her the final make-or-break question.**  As the detective left the room, he could barely contain the emotions that overwhelmed him. It had been the hardest interrogation of his career.  Back at the crime scene, the officers had been searching the garage for over three hours and the unease they felt couldn't be measured. **No one could have predicted what other surprises lay in store for them**.  It didn’t take long before the officers found the third body, packed tightly in a box and sealed with layers of duct tape. When they carefully opened it, they found the body to be wrapped in a plastic bag and covered in vinyl. As their search continued, they uncovered a fourth body, followed by a fifth, hidden under two blankets and two bath tiles in the bottom left corner of a cubby. **But just when they thought they had seen it all, the biggest shock was still about to come.**  The numbers kept growing, but the officers knew they had to proceed with caution. The line of questioning soon shifted as Detective Beckstrom began to consider Darren’s possible involvement due to something Megan had said earlier during the interrogation **that had caught his attention**.  It was hard to believe that Darren had simply stumbled upon the body in his garage without any clue where it could have come from. Could he have known more than he was letting on? Meanwhile, back at the crime scene, officers made another grim discovery—the sixth and seventh bodies, wrapped in sweaters and stuffed into a box inside a cabinet. It was a moment that left everyone reeling, but they still pressed on, to determine if there were more than seven. They even searched Megan’s former home in West Valley, leaving no stone unturned. While they found no additional bodies, they did uncover Xanax, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia, painting a bleak picture of her life. | Play this clip after this line ‘make-or-break question.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.24.10 - 00.24.14)  (00.24.24 - 00.25.50)  **(Reason : with the anger already on verge of audience this clip was placed to show Megan explanation to escalate it more)**  Play this clip after this line ‘interrogation of his career.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.26.07 - 00.26.18)  **(Reason : this shows the emotions from detective contradicting both clips and settling the emotional balance)**  Play this clip after this line ‘surprises were waiting for them’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.26.29 - 00.26.47)  (**Reason : in continuation for the narration and story to make the audience prepared for the next shock and giving a break from interrogation to change the scene)**  Play this clip after this line ‘still about to come.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.27.28 - 00.29.22)  (**Reason : this showed the shock the detectives were having throughout and completing the final body count as stretching it more can make the plot boring so it was strategically used that only revelation and high jumps will be used while balancing the emotions)**  Play this clip after this line ‘that had caught his attention.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.29.43 - 00.30.31)  **Reason : subtle way we flipped the story towards the husband and made his a suspect as well to leave it hanging and show the clip side of coin and major reason for debate)** |
| **Darren in question**  Megan Huntsman was arrested and booked into the Utah County Jail on six counts of murder. However, the case was far from complete—still there were pieces of the puzzle that didn’t quite fit and to fill in the gaps, investigators brought Darren in for questioning.  Darren was visibly shaken by the disturbing revelations. He buried his face in his hands and began to sob as the weight of the situation hit him hard. But despite his tears, **there was more he needed to explain.**  Even though Darren claimed he had no idea about the pregnancies, the detective wasn’t ready to accept it at face value.  Although Darren seemed like a potential suspect in the case, there was no evidence to link him to the murders. Eventually, Darren requested an attorney, bringing the interrogation to an abrupt end. What worked in his favor was a simple but strong point—if he had known about the bodies in the garage, it was unlikely he would have started cleaning it so soon after his release from prison. | Play this clip after this line ‘Darren in for questioning.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.32.55 - 00.33.06)  (00.33.23 - 00.35.08)  **Reason : showing the first side of emotion from husband gives two points for audience to evaluate if he's involved or not and his reactions as we didn't clarify too much so they actively participated with the case)**  Play this clip after this line ‘more he needed to explain.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.35.26 - 00.37.28)  **Reason : as the whole case already clear so stretching the narrative could be a downfall so gave the whole just of doubts and clarification at once while keeping it precise and clear)**  Play this clip after this line ‘accept it at face value.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.37.38 - 00.38.54)  (00.39.12 - 00.39.40)  **Reason : to remove Darren from the story it was important to clear every point against him but leave the controversial points hanging if could have a hand or not. That kept them more curious where many supported him and many didn't)** |
| **Evidences**  Darren was released from custody, and the investigation moved forward with Megan still behind bars. All the evidence collected from the garage—including the boxes, plastic bags, and layers of duct tape—was sent to the lab for analysis and the results were conclusive: every single fingerprint belonged to Megan. Not a trace of Darren’s prints was found on any of the items. With this, the focus shifted to the medical examiner, where DNA testing was conducted to confirm the father of the babies.  The results were as expected—Darren was the biological father of all seven children. However, one heartbreaking fact remained clear: during their entire 10 years of living together and even after he went to prison in 2006, Darren had no idea he had fathered seven children. Megan had hidden everything from him and everyone else. |  |
| **Final decision**  It was now time for the final decision.  On February 12, 2015 Megan was formally charged with six counts of first-degree murder. Having admitted to killing six of her children—while claiming one was stillborn—she was sentenced to six terms of five years to life, to be served consecutively which meant she would spend the rest of her life in prison. The case left everyone involved deeply shaken. It was incomprehensible how a mother could commit such horrific acts. It also highlighted the devastating impact of drugs, which had completely destroyed Megan’s mental health and led her down this dark and tragic path. | Play this clip after this line ‘for the final decision.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.40.57 - 00.41.14)  **(Reason : just court proceedings but short and point to point)**  Play this clip after this line ‘this dark and tragic path.’ (with sound)  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xy0JeR_IQ2TnSPEf2S4AQdODURPd9jRF/view?usp=drivesdk>  (00.41.29 - 00.42.00) |
| **Outro**  What are your thoughts on this case? Was it just drugs which led to Megan killing her children or were there some other dark motives? How did Darren not know anything about his wife's pregnancies after living together for 10 years?  We'd love to hear from you! If there's a case you'd like us to cover, don't hesitate to drop your recommendations in the comments section below.  And don't forget to like, share, and subscribe to our channel Mysterious 7 for more captivating true crime stories. Until next time, stay safe and keep your eyes peeled for the next mystery to unfold. |  |

|  | ***Meta description*** |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Welcome back to Mysterious 7. Today we'll delve into the disturbing case of Megan Huntsman. On April 12, 2014, when officers went to Megan's husband Darren’s house they had no idea they were going to deal with the most twisted tale. But what made this case even more disturbing was that the officers didn't find just one but seven dead bodies inside the house of horror .*  *What could have happened there? Where could those bodies have come from?*  *Delve into the investigation, and the complex nature of the attack, shedding light on how just some bad influence can ruin your life forever. And don't forget to like, share and subscribe to our channel for more episodes.* |

**References**

**Articles**

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megan_Huntsman_child_murders>

* <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-32390814>

* <https://murderpedia.org/female.H/h/huntsman-megan.htm> (murderpedia, full case details)
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3047316/Utah-woman-sentenced-deaths-6-newborns.html> (with photos)
* <https://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/21/us/utah-mom-sentenced-baby-deaths/index.html>

* <https://www.nbcnews.com/better/wellness/how-could-she-mother-accused-deaths-infants-n80276>
* <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/27/us/one-mother-7-dead-newborns-and-a-stunned-community-in-utah.html> (article)
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/megan-huntsman-utah-woman-who-killed-six-of-her-newborn-children-sentenced-to-life-in-prison-10191879.html>

* <https://www.ndtv.com/topic/megan-huntsman> (multiple articles)
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cops-utah-woman-hid-pregancies-of-living-children-too/>

* <https://www.deseret.com/2015/2/12/20558484/megan-huntsman-pleads-guilty-to-murdering-6-of-her-newborns/>
* ~~Were all facts correct and up to date?~~
* ~~Were all the dates accurate?~~
* ~~Were the events presented in chronological order unless otherwise noted in the creative meeting?~~
* ~~Was the language conversational and easy for the average person to understand?~~
* ~~Was the grammar at the highest possible level?~~
* ~~Was the entire script in past tense wherever it spoke about past events unless otherwise specified in the creative meeting?~~
* ~~Was the script plagiarism free?~~
* ~~Were all topics/words that need censoring removed/marked for the channel managers to mute in the VO?~~
* ~~Did the script follow the required structure as specified in the creative meeting?~~
* ~~Were all the links and visuals included working?~~
* ~~Were they included with instructions as to where they need to be used?~~
* ~~Were the names, dates and places highlighted?~~
* ~~Were the pronunciations of non english/american names provided for the VO artists?~~
* ~~Were their tone indicators for the VO artists?~~
* ~~Did the writers include a meta description?~~
* ~~Did the writers include a reference list at the end of the script?~~

interview with dane cannavo

(former petrol officer)

interview with dan beckstrom

(police detective)