

SERAPH OF SORROW

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EPILOGUE: SUSAN ELMSMITH

WCMA CHANNEL 7 VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

MINNESOTAN MORNING WITH BOB ANDERSEN AND KELLY NELSON

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BOB ANDERSEN, MINNESOTAN MORNING. Good morning, everyone. And good morning to you, Kelly!

KELLY NELSON, MINNESOTAN MORNING. Thanks, Bob. Good morning to you! Today on Minnesota Morning, we'll visit with a local herpetologist, a sixth-grade girl with a knack for ancient Chinese weapons, and a piano-playing penguin!

Before we get to those guests, we have a breaking story, courtesy of some amateur video shot in the town of Winoka. It's

less than four hours old, and if it's real, it is truly stunning. Let's check in with Christy Paulson, standing by live at Winoka Bridge this morning. Good morning, Christy.

CHRISTY PAULSON, WCMA CORRESPONDENT: Good morning to you. Before we show you that video, I wonder if I can get a wide shot of the scene behind me - thank you. Okay, Kelly and Bob, we're standing on the eastern end of Winoka Bridge. This bridge has a rich history behind it and the State of Minnesota designated it a historical landmark back at the turn of the century. As you can see, about halfway up the bridge is some sort of wall. We're not sure what it is, but nobody outside Winoka's been able to get through. If I can get the camera to pan across...and up...okay, Bob, as you can see, this wall surrounds the town.

NELSON: That's amazing.

ANDERSEN: It sure is. Christy, have we been able to make contact with anyone inside the town?

PAULSON: Not yet, Bob. This bridge was apparently the site of some violence last night, and local authorities have imposed martial law. Our sole official contact was a terse statement from the police, stating no one should approach the barrier from either side until they can learn more.

NELSON: So what do we know about what happened last night? Was anyone hurt?

PAULSON: There were casualties, Kelly. Authorities won't put a number on them or confirm or deny any names, despite some troubling rumors. We're hearing rumors that Winoka's mayor, Glorianna Seabright, is dead along with several town residents.

NELSON: How did the mayor die, Christy?

PAULSON: Kelly, that is the question this morning. Mayor Seabright has been a political fixture in this sleepy river town for several decades - an incredible streak dating back to the town's incorporation sixty years ago. She's an incredibly popular figure in this somewhat isolated town. Why she or anyone else was on the bridge is difficult to say now. But if this video is real, it is possible, as inconceivable as it may sound, that Mayor Seabright was killed by (UNINTELLIGIBLE).

NELSON: I'm sorry, Christy. Did you say (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

PAULSON: That's right, Kelly. Now as you said, the amateur video you're about to see hit the internet a few hours ago. It's only a minute or so long. It contains some images our viewers may find disturbing. We're grateful the girl who shot the video - Susan Elmsmith, a resident of the town and a sophomore at Winoka High School - appears unharmed, despite obvious danger. Let's start that video.

Okay, here it is. There's no sound at the beginning here and she appears to be holding the camera herself. She's taking shots of her surroundings, some of this is dark. Bear with us.

Here you can see the glimmer of the same barrier we see this morning, so it was up before she began shooting. Okay, it's dark again. Bear with us. Here you - you can see right there, that shape, that's one of several - okay, here comes another, and right there!

ANDERSON: That's fire.

NELSON: That's incredible.

PAULSON: There's more, if you look - okay, down on the right side of the video, you'll see -

ANDERSON: Is that a woman fighting that (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

PAULSON: Not even a woman, Bob. A girl, maybe in her mid-teens. And that's not even the most amazing part - in a moment you'll see her change...

NELSON: Did she just do what I think she did? Is that her? That (UNINTELLIGIBLE), right there?

PAULSON: Yes.

NELSON: So the girl that was fighting a (UNINTELLIGIBLE), is now a (UNINTELLIGIBLE) fighting...who, exactly?

PAULSON: That's not clear at this time...okay, I think the audio comes on in a moment, and Ms. Elmsmith speaks. Once she's done, the video ends.

ANDERSON: Cristy, seriously. Is this video for real?

PAULSON: Our viewers will have to decide for themselves, Bob. Okay, you can see Ms. Elmsmith enter the shot now as she holds the camera out in front...here we go.

SUSAN ELMSMITH, WINOKA RESIDENT: Hi. My name's Susan Elmsmith. I'm here tonight to document proof, once and for all, that (UNINTELLIGIBLE) exist.

It may not look like it, but these (UNINTELLIGIBLE) are actually people! They don't always look like this. A lot of the time, they look like you or me.

Mayor Seabright and others in this town used to call these people "monsters." They fooled my mom into believing that. So my parents brought me here to Winoka, to keep me safe. Soon after that, my mom died anyway, but not from anything the Mayor was worried about.

Anyway, I got to know a few of these (UNINTELLIGIBLE). Just like anyone else, they love, and they hope, and they learn, and they make mistakes. Tonight, some of them are trying to fix some big mistakes. They need help from our generation - people like my best friend Jennifer Scales, and my boyfriend..

UNIDENTIFIED: Boyfriend? Really?

ELMSMITH: Yeah, sweetie. You just saved my ass from an angry flamethrower. That makes you my boyfriend. That okay?

UNIDENTIFIED: You bet!

ELMSMITH: Good. Anyway, it's up to us to look out for each other and keep each other safe. I'm really glad there are (UNINTELLIGIBLE). The rest of the world should be glad, too. We can learn a lot from each other. And to think: I never would have met them if it hadn't been for my mom. So I guess she did the right thing, after all.

Thanks, Mom.

THE END