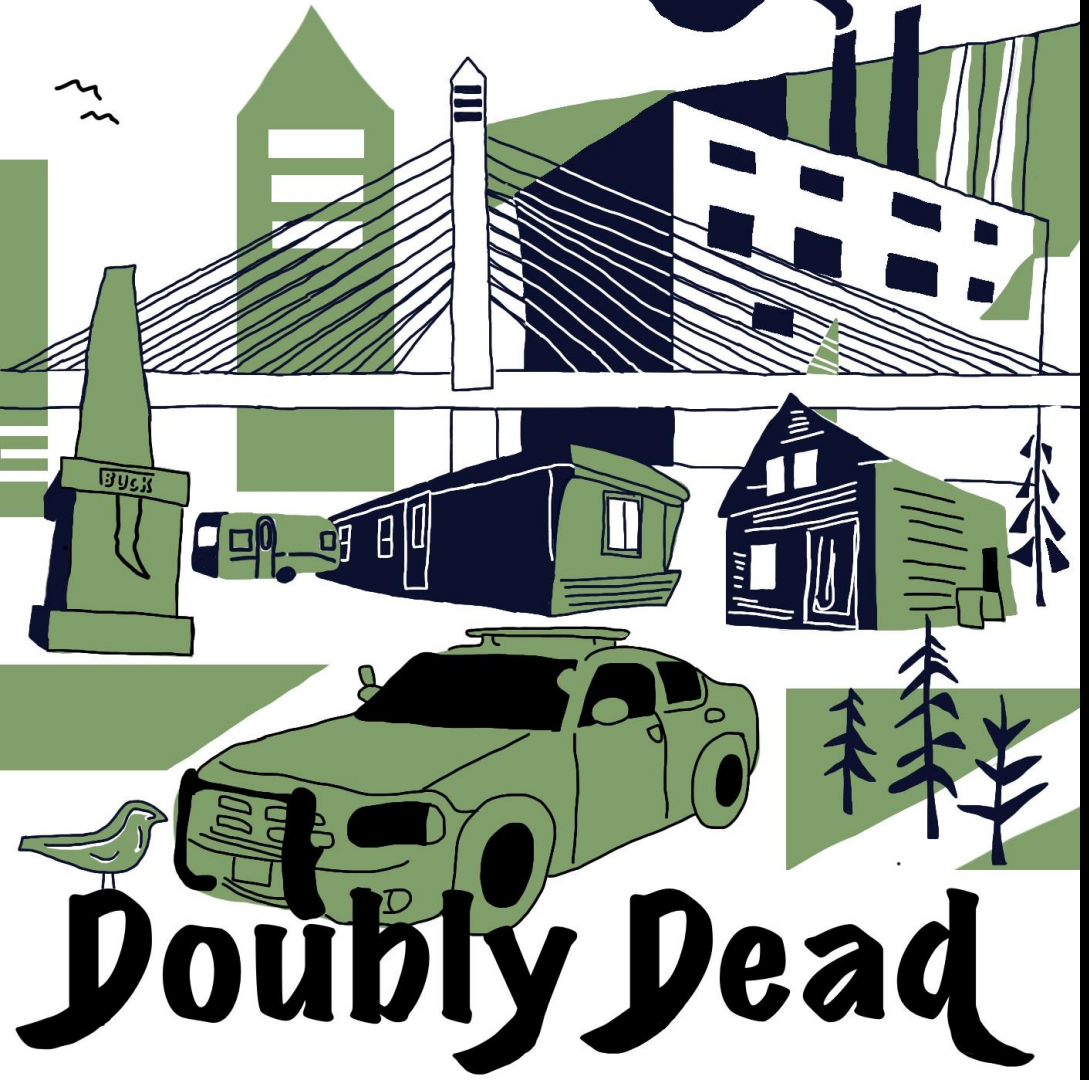


Doubly Dead: Season One

The Disappearance of Colin Arey

A six-part investigative podcast

Three deaths. One disappearance.

Two families seeking answers.



Summary

In 2017, Colin Arey, a young gay man from Bucksport, Maine, disappeared. Nearly a year and a half passed before anyone reported him missing.

Journalist Jacqui Fulton's search leads to three deaths connected to Colin's stepfather, David Appleby. Suspicious fires and financial schemes deepen the questions families have about what happened to their loved ones.

Working with fact-checker Fendall Fulton and private investigator Jen Dorman, Jacqui follows the evidence through a community where people are afraid to speak. Their reporting has already helped reopen one closed case. Doubly Dead follows the investigation into Colin's disappearance and the deaths of Christy Appleby, Robin Davis, and Kirk Davis.



Approach

Doubly Dead unfolds as a reporter’s notebook. Audio diaries and recordings in the field bring listeners into the investigation as it happens, including the leads that stall and the discoveries that change its direction.

Jacqui, Fendall, and Jen compare accounts, question assumptions, and work through disagreements on tape. Family interviews give the reporting its emotional stakes. Police files and other records help establish what the team can prove and what remains uncertain.

The title reflects what happens when people disappear from public attention and their cases lose urgency. The series follows two families determined to keep that from happening.

The series: episodes 1–3

Episode 1: Strangeland

Tucker, a cadaver dog, searches the woods with his handler, Julie Jones, as the team looks for Colin. Friends and family recall his life while the reporters piece together his last known movements. The discovery of remains raises the possibility that the search is over.

Episode 2: Stick Season

The investigation turns to Colin's mother, Christy. Relatives recall her life and a devastating head injury shortly before her death. Their accounts and police records raise questions about the suicide ruling and how authorities investigated the case.

Episode 3: From Away

Robin Davis's body is found in a burning car. The team follows her family's questions through the investigation into her death and a separate arson case involving David Appleby. Her father, Kirk, presses authorities for answers.

The series: episodes 4–6

Episode 4: Down East

Kirk Davis is found dead at the bottom of his basement stairs after questioning the investigation into Robin’s death. The team examines the accidental-death ruling and the theft and forgery case involving David that followed Kirk’s death.

Episode 5: Up Home

David Appleby is extradited from Arizona to face an arson charge in Maine. The team follows his plea hearing and sentencing, then tests his recorded interview with Jen against records and witness accounts. David dies while the investigation is still underway.

Episode 6: Finest Kind

The team returns to the two families still searching for answers. With one case reopened and Colin still missing, they examine what the reporting has established, what authorities can still investigate, and what justice could mean after David’s death.

The victims



Colin Arey

Colin graduated early from high school and completed a fashion design program in New York City. He loved Harry Potter and played Pokémon Go along the Bucksport waterfront. Shy at first, he showed those closest to him warmth, kindness, and a deep concern for the people he loved.



Christy Appleby

Christy was devoted to her four children and her two dogs. She loved camping with her family, scrapbooking, and cooking. She spent years working with elementary school children in special education and was continuing her own education to advance her career when she died.



Robin Davis

Robin worked at a local grocery store before becoming a manager at McDonald’s. Her years in customer service made her a familiar, much-loved face in town. Her son was the center of her world, and she loved bringing family and friends together for holidays and gatherings.



Kirk Davis

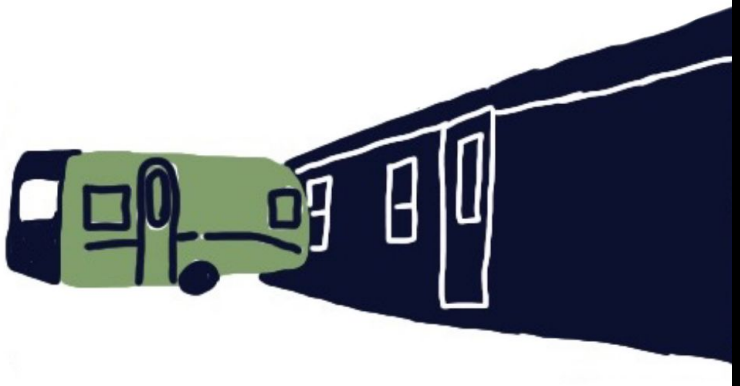
One of sixteen children in a military family, Kirk settled in Maine and spent years working at the Bucksport Paper Mill. A skilled carpenter who also enjoyed working on cars, he was a loving father and grandfather. Later in life, he rekindled his romance with his high school sweetheart.

David Appleby, person of interest



David was Colin’s stepfather, Christy’s husband, and Robin’s fiancé. After Robin’s father, Kirk, died, David faced forgery and theft charges involving a $2,500 check in Kirk’s name.

In a recorded interview, he gives private investigator Jen Dorman his account of Colin’s disappearance and responds to questions about the deaths. He died during the investigation, leaving questions unresolved. The team examines his answers alongside records and witness accounts as it continues seeking answers for two families.



The reporter

Jacqui Fulton (she/they), Audio Documentarian

Jacqui is a former public radio reporter and a graduate of the Salt Institute and Transom Storytelling Workshop. They received an American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award for their work with Civics 101. Their reporting has appeared in outlets including NPR and The New York Times.

Their stepson’s disappearance exposed gaps in the missing persons system and led them to Colin’s case. A queer journalist from Appalachia, Jacqui brings an understanding of small-town life, poverty, and substance misuse, and a commitment to earning the trust of people wary of outsiders.



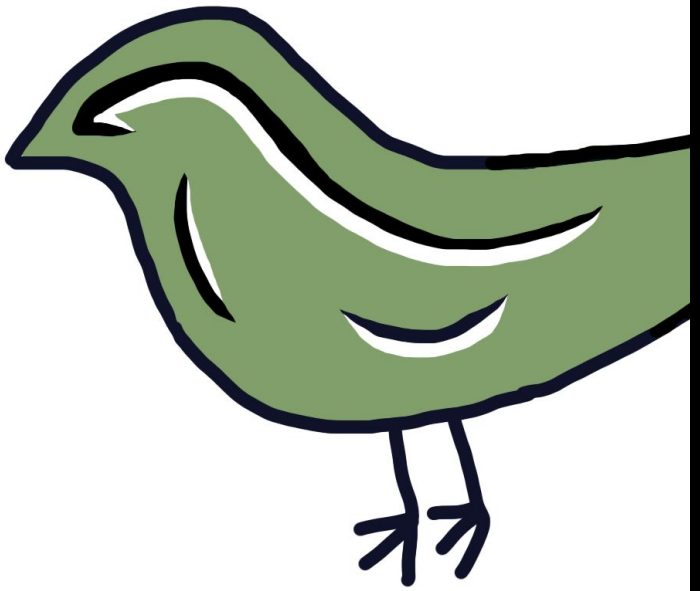
The investigator

Jen Dorman (she/her), Private Investigator

Jen is a former police officer, an EMT, and the owner of Northland Investigation & Consulting. Her training includes death investigation, forensic photography, and cognitive interviewing.

She has spent years investigating the Bucksport Four cases pro bono, reviewing police files and scene photographs, interviewing witnesses, and searching properties with a cadaver-dog team. When her findings challenge official conclusions, she presses authorities to take another look.

Jen’s continuing training and commitment to the families drive her efforts to establish what happened to Colin, Christy, Robin, and Kirk.



The researcher

Fendall Fulton (they/them), Fact Checker

Fendall is a fact-checker, research editor, and podcast producer whose work includes projects for Frontline, Wondery, and CBS News. They hold a master's degree in information science and previously worked as a digital archivist and researcher at New Hampshire Public Radio.

For Doubly Dead, they piece together records and timelines, test assumptions, and identify gaps in the evidence. They also help report, write, and edit the series.

Their family's experience with a missing loved one informs their commitment to the investigation and to making clear what the team knows and what remains unresolved.

Key voices

Maggie Wentworth. Colin's former classmate remembers his creativity, humor, and love of fashion. She takes the team through Bucksport, introducing listeners to the community where he grew up.

Marie Anderson. Colin's aunt and Christy's sister reported Colin missing in June 2018. She shares the family's long search for answers and helped connect the team with search-and-rescue efforts.

Dakota Appleby. Colin's brother and Christy's adopted son recalls their home life and a severe head injury Christy suffered shortly before her death.

Orrinda Grindle. Colin's sister and Christy's adopted daughter shares memories of their family and helps the team reconstruct events preceding Christy's death.

Jessica Orcutt. Robin's sister and Kirk's daughter describes the Davis family's concerns about both deaths and their efforts to persuade authorities to investigate further.

Key voices (continued)

Linda Leclerc. Kirk's partner and high school sweetheart shares memories of their rekindled relationship and the loss felt by those closest to him.

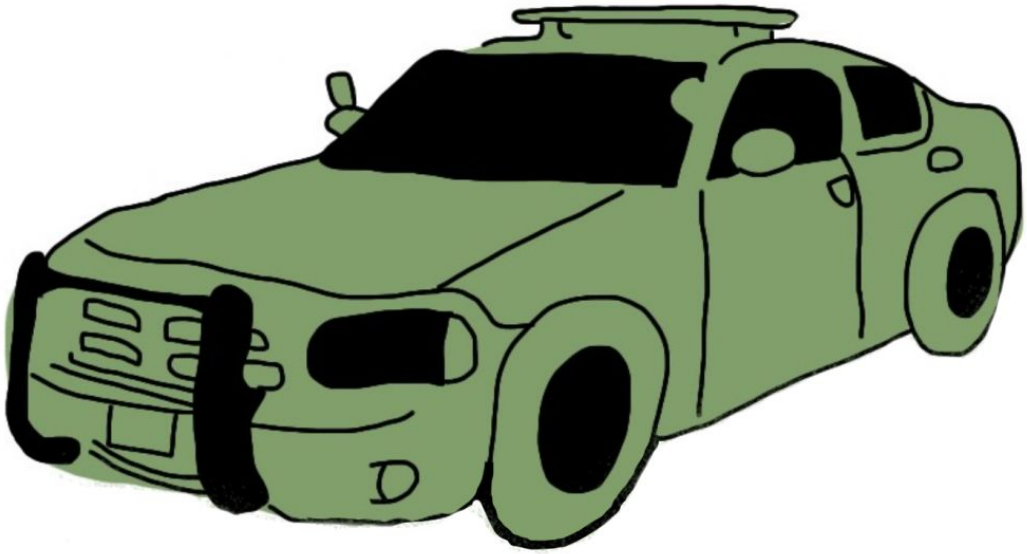
James "Mike" Arey. Christy's brother and Colin's uncle recalls conversations with Christy before her death, offering insight into the concerns she shared with him.

Sara Robshaw. Christy's close friend helped raise Dakota. Her longstanding connection to the family offers another perspective on Christy's life and death.

Jeremy Damren. The fire investigator pursued the arson case against David Appleby. His work helps the team examine the fires and their connections to the wider investigation.

Julie Jones. The cadaver-dog handler searches with her dog, Tucker, alongside Jen Dorman. Recordings of their work bring listeners into the search for possible human remains.

David Winchester. Bucksport's deputy police chief offers a local law-enforcement perspective through his contact with the reporting team.



Recorded material

100+ hours of audio

27+ interviews

Audio diaries and field recordings

Interview transcripts

Original music and artwork

Draft of episode one

Where the investigation stands

A closed case reopened

The team’s reporting has helped persuade state police to reopen one of the cases. The series follows the effort to get authorities to reconsider their conclusions.

David’s account on tape

Jen interviewed David before he died. His recorded answers let listeners hear his account as the team examines it alongside documents and witness accounts.

The questions that remain

Colin remains missing. The season examines what the reporting has established, where the evidence falls short, and why two families have had to fight for answers.

Tentative production schedule

Six months once season funding and team availability are secured

Months 1–2: Reporting

Complete remaining interviews, update records, and review recorded material.

Months 2–4: Writing and review

Write and edit scripts, fact-check, and conduct legal review.

Months 4–5: Audio production

Record narration, integrate music, design sound, and mix episodes.

Month 6: Delivery and launch preparation

Complete final reviews, master all six episodes, and prepare launch materials.

Optional first phase: 4–6 weeks for reporting and pitch development.

Season delivery requires production funding. Phases overlap. Release dates to be agreed.

Budget and funding

Working season estimate: $195,000

Includes $38,000 for completed work and existing art and music, $137,000 for remaining production, and $20,000 in contingency.

Optional first phase: $30,000

Included in the season estimate. Funds priority reporting, a checked sample script, an updated series treatment, and a polished audio sample.

Balance after the first phase: $165,000

Covers later production and payment allowances for completed work. We are seeking a commissioning or co-production partner for the season.

All figures provisional. Earlier development fees for Jacqui and Fendall and past reimbursements remain to be agreed and are additional.

View detailed budget

Bringing the series to listeners

Funding the series

We’re seeking a commissioning or co-production partner for a six-part series with a working budget of $195,000, plus earlier development fees and reimbursements still to be agreed.

A staged start

An optional $30,000 first phase is included in that estimate, leaving $165,000 for the remaining budgeted costs.

Six episodes of approximately 50 minutes. Tentative delivery: six months once season funding and team availability are secured.

Listen and get in touch

Listen to the early audio teaser

stabbyunicornmedia@gmail.com