



the
SERIAL
DYNASTY

Episode 18: Neighbor Boy
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Speakers: Bob Ruff and Neighbor Boy aka "E"

EPISODE DESCRIPTION

In this episode, Bob discusses *Undisclosed* Episode 10, and features an interview with *Serial*'s "Neighbor Boy."

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Hello everybody and welcome back to *The Serial Dynasty*. Thank you all for downloading this episode and subscribing to *The Serial Dynasty*. And a sincere thanks to every single one of you for all of the help you provided in researching and investigating this case. The swarm mind that is *The Serial Dynasty* army amazingly just continues to get larger and larger and larger.

You're going to see over the next several weeks that this has all not been for nothing. We're getting closer and closer and closer to the truth. We're not just spinning our wheels here. We're making progress. We're learning more and more and more every day. What may have seemed like a pipe dream just a few months ago now seems to be a reality that we're closing in on. This is not the time to fall back on our heels. It's time to take a breath, dig deep, and drive forward to the truth. I truly believe from the bottom of my heart that together we are going to find out who killed Hae Min Lee.

We have a lot of things to cover today so it's time to get right into the content. First up on the list, [Undisclosed Episode 10](#). I will tell all of you listeners that Episode 10 of *Undisclosed* drew out more emotions from me than I've ever felt throughout the duration of investigating this case. I was driving in my truck back to the fire department for training on

Monday night listening to the episode and when the team disclosed the fact that the anonymous tip came in on February 1st, over a week before Hae's body was even found, I don't know if I can even put the emotion that I was feeling into words. I was shaking. My eyes were welling with tears. It was some mixture of furious anger and extreme sadness all at the same time.

In just a moment, I'll get into an explanation of the entire reward timeline but before we even discuss the implications of the reward money that was paid out, it's important that we address this key fact. February 1st—maybe that's something that slid by a lot of you, but think about it. Adnan never had a chance. When that tip came in on February 1st, all attention shifted towards Adnan. Immediately detectives were going to the high school, handing out questionnaires about Adnan. They pulled his phone records, they pulled his driving record. No one else, just Adnan's. Some of the minor points that were explained in the *Undisclosed* episode are far more significant than you might have imagined. This February 1st tip changes everything. And what I mean by that is, we've been operating under the assumption that the anonymous tip that pointed them in the direction of Adnan came in on February 12th, after Hae's body had already been found, after the case had already been in the hands of the Baltimore City Police Department for three days.

For those of you that are still skeptical about the theory that Jay Wilds actually had nothing to do with this and knows nothing about the crime, that theory just got a little bit easier to explain. It got a little bit easier to consider. See the Baltimore County Police Department when investigating Hae Min Lee's missing persons cases, focused only on Adnan. The entire investigation revolved around Adnan. So when the Baltimore City Police Department took over the case, they already had their slam dunk. They didn't have to scramble in a matter of a couple of weeks to frame Adnan. The work had already been done for them. Detective MacGillivray testified at trial that on February 9th, when the case was turned over to him by Detective O'Shea of the County Police Department that he gave him a file of all the information that they had already dug up on Adnan. He testified that at that time, they had phone records. They had statements from the teachers at school. They had the journal entries filled out by the students. And they had an anonymous tip that had already pointed towards Adnan.

No doubt the Baltimore County Police Department informed the city that the tip didn't pan out. They would've passed along who the tipster was, but the tip made no sense. They didn't act on anything on the tip. They had already discovered that Hae's body was not in a lake, it was in a park. So here sits Detective Ritz and MacGillivray with a folder nicely and neatly pre-packaged for them to go after Adnan Syed. And the worst part about that is that this is a double-edged sword. Baltimore PD ran with this information and pushed along until they had Adnan in prison and they had their clearance. A witness that they could manipulate in the first few days and get him to twist and bend his story any way they pleased. They already knew the parts of the day that Adnan wasn't clear on. Baltimore County had already talked to him. They had the statements that a couple of students remember that maybe he asked for a ride. They already knew that there was nothing concrete in their mind about what Adnan was doing between 2:15 and track practice. He had said that he would've went to the library and checked his email and he thinks he was at track practice on time, but there was nothing concrete there. There was nothing solid. They hadn't dug deeply into him enough yet

to talk to witnesses, to confirm his story. They had basically just taken notes at this point. So all Ritz and MacGillivary had to do was convince Jay to tell a tale that involved a time period that they thought surely after six weeks' time could not be accounted for by Adnan. But we knew all of that already. We just didn't know how it came to be.

But the other side of that sword is this: because of that February 1st tip, because of Ritz and MacGillivary's insistence on getting their clearance and their apathy towards doing any real investigatory work, they never looked at anyone else. What that means is that not only is Hae's killer still out there but he never felt any heat at all during the investigation. They didn't look at anyone else. Sure Baltimore County in the first day or two asked around. They talked to Don. They talked to Adnan. But they never really investigated anyone. I've said this before and I think a lot of you already know this but I want to say it again. Do you all realize that the Baltimore City Police Department, Detective Ritz and MacGillivary, the ones that were investigating the murder never once spoke to, interviewed, or looked into any other suspect but Adnan. No one. They never even considered that it could have been someone else. And the only word that I can use to describe the way that makes me feel is that I am just disgusted. So now we know that this is how the story began. Began with an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers on February 1st. Someone seeking money. Someone willing to say anything to cash in on a couple thousand dollars. So who was it? I've had a lot of listeners email in and ask me if I could help explain what exactly all of this means. So this is a quick breakdown of the timeline of the tip and the reward payout.

First of all, as the *Undisclosed* team explained, the way Crime Stoppers typically works is someone calls the hotline. They're given a code number. They give their tip. That tip is then passed on to the police department. The police department can then make further contact with the tipster to see what other information they might have. Now there's some confusion with this because most of us have always considered Crime Stoppers to be an anonymous tip line. And they are to an extent. There's different case law in different states regarding Crime Stoppers. But in Maryland, the tipster not only can be identified to the defendant, but if that tipster testifies at the trial, the State is actually required to disclose the fact that the person testifying received a reward for their testimony. This would be the *Brady* violation that the *Undisclosed* team has been speaking about for a few weeks.

The reason for that is that a jury deserves to know if the person that's testifying could possibly have any sort of ulterior motive for their testimony. Adnan's case is a perfect example of that. Remember back in *Serial* when Sarah was interviewing one of the jurors. She said she believed Jay. She believed his story because why would he lie? Why would he get himself into the middle of this? I mean after all, he had to go to jail too. Do you remember that? Now if this is what you were thinking, I want you to tell me again that it doesn't make a difference to a jury whether or not a witness was paid for their testimony. Or in Jay's case, when they were led to believe that he would go to prison even though he testified, when in fact he never did. And in my opinion was never going to. It makes a huge difference.

And as far as the Crime Stoppers anonymity versus the *Brady* laws, these are definitely two concepts that pull in different directions. Crime Stoppers wants to maintain anonymity for their tipsters in order to encourage more tips. But at the same time, the constitution through due process requires that any defendant have the right to face their accuser. They have the

right to know if they were paid for their testimony. And you can argue until your blue in the face that you don't think that's right but the fact is that there have been multiple bills introduced to the congress in Maryland in an attempt to allow Crime Stoppers to hold on to the anonymity of their tipsters. But those laws were all voted down. As of today, and in 1999, not disclosing that a witness who testifies in a trial was paid a reward for their testimony, is still a *Brady* violation. And a *Brady* violation equals an exoneration.

[00:10:50] Timeline Continued

So back to our timeline. The tip comes in February 1st. It's turned over to the Baltimore County Police Department. On February 9th, the tip is turned over to the Baltimore City Police Department. Now then there's the other anonymous tip on February 12th that I'm going to skip past for now. So how the Crime Stoppers' program works is if you give a tip, once the suspect is indicted, then the police send a report back to Crime Stoppers and tell them how helpful they believe the tip was toward the indictment of their suspect. And the police make a recommendation as to whether the tipster should get all of the reward money, a portion of the reward money, or none of the reward money. So Adnan was indicted in April of '99.

So what should have happened was if that tip led to that indictment, then the detectives should have turned the report back in to Crime Stoppers with a recommendation for how much of the tip should be paid out. Crime Stoppers would've met the next month, so in May after their meeting, they would vote on the recommendation and they would issue the payout of the reward. But that didn't happen in this case. No reward was issued in April... or May... or June... or July... or August... or September... or October. Six months later in November the reward was paid out. So the first question we ask is why the delay? That's a very strange time and it doesn't fit with protocol to wait until six months after an indictment to pay out the reward money, so these are the things that we know.

Now as to the *Undisclosed's* team's speculation that it's possible that Jay Wilds was the one that received this reward money. As they expressed on their show, and I will express here on my show, we do not know this for a fact. At least I don't. But these are the reasons why I think that Jay Wilds is the most likely person to have received that reward. And also the most likely person to have called in the tip on February 1st.

Number one, Jay was arrested on January 26th for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, which means he had contact with the police at that point. Just six days before the anonymous tip was called in. Now that could mean nothing but it's just something to note. We know that the anonymous tip was useful in indicting Adnan because the entire reward amount was paid out. And not only the entire reward amount, but the reward amount contributed by the Korean church was \$2,500. Another \$575 was added to that and it was all paid to the one tipster. So immediately we have to ask ourselves, "Who was useful in getting Adnan convicted?" In my mind there's only two possible people that this could be. The most obvious would be Jay. Jay was the star witness. Jay was the prosecution's entire case. And Jenn, whose testimony helped corroborate Jay's. There's no one else that's been disclosed by the State that provided any help whatsoever in convicting Adnan. As Colin mentioned in the

episode, if there had been anyone else that offered a tip along the lines of they heard Adnan confess or something along those lines, there's no chance that person does not testify at trial. Their case, as strong as Urick likes to believe it was, was very, very weak. There's no way that they disregard a witness that's willing to say that they heard Adnan confess. And if they didn't testify, then they would have been of no use and they wouldn't have been paid the reward.

So when we look at Jenn and Jay as the possible tipsters, if it was Jenn, then the November payout really makes no sense at all. There's really no way to wrap your brain around that to make it make any sense. But it's possible. But if it was Jay, there is a theory that would make perfect sense. The reason the November payout makes sense is this: I believe Jay had nothing to do with this crime. I believe he knew nothing about this crime. And his testimony and subsequent confession were completely coerced by the police. So let's walk through a theoretical timeline of Jay as the tipster.

February 1st he calls in with the hope to cash in on the reward money and says that he thinks Adnan did it. Maybe that February 12th anonymous call really was the February 1st anonymous call as Susan suggested in *Undisclosed* Episode 10. So maybe he calls in and says Adnan told Baser—the way it was written on the report, but it was actually Yaser—says Adnan told Yaser that if he ever hurt Hae he would dump her body or car in a lake. Obviously if that February 12th tip was actually the February 1st tip, then the February 1st tipster really knew nothing about the crime. But it was enough at the time in early February before her body was found to at least make the Baltimore County Police Department start looking into Adnan. Once the City took over, this is what I think happened. And again, I'll emphasize that this is just my opinion, just my theory. I think the cops had no leads. They really had nothing. As I've mentioned before, take Jay's testimony out of this and what do they have? Nothing.

So grasping at straws, they contact their tipster, who in my theory is Jay. Maybe they made contact with him before February 27th and maybe not. Either way it doesn't matter. They speak with Jay, they try to see if he knows anything else and he doesn't. So then maybe in that unrecorded portion of the interview, they convince him to modify his story to help indict Adnan with the promise of, if we get our indictment, you'll get the \$3,000. I want to believe in my heart that they convinced Jay that Adnan had actually done it. I want to believe that they lied to him and told him they had evidence. I want to believe that he didn't sell his friend out for \$3,000. But unless Jay speaks, we'll never know.

So maybe one thing leads to another and Jay agrees, "Okay, I'll help you get your indictment. What do you want me to say?" They feed him a story, they turn on the tape recorder, and they have him start telling the story. Ritz and MacGillivray are no dummies, they've done this before. They trap Jay. As I spoke about on an earlier episode, they trick him into admitting that he was an accessory before the fact. So now they don't just have \$3,000 to hold over his head, they have a life sentence to hold over his head as well. And they keep pushing along. You all know the story of the changing timelines and changing narrative, where the detectives polished Jay's story to fit some cell phone evidence to get their indictment. So in April they get their indictment, Jay should be paid, if he was the tipster.... so why not pay him then? Because if they paid him then, he could walk away and not testify. He could take his \$3,000, pack up his ball, and go home. Now they still have this accessory before the fact

charge holding over his head, but they don't want to play that card just yet. They need to keep Jay on their side. If they push him too far, he could flip on them.

So I think they string him along with the promise of this reward and the promise that he won't be charged. All the way until the fall. And I think Jay was getting nervous. I think Jay was having second thoughts. I think that that's why he started asking for an attorney. It was late in the game, he hadn't been charged with anything, but he'd been pushed around enough to know that he was probably in some trouble at this point. When he gets nervous, he asks for the attorney. That's when Urick contacts Benaroya, sets her up as Jay's counsel, and they charge Jay. Now why go through all that trouble? The next day they were going to charge him and he could've got a public defender. But instead, Urick makes sure that he gets Jay an attorney before charges are filed. And then almost immediately, drafts a plea agreement. In the plea agreement, Jay signs his name pleading guilty to accessory before the fact with the condition that he will only have two to five years, if he testifies against Adnan. Once they had Jay's signature on that piece of paper, they didn't need to hold the \$3,000 over his head anymore. They now had his signature on a contract where he has admitted guilt and provided for a lesser sentence with the condition of his testimony.

So at this point, the \$3,000 means nothing anymore... to them. They don't need to hold that carrot out in front of him anymore. If Jay took the \$3,000 and flipped on them, and decided not to testify, he's very likely going to prison for a very long time because he would have violated the conditions of his plea deal and he had already admitted to, and pled guilty to, accessory before the fact. In my opinion, the payout at that point was for a couple of reasons. One, the reason I just stated, that they didn't need to hold it over his head anymore because they had him committed at this point. And two, to throw him a bone so to speak. Keep him on their good side. They still hadn't got to trial yet, so as an act of good faith, I believe that they went ahead and released the reward money to him. Jay does what he's told, he plays puppet for the prosecution, and Adnan is convicted. Urick unsurprisingly requests leniency from the judge at Jay's sentencing, he gets probation, never serves a day in jail and goes on about his life while Adnan rots in prison for the next sixteen years.

So I hope that made some sense to all of you as to where the theory comes from that Jay is the one that received the reward. Now there are other factors like the ride along on March 18th that was discussed in *Undisclosed* where at the bottom of the notes the detective wrote that if the private investigator discovers this, they will discredit it, and right under that writes "reward." Is that proof that Jay received the reward? No. But when you consider all of this, is it a good indication that he may have been the one that received the reward? You bet your ass it is.

So the next question is how do we figure out if it was indeed Jay who received it? Well the answer to that is, we can't. But Adnan can. If I understand the law right, and you all know that I'm not a lawyer, in reading Colin Miller's blog, [The Evidence Prof](#), for those of you that haven't read it before, look up *The Evidence Prof* blog. He lays out pretty clearly the process to expose the identity of the anonymous tipster. Rabia also explains this in her blog, [SplittheMoon.com](#) and it seems to be quite simple. But as with everything with this case, I'm sure it's not as simple as it should be. Adnan's attorney should be able to file a motion on his behalf requesting that the anonymous tipster be disclosed. And if I understand the law

correctly, the State is required, by law, to disclose that information to him. If that anonymous tipster does come back to be Jay Wilds, as far as I understand, that will be an open and shut, slam dunk, *Brady* violation. Not disclosing the fact that the key witness—the only witness in your case—that got this man convicted was being paid for his testimony, not only with the free lawyer, not only with the suspension of any prison time, but also in cold, hard cash in the amount of \$3,075, is a *Brady* violation.

But hopefully to brighten your spirits more than that, it doesn't appear to have to be Jay who was the anonymous tipster, in order for this to be a *Brady* violation. In reading through the case law, by my understanding, not disclosing any tipster to the defense in a case like this is a *Brady* violation. So if you didn't quite understand this when you listened to the episode, understand it now. This is the closest we've come to Adnan being fully exonerated in a short period of time. It's not a guarantee, but it's closer than we've ever been before. And there's something else that I would like to share with you.

[00:22:36] Contact with Jay

Over the past several weeks, I have been communicating with Jay Wilds. I was able to first get Jay to respond to me about three weeks ago. I've tried reaching out to Jay before with no success. But this time something was different. I told Jay that I know that he had nothing to do with this. I told him that I believe the police coerced him. And I told him that I believe that Urick and Benaroya still have their claws in him.

I asked him to speak with me and he declined. But he continued to communicate with messages back and forth with me. He didn't say a whole lot, but there's one thing that he didn't say that spoke volumes to me. He didn't deny it. He didn't tell me to piss off. He didn't tell me that Adnan did it and to leave him alone. I told him that when Adnan gets exonerated that he's going to be their target and he responded with, "I've always been a target. So what's the difference now?"

I told him that after Episode 15, he had an army behind him that is willing to support him if he would come clean. And he told me that he doesn't need my army. That he's a man that fights his own battles. But again, he didn't deny it. And I told him that I knew about the \$3,075 and he eloquently told me that he's been threatened before. And again, that he doesn't need for anyone to fall on a sword for him, that he will fight his own battles. And again, he didn't deny it. That was my last communication with Jay. Take out of that what you will.

[00:24:30] Contact with Laura

Since speaking with Jay, I've reached out to several other people involved in the case. People that knew Jay. People that were close to Jay. I spoke today with a woman that I'll just refer to as Laura for now. Laura was one of Stephanie's best friends. She was also very close with Jay and Jenn. She also knew Adnan and Hae from the Magnet Program at school. Laura has a unique perspective on all of this because she was very close with almost everyone

involved in this case but separate from one another. Her relationship with Jay never overlapped with her relationship with Adnan. She and Adnan were friends at school. And she described Stephanie as her best friend but she didn't know Adnan through Stephanie. And as I mentioned, she was very close with Jay and Jenn. But again, not through Stephanie.

I had a chance to ask Laura a few questions today. We'll be speaking at length later and she'll be possibly interviewed on the show in one of our coming episodes but before recording this episode, there were a few things that I wanted to know. The first one was the fact that in Jay's *Intercept* interview he said that the night they were at Cathy's house, or Kristi's house, or "not-her-real name Cathy," or whatever you'd like to call her—the night that Adnan was supposedly acting weird. Jay says that he was there with Adnan, some other friends, one of whom was Laura. He points out Laura by name in the interview. So I asked Laura if she remembers ever being at Kristi's house with Jay and Adnan, and Adnan acting weird. And she knew the answer right away.

She said there's no way that ever happened. Not a chance. She said she was never around Jay and Adnan together. And again, she's in a unique position to recall this memory because she did know Adnan. And she did know Jay. But she knows that there was never an occasion where she was with Jay and Adnan together. And she said she's absolutely never seen Adnan at Kristi's house. Then I asked her if she was close to Jay and Jenn during the time of this investigation. And she said, "Yes, absolutely, they were very close. They hung out almost every day."

Then I asked her if Jay ever said anything to her about the crime. She said, "No." And I asked her if Jenn had ever said anything and she said, "No." In all the times they hung out together, neither Jay or Jenn ever said anything about being involved in this murder or about being involved in testifying for this murder. It never came up once. She said she didn't know any of these details until *Serial* came out. Now normally I would find it odd that if someone is that close to two people and they had something this significant happen in their life, that they wouldn't share that. Or at least say something about it. But they never said a word.

There's one other person that Laura was very close to, she described him as being like a brother to her. That person happens to be the very person that I interviewed for the show today. After a quick break to catch our breath and hear a quick word from our sponsor, you're going to hear for the first time anywhere, from Neighbor Boy.

[00:27:43] Shaun T Fitness

Our sponsor who has provided all of the funding for today's program is Shaun T Fitness. I wanted to let you all know how my progress has been going using Shaun T's program, T25. I'm almost through week five right now and I'm down 14 pounds. Not only am I looking better and my clothes are fitting better, but I feel amazing. While working as a firefighter over the past several weeks, I've felt stronger, I've had better stamina, and I've been able to work longer than even the young guys at trainings. Tomorrow night I finish the last day of the Alpha program and I can't wait to get started on the Beta program next week.

Shaun also wanted me to let you guys now about his Empower Fitness event coming up on September 19th in Minneapolis. For anyone interested in going to this Empower Fitness event, go to EmpowerFitnessEvents.com. As of right now, there are still tickets available. And as always, for all of your fitness and motivational needs, go to ShaunTFitness.com and dig deeper.

0:28:51 Neighbor Boy

I'm sure all of you remember this clip from *Serial*:

[Sarah Koenig Speaking in a Clip from *Serial*] *A guy named Dave had called the cops and said, "My daughter just heard something about a dead body." Dave told the cops it was the neighbor boy who mentioned it. Dave names the neighbor boy, but I'm just going to call him the Neighbor Boy.*

The Neighbor Boy. Ever since this episode aired, this gentleman has been referred to by millions of people as Neighbor Boy, and he's been a mystery to all of us. He declined to interview with Sarah for *Serial* and according to him, he's had lots and lots of other people try to contact him over the last year but Neighbor Boy was gracious enough to take some time out of his schedule and speak with me.

I've been talking to Neighbor Boy for the last couple of weeks. And I want to say right up front that I think he's a really cool guy. He's a nice guy, just living his life, who had no idea that he was the focus of anyone's attention. Short of a few Facebook messages he's received, he had no idea that people out there thought of him as some sort of linchpin to this case. And he had no idea that was Neighbor Boy. So strap yourselves in for the next 35 minutes and hear the first-ever interview with Neighbor Boy.

Bob: How you doing today, Neighbor Boy?

Neighbor Boy: [Laughter] Neighbor Boy. I'm good, man, I'm good.

Bob: [Laughter] You know Neighbor Boy and I have spoken a few times before this and isn't it true, Neighbor Boy, that before I called you, you had no idea that you were indeed Neighbor Boy?

Neighbor Boy: I had no idea what that was going on. Neighbor Boy is the funniest shit I have ever heard in my life.

Bob: [Laughter] You were literally known to millions of people as Neighbor Boy. However, we're going to probably have a decent length of conversation here and I really would like to not keep calling you Neighbor Boy, but I want to keep your identity still kind of secret so, we need to think of another nickname I can call you throughout the rest of this interview.

Neighbor Boy: Right, right, I feel you. Call me "E."

Bob: I can do “E.” Now you know you’re at the danger now of becoming “Mr. E” for the rest of your life now from the other *Serial* characters that you’re probably not aware of.

E: Right. Hey, that’s not a problem, dude. I dated a girl, to this day her children call me Mr. E whenever I see them, so...

Bob: Perfect. All right, I can handle “E.” Can you tell the listeners a little bit about yourself. You know, what you’ve been up to for the last fifteen years and any information you had regarding this whole *Serial* phenomena since then?

E: For the past ten years or so, fifteen years, I’ve been out in Colorado. Actually, no, I moved out in Colorado October of ’02.

Bob: Okay.

E: I’ve been out here, you know, taking care of my mom. She wound up getting real, real sick and I wound up moving my grandmother out here. Just been doing the whole family thing, you know. I had a daughter and a son, you know, married and divorced. And you know, typical life shit.

Bob: We’ll go ahead and get on with the interview. So, everybody, that’s E, and you’ve been out in Colorado for a while just living life. And one of the first reasons, E, that I wanted to get a hold of you was there’s a lot of speculation out there as *Serial* has gotten so popular where you kind of become a key character and partially I think because you are kind of a mysterious character cause no one’s ever heard from you during all of this. Now, like I said, you were coined as Neighbor Boy and...

E: Right.

Bob: And last year, I think in the fall when *Serial* was airing there was an exchange between you and Jay Wilds on Facebook that somebody, somehow caught and it just blew up all over the place and all these conspiracy theories started and the context of it was kind of that people took out of that they thought...

E: That I was hiding something, or that I knew something, okay...

Bob: Right, yeah.

E: I know exactly what you’re talking about. Okay, let me set the record straight for everybody out there who’s listening. The comment that I made to Jay was in turn a reaction to what he was saying to me. At this time, all these black folks were being killed on the news and all this stuff was being posted on Facebook about black pride and how come people aren’t upset, and this, that, and the other. I wound up posting something that had nothing to do with it, it was irrelevant. I think it had to do with like, a girl’s ass, or a car, or something.

Bob: Okay.

E: He messages me trying to belittle me, saying “Do you see what’s going on in the streets? How come you ain’t upset? And you over here [inaudible] wrong with my black folk” and this, that, and the other. And I kind of got mad about that. And I had to check him one. Like, “Hey, don’t come at me on that bullshit. I know who I am. I know what I am in this country. I know what’s going on in the streets. But just because I’m not on social media blasting this shit, don’t get it twisted. But do I have to remind you about what happened to you in high school?” Meaning that recently I had got a phone call from some investigator in Baltimore trying to do an interview that I wasn’t trying to be a part of because I didn’t know nothing about nothing.

Bob: And that would have been when Sarah Koenig called you, who did *Serial*.

E: Yes, that’s her name, Sarah, yes. That’s when she had called me and I was like, “Fifteen years later you all still questioning me about this? I had nothing to with it.” But it was more along the quote/unquote “Coalition to Free Adnan.” You know what I mean?

Bob: Okay.

E: And I told her, I was like, “Yo, I don’t know nothing about all that.”

Bob: Okay.

E: And what I know was what was in the news.

Bob: So when she contacted you, you didn’t know it was going to be a podcast, correct?

E: No, I did not.

Bob: Okay, you just thought it was for some kind of story?

E: Yeah, she was just telling me that she doing an investigation about the case and she wanted to ask me a couple questions and this, that, and the other. And I was like, “Okay, cool, whatever, but I don’t know what else I can tell you.” And most of our conversation was over text.

Bob: So the speculation everybody had that, because like I said, and I’m sure you can see why people would take that inference from it was, you know what happened back like then. Like you had covered something up and you were covering for him.

E: Right. Yeah, and I didn’t know nothing from nothing, dude. It had nothing to do with that case. It was like, you know what, how dare you try to chastise me after what happened to you and what happened between me and you on a personal level, know what I’m saying? Between me, him, and whatever girlfriend back in the day. I’m not going to go there, you know, whatever. But still, fifteen years later, we’re just now becoming associates on Facebook and you want to chastise me like we’re still in middle school? I don’t think so, homie.

Bob: That makes a lot of sense. And in regards to what Sarah was calling you about, when she called you, do you remember she asked you about a report, or a little thing in the police report, a little note in the report, where a girl named Laura... that's why you became Neighbor Boy because they said she was your neighbor...

E: Yes.

Bob: ... had told her father who said something to the police, that you had told her that Jay told you that, or showed you a body in a trunk at some point.

E: False. Absolutely false. First of all, me and Laura, yes, she was my neighbor but after middle school... didn't see her, didn't hang out with her, didn't talk to her, didn't email her, didn't write her any little love notes, stick them on her car. No, nothing like that. You know this girl and her family, there were homeschooled, which there's nothing wrong with that, know what I'm saying, to each their own. You know, if you're homeschooled, different crowds. You're not going to be at a party where I'm at, you're not going to be at the club, or wherever I'm at, know what I'm saying?

Bob: Right.

E: Cause you're at your home. So how can I even say that you?

Bob: So, you think that it's just something she just completely made up?

E: Yes, I really do. Because the only time that I said or mentioned anything about it, was at a house party for my friend's graduation, that her mom threw her. You know, she allowed her to have a party, you know, 18, she was about to go off to college and all that and whatever and finally have party.

Bob: Right.

E: Well, you know, getting drunk, stumbling around, and, "Oh yeah, I heard this, I heard that, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah." And next thing you know, I got BCPD coming up at my door talking about, "Hey, we need to go outside and talk." For what?

Bob: Okay, so now, wait a minute. So the Baltimore Police Department picked you up after an exchange at a party?

E: A couple of weeks later, I do believe it was.

Bob: Okay, and this was a graduation party? So this would have been later in the spring?

E: Yeah, something to that effect, yeah.

Bob: Okay and when they brought you in, what did they question you about?

E: It was more of... do I know this person, do I know that person. Have I ever seen this person with this person. Have I ever seen this person driving this car

or whatever. And I was like, "Well, I know this one, I know that one. I don't know this one, I don't know that one, I've never seen that car, but yeah, he does have a car." But to me, it started to get funny because it was starting to sound like, or seem like, they thought I had something to do with it. So I started to laugh at 'em. I started to laugh at the detectives. And he's like, "Oh, what, you think this is funny? One of your peers, one of your students, or you know, your friend is dead?" And I'm like, "No, I do not think that that's funny. But what I do find is funny is that you motherfuckers think that I got something to do with this, or know anything about it." This shit has been blasted all over the motherfucking news but yet you're here questioning me, of all people.

Bob: Right, and now the people they were asking you about, were they asking about like Jay and Adnan?

E: They asked me about Jay, they asked me about Hae, they asked me if I know, um... what is his name... I don't know, it was a couple other people. I can't really remember all that.

Bob: Would it have been, cause some of the names that were thrown around then, obviously Adnan, and then there was a Yaser that they were talking about.

E: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I don't know who the hell he is.

Bob: Okay, but they asked you about Yaser. Did they ask you in that interview about the situation with your neighbor?

E: No.

Bob: They didn't even ask you about that?

E: Nothing about my neighbor. I didn't know nothing about my neighbor until you brought that to my attention. I haven't seen or talked to my neighbor, honestly since, like I said, damn near middle school.

Bob: Was she like a right-next-door neighbor, or just kind of in the neighborhood?

E: Nah, she lived across the street from me.

Bob: Okay.

E: Like, my house faced hers, but it was catty-corner.

Bob: Okay, now, getting back to the interview with the police, I guess while we're actually talking to somebody that spoke to these actual detectives, how would you kind of describe their tone? Were they forceful with you? Do you feel like they were trying to manipulate you at all? Were they all pretty straightforward?

E: I could tell they were fishing for something.

Bob: Okay.

E: Know what I mean?

Bob: Yeah.

E: Asking me, like, do I know--what's that dude's—name... Yaser. Or, have I ever seen Jay Wilds with this dude, or Jenn, or whoever with this person, or whatever. And I'm like, "No, what are you talking about?" And then, "You brought me down here for something else." So if I don't have nothing to do with it, can you take me back home?

Bob: Right, and the original thing that they brought you down there for was because they had heard a rumor from someone that overheard you at a party saying something?

E: Yes, yes... that I had seen and I know I have information regarding.

Bob: Okay and in our previous conversation, before we were recording, you mentioned that you told the police you didn't know anything. But you said... and in fact, Jay had told you some version of a story at some point prior to that, right?

E: Yeah, right. What he had told me was Adnan came to his house, cause anybody who knows Jay knows that he was selling weed. He may not have been that big major player like he thought he was, or whatever, know what I'm saying, I don't know, I'm not in his business like that, but Adnan come to the house, he talking about, "Yo, you ready for this? You ready for this?" He talking about, "Yo, I'm thinking it's going to be about a pound of weed or two, he popped the trunk, there's the body." So they take it to wherever and bury it. Adnan drove to Jay's house. That's what I got told by Jay. And that's what came out in the news.

Bob: That Jay had helped bury the body... is that what you mean what came out in the news?

E: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And then...

Bob: [Interrupts] Sorry, go head.

E: Go ahead.

Bob: You had mentioned that Jay said that when Adnan popped the trunk he thought he was going to see a pound of weed in there. Why would he have thought it—do you have any idea why he would have thought Adnan would have had a pound of weed in his trunk?

E: I just assumed that he was his dealer. You feel me, like, I don't know Adnan. I ain't never met him. He's one of those faces that you see walking up the halls, you hear what I'm saying?

Bob: Right.

- E:** If they aren't in your circle of friends or associates or whatever, you don't know them. You may see them walking up the steps or coming out the back from getting a drink of water, going to the nurses office, anything.
- Bob:** So Jay, the way he kind of made it sound, was that Adnan was like his supplier and he was expecting some weed when he opened the trunk?
- E:** That's what was told to me.
- Bob:** Yeah, and as I've mentioned to you, and for you listeners, understand that E here has not—he had no idea about anything. He's never heard *Serial*, he didn't know any of this stuff was going on. So I was telling him that all the different versions of Jay's story that have been heard over the years so he was kind of surprised too to hear that this is the first story we've heard about it happening at Jay's grandma's house, thinking that it was weed. However, he did mention, like I think I told you, E, earlier that in his latest *Intercept* interview, before all of the police recordings and the trials and all that, in his *Intercept* interview back in December, he said something about that "it was at grandma's house." And he lied in court because he wanted to protect grandma's house because she had some sort of major drug operation happening out of her house. Do you know anything about that?
- E:** I don't want to call it major, you understand. But you do what you got to do in high school, or whatever, you know what I'm saying. I'm not saying he's running Gs out of the house, but like I said before, I wasn't in his business like that, know what I'm saying. He was—after middle school, into high school, we really didn't hang out much and when we did he was like, "Hey, do you want to try to blaze up? Alright, back." We go smoke somewhere, chill, then he's off to do his thing.
- Bob:** The way he had kind of described it in the *Intercept* interview that it was—not that he was dealing out of grandma's house—it was like his whole family had this like, I think the words he used were, "it was a lot more than just selling pot," it was this huge operation going on out of grandma's house.
- E:** Oh, shit. If it was, I didn't know nothing about it and I knew dude since fucking elementary school.
- Bob:** Right. [Laughter] So..
- [Speaking over each other]
- E:** [Laughter] No, see what I'm saying? I've known dude since elementary school and we're talking about some high school shit now, so I mean, come on.
- Bob:** [Laughter] Well, so we can probably say that may be an unsubstantiated claim.
- E:** Right. Only he knew what was really the deal. That's his family, I ain't, know what I'm saying, whatever.

Bob: You mentioned that you guys knew each other, you know, since like elementary school. Can you tell us real quick kind of what your relationship was with Jay over the years and at that time?

E: We was homies. I used to go spend the night at his house, know what I'm saying, kick it. I knew his grandma, I knew his momma, you know what I'm saying, when he lived over [Bleeped Out] and everything, before he moved to grandma's house off of [Bleeped Out], you know what I'm saying, we was cool.

Bob: Okay, and that was all through, you said, since childhood friends, right?

E: Yeah, Big Wheel years.

Bob: [Laughter] Big Wheel years. Okay and in getting back, you said he told you the story about Adnan coming to grandma's house, thought it was weed...

E: Yeah, yeah.

Bob: ... had the body in the trunk. And then you also mentioned to me, didn't you tell me, that he told you a version of where the crime happened?

E: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, before he got to the house, apparently he went to wherever this girl was working at, you know what I'm saying?

Bob: Right.

E: To, sort of reconcile things, because I guess apparently they had a breakup, a blow up, or whatever the fuck, I don't know. But he went there to talk to her, things went wrong, next thing you know, he's showing up at grandma's house with a body in the trunk.

Bob: So he had told you that Adnan had went to Hae's work—which she worked at LensCrafters at the mall—tried to reconcile, things went bad, and he killed her in the parking lot of her work. Or, at her work, somewhere.

E: Yeah.

Bob: And, I'm sure the listeners are wondering why I don't sound shocked now by that but that's cause he and I already talked about this a couple of days ago and I mentioned to you then that that's a version of the story we hadn't heard before either, which sort of feeds into kind of what I'm feeling, is the fact that Jay didn't actually know what happened. Cause that's a whole other version that no one else has ever heard before.

E: Right, I don't know. I mean, like for real, the only version that I had heard was the one that Jay told me and what was on the news. Up until you got in contact with me, talking about, what's your podcast called again?

Bob: *The Serial Dynasty.*

E: Yeah, I didn't know nothing about that shit until you gave me word. I checked it out the day after me and you talked, and I was like, wow, okay, I didn't even

know, like I said before, I didn't even know that there was a serial killer running around Woodlawn doing crazy shit. I didn't know there was a dude arrested who killed himself in jail and blah, blah, blah or DNA and all that other crazy shit. That was allegedly in some report or whatever that was tied to this case. I didn't know nothing about that.

Bob: You'd see a thing on the news, Jay had told you a story that seemed to fit, you thought Adnan did it, he went to prison. And that was the end of it.

E: Pretty much. And I brought my black ass out to Colorado.

Bob: [Laughter]

E: Like for real, like, I didn't think twice about it. On occasion, I would get an email, or a text, or something, not like a text, like a Facebook thing, a "Free Adnan" and I'm sitting here thinking to myself like, "Why are they trying to free this motherfucker if he did it?"

Bob: [Laughter] Right. [Laughter] Seems like a bad idea, right?

E: Oh, duh. Know what I'm saying? And then this lady Sarah called me and then you called me, so I'm like, okay wait, what's really going on here? That's why I'm talking to you, know what I'm saying. That's why I'm exposing what I actually know, cause if it wasn't for that, I ain't got nothing for you, homie. I ain't got nothing to say. But you now at the same time my name, like you said, is known by millions, many millions...

Bob: Right.

E: [inaudible] Saying I'm at the head of some conspiracy, or whatever, whatever. I ain't got time to think about some motherfuckers trying to shoot me in the head in front of this little girl. Know what I'm saying?

Bob: Right.

E: I got a sick momma, an elderly grandmother, fighting for my daughter, and trying to raise my son whenever I see him, know what I'm saying, I ain't got time for that shit.

Bob: Right. Well, and we appreciate you coming on and I think that, you know, for me, and I'll tell you and the listeners all together that, one of the reasons why I really wanted to get you on is, there is some information that you have that's useful to us in the investigation. For example, the fact that Jay told you completely different stories than everyone else, or than he told everyone else, it's significant in the fact that it just leads us more to believe that he really didn't know what was happening. But the other side of that is, I really want, cause you know, you and I've talked quite a bit over the last couple of weeks and me...

E: Right, right.

Bob: You're a cool guy, living life just like everybody else and I wanted to give you the opportunity to get your story out to everyone who has all these preconceived notions about you.

E: Right, know what I'm saying, I ain't got no beef with nobody. I try to keep it that way for a simple reason. I don't got time for drama. I got enough on my plate in life. I ain't got time for yours or the next motherfucker's. Know what I'm saying?

Bob: Right.

E: I ain't got time for it. Now, if it ain't about you helping me better myself, better my family, better yourself, or your family, whatever, you know what I'm saying, or any of that crazy shit, miss me with it, I'm gone.

Bob: Right, and so hopefully this will accomplish that and people will stop calling you Neighbor Boy at least hopefully when this is over with.

E: [Laughter] You make me laugh when you say that shit, Neighbor Boy, get out of here.

Bob: [Laughter] Moving on down my list here, one thing I wanted to ask you about cause you and Jay were relatively close at the time...

E: Right.

Bob: There's a police report on the records that Jay was arrested somewhere around January 26th or 27th off the top of my head that year where he was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, which was, it would have been between when Hae went missing and when her body was found. So right in the thick of when all this stuff was going on. Do you remember anything? Do you remember Jay ever being picked up for disorderly conduct or resisting, or anything like that?

E: Never heard anything about that one, no, like for real. But, then again, who goes around bragging about, "Yo, I got arrested." So if he did, he kept that to the chest but I didn't hear anything about it.

Bob: I'm trying to kind of put some things into, kind of, a reference of time frame as you kind of draw on some of these memories back, as, you know, I'm asking some of these questions. When you mentioned that Jay had—so I'm kind of backtracking a little bit here—when you mentioned that Jay had told you the story about the body in the trunk at grandma's house and Hae being killed at her work... do you remember if that was after he had been picked up and had spoken to the police? That would have been right at the end of February, so and I know, like you said, you got picked up by the cops after some graduation party in the summer, can you kind of remember in that time frame if it was back like winter time? Like maybe before he'd even been talking to the police when he told you that stuff or if it was later on?

E: That's the thing, I don't know when Jay got picked up, you know what I'm saying? So whenever he told me, I had no idea that he had got picked up and had already talked to the cops about this.

Bob: So when he told you the story, he didn't mention to you that he had been talking to the police already?

E: No, no. Like, that would be like you're in college, or high school, or whatever, your homie running up to like, "Hey yo, check this shit." That's pretty much what happened. I was at the house. He rolled up, we were smoking a blunt, he told me this story.

Bob: Do you remember, just trying to kind of put it into reference here, when he got picked up—and it's making more sense to me now cause it's kind of clicking right now as I'm speaking to you—cause he wasn't charged, Jay wasn't arrested, he was...

E: Okay.

Bob: He was brought in for questioning and that's when he told the police, or according to the police reports, he told the police that he knew where the car was, took them to the car, and gave this whole story that Adnan had done it, and that he had helped bury the body, and then they went and picked up Adnan. And then Jay went home and so...

E: Okay.

Bob: It would make sense to me, I guess, let me ask you this, as far as Jay's personality, would you consider a Jay, do you think Jay would be the type of guy to be a snitch or the type of guy that would want someone to know that he was a snitch?

E: No. Definitely not. That's the one thing I do know about Jay. Through all the bullshit, throughout Hae's life, my life, everybody whoever, whatever. That's the one thing I do know, he wouldn't do that.

Bob: Okay.

E: I wouldn't see that.

Bob: Right, and what I'm wondering is if I'm right in thinking that the police were holding something over his head, or there was some other reason why they were pressuring him into doing this, he probably wouldn't tell you... let me frame the question this way, if Jay had been coerced by the police, they had something over him, somehow they coaxed him into giving this testimony against Adnan. Do you think that he would tell anyone?

E: No.

Bob: Okay. That's what I'm wondering. It just all of a sudden clicked to me when you told me that you didn't know when he was picked up and that sounds like

even going on towards like these graduation parties and things, like he's telling the story, about what happened but he's not telling anybody that he's the witness in the case.

E: Right.

Bob: Like, did you ever know that he was the witness, the key witness?

E: No, I didn't know nothing. I didn't even know that this dude Adnan had been tried and charged and been in prison for the past fifteen until that old girl, Sarah, called me. And like I said, I was starting to get those little emails or whatever, something about the Coalition to Free Adnan, and everything, and then I didn't know nothing about it. Shortly after that, like two years later or whatever, I moved.

Bob: That actually makes a lot more sense to me when I'm thinking about it that not just right then but he was telling these stories to people but he never told anyone he was the one talking to the police and that would make actually a lot of sense for all of this to fit in. Especially as to why he would say tell you that story. I mean what's the purpose of telling that story unless he's just kind of trying to get it out...

E: Make himself seem whatever or whatever.... Or, that there, yeah. When you're in high school or whatever, depending on your mentality, a lot of people make up a lot of shit to make themselves seem cool, to make themselves seem bigger and badder than what the fuck they really are in life, you know what I'm saying? And...

Bob: Yeah, or he wanted people to know when it came out, or if it came out, that he was the one testifying, that well yeah, that's true cause Jay told all these people this story.

E: Right. So you mean... oh wait, wait, wait, you mean I'm not the only one he told that to?

Bob: You're the only one that I've heard that he told that particular version to...

E: Oh, okay.

Bob: But there were several people that he was telling a story about what had happened, that Adnan had killed Hae...

E: Got you, got you. Okay.

Bob: ... And that he had helped to bury the body, you know. Jenn was one, you, there were several people out there that said, "Yeah, Jay had told us about this." But it just occurred to me, nobody ever said, "Jay told us he was talking to the police about this." And they were always different versions of the story.

E: Right.

Bob: So it's almost like he could have been covering his tracks for if it comes out that he is the one testifying....

E: If he was talking, and yeah, and that would make sense because later in life I found out he was out [Bleeped out], know what I'm saying. I think it was from Jenn, I think it was, or my friend, Laura, something happened to him and he got stabbed or fucked up real bad and shits all fucked up and he's out [Bleeped out] and then we he found me, or we got in contact on Facebook, he was [Bleeped out] but up until then, I didn't know where he was.

Bob: I didn't actually know anything about the—I don't know if other people did—about him being stabbed or something like that, but it makes sense that he'd want to get as far away from Baltimore...

E: Everything...

Bob: ... as he could. Yeah.

E: Right, and I just want to put this out there so that everybody can hear this cause I already know what they're thinking. Why am I in Colorado, why did I leave? Well the reason I left was because I lost my job, my car, and my apartment in one month. The girl that I was dating at the time I couldn't bring back to my grandma's house, at that time, my grandmother, she was on that [inaudible], know what I'm saying? People of her age, of course there going to be there, know what I'm saying? So I had to make a choice, come out here and be with my mom, or go back to grandma's house. I was tired of Baltimore anyway, I'd been telling motherfuckers for years, you know, "I want to get the fuck out of here. I want to go see something different. I'm tired of being here." And my grandfather showed up with a ticket, so here I am.

Bob: Yeah, personally I don't question at all your—I don't think that you have any reason to have any motive—I don't think you had enough involvement in this to even care enough to run away from anything.

E: Right, right. Come on now, like if I did something, all right, I'm going to lawyer up, this, that, and the other, blah, blah, blah, know what I'm saying. But if I ain't got nothing to do with it, [inaudible] ok cool.

Bob: And to summarize your involvement from what you've told me, and you've started to say here, your involvement is, Jay told you some bullshit story at some point and you were talking at a party. The cops called you in, asked you if you knew anybody, and then that was the last you ever heard of any of it.

E: Pretty much.

Bob: Do you ever remember Jay having a motorcycle?

E: A motorcycle? No.

Bob: Also, I was going to ask you, you mentioned to me before that at some point you and Jay had a falling out and you kind of shared some of the details with me. I don't want you to share those details here, but do you remember...

E: [Laughter] I mean, I can but I'm not going to put any names in it. Just out of respect, know what I'm saying?

Bob: Sure.

E: But, you know, it was pretty much some hood shit, know what I'm saying. Like he was telling me, like this girl that I was dating at the time, he's telling me like, there's something not right about her, there're something not right about her. This was about the time when his girlfriend, Stephanie, had just gone off to college or whatever and they were having their little spit spats about whatever. So one day, I come home and my girl, she's not there, know what I mean. And a couple of days go by, whatever, whatever, you know, I don't hear nothing, I don't see her. A friend of mine stops by the house. We out front, smoking, chilling, whatever, whatever, and I'm like, "Hey, yo, you seen Jay?" He's like, "Yeah, about that, I got to tell you something." And I was like, "Well, what you got to tell me?" Jay was standing there with us, he got in his car and pulled off, like "All right, yo, I'm out." I'm like, "All right, cool, know what I'm saying. Holler at ya."

Bob: Right.

E: The story got told to me was he took old girl around the way. Him, about twelve other motherfuckers got drunk along with her, and ran a train on her, or she allowed that to happen. Either way, it was just fucked up. But instead of being a man about and saying you didn't get caught and then disappear for fifteen years. Know what I'm saying...

Bob: So was that pretty much the end of contact you had with Jay until recently?

E: Until we got in contact on Facebook.

Bob: Okay, now, you mentioned that he got in his car and drove away. So at some point, he did buy a car?

E: Yeah.

Bob: Do you remember what kind of car it was?

E: Not really, honestly, I couldn't even tell ya.

Bob: Do you remember about when this whole breakdown in your relationship occurred, if it would have been like in '99, in the fall, winter?

E: Maybe about fall.

Bob: And you think it was 1999 probably about that time?

E: Yeah, cause we weren't in school then. And then...

Bob: Right.

E: So we had been graduated and all that. We weren't in school.

Bob: Well we know that he didn't have a car in '98 or spring/summer '99 cause that was part of the whole reason why Adnan and he were kind of tied into this is because he was borrowing Adnan's car cause he used to borrow his car on a regular basis.

E: Right, right.

Bob: So he didn't have one we know for sure in '99 like during the school year. Cause you guys graduated in '98, right?

E: Yeah.

Bob: Okay, so, it would've had to been after that, so it would have been later in '99 when he got the car. But definitely somewhere close to that time period, it wasn't like 2002. I mean it was somewhere right around probably 1999...

E: No, somewhere around there he had a car cause in 2002, like I say, in October, I was out here.

Bob: Right, okay, so this all—and you guys had had your following out a couple of years...

E: Yeah, that had been done.

Bob: Another person that was involved in the whole trial with Adnan that kind of connected some things together was Jenn Pusateri. Jenn had testified, I don't remember if I had told you this before but, Jenn had testified that after they had buried the body, that she met up with Jay and went back and got the shovels and helped wipe fingerprints off of and dispose of the shovels. Did you know Jenn?

E: I've known Jenn since elementary school, again.

Bob: And what about her brother, Mark?

E: He's a little younger, but yeah, I've known him since forever. That was like my little brother, like for real.

Bob: Are you and Jenn still close or do you still talk at all?

E: Nope. Nope. Around that time when I was being told this story about what happened between Jay and everybody and my girl, whatever, I think that was about round the last time that I saw Jenn too.

Bob: Up to that point, you and Jenn were pretty close too. Did Jenn ever talk to you about any of this?

E: Nope.

Bob: Never heard a word about it from her?

E: Nope, nope. Cause in high school, once again, like when we were at school, that's a whole other story, know what I'm saying, we'll maybe cut, go to the bridge, cut away, whatever, smoke, smoke a blunt, whatever, whatever, but other than that, we had our own lives, know what I'm saying. She was dating this dude, they doing their thing, whatever, know what I'm saying. Then...

Bob: That's another thing that I was going to ask you about. The guy that Jenn was dating, that was some relation to Jay, right?

E: To my understanding, that was his cousin.

Bob: And that would be Anthony Wilds.

E: Moochie.

Bob: Yeah, what did you say you guys called him?

E: I knew him as "Moochie" or "Bookey" or whatever it was, know what I'm saying.

Bob: He was the one that she was arrested with on a couple of occasions, does that ring a bell?

E: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's him. That's how I know—that was her boyfriend or whatever, know what I'm saying. Cause I remember, it was something about they were casing a bike store or something up off 40 and they got pulled up in some kind of illegal car or a stolen car or some crazy story that I got told.

Bob: That kind of connects some dots too. Not necessarily for the case, but there was some speculation....

E: Right.

Bob: ... people were wondering about that. The last question I had for you, E, is there was a person that was involved in the case, meaning that they were on the call log, during right about the time that this alleged murder occurred. Do you know how Jay knew Phil?

E: No, I do not. I rarely saw Phil and when I did it was like on a type of situation where we was just chilling, smoking a blunt, know what I'm saying, kicking it, whatever. It wasn't like I hung out with all them.

Bob: Okay.

E: That was one of his homies. I can't tell you how they met, what they're dealings was, or what was going down. I couldn't tell you.

Bob: Okay, so, you just know him because he was just a guy that Jay was around sometimes.

E: Right.

Bob: Well, hey man, I think that that's all the questions I have on my list for you today. Anything else you want to add or you if you want to tell anything to all the listeners that are wondering about you. Anything else you want to say, now is your chance.

E: Honestly, just stop thinking I'm at the head of some conspiracy, I got some key evidence or whatever, I know what you guys know. As a matter of fact, you know more than I do cause I didn't know nothing about the podcast until just a couple weeks ago. And, come on man, be real.

Bob: Well, hey man, it's been awesome talking to you and it's been great getting to know you for this last week or so and I'll be in touch and I'll make sure that I get you guys that link so you and your girlfriend can check it out and listen to your interview. And you did great and it was nice to get a lot of this out and like I said, there is some information you have that may seem insignificant but it does actually add a little bit to fill in some gaps in our investigation.

E: Oh, hey, not a problem man. Like I said before, I ain't got nothing to hide. I didn't have nothing to do with nothing. What I know was on the news and what I was told. Now if they match up, they do. If they don't, hey, that's on somebody else.

Bob: I'm going to let you get back to your family and I'll definitely be in touch with you.

E: All right, man, if you've got anything else, just holler at me.

Bob: All right, will do. Thanks a lot, man.

[01:04:30] End of Interview with Neighbor Boy

All right, I hope you all enjoyed and got something out of that interview with E. Like I mentioned before the interview, he's been a pleasure to talk to. A few days before we recorded this, I gave E a call just to touch base before we actually sat down and did the interview and we ended up on the phone for over an hour, just shooting the shit and getting to know him a little bit. And I'm extremely appreciative that he took the time to actually record an interview for this episode.

One thing I wanted to note that I didn't record in the interview but I discussed with Neighbor Boy previous to the interview is the fact that in *Undisclosed*, the team had revealed in some PI notes that E had told the PI that he saw Jay in the back of a squad car near Jenn's house sometime before Jay was picked up and interviewed in the official police record. I did ask E about that and at first he didn't remember any of that so I sent him copies of those investigator's notes and he says that he does vaguely remember talking to someone and he's fairly sure that he had written that down, but now sixteen years later he just doesn't remember. He said seeing it written down, he's sure that he did, but he honestly cannot

remember ever seeing Jay in the back of a cop car. So I had sort of struck that out of my interview notes, to not eat up more time with a question that I knew the answer to but I did want to let you, the listeners, know that I did address that with E and he didn't say that it did happen or that it didn't happen, just that it was sixteen years ago and he didn't remember it happening.

So what did you get out of the interview with E? I drew a few things out of this interview. Number one is that this guy doesn't really know anything about this case. He was just a guy living life who had a buddy that told him a couple of stories, and that's really it. So my recommendation, or my request to all of you, is let's leave E alone and let him live his life. I don't think that there's anything else that we can draw out of him. I think that he was very honest and I think that he literally told us everything that he knows about the case. And I think at this point, if this is what he wants, he deserves to be left alone.

As far as the content of what he told us, I found a few things very interesting. Remember from the interview, E said that Jay had told him that Adnan had had a fight with Hae, went to her work, they got in a confrontation and he killed her at LensCrafters, or in the parking lot at LensCrafters, put her in her trunk, took her to Jay's house and asked him again, "Are you ready for this?" I found it interesting when E told me a couple of nights ago before we recorded this interview that Jay had told him that Adnan was his supplier. That he was expecting to see a couple of pounds of weed in the back of that trunk and he was shocked to see Hae in the back.

So red flags starting to go up all over the place that Jay is full of shit. This is a completely different story than he's told when he told all the other different versions of his story. And he said that it happened at his grandma's house, which he did also say the same thing in his *Intercept* interview, a different version of events, but that it did happen at grandma's house and he also said in that interview that the reason he lied was to protect his grandmother because there was a major drug operation happening out of that house. Did you happen to catch it when he said that he was over there all the time as a child and through high school, that he spent the night there? And as far as he knew, there was no kind of major drug operation happening there. Jay was just a small time dime bag dealer and I don't think grandma knew anything about it.

And regarding the car, this could be significant regarding the reward money. E couldn't quite remember the timeline as far as when Jay got the car but after the interview, I listened to it again in post and I pieced this together. We know that Jay didn't have a car in spring of '99. E couldn't quite remember when their confrontation happened but he thought he remembered it being in the fall. We know that they never spoke again after this confrontation, when Jay sped off in his car. And we know that E had talked to Jay when he got called into the police at a graduation party, which would have been, I'm guessing, somewhere around June of '99. So somewhere between June and the fall, and I don't remember if he told me on this interview or when we were speaking on the phone, that he remembered it wasn't winter, that it wasn't cold. So by putting all this together, it seems like Jay bought himself a car somewhere in the fall of 1999. And we also already knew that Jay did have a car by the time the trial came around. So again, these are just pieces of evidence, they are not proof of

anything but we know that some anonymous tipster was paid out \$3,075 in November of '99. And we know that sometime in the fall of '99, Jay bought himself a car.

To sum this entire episode up, I want to go all the way back to the beginning, February 1, 1999. That was the day that the police stopped trying to solve this murder. That was the day any possibility of those 1999 detectives solving this murder and figuring out who actually killed Hae was over. So here we are sixteen years later trying to put this puzzle back together. And we're going to do it one piece at a time. We're going to continue investigating the suspects that the Baltimore Police Department never bothered to investigate. So before I close the show today, I want you all to do me a favor. Listen to this clip from *Serial*:

[Sarah Koenig Speaking in a Clip from *Serial*] *Hae has got a crush on Don, an older guy. He's 20 whom she works with at LensCrafters at the Owings Mills Mall. Don has blue eyes and blonde hair and a Camaro and she really, really likes him.*

Now I want you to take just a few seconds. I want you to close your eyes and picture in your mind who you think Don is. What does he look like? What's his personality? How do you picture Don? Now what if I told you that everything you thought you knew about Don was wrong?

[01:10:44] Coming Up Next Week

Thank you all once again for supporting this program and downloading it and sharing it and helping me to build this audience and build this army. With tens of thousands of you listening right now, I have a request. Over the next several days, I want you to send me in everything and anything that you know about Don. Now understand that this is a little different than normal. I'm not asking you for theories. Right now is not the time for theories. I need evidence. I need facts.

I specifically want to ask any of who might have known Don back in 1999, or anytime really, to send me an email. I'm not going to disclose Don's full name on this podcast, so if you think you might have known Don, please send me an email. Anyone that might have lived in Bel Air, Maryland, or went Bel Air High School in the late 90s, please get a hold of me. Send me an email at theories@serialdynasty.com or even if you know someone who you think might have been from that area or went to that high school, or anyone that worked at LensCrafters at Owings Mills or Hunt Valley back in '99, get a hold of me.

Now I want to make clear that I do not want any sort of vigilante type of sleuthing here. I don't want anyone stalking anyone, doxing anyone. Nothing like that. I'm simply asking for anyone that does have information regarding Don, of any kind, to please get a hold of me.

[01:12:13] Credits

Thanks to [Jonny Rose of Slightly Subversive Music](#) for creating all of the music for the show.

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If you want to get a hold of me, you can always email me at theories@serialdynasty.com. You can catch me on Twitter [@SerialDynasty](#) or send a message to *The Serial Dynasty* Facebook page.

I want to thank you all one more time and charge all of you to hold the course, keep putting one foot in front of the other until we reach the finish line.

Until next week, this has been *The Serial Dynasty*.

Transcription by

