



the  
**SERIAL**  
DYNASTY

**Episode 11: Interview with Krista**  
**7/12/2015**  
**Speaker: Bob Ruff and Krista**

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**EPISODE DESCRIPTION**

In this week's episode, Bob interviews one of Adnan's closest friends from high school, Krista.

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Hello everybody and welcome back to *The Serial Dynasty*.

In today's episode we have the wonderful opportunity to sit down with an amazing guest. I was privileged enough to be able to interview one of Adnan's best friends from high school, Krista. You'll remember Krista because of her interviews on *Serial*, she's also appeared on the *Undisclosed* podcast a couple of times. And for those of you that have spent a lot of time digging through documents, and cell phone records, and things of that nature, she is one of the names that you see multiple times appear on Adnan's phone records. They spoke a lot. They spoke on the day of Hae's disappearance, and multiple occasions after that.

In a nutshell, Adnan and Krista were very, very close friends. Krista was also very close with Hae, they were all part of the same Magnet Program at Woodlawn High School. And as you'll hear in the interview, Krista spent a lot of time with Adnan in the days, weeks, and months following the disappearance of Hae Min Lee on January 13, 1999. I had a fairly lengthy conversation with Krista so we'll go ahead and get right into the interview.

**[00:02:01] Interview with Krista**

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**Bob:** All right, we're here today with Krista. Krista was, as you'll remember from the *Serial* podcast, one of Adnan's close friends and was featured on *Serial* as well as *Undisclosed*, and Krista was gracious enough to let me give her a call today for an interview, so want to say hello to Krista. Hey Krista, how are you doing?

**Krista:** I'm good. How about yourself?

**Bob:** I'm doing well, I had a busy week and I'm glad you took the time to sit down and chat with me today. If you don't mind, we can sit down and just talk a little bit about how things went in high school, your relationship with Adnan and Hae, and some of the other players in this whole case. And, just kinda walk through, what went on back in 1999 and since then. Before we get into that, I think you'd mentioned though a couple of emails we had back and forth, did you say that you come from a firefighting family?

**Krista:** I do. Actually my dad is a retired firefighter paramedic from Baltimore County. My mom is a firefighter EMT in Baltimore County and my sister is a FADO/EMT for Baltimore County Fire Department.

**Bob:** Wow, so you have a lot of experience dealing with probably the week I just had this week.

**Krista:** Yes, and I actually am the president of our local volunteer firefighting [inaudible] and I've been a member of that since 2000, so I'm pretty heavy in the fire department activity.

**Bob:** Oh great. So, getting back to, all the way back to 1999, Krista. So, can you talk to me just a little bit about your relationship with Adnan? I guess Adnan first, and then maybe—because you were friends with Hae as well, correct?

**Krista:** Yes, I was friends with both Hae and Adnan. And I would say pretty much equally. We were a very close knit group of people, all in the Magnet Program together. So, we kind of had all of our classes together, we did our outside activities together, we all hung out after school—you know over the weekend. So we spent a lot of time together just as a core group of people, so we all got friendly with one another.

**Bob:** Okay, you just mentioned something about you guys all hanging out after school and things. You know, that is one of the questions I get a lot and I see thrown around a lot, you know, asking about Adnan getting a ride from Hae to track practice. Do you recall during that time if that was something that happened on a regular basis, that he would catch a ride either from Hae or anyone else down to the track?

**Krista:** You know, the track specifically, I don't know. With my senior year of high school, I actually left school early. So I decided, or choose to, only go to

school for two periods a day. So I was out of school by 10:45 and then I worked in the afternoons until 5:00, usually every day. So I wasn't there to necessarily see whether or not he got a ride to track, but it was not unusual for him to get a ride from her, even after they were not dating anymore.

**Bob:** Okay, so that was kind of a common thing.

**Krista:** Yeah, I mean, even after they broke up, she still referred to him as one of her best friends. They still talked all the time. So it was just that the friendship was still there the relationship just was not.

**Bob:** Okay, so even... was that the case even like after she started dating Don?

**Krista:** Yes, yeah. I know, you know, it was hard, I think, for him a little bit just to know that she had moved on right away but, like I said, they were still very close. So if one needed something, non-relationship wise, like you know, when Hae's car broke down and she needed help, she would call Adnan even though they weren't together cause they still looked out for each other. They still cared about each other a lot.

**Bob:** So, I guess, kinda right to the point before we move on to some of the other things, just to be clear, do you believe that Adnan murdered Hae?

**Krista:** I am—no. I never in a million years would be comfortable saying that I could wholeheartedly believe that. I had a hard time grasping how some people that we went to school with, or some people that we were friends with, you know, 100% were convinced that he was guilty. We did not know anything about the case. We didn't know anything about [inaudible] against Adnan, obviously actually, until *Serial* came out this year.

So it was kind of eye opening for me because for the last 16 years I've sort of been sitting here like, "This doesn't make any sense. Like, this is crazy." I felt like I was the only one that was doubting everything. But now I feel like there's five million people out there that are listening to the same thing, with the same thoughts that I had then, but solidifies "alright, something's not [inaudible] here."

**Bob:** Did the feeling that you were getting from a lot of the friends that did believe he was guilty... did some of that start right away after she went missing or after her body was found? Or did that kind of come in after Adnan was arrested?

**Krista:** I would say that that definitely did not come in until after Adnan was arrested. I mean, we still all hung out together. The night before Adnan was arrested, he left my house at probably 12:00, 1:00, in the morning. So it's not like we... or he was isolated from us. He was very much part of our close-knit group and never in a million years did any of us imagine that when he left the next day or that morning would be the last time that we saw him outside of prison walls.

**Bob:** And then after he was arrested, I'm sure—hope people assume—I have kind of always assumed, that the police typically get the right guy. And if they arrested him, they had a reason to. Do you think that played into why people then just assumed cause... were there a lot of his friends, that, you know, after he was arrested that just really believed that he absolutely did this?

**Krista:** Well, like I said, nobody really knew anything, so we were naïve. We were all 17, you know, just turned 18 years old. A lot of people just assumed that if the cops arrested him and he was behind bars, that they had to have had the right guy. They had to have had something on him. But nobody really knew what that something was. Even when it went to trial, all the witnesses were not allowed back in the courtroom.

**Bob:** Moving on from... you know, we mentioned some of the other friends that all, you know, once Adnan was arrested just kind of assumed the police got the right guy. Are you still in contact with any of those old friends from high school?

**Krista:** I still talk to a couple of them. There's people that I keep up with every now and again on Facebook. But there are quite a few, I'd say probably four or five people from high school that I am still very close with that we talk on usually like a weekly basis.

**Bob:** Are any of them that you are still in contact with any of the, I guess I'd call them, the major players in *Serial* and *Undisclosed*? Like Aisha, Becky, Debbie, any of those people, anymore?

**Krista:** No, I mean, like I said, not really. I kept up with Aisha I guess into college but, you know, everybody sort of went to college or schools in different cities when we graduated. So once everybody sort of moved away, we didn't really see each other as much as we used to. The only person I think that Sarah interviewed that I'm still in regular contact with is Laura. And her and I talk on a frequent basis.

**Bob:** Okay, was she one of the ones that kind of was convinced of Adnan's guilt back in '99, 2000?

**Krista:** She was the—and it's not I guess her famous moment—but she was the one I guess everybody knows for her talking about there wasn't a payphone at Best Buy because she knows the layout from when she used to...

**Bob:** Cause she was stealing the CDs? [Laughter]

**Krista:** Exactly. [Laughter]

**Bob:** So from what I remember from listening to her on *Serial*, she doesn't seem very convinced at this point that he is guilty.

**Krista:** No, no, and she's never, you know, she was one of the people that I could always sort of talk to about it because she was never—it never made sense to either one of us really.

**Bob:** Okay, and am I remembering correctly that Aisha was somebody that you were pretty close with that you spoke with after some of the interviews?

**Krista:** Yes, I mean, well not my interviews with Sarah, but Aisha and I were very close. I guess all through high school. So Hae was Aisha's other best friend I guess at the time so we all kind of hung out. It was usually like, Aisha, Hae, Becky, me, our friend Lorna, some of the times our friend Sean. So it was like the same five or six people and then a few extras that were here every now and again so that all really hung out and were close together.

**Bob:** Okay, and I think it was mentioned on *Undisclosed* that you had spoke with Aisha after she had interviewed with the police. What do you...

**Krista:** Yeah, the day that Hae first went missing. You know, Aisha and I used to talk on the phone every night, so it wasn't unusual for her to call me or vice versa. And I believe one of us called each other that night and she made mention of the fact that she had heard from Hae's family and that they couldn't locate Hae from that evening. And that's when I said, "Okay, well, you know Adnan was supposed to get a ride from her or whatever. Has anybody checked in with him?"

But she is the one that I guess I got most of the information from, you know, when she went missing, when her body was found, and I talked to her that night as well. So she and I kept in close touch on a regular basis back then.

**Bob:** Have you had any contact with her since *Serial* and *Undisclosed* have kind of brought all this back to life?

**Krista:** Not necessarily. I did get in touch with her, I know Susan was trying to track her down at one point, so I had kind of just sent her a message saying "Hey, would you be interested in talking to anybody regarding Adnan's case?"

**Bob:** Okay.

**Krista:** That was pretty much it. And I don't know if they've connected at this point or not, but I at least put that out there that if she was willing to talk about it, that people were willing to talk to her.

**[00:12:05]**

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**Bob:** Okay and when you were interviewed, you were only interviewed one time by the police department, is that right?

**Krista:** The police, yes. I was interviewed the day after Adnan got arrested. So, I guess it was a Monday, he got arrested early on a Sunday morning. And Monday we went into school and I can remember there was like three of us, I think it was myself, Laura, and I think Becky, went down to the principal's office like first thing. That we needed to talk to the police because they have the wrong guy, there was no way that Adnan was guilty. And unbeknownst to me at that point, the police were already looking to talk to me because of the amount of times that my home phone number showed up on Adnan's cell phone records over that six-week period.

**Bob:** Okay, they hadn't made any contact with you prior to that when she was missing, or the body found, anything?

**Krista:** No, and actually I believe they finally tracked me down by calling my work when I got in there. And they actually came to my place of employment and interviewed me for about an hour and a half, but it was Ritz and MacGillivray came into my office.

**Bob:** Okay, now in that interview, you know, there's been a lot of talk about, you know, on my podcast and *Undisclosed* about the methods that the police were using to interview. Do you remember kind of the process in the interview as far as... were they asking you anything about what Hae did? Or was it all related to Adnan? And were all the questions leading you in the direction of what Adnan was doing and kind of leading you to believe of Adnan's guilt already at that point, or how did that process go?

**Krista:** I don't know that they were necessarily leaning towards getting me to try and believe he was guilty, but definitely the line of questioning was all related to him. I can remember specifically, like up until that point, I didn't have any knowledge that he and I had even talked the night that Hae disappeared. I mean, we talked all the time. We talked on a daily basis, but it didn't dawn on me that that would be why they were looking for me. And they were specifically honed in on that 5:38 call that lasted two seconds to find out what was said and I'm like, "Yeah, I wasn't even, I didn't answer the phone..."  
[Laughter]

**Bob:** Right.

**Krista:** In fact, I can remember saying, I remember dialing \*69 because I used to get into trouble for having high phone bills when I was 18 because I would dial \*69 to see who the last caller was. And I actually like had a record of my cell phone for that time period that shows on that day, at this time, that I did that, and then called Adnan back. But I didn't actually talk to him when he called at that 5:30 call and he left a hang up on my machine.

**Bob:** And I'm sure with as often as the two of you talked, you probably don't remember that specific conversation.

**Krista:** I do remember some of the conversations from that evening, which like I said to you before, I don't want to get into too much detail about what I testified about with that only because with everything going on, I don't know what's going to end up happening. If he is granted a new trial obviously there is a possibility that I will have to re-testify.

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**Bob:** Just in general during that time frame, do you remember as far as his tone, do you ever remember getting the feeling from him that something was weird, something was going on, something was up?

**Krista:** Not during the time frame when she was missing. I mean the only turn that I got after we found out that she was no longer living was more of like sadness, like, "I need her to be here in order to get over her, I don't know how I'm going to get passed this." He was really taking a while to process the fact that she wasn't there. I'm actually the one that called him to tell him that they found her body and that she was no longer alive. And that was just a really raw conversation that I feel like it probably took until he saw the news the next night and we were sitting there and he literally saw her picture on the 5:00 news that her body was found that that's what it took. Then he realized that she wasn't coming back.

**Bob:** And, you know that that's something that's come up a lot, especially recently. A lot of questions about Adnan's, you know, his tone, or his reaction during that phone call, then the coming days after learning of her death. I guess, how would you describe him during that time?

**Krista:** Well, I guess, first of all that, I sort of had to pull out of Aisha the night that—it was the night her body was found—or the tenth—which I guess was the day after, technically, once her body was identified. When I called her that night I could just tell something was wrong. And I just kept asking her, "Is everything okay?" And finally, I just started with a line of questioning, "Have you heard something about Hae?" And she said, "Yes." And I said, "Is she still alive?" and she said, "No." And I think my next question was, "Has someone told Adnan yet?" And she said, "No, can you call him?"

So, of course, I get off the phone with her cause I don't know how he's going to react. But I can remember specifically calling him and he was at home and I'm like, "You know, I just need to make sure like you're sitting down" and he says, "What's going on?" I said, "They found Hae's body, she is not alive." And there was literally like dead silence on the other end of the phone, like, he couldn't even speak. And when he finally could talk, he said, "Is Aisha home?" and I said, "Yes," and he said, "I'm going to go over there to her house."

So of course it was probably 10:00, 10:30 at night when this happened and we had school the next day. So I actually called Aisha and I said, "Adnan's coming

to your house. Do you need me to come over there?" And she said, "Yeah, I don't know that I can deal with him if he's upset on my own." So I actually, you know, I lived in Randallstown at the time and she lived probably about 15, 20 minutes away from me. And I drove over there to be with both of them. And he just—he was in shock—is the best way that I can say it. He kept saying that "all Korean girls look alike, there is no way they have the right person." It went as far as that he actually picked up the phone and called the police station because he wanted to talk to the detective that had interviewed him a few days prior regarding her disappearance to let them know that there's no way that she was dead.

So it was just very much a... he was numb, I guess is the best way to describe it. And again, you know, we went to school the next day, we had counselors that were in there. Most of us, honestly, went to school, didn't really hang around and talk to the counselors much, we just kind of left to be with each other because that's what we needed at that point, and you know we went over to a friend's house and he was kind of by himself in the basement sort of emotional, obviously, for a very good reason.

And it didn't really click in my mind to him until we were back at Aisha's watching the news that night. And he just... he kind of broke down and he started crying and he said that he just needed to call one of the leaders from the mosque who actually came to get him because he just needed to talk to somebody. I guess to pray, or to talk about what he was feeling, or what have you. So, it was a long process even after that for him to fully grasp things and I think when he got arrested he was just starting to accept the fact that she wasn't here anymore and kind of dealing with his grief. But before he was able to do that, you know, he was flung into this situation where now he's in jail for something that he says that he did not commit so I feel like he never got to get through the whole healing process, which I'm sure makes it even worse for him.

**Bob:** From the way I understand their relationship, you know, they had a romantic relationship but they were... it sounds like they were best friends... I mean they were...

**Krista:** Right.

**Bob:** ... they were close before and after. And in the middle of trying to mourn that, then having to deal with, you know, basically fighting for your life through the whole court process. It's just, heartbreaking. Now, did you, and I understand, you know, you're not an expert or anything in this, but just from you knowing your friend... did you take, or in your opinion, his reactions during that time... did you see them as being genuine?

**Krista:** Absolutely. I mean, there was never a question in my mind that he was being genuine about, you know, the way he was reacting, the way he was feeling, the way he was talking. And you know, he was a typical teenage guy where he would kind of convey his feelings to some people, but other people, you



know, he was a little bit more guarded because he didn't want to be judged for being a guy and being emotional. But I feel like he and I had a pretty open relationship with, you know, discussing our feelings because we were just close like that. So I don't think that there would have ever been a reason for him to pretend or to not be honest with me about anything. I mean, I literally talked to him all the time.

**Bob:** Yeah and that was, I guess, one of the biggest reasons that I, you know, that I wanted to talk to you and hear from you, in your own voice, cause you don't have to be an expert in psychoanalyzing people. If you know someone and they're your friend, you know when something is not right. You know when something is—I think about like the guys at the firehouse, you know, we're like a family, and I can tell when one of my guys walks through the doors in 10 seconds that something is wrong, something has happened, they're upset, they're mad—and I feel like you would know more than anyone just by being around him and knowing his personality and who he was, what his reactions meant or what you felt about them. And it sounded like, you know, a 17 year-old boy that just lost one of his closest friends.

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**Krista:** Exactly. I mean, you know, I guess for me, it's around that time I kind of took, I guess you would call it like a motherly role amongst our friends. In that, you know, I was always checking up on everybody to make sure that they were doing okay, that they didn't need anything because, because you know, it affected a lot of people in different ways, and it kind of made us grow up. Like we didn't have a choice when we were seniors in high school, it was like, all right, this is real adult stuff that we have to deal with now. We have to figure out how to live life beyond this. And that's not supposed to kids our age and it's not supposed to happen when you're in high school, but it did. And we had to figure out a way to deal with our emotions as well as dealing with everyone else's at the same time.

**Bob:** It's just amazing that you guys had such a tight group and that you were all able to be there for each other. You know, as far as all the different friends go, that you had relationships with, that you were friends with in that Magnet Group, were you close with Stephanie as well?

**Krista:** I was not. She was closer with Laura, who, like I said, I'm still pretty good friends with today. But she—you know, Stephanie was very athletic, she was very into sports, you know, she was very popular. And it's not that we weren't friendly with each other, she's just not somebody that I hung out with outside of school on a regular basis. You know, if we had a big party to go to or, you know, whatever, yeah, she was there. But it wasn't somebody—if we had four or five people and we were all going to the movies, Stephanie usually wasn't one of them.

**Bob:** Okay and so then in the kind of aftermath of finding out about Hae's passing, she wasn't one of the people that were part of that group when you guys were all kind of meeting and kind of consoling each other?

**Krista:** She was there the night that we found out about Hae not being alive anymore at Aisha's house. Actually as I pulled up, Stephanie did as well, at the same time and that was because Adnan called her and they were pretty close in high school as well.

**Bob:** And you said you didn't know Stephanie real well. So, you know, I guess comparing her reaction to her normal reaction and things would have been a little tougher for you. I mean was—she was very close to Hae, correct?

**Krista:** I mean, I wouldn't say that they were really close, but they were friendly with one another I guess. You know, I don't know that they hung out outside of, you know, after Hae and Adnan broke up. I'm not really sure, I'll be honest with you. Hae was pretty committed at that point in her life too. You know, she worked a lot because she was trying to have her act together to be able to get money, save up for college, and that sort of thing. So she did work a lot.

When she did have time for friends, you know, like I said, she was usually with Aisha. I think, you know, just a few days before she disappeared, she—Aisha was at my house and she like randomly showed up for dinner, but that was the kind of friendship we had, like, kind of, the door is always open. So if you're in the area, you come by. Or, my mother and father, as well as Aisha's parents, were always really welcoming. We kind of had that hangout house, if you will, that, you know, if everybody needed a place to go, it was safe to go there and our parents would make sure we were taken care of.

**Bob:** So other than that night, did you spend much time with Stephanie in the next month or so after that?

**Krista:** Not outside of school.

**Bob:** Okay. I guess what I'm getting at is that I'm just trying to draw out any little bit about Stephanie because I feel like I just don't know anything about her. You know, can you speak at all about your impression of her reaction during that time? Was Jay ever around during any of those times when you saw her? Of course you said you only saw her at school, so probably not.

**Krista:** I mean, the one thing I will say... Stephanie was always, always friendly, always athletic, very popular, very pretty. Always nice to everybody. And I think what people tend to forget—you know, they look at it from an entertainment value—and this was a really, really shitty time in our lives. You know, one of our friends got murdered. A lot of people didn't know how to deal with it. Some people stayed introverted, some people wanted to talk about it. And honestly, for *Serial* to come up and dredging this up, you know, 15, 16 years later, it's been rough on a lot of people. And, you know, I haven't talked to Stephanie, but I would imagine—I have friends that I went to high

school with that have had reoccurring nightmares that started again about Hae's death and Hae's disappearance. And it really kind of screwed with people.

So I don't think—I think people sometimes take it as, “Oh, Stephanie's got something to hide.” I don't think that's it at all. I think that Stephanie is an adult now, she's moved on with her life, like, this was a really crappy thing that happened and she's in a different place now. Obviously, as all of us are. So she feels like she doesn't have to talk about it and I can completely respect that because it was a rough time.

**Bob:** Yeah and if I remember from hearing some of the interviews—cause you're right, it is so easy to get lost in all of this and forget about the fact that we are talking about real people. And I remember, and maybe it was Laura on the *Serial* podcast that mentioned that Stephanie... it's not just that when all this came back out, Stephanie is like in hiding. You know, a lot of her friends had said that that was her method of coping. That she didn't want to talk about it. She would just kind of shut down about it and that, you know, and in conversations I've had and emails back and forth with people that are kind of asking about that, it's just that everybody grieves in their own way. You know, and we all kind of think that everyone should grieve the same way we do and I've seen it, especially in the line of work that I'm in.

You know, some people want to talk and they'll talk your ear off. Some people don't want to talk so, you know, I personally don't think Stephanie is hiding anything or anything like that, you know. Of course people want to hear from her because she had the connection with Jay. And everybody kind of wants to know, or very much wants to know, what was going on with Jay but I totally understand the fact that she doesn't want to talk. Like you said, it was a terrible time in your life and especially with her boyfriend being kind of stuck right in the middle of it, right in the middle of her senior year when she's getting ready to graduate and start her adult life. I can only imagine what a horrible experience that was for her.

**Krista:** And it was with everybody. The last thing that any of us wanted to do... you know obviously, this happened in the middle of our senior year of high school so a lot of us had to come back and take days off from college to testify in the trial. Because you know it was kind of like we're trying to move on with our adult lives a little bit and stay focused on school and this new chapter in our lives but we kept having to revisit the past. Which, it was needed for the trial and in the end I don't know that it really was effective because clearly from what we've seen—just the amount of stuff that Rabia, and Susan, and Colin have uncovered about the, I guess, lack of information that was shared with Adnan's attorneys. I kind of feel like it was all in vain at this point, even our testimonies. Because had things went a different way, I think it would have had a very different outcome.

**Bob:** Yeah, I can imagine the frustration, you know, when you look at something where, you know, if you could just go back in time and have, you know, have

Susan Simpson be Adnan's lawyer. This would be completely different, you know? And you mentioned testifying, so you did testify in Adnan's – did you testify in both trials or just one of them?

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**Krista:** Yes. No, I testified in both trials. The first one started mid to late October, that was the one that ended in a mistrial, I think. Or it was originally started, slated to start in late October. I think it was a little later than that and then I got called the second trial as well. And ironically, some of the testimony, or the line of questioning matched, but some of them did not. I think Aisha couldn't come home from school for the first trial so they might have asked me questions that they ultimately asked her in the second trial. So, yes, I testified in both trials, so you know it was stressful enough to do it once but then to find out you had to do it again was even a little bit more surreal.

**Bob:** I'm sure and especially for somebody who's not used to being on a witness stand, just that process for anything is nerve-wracking.

**Krista:** And you know, I kept in contact with Adnan. I mean, from a week after he got arrested, you know, he still called me, we wrote back and forth all the time, continuously for a very long time and kept in contact. Even after he was convicted. And the first time I ever saw him after he got arrested was right before I took the stand at the first trial because I was—they were coming back from lunch and I was waiting outside to go in and they brought him around in shackles and that was just a real, like, I guess surreal moment for me because I knew that he was in jail, but you know, just to see it, like that, it was a little more real.

**Bob:** Before the trial, did you ever have any contact with Kevin Urick, did the prosecution side ever talk to you or just Gutierrez?

**Krista:** Gutierrez never spoke with me. I never heard from anybody on Adnan's defense team whatsoever. I did not even talk to Kevin Urick because I can remember going into that whole process feeling kind of lost because nobody directed me on, you know, what I needed to do. I did have somebody that went to my church that was an attorney who is now a judge in Baltimore City. And they knew Kevin Urick so they were able to kind of, I guess, prep me on like what to expect. Not necessarily the line of questioning or what it was about specifically, but at least help prepare me for like what was going to happen when I got in the courtroom.

**Bob:** Wow, so were you a witness for the defense or for the prosecution?

**Krista:** Um, I, [Laughter] I feel like that's a trick question.

**Bob:** It's not...

**Krista:** So I...

**Bob:** I'm not trying to trap you... it's just I was surprised that nobody talked to you beforehand.

**Krista:** The reason that I say that is I was called as a witness for the State. But evidently, you know in talking to Susan I think she covered that at some point, on a blog, or on the *Undisclosed* podcast that, come to find out I was supposed to be a witness for the defense but I was never contacted by the defense. It was a matter of, I believe my address was actually wrong on the subpoenas from the defense. So I never even got them.

**Bob:** Wow, that's – that's a – smack-my-head moment. I can't... it's unbelievable to me. Because, you know, for you to be, from the little bit of conversation that you had with the police for the State to call you as their witness just seems odd and then for them to call you and not talk to you. I mean, I've testified in a lot of trials and I've always, you know, had prep from the, not necessarily as far as what to say, but just kind of, you know, what materials you need... or what we're going to discuss or things like that. The fact that neither the prosecution or the defense... and especially the fact that, I mean, you would have been a great defense witness. I guess it's not shocking anymore the more I hear about the things Gutierrez was doing but that she never contacted you at all...

**Krista:** Right, and you know, Colin brought this to my attention when he sent me copy of the subpoenas before—he usually runs some blog stuff by me, which I really appreciate—if it has to do with me first to see if I have anything to add to it. And, you know, to just kind of see that and for them to say that they didn't have a way to get in touch with me and meanwhile Adnan was writing me letters, sometimes three times a week, and would call my house, all they had to do was ask him. He could have given them my contact information without a problem.

**Bob:** Right. Wow. Uh, sorry, that threw me off a little bit. I wasn't expecting to hear, to hear that you were never contacted. It's just, it's just, I know I'm repeating myself, but it just blows my mind.... I mean, I just had to testify at a trial on Tuesday as an expert witness and just like every other time you know I got a phone call from the prosecutor ahead of time asking me, you know, what my knowledge was on this particular subject matter. And then in court prior to going into the courtroom, you know, she talked to me about, you know, what was going to be discussed and made sure I had all my materials I needed before I went on the stand. I've just never, ever, so I can just imagine, especially... I'm in court all the time. I can only imagine for a 17-year-old kid to just walk into court and have to walk up to a witness stand and have no idea what's happening. That's just crazy.

**Krista:** Right. And I'm a nervous person as it is, so like, you know, I'll say "um" or "like" or "whatever" a lot when I'm talking and that's... the focus was just on trying to like answer the questions and not get nervous and start shaking or

anything like just cause you know, it's literally very intimidating on stand. There's a judge next to you and I can remember the judge from the second trial was just very stern. She wasn't nice about anything that she said. If you weren't talking loud enough she kind of would get crappy with you. And you just don't know how to take that. Like, am I in trouble? [Laughter]

**Bob:** Right, yeah. [Laughter]

**Krista:** What's going on here? I thought I was here to like answer questions and I'm getting yelled and I don't understand why. [Laughter]

**Bob:** I think I've had that judge before. [Laughter] There's a particular judge that's in one of the local courts here that every single time I testify she yells at every single witness for not being loud enough for the recording to get it and so these poor people come in to testify and she's screaming at them because they're not loud enough. I can just imagine.

**Krista:** Right. It's not like they're not intimidated enough already and you're make it worse.

**Bob:** Yeah, it's just nerve wracking. Now were the witnesses sequestered, where you had to be out of the courtroom through the rest of the trial, you could only be in there during your part?

**Krista:** Yes.

**Bob:** Okay, so you didn't get to see a lot of Gutierrez and Urick work?

**Krista:** No. We were, I mean we weren't allowed in there literally at all and we were lucky, I think most of us were lucky that they had nailed down – you never know obviously how long it's going to take to question the person before you and I can just remember sitting in there and like, "Oh my god, it's 2:00, am I going to get in today? Or am I going to have to come back and do this again tomorrow?" Because of course you know with a courthouse there's only so many empty [inaudible] you can sit in and be bored to tears all day there just waiting for your turn to get on the stand.

**Bob:** Is there anything else that you want to hit on?

**Krista:** I mean, not necessarily, I've had a lot of people ask me about the *Serial* experience and I, it's been very surreal, obviously. And like I said, it's one of those things where I feel like all these people out there now know how I felt fifteen years ago when this all happened. Whenever I got going that something is not right here. So it kind of solidified my feelings because back then all of our friends, sort of, you know, went in different directions and nobody ever really talked about it after it happened so you didn't know what so and so said or what was testified to, so there's been just so many holes for the last fifteen years to know what was said that made a jury so convinced that he was guilty.

And now looking back, you know, I guess I can understand what they heard but the way that it was presented or the amount of information that was missing, you know, makes me feel a little bit better about why I questioned it for as long as I did and why I've never grasped the fact that the people would believe that Adnan did it.

And then, when all this started, Sarah actually reached out to me last February, so February 2014. And she tracked me down at work and left me a voicemail. I was actually working from home in the snow and I get this voicemail from this reporter, wanting to know about my friend Adnan Syed and I'm like, this is fifteen years ago, what does this lady want? So I was a little bit nervous to meet with her because I had no idea what it was about and I think the interviews that I had with her ended up being more me asking her questions and her clarifying for me what she had come across already.

And I was able to give her a little bit of insight you know beyond just the Muslim community or what the police report said, it was more of like just social level of school and you know what we dealt with within the community of Woodlawn High School versus, you know, the Muslim community or the Woodlawn Catonsville community where he actually lived. So I think that helped give her some depth.

But I've gotten really involved with, you know, there was a Facebook discussion group about Adnan's case, which had burned exponentially I think it had 5000 people in it at one point, which now I think we've cut it down to 2000 that are like really interested in talking about the case. But it's helped me a little bit for two things. Because I'm able to talk about it with other people that might have access to more information regarding [inaudible] reports and, you know, talking to Susan, talking to Colin, talking to Sarah obviously, it's helped me get a better understanding on all the questions I've had over the last 15 years.

**Bob:** Yeah, I can only imagine when you got that call. I guess for most people the first question would have been is, "What's a podcast?" Were you aware even of what that was then? Because I hear that a lot.

**Krista:** Well, I mean, at first, I think it didn't even start that Sarah was doing it as a podcast. It wasn't even a thing called *Serial* at that point. It was that she was a journalist for *This American Life* and she was doing a story. And then it kind of evolved into the podcast. I just remember getting an email from her in the beginning of October saying, "Hey, here's the link to the first episode of *Serial*, this is what's going to be released every week, you know, as promised, I'll keep in touch with you guys."

And Sarah was really good at fact checking, like if an episode was due to come out Thursday, some days she was still emailing me on Monday just to make sure that the information she had was correct or if she had a blank that she needed filled in. But it kind of evolved to something that I think that Sarah

had no idea how big it was going to get or how many people were going to listen to it. You know, she probably thought maybe a couple of hundred people, not thinking millions of people were going to get involved in this case.

**Bob:** I'm sure, and I'm sure you probably thought the same thing.

**Krista:** Yeah, and I mean, I've dabbled in Reddit a little bit. I was on what they refer to as the "dark sub" for a little while and I ran into some people that just weren't very nice—they weren't very understanding of, you know, I was in this situation and my answers might not lead to you thinking that he's guilty. Or you are not going to be able to convince me that he's guilty because you're sitting by a computer screen, reevaluating things that you think are facts but I'm looking at it as, this is a friend of mine, who I know very well and to me, there's some things that I would never be able to accept and his guilt would be one of them.

**Bob:** Yeah, I've had...

**Krista:** Yeah, obviously, somebody put something there up on Reddit today in one of the more private [inaudible] even those, those people have questions. You know, I don't go on there often but I'll check and see if I have any messages now and again but I try and be good about responding to people if they do have fast questions that I can answer that won't put any sort of future testimony in jeopardy.

**[00:41:59]**

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**Bob:** Yeah, it's kind of a unique situation you're in with everything in limbo right now and I've had some of those same experiences with you know... and, then Reddit can be—you know, I found it can be a great tool because there's a lot of intelligent people on there with a lot of good things to say but it's like, my goodness, you have to filter through 300 comments and you know, 200 of them are people that are, like you said, they're just not very nice and they're just arguing with each other. So it's...

**Krista:** Right.

**Bob:** So it's tough to filter through all that so. I remembered another question that I wanted to ask you. Since Adnan went to prison, have you seen him or spoken with him since he's been in actual prison?

**Krista:** Yeah, he and I kept in—and actually, ironically, regular contact, he and I spoke all the time probably until about 2005 and that was the point in time where I actually got rid of my landline and only had a cell phone and at that point it was collect calls and you couldn't do collect calls to cell phones. So he and I kind of stopped communicating by phone then. And I went to visit him in jail at Jessup, I don't even know how many times. Probably somewhere between five and ten, and my sister, Katie, would go with me, or my best friend, Alexis,



would go with me and you know [inaudible] be bored on the drive up there or whatever and, you know, they both know him.

So I have gone to prison to see him since his conviction and to me he's still Adnan. He's not any different than the day before he was arrested. You know if I hug him more than once than I get yelled at by the guard in jail. [Laughter] That's pretty much it. There was a mix-up at the jail at some point where they did an audit of the visiting lists for all the prisoners and a lot of people got removed because they were identified as people who could potentially have relatives that worked in the prison system, which I do not, but I got [inaudible] and got removed from his visiting list. And that never got worked out. And by the time I think it even could have gotten worked out, he got transferred to where he is now.

**Bob:** So you haven't seen him since he's been at the prison he's at now?

**Krista:** Correct. Probably '05 or '06 is probably the last time I saw him. He and I corresponded still through letters, you know, not as frequently as we did immediately but we did write back and forth a lot probably until 2010, 2011. I had some stuff going on in my life where I just got super busy and then once I interviewed with Sarah, he and I started corresponding again. So I still do write him. I send him pictures of my son, stuff like that, just to try and keep in contact with him and help him to realize there are people on the outside that still very much care about him.

And honestly, my biggest hope, besides just him, you know, getting out, ideally in a perfect world where I'd love for him to get out, you know, regardless because I truly believe that he's innocent. For me, if they could find out who really killed Hae. That would almost be the silver lining because it would be able to put this entire thing to rest. And not that I don't want to see him get out on a technicality, but I feel like the ultimate win would be if somewhere in all this, either someone could come forward and admit their guilt, or the DNA test brought forward who else was in her car that maybe had no business being there that could release some more information about who could have possibly done this to her. And that's what my ultimate hope is. I know it's a longshot but I keep my fingers crossed every day that that's going to happen.

**Bob:** You know, me too, and I'm sure—and maybe I'm overly optimistic about it—but the reason I keep driving forward with this podcast, and it's evolved a long ways since we started it over two and a half months ago, from just kind of a place to get our ideas out to really being on a mission to find the killer. And I just for some reason, I just feel in my gut that we're going to get there. You know there's someone out there that knows what happened and there's just got to be a way to reach them and then, of course, there's the DNA evidence and all of that out there. But I'm with ya, I hope, and pray, and I truly believe that we're going to find out who did this.

[00:46:32]

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**Krista:** And I think what resonated with me most out of the whole *Serial*, the whole 12 episodes, was in the last contact when Sarah's talking to Adnan about his case. And you can just hear the emotion in his voice, which to me, it sounded like he was on the verge of tears when talking about the DNA evidence, that he has nothing to be afraid of, that he wants them to test everything that they possibly could. And had he known about this fifteen years ago, I think things could have been completely different than they are right now.

**Bob:** It would be a different world I think right now for a lot of people if things had been done differently fifteen years ago.

**Krista:** Absolutely.

**Bob:** Well, Krista, I really, really appreciate you calling in and it's been really cool to talk to you. And anytime you need anything or you have something you want to talk about, please feel free to get in touch with me again. I know myself and I'm sure all of my listeners would love to hear from you another time somewhere as we continue on with this and move on down the road.

**Krista:** Absolutely. And my Facebook is private, but my Twitter is definitely not. So if anybody sends me a message or has a question, if it's something that I'm comfortable answering, I definitely will. You know, people have asked me questions that I'm not comfortable answering and I will be 100% upfront and honest that I'm not okay with that or I have no idea because I don't like speculating about other people, I don't like speculating about what could have happened, but you know, I have had some people email me with some off-the-wall theories that you know I can just say, "No, that definitely didn't happen." [Laughter]

**Bob:** [Laughter] You should see my email box.

**Krista:** Right, I'm sure yours is quite interesting.

**Bob:** Do you want to give out your Twitter handle?

**Krista:** It's... [Laughter] So I've had the same Twitter handle since I bought my first brand new car, which was a Jeep Wrangler. So my Twitter handle is [@jeepsR4chcks](#). So "jeeps are four chicks."

**Bob:** Nice, I like it. [Laughter] All right, well if anybody wants to get a hold of Krista or ask her any questions, you can always tweet her at that handle. Which is [@jeepsR4chcks](#), did I get that right?

**Krista:** Yeah, it's just doesn't have the "i" in chicks, but yeah.

**Bob:** Okay, sounds good and thank you very much, Krista, for calling in again and I really appreciate it and hopefully we'll be in contact again going down the road.

**Krista:** All right, well thanks for contacting me.

**Bob:** All right, take care, Krista. Thank you.

**Krista:** All right, have a good night.

**Bob:** You too. Bye.

**Krista:** Bye.

### **[00:48:58] End of Interview with Krista**

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All right, I hope all of you enjoyed that interview with Krista. Given that there was not a lot of new information brought out in the last couple of weeks since myself, as well as the *Undisclosed* team, took a bit of a hiatus for the holiday. I thought it would be nice to hear from another one of Adnan's friends. And also, I think Krista is just a great source to help us kind of get an idea of what Adnan was like, what his reactions were, what his responses were, really get a good understanding of how Adnan was acting, reacting, responding to the different revelations in the case as Hae went missing and her body was found, as well as after his arrest. You know, we're looking at pieces of evidence and we're looking at documents from fifteen years ago, but it's, sometimes we have to wrap our brain around the practicality of, you know, the people that knew him, the people that were close to him, how he was acting during the months following the disappearance and death of Hae Min Lee.

Now before I close the show today, I'd like to read a couple of listener emails. The two emails that I have today both relate to the same basic question. So I'm going to go ahead and read both emails and then I'll respond.

### **[00:50:17] Emails from Listeners**

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Hi, Bob,

You're doing great work with the podcast. I know you have addressed this issue at various points but I wanted to get your full opinion on the matter. What has led you to believe that Jay was involved in Hae's death? During *Serial*, I don't think I was alone in considering the virtual lock that Jay had something to do with it given that he had led the police to the car, seemed to know details about the body, was possibly in possession of Adnan's cell phone that pinged the Leakin Park tower around the alleged 7:00 p.m. burial time, and of course implicated himself in his own story.

But with what we've learned since *Serial*, aren't all these things we thought we knew almost certainly false?

Whether Jay actually led police to the car seems to a questionable at best proposition. And if he did, he admitted at trial that he saw the car before he talked to the police as part of his normal routine. The most striking detail Jay relayed about Hae's body—that it was “pretzeled up the trunk”—is almost certainly false due to the lividity report. The infamous Leakin Park pings from the cell tower evidence, never a conclusive or exact science to begin with, are now basically irrelevant thanks to that same lividity report and Jay's new statement in the *Intercept* interview. And the fact that Jay implicated himself now seems less far-fetched given that the police had picked him up on a charge shortly before the whole thing, which seemingly due to his cooperation with the police was delayed and eventually dropped. And that the police were threatening to charge him with Hae's murder if he didn't cooperate. Jay himself confirms this arrangement at trial. The trial clip is played during *Undisclosed* Episode 3.

So what is it that has you thinking Jay was involved and that the detectives didn't invent the story out of whole cloth and threaten to press the case against Jay if he didn't verify it? This seems to be exactly what they were accused of doing in at least one other case that was discussed on *Undisclosed*. Given the ghastly cultural report that was provided early in the investigation, how likely is it that they choose Adnan as the suspect because they viewed him as an easy target to prosecute? And Jay is the witness because he was an easy target to intimidate.

Thanks for your time,

Kyle T.

And Kyle gives his Twitter handle [@KylelovesTV](#). Thank you, Kyle, for that email and it's an excellent question and I'll get to the answer to it in just a moment but I want to first read my next email because part of how I'm feeling on the topic is addressed in this next email as well.

So my next email is from Brianne. Brianne says:

Hello Bob,

First, I just want to say I love your show. It is amazing to see how many people out there care about justice for Hae Lee and for Adnan. At this point, I've gone from theory to theory and just when I think I have a viable theory, I remember some detail that makes me realize the theory is about as plausible as Jay's story. But I do have some things I wanted to throw out there and see if you or anyone else has been thinking about these same issues.

I was convinced for a while that Jay completely fabricated his involvement with this case, that he knew someone that was actually involved in the crime. For example, Davis, Moore, or a mystery person and got enough details to insert him into the story and make himself seem important and cool to his friends. On *Serial* there were many interviews in which people close to him admit that he is a liar, a teller of tall tales, and that no one believed anything he said. So just when I think Jay really has nothing to do with this, except that he is only heard something about it and brought Adnan into to get out of his legal troubles, I remember one thing—Jenn. How do you explain Jenn? She would have no reason to go along with Jay's complete fabrication or implicate herself in covering up for the crime.

This leads me to think Jenn and/or Jay must have been involved in the actual crime. They are also completely adamant about giving each other an alibi on the 13<sup>th</sup> from approximately 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. time frame. Even though this is completely contrary to the State's case presented at trial. Why is that? I think this time window must be the critical time of the crime and they have to put themselves together at that time to avoid anyone uncovering where both of them actually were. We know there is an inconsistency. Their story is already when Jay claims to be at Jenn's house at 3:21 p.m. yet is calling Jenn's house from Adnan's cell phone. That leads me to believe that Jay was not really at Jenn's house at that time. So where was he? Where was Jenn? Is she just covering for him?

So as you can see, I go from Jay is completely innocent to Jay is involved firsthand in a matter of minutes. I'm sure you can relate to this type of thinking.

Thanks for taking the time to read,  
Brienne

Well, thank you, Brienne for sending that email in and I certainly can relate to that type of back and forth thinking. The truth is I don't know, I have my speculations and theories, but I really don't know. But to answer both of your questions, yes, I personally do believe that Jay and Jenn were involved in this crime. Now understand that just because I'm the one behind the microphone doesn't make that necessarily correct. That's just my take on it. And I have several reasons for thinking that way.

First and foremost, I have the same reservations about Jenn that Brienne does. If this was just Jay, I think I could buy into the idea that Jay actually had nothing to do with this crime. But Jenn is just this nagging detail that I can't get out of my head and I can't figure out how to do anything with it, other than to believe that she does know something, she was involved, or that Jay was involved. And she's trying to protect Jay. Or that Jay is telling the truth and she's just confirming Jay's story. But the fact that Jenn gets brought in first, now again, we all have to remember that we don't even know that for sure. We seem to have pretty solid evidence that the police were speaking with Jay prior to the night he was brought in for questioning, before they arrested Adnan. But before him, they bring Jenn in, she claims she doesn't know anything. And remember at that

time, depending on what you want to believe, they're looking for Adnan at that point. They may or may not know that Jay has any involvement at all.

My personal theory, and it's just that, a theory, is that they didn't know that Jay was involved yet at that point. If they had done the tower dump, as mentioned in *Undisclosed*, they had pulled the cell phone records, all they would see is Adnan's phone making all these calls to Jenn. So they bring Jenn in and Jenn says she doesn't know anything and she leaves. Now, granted when she left, the police told her, "No one is a suspect and everyone is a suspect." So there was certainly some fear put into her when she left that interview. So what I feel happened, and it's just that, a feeling, the feeling in my gut, it scared the hell out of her. And the only reason that it would scare the hell out of her, is if she knew something. Either she knew something or she was directly involved, or indirectly involved, in the crime. If she literally had no idea what happened, because none of this is true, and it's completely made up, I don't see why in the world she would come back to the police station. She was asked about a crime that she knew nothing about. She knew she knew nothing about it. She knew she wasn't involved in it. Why come back?

So then she comes back and she brings a lawyer. Now I've had a lot of emails and tweets and comments about the fact that they think that Jenn bringing a lawyer implicates her in some guilt in some way, and I don't believe that. I think that anyone in her situation, if they had the ability to do so would certainly bring a lawyer with them. But, what just keeps sticking with me is, I could see someone who had nothing to do with this crime, and knew nothing about this crime, coming back the next day with their mother and a lawyer, back into the police station, but for a different reason than why Jenn came back. I could certainly see a teenager, and her mother, and attorney, marching into a police station and letting them know in a not-so-nice way that they will not be harassing and intimidating this young girl. But that's not what Jenn did. She went back to the police station to tell a story. She went back with her attorney and her mother and spilled the beans about Jay having Adnan's cell phone, about the fact that Adnan committed the crime, and Jay helped. And remember, she didn't say she saw any of this. All she said is that that's what Jay told her. So I still wrestle with the idea that it's possible that Jenn believes Adnan did it and she believes that Jay helped out with it but really had no involvement in the crime at all. And is simply basing those thoughts and that testimony on what Jay told her. And as we know and we've heard time and time again, Jay lies.

So I don't think that's something that we can just throw out. It's a viable theory in my mind that she went in there thinking she was telling the truth because that's what Jay told her. But as we consider her statement further, remember that she implicated herself in helping to destroy and hide the evidence and conceal this crime. Which is a huge crime in and of itself. So if we're led to believe that Jenn's sole intention was to go into the police station and snitch on Adnan and/or Jay, why implicate yourself if you had no involvement? There's no purpose there. Or at least I can't see a purpose there and maybe someone more intelligent than me can see it, but I just don't see it. If we're to believe that Jenn literally had nothing to do with this crime, knew nothing about it, the police had nothing hanging over her head and she went in to fabricate some story or to retell a story that was created out of cloth from the police. Why implicate herself?

I just can't bring myself to believe that she would do that. It would have been easy enough to say, "Okay, it was Jay calling me that day. Jay had Adnan's cell phone and later on Jay told me that Adnan killed Hae. Go talk to Jay." And walk out of there. But in a way she threw—well not in a way exactly—she threw all three of them under the bus. And then considering the fact that Jenn had an attorney with her gives me even more pause. Not that I think that she's guilty because she had an attorney, but she went into the police station with her mother and an attorney, unlike Jay. She had protection. She had someone there letting her know what her rights were. She had someone there making sure that she wasn't bullied or coerced. If she had nothing to do with this, I don't believe there's an attorney out there that would advise her to completely lie and fabricate this story implicating herself in a felony.

So that's my basic reasoning for why I believe Jenn is involved in at least some way. Now that could mean a couple of things. It could mean that she involved with Jay in the murder and Adnan had nothing to do with it and they decided to pin it on Adnan to save their own skin. Or it could mean that the murder really happened that Jay said it did. Right? I mean she could be telling the truth or at least a version of the truth she heard from Jay. Now you can choose to believe whichever one of those options that you want, but either way leads me to the conclusion that Jenn was most certainly involved in the crime. And again, that's just my opinion and I'm the one with the microphone, but that doesn't make my opinion hold any more weight than any of yours so I would love to hear your thoughts and responses to that over the next week.

So then moving on to Jay's involvement, I believe it's possible for witnesses to be coerced. There certainly seems to be some of that in Jay's case. When he's in there alone with no attorney and the police are telling him, "If you don't tell us what we want to hear, we're going to charge you with the murder." But again I go back to the fact that Jenn implicated him. His best friend, Jenn, implicated him in this crime. So I don't believe the versions of the story that Jay told, and if I did, I couldn't choose which one of the versions to believe. And we know that most, if not all of them, are not even possible given the actual physical evidence but Jay was involved, in my opinion. Yes, the police had something to hold over him but it was a misdemeanor offense, now is that enough for you to implicate your friend in a murder that you were involved in? Could be. Is that enough to completely fabricate and make up a story about a murder where you assisted in the murder and helped to cover it up? I just don't think it's enough motivation for all of that.

I believe that if Jay literally knew nothing about this and as the story was created out of cloth, I think he just walks out of there. Now that being said, everyone is different, everyone has different motivations, everyone has a different moral compass but like all things, what we have to do is look at a preponderance of the evidence, or at least that's my method. And when I consider those facts, along with the facts that I mentioned about Jenn earlier, and you put all those together, I'm not saying it's not possible that the two of them had nothing to do with it. I'm just saying that I don't personally think that that's the most likely scenario.

Now I get lots and lots of emails from listeners asking about the corruption of the Baltimore Police Department and if I think this was this massive conspiracy where they framed the Muslim and put him in prison and wondering what I think about that. I've swung pretty wildly back and forth between "tin foil hat" conspiracy theory to maybe this

is all in our heads, to kind of where I've landed now. And my theory on what was going on with the police is based on a couple of things. I've done some research, I've been in contact through email with a Baltimore City police officer who wants to remain anonymous and does not want to come on the show. But he's been able to shed a little bit of light as far as generalities are concerned about how detective work works in the Baltimore Police Department. And he had given me a lot of the same information that I got from Michael Wood in my email interview with him and everything is about closing the case.

It's not a massive, grand conspiracy. They don't have it out for any of these people, it's just a matter of closing the case and moving on to the next one. Which that was really hard for me to wrap my brain around given the fact that I'm from a very small town and it's not an issue. We're not dealing with hundreds of murders a year here. Every big case is just that here, it's a big case. Most of the local law officers I speak to here are looking through those lenses. Saying, "I would never do that, of course I wouldn't, everything is by the book." Oh and you deal with two, three, or four murders in a year, of course that's the case. When you're dealing with 300 it's quite a different situation.

And shamefully I must admit, that I've gotten a lot of information and insight into the Baltimore Police Department in part by the TV show *The Wire*. Several listeners recommended that I watch that show and I was reluctant to do so just because it may show how a police department in Baltimore works but it's fiction, it's TV. However after discussing it with this Baltimore city cop, from what he's saying, it's pretty accurate. It's pretty close to the way things work. And then after the email interview with Michael Wood and I kind of compared with what he had responded to the show *The Wire* and I see the same similarities, they're closing cases. They're cutting corners, they're doing whatever they have to do to close cases. So based on that information, couple of conversations with Baltimore City cops, and watching a TV detective show, which I'm sure all of you are realizing right now makes me the expert, giving that information, what I think happened, I don't think there was a grand conspiracy.

I think that this was one more murder added to a huge caseload for Ritz and MacGillivray. There's pressure from all these murders to get them closed. To get those clearance rates up, to get the cases shut down and moved to the next one. I think that this case had a little more pressure than most cases given the fact that Jada Lambert was murdered just nine months prior, another 18 year-old Woodlawn student, strangled, dumped in a park. I think that the brass and the D.A. were breathing down the throats of these detectives to get this thing closed. I don't think that they looked through the yearbook and picked out a Muslim and went after them because they wanted to charge a Muslim, I don't think that's what happened at all. I think that they were looking for leads and they had none.

Now typical suspects in this type of case of course are going to be the boyfriend/ex-boyfriend. They quickly looked into both and they didn't find anything, which coincidentally is part of the reasons I believe so strongly in Adnan's innocence at this point is through their initial investigation, they weren't finding anything that was giving them any reason to bring Adnan in, they weren't finding evidence. The initial interviews that they did did not implicate Adnan. But somewhere along the lines,



someone said, "You should check out Adnan." Now whether that's the anonymous phone call or whether that's Hae Min Lee's family. From what I understand, the cultural consultant was actually contacted by Hae's family, so it's possible that Hae's family thought Adnan maybe had something to do with it. I don't know. But I think what happened was they were grasping at straws to try to find a suspect. To charge somebody with this murder.

I personally believe that Ritz and MacGillivray believed that Adnan was guilty. Or they wanted to believe that he was guilty. I don't believe that it was a quote "frame job" on Adnan. And I know we're splitting hairs here and it's a subtle difference between the two but I think that at some point were at least suspicious, they believed he's suspect number one, they think he's a good suspect, and so they started honing in on him. They were looking for evidence, they were cutting corners, they were trying to find anything that they could use to give him a charge. But you'll notice he wasn't brought in. It's almost three weeks after Hae's body was found before they finally brought him in. He wasn't put into an interrogation room, nothing like that.

I believe they really had nothing until they decided to contact Jenn based on the cell phone records they had pulled, and they absolutely pulled those cell phone records because they already had their mind made up Adnan did it even though they didn't have any evidence. And all of a sudden, Jenn gives them Adnan on a silver platter and I think in the detectives' mind, Jay is peripheral to this. See they've already been working on building a case for Adnan. They're one step closer to closing this one, to filing a charge. So Jenn says, "It wasn't Adnan calling me, it was Jay." But Jay is saying that Adnan is the one that actually killed her. Bingo. They'd already been working on building a case against Adnan. Jay comes in, he starts to try to lie his way out of it, as he always does, and when he realizes that it's very possible that he's going to get charged with this, he points the finger at Adnan. Now you can believe that he snitched on Adnan or that Adnan was a patsy, but in this discussion we're wondering what was going on with the police and I really believe that that's how it went done. When Jay flipped on Adnan, of course the police were going to run with it, and they're going to keep building their case, and they're going to keep Jay in that room, and they're going to offer him whatever they have to offer him to help them manipulate this timeline to close this case.

Now do I think somewhere along the lines Ritz and MacGillivray realize that it's very possible that Adnan didn't do this? Yes. And that's where the corruption comes in in my mind. And that's the part that makes me sick. There are millions of us out there home-sleuthing this case. We're not detectives. We're not police officers. We're not prosecutors. But we can see that this story doesn't add up. I don't believe that Ritz and MacGillivray didn't see that. I think they didn't care if they had their guy. They had a guy. And they had their star witness that was giving them their case on a silver platter. And this is where I think the Muslim angle played very heavily into this and it certainly did earlier as well as we've heard on the *Undisclosed* podcast that the police were only subpoenaing cell phone records for other Pakistanis or Muslims. But I think that they had a witness that willing to play ball, they had this cultural memo that provided them with a motive, Adnan's attorney was not even attempting to find an alibi for him, they could close it and move on.

So that's my opinion on what was going on with the police department and with Ritz and MacGillivray specifically. And it makes me sick. It's a way of thinking that I just can't understand. I know so many police officers and the ones that I know, they're just good people. They're good cops. I understand that they're in a different culture in Baltimore than they are here in small town Michigan but dammit, these are people's lives.

### **[1:11:24] Thank You and Credits**

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Thank you all so much for tuning in today and thank you again for all of the support you continue to provide through sending in all of your emails, tweets, Facebook messages. You listeners are the driving force behind the show. I want to thank you for all of your help in assisting with the funding of this program. And again, if you would like to help out with the funding you can always go to [AudibleTrial.com/SerialDynasty](http://AudibleTrial.com/SerialDynasty) and download a free audiobook. Or you can donate directly to the program through our website [SerialDynasty.com](http://SerialDynasty.com) and click the donate button.

Thanks to all of you, our audience is continuing to grow. Please help keep that momentum going by telling your friends about the show, talk about *The Serial Dynasty* on social media, Twitter, and Facebook, and Instagram.

If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to go onto iTunes and review the show and keep sending in those theories and thoughts to [theories@serialdynasty.com](mailto:theories@serialdynasty.com). And as always, you can always get a hold of me on Twitter [@SerialDynasty](https://twitter.com/SerialDynasty).

Special thanks to [Jonny Rose of Slightly Subversive Music](#) who created the music for the show.

And also to listener [Tate](#) who created our new logo.

Don't forget tomorrow night to download the new *Undisclosed* Episode 7.

I want to thank you one more time for listening and contributing. And until next week, this has been *The Serial Dynasty*.

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Transcription by

