Episode 21: Interview with Laura
09/20/2015
Speakers: Bob Ruff and Laura

EPISODE DESCRIPTION
In this episode, Bob breaks down Undisclosed Episode 11, Interviews Laura (Stephanie's best friend and friends with Jay, Jenn, Adnan, E and Hae). Also reads listener emails and answers questions about Don's time sheets.

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Hello everybody and welcome back to The Serial Dynasty. First and foremost, right out of the gates, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you who have helped out to contribute to the GoFundMe to help launch us into the Truth and Justice podcast. We’re less than a week into the campaign and we’ve already crossed the first milestone. Today the fund grew to just over $5,000, which is exactly how much we need to order the building shell to get started on the new studio. I ordered the building today and it should be delivered in just a few weeks.

We’re about one third of the way there to completing the studio project. So many people have donated and it sincerely touches my heart that so many of you are this dedicated to the pursuit of truth and justice. We’ve received donations of all different amounts and every single one of them is deeply appreciated. With the number of you listening today, we can reach the goal in a matter of minutes to finish up the studio and make sure that we have the resources to continue this show on through the winter.
If everyone listening today goes to the GoFundMe page, www.gofundme.com/TruthandJustice, or go to the homepage SerialDynasty.com and click the link. If every one of you listening today clicks that link and donates $1.00—just $1.00—that will be enough and we’ll never have to do this again and we’ll have all the resources we need to keep going forward with this fight. And again, for all of you that have already given, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Also, along the lines of some housekeeping things, our switch from PodOmatic to Audioboom has finally went through. I had several listeners asking me why the episodes are coming up in their feed on iTunes multiple times and the reason for that is that all the episodes were originally uploaded to PodOmatic and while we were in the limbo stage, not knowing when iTunes would make the switch, all the episodes were also pulled into Audioboom so they would be there when the switch happened. When it happened, your device already downloaded them from PodOmatic and now it’s downloading them from Audioboom. But from this point forward, you’ll only get the one episode and they’ll all come from Audioboom.

And also for any of you who listen to the show via PodOmatic, this episode will be the last one that you’ll find on the PodOmatic site. I’m going to upload this episode to both places because there’s some people that don’t use iTunes or Stitcher or TuneIn Radio and go directly to PodOmatic to get it, so I wanted to give you guys a warning and give you an extra week to let you know that after this week all of the episodes will be on Audioboom. So you can either get them through the Audioboom app, on the Audioboom site, through iTunes, Stitcher, or TuneIn Radio. And now on with the show.

[00:03:34] Overview of Today’s Episode

Last week, I mentioned that I was trying to work out schedules to have Jim Trainum on the episode today to interview. Unfortunately, Jim is a very busy guy and we weren’t able to hook up this week. We’re still talking, he’s still looking into some issues on the case, and we are still planning on recording an interview possibly in the next couple of weeks. So still look forward to that interview but it’s not going to be in this episode today.

And along those lines, I’ve also been working with Jim Clemente, who you may know as one of the writers for the TV show Criminal Minds. Jim also has a wide range of experience throughout the criminal justice system. Namely, he spent many years working as a profiler for the FBI. Jim has been working with me for a little while now and has been examining the case and the crime scene photos and things of that nature. And in the coming weeks, Jim will be on the show giving his opinion of a profile for the murderer. So also look for that interview in the coming weeks.

On today’s show, want to start off by talking about Undisclosed Episode 11 “The Deals with Jay.” After that, I’ll be interviewing Laura. Now I know there was some confusion about all of the Lauras when I interviewed E a few weeks ago. There was the Laura that was the neighbor girl who told the trunk pop story and then E mentioned another Laura later in the interview that he was friends with. That is the Laura that I spoke with today. She’s the Laura
that I mentioned before that interview that has a very unique perspective on everyone involved in this case as she was very close, best friends, with Stephanie. She was friends with Adnan and Hae and Jay and Jenn and E. All in different circles of life. After the interview with Laura, I’ll be reading some listener emails before we close the show today. So the first stop in today’s journey: Undisclosed Episode 11.

[00:05:26] Undisclosed Episode 11

In Episode 11, Rabia, Susan, and Colin released some groundbreaking information about the deals with Jay. I’m sure most of you already listened to the episode but just as a brief recap, they actually got in contact with Anne Benaroya, who is the attorney that Kevin Urick hooked Jay up with back in ’99.

And if I heard correctly, I thought I heard at the beginning of the episode that Anne Benaroya actually reached out Colin. Not the other way around. So Benaroya has been a mystery to all of us since the beginning of this case. She came in out of nowhere, represented Jay, and then disappeared off of our radars for fifteen years until she set the interview up with the Intercept for Jay and possibly Urick.

But before we get to Benaroya, let’s talk for a few minutes about the audio clips that Undisclosed played where the judge in the case was questioning Urick about the plea deal. We heard her say that she’s never seen anything like this before. She mentioned that it wasn’t actually a guilty plea. To try to break this down out of legal terms, basically the plea deal was written in a way that it was open ended. It was written in a way that it could be retracted at any time. In layman’s terms, Urick had Jay on the hook. If he didn’t play ball with Urick, he could’ve pulled the plea deal at any time.

Urick purposely did not put any statements of fact on the document. And I think that he did this for a couple of reasons. One, and probably the most important one, was so that he could keep Jay on the hook. He needed to keep something that he could hold over Jay’s head. He needed Jay to know that if he didn’t testify in the way that he needed him to testify, that he would pull the deal and he would be charged with murder. And the second reason is by not documenting any statement of fact in this plea agreement, there was nothing to disclose to the defense and there was nothing on the record to impeach Jay if and when he changed his story again.

As you heard from the judge, Urick was careful throughout this entire case to hide Jay from the defense. He didn’t have the star witness testify in the grand jury, which is unthinkable. And didn’t document any statements of fact on the plea agreement and he left it open so that he could present it to the jury as though Jay is going to prison, even though that was never the intention. It was obvious when you heard the judge how much disbelief that she had that this had been done and how skeptical she was of the process. You could also hear how unwilling and unable Urick was to respond to these questions.

In my opinion, what Urick was doing to Jay and to Adnan in this case, was criminal. Maybe not criminal in the legal sense but certainly despicable. There was zero attempt by Kevin Urick to find out the truth. Or to find justice in this case. What bothered me even
further, and the thing that answered the most questions for me and answered so many questions in this case that we’ve all been asking, was Anne Benaroya.

After listening to that episode, it’s become crystal clear that Urick duped Benaroya. Or as Susan Simpson said, he played her. To remind you all, what Anne Benaroya said to the Undisclosed team was that Kevin Urick’s threat against Jay was to send this case to Baltimore County. Jay’s case. And charge him with murder. And as was mentioned on Undisclosed, Baltimore County almost always sought the death penalty in murder cases. Unlike Adnan, Jay was not a minor. Thus making him eligible for the death penalty.

So when Anne Benaroya comes into the picture, she’s asked to represent Jay and convince him to sign this plea agreement. And she does it because his options are: be charged with murder in Baltimore County and face the death penalty or take a plea agreement where you’ll only serve two years in prison. Knowing that they had Jay on tape confessing, there’s not an attorney in the world that wouldn’t take that deal for their client or would advise their client to take that deal.

So knowing this, everything starts to come into light. Things start to make more sense. It gives us a better understanding of what was going on with Jay. There are still many of you out there who disagree with my theory that Jay was completely uninvolved in this case. And I’m not saying you’re wrong. But I will say that I certainly disagree with it even more so now. I think that avoiding the death penalty, or at a minimum, life in prison, is certainly motivation enough to do what the cops ask you to do.

So now knowing this new information, it made me wonder even more who Jay was. What was he like? And how in the hell did he get roped into this? And to answer that question, I called Jay’s very good friend, Laura.

[00:10:02] Interview with Laura *

Bob: Welcome, Laura. Thanks, Laura, for taking the time to call in today.

Laura: Hey, no problem, thanks for having me.

Bob: I know you’re short on time, you’ve got a new baby at home and everything right now, so we’ll get right into it. For starters, can you just kind of talk to us a little bit about how you knew everybody in the case?

I know you have a really unique perspective from when we spoke earlier as far as your relationship with Adnan, Hae, Stephanie, Jay, Jenn, E, all those people. So can you just walk us through how you knew all these people?

Laura: Yeah. Stephanie was my best friend in high school. I met Stephanie through the Magnet Program and we played sports together, so that was our common interest: basketball, soccer, softball. And I met Jay through Stephanie. I met E though Jay and Stephanie.
But I met Adnan through school through the Magnet Program. I met Hae through school through the Magnet Program and also through sports because she played field hockey and lacrosse and the girls’ soccer and softball team’s locker rooms were right next to each other so we’d also cheer each on and our fields were always next to each other. And then I met Jenn through soccer and the Magnet Program.

Guess you could say that my unique perspective is that I was able to hang out with everybody but independently of each other. [I’ve been through?] all the social groups, I guess you could say.

**Bob:** As far as I know, you’re the only one that kind of had that perspective because you had a good relationship with all these people but you weren’t all hanging out with them all together in the same place all the time.

And in regards to that, one of the things I wanted to ask you about is Jay in his *Intercept* interview last December, he was talking about the trip to, on *Serial* it was called “Not-Her-Real-name” Cathy’s but we know her name know is Kristi. How the night that Jay and Adnan on the night of murder went to Kristi’s house, it was the night that Adnan was really out of it, Kristi said he was acting really weird, that there were several people there and Jay named you as being one of the people that were at Kristi’s house that night. Do you remember that?

**Laura:** I mean, I wasn’t there. I remember hanging out at Kristi’s house with Jay and Jenn all the time. But I would have remembered hanging out there and seeing Adnan because it was just so weird to see Jay show up with Adnan. Because I didn’t know they would hang out like that. I didn’t know they were cool like that, especially to smoke, you know?

Because that’s what we usually did back then was we’d get together, smoke pot, and just run around and do high school stuff but I would’ve remembered something like that. Especially someone like Adnan because I liked him a lot and he was always cool with me in class and everything, you know? Like he was always nice and funny, just fun, an all-around cool guy.

But I never hung out—I would have known—that would have struck me as odd. I wouldn’t have been like, wait a minute, these guys don’t hang out like that. So I wasn’t there that night. I was there a lot of other nights. But I wasn’t there that night when Adnan came out [inaudible].

**Bob:** Okay. So you were never at Kristi’s house at the same time as Adnan as far as you remember?

**Laura:** No, I was never at the same time. Yeah, but it’s weird like because back then, most of the time I spent—if I wasn’t with Stephanie—I was either with Jay or Jenn and E and any of those combination. It was either Stephanie and Jay, or I’d be with Jenn and Jay, or Jenn, Jay, and E. You know, like, we were always together.
So that’s what was weird, especially like how Stephanie and Adnan’s relationship was so close. I mean, when I tell you I was over, Stephanie was my best friend, and think about what your best friend in high school was, what do you do? You guys are always together. I was always at her house.

I was at her house more than I was at my house. I was at her house so much that I knew the different nights of the week where they would make certain dinners and like spaghetti night would be Thursday night, you know?

Bob: Right.

Laura: So, I like lived there. That was my second home. So that’s why it was so weird to hear on Serial that when they would say that Adnan and Stephanie were that close. Like that never—if I wasn’t with Stephanie, I was on the phone with Stephanie talking to her, you know?

So, I don’t know, it must have been the small amount of time that we weren’t together hanging out. Which is like very miniscule. Except for whenever we would play basketball out back and maybe Adnan would come over to play basketball, but that was like, rare. That was like once a summer, you know?

So that’s why it was odd to me, all these dynamics, all these people hang out when like I was there and I never hung out with these people. I never saw them interact as it seemed like [audio breaking] said they were interacting.

Bob: So, I mean, you were, as far as we know, probably the closet person to Stephanie and she’s been a big mystery to really all of us since this started, you know. She hasn’t been willing to or wanted to speak about all this.

What do you remember from this time, like after Hae went missing and then leading up to Jay getting taken in and then Adnan getting arrested and all that? Do you remember much about Stephanie’s reaction to all of that?

Laura: When Hae was missing, none of us, it wasn’t really a big deal to us, you have to remember at that time. Because, you know, we thought that, well, me, and Krista, and I think Aisha at that time, she had had that new boyfriend so we just thought that she skipped town with him.

So the initial like shock of her missing wasn’t, it wasn’t bestowed on us like people would think. Like you were just going about your high school routine, like it was nothing. Like, “Oh she probably ran away, she’ll be back.” You know?

Bob: Right.

Laura: I mean, we didn’t really think anything of it. I don’t know when Jay started to get questioned. I wasn’t aware of any of that until Serial. I didn’t even know they went to court. So I don’t know when that went down. I know...

Bob: So let me stop you...
Laura: What I do know yeah...

Bob: Sorry. So you never, as close as you were with Jay, you never had any idea that he was involved as far as like testifying?

Laura: No.

Bob: Or that he was involved at all?

Laura: No, no, never, and 6, I was always with Jenn too. No one ever said anything to me about, you know, “The cops are harassing me. I’ve got to get a lawyer.” Or “I got to go to court.” [Inaudible] that you would expect to hear from people that you hang out with all the time and consider them as close as your family. No one said anything like that to me. Like, not one word was said. So I had no idea that Jay and Jenn were involved like they were until I talked to Sarah from Serial and she actually read me some of the transcripts.

Bob: Wow.

Laura: So, I didn’t know. Yeah, I didn’t know any of that.

Bob: So you didn’t know Jenn was testifying either then?

Laura: I didn’t know Jenn was involved at all. And Jenn was one of my closest friends too. I was always with her as well. That was like the group I always would hang around with. So yeah, I didn’t know that she helped or anything like that. The first I heard of all that was hearing her voice on the tapes. I didn’t know that she was being questioned or they would come to her house. I didn’t know any of that.

Bob: Did Jay or Jenn ever tell you anything about the crime? That Adnan did it or anything like that?

Laura: No. No one ever said anything when I was with them.

Bob: Okay.

Laura: I mean, those times where we would just be hanging out, but yeah, that’s what’s odd is, something like that, you would think someone would slip and say something. But no. No one ever said anything to me and like I don’t know if it was because they were looking out, or maybe they knew that I knew Hae, that she was a classmate. I don't know what it was.

I mean, in a way, I’m glad they never said anything to me because I wouldn’t have wanted cops and interrogations and all that stuff come down but I’m just shocked that something that big going on in your life that—I mean, I get it, maybe it was going on in your life and then you just don’t want to talk about it and the time we hung out together was time—I mean, it was just fine, you know?
These people aren’t evil, you know? That’s what’s kind of upsetting about hearing all these podcasts and stuff. Like, they don’t know Jenn and Jay. They’re not these evil people, you know? Like, they’re amazing individuals. You know, when you really get to know them, they’re loyal.

Bob: Why don’t we do that? Why don’t you take a few minutes and kind of just tell us about Jay. From someone who knew him personally, like, what kind of person Jay was.

Laura: Jay was awesome. Jay always was, even from the moment that I met him, he always looked out for me. He was kind of like my big brother. My family loved Jay. Jay was someone that, he taught me about cars, he taught me like street smarts. You know, “Always be on your Ps and Qs. Always check your mirrors at all times whenever you’re in the city.” You know, because you never know. “Just be aware of your surroundings.”

He just cared. Like, he was like family. Like anything that he could help me with, he would, and same thing. I would take Jay to work. I would let Jay hold my car. I would pick him up if he needed a ride to go somewhere. That’s why it’s all weird when it’s like Adnan would pick him up or Adnan would let him hold his car because a lot of the time, Jay would have my car. Or Stephanie’s car, or Jenn’s car, you know?

Bob: Right.

Laura: I know people are like, “How could you lend him your car?” I don’t know, we were in high school, we were like fucking 15, 17, 18. You know, you think your friends are like family, you don’t think anything would go wrong. You trust them with anything. I mean I didn’t think, now, obviously, in retrospect, you’re like “What the hell was I doing?”

But he was like, like I think Chris said it, he was like the Dennis Rodman. I mean, he was just so eccentric. But that’s what made him amazing. Like, his conversation [inaudible] we’d go to concerts together. Oh man, [inaudible] at concerts. He would look after me at concerts. I’d go to concerts with Jenn and we used to do the HFStival, and with Stephanie too.

And we’d always look out for each other. He didn’t have like the best, you know, like I had a good family. Like I had a mom and dad that worked.

Bob: Right.

Laura: I had a middle class upbringing. Jay always had the – for some reason, there’s always people in life that always get the shitty end of the stick. There’s always some fucking thing that goes wrong. There’s always something.

Bob: Right.

Laura: And you’re like, goddammit, like they’re good people. Just cut them a break. Like Jenn, E, Jay, they’re just good people, you know? They have big hearts.
They would do anything for their friends. They just need to get cut a break to, I would always say, to get out of Baltimore. They’re never going to get, you know, to just leave and start a new life and get a new chance to start over.

I get Jay’s perspective on cops. I mean, the cops, I get it. I would be with him and they would harass him. For no reason. But that’s Baltimore, you know?

Bob: Were you there the time when he got arrested? It was actually in January that year, kind of between when Hae went missing and her body was found. He was arrested. He was with Jenn and he got charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Apparently they were harassing him and then he kind of got into it with the cops and they had a little bit of a wrestling match and then he ended up getting arrested and charged. Do you recall that?

Laura: Not at all. I wasn’t there when anyone got arrested.

Bob: You said he was harassed. You were there several times when he was harassed by the cops. Was that something that was happening or—

Laura: I mean, I’ve seen it. I’ve seen it with him. Like when you’re down in the projects and stuff how the cops would harass you. They wouldn’t arrest you, but they would talk shit. They would talk back to every black male down there. You know, to get them riled up. They threw an assault charge or something or disorderly conduct just to get them, you know?

So I’ve seen it, you know. That’s not been uncommon down in the city the way the cops are. Everyone knows that. So I could see how they could get under your skin, you know? I mean, they did it to me just for standing in an area. You know, they harass you.

Bob: Yeah, the a—

Laura: It’s not right. They totally profile you.

Bob: Yeah, the Baltimore City Police Department has quite a reputation for doing exactly that.

Laura: That’s something that’s been going on for decades. That’s nothing new.

Bob: So as intimately as you knew Jay, how did you react when you heard on Serial that he had supposedly helped bury Hae’s body? Did you believe it?

Laura: No. I mean, I was shocked and couldn’t believe that it was with Adnan. I didn’t know what to make of it. As a friend, like I could see if I asked him, if I was like, “Jay, I’m in trouble.” He’d help me. He would totally help me, you know?

But somebody like Adnan, they didn’t hang out, that weren’t cool like that. They weren’t friends. They weren’t, you know, I just didn’t understand why he
would help him out. Especially on something to that degree because then you’re like an accessory.

And it’s not like, you know, your knowledge of the system. I mean, he knew right away he’d be an accessory or accomplice or whatever. You have the street smarts, you know? I think that adds to some of the fear because you know so much. You know that by him, or whatever the course of events went down, that just because something was even mentioned, you’re associated with it.

Bob: Yeah.

Laura: You don’t even know how the cops are going to treat that. That would be an intimidating factor on the cops’ part. Like if anybody, like that stuff on Serial, that Adnan threatened Jay with a hitman, I don’t believe any of that. I don’t believe Jay was intimidated by Adnan at all. Jay wasn’t somebody that was easily intimidated.

Bob: Right.

Laura: You know, if anything, Jay was the one that was intimidating. Because he’s this tall, lanky dude. Sometimes he would dye his hair, he had pierced ears. He liked heavy metal, rock. He was like a hippy at the same time.

That’s what was just always weird to me. I mean, I can see if Jenn—if Jay then said something to Jenn, I can see, I believe, Jenn helping because they were that close. You know, I believe that. That’s more believable to me, you know. But the fact that Jay helped bury a body that, to me, was pretty, I guess you could say shocking. Because you’re hanging out with these people your whole high school career whenever you’re not working, or I played sports, whenever I wasn’t playing sports or in the summer, you know, I would always be with them.

To hear that he helped bury a body. That’s just what seems so out of Jay’s characteristic, his personality, to be involved with such a thing. He’s the kind of guy that, yeah, he may seem like he’s tough, you know, on the outside, he puts up this, even in the Intercept interview, like, this front. But if you really, really know him, he’s a sweetheart, you know? Like, he’s a teddy bear.

Bob: Right.

Laura: So, he wouldn’t even hurt a fly, you know, the Jay that I know. That’s what is just like, I guess you could even say, dumbfounding for me. And for everyone that’s involved with this, even after that, I think on Serial Sarah put it the best way possible that anyone has said is that, “Yeah, you’re kind of in this grey area. You’re kind of in this fog.”

Because it’s like, who do you really know then? Like if you’re with these people, and you talk to them, and you talk about family stuff. And sometimes you have real conversations where you talk about life and deep thoughts and
trying solve all the problems that you have in your youth. You know, like, do you ever really know anybody?

Bob: Yeah, well...

Laura: That’s the real question then. Do I really, really know who you are? Do you really know who I am? So like that’s what was so—. Especially with Stephanie too, like, you know, Stephanie didn’t even talk about anything. Stephanie’s initial stand was that Adnan did it, that the cops got the right person.

Bob: That was during that time?

Laura: That was after they arrested Adnan. That’s the only thing I remember was them arresting Adnan. Like, I’ll never forget it. I remember it coming up on the news and I was in my basement and I saw that they put Adnan’s picture up and they said that they found, it was on like WJZ-13 or whatever, and they said that they made an arrest in the Hae Min Lee murder and they put Adnan’s picture and I immediately texted Krista, my friend, and told her that they arrested Adnan.

And I was just like beside myself, I couldn’t even believe it. I couldn’t believe it. That’s another thing. Never in my life, [you talk?] about people that aren’t malicious or have an evil heart or just evil to be able to do what they say and kill her the way that she was killed. You know, that’s not conceivable for me the people that I know.

Bob: Right.

Laura: So I was like, that’s not [inaudible]. Regardless if he was like an EMT or whatever. That wasn’t in his heart, you know? I thought I would have pretty good feel on how people are and Adnan, you never saw Adnan get angry. And even Jay, I never say Jay get angry, you know?

I know there’s conspiracies out there that say that Jay killed her. Why? Why would he even want to kill her? That’s not Jay. He doesn’t have anything to prove to anybody. He doesn’t owe the world anything.

As far as I’m concerned, the world owes Jay because it’s been a shitty life, you know? And that’s the thing that breaks my heart is that here’s a guy that finally found his happy place, finally found that niche in his life and he’s been working his ass off, like, Jay’s a hard worker. Holy fuck. Having some sort of job, you know.

No matter what, remember, he’s the one that was the main provider in his house so how many people can sit there and say that through their high school career they had to be the main providers for their family? He was in charge of putting the food on the table for his mother. Not the other way around, you know? It’s like, how many people can go through that and say that they’re okay? And not just his mother, his grandfather, his grandmother, they all lived
in the same house. And at the same time, get berated by his mom because he’s not making enough? He didn’t bring enough money? Like, really?

And everyone sits there and they like to say, like, you just don’t know. You can’t even relate to that kind of situation, you know? So he still kept working, he still kept going. Sometimes he would put his head down and go to work in construction or at the video store, Hollywood Video, PetSmart, you know, the zoo, wherever he could get a job, Jay would [get it done and work?]. Same thing with Jenn and same thing with E.

These people worked their asses off. So to think that there anything less is just like a freaking insult to me. It’s upsetting that people are quick to judge and they don’t even know the whole story. Who these people really are, you know? It’s just another round of bad luck come up again.

It makes me sad because he finally got to his place of like where he’s successful and now he’s getting harassed again. I know that there’s all these, “He was forced.” Or, you know, “His hand was forced by the cops.” I mean, you know, and “He lied” and “He was coached.”

**Bob:** I think he was threatened. And to be honest with you, listening to you just describe him and his home life and everything about him, it’s heartbreaking.

I mean, it’s just making me sad because I hadn’t told you this before this but, you know, I personally believe that Jay had nothing to do with this and he got trapped by the cops and pressured by the cops and threatened until he was in a position where he had no other choice. And I said a few episodes back that I think they ruined his life. They ruined his life and they’re continuing to. So I’m glad—

**Laura:** Yeah, they totally did. The only people who would be able to intimidate Jay are the cops. I mean, when the cops intimidate you... I don’t know about you, but being arrested period and being put in the back of a cop car. I mean, that’s pretty damn intimidating in itself, you know?

**Bob:** Right.

**Laura:** Let alone to be in an interrogation room for hours at a time. I mean cops are scary people, you know? Like, I would be scared. I don’t want to go to jail. It’s not right how it went down and that Adnan is at the end of this. I don’t know what the hell, the witch hunt, I can’t even keep all the stories straight of this witch hunt that went on by the cops for Adnan. Or even why.

I mean, like he’s a great person, you know? He’s not a killer. It’s [inaudible] that there’s a real killer out there and they could be free. They could be walking around [the streets?] for all these years.

**Bob:** Right and that’s...
Laura: And that’s what’s really disheartening out of everything. Like after fifteen, twenty years this person got away with it and the cops, you know—

Even from the moment they arrested, I remember when they arrested Adnan they had counselors at the school and I remember the cop. I remember being in the guidance counselor’s office and I remember asking the cop, “You got to be—you have the wrong person.” I was like that’s not true, you can’t--

And that’s when the cop said, you know, he’s like, they had people with the murder weapon in their hands, blood all over, and they didn’t do it. And they were so sure. They were so sure that Adnan did it. Even the guidance counselors back then, they were like, “Well, the cops don’t make mistakes.” That was the thing.

That was the vibe you got back then, at least from the school’s perspective. That, yeah, well, the cops don’t make mistakes. They arrested the right person. You kind of like, at that age, they don’t let you ask too many questions.

Bob: Right.

Laura: Or they don’t even give you any answers, you know? They brush you off as high school kids.

Bob: Right, were they questioning you guys? Or were they just there to answer questions?

Laura: No, they weren’t questioning us. It was never questioning. It was just, it was more of a presence. It wasn’t even an answer/question thing, it was just more of a reaffirmation presence of what went on.

Bob: Okay, were they letting you guys, were they kind of, like you mentioned, making it clear to everybody there that they had the right guy?

Laura: Yeah, they definitely made it clear that this is their guy. That Adnan was the guy. They don’t make mistakes.

Bob: Wow.

Laura: That was definitely clear, you know? Why would they? And they had his fingerprints all over everything.

Bob: That’s what they told you guys?

Laura: Yeah, which now you come to find out like—and even then, we were like, well he was Hae’s boyfriend, like, he was in the car, you know? Well what do you mean you have fingerprints over everything, you know?

Bob: Yeah, I think they were doing a good job at convincing you all that he was guilty.

Laura: Well yeah, and they were like, well there is DNA evidence too.
Bob: Oh, they told you there was DNA evidence?

Laura: Yeah, they were like, “There’s DNA evidence.” And I’m like, “What kind of DNA evidence?” But every time you start questioning you wouldn’t get an answer, you know? I mean it’s obvious now they didn’t have anything.

Bob: Right.

Laura: But, I mean, back then, you know, you don’t know. It’s your senior year, you’re trying to get to college, you know? That’s what, you know, just focus on, going to college. But, what the fuck just happened?

And it’s so sad because I always felt like I lost two friends, you know? I was heartbroken when they arrested Adnan. I was in like a daze for a couple days. That’s what’s frustrating, really. I wanted to talk about it. I would talk about it with Krista. I became close with Krista. I’d be over there with Aisha, I would be over at Krista’s house just to react to that.

But even thinking about it now, I remember, I’ll never forget that the day that they found Hae’s body and they announced it. You know, they had grief counselors at the school. And I remember, they let us leave school, and I remember we had all gathered over at Peter’s house, I think it was Peter’s house. He was on Serial too.

But I remember walking out back in the back part of the school, the back parking lot of the school, and I remember I was getting in my car to drive over there and I remember seeing Adnan on the curb, sitting down, with his head in his hands. And I remember going over there, sitting next to him and just hugging him and just, you know, you don’t really need to say anything.

Bob: Right.

Laura: And I remember him being so upset that that she was—I mean, it’s like your first encounter with death in your life. You can’t believe you’re never going to see that person again. I mean, it changed us all. It changed me. It changed us all. When you really encounter with death, it’s like [inaudible]. It hurts, it’s sad, it’s traumatic, you know?

Bob: On that topic, can we kind of loop back to a little bit ago, I was talking about Stephanie and you mentioned that after Adnan was arrested that she thought that obviously that Adnan did it. Prior to that, do you remember, did she have any inkling that Adnan did or did she say anything like that in the period of time before Adnan was arrested?

Laura: No. She didn’t say anything at all. She didn’t say anything at all about Hae or any of that. No, not that, I mean, we didn’t think anything of it, you know, before Adnan got arrested. She kept quiet. I mean, we just went on with our normal high school lives, you know. Sports and home and homework.
It wasn’t as serious as we all thought for what it turned out to be, you know, in the period when she was missing. I mean, even back then, I remember Krista asking us when Adnan was arrested if we could—but you have to remember—like, what people tend to forget about all this is that from when Hae disappeared and when Adnan was charged and if you listen to all the events of all the recordings and stuff, you’re talking weeks later.

Bob: Right.
Laura: You’re not talking one day to the next and I think that gets lost in all these that. How do you expect--? Can you honestly remember what you did six weeks ago today? And who you were with?
Bob: I don’t remember what I had for lunch yesterday.
Laura: Yeah, you know what I mean. So like you’re asking a bunch of pothead high schoolers what turn you made on January 13th and who were you with. You don’t know, you know?
So that’s why it wasn’t like when I was listening to the interviews with Jay on the police interview that they played on Serial, it would make sense to me that you’re a little fuzzy. Even then I couldn’t remember if I saw Adnan and that was like when they arrested him. So that was what, like?
Bob: About six weeks later, yeah.
Laura: About six weeks later. Even then, I was like, “I don’t remember if I saw him, Krista.” Because Krista asked, I was like, “I don’t remember seeing him that day.” I can’t recall.
Bob: And especially when it’s something like school where every day is a normal day and they all run together.
Laura: Yes.
Bob: Six weeks later, yeah, it’s crazy.
Laura: I know. Especially even the fact that they were like, “Oh do you remember if they were at school?” I’m like, I remember, and that was another thing. Like, Krista would say, first of all, January 13th is Stephanie’s birthday, you know? And like, then we had a basketball game that night. That stuff I do remember.
And then that weekend, I think there was like an ice storm or something and I do remember going to Krista’s birthday party because we had no power and no heat or food and it was like the first time I got a real meal, like pizza, and I got there early.
But I know in Serial or in Undisclosed, I know Krista said that Adnan showed up with Jenn and Stephanie—I mean, Jay and Stephanie and I don’t remember seeing—I look at the pictures and it’s true, you know. But I don’t remember seeing them.
I mean, I was in the kitchen too, eating. So I mean, I was all about food back then. So I don’t remember seeing him, you know. So, it’s crazy, you know. Just crazy how like, even E said it, fifteen years and later and it’s crazy how the whole world now is just as confused as we were. As I am, I still am. It’s hard for me to fathom that these people were involved in any aspect of this, period.

Bob: In regards to the people, we’re just about ready to wrap this up, but before we do, since you’re somebody who does have this perspective, before we close out the interview, can you take just a few minutes and tell us about Hae. Who Hae was.

Laura: Hae was awesome. She was always happy. She was smart. You know, we were in the Magnet Program but she was always in the AP classes and stuff. Everybody loved her. She was just such a good spirit, a good soul.

She would always like cheer us on for soccer and I would be like, “field hockey? What kind of sport is field hockey?” Because I’d never heard of it until I got to high school and I would always cheer her on. And whenever they would be running around our field for conditioning we would cheer them on.

Or if they had a game, we’d do a little cheer, because I was captain of the soccer team so I’d have the girls do a little cheer to support the hockey or, you know, if it was lacrosse, because they played on, you know, different team, same field but we had those same fields, on and we would go to each other’s games.

She was just such a free spirit. Just so upbeat. Like, I never saw Hae upset or sad or angry or anything. It’s like nothing could bother her. Like she was such a good person. It was so sad that, it’s always like, only the good die young type deal.

Bob: Right.

Laura: But, like, it’s always like that and it’s just so sad that that has to go down like that, you know? But she was just such an amazing individual. Like she was so smart. Like how could you not love Hae?

Bob: Right.

Laura: Like how could you not want to be her friend? Or her classmate? Or know her in some kind of aspect? Like that’s just, just every now and then you meet people like that, they’re just great. You know, you can’t say enough good things about them. And that’s how Hae was.

Bob: As hard as all this is, and I can’t tell you how much I appreciate you willing to talk to me today. As hard as it all is, that’s what this is all about, it’s really about, you know, we obviously want to see Adnan out of prison for this but it’s all about trying to find justice for her.
I mean, we can’t bring her back, but like you said earlier, there’s someone out there that did this and we need to find him and that’s what we intend to do.

And you know, it may not seem like it to you, but your interview here helps us with that. It helps us paint a better picture. It’s so hard to know what happened sixteen years ago. And you helping paint that picture for us about what reality really was back then, is priceless.

And I want to thank you one more time, Laura, for coming on with me. This is a wonderful interview and I’m just so thankful for you speaking to us, so thank you so much.

Laura: No problem. No problem, and thank you for having me.

Bob: No problem. You go take care of that kid.

Laura: Thank you, I will.

Bob: All right, bye, Laura.

Laura: All right, bye.

[00:45:35]

I have to tell you that there were moments of that interview that just absolutely broke my heart. I don’t mean to be overly melodramatic but listening to Laura talk about Jay’s real life, the real Jay, who he really is, and what he’s been through. Number one, makes it all that more clear to me how he could have landed in this situation. And number two, it just absolutely sickens me that these police officers and this shady prosecutor destroyed so many lives. These sick individuals clearly ruined Adnan’s life as he’s been sitting in prison for sixteen years. And if I’m right about Jay, they ruined Jay’s life too.

And even aside of from all of that, Hae Min Lee’s murderer is still out there. Whoever he is, he’s been going on about his life for the last sixteen years with nothing but devastation in his wake. People have questioned the integrity of doing this show, of having a podcaster rally tens of thousands of people to help solve a murder in public. But you’ve seen the facts of the case.

If we don’t do this, who will? And we all know the answer to that. No one will. It’s a new day that we’re living in. It’s a day where we have to improvise, adapt, and overcome. We have to find a way to right these wrongs. And find a way to stop these injustices. That’s why we’re here.

Before we move on to the listener email segment of the show, let’s take just a quick minute to hear about our sponsor.
Every day I’m getting more and more listeners that are tweeting me about their experiences with Shaun T’s workouts. Hundreds of you have started using Shaun T’s workouts since he started sponsoring this show. And it’s so exciting to see the great results everyone is getting.

I’m now on week three of the Beta program and I finally broke that twenty pound mark. I weighed in this morning and I’m down exactly twenty pounds from when I started. I feel great. I’m finally fitting into clothes that I haven’t been able to wear for a while. Just not too long ago, my fat pants sort of became my pants. And I just feel overall healthy for the first time in a long time.

One listener tweeted me and asked for words of encouragement. She said she’d been using Shaun’s workouts and was down 92 pounds and just needed the encouragement to keep going. I asked my wife, Becky, what I should say to encourage this woman and she didn’t hesitate for a second. She said, “Ask her how many times she wants to start over.” I immediately tweeted that back to the listener and she let me know that those were exactly the words she needed to hear. That’s the key. Stick with it. Keep going.

If you’re one of those people that’s in the middle of the process and you’re thinking about quitting, think back to the thing that motivated you to start these workouts. There was something in your life that you weren’t happy with and do you really want to go back and start that process all over again? Or just keep digging deeper?

For more information on Shaun T’s workouts, his new podcast Trust and Believe, and all of his other products and motivational tips, go to ShaunTFitness.com. And don’t forget to look for his new apparel at ShaunTApparel.com. And dig deeper.

All right, I have three listener emails I want to go through tonight. And hopefully they answer the questions that a lot of people have had. Most of the emails that I got this week were in regards to Don’s timesheets. The first email I got is from Denise Harle. Denise says:

Hi Bob,

Couldn’t we look at Don’s paystub for the time period in question and find out whether he was actually paid for the hours reflected on both timesheets? If he wasn’t paid for the 0097 timesheet hours then that would cast even more suspicion on the veracity of the “Donald” timesheet.

If he was paid, maybe it doesn’t answer anything. Thanks and keep up the great work. You must be one of those people who never sleeps.

Denise
I’m definitely sleeping less and less lately, Denise. And to answer your question, that would work except for the fact that we do not have Don’s paystubs. They were not included in the packet that was received from LensCrafters. And the only way to obtain the paystubs would be either from Don himself or from LensCrafters Corporate and we have no access to the corporate records without a subpoena.

So, I would like to know the answer to that question too but just to clear that up, we do not have his paystub for that period of time. Or any of his paystubs as a matter of fact. Thank you, Denise, for sending in the email and thank you for the question.

My next email is from Adam. Adam’s subject line says, “Don’s ID – you forgot to mention a relevant detail.” He writes:

Did any of the other timesheets for the six or so months surrounding Hae’s disappearance show that Don worked at the alternate location in Hunt Valley using the correct and current 1999 employee ID number?

I’ve had a lot of people ask this same question. And everyone was asking that if any of Don’s normal timesheets, with the normal employee ID number, the 0162, showed him working at Hunt Valley. And the answer to the question is no.

But that’s not the entire answer. The reason that the answer is no is that confirmed by more and more and more sources from LensCrafters every day, when you worked at a different store, your hours always showed up on the same timesheet and they all looked exactly the same. If over the last couple of weeks you’ve taken a look at the timesheets on Susan’s blog, The View from LL2, you’ll see that in the timeslots, it’s just numbers. That’s all that’s there. And in the different columns you have regular hours, overtime hours, and total hours. Nowhere on those timesheets does it differentiate which store you were working at.

I’ve lost count at this point, it has to be over twenty LensCrafters employees that have worked during that time, and Luxottica, and LensCrafters Corporate, and the Hunt Valley managers working on that day, all confirmed that there was no distinction on your timesheet for hours that you worked at a different store. I could work at a different store every day of the week and my timesheet would just show the hours that I worked each day. It would not show what store I worked at.

So to sum that up, we don’t know exactly how many times Don covered at Hunt Valley when he was working at Owings Mills. One of the managers that was working at the Hunt Valley store could only remember that he had been there several times, enough for him to remember that he seemed like a nice kid but he couldn’t tell me how many times he had worked there. So, Adam, and hopefully all of you other listeners that had the same question, I hope that answers it for you. And thank you for that email.

My last email for tonight comes from Dawn. Dawn writes,

Has anyone checked the timesheets to see if everyone scheduled to work showed up at their scheduled time? If so, then whose shift was Don meant to
be covering?

And again on this issue, that’s just information that we don’t have. What we have is the packet that was sent to Kevin Urick from LensCrafters. It contained the schedule for the Hunt Valley store for the week containing January 13th. Course, Don was not on that schedule anywhere and there were no notations made on any of the lab tech shifts that would show that they weren’t at work that week. The packet did include timesheets for the general manager, the retail manager, and the lab manager. We do have those timesheets so we know who was working on those days.

Unfortunately, they did not send the timesheets for the lab techs. We know when they were scheduled to work but we have no idea if they actually worked those days or not. But again, as I said last week, we do know that none of them, no one, was scheduled to work from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13th.

Another question that I’ve gotten from several listeners was regarding some confusion by me talking about the Saturday shift on January 16th. Many people were confused as to why I was talking about the 16th when the crime occurred on the 13th. And just to clear that up, the reason I was talking about the hours on the 16th were simply because they were on the same timesheet. Remember the process I’m working through right now is first figure out why a suspect was eliminated by the police. In Don’s case, he was eliminated because he had an alibi, confirmed by this document. This one timesheet. So the place to start with any investigation is to analyze that document. The timesheet that ruled him out. So it’s not just looking at where Don was or what he was doing on the 13th, the first step is to decide if that document holds up.

So the reason that I was talking about the hours on the 16th was simply because those hours were on that same document. They were on the same timesheet. And the reason I was discussing those hours, as you’ll remember, is that it seemed like it was an impossible feat for Don to clock out of one store, at 1:06, and clock into the other store at 1:29, with just a 23 minute gap in between.

And in regards to that, I did have a listener that volunteered to do the route test for me. She did the route test and drove from the old Hunt Valley location where it was in 1999 to the old Owings Mills location, where it was in 1999. And she videotaped the entire process. I believe the video has been uploaded to YouTube but when I get a link, I’ll go ahead and post it on the @SerialDynasty Twitter feed so you all can check it out. And you’ll see that she’s not dragging her feet. At some point, she’s driving 80 miles an hour down the highway and what she found is that it took her exactly 23 minutes to get from the door of the Hunt Valley store to the door of the Owings Mills store. That doesn’t account for the time of logging in and out of the computers. So look for that link on the @SerialDynasty Twitter feed.

Now, with all of that being said about the timesheets, I think it’s time that we put this to rest and move on to other things. Like I mentioned last week, there’s all kinds of speculation and theories out there of people claiming that this timesheet might not be falsified. I’ve provided all the confirmation that I can give to you from all the different sources that have confirmed this.
But to hopefully put this to rest once and for all, I have on the phone with me right now Elizabeth, who was a general manager of LensCrafters in 1999. And this is what Elizabeth had to say about the timesheet.

[00:55:31] Interview with Elizabeth

Elizabeth: I was general manager with LensCrafters for four years.

Bob: And so you’ve seen these timecards, right? And have heard the episode about them?

Elizabeth: Yes.

Bob: Okay.

Elizabeth: I’ve seen both of the timecards from Hunt Valley and Owings Mills.

Bob: What’s your general take on these timecards?

Elizabeth: In my experience, there was one timecard. You didn’t have two timecards from two different stores. You certainly didn’t have two different associate numbers. I feel that the Hunt Valley one is false for a variety of reasons. He should never have worked in that store in the first place and that he would not have another identifier.

Bob: Okay, you mentioned that he should never have been working at that store in the first place. Why is that?

Elizabeth: His mother being the general manager was against LensCrafters policy. They had a pretty stringent policy against having a reporting relationship with anyone you were related to or married to. And so his mother being the general manager would have had a reporting relationship with every single person at that store. So he should never have been working in that store in any capacity.

Bob: Even just covering a shift for someone?

Elizabeth: He shouldn’t, no. It would have been against policy. I’m surprised it was ever allowed.

Bob: Okay, well, it turns out, it may not have been. So looking at the timesheets themselves, you said that all employees did have a single associate ID number, that’s what they logged in with. Would that be the case if they worked at, if they did go cover at a different store, would they still log in with their same ID or could they possibly have a different ID at a different store?

Elizabeth: No. In my experience, it was the same ID and the same password at every store.

Bob: Okay.
Elizabeth: That was how you got paid, that was how it followed you.

Bob: Okay, would it have shown up any differently on a timesheet, like say if I worked at the, in this circumstance, I worked at the Owings Mills store, I went to the Hunt Valley store to cover a shift for a couple of hours and I logged in with my associate ID, would that be differentiated at all on my timesheet? Or would it look the same as any other hours?

Elizabeth: In my recollection, it would have been the same as any other hours and a lot of that was to avoid overtime.

Bob: Okay, meaning what? That they could track your hours better that way?

Elizabeth: Exactly. LensCrafters never wanted, you know, it’s a retail business, at its heart. And so you have your hours allocated based on your sales. So you didn’t want to go into overtime because that was much more expensive for the company.

Bob: So do you think in this particular case if you combine those two timesheets, I believe Don would have worked 45.7 hours, is that something that would be normal? Or is that something that LensCrafters would ever allow?

Elizabeth: That would be pretty unusual for a lab tech. Unless he was the greatest lab tech ever in that area, there is no reason for that. I don’t see any reason for that to ever have happened.

Bob: Okay, did lab techs and people on the retail side ever crossover? Like could a lab tech, someone trained as a lab tech, ever cover a shift say on the retail side?

Elizabeth: Not in my experience, we didn’t have any crossover employees, no.

Bob: Okay. And getting back to the—

Elizabeth: And that was at three different stores.

Bob: Okay, so you worked at three different stores?

Elizabeth: Yes.

Bob: Okay, when you transferred from store to store, did you change your associate ID number when you transferred or did you keep the same ID throughout your career working at the three different stores?

Elizabeth: My ID followed me. And in my experience, the associates’ IDs also followed them.

Bob: Okay, so they didn’t change when they moved from store to store.

Elizabeth: Definitely not.

Bob: If an employee like left service, if they were fired or they quit, what would happen to that associate ID?
Elizabeth: In my recollection, again, this has been a long time, that ID was kind of terminated and not reused. It wasn’t something that you would recycle and use with a different employee.

Bob: Okay, so it was deactivated or terminated and it was not used anymore at all.

Elizabeth: Correct.

Bob: Okay and who generated the associate IDs? Like if there was a new employee that came into a store, they got hired, how was the associate ID number generated?

Elizabeth: Depending on whether they were on the retail side or the lab side, the lab manager or the retail manager would input the information and then it was computer generated.

Bob: Okay, so the general manager didn’t do that?

Elizabeth: No, nope. That was either on the retail or the lab side.

Bob: Could the general manager create, you know the case, so in—

Elizabeth: Absolutely.

Bob: In this particular instance, would the general manager have had the ability to get into the system and generate a new associate ID number or modify an old associate ID number?

Elizabeth: Yes.

Bob: Another question that’s come up from many of the listeners is whether or not the employee ID numbers were sequential based on hire date and also how that’s possible. You know, because it seems like they were, most of the, actually all of, the LensCrafters employees that I’ve spoken to, have all confirmed, yes, when you were hired the associate ID number went up sequentially based on your hire date.

However, they were four digit numbers and there was like 800 LensCrafters at that time. Do you know how those associate ID numbers were created as far as is there more to the number that the employee didn’t see? Like if it was tied to the store or something like that?

Elizabeth: You know, I’m sure it was tied to the store. I wish I had a better recollection of exactly how that number was generated but your home store, your hiring store, I’m certain was where that number was generated. Beyond that, I just don’t have a specific recollection of exactly how that went from store to store without duplication.

Bob: Okay, then you mentioned the home store. A general manager would have access to all of the hours and timesheets for an employee from their store, correct?
Elizabeth: Yes, they would.

Bob: Okay and then what about an employee from a different store? Like say in this case, would Don’s mother, the Hunt Valley general manager, have access to Don’s timesheet because he was an Owings Mills employee, would she have access to that timesheet, to edit it or work on it at all?

Elizabeth: She should not have had access to a different store’s timekeeping. You would not have the ability to change hours at a different store.

Bob: Okay, that makes sense.

Elizabeth: If you were the general manager of one store, that was it.

Bob: Okay, so when Officer O’Shea called the Owings Mills store to confirm Don’s alibi, the manager at the Owings Mills was reading off, well my theory is, she was reading off a timesheet because she gave specific times and they were the exact same times that were listed on the timesheet.

That he punched in at 9:02, lunch at 1:10, back from lunch at 1:42, and punched out at 6:00 p.m. She gave those exact times, but she was the Owings Mills manager and that 0097 timesheet was a Hunt Valley employee timesheet, the way that it was set up. Would that Owings Mills manager have access or been able to see that timesheet?

Elizabeth: I don’t feel that she could have.

Bob: Okay, so—

Elizabeth: No, that wasn’t her associate, it wasn’t her associate ID, and it wasn’t her timekeeping system so I don’t feel that she could have had access to the punch in and punch out times.

Bob: Okay, so the only way she could have had that information was either to get it directly from Don who was working at that time on that day or maybe to call over to the Hunt Valley store to get that information, is that right?

Elizabeth: Exactly, exactly. Yes, she would have had that information provided to her. In my experience, that wouldn’t have been available to her.

Bob: Okay and then as far as if we’re operating under the idea that this timesheet was falsified, who would have the ability to go back and change hours? If someone went back and say edited an employee ID and added hours to it for this day, who would have the ability to do that?

Elizabeth: Only a manager.

Bob: Any manager or just the general manager?

Elizabeth: It could have been a retail manager, it could have been the lab manager, it could have been a GM. And they would have only had the ability to do that for a certain amount of time before that pay period closed.
Bob: Okay, so do you remember when the pay periods closed?

Elizabeth: Not a clue. I’m sorry, but at this point, no.

Bob: I mean, would it be, like in general, like a few days after the pay period was over? Are we talking months after the pay period was over?

Elizabeth: No, no. We’re talking a couple days.

Bob: Okay, so that pay period ended on the 16th, which was a Saturday, so the change would have to been put into that system, let’s say, within a week of then?

Elizabeth: Absolutely.

Bob: So that timesheet had to have been created, or those hours edited before January 22nd which was when Don was interview and gave the—which was really the first time when he was really questioned by the police about where he was on the day or anything. He said he was working, so that timesheet had to have already been created prior to that?

Elizabeth: Yeah, absolutely.

Bob: Okay, I’m sure there’s other questions that listeners have, Elizabeth, but I think that that’s everything I needed from you. Just I wanted someone that was actually a general manager at LensCrafters at that time who could confirm all these things that we’ve gathered and it sounds like you’ve done that.

In your opinion, based on your experience, can you give your opinion on whether or not you believe that this document was falsified?

Elizabeth: I absolutely believe that the Hunt Valley timesheet was falsified.

[01:04:42] Next Week

So there you have it. If you still want to believe that that timesheet was not falsified I guess there is nothing else that I can do for you.

As for the rest of you who are wondering where we are going from here, my investigation into Don is still ongoing. There are a lot of things that I still need to confirm, fact check. There are other witnesses that I’m still waiting to speak to but we will come back to this. I promise you that. It may be next week or two weeks or three weeks from now but once I have all this information together, we’ll get back to looking into Don’s whereabouts on January 13, 1999.

In the meantime, as I mentioned, I’m still speaking with Jim Trainum, trying to work out a time to record that interview. I’m also speaking with Jim Clemente so that interview will be coming up soon. But the focus of my investigation right now has turned to the police officers. After learning about what Anne Benaroya experienced in Kevin Urick’s office and listening to Laura talk about the police presence at the high school, I’ve started digging back
through the police notes and the transcripts of their interviews. In the past, I’ve looked through all these trying to figure out what the witness was saying and what the witness was doing. But now I’ve realized there’s far more important information in those transcripts.

I want to know what detective Ritz and MacGillivary were doing.

Next week, on The Serial Dynasty.

[01:06:14] Credits

Thank you to Jonny Rose of Slightly Subversive Music for creating all of the music for our show.

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Thank you to Jill at Pod Transcription for creating all of our transcripts.

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And thanks again to all of you who are helping to contribute to the Truth and Justice podcast future. And again, if you’d like to be a part of moving us forward into this new endeavor, go to GoFundMe.com/TruthandJustice or go to SerialDynasty.com and click the link.

And as I mentioned at the top of the show, there are enough of us in this army if all of you will just take a minute and donate $1.00, we’ll be at our goal in a matter of minutes.

Please keep sending me all of your thoughts and theories at theories@serialdynasty.com. And also if you have a new case you’d like us to consider, the only qualifications I have would be that it’s a case that is believed to have been a wrongful conviction and we have to have access to source documents. Send those cases along to theories@serialdynasty.com.

And don’t be upset if I don’t email you right back. Right now what I’m doing is flagging all those emails and moving them into a particular folder that myself and my assistant is helping me to go through those and start to filter through the cases. I promise you I’m getting them, we’re saving them, and we’re looking into them.

If you want to say hi or send a quick message, you can always catch me on Twitter @SerialDynasty or go to the Serial Dynasty Facebook page and I also want to thank all of you who participated in the Periscope AMA that I did on Wednesday night.

And again, I’ll tell you, any of you that do not have a Twitter account, take a few minutes and create a Twitter profile if for no other reason than you could link to the Periscope app and the next time we do an AMA, which for those of you that don’t know what that means because I had to look it up the first time I heard it, means “ask me anything.” You sign up on Twitter, you link to the @SerialDynasty Periscope, the next I do a live stream you’ll get a notification and you can ask me questions in real time.

But as for now, I’m signing off, and this has been The Serial Dynasty.
[01:09:29] End of Episode

Transcription by

Pod

TRANSCRIPTION

* Interviews are not verbatim due to audio quality and to provide reading clarity and may contain errors. Consult the original audio before quoting.