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Subject Episode 4 remarks

11/24/17 BARTON McNEIL'S REMARKS ON SUSPECT CONVICTIONS EPISODE 4

Dear fans of SUSPECT CONVICTIONS;

Due to prison confines my correspondence with the outside world is very slow paced. While I try to get my "review" of each episode of SUSPECT CONVICTIONS out to listeners promptly, typically I won't be able to do so until about a week after each episode airs. Frequent prisonwide lockdowns may delay my communications further.

Episode 4 of SUSPECT CONVICTIONS first aired on Bloomington's WGLT FM radio station on Friday, 11/17/17, and has since been available there for streaming and/or podcast download, and elsewhere. I'm able to listen to each episode played to me over the phone, but it's impractical for me to hear each episode more than once. Lacking internet access, I can't really read what's being written, if anything, on the subjects each episode addresses, all concerning the 1998 murder of my young daughter, Christina McNeil, my wrongful conviction, and the real killers getaway and subsequent 2011 Bloomington serial killing of Wenlan Tyda.

Along with co-hosts Scott Reader and Willis Kern, two guest panelists were invited to participate in episode 4, to share their opinions with listeners, after having heard the first 3 episodes and having reviewed some investigative reports, interview records, court transcripts, and the like. Their study material concerned the circumstances surrounding Christina's murder, much of it relating to my estranged girlfriend / "person of interest", Misook Nowlin, who later (also) killed her estranged husband's mother, Wenlan Tyda, Nowlin, now widely believed to be a genuine serial killer.

With impeccable credentials immersed in the world of true crime and wrongful convictions, episode 4's guests were respected true crime author and TV host, Aphrodite Jones, and fellow true crime podcaster of the TRUTH IN JUSTICE series, Bob Ruff, formally involved in the widely popular SERIAL podcast series.

As with prior episodes, I'm very pleased with the ongoing high production values of the SUSPECT CONVICTIONS series, and its fair minded passing of the facts and circumstances of my daughter's murder, and the mortal consequences of my wrongful conviction, paid for by Nowlins (later) easily foreseen murder victim, mother-in-law Wenlan Tyda. Throughout the series I'd take issue with certain inaccuracies and mischaracterizations, likely always made in good faith by all, excepting those in the

prosecutor's office and Bloomington Police Department who remain hell bent on maintaining my wrongful conviction at any cost.

Should the injustice long suffered by my late daughter and her innocent father ever be fairly and fully addressed, to say nothing of the easily avoided serial killing of Wenlan Tyda facilitated by my wrongful conviction, I'll have the SUSPECT CONVICTIONS series to thank for contributing so much to the advancement of true justice.

While the episode's guests raised a number of issues throughout the program beyond the scope of my review, towards the end of episode 4, host Scott Reeder prompted his guests to pose a couple of specific questions for me to respond to, my answers to be heard during a subsequent episode, which I'll also briefly addresses here.

Guest Bob Ruff asked me what caused me to "make the leap" that Christina's death had been a murder. A fair question, and a talking point once used by prosecutors, as if I had "first hand" knowledge not available to an innocent layperson.

This was no "leap" at all. On the contrary, I've long asked myself how I failed to realize from the very instant I found my child lifeless, that my daughter's death had been a murder. Catatonic with grief, I could hardly formulate a coherent thought for hours afterwards. As the shock began to ebb, desperate for answers as to what had caused Christina's sudden death, I began to revisit everything that had happened the evening prior to her death. The most notable event of the night was the bitterness of my breakup with my increasingly unbalanced girlfriend of 3 years, Misook Nowlin, which took place largely over my own concerns for Christina's safety.

Among other things, Nowlin had been increasingly resentful of my near-daily involvement in Christina's upbringing. The timing of Christina's death some hours after having ended my relations with Nowlin, I initially thought, was an incredible coincidence. But as I began to further reflect, intimately known to me were countless facts, events and circumstances in the months, weeks, days, and even hours leading up to Christina's death, relating to Nowlin's recently escalating obsessions over our rapidly deteriorating relations. Hardly the "leap" the circumstances surrounding Christina's death warranted, however only after the paramedics and coroner and police left my apartment that morning, did I slowly and methodically begin to consider the possibility that Christina's sudden death may have been related to last night's hostilities with Nowlin.

Nagging at my developing dread, my thoughts kept returning to the window fan now on the floor that I'd tripped over when I first entered the bedroom to wake my daughter, which had been securely mounted in the window frame for weeks. Initially I gave no thought to it, and was then immediately confronted with Christina's lifeless body on the bed and trying to save her life. Nor obviously, did I bother pulling back the disturbed

Venetian blinds in order to remount the fan back on the wide open bedroom window. Further weighing on my dread that morning, was Nowlin's oddly uninvited arrival at the crime scene soon after the paramedics arrived, and some suspicious remarks she'd made when she returned to the scene a few hours later at about noon.

Increasingly suspecting the worst as I fought to explain the window fan's presence on bedroom floor below the window and its possible relation to Christina's death, I knew it couldn't have been removed from the window frame from the outside, unless the window screen was bypassed.

Needing to return to my apartment to get some clothes to spend the night elsewhere, I decided I was going to examine the window for myself, which had always been undamaged and securely mounted in the window's frame. Upon my return to the scene and my first look at the window's exterior, a recent break in was obvious.

It became immediately obvious to me that someone had broken in during the night, and that the break in was directly related to my child's death. More than that, I realized in an instant that Christina had been murdered on the immediate heels of my breakup with Nowlin, which was surely no coincidence.

Far from having leapt to any unwarranted conclusions, my late coming realization that Christina's death had been a murder at the hands of Nowlin didn't fully manifest itself until almost 10 hours AFTER I'd first found Christina dead, prompting me to then make 4 back-to-back 911 calls requesting the presence of detectives back to the scene of, now obviously, a murder.

Hardly an unreasonable deduction, my late coming recognition that Christina had been murdered didn't require an autopsy report. In part with the physical intruder evidence I'd just discovered, along with a litany of facts and circumstances relating to Nowlin's growing psychotic obsessions, more than realizing that my child had just died at the hands of an intruder, I knew now, that Nowlin was behind my daughter's sudden death.

Based on the evidence I personally knew to exist, how could I have concluded differently? Prior to the discovery of the intruder evidence, I made no suggestion to anyone as to what the cause of death may have been.

Next, SUSPECT CONVICTIONS guest Aphrodite Jones asked a related question, wondering how I knew my daughter had been smothered rather than strangled. Indeed, this very prosecutorial talking point was used by prosecutors as proof of my guilt, one of much obfuscation that laid the path of Nowlin's later murder of her estranged husband's mother.

I didn't know the cause of death for sure, but upon my realization Nowlin had quietly killed her, Christina obviously having been killed in a manner that prevented her from screaming out, and lacking any neck injuries that I saw during my CPR attempt, it was reasonable for me to surmise that Nowlin had smothered my daughter.

Given the Misook-related events that night, the window intruder evidence, the lack of strangulation injuries, Christina's inability to scream out during the course of the attack - all circumstances that I personally knew to exist, smothering seemed to me the most likely manner that Nowlin killed my daughter.

Yet my opinions weren't always correct. It's true that I repeatedly expressed that Nowlin had smothered my daughter to death. But in two instances documented in police reports, I had also said that I thought Christina had been strangled, in which case I was mistaken about the manner of her death after all. By manipulatively discarding my incorrect remarks and highlighting my correct smothering deduction, I was falsely portrayed as having "known" the cause of Christina's death to the exclusion of other possible causes, never mind that any layperson - or distraught father looking for answers - could've drawn the same conclusions given his personal awareness of the many circumstances that were known to me.

To the extent that I "knew" (or correctly deduced) how Nowlin had killed my daughter, details of my smothering theory starkly conflicted with prosecutors' own theory during my later one-sided trial. Two different detectives' reports regarding two different interviews documented my speculating of Nowlin's smothering by pillow, and my theory that Christina was "likely" smothered by a pillow, and my theory that Christina was probably "smothered by a pillow or Barney doll over her head", all being flatly wrong according to prosecutors' own theory. By their account, Christina was not smothered by a pillow as I suggested 3 times, nor by a Barney doll "or something", or by anything "over her head" - all premised on her being smothered on her back, face up.

In contrast, the prosecutors' pathologist had it that Christina was smothered while on her stomach, face down, her face pushed into the mattress - no pillow, Barney doll, or any object involved.

So while my reasoned suspicion that Christina had been smothered was a correct (and simple) deduction in a general sense, my twice-expressed strangulation theory was flatly wrong. And the varying details of how I thought Christina may have been smothered were in stark contrast to prosecutors own account of my daughter's murder. As was the court and the public before, MS Jones was deceptively led to believe that I correctly "knew" the exact cause of Christina's death, which I couldn't have otherwise deduced with ease given the circumstances I was plainly aware of, and that my "insider

knowledge" perfectly conformed to the details of the case presented by prosecutors themselves.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Barton