

Kentrell Anthony CRU Interview Transcript**September 7 at 3:37pm (2022 or 2023)****Interviewer: Carrie Sperling****Interviewee: Kentrell Anthony****Present: Jim Dorsey, Nadine Graves**

CS: It's uhm September 7 at 3:37pm and my name is Carrie Sperling. I work with the Attorney General's Office here in, uhm, Minnesota and for the Conviction Review Unit. I don't know if you know about the Conviction Review Unit at all?

KA: No, I don't.

CS: And I want to introduce you to, Kentrell Anthony, right?—

KA: Yeah.

CS: Is that right? Okay, and uhm, what's your full name?

KA: Kentrell Anthony, or you want my middle name too?

CS: Sure.

KA: Latasha

CS: Okay, Latasha. And then uhm, uh, so, the Conviction Review Unit is a new unit in the Attorney General's Office. And what we do is we accept applications from people who are incarcerated who claim they were wrongly convicted. And, uhm, we have a lot of applications. And we investigate as many as we can, but there aren't many that we can really fully investigate at one time. One of the ones we are investigating is Philip Vance's case. And that's what, I think, brings you here today. Uhm, and, uh, so he has claimed that he was wrongly convicted that he didn't take, uh, have a role in the crime that happened at Sabreens back in December 22, 2002. Uhm, and so, I wanted to, I know you've given an affidavit, uhm, and so I wanted to ask you some questions about that. Uhm, I also wanted to let you know that, uhm, the interview is purely voluntary, uhm, you know you can say I don't want to answer a question, you can cut off the interview and leave if you want to. You're not going to hurt my feelings, uhm, and uhm, so—

JD: Or for some reason you wanted to talk to me or if you have any questions of us.

KA: Okay.

CS: I just wanted to check, uhm, just to be sure, if you are represented by an attorney.

KA: I got a lawyer, but it ain't for this.

CS: Not..not. Okay, okay. Because if you were represented for this matter, I wouldn't be able to talk to you without an attorney. Okay.

KA: No.

CS: Alright. Any questions before we get started?

KA: No.

CS: Alright. Uhm, and would you just, uh, give us your date of birth.

KA: [REDACTED]

CS: Okay and what is your current address?

KA: I don't want to put my address on there.

CS: Okay, alright.

KA: I want nobody finding me after this.

CS: Okay, uhm, and your phone number..would you?

KA: [REDACTED]

CS: Okay, and then back in —

JD: Could you confirm you live in the metropolitan area?

KA: Oh, yeah I live in the metropolitan area. I just don't want people to have my address.

CS: Okay, I understand. And what was your address back in 2002, 2003.

KA: 956 East Minnehaha.

CS: Okay. And uh how long had you, like how long did you live there?

KA: I don't know, a long time. Maybe over 8 years, 9 years, I don't know.

CS: Okay

KA: I don't remember it, I know it's long.

CS: Okay. And during that time did you stay anywhere else. Did you? Like during the 8 years that you?

KA: Hanging out with friends like if I go hang out with them. Yeah, stuff like that, but yeah I live [muffled voice, don't think anything was missed]

CS: Uhm, alright, and uhm, lemme, I'm going to give you a copy of the affidavit that I have. So, there and its printed on front on back. There is the affidavit that has your name on it and I just want to ask you is this an affidavit that you, uhm, wrote, signed?

KA: Yes.

CS: And I assume you didn't write this—

KA: I didn't write it, but yeah.

CS: It was typed up. And uhm, how did this affidavit come about? Do you know what I mean? Like, what —

KA: I got a phone call asking can I, uhm, talk to his lawyers and I didn't have a problem with it.

CS: Okay and when was that?

KA: I don't really remember the exact date. But it was, it was within the past month.

CS: Okay, alright, and uhm, did you have any meetings to discuss the contents or phone calls. Did you —

KA: What do you mean?

CS: Did you talk about what you knew before the affidavit got prepared with anybody?

KA: Yeah, I had talked to him and her [presumably pointing to JD and NG] about, they asked me what happened that day and I just told them what I remember.

CS: Okay and did you do that over the phone, in person?

KA: In person.

CS: And where did you?

KA: I say something on the phone, I don't remember all of it, but yeah.

CS: And, uhm, do you remember when that was?

KA: No, not the exact date. It was about oh, two weeks ago, maybe three weeks ago.

CS: Okay.

JD: It's dated. Turn it over [turned affidavit over]

KA: Oh, August 5. Like it was recent. [laughs] Uhm

CS: Okay, uhm. Before you, uhm, met and put down the contents of this affidavit. Uhm, had you told anybody else the facts that were in this affidavit?

KA: Uhm, yeah, when I was younger when all this had took place. This hasn't been brought back up to me until this year and it's been almost 20 years.

CS: Yeah, yeah. So, who would you have told?

KA: I would have talked about this with my grandpa, my cousins, my whole family knows about this, like my house got raided for this.

CS: Uh-huh.

KA: My grandma's house got raided for this. So, back then, we- it was my family I talked to about it.

CS: Okay.

KA: I haven't talked to nobody else about it outside of my family because I haven't been around nobody, I moved away from everybody in St. Paul.

CS: And when did you move away?

KA: I moved away a long time ago, uhm, when I turned 22, I moved out of St. Paul.

CS: Okay and, uhm, so would you say that your family knew about the contents of this affidavit because you talked about it—

KA: My family don't know this affidavit stuff, they knew what happened with the situation that our house got raided and all of that in the past, yes. But this new affidavit and things like that, the only person I ever talked about this affidavit was these two [presumably Nadine Graves and Jim Dorsey] and my cousin, Darlene. And I asked her to reach out to them.

CS: Okay. And so, I'm assuming that they know about the events because they were there with you on December 22.

KA: Yes.

CS: And can you just take me through that day, like, when you woke up to when the day ended.

KA: [laughs] You don't remember all the contents of when you woke up, but okay. But I do remember, uh, I got up that day, I was hanging out with my cousins, uhm—

CS: And who? Would Darlene be one?

KA: Darlene and Tenisha. But Tenisha's passed away, so.

CS: Oh, I'm sorry.

KA: But me, Darlene, and Tenisha always used to hang out downtown St. Paul, uhm, Dominick, Stacks at the time, uhm, and Florida. Those were the names that we knew them by. We used to hang out with them all the time 24/7 down there. I was messing around with Dominick and my cousin Darlene was messing around with Florida. So just hanging out, young girls running around, uhm doing, God knows what [laughs]. Downtown St. Paul from there to my mom's house uhm—

CS: So, you had, so from early in the morning did you leave the house and go downtown St. Paul.

KA: Yeah, cause Dominick's used to live off of 7th Street, well his, Vanessa used to live off of 7th Street so that's where I used to meet him at. And then he used to meet me downtown and we would go and hang out.

CS: So, would you say—did you meet at Vanessa's house?

KA: No, I met him downtown and we went back to my house. Uhm, hung out for a lil bit. They left, me and my cousins were home.

CS: So about what time did you get there and what time did they leave. Do you remember if it was like—

KA: I don't remember when we got there but it was in the afternoon sometime—

CS: Was it like, had you had lunch or anything like that?

KA: No, we don't eat lunch like uhm, normally. Okay somewhere between 2, 3, 4, 5, somewhere in there. It was afternoon, it wasn't late night or anything like that, it was the afternoon.

CS: Okay.

KA: So, it was still daytime when we were at my mom's. Uhm, Darlene was getting ready to braid Philip's hair that day. So, my mom goes to bingo.

CS: So, they were there—

KA: They left, and they came back after my mom was at bingo.

CS: Okay, when they uhm, when they left did they tell you where they were going?

KA: I know downtown, that's where they usually hang at, that's where everybody hangs at. Downtown was like the hang out, you know.

CS: Uh-huh. And uhm, was there any conversation about like, we will be back, or anything like that —

KA: Yeah.

CS: Okay, so they planned to come back?

KA: Yep. Florida, my cousin braids hair, so Florida, her boyfriend at the time, Florida at the time was coming to get his hair done. So, when my mom went to bingo, they came back and he was getting his hair done while we were down at my grandma's house and me and Dominick went upstairs to my house.

CS: Okay.

KA: Cause it was a duplex. So, my mom lived upstairs and my grandma lived downstairs.

CS: I'm wondering too, like, to order to get a sense of the, so it's a duplex.

KA: Uh-huh. [affirmative]

CS: Can you describe the space.

KA: Well, it's a big front porch when you come in and you open the door and it's like a front area and you have my mom's door and my grandma's door.

CS: Okay.

KA: So, there are two doors right here. This is my mom's door; this is my grandma's door. On the left is my grandma's door on the right is my mom's door.

CS: Like the door to go into the unit.

KA: Into they house, yeah. Well, ours goes upstairs and theirs go directly in.

CS: Okay. And where would you usually hang out?

KA: Downstairs in Darlene's room, she had, when you go in my grandma's house it's like a sunporch area, and that was her room. So, we would hang out.

CS: Did it look like that? [presumably showing a picture of the Minnehaha house]

KA: That's exactly it.

CS: Okay and uhm, so, you. On this day, the 22nd when you, Stacks, and Florida were there, and your cousin were there. Was anybody else there?

KA: My grandpa, the kids, my uncle now.

CS: Okay. Uh—

KA: My momma my granny had went to bingo.

CS: Okay. And uhm, so where was everybody, in—

KA: My grandpa was in his room, we were in Darlene's room.

CS: And was he, where was his room?

KA: In the back.

CS: Upstairs, downstairs?

KA: Downstairs. They lived downstairs, I lived upstairs. My grandma's apartment is downstairs, my mom's is upstairs. Nobody goes upstairs in my mom's apartment as far as my grandpa and them down there. My grandpa is old so he's not going back and forth upstairs. My grandpa's room, if you go in my grandma's house, there is a hallway, goes to the back, his room is to the right.

CS: Okay, and so, everybody is hanging out downstairs in the front room, is that right?

KA: Mhm [affirmative]

CS: Is everybody hanging out but grandpa, there?

KA: Yes, the girls and the boys as far as who we came there with. Dominick—

CS: So the four of you?

KA: My cousin Tenisha was there too.

CS: Okay. That's Tenisha. And uhm, so going back to —

KA: But she wasn't like hanging out with us like, it was more of like a couple's type of thing, I don't, we were young, nobody want to be the third wheel so she came in here and there. We smoke weed, hung out.

CS: Uhm, when Stacks and Florida were at the house the first time, about how long did they stay?

KA: Uh, about probably an hour maybe. I don't really remember the exact time that. They didn't stay too long and then they wound up leaving and coming back.

CS: Okay and when they left to go downtown, how did they get there?

KA: Uhm, I think the bus or somebody came and picked them up. I don't remember the exact.

CS: Okay. And then uhm, when they came back, did they come back uhm, so they came back after 5. Was it dark?

KA: No, it was like mid-day, so the sun was getting ready to set maybe, but it wasn't dark.

CS: Okay, okay. And uhm—

KA: It started to get dark while they were there though.

CS: Uh-huh. And what was it...was it snowing, was it cold, was it sunny?

KA: It was cold. Snow.

CS: Cold and snowing? And uhm, so when they come back it's, do you remember how close. So, what time does your mom leave for bingo?

KA: About 6 something my mom goes to bingo and she doesn't get out of bingo until about 10. Cause it's sessions.

CS: Okay and so then, does that mean they got, did they get back before your mom left or after your mom left?

KA: Around the time she was leaving.

CS: Okay

KA: So, she had left and then they were coming back. So, it was like boom boom type of situation.

CS: And then uhm, and then, what happened?

KA: We were hanging out, Darlene start braiding Philip's hair and we started talking to, uhm, probably smoked, uhm, I'm sure Darlene. Darlene used Philip's phone to call Chicago to talk to her daughter cause her daughter went back to Chicago. Uhm, we were all hanging out and then me and Dominick left from them two and went upstairs to my mom's house and was doing grown people stuff. And then we came downstairs and they had to leave before my mom got home.

CS: Okay. About how long were you upstairs with Dominick?

KA: Probably a good hour.

CS: And do you know about what time that would have been?

KA: It was in between the time that my mom was gone, uhm, I don't know the exact time but it was probably about 7, 6, 7, 8. Somewhere up in there.

CS: Okay so from about 7 or 8 until 9 or so.

KA: Hm-huh. [affirmative] Yeah.

CS: Okay. Uhm, and uhm, what, how was Stacks acting that evening?

KA: Normal. I didn't think nothing was different. I was really shocked when all of this took place. Let me tell you ahead of time, I was shocked, I was confused when our house got raided because I would have never even thought that Stacks would do nothing like that, like. We hung out when we were young, doing dumb stuff, getting drunk, and smoking weed, and acting childish. But I would have never pictured him to do something like this. He wasn't acting weird, like, scary or nothing, he wasn't acting like paranoid, nothing like that, so.

CS: Was he distracted?

KA: No.

CS: Okay.

KA: He didn't. That's why I was confused cause he didn't, he was his normal self. I didn't see, I didn't think it was, no. No. I couldn't even see him being that way.

CS: So, when you were hanging out with him upstairs did you have any conversation, were you just kind of.

KA: We had conversations about grown people stuff.

CS: Okay, yep.

KA: Doing bad stuff when we were together, we had no conversations about nobody shooting nobody, no guns, no nothing.

CS: Were you interrupted at all?

KA: No. I have a room, if you go upstairs in our house, uhm, our rooms in the attic and I have a lock on my door, so nobody getting in my room but me. So, I didn't, no.

CS: Now, of all the people in the house, was there a house phone, like a landline?

KA: I have a lot of people in the house. It's a whole lot of kids and a whole lot of adults in that house.

CS: So, uh, does the house have like a landline, a phone that—

KA: Yep.

CS: Uhm, and then did, did anybody have their cell phones. Did anybody have a cell phone during that time?

KA: Yeah, uhm, I think it was Dominick's phone at the time but it was Florida's phone from what I was getting. They use each other's phone. They some lil cheaters. They be having all kinds of girls so, I mean, I yeah. They had phones but we, still, we had our, what is it called, our house phone still.

CS: You didn't have a cell phone at the time?

KA: No.

CS: And Darlene didn't?

KA: No not that I remember. I remember him having a phone though.

CS: And did you notice, like, you, either Stacks or Florida being on the phone a lot.

KA: Well, Stacks used the phone a few times and then Florida used the phone, and Darlene used the phone. I'm a very jealous hearted person when it comes to my man. You're not going to sit on the phone too much with me. And then I'm going to think you're talking to another girl and I'm going to be mad. So, no, he wasn't on the phone 24/7 or something like that.

CS: Okay. And when did you meet Stacks.

KA: Oh, uhm [mumbles]

CS: Do you remember? Remember where or how?

KA: I met him downtown St. Paul

CS: Okay.

KA: Uhm, it was the summertime and it was over, okay, uhm, you know where the Galtier Plaza is downtown St. Paul. It was in that area. And I met him and Florida in that area. Started hanging out with them, uhm. Everybody, it- it- it- was so much downtown, like we used to, like everybody, kids that you knew back then would all come downtown and hang out. It was this

group of people, this group of people, my brothers, my cousins, everybody was just hanging out down there. So, when you meet dudes, you know, it wasn't, I never pictured it to be a big issue. You know?

CS: Would you take the bus down there?

KA: Hm-hmm [affirmative]

CS: And how long did it take to ride the bus?

KA: From the east side?

CS: Yeah, from your Minnehaha address.

KA: It depended on when the bus was coming. So, if the bus was coming and he wasn't trying to drive slow, it would take 15-20 minutes. You know, uhm, because they got they little stops but it wasn't really a long ride downtown.

CS: Okay, uhm, and at the time when you met Stacks, did you know that he had like other girlfriends?

KA: Yeah.

CS: Okay. So —

KA: But I was the main girlfriend [laughs]. I knew he had a baby mama.

CS: Uh-huh.

KA: Dominique.

CS: Dominique, okay. How about Vanessa?

KA: Vanessa I never knew about that situation until after all of this happened and that like kinda hurt my feelings because I was like...wait what?! That was a curve ball there, but I shoulda knew. Just going back in my mind, I shoulda knew.

CS: And, uhm, so you would have been a bit upset if he were with you and calling some other girls.

KA: Yeah. Yes

CS: Uhm—

KA: Only person I, he ever really talked to in front of me was Vanessa because I never thought it was that type of situation, I always thought it was like a sisterly type of situation. So, for it to go from that to that I probably would have been arguing with her too back then if I knew.

CS: Right. Did, uhm, I mean this may be rumor but I've seen it in the records and stuff. But did you know he was talking, he was with Yvonne White as a girlfriend?

KA: No, that was Florida girlfriend, right?

CS: Well, not from my understanding.

KA: Really....? [laughs]

CS: But like I said, these are rumors.

KA: I had, look, they if they was, I had no idea about that situation.

CS: Okay. So, you didn't know about, I mean did you know Yvonne White?

KA: No, I just knew of the name, I thought it was Florida situation though. This is where the confusion coming in at because the name in my head was Florida's girlfriend. And so, if they were being sneaky, they were hiding that from me, from Stacks. Cause he knew I would have been mad if I found out that.

CS: Makes sense. Okay, I'm going to go back to the house and uhm, and your mom. So, she lived upstairs with you?

KA: Mhm-hmm

CS: And is that Regina Haggerman—

KA: No, that's my auntie.

CS: Okay. And what is your mom's name—

KA: Dee Dee. She don't want to be involved in this and I'm not going to put her in this because she going to stress out.

CS: No that's alright. Cause I haven't seen her name anywhere but I have seen Regina's.

KA: Cause she don't want her name in it. But it was her house.

CS: So, uh, Regina, is your aunt, she lived there too?

KA: That's my Auntie. She lived downstairs with my grandma.

CS: Downstairs, okay. Uhm, and then, uh—

KA: I don't even think my auntie was living up there at the time.

CS: Regina?

KA: Yeah. I thought she had, she had her own place, or she got her own place in the process of all that.

CS: Okay. And then your grandmother.

KA: Mm-hmm. [affirmative] My grandpa. Her name is Jackie.

CS: Ezell? Is that how you say it?

KA: Ezell.

CS: And then your grandfathers name?

KA: Eugene O'Connor.

CS: Okay. And then was your, is this your cousin Jesse.

KA: Yep, that's my uncle.

CS: Your uncle is Jesse?

KA: Yes.

CS: Okay. And also Demetrius, right?

KA: Yes, that's my uncle.

CS: Okay. Now Demetrius, he- did he live at 956?

KA: Yes.

CS: Okay.

KA: I think we all young kids at this time. We don't got all our own places.

CS: So they are all around your same age?

KA: Yeah. Demetrius is the same age. Just 6 months older than me.

CS: Now uh, and, Nicole or Nikki.

KA: Is my friend.

CS: Rauschnot? Is that how you say it?

KA: Something with an R, I don't know how to say it.

CS: Rauschnot it looks like to me. But anyway, so, uhm, was she there that day too?

KA: This is the thing, Nicole me and Nicole used to hang out all the time. I cannot picture, I know that Nicole comes through and she will leave but she did not hang out with my boyfriend or my cousin's boyfriend. So, if she did come there, it was a quick hangout with me and my cousin and then her go about her business. To say that she's going to go and I'm not gonna go with her and my man. That ain't happening.

CS: Oh right, cause, so are you saying she kinda wouldn't be allowed to be around—

KA: Exactly. She is not going to go nowhere—

CS: Stacks and Florida?

KA: —with my man and my cousin's man. I don't like stuff like that, so.

CS: Did you not trust her?

KA: I don't trust nobody. [laughs] I don't trust nobody. And it's just you know being young and always going through somebody cheating and stuff. And I don't I don't like when my friends hang out with my man. That's not something that's gonna be looked, frowned upon. Like, hey, you gonna go hang out now, now, what do he need to be with you for, type stuff.

CS: Uhm, so but as far as you remember was, she there—

KA: She came through but she left.

CS: Okay.

KA: Uhm, me and Nicole hang out on our own terms. Me and Nicole, my other baby, my kid's father, at the time we were young uhm, me and Nicole was hanging out with him and his friends, you know, doing our own stuff. Other than her thinking she was going to hang out with Dominick. I was really obsessed with Dominick at the time when I was younger. Lord Jesus, I don't know why.

CS: I was going to say, what do you think it was?

KA: [laughs] Probably the sex. I'm not even going to lie.

CS: [laughs] He seemed to have a lot of girlfriends.

KA: He...he was very well, he was very good, I guess. So. [laughs]

CS: That would, that was kinda what I had been thinking. Uhm, so, going back—

KA: And he knew how to tell a girl how to make her feel good [laughs]

CS: That goes a long way. It can go a long way. So—

JD: You guys, I'm going to step out [laughs, joking]

[Everybody laughs]

CS: So, with, let's go back to, okay your mom has left and grandma goes to?

KA: Yep. My mom, my auntie lady, and my grandma. Yep.

CS: And then uhm, Darlene is doing Florida's hair

KA: Florida's hair, yes. And we are all in her room and we sitting down watching TV and we go in the basement to smoke cause my grandpa would probably beat us up if he caught us smoking in the house.

CS: I was going to say where were you smoking?

KA: We smoked in the basement.

CS: Open a window or anything?

KA: No, we smoked in the basement.

CS: Okay.

KA: We had all the liquor in the room but you know when it's time for us to smoke, we smoke in the basement.

CS: Okay. And so, when you say uh Darlene is braiding his hair, what kind of braids was she doing, you remember?

KA: French braids

CS: Were they like small or were they big or were they?

KA: They were small, normal average French braids.

CS: And how long was his hair at the time?

KA: Long. Florida always had long pretty hair.

CS: Okay. Uhm, so how long was that going to take? Or do you remember—

KA: About a good hour, maybe longer. It was enough time for me to go upstairs and have some fun and come back—

CS: So when you came back, he still—

KA: —and when I came back he still was not done.

CS: Okay— Alright, uhm and do you, what were they wearing?

KA: Oh man that is something I can't even remember.

CS: Okay. Did they—

KA: I don't even remember what I wore.

CS: Did they wear generally the same type of stuff?

KA: Mmhmm, [affirmative] like baggy clothes, nothing no suits or nothing like that.

CS: Jeans and—

KA: Jeans and t-shirt.

KA: [phone rings] Okay I need to take this call, I'm sorry.

CS: Oh sure, no problem.

KA: I'm just going to text him. You can go ahead and keep talking.

CS: You sure?

KA: It's my son, yeah.

CS: Okay. If you need to go, I'll shut off the—

KA: Oh no, you're okay. [phone rings, doesn't answer]

CS: Okay so Darlene made a call to Chicago.

KA: Mhmm.

CS: Who was she calling?

KA: Her daughter Diana [could have said Diamond] to check on her baby.

CS: Uh-huh.

KA: She had a baby at the time, uh, her little girl, her name Diamond.

CS: And how old was her little girl then?

KA: Probably about 1 or 2, something like that.

CS: And did Darlene spend a lot of time in Chicago or how did that work?

KA: Back and forth, we were, we always went back and forth to Chicago.

CS: Okay. And who was her daughter staying with?

KA: I think her mom at the time, her baby dad. I'm trying to think.

CS: Okay, oh so Darlene's mom lived in Chicago?

KA: Yes, my Auntie lives in Chicago. She has, she come up here but she don't live up here.

CS: Okay, and was that number, was she calling like a landline, like at a house?

KA: Probably.

CS: And do you remember, like what part of town.

KA: What part of town in Chicago?

CS: Yeah.

KA: I think south, I don't know. I thought we lived on the south side of Chicago. I mean most of my family did. They be in Columbus, all kind of stuff, I don't know. Okay, it's some part in Chicago that's like not Chicago but it is Chicago. I don't know the name of it. It's before you get to Indiana. It's just too much in Chicago.

CS: I was going to say, I don't know Chicago all that well.

KA: It's like literally boom, boom, boom, just the outskirts of it. You'll go to a whole different place.

CS: So uhm, so in total how much time would you say that Stacks and Florida spent at your house on the 22nd? Like, from the first time they are there, about an hour, until combined with how much time they spent there when they came back.

KA: Maybe 6-7 hours, if we combining.

CS: Okay. And then, so, do you, uhm—

KA: Cause I know my mom be at bingo for a while. She be staying at her bingo.

CS: That's what—

KA: She got two sessions in bingo.

CS: So, you wanted to get them out—

[phone call interrupts]

KA: Huh?

CS: So, you wanted to get them out of the house before your mom came back.

KA: Uh-huh [affirmative]. I had to get them out of the house before my mom came back or I was going to be in trouble

CS: Did she not like them being there?

KA: No. She, my mom don't want no man in the house, especially now that she know I be doing something grown in her house.

CS: Yeah.

KA: Probably would have gotten a whooping that day.

CS: And how about your grandmother. Did she—

KA: My grandmother, she is more laid back. She ain't really, she ain't like my mom She doesn't like my mom. [mumbling]

CS: And your grandfather, did he?

KA: He was okay. He didn't care for the dude's period.

CS: Yep.

KA: But he was aight, he was going to do it regardless.

CS: And your aunt, Regina, did she dislike either one of them?

KA: No. They don't really be doing too much interacting, you know. It was hey here and there.

CS: Okay. Uhm—

KA: Uhm, I wouldn't say that neither one of them not like them.

CS: Okay. Uhm—

KA: I know that they didn't like them after our house got raided.

CS: Well, that's what I wanted to- so now, let's talk about after the 22nd. So well, let me finish up. So well, the 22nd, after, when getting them out of the house. How, how did that go? What happened?

KA: Well, I asked my uncle can you drop them off before my mom get back.

CS: Uh-uh.

KA: And, uhm, I paid my uncle and I smoked with him.

CS: Okay.

KA: And we dropped them off. We dropped them off downtown Min-, downtown St. Paul, and we came back home.

CS: Okay. And, uhm, what kind of car does he drive, or did he drive?

KA: Uh, I think it was a Cutlass at the time. Uhm—

CS: Do you remember the color?

KA: No, no, champagne maybe, I don't know, gold?

CS: Okay, and where did you drop them off?

KA: Downtown by 5th and Minnesota or by the 6th and Minnesota. Somewhere, you know it was a bar we always used to hang out in there so. We dropped them off and then we just left.

CS: Okay, uhm, and then, uh is that the last time you saw Stacks and Florida that evening.

KA: Yeah.

CS: When did you next talk to Stacks?

KA: I talked to Stacks the next day.

CS: The next day? Okay

KA: I mean okay I never knew any of this was playing out at that time, like, you gotta know like I'm the girlfriend, I'm, what you doing at, you know. And my thing was, when I dropped them off, I thought that he went to Vanessa's house because the next time I talked to him, he was at Vanessa's house. So.

CS: And now do you know where he went?

KA: No. I still don't. Like, to break this down, this situation that happened, I don't believe that was them. I just, I can't put this as them. Like, no. I can't. I couldn't, they so goofy acting [laughs] I couldn't see them doing nothing like this. But I remember talking to him the next day, he was at Vanessa's house. I wound up going over to Vanessa's house because I used to hang with Vanessa as well. I was still— we were hanging out like it was normal. I never knew anything bad was going on at the time. You know. It didn't play out like he was acting weird or strange, and all of that, and him and Florida. No, he didn't do anything like that, for me.

CS: And were they like together still?

KA: Peanut butter and jelly.

CS: They were at Vanessa's together—

KA: When you saw him, you saw him. Only time you probably didn't see Florida with him is when Florida was with his baby mama and his kids.

CS: Okay.

KA: And it wasn't long for them, like maybe like an hour or two, maybe like two or three hours away from each other.

CS: Is that Sonia?

KA: I don't know Florida baby mama name, I thought it was the other girl. Uh, hold on one second [takes phone call]. Uhm, what was the other girl name that you said later?

CS: Yvonne?

KA: Yvonne. I thought that was Florida's girlfriend. So go back and picture that, I don't even know.

CS: Well, I'm just saying, it may be a rumor, so I don't know, it's just what I—

KA: I always thought it was his girlfriend, so. You know, I thought he had kids with Yvonne. From the name, I didn't know. I just knew about Stacks, Dominick's baby mom, Dominique.

CS: Yep, right, oh right Dominique.

KA: And that's the girlfriend that baby mama that I always knew about him going off on me and doing stuff with, you know, that I was always mad about. I never thought Vanessa. I hung out with Vanessa like, so I never pictured that. And this other person, I thought it was Florida's girlfriend.

CS: Yeah, okay. And, uhm, so, after the 22nd, you just kinda kept hanging out with—

KA: Mhmm [affirmative]

CS: Stacks and Florida?—

KA: Mhmm [affirmative]

CS: —and Nikki?

KA: —until I went to Chicago. Nikki? Yep.

CS: And things just going on as usual with Nikki?

KA: Yep. And me and Nikki wound up going to Chicago with my kid's dad and his friend.

CS: So, you all drove, the four of you drove, to—

KA: to Chicago, mhmm. [affirmative] In Nikki's car, the little gray car and back.

CS: Okay, so, uhm. Do you remember what kind of car she had on the 22nd?

KA: I know it was a little gray car.

CS: Okay, always she had the little gray car?

KA: Yeah. I never know her to have a different car. She only had that one specific car that we used to ride around in.

CS: Okay, so you never knew her to have a blue car?

KA: No.

CS: Okay, uhm, so, you never obviously rode in her blue car?

KA: I know she had a little 4-door car, that looked like a slug-bug, or something or some kind of weird looking car—

CS: So, 4-door, gray.

KA: Yes.

CS: Alright. And, uhm. So, you took that to Chicago.

KA: Mhmm. And back.

CS: And did you plan the trip or was it spontaneous?

KA: Nope, it was spontaneous, we just picked up and left.

CS: Okay. And where did you stay when you went?

KA: We got a hotel room.

CS: Okay.

KA: And then, we went to my daughters, dads, cousins house. It was either his cousins or his aunties house.

CS: Okay, uhm—

KA: But we didn't stay in Chicago long. We only stayed for like 2 days, 3 days probably and then came back.

CS: Okay. And then, uhm so, uhm, then, so you were back in St. Paul. Do you remember, so if like, if Christmas obviously is on the 25th, do you know about what day you would have gone to Chicago? What the date would be?

KA: I can't remember if it was before Christmas or after Christmas because we weren't in Chicago during that Christmas period.

CS: And were you in Chicago for New Years?

KA: No.

CS: Okay so were you back in St. Paul for New Years.

KA: Yeah.

CS: Tell me what you remember about when the duplex was raided.

KA: Oh man, that night I had came home at like 12:30-1 o'clock in the morning and I was out being bad out with my daughter's dad. And uh, hanging out. Wound up going upstairs in my house after I got done smoking with Darlene and them. We were all talking, chilling, hanging out. Counting my money. And, uh, I went upstairs and I went to the attic room, which was my room. I laid down. I went to sleep. I woke back up to the police had guns all in our faces. My mom was yelling and screaming at me like "What the fuck did you do?" And I'm like, I don't know what I did, you know, I was asking like what did I do? I'm sorry, I didn't know, you know. And my mom was mad at me cause she was like why is the house getting raided. I thought it was something I did cause we were all hanging downtown and we were doing all kind of, god knows, all kinds of stuff, you know. And so I thought it was something that I did that got my mom's house raided. And then when they took us all to the police station and start asking us questions about Dominick's and, uh—

CS: So that day they took you into the police station?

KA: Yeah. That, yeah. They told us that we had to come and talk to them.

CS: Okay.

KA: And I was so confused by that. I was shocked, I was scared more than anything. Because my mom was upset and police had guns in our faces. And I didn't even know what to do at that time. I was just really shocked.

CS: And do you remember was it dark out when they?

KA: It was dark, yeah. But it was like early in the morning. So, it was like, right after I went to sleep. I was probably only asleep probably 3 hours, 2 hours.

CS: Okay.

KA: And they came and kicked in our door.

CS: And which unit door did they kick in?

KA: They kicked in both doors. They and, that's why my mom was mad at me because she's like why is my house getting raided? I didn't know. I was really lost. I was like, ma, I don't know. But we went to the police station and they started talking to uh, and the police officer was like, yeah you know uh, they called them by their real name. Dominick and Philip. And I'm like yeaahhh, like I was confused. Like why are y'all even asking me about these two dudes. And they were like well we were told there was a gun in your house. I ain't ever in my life seen nobody and no gun in my house. I would have cussed both of them out. My mom ain't going, I'm not even going cause I don't want my momma to get on me. I never seen no gun. So, when the police officers said it to me, I was like, uhm, you lying. I don't know what you are talking about cause I ain't see the gun. And he was like, well, we know that you were hanging out with him and da, da, da and I'm like. Dude. I never knew any of this was going on, like. If you, I did

not know nobody even got murdered. So, when they raided our house, it just was something that was just out of the blue to me, like what the freak is this.

CS: So, when they were asking you about the guns in the house, at that point did you know somebody had been murdered.

KA: Yeah, because once they had raided us and had took us down there and they started telling us what was going on and they said some Indian or some kind of dude got killed at a store.

CS: Yeah.

KA: And I'm like what, I don't know. I didn't, you know. I can't explain that to you, I didn't see this happen, I wasn't there. And the police officer was like well you know more about it. I was told that you, that the gun was in your mom's house, in your house. In my grandma's house. I was told the gun was in your grandma's house and you guys knew about it and I never knew my cousin, I never knew there were no guns in my grandma's house period. But the night that we were all hanging out, he asked us about that, I said yeah, we were hanging out there. You know, they did come over and me and Dominick went upstairs and they were downstairs but I never knew about no gun. They tried to make it seem like I knew more than what I knew, and I didn't. And the police officer was being mean and rude and was like "yeah you know." And I'm like, dude I don't. But then he wound up sending my grandpa there to talk to me. And my grandpa was like they are going to give us \$10,000 if you tell them you know what's going on and all, and I'm like. I didn't, I didn't know. I couldn't tell you what happened in that murder situation because I wasn't there. No, it didn't even happen. I didn't know there was a gun in the house either. You know. My cousin may have knew, from after, what I found out about all of this. She knew about a gun, but I didn't.

CS: So, Darlene did know?

KA: From what these papers said, yeah. From what I've been reading about.

CS: But you never talked to her about it?

KA: No.

CS: And your Grandpa, knew about \$10,000?

KA: Uh-huh [affirmative]. The officer was offering us money to tell us- to get us to give information. They used to come to my grandma's house after that whole, after they took us back home, that police officer used to come over every week and talk to my grandpa and try to get information out of us and try to make us remember stuff and I'm like, dude I can't. I-I couldn't even tell you and he always used to make me seem like I was lying to him and I'm like, I'm not lying to you cause I don't know what happened. I don't remember none of that. Like if you telling me I was at the Buttery with him and all that stuff, I can't remember that. I can't go back to say we are going out and hanging, we go out, hand out, and get drunk, and stuff like that. But as far as a murder go, I ain't got time for that. I would have cussed both of them out, I ain't even,

I, but that's just, me, my character. I'm very outspoken when it comes to BS that I don't like and I don't want to be a part of. So, if he would have brought that up to me, I would have been like, uh, you got to go. Cause I don't want no parts of nothing like that.

CS: So, after the raid, did you have much communication with Stacks?

KA: Nope. I was really mad at him. I had called uhm, Vanessa, and told her my house got raided and she said her house got raided. And they, and she was telling me that everybody house was getting raided and they found a gun. And I'm like- how did they find- like where was this gun at? Like I was confused about this gun situation. So, after this was all said and done, my cousin and my grandpa knew about this gun, I didn't know about it. All I knew was the police came to our house, they raided our house, and they said that they killed somebody. And that we knew about them killing them cause they told us about it. They never once told me about somebody getting killed.

CS: Did anybody ever? Did you hear rumors about who did it?

KA: I heard rumors about people saying that- oh yeah- they supposed to had killed him that the shorter was supposed to had killed the man and not the taller one. Well, Dominick is the shorter one.

CS: Okay.

KA: Philip is the taller one, so. If anybody was doing it, it was him. Right? So, and but I never would have pictured him to do nothing like that cause he, like he, they talkative. Like, you know, we all get drunk and we just get to talking about all kind of stuff, reminiscing about life. I'm sure it would have been brought up plenty of times to us if- we- if- you know? I don't, couldn't picture that.

CS: Uhm. [long pause] So, had you ever, so, after that initial raid on the house, did you ever like, contact the police to say "hey, let me tell you what I know"?

KA: They kept contacting us. They kept coming to our house, they kept, like they- I felt like I was being stalked by them. I felt like that police officer was pressuring people and he wanted to hear something and he don't care what it was but he wanted you to tell him something. My grandma used to make us go and talk to this man and they- he used to, my grandpa always used to bring up that this man was offering us \$10,000. He offered my auntie money, he offered my grandpa money. And any time he come to us and tell us to talk to him, they tell us to tell this man what they want to hear so that we can get this money.

CS: So, your grandpa—

KA: [phone rings] My grandpa used to always be like "just talk to them and tell them!" and I'm like, okay. What do you want me to tell them but I just went on ahead and I guess talked to the man and told him what he wanted to hear.

CS: Do you remember what you told him?

KA: I probably told him that Florida was crazy because back then I thought he was flirting with me and stuff, I used to think he was kinda crazy like as far as tryna get a girl to uhm, to get him some. Like he was more persuasive of trying to get something from you, but I'm your friend's girlfriend, so that can't work and I'm a jealous type of person so. That was more of me saying, hey, if that's what yall saying yeah, I'm going to agree. My grandpa said to go agree and get this \$10,000, so let's do it.

CS: Okay.

KA: I think that's why they probably never brought me in there to say get on the stand because I told that police officer plenty of times, dude, I don't know. And he kept forcing it on me like I knew and I kept trying to explain it to him, I don't know dude. I never talked to him about no murder. I never knew there was no gun in this house. But if you gon' keep telling me I do know and my grandpa telling me to say "hey, let get this money real quick," I'm going to say what you need me to say let's just get this over with. So you can stop harassing me because that police officer was really harassing, he was very rude and disrespectful to me.

CS: So, in the end did you give him information that linked—

KA: I probably did—

CS: Stacks and Vance?

KA: I don't remember. I probably did. If my grandpa told me to go up in there and tell that man what he needed to hear to get the money, yeah I probably did. And I probably, that was me being young and I probably did some stuff that I ain't had no business doing, saying some stuff. And he- I had a case at the time, that's what it was. I had a case and the police officer told me that I could get out of my case if I talk to him and tell him what he needed to know.

CS: Okay.

KA: And I kept telling him, I don't, I don't know nothing about this. But my grandpa and them saying that this is what happened so I'm going to go off of what they telling me and we gon' leave it at that.

CS: Did the case go away?

KA: Yeah.

CS: Okay. Uhm, did you talk with your grandpa and grandma and—

KA: I talked to my grandpa a lot about it.

CS: Like, and what and what—

KA: My grandpa always just brought up the money. He always told us let's try to get this money. They telling us they gon' get us \$10,000, they kicked in our door. He always used to like, yeah Officer such-and-such is very friendly man but my grandpa, he was more of a police loving man, so he was up, he about all the stuff with the police. Whatever the police said he, yes he's right, you know.

CS: So, did you ever try and get your story straight? Or did you just kind of wing it—

KA: I probably try with my grandpa and make my story fall in line with what my grandpa was saying.

CS: Okay. Uhm, and do you remember what that story was?

KA: No, I don't remember that story, all I remember is that I know that my grandpa always used to tell us "tell them what they want to hear so that we can get this money." And my Auntie, Regina, got offered money from them to. So they was offering money, I was like okay well, we needed the money, let's do it, you know? But I think that's probably why they didn't use me because I think I probably told that police officer after he was recording me, I said, "am I going to get my money now?" and he was like "what do you mean?" And I said well, my grandpa said I was getting some money from this and that police officer was mad at me after that. He never talked to me no more after that.

CS: Okay. And uhm—

KA: But he still kept coming and visiting my grandpa. Still hounding- it was so weird to me that this police officer, every time you come home, there he go. I'm like oh man, Officer friendly here. And he be like "Kentrell don't remember anything," Like, no.

CS: Do you remember talking to him about, uhm, Nicole? Once Nicole got kinda drug into it?

KA: Mhm-hmm [affirmative]. But this is my thing though with Nicole. They kept trying to put Nicole with them and I kept telling him, Nicole can't be with my boyfriend alone. So, I'm confused if Nicole got away from me and went and met up with my boyfriend, I felt some type a way about it cause now my friend just snuck behind my back and was with my man and she know how I am. I don't want you around my man when I'm not around.

CS: Do you remember saying to the police that Nicole was not being honest with them and saying that she didn't know Stacks and Florida?

KA: I probably did cause she did know them, if she didn't, if she told them that she didn't know them yeah you did know them. But you ain't finna hang around with my man. So you knew them but like, like she knew of them to say "hey, I, passing by, that's Kentrell's friend" or whatever you know, smoke a blunt, go about your business. But the conversation saying they hanging out, no. No. She did not know them like that. I'm not going to sit here and sugar coat that, no because I would have been highly upset.

CS: And, uhm, did, do you remember whether your mom went- I'm sorry, whether your aunt, Regina, went and testified before the grand jury?

KA: Yep. She said she was getting some money back from the police if she testified.

CS: And then, your grandma too?

KA: Yeah, they had all of us at the courthouse.

CS: Okay.

KA: I mean at the jail. It was some kind of little precinct or self, something, something like this, and the police officers were in there talking to us. One minute they be recording and the next minute they wouldn't be.

CS: Okay, and, uhm, so, when did you realize that like, they were going to prosecute—

KA: [yawns] I'm sorry.

CS: —Stacks and Florida.

KA: I didn't realize, uhm, I didn't realize that uhm, until my grandpa said if they make me go to court that I need to tell them what they need to hear and if I go into trial, I'm sure he probably gon' tell yall that cause it just hit the memory in my head, that police officer really hated my guts after a while. Cause I figured, if you put me on the stand, I'm tell the judge that you told me that he was giving me some money to do this. Cause I told you I didn't know nothing and you steady pushing it on me like he knew something but when you get on that stand, I'm tell the judge on you. And that officer hated me, like, he, I was not one of the people that he wanted to deal with.

CS: Do you remember ever calling and saying you didn't think you could testify because, that you had spoken to, —

KA: I said a lot of things.

CS: —you had spoken to Florida's sister and that you didn't think you should testify.

KA: I don't even remember speaking to Florida's sister. Uhm, but I did say a lot of things at that time cause I was trying to get myself out of this situation with that police officer and I don't, I didn't want to go, uhm, down that road. So, I didn't really know anything for me to really be up there testifying. But the way that police officer drilled me and the way he made it seem like I knew, I just was like whatever, what do you want to do because I don't want to be in trouble and I don't want to keep arguing with you about saying that I don't know. You know. And you're telling me I do. And I don't. So.

CS: Did, did anyone for Stacks or Florida, at that time, try to get a hold of you and get your story, like these folks have? [presumably pointing to Jim Dorsey and Nadine Graves]

KA: No. I didn't talk to. No. I didn't talk to two—

CS: So, nobody came to you and said “hey, Dominick says he was with you”—

KA: I think they did. Uh [long pause] No, no I don't remember that.

CS: Okay.

KA: I don't remember that.

CS: Did you know John Martin?

KA: No. Who is John Martin?

CS: Not ringing a bell?

KA: Maybe by a different name?

CS: Oh, I think E, was his street name.

KA: Braids E, tall skinny, yeah, I do know a dude named E. But I didn't think his name was John—

CS: I think he was kind of described as straggly.

KA: Yeah, I know E. [laughs] I was like wait, I do know E. But I didn't know that was his name.

CS: And, uhm, Tenisha, you said—

KA: My cousin.

CS: Who is no longer with us. Uhm, did you ever, so, did you ever tell anybody around that time that you had been staying with her at the Economy Inn on December 22.

KA: Staying with who?

CS: Tenisha. That you and Tenisha were at the Economy Inn.

KA: Now. This is a conversation that I probably don't want to really have without me being in trouble myself. Because just, that conversation right there from the Economy Inn. I was in a situation in that hotel where it got raided by the police for a drug case.

CS: Okay.

KA: I don't want to talk about that part.

JD: Was it that night?

KA: No.

JD: If it's not that night, we aren't going there.

KA: No, it wasn't that night that, that place was one of my regular hang-out spots.

CS: Is it possible you could have been there on the 22nd and made a phone call to Florida or Stacks? Or told the police that you did?

KA: [sighs] Later on that night, probably. I was probably there about 1-2 o'clock in the morning. Somewhere up in, it was late night, if I was at that hotel, it would never be during the day. It would be late night doing something I ain't got no business doing.

CS: Okay, I'm not going to ask you about that. Uhm, and then, uh, Troy Crawford. Do you remember that guy?

KA: [may have nodded affirmatively]

CS: Uhm, and he's no longer with us either, right?

KA: Yup, he got killed.

CS: Uh, was he with Nikki around that time? Like, were they?

KA: Not that I know of.

CS: No? Okay.

KA: Now she was doing that alone that was on her, this is the thing though, we ain't always in each other like personal—

CS: Did you talk to—

KA: I don't want to talk too much on that situation but we was doing a lot of things back then, so it's—

CS: Yeah, yeah, I'm not here to—

KA: — it was just a different life to do certain things but yeah, it was never plus a long period stretch of time because we do what we do to get out of the area.

CS: Uhm, did you know a guy named Hennessey?

KA: Yep, that's Stacks cousin.

CS: Okay. And uhm, did he hang out with them a lot?

KA: Not a lot, but he hung out with him.

CS: Okay. And he would hang out downtown St. Paul? —

KA: Yep.

CS: With all that group?

KA: Yep. We all used to hang out and get drunk down there.

CS: Uhm—

KA: It was a lot of drinking going on for us, and smoking weed and our time during that downtown situation.

CS: Now, uhm, so, did you, did you know that Nicole, Nikki's car was like impounded and searched—

KA: Yep—

CS: —in the summer?

KA: I found that out with that police officer man.

CS: Okay, and is, so her car gets searched on July 30, 2003, and then you, did you call the police the next day or talk to the police the next day?

KA: I don't remember. Probably.

CS: Is there a reason you reached out to them, were they going to find something in her car or something like that, that would link you?

KA: Yeah, probably. Yep.

CS: And do you know if they did?

KA: Uh- yep- uhm- [pause] I don't want to incriminate myself.

CS: Yeah, don't, well I will just say —

KA: But I'm sure they found something—

CS: There was just like, there was like a prescription.

KA: Yeah, okay.

CS: Yeah, it was, yeah, nothing illegal. But I was just wondering if—

KA: It was a few things they would have found and some illegal things that you know, yeah.

CS: There was one thing that had your name on it and it was a prescription. So that would link you, but the other stuff, maybe not. Uhm, and, uhm—

KA: But that police officer, you gotta think, he always made it seem like I was with Nicole. He tried to make it seem like I was with Nicole the day of the situation.

CS: Oh yeah.

KA: He tried to make it seem like I was a part of it. And I'm like, no I wasn't there, like I didn't know nothing about this situation. And he was like you would hang out with Nicole, and you were there and you were in the car with her, in the getaway car. And I'm like, no, like, no, I couldn't even, no. I mean I ain't trying to be nobody's murder. That is one thing that I would not be able to live with my conscience.

CS: And so, like the day after, or two days after that, do you remember sitting down with the police and giving 'em an interview.

KA: I remember sitting down with them a few times, yep.

CS: And do you remember—

KA: I just don't remember the contents of the conversation too much. I know that at the time I was willing to say anything to get the money for my grandpa.

CS: Okay. So, it wouldn't surprise you—

KA: If I told them whatever they wanted to hear? It wouldn't surprise me. As long as my grandpa was in my ear saying "we finna get \$10,000," I was okay with it. We needed it at the time.

CS: Do you remember telling them that you thought Nicole probably pulled the trigger.

KA: Oh, baby! I was on a roll wasn't I? [laughs] Nah, I don't remember that

CS: Okay, uhm—

KA: I probably did cause when they told me the shorter person did it, I probably would have been like well if the shorter person did it, it would probably be Dominick or Nicole because Philip's tall. So, it would never be me saying it was him doing it because he's tall so how was he going to be able to do something like this if yall saying it's shorter person did it. But that's what they kept telling us, it was the shorter person that pulled the trigger.

CS: Now, Nicole is white, right?

KA: Mhm-hmm. [affirmative]

CS: And did you ever know what they though the race of the people of the shooter.

KA: Black. Some Black dudes.

CS: Okay. Uhm—

KA: I only find out about Nicole supposed to be in there with that police officer man. I didn't know Nicole was supposed to be the getaway driver being there, I never would have pictured my friend to be with my man and his cousin doing no murder.

CS: Now at some point, it, so, you, uhm, did you tell the police that they called you that night and they were in the car, Stacks, Florida, and Nikki, and Stacks and Florida were saying they were in Chicago and Nikki was saying no they were in South St. Paul. Do you remember telling the police that?

KA: Why would I tell them they in Chicago? No. I don't remember saying that. I probably did though. I'm not even going to say no I don't say it, cause if you got it and I did say it, I said whatever I needed to say to get some money for my grandpa. And I'm telling you, my grandpa made it his business to tell me and my cousin Darlene, they giving us \$10,000. My Auntie Regina getting \$10,000, we need to get this money. If they gon' blame me, just go ahead and tell them so we get the money. So, that's what I needed to do.

CS: So let me just ask you this. Is it fair to say at the time that you sorta knew the information you were giving to the police—

KA: Was a lie?

CS: Was, well, well first, would connect Stacks and Florida to the- and Nicole to the murder?

KA: Well—

CS: Did you know?

KA: Well, uh no. I didn't know about this murder situation until my door got kicked in and when they took us down there, they started asking us some questions about them and at first I was very reluctant, didn't say anything cause I didn't know what was saying, what was going on. And

once I did get back home and we start all talking about it, it was probably about 50 different stories from 50 different people. And you can put pieces together what you heard and what you needed to know and you gon' go that way and the way that my grandpa drilled it on us, if we was going get the money, we had figure this out. So, yeah it sounds bad and as I got older, and it just came back to resurface and haunt me, I think about it and I'm like, that was some real fucked up shit to say and do. But I was young at the time and I didn't know what to do. I was listening to my grandpa, I was listening to the police. I didn't know what to do, I was just going off what I knew to do, you know, and now I'm older, I wish like, I didn't do that. I wish that I didn't, I wish I would have stuck to my thing to tell the police I don't know and you need to leave me alone. But being young and scared and listening to everybody, it was what you needed to do at the time.

CS: Well obviously to order to get the \$10,000 you got to give them some information—

KA: Yep.

CS: —that linked them to that, right?

KA: Hmm-mhm [affirmative]. You gotta put them in the situation- yeah, and I guess because everybody kept saying there's guns at my grandpas house, that's what made me say forget it, let's go. Cause I never knew about the gun until after the situation, so.

CS: And then, uhm, but, then nobody contacted you until just recently about—

KA: Yep.

CS: —your story?

KA: And this, and that's why I say “woah” you resurfaced that after all these years, but, it gives me the opportunity to right my wrong.

CS: Yeah, well I appreciate you coming in.

KA: Because I felt bad after just, you know, thinking about all this and thinking about, like, I did sit down with a police officer a few times and told him a few different stories and all kind of stuff. And I feel bad. Because I should have just told them I really didn't know, I didn't know. And I should have just stuck with it instead of just trying to fall in line trying to get some money for people. You know, I feel bad for that. Maybe my friend wouldn't be sitting in jail 20 years of his life.

CS: And do you think it's possible. So, a lot of people throughout the investigation, for instance—

KA: Everybody was lying, everybody was trying to come up with some kind of way to like- and just thinking about it was so much drama and lies going on at the time and it was like, as you get older and you mature through the situation, you are like what the freak, was this.

CS: Well and it's like a lot of people were like trying to give, gave, you know give one story about where they were and then was like, oh I was mistaken about the day. I actually was with this person and it was a different day. Do you think there was any way that maybe you got the days confused?

KA: I couldn't even tell you. I mean, I remember him being at that house with us. And it, the day they say that this gun situation was at my grandma's house, I remember us all being there.

CS: Right, right.

KA: I remember going up there with him in my mom's house. I remember my cousin doing Dom-, I mean Florida's hair. I mean there was a football game on or something. There was, I remember that, but I can't tell you to say I remember him having no gun in the house. I remember uh, me telling, me letting him go somewhere with Nicole. I probably did no stuff like that. I, as a grown woman, I would have never done nothing like that cause I don't even play like that with my friends with my man. Uhm, I, I feel bad because I feel like I lied, when I was younger, I lied about a lot of stuff with this situation and it was more per se, listen to what my grandpa said. And it just, what my grandpa wanted us to do at the time. He wanted the money and we wanted it to. He always told us, we was going to get some money off of it.

CS: Did he ever get any?

KA: No. And that's the messed-up part about it. He got mad at that man about that. He died wanting his money.

CS: So has he passed too?

KA: Yeah, my grandpa died.

CS: Is your grandmother still around?

KA: Yep.

CS: Oh good, okay. Has she—

KA: Won't talk about this. This something from the past.

CS: Yeah.

KA: This- I ain't even told her I'm doing none of this.

CS: Yeah, no, I understand.

KA: My auntie, she just passed away, Regina.

CS: Regina did?

KA: So, I didn't get the chance, the opportunity to talk to her about it either. You know, to even just go off of to remember what happened that day. To say, yeah, this is what we was telling them, you know, when we went to the police station. I ain't get a chance to talk to her about none of that.

CS: Did uhm, have you spoken to Stacks at all? Like since he got out—

KA: I spoke to him when he got out of jail just to say hey, I'm glad you out, how are you doing? Other than that, I haven't heard from him. That's why I was shocked when I got a call about this and got a call from Florida. I was really shocked. But I know that I played a part in the situation to get him in this situation and so, I know that I was wrong at the time when I was young and I was doing stuff just to do it, listening to other people. And I shouldn't have, I should have just stuck to it, me not knowing what was going on. And me not knowing nothing about that murder. I should have just stuck with my word instead of just trying to flip it around, get some money, get some help out here and there to put words and put people in scenarios. I feel bad about that, you know?

CS: Yep.

KA: I need to right my wrong for that.

CS: Well, I appreciate you, uhm, talking with us and taking time out of your day to come and talk about this, I know this is tough stuff and I appreciate it.

JD: I've got just a few questions.

CS: Yep. Sure. And this is Jim Dorsey jumping in.

JD: Yes, thank you. Uhm, let's go back to that night. In the car, where Demetrius is driving you-

KA: Downtown.

JD: — downtown, were you sitting in back or were you sitting in front?

KA: Passenger.

JD: I'm sorry?

KA: Passenger.

JD: Passenger seat. Front seat passenger seat?

KA: Yep.

JD: Do you remember if anything was said. Do you remember?

KA: There wasn't like nothing crazy said. Nothing like that. Just going to drop them off so—

JD: [muffles] You dropped them off and then what did you do, you went back to?—

KA: My house. Yeah.

JD: Was your mom and grandma back?

KA: Yeah.

JD: They were back by the time you got back?

KA: Yep.

JD: You sure? I just, [muffles]

KA: I believe they were back.

JD: Okay so that tells us, they usually, back around 10.

KA: Yeah, back around 10.

JD: You- you- were driving them downtown around 10.

KA: Yeah, cause I know that he had to be gone by the time my momma got out of bingo. Cause if she made it to that house before, he and he was there, then I was in trouble.

JD: Okay. The robbery occurred around 9:45 that night.

KA: They couldn't have been at that robbery.

JD: Okay, fine. Did the police ever tell you—

KA: No.

JD: That the robbery occurred, that the robbery/shooting occurred around 9:45?

KA: No, they never told me that.

JD: You're kidding.

KA: No, they never told me that. Uhm, I thought it was later on in the night at like 3 o'clock in the morning, 4 o'clock in the morning type of stuff.

JD: Okay. Uhm, just—

KA: That's why- that's another thing, because that was around the time after that they couldn't have even did it because at the end of the time, how can you be in two places, how can you be over here and over there killing somebody and then make it to us and act like everything is okay. Like, no.

JD: Kentrell, if the police had told you that the crime occurred at 9:45, what would you have said to them?

KA: That' a lie cause they was at my house.

JD: Alright. Do you recall anyone, either of them, calling Hennessey that night? Or Hennessey's girlfriend, Keitha? I'm blanking on Keitha's last name.

KA: I believe it was Stacks that called Hennessey that night.

JD: Did he call once, several times?

KA: I don't remember the exact amount of times, I know he talked to Hennessey. Uhm, we were drinking that night and it was, we were hanging out and smoking weed and stuff. And there, it wasn't like, we were watching the game and stuff and having fun.

JD: No, okay, I'm just going to—

KA: It wasn't like—

JD: Got it. Just asking. Why was Stacks calling Hennessey?

KA: That's his cousin. He was probably, to hang out with him afterwards.

JD: Is there any chance, they knew they had to leave cause you wanted them to leave. You think that he was calling to figure out where he was going to go?

KA: Yeah, probably, yes.

JD: That's just a guess, you don't know that?

KA: Yeah that's just a guess. Yeah.

JD: Uh—

KA: What the plan was for the rest of the night. That's what he talked to him about, what they finna do the rest of the night after they leave here, let's go hang out here. Everybody hangs out downtown St. Paul, so if anything, once you get dropped off downtown St. Paul, it's a little park area we go to and hang out at. We go smoke and we go drink. That would be more than anything that I could see them doing.

JD: I am showing you now the list of phone calls that were made on the cell phone that night. And here is the call that was made to Chicago at 7:44pm. 19:44, that's 7:44, and that's for ten minutes.

KA: Yeah.

JD: Does that sound about right?

KA: Yeah, that's my cousin, yeah.

JD: Yeah? Diamond. Alright. And then we get here about 9:20, there are four calls made to Keitha's place, and a couple calls from St. Paul to Yvonne White, is that, I'm just asking whether that rings any bells or brings back any memories—

KA: I just remember them being on the phone, I don't remember what was talked about and who they was talking to but I remember my cousin talked to her daughter that day. I remember Stacks asking Florida to give him the phone. I remember Florida taking the phone back and me and Stacks going upstairs and doing what we was doing and when we came back, Florida was still getting his hair braided, it was half way almost done. We were hanging out a little bit more, smoked some weed. I asked my uncle to drop them off and from there my uncle dropped them off and that was the last thing that I remember that night.

JD: Okay.

KA: To say I thought the murder happened at 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning. If the police, when the police, made it seem like oh they killed somebody, they didn't tell us no afternoon, I mean no midnight, like nine, ten o'clock because I would have literally said to them like that it's impossible.

JD: In the car again driving downtown with Demetrius—

KA: Demetrius.

JD: and the guys in the back, were you on the phone, were either of them on the phone?

KA: Probably.

JD: Probably? Being—

KA: Uh-huh [affirmative]

JD: Okay. Was Officer Kreager the name of your good friend who kept on—

KA: Yeah! Mr. Man, yes that's the crazy officer that is mean to everybody—

JD: That's just a lucky guess—

KA: — that he just stuck on telling you that's what happened.

JD: Ah, that's just a lucky guess on my part. Uhm—

KA: You gotta understand though, this police officer man that came over my grandpa house, all the time, weekly after this situation. He would not let up. He was not hearing that you do not know what happened. He was not hearing that. He was like, you know, you know. And I'm like dude, I don't. Yes, you do. You telling me that's your boyfriend and you don't know anything about him?

JD: Then lastly, when is the last time Demetrius spoke about this case? Never?

KA: Back when this happened, when the police raided us.

JD: You have not talked to him in the past couple of months?

KA: No, I ain't brought this up to him.

JD: Are you still in touch with him?

KA: Yeah. That's my uncle.

JD: Does he live in St. Paul?

KA: Hm-mhm [affirmative] but I haven't talked to him about this.

JD: Okay, alright.

KA: I'm sure he don't want to have no parts in this like he didn't want to have no parts in it a long time ago. No, I mean, the only reason that we really cared to have some parts in it was because of the money. My grandpa was always just, just make us talk about this money and my Auntie Regina, they offered us money. So, and, [laughs] you knew us back then we need all the money we can get.

JD: Kentrell, I want to thank you for coming down. I want to thank you for your patience and for doing, and for helping us out. That's all I got.

KA: Can you just make sure they know I feel bad for me telling these police everything like, I don't even know half of the stuff that I said to the police. I know that I was saying stuff just to say it to just try to get this money for my grandpa and I feel bad about it and I feel like, I don't even know how to go around to even fixing that. I feel bad.

CS: Uhm, you say, I forgot to ask you, and I won't take a long time, uhm, when you, when you're at your house, uhm, and you said you smoked some, and there was some alcohol. Was anybody like, I mean how much did people have to drink?

KA: We was feeling good, we was feeling ourselves like not wasted to the point where we can't walk or move, but, you know? The average little drinking, smoking.

CS: And then do you remember, so the football was on as you recall?—

KA: Cause if you go in her room, it's like half of this room and she got her little bed right there, the TV right there by the door, they, you know, the little couch little let out couch area, because Tenisha used to sleep on that couch when she came in that room, uhm. It wasn't big, so, you know we all sitting in a little spot like this. And then—

CS: And that's going on, and football is going on—

KA: She braiding his hair on the bed. Getting ready to start greasing his scalp from hurting his hair and me and Dominick go upstairs, and.

CS: And when you and Dominick go upstairs, does the phone go with you or—

KA: Nah, I think the phone stay downstairs.

CS: Okay.

KA: I knew he had no phone in his hand. [laughs] No.

CS: Did, did Stacks have a phone?

KA: Probably did, no no, they shared a phone. No. They shared a phone.

CS: Okay.

KA: Yep, they shared a phone.

CS: Uhm, anything else?

KA: [phone rings, answers phone]

CS: Uhm, yeah, I, uh.

NG: I have a question, this is Nadine Graves. Uhm, did the officers ever make any statements connecting the gun that they said they found at your house to the murder?

KA: Not that I know of. I was told that the gun was sold to somebody else and the police got the gun. So not that I know of. I didn't, I didn't know they had no murder weapon for these two. So.

CS: I guess, I have like, one, like really broad general question and that is uh, it seemed like everybody, well maybe not everybody, everybody we have talked about that you knew at the time, you know like, uhm, John Martin, the scrappy guy, Stacks, Florida, Nikki—

KA: John Martin is E, right?

CS: Yeah. And then, uh, Vanessa and your entire family. I mean everybody was being questioned about the police like, did, were you not like sitting around talking about that?

KA: No, cause we wasn't all hanging together. We wasn't all together during the time the police was questioning us like, it wasn't. After the situation after police start questioning us and all of that, I think Dominick was in jail and Florida was in jail so we didn't have no contact with them to talk to them about nothing. And Nicole, was, she, she disappeared. Like, that was, my friend at the time. She just dropped off the face of the earth. Right now to this day I can't even tell you anything about Nicole since that happened. Uhm, everybody just went their own separate ways. And I had a baby that following time in 2003 in October, I didn't even care for this after that. Like, this was the least of my worries at the time. So, once they went through his stuff and they say he got life, I was just lost behind that. Like, what? How? And he's not even the one that said killed the person, you know, so how did he wound up getting life and the person that yall claimed killed him ain't get life. So, I don't know, it just got confusing, I just, I don't want no part of something, I just left it alone and I moved out of St. Paul.

CS: Okay.

KA: I really am not, how do I, I'm not the friendly type of girl. I'm not, I'm really not. So, when it comes to their friends, E and Hennessey and all of them, I'm the hi and bye type of person. I'm not the let's go hang out, hang girl, home girl, I don't do that. I don't, and I don't like when my friends do it to my man, so I'm not going to do it to them. You know, so. To say that we all having conversations about it, no. Only person I probably have conversations of this kind of stuff about this with is my grandma and my aunt.

CS: Well right, yeah, like your aunt and grandmother both testified at trial, you didn't talk to them about any of that?

KA: No. They—

CS: They just kept it to themselves?

KA: I don't even know my auntie, my grandma went to trial. I knew my auntie did but you telling me my grandma went. That's something new to me. I'm like wait. I know my grandpa had something to do his hand in it, and my auntie. For you to say my grandma went to trial and gave her testimony, I don't know nothing about that, I don't know what my grandma said, none of that.

JD: Neither of them testified about what happened on December 22—

KA: Yeah, that's why I—

JD: They testified about the gun and your aunt testified about things, that, that Philip Vance said to her that she since recanted.

KA: But then, that's what I'm saying, because why would he be talking to my Auntie about something like that? Like he, they ain't got no relationship like that to say they are going to have a conversation about something so personal and something that could ruin his life for the rest of his life. He is not going to talk to my Auntie like that. Yeah no, I couldn't even picture no stuff like that cause my Auntie and him don't have that type of relationship. If anybody he would talk to something like that about, it would be Darlene. Other than that, I couldn't see him talking to none of them about something like that. Cause that was just, why would you sell yourself out and throw yourself under the bus to tell some random lady about a situation like this. Nah. So, I knew that, from my point of view or what I got from the whole situation, my grandpa was being offered a lot of money. My auntie was being offered money. We needed money. You gon' say what you need to say and the officers gon' tell you "was it this time? Was it doing it this time? And oh remember this?" And you gon' put it together and piece it, you know? They helped with a lot of it by giving out information that we probably would have never knew cause, pssh, I never knew about the gun so for me to find out about that I was like, what? And my grandpa, he actually had somebody else's gun in hos house. My grandpa would have went crazy if I had that. He don't play that game. They took all of this guns, so I was confused by that. It just, it was a lot of lies and BS going on at that time to try to get this case solved or whatever they wanted to do. They wanted to lock them up, well they got them basically off of just, hey we got \$10,000, we got some money, \$5,000, then let's go.

CS: Well they got a lot of people to say Florida did it. Is that because people don't like him?

KA: I, I really I couldn't even understand why, how they could say Florida did it because from what I got gathered with these police, the short person did it. Florida was never the short person. So how you get he is the shooter out of the short person. If you put them two together you could tell which one was shorter. So, if you got a camera, oh that's what that officer told us, they got them on camera! That man said they had him on camera shooting him. So, if you got them on camera, you say the shorter person did it, how is the taller person going to jail for the rest of his life and the shorter person did it. How can he, how can all of us say it was him and it was him. Yall got it on camera saying it was him [shorter person], but you got all of us saying it was him [taller person/Philip]. Make it make sense. It was just a, people was trying to get this case solved and everybody was okay because everybody just got raided and we was all doing illegal things that we had no business doing and the police knew and they knew how to get us to say what we needed to say and save us from catching cases. Because a lot of us probably would have had drug cases during that time cause a lot of us was doing a lot of illegal drugs then.

CS: Did they recover any drugs when they—

KA: Probably did.

CS: —kicked in your door.

KA: Probably did find some crack in there a few times. That's I'm not trying to incriminate myself with this situation, but. We was all doing things at the time that we had no business doing. To save our own ass, we would throw anybody under the bus and that's what I felt like a lot of us did and I feel like, I feel bad about the whole situation because I shouldn't have did it. I shouldn't have just listened to them, I should have just went with my own story and told the truth and said hey, "I don't know," so if we get there and you want to put me in jail then put me in jail, but I don't know.

CS: Okay. Well again, I don't want to take any more of your time, I know you have some other stuff going on.

KA: Yeah, my kids are harassing me [laughs]

CS: And I'm going to go ahead and end the interview at 5:12pm.



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