

PERSON INTERVIEWED: VANESSA COLEMAN
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JANUARY 31, 2007
TIME OF INTERVIEW: 9:17 P.M.
CASE NUMBER: 07-001049
INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY: INVESTIGATOR TODD CHILDRESS
TRANSCRIBED BY: MELISSA LOONEY
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TC: ...(TAPE 1 BEGINS)...This interview is with Vanessa Coleman, date of birth, 6/29/88. Today's date is 1/31/07 about 9:17 p.m. We're at the Lebanon, Kentucky police department conference room. It's gonna be in reference to Case # 07-001049. At this time Vanessa, I'm gonna read you're your rights okay.

VC: Okay.

TC: Follow along with me. Statement of your rights, before we ask you any questions you must understand your rights. You have the right to remain silent. Understand that?

VC: Yes sir.

TC: Okay. Anything you say can be used against you in court.

VC: Yes sir.

TC: You have the right to consult with a lawyer and to have a lawyer present with you while you are being questioned.

VC: Yes sir.

TC: If you want a lawyer but are unable to pay for one a lawyer will be appointed to represent you free of any cost to you.

VC: Yes sir.

TC: If you decide to answer any questions now without a lawyer present, you will still have the right to stop answering at anytime. You also have the right to stop answering at any time until you talk with a lawyer. Do you understand those?

VC: Yes sir.

TC: Okay. The waiver of the rights, I understand each of my rights and I'm willing to make a statement and answer questions without a lawyer present. No promises or threats have been made to me. Is that true?

VC: Yes sir.

TC: Okay. If you would, if you want to talk to me initial each one of these like we...like we've done before.

STATE OF TENNESSEE VS. Coleman, Vanessa
CASE NO. 86216D EXHIBIT NO. 8C
DATE 2-27-09 ID _____ EVD

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VC: Okay.

TC: And then sign and date then...or sign and I'll give you the time when you're down about that far.

VC: Just my initials right?

TC: Yes.

VC: And here too?

TC: Yes. 9:19 p.m. Okay. And I'm gonna talk to you again, Vanessa...

VC: Okay.

TC: ...about what I want to know and...uh...I know from the beginning. I want everything instead of me getting bits and pieces you know like I've got from you. I want to sit down and get everything from the beginning.

VC: Okay.

TC: Here's what I want to know, I'm gonna be honest with you. I want to know what vehicle they drove to Washington Ridge and start from there and...

VC: To what?

TC: To where the carjacking, where they carjacked them.

VC: Okay.

TC: From that point till the end, till you all get back up here and they come back, you know they come up here and pick y'all up. That's what I want to know.

VC: ...(unintelligible)... I don't know about the carjacking now. When I was in the house when he got back I can start from there.

TC: Yes...yeah, what car were they in...what car did they leave in?

VC: A white SUV.

TC: Okay, what car did they drive to get this SUV?

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VC: I don't know.

TC: Who was with them...who was with them when they come back in the house? When they come...when you seen them come into the house?

VC: All of them?

TC: Yeah.

VC: Name 'em all? G, Rome, Lemaricus, and there was a white girl with them.

TC: Okay. They were in the SUV?

VC: Um hmm.

TC: A light colored SUV?

VC: Yes sir.

TC: Did anybody come over before they left to go...to...did anybody come over prior to them arriving in that SUV?

VC: Before?

TC: Um hmm.

VC: No.

TC: Nobody come over prior?

VC: Uh...no.

TC: How do you think they got to where they were going to do this carjacking?

VC: Well they took out on foot as far as I know of...(unintelligible)...

TC: Okay, so they left on foot?

VC: Yeah.

TC: Did they call anybody before they left? Hear anybody talking to anybody on the phone?

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VC: Um...no.

TC: So nobody used the phone?

VC: Not that I know of, no.

TC: Okay. Now it's gonna be in...to your benefit okay. It's gonna be to your benefit to tell us the truth like you've...like you've done, okay. It's gonna be in your best interest in the long run. We've already talked about that at least twice, this is the third time correct?

VC: Yes sir.

TC: That I've talked to you about it.

VC: Yes sir.

TC: So I don't want any details left out.

VC: Yes sir.

TC: So whatever...if I'm not asking something, you think...and you think of something, let me know.

VC: Okay.

TC: Alright. Now what time of the day...okay let's back up to the...they arrive...they get back to the Chipman house, right in the SUV. G, Rome and Slim get back to the house on Chipman. They're in the SUV; you see them get out of the SUV.

VC: Well when I went into the room after I hear the car door shut they had already come out.

TC: Okay, which room?

VC: The room when you first walk in.

TC: That little sunroom or patio area?

VC: Um hmm.

TC: Okay. Now, who...who was driving the vehicle or who appeared to be driving the vehicle?

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VC: Lemaricus.

TC: Okay, where was...where was G at?

VC: Uh...in the vehicle?

TC: Um hmm.

VC: Well Rome...

TC: I mean, did he...did he come around the vehicle or did he come out the side closest to the house?

VC: Closest...well Rome always rides up front with him.

TC: So Rome is always...

VC: So...

TC: ...always shotgun?

VC: Yes.

TC: Okay. What...what about G?

VC: He always sits in the backseat?

TC: Where at in the backseat?

VC: I don't know honestly. When he...when Lemaricus had taken us for a ride in that truck, he was sitting behind the driver's seat.

TC: Okay. Now, did you see the...

VC: No, he was sitting behind the passenger seat.

TC: Okay. Did you see the girl or G get out of the vehicle?

VC: I didn't see 'em get out of the vehicle.

TC: Okay.

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- VC: I just heard the car doors shut.
- TC: Wh...which side did the girl, you think, got out of the vehicle? I mean she...like I'm saying, did she walk around the vehicle or did she get out?
- VC: I don't know. I just seen him walking her in.
- TC: You didn't see her walk around the vehicle?
- VC: No.
- TC: Okay. So you're standing there in the sunroom/patio area whatever you want to call it. Who enters the house first?
- VC: G and Rome did.
- TC: Where do they go once they get in?
- VC: They go to the front room, the living room.
- TC: And what do they...what do they do there?
- VC: They sit there until after Lemaricus comes in.
- TC: Where do they sit?
- VC: Um...when you walk into the kitchen in the doorway...
- TC: Uh huh.
- VC: They were sitting right there.
- TC: In the...in what, couch...
- VC: In...on the...
- TC: ...wooden chair?
- VC: ...chairs.
- TC: Okay.

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- VC: That go to the kitchen table.
- TC: They're on...they're sitting on each side of the doorway or...okay. Now are they sitting when Slim comes in?
- VC: After he walks the girl in the door, I'm in the kitchen, at that time they're still sitting, yes.
- TC: How long of a time frame after Rome and G get in is...is Lemaricus coming in?
- VC: Uh...
- TC: They come in first and then about how long does...does Slim come in?
- VC: A couple of minutes after they came in.
- TC: So a couple minutes?
- VC: Yeah.
- TC: ...(pause)...okay then what? Lemaricus is walking up to the...
- VC: House. He comes in and he takes her to his bedroom.
- TC: Was she...how was she?
- VC: She had her head down and she had a blindfold over her face.
- TC: Now his bedroom...what...and we've already talked about this...his bedroom being the front bedroom?
- VC: Yes.
- TC: Okay and you said her hands were tied?
- VC: No, she just had a blindfold on.
- TC: She just had the blindfold, okay. Her hands weren't tied?
- VC: No.

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TC: Let's...let's back up just a minute. When you're out to the patio on...you're standing in the sunroom/patio, what do you...what do y'all call it down there? When you were staying there, what was it called?

VC: I just...I called I the front room.

TC: Okay, the front room. The front room at anytime did you see the ma...see the white guy?

VC: No sir.

TC: You never saw him?

VC: No sir.

TC: Okay. Okay so Slim takes the girl to his bedroom...in the front bedroom, she's blindfolded, she's not tied, her head's down...

VC: Um hmm.

TC: ...uh...then...then what?

VC: Um...he takes her into his room...um...he stays in there for about probably...probably about 10 minutes at the most maybe.

TC: Okay. Is the...is the curtain...is the curtain up or is it down?

VC: It's up. He never takes the curtain down.

TC: Okay. Did Rome...what's Rome and G doing right now?

VC: Um...

TC: While...while...while Slim's in the bedroom with this girl for about 10 minutes, what were they doing?

VC: Uh...then after he takes her in there he comes out.

TC: Okay.

VC: Lemaricus does. Um...(pause)...and then they're in the living room.

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TC: Who's they?

VC: Lemaricus, G, and Rome.

TC: Okay so all three of them are in the living room?

VC: Yes. Um...that's when he had a bankcard in his hand...

TC: Who...

VC: and he made a phone call.

TC: Who had the bankcard?

VC: Lemaricus did.

TC: Do you know what kind of bankcard?

VC: It was a blue bankcard, that's all I know.

TC: Okay. And he made a phone call?

VC: Um hmm. He made a couple of phone calls and he had...I heard the phone ring once and he answered it and he said, "I can't get a password." After that he got off the phone. Um...he went back into the room for about, maybe about 10 minutes. Um...

TC: The bed...when you're talking about the room, you're talking about...

VC: His bedroom.

TC: ...his bedroom?

VC: Yes.

TC: Where is the girl at, at this time?

VC: She's still in his bedroom.

TC: Okay.

VC: Um...he comes back out of the room...

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TC: How long was he in there?

VC: About 10 minutes.

TC: Okay.

VC: Um...he comes back out of the room and...(pause)...him and G leave. Um...

TC: You're saying him and G, Slim and G?

VC: Yes. They leave; they're gone for about...they're gone for about 30 minutes. They come back and...

TC: Where did they say they were going?

VC: They didn't say where they were going. Um...they come back and then...

TC: Where's Rome at?

VC: He's in the living room at that time when they leave. Um...I went back into the...the back room where we slept at, the other room that's connected to the bathroom.

TC: Um hmm.

VC: Um...Rome went into Lemaricus' bedroom where the girl was for about 15 minutes at the most...about 15 minutes. He comes back out and he sits down. And then...

TC: Where does he sit down at?

VC: Um...in the same spot he was sitting in that chair.

TC: If you was facing the kitchen, which side was he?

VC: This side.

TC: On the left side?

VC: Yeah. Um...then G and Lemaricus come back. Um...

TC: What are they doing when they come back? You...you hear 'em come back or?

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- VC: Yeah I hear them come back they come through the door. Um...at that time they had bringing the gas can back with them.
- TC: Is it...was it empty, was it full? Well I mean, you would know if they were kind of struggling to carry it or if it was like a piece of plastic. Cause you know it was a good size...good size little gas can.
- VC: It...it was empty at that time.
- TC: Now was it...did you see them carry it out of the house earlier?
- VC: No that was the first time they had come back in with it.
- TC: Okay. And it was empty?
- VC: And then...yes. And then they come back...um...through the door...(unintelligible)... Lemaricus goes into the room.
- TC: Into his room?
- VC: Into his room. Um...for about 10 minutes, 15. He comes back out, him and G leave again and they took the gas can back out with them. And they stayed gone for about...
- TC: Now do they take the same gas can?
- VC: Yes. It was about...
- TC: Why would they take an empty gas can out?
- VC: I don't even know. I don't know.
- TC: Okay.
- VC: They was gone for about 30 minutes that time. They came back...um...they come in the door and they trying to...taking off their clothes to put in the washer. But before they had ever came back to the house the first time they were gone for awhile.
- TC: You said like 30 minutes.
- VC: All of them. They were gone for awhile.

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TC: The first time they went out?

VC: The very first, when all three of them left, they were gone for a while at first. Um...

TC: About how long do you think?

VC: Couple hours, maybe a little longer. Um...

TC: Where was the girl during this?

VC: That was before they had come back with the girl.

TC: Okay.

VC: They were gone for about that long. Um...Lemaricus and G came in and changed their clothes. Um...they throw them into the washer.

TC: What was on their...what was on their clothes? Anything out of the ordinary?

VC: Lemaricus had a...like he had run...went across somebody that had been bleeding or something like that.

TC: So he had blood on his...

VC: It had...looked like blood on his sweater.

TC: What color?

VC: Baby blue sweater.

TC: Baby blue sweater.

VC: G had a bloodstain on his...it was a dark blue shirt...it was on the left side I think.

TC: The left side.

VC: Um...yes I'm positive.

TC: Where at on the left side?

VC: It was up top.

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TC: Around the chest area?

VC: Yes. Um...can I get some water? Um...they come back after they left for about 30 minutes and they come in and they change their clothes and they put them into the washer and they put on different clothes. Um...I don't remember what they put on after they changed.

TC: That...that's fine. What...now Slim and...Slim and G had the blood on them...

VC: Um hmm.

TC: Where is Rome at during this?

VC: He didn't go with them that time they left that I seen.

TC: Okay.

VC: Um...they come back, change their clothes...um...after that...before they had left him and...Lemaricus and G the first time, I heard a conversation. Lemaricus and G were in there talking. Lemaricus told him that he was gonna need him to do something so he could trust him. He said, "okay." That's when they left after they had that conversation. Um...they got back Lemaricus had some garbage bags with stuff in it. Um...it looked like clothes and stuff like that.

TC: That he brought in the house?

VC: Um hmm. That's what he...that's when he gave me a red purse with a billfold with some perfume and stuff in it. Um there was a pair of black pants and a pair of tan pants with black dotted lines down the leg and there was a blue jean jacket...um...that was all he gave me that I believe. Um...it was Saturday night. Uh...um...

TC: Now where...how long were G and Slim gone when they...when they come back with the gas can and had blood on 'em?

VC: Uh...about 30 minutes, an hour at the most. Probably not an hour but at the most.

TC: And you're saying that G...or that Rome didn't go with them this time?

VC: Not that time I'd seen.

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TC: Okay. Now in a previous...when we've talked, what about Rome having the guy at gunpoint?

VC: He told me...

TC: When was it...when was it...when did that take place?

VC: I'm guessing that was before they all come back with the girl. Cause that's when he told me about it was after G and Rome left...I mean G and Lemaricus left.

TC: Okay.

VC: I'm getting dizzy...(chuckle)...

TC: He's gonna get you some water there.

VC: It's hot...(unintelligible)... um...

TC: And then was before the...that the girl was brought in?

VC: Um hmm. Can we pause just for a minute?

TC: Yeah.

RF: ...(pause)...You okay, Vanessa?

VC: I haven't ate that much today.

TC: Have you not.

VC: My hearing is starting to go out.

RF: ...(unintelligible)...

TC: We hadn't ate either.

VC: It's hot in here...(pause)...um...after that...where was I at?

TC: When Rome's got the guy at gunpoint.

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VC: Yeah. When they first came...all came back and after G and Lemaricus left, he had told me that he had held that guy at gunpoint.

TC: Okay. Now is this after or before he...Rome goes into the room with the girl for about 10-15 minutes?

VC: It was before that.

TC: Okay.

VC: Is it possible I could go to the bathroom real quick?

TC: Yeah.

VC: Do I need somebody to take me or...(unintelligible)...

TC: Yeah, we'll stand outside there at the door.

RF: We'll pause the interview at 9:45p.m.

TC: Okay we're gonna restart the interview at about 9:47p.m. It's gonna be Wednesday still. Okay. Where were...where were you and Rome at when he's told you this?

VC: We were in the living room, where that big window is in the living room, sitting right there. We were sitting down on the floor talking at that time.

TC: Where's...now is the girl still...in here still or not?

VC: Yes. She's still there.

TC: Where was she at?

VC: She was in Lemaricus' room.

TC: Was she saying anything?

VC: No sir. You could hear her move every now and then, but she wasn't saying anything.

TC: Okay, then what?

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- VC: We was sitting down ...cause at that time I asked him what was going on, why was she in there blindfolded and stuff and he wouldn't tell me. And then he told me, he said...um... "My brother told me to stay and hold that guy at gunpoint" and I asked him, "what guy." And he said, "a white guy" and I didn't know who he was talking about. Um...and I asked him where they had went to and he wouldn't tell me. And I asked him why she was there and he wouldn't tell me that neither. Um...after that his brother and them had walked in the door and he stopped talking and he got real quiet. And his brother pulled him into the kitchen and asked him if he was telling me. And I heard him...his brother say, "are you telling her anything" and he said, "no I'm not telling her nothing, we're just talking. And he said, "okay" and he come back in there and he started talking to me. Um...but he wouldn't talk no more about that. He was asking me if I was tired, if I was gonna go to bed anytime soon. Um...after that G and Lemaricus they were back...um...then I went into the back bedroom. Um...them three were in the living room. Lemaricus, Rome and G they were in there talking.
- TC: What were they talking about?
- VC: Uh...they was talking real quiet. Um...
- TC: What were they saying?
- VC: ...(pause)...it was like a low whisper I couldn't really make out what they were saying. Um...after that...(TAPE 1 SIDE A ENDS)...(TAPE 1 SIDE B BEGINS)
...um...Lemaricus went into his room. Um...during the time, Lemaricus and G were gone I had went into the room and taken her some water.
- TC: Where was Rome at?
- VC: He was in the living room. Um...while they were in there talking I had changed into my night clothes. Um...they stayed in the living room for a while. They was in there whispering and talking and stuff. Um...
- TC: Then Slim goes to his room?
- VC: After about 20 minutes, 30 he went into his room. He had changed into some shorts. Um...um...G and Rome were still in the living room after that for a while.
- TC: How long was he in there change...when he changed shorts?

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VC: He was in there for a while. Uh... maybe about 45 minutes and then he went into the kitchen and got something out of the kitchen. Um...I think he went in there...(unintelligible)...

TC: What day...(unintelligible)... what day are we on still?

VC: Well it was early Sunday morning.

TC: Early Sunday morning?

VC: Yeah. Um...after that...

TC: Slim goes into the kitchen.

VC: And then he goes back into his room and he stays in there. I never seen him come back out or anything.

TC: Did he get...what was he doing in the kitchen?

VC: I think he had got a cup of some water or something like that.

TC: Did he turn the sink on; did he get it out of the refrigerator?

VC: Refrigerator. Um...and he goes back into the room. By that time, I'm already laying down in bed. Um...

TC: Where is Rome and G now?

VC: They are still in the living room for a while. Um...I seen G lay out his jacket so he could lay down. And then Rome came into the room where I was and I fell asleep. Um...from what I seen it looked like he was asleep.

TC: Who?

VC: Rome. Um...

TC: In the room with you?

VC: Yes. Uh...G was still awake in the living room I think. Lemaricus was in his room and the girl was still in Lemaricus' room.

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- TC: Where is the 4Runner now the SUV?
- VC: He had parked it...okay...they house is right here and the garbage place is right here. The parking space across from...
- TC: Across the street?
- VC: Yeah. Um...up there in that little, it's got like a rock parking thing.
- TC: Um hmm.
- VC: Up there. Um...
- TC: Was it next to any other vehicles or?
- VC: I don't remember. Um...I went to sleep, I woke up Sunday morning.
- TC: About what time?
- VC: It was about 11 something. Um...I woke up that morning, I changed clothes, cooked breakfast.
- TC: Where is everybody at when you wake up?
- VC: G was sitting in the living room, Lemaricus was still in his room, Rome was still laying in the bed asleep. He woke up probably about 15 -20 minutes after I did. Um...um...I cooked breakfast, I washed the dishes.
- TC: When you cooked breakfast, what did you cook?
- VC: Oatmeal, scrambled eggs...um...I think some biscuits and some sausage I think. I sit...I sit down and ate.
- TC: Where did you sit down and eat at?
- VC: I sat down and ate in the kitchen.
- TC: Pulled a chair in there?

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VC: Yeah. Rome come in and fixed him a plate, he sat down and ate in the kitchen. G came and fixed him something to eat and Lemaricus come out of the room and fixed him something to eat but he went back in the room and ate.

TC: Where did G eat?

VC: In the living room. Um...Saturday night is when he took us for a ride in the SUV. Yeah, I think. Saturday night.

TC: Where did y'all go?

VC: We went to an apartment complex and to the store. Um...

TC: What store did y'all go to?

VC: I don't know the store.

TC: Was it next to Chipman? Where was the apartments? Or whose were they do you know?

VC: I don't know.

TC: How far away was it?

VC: I don't know. It was...it wasn't close to it.

TC: Like a couple a level apartments or...

VC: It was a two level apartments maybe...maybe three.

TC: What did they look like?

VC: Um...the apartments were like on this side and the parking spots were over here. There was parking spaces over here and over here.

TC: Was it a...was it a big lot...or a big apartment complex or a small one or?

VC: It wasn't small but it wasn't the biggest.

TC: Is it the ones you took us to?

VC: Yeah.

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TC: Okay.

VC: Um...

TC: That's the one on Bridlewood. Now that's...who was staying there, do you remember?

VC: I don't know...I don't know who stayed there. Um...Sunday....

TC: The store...where was the store at in relation to the apartments?

VC: Uh...

TC: Was is right down the street?

VC: It wasn't that far from the apartments I don't think. Um...

TC: Was it a medium, like a regular size gas station or...

VC: Yeah.

TC: ...one that was a little smaller than a normal size?

VC: It was a regular gas station. It was like a little convenient store kind of.

TC: Was you at a four way stop maybe? And it's sitting there on the corner? Maybe a red...a red sign?

VC: I don't remember. I think we were at a four way stop though. Um...

TC: What did y'all stop and get at the store?

VC: Some cigarettes. Um...

TC: Who got...who went in?

VC: Lemaricus did, he was the only one that got out. Um...

TC: Now where is the girl during this?

VC: She's still at the house.

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TC: By herself?

VC: Yes. He had her tied up.

TC: Okay what did he...what did he have her tied up with? Cause we've left that part out. I like that because we're going back a day now.

VC: Uh...the little pieced that I explained the last time like that were off of a sheet kind a. Yes.

TC: Floral print little straps or...

VC: That's...like that. Um...he had her tied up on the bed. Do you want me to show you how? Her hands were tied behind her back...her head and it...she...it looked like he had weights on what he had her tied up to. It was like a book bag with stuff in it and it was kind of...looked like it was heavy. Um...we left the store...we went down that little side street that connects to Chipman...uh...what's the street called...when you're going down the street Chipman past his house it's the first street on the left.

TC: Okay.

VC: We come up that street and he put us out and made us walk to the house. Um...we went back to the house...um...

TC: Who is the first one in the house now?

VC: Rome had to go through the window to get to the...to get in the house cause Lemaricus had the keys. Um...

TC: What time do you think this is?

VC: Sunday morning...it had just hit Sunday morning about...I don't know what time. Um...get into the house, me, Rome and G are in the house. Um...Lemaricus said he was going to...

TC: When Rome...when Rome gets into the house, he goes through the window, does he come to the front door?

VC: Um hmm.

TC: Let's y'all...let's you and G in?

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VC: Um hmm.

TC: How long was Rome...or...uh...was Slim gone?

VC: He said he was going to park the car. He was gone for like...about 30 minutes to an hour maybe. Uh...about 30 minutes he was gone. Um...that was...

TC: That...where is the...I'm assuming the girl's...the girl is still tied up. Who...who goes in the room to make sure she's still there?

VC: Rome did.

TC: How long was he in there now? How long is...how long is Rome in the room?

VC: About 10-15 minutes he was in there. And he come back out in the living room and he was talking to G for a little while.

TC: Where was G at during this? Or where were you and G at when Rome's in the room with the girl for about 15...10-15 minutes?

VC: G was in the living room and I was in the living room too. Um...

TC: What point...what...I think you said...at what point did G went in the room at some point. When does he go in the room?

VC: Uh...that was Sunday morning after I had cooked breakfast; he goes in the room with Lemaricus. Um...it was after Lemaricus brought...had brought his plate out that he was eating on. Um...

TC: How long...

VC: Well actually it was a bowl.

TC: ...how long did...how long did you get Slim in there?

VC: Uh...probably about a few minutes. They weren't in there that long I don't think.

TC: Five minutes?

VC: About 10.

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TC: About 10 minutes?

VC: Um...after that...um...I think, Sunday morning I cooked breakfast; um...Sunday morning that's when they were looking out the window. G was looking out the side window; Rome was looking out the front out into the sunroom which is the front room.

TC: What were they looking at?

VC: Um...they said there were a lot of police out there.

TC: So we're going on maybe 1:00 o'clock now Sunday afternoon?

VC: Yeah, something like that. Um...G's looking out the window and he's telling them, "y'all there's a lot of police out here." And G...and Rome was looking out the sunroom and Lemaricus said, "well if they come knock on the door, let me know."

TC: What was...what did he mean by that?

VC: I didn't know. He just told 'em to let him know. Um...

TC: Okay. Then what?

VC: Um...Lemaricus stays in the room for a while. Um...I think G and Rome were playing a video game maybe for a few minutes. Uh...Daphne come over about...I don't know what time but when she come over I was in the shower. She left, somebody else come over.

TC: How long was Daphne there?

VC: About 15 minutes maybe. Maybe not even that long.

TC: Did you hear her?

VC: I heard her in there talking.

TC: Hold on...who was she talking to?

VC: She said...she was talking to Lemaricus. She had come to pick up some stuff from him that was hers. Um...

TC: They get into it?

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VC: Uh...

TC: Like an argument or some sort? Voices being raised, something other than like normal, me and you sitting here talking?

VC: No. Not that I remember, no. Um...Daphne leaves and I hear a guy come in and I told you it sounded like E. He stayed in there...he was probably there about 10 minutes, 15 at the most maybe.

TC: Who is talking to him?

VC: They're...well you could hear whisper with them. It sounded like all of them in there.

TC: Slim...

VC: Rome, G, Lemaricus, and E. Um...they were in there for a little while.

TC: Where were they at, in the living room?

VC: Um hmm. Um...

TC: And you're still in the shower I take it?

VC: Um hmm. Um...before Daphne came in, Lemaricus took that girl into the closet.

TC: Before Daphne.

VC: Um hmm before she come in.

TC: Which closet?

VC: Into the closet in the back bedroom. Um...it was a few minutes after E had left I had gotten out of the shower and I put my clothes on and everything. Um...

TC: When you get out of the shower, where is everybody at when you get your clothes on?

VC: Um...well I come out, put my clothes on...the closet door was open. She wasn't in there then so I'm guessing she was...he had already taken her back into his room. Um...but he didn't bring her back to the bathroom or anything. Um...Lemaricus is in his room...um...G and Rome are in the living room. Uh...I go in there, they are sitting there playing a video game.

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- TC: So nobody at this time is looking out at the police...they are just standing there briefly looking out the window seeing all the police and then they go to playing video games?
- VC: Um...yeah. Um...after that I didn't cook supper that night I went into the living room. Um...I was the only one for a while. Um...G goes around to the backroom, Lemaricus was still in his room, Rome is like...here's the living room where you go from the kitchen to the living room.
- TC: Okay.
- VC: He's right there.
- TC: In the doorway kind of?
- VC: Yeah. I stood in there probably about...um...about 25-30 minutes I was sitting in there. Um...G was still in the backroom, Lemaricus...I don't...I don't know where Lemaricus was at that time. I'm guessing he was still in his room at that time cause I didn't see him come to the living room. Um...Rome is standing there. When I walk back I see Lemaricus snapping her neck.
- TC: Where did that take place at?
- VC: In the back bedroom.
- TC: How did she...how did he get her...how did he get her back there? Cause when you get out of the shower...you get out of the shower, the closet door is open and she's not there.
- VC: Un huh.
- TC: So you're in the living room...
- VC: Um hmm.
- TC: ...for 25-30 minutes...
- VC: Um hmm.
- TC: ...uh...how does he get her back to the bedroom? Or at what point?
- VC: I'm guessing before I had come out of the bathroom he had took her out of the closet and into the kitchen and back in to his room.

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TC: Right.

VC: Um...

TC: But now we're already to the back bedroom where he snaps her neck as you say.

VC: Yes.

TC: How does he get her back there?

VC: I'm guess...he didn't bring her through the living room, so I'm guessing he took her through the bathroom and into the backroom.

TC: Okay.

VC: Um...I seen him snapping her neck.

TC: At...how did he do it? How did he snap her neck?

VC: He was trying like...like this...(unintelligible)...

TC: Okay so he had one hand on his...on her chin...

VC: Yeah.

TC: ...one on the back of her head.

VC: Yeah. Um...and then...uh...after I seen that I looked at Rome and I was like, "what is going on?" And I told him I was gonna call the police if they did not tell...talking to me and tell me what was going on. Lemaricus told me that if I said anything or called the police he said, "I will kill you right now." Rome told me to stop meddling and just leave it alone. Um...at that time...uh...after I seen him trying to snap her neck, I went back into the living room. And I was just...

TC: Now when she...when Lemaricus is snapping her neck...

VC: Um hmm.

TC: What else is taking place?

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VC: Uh...G is in there with him. Um...I went back into the living room and I come back and he had her like this.

TC: Okay.

VC: You know what I mean?

TC: Yeah.

VC: Like this or whatever.

TC: Yeah he had is arm from be...he's behind her...

VC: Yeah.

TC: ...you're indicating he...he's behind her...his arm is around her throat.

VC: Um hmm. Um...I heard a fall, it was her that fell and he started yelling at me to come here...come here...come here. And I was like, "what" and he was like, check her pulse to see if she's alive, I can't tell. And I told him I...and I did what he told me and I couldn't tell and he got mad at me and he started yelling telling me to get out...get out, shut up don't say nothing. Um...after that he had drug her into the living room.

TC: Who...who is all present when he is snapping her neck and choking her?

VC: Lemaricus, G, and Rome.

TC: So G's on what side of Lemaricus?

VC: The left...left side. Um...

TC: Nobody's saying anything?

VC: Un huh.

TC: Where's Rome at on the...what side?

VC: To the right. Um... after that he had drug her into the living room. Um...he was spraying something in her mouth. It...it smelled like bleach. Um...

TC: Who...who was doing that?

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VC: Lemaricus.

TC: Where was he spraying the bleach at?

VC: What do you mean?

TC: What room?

VC: Uh...the living room. Um...after he brought her into the living room they made me go back to the back bedroom. When I come back into the kitchen, I seen them tying her up in the fetal position.

TC: You saw who?

VC: G and Lemaricus was tying her up in the fetal position. Rome was standing on the right side in the living room in that doorway on the right side. Um...

TC: Between the bedroom and the living room?

VC: No, between the kitchen and the living room.

TC: Okay.

VC: Um...I seen him tying her up in the fetal position. Um...I went back into the back bedroom. You could hear like paper and stuff...it was like garbage bags. You could hear them taking them apart and stuff.

TC: Who...who is them?

VC: I didn't see but them three were in there. Rome, G and Lemaricus were in there. Um...after that um...I went back to the back bedroom. I was sitting on the bed. Um...I think it was Saturday night or Sunday night me and Rome had gotten into a fight. Um...he had gotten mad at me because I had tried to leave. Um... he slammed me up against the wall and I cut my ankle and my head...the back of my head swelled up.

TC: Which wall did he slam you into?

VC: When you walk into the back bedroom it's the left wall...the left wall. Um...after I went into the back bedroom Sunday night.

TC: What did you cut your ankle on?

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VC: It was a nail in the wall; he had a picture hanging up on it. It was a picture of him. Um...it was my left ankle. Um...

TC: How high up...(TAPE 1 SIDE B ENDS)...(TAPE 2 BEGINS)...Okay the...(unintelligible)... the...(unintelligible)...

VC: ...(unintelligible due to both talking)...

TC: So you cut your ankle. So he's picked you up?

VC: Yeah.

TC: But he picked you up.

VC: He picked me up like this.

TC: Okay, he picked you up by the throat?

VC: Yeah...um...the whole time Saturday and Sunday they looked real nervous.

TC: Were you not nervous at all?

VC: Huh?

TC: Were you not nervous at all at the time?

VC: I was scared out of my mind. I didn't know what was going on. Um...everytime I would ask them a question they wouldn't respond to me. It was just, mind your own business, don't worry about it. Um...after I had told them that I was gonna call the police and stuff, they kept a closer eye on me. They kept watching me...(unintelligible).

TC: Who did?

VC: Lemaricus and Rome mainly. Rome would constantly holler my name, "what are you doing, where you at." Um...

TC: Now where is he at during when he's asking you this?

VC: In the living room most of the time. Sometimes he would be I the kitchen. Um...

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TC: How many times did you see Rome going into the kitchen...or into the bedroom where the girl's at?

VC: Uh...two, like two times I think. The time...(unintelligible)... two times that I seen him for my sorry ass self. Um...I woke up Monday morning...uh...

TC: Let's go back to when...let's go back to when you could hear the garbage bags sound like they are being taken apart.

VC: Yeah.

TC: What...what's happened after this, after you hear this?

VC: Um...I went into the kitchen that time...um...them three were sitting in there. Um...

TC: Now after you heard the garbage bags...after you heard the garbage bags sound like they're being pulled apart...

VC: Um hmm.

TC: ...how long did you come back...how long did you wait before you come out?

VC: Uh...about 20 minutes...about 20 minutes at the most. Um...I come back out, them three they were sitting in there like this. Um...

TC: Now you seen them tie the girl up...

VC: Yes.

TC: That what shirt she had on that night?

VC: This one.

TC: Uh huh. Okay. Is that how she was tied up?

VC: That's not how I seen her tied up, no.

TC: That...she in the fetal position here?

VC: Um hmm. I only seen the...

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TC: ...(unintelligible)...

VC: ...tying her hands up and her legs and her head was down like that.

TC: Well at the time her head was down like that. See this right here. See that right there.

VC: Um hmm.

TC: That indentation in her cheek?

VC: Um hmm.

TC: That's from being pressed so tight...

VC: Um hmm.

TC: That's against her knee. Her hands are tied, okay. Where did this material come from? Where...where was this material at the house that you...that you described as being the strips that they tied her up with?

VC: Um...these?

TC: The floral strips.

VC: They were...they stayed in the back closet in the back room most of the time. Um...the one we slept in. Um...

TC: You said most of the time, where else did they stay at? Where else the strips stay at?

VC: Well we slept on them a few times. Um...the pink ones they were in the closet. Well not...the first day I arrived all that was in the back closet, all of it was. Um...now when he got it out I don't know. I don't know when he got it out. Um...

TC: There was a sheet...was the...were these strips or straps, whatever you want to call 'em, bindings; were they in there when you noticed the girl's not in the closet after you get out of the shower.

VC: Were they in there? No.

TC: After you get out of the shower, she's missing from the closet...

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VC: Um hmm.

TC: ...the straps are not in there no longer or this material is not in there any longer. Did you hear them cutting this stuff up, ripping it up?

VC: I could hear it ripping in his room.

TC: At...at what time did this take place?

VC: Uh...that was after they had drug her into the living room. You could hear them ripping up that stuff right before they had tied her up. Um...

TC: Who drug her in the living room?

VC: Lemaricus did.

TC: By himself?

VC: Yes.

TC: You're sure?

VC: Yes.

TC: Positive?

VC: Yes.

TC: How did he drag her?

VC: Like...like from here under her arms.

TC: Like under his...he's behind her?

VC: Yeah, up under her arms.

TC: Yeah, he's behind her and he's got his arms...

VC: Yeah.

TC: ...under hers?

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VC: Like...like this.

TC: So she's dragging the floor?

VC: Yes.

TC: Her feet or her legs or...

VC: Yeah.

TC: ...her butt.

VC: Her whole body was on the floor.

TC: Okay. What's not on the floor?

VC: And he's dragging her.

TC: What...what's not on the floor as he's dragging her?

VC: Her head was a little bit up.

TC: Okay.

VC: Um...

TC: What are you thinking at this time?

VC: I was ready to get out of there and go get help. Um...but he had told me that if I had done anything he would kill me. I mean...

TC: Where are you at? Where are you at when they're doing this to her?

VC: Where was I at?

TC: Yeah.

VC: This?

TC: Yeah.

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VC: I never seen her like that. I never seen none of that on her.

TC: So how long after you hear these garbage bags ripping, how long after is she drug into the...drug into the living room?

VC: How long after...

TC: You hear the garbage bags?

VC: She was already in the living room at that time.

TC: Okay. What do you think ought to happen to somebody that does somebody like this?

VC: Honestly?

TC: Absolutely honestly.

VC: What do I think should happen to 'em?

TC: To the people that's in...responsible for this?

VC: Prison. Straight up.

TC: How long?

VC: ...(sigh)...they shouldn't see daylight.

TC: Okay. When was the last time you talked to Rome?

VC: I haven't talked to him since he got arrested up here. I have not talked to him.

TC: You talked to anybody that's in relation to this, Stacy?

VC: No, nobody.

TC: Natasha?

VC: No.

TC: Is that how she is when they drug her in there dressed just like that?

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VC: Yes.

TC: What kind of...what kind of pants, jeans, skirt, dress did she have on, on the lower half of her body when you seen her, when she comes into the house?

VC: She had on blue jeans.

TC: Blue jeans. What kind of shoes?

VC: She didn't have on no shoes.

TC: No shoes?

VC: Un huh.

TC: These appear to...these the same color kind of trash bags that...that you seen in the house?

VC: Regular gar...black garbage bag, yes.

TC: Where is the trash can at this time?

VC: Um...when?

TC: The time you're at the house? The...the whole time you're at the house, where is the garbage can?

VC: Um...see he didn't have a garbage can when I first got there.

TC: Okay. Where did the garbage can come from?

VC: Um...G had told me that he had gotten one from the garbage place right up the street. Um...he told me that...(sigh)...Monday morning he told me that. Because I always put everything in trash bags when I would clean up because there was no garbage can.

TC: Where did he keep the garbage bags in the house?

VC: You mean the trash bags...(unintelligible due to both talking)...

TC: I mean, yeah...trash bags, garbage bags.

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VC: Um...most of the time in the back room by the dryer. There was one in the kitchen.

TC: Okay where...there was never a trash can that you see in the laundry...in the backroom where the dryer is?

VC: No.

TC: Does that...that look familiar?

VC: Yes.

TC: What is that...when did you see that in the house?

VC: Uh...the first time that I seen that was Monday morning.

TC: The trash can?

VC: Yes. It was in the kitchen.

TC: What time did you go to bed Sunday night?

VC: Um...Sunday night...

TC: I'm gonna be honest with you...she's in here Sunday night. I know that for a hundred percent fact.

VC: Um...

TC: I'm not gonna sit here and bullshit you Vanessa, she's in here Sunday night. I can about narrow it down to a time frame.

VC: Okay.

TC: So when is this coming into the house?

VC: Uh...Sunday night, it was already in there Sunday night.

TC: Okay, when is it brought into the house?

VC: Um...it was before all that stuff took place.

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TC: All what stuff, the whole incident or before the...

VC: Yes.

TC: ...ripping of the garments or the floral print or the trash bags?

VC: It was before he had done snapped her neck and all that. It was before all that.

TC: Okay.

VC: Um...

TC: Okay so he's...so Slim's left and went and got this garbage bag or garbage can right?

VC: Yes...yes.

TC: Who is in there watching her?

VC: Uh...

TC: Cause I'm having a hard time believing she's in there by herself these...this amount of time.

VC: She was in Lemaricus' room. Um...when he left to go get that garbage can, Rome and G were taking turns going back and forth in there.

TC: Okay. How many times did they take turns?

VC: Uh...they went back and forth in there probably about two, three times each. And stay in there probably about...see I would listen to hear when they would walk in and walk out.

TC: Where are you at?

VC: I was in the back bedroom.

TC: Okay. How long were they in here that you're hearing them walk in and out?

VC: How long were they in there each time?

TC: Uh huh.

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VC: Uh...probably about 15-20 minutes each. Um...I heard one of them ask her if she was alright...(unintelligible)...

TC: Who asked her if she was alright? I mean you know Rome's voice versus G's.

VC: Yeah, it was Rome that asked her if she was alright and I didn't hear no response out of her then. I didn't hear a say nothing. Um...

TC: ...(pause)...Vanessa, I think you're...I think you know more than what you're telling me. I honestly do.

VC: Like what.

TC: Well I don't know. I think you know more than what you're telling me.

VC: Like what?

TC: About what's...what's went on.

VC: Oh. Saturday night, Rome had told me that they had wrapped the guy up and burned him. Um...uh...when we got back to Kentucky on Tuesday, he was upstairs and he said that he shouldn't have shot that guy.

TC: Rome said that?

VC: G did.

TC: Or G said that?

VC: When we got back to Kentucky on Tuesday.

TC: Told who?

VC: He was saying it to Rome. Um...that was when they were all looking on the computer.

TC: Who...who was talking about wrapping him up and burning him?

VC: Rome told me that. When he said they, I was guessing that it was Rome, G, and Lemaricus that did it cause they were the only three that I seen together. Um...

TC: He told you that him and G and...and Slim...

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VC: He said that they had wrapped him up and burned the guy. Um...

TC: When they...when this is took place, where is the girl cause she's got to be there right, they were together.

VC: Well see he just told me that, I don't know when it happened. ...(Unintelligible)...

TC: When did he tell you this?

VC: He told me that Saturday night?

TC: Late Saturday night, early Saturday, was it dark, daylight?

VC: It was late Saturday night. Monday when we got up Lemaricus was already gone.

TC: Where was he gone?

VC: I don't know. Um...the truck wasn't up there no more. Um...

TC: What time is this?

VC: Around lunch time. Um...

TC: So who is at the house?

VC: It's me, G and Rome there.

TC: Monday?

VC: Yes.

TC: Is that where this...Monday morning is this where that...does that look like the kitchen Monday morning?

VC: That's the kitchen.

TC: Okay, the trashcan was in that place.

VC: Yes.

TC: What did you think was in this trashcan?

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VC: I didn't know.

TC: Had no idea, where did you think the girl had went to?

VC: I didn't know where she had went to.

TC: They had to do something with her.

VC: I know.

TC: They tied her up...

VC: I thought the same thing.

TC: ...in the living room in the fetal position.

VC: Um hmm.

TC: So I don't know if you've been in the fetal position, it's very difficult to move.

VC: Um hmm.

TC: So you're not gonna get up and walk out on your own.

VC: I know.

TC: Okay. So my thing is then this trash can appears all of the sudden...uh...trash can appears all of the sudden...is there nobody throwing trash away at this...all day Monday or Sunday night and Monday? And if so, where are they throwing the trash away at? Because I would think if it was me I would use this trash can to throw my trash away.

VC: Um hmm.

TC: Right?

VC: Um hmm.

TC; Where is the trash going?

VC: Monday morning?

TC: Sunday evening, Monday morning, Monday day?

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VC: I didn't even clean up Monday at all, to throw anything away.

TC: What about Sunday? I'm telling you Vanessa I can put her in the...

VC: ...(unintelligible)...

TC: ...I can put her in this trash can right here in this position, in this spot of the kitchen, Sunday evening. It's hard for me to sit here and think that there is a body laying in this trashcan, in the fetal position, trashcan, she's not laying because she's crammed in it, bent and twisted, that nobody thinks nothing about this trash can.

VC: I didn't.

RF: Vanessa.

VC: Yes sir.

RF: We didn't come all the way from Knoxville to talk to you just to take another stab at it. Okay.

VC: Okay.

RF: And I'm not gonna tell you what we have...

VC: Yes sir.

RF: ...and what we don't have, okay.

VC: Yes sir.

RF: Of course, we've done a lot in, what's this been, three weeks now since this all happened. We've done a lot of...we've done a lot of...talked to a lot of people...Tennessee Bureau of Investigations that's done a lot with DNA, fingerprints, and we've done a lot of other stuff, some other evidence we have and what you're telling us, don't add up, okay. I'm gonna be straight up with you from what...the story you're telling us doesn't add up, alright.

VC: I'm just telling you what I know.

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RF: No...no you're not and that's...that's what I'm getting at, that's what I'm trying to get across to you. It's...it's...at this point of the investigation it's real imperative that you're completely honest with us. Okay. Because right now we don't need this interview, this isn't to benefit us, okay. We're...we're actually giving you an opportunity that a lot of people that we usually don't give...so this is your third opportunity to tell us the truth and so far you haven't, okay. Cause we have evidence and the physically evidence doesn't lie, okay.

VC: Um hmm.

RF: People lie, people skew the truth, but physical evidence does not. It's just there ain't but one way to use evidence and that's the way it's presented. Okay. Um...a lot of things in your story just don't add up to what we already know, okay. And that goes back to what I was saying which is we don't need this interview, okay. This interview is not to benefit us; it's to give you the opportunity to help yourself. Okay. Alright, he's showing you a bunch of pictures and we've gone over this story...this is my first time...

TC: This is my third; you're probably 4th or 5th.

RF: Agent Waggoner four or five times, you've been here three times, I've been involved with the case since it started, okay. But I can't stress to you enough, Vanessa, to tell the truth, I can't. This is very serious, I mean this is...you know like you said, people that do this ought to get life in prison you know and on top of that people that do this have the opportunity to get death because...and this is how serious the case...people can be put to death in the judicial system for...(unintelligible)... offense this high on the...in the books. Uh...I mean we're trying to give everybody the opportunity to tell us the truth. Okay, so far we've been lied to, a lot, okay. But you...you're story is not adding up to us...to me anyway. I'm not sure it's not adding up to Investigator Childress or...or Agent Waggoner. Um...(unintelligible)... let's be honest okay. Because this interview is actually a once in a lifetime opportunity. I give everybody I interview like one opportunity to sit down with me and tell me the truth, okay. Cause most of the time I don't interview somebody twice to get information. I've already got the information. I know the answers to everything that happened generally when it gets to this point in the investigation.

VC: Um hmm.

RF: And all I'm doing is giving you the opportunity to be honest, okay. You can shuck and give us all you want to and tell us these stories and expect us to believe it when...when we know different, okay. Investigator Childress said, there is just a lot you're leaving out, a lot.

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VC: Ask me some questions or something.

RF: We shouldn't have to ask you...you've been in this house...

TC: ...(unintelligible)...

VC: Yes.

RF: ...for two or three days while this girl was murdered, dead, murdered, killed in that house while you were there. We have...we should not have to ask you anything. You should be able to rattle off, this is what happened, this is where I was at, this that and the other. You ought to be able to rattle off...we shouldn't have to ask anybody. You need to tell us the story of what happened. And the only reason is cause that helps you. We know what happened. We've got doctors and forensics and all these people that have been to college for a hundred years to tell us what happened. And they weren't even there. You were there the entire time this girls was brought into the house until y'all left back to Kentucky. We shouldn't have to ask a single question. You should say on Saturday night at such and such time they came in and they did this and they did that. I did this and I did that. You ought to be able to just spew it out. There ought not to be any questions being asked. Okay, because this...you were there.

TC: Look at it. You being a female, right, what would you think or how would you react to this type of trauma?

VC: What do you mean?

TC: Would you scream?

VC: Yes.

TC: Okay. I would think so.

VC: Would be in a lot of pain.

TC: Yeah I would think so. So you had to hear something.

VC: I didn't hear nothing that night.

TC: You're looking at the same trauma, the same bruises, the same blood that I'm looking at right? Cause that's what this is right here, see these, see that right there...

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VC: What is it?

TC: ...on both sides? That's bruises...that's what that is that's what the doctor told me. So I would think that she's probably screaming to the top of her lungs.

VC: Had to be...had to be.

TC: That's what I'm getting at.

VC: That's a lot of pain that looks like a lot of pain.

TC: That's what I'm getting at. The trauma to here, that's not natural, right?

VC: Exactly right.

TC: That's why I'm saying, Vanessa, that there's more...you know more than what you're telling us.

RF: It's no way you could be in that house with that going on and not know what's going on.

VC: Honest to god, I never heard her scream or nothing. I didn't. I never heard her scream at all.

RF: When you went in there to give her water, how much water did you give her?

VC: Um...it was a coffee cup.

RF: Okay. So like 8 oz of water?

TC: What day was that?

VC: Saturday night.

TC: Saturday night?

VC: Um hmm.

TC: She's dead Sunday. So of course, correct me if I'm wrong here I'm not a doctor, you're not either but common sense is gonna play a roll in this. After Sunday, she's not taking a drink, she's not taken a bite, there's no food intake, she's not drank anything right?

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VC: Um hmm.

TC: She's not...she's not alive.

VC: Um hmm.

TC: There is zero...zero...zero...her stomach walls are dry. There is nothing in her stomach. If she's had water intake, to me, and I would think maybe to the doctor, I can't speak for the doctor, but there would be some type of moisture in her stomach, at least on the walls. Her stomach walls are dry. Did she drink the water?

VC: A little bit of it yes.

TC: How much did she drink.

VC: About half of it.

TC: About half the coffee cup?

VC: Um hmm. Um...he took her to the bathroom a couple times too. Lemaricus did. I told y'all that the last time.

TC: Yeah. But to me it seem like the stomach would be moist.

VC: Um hmm.

TC: I would think. Like I said, I'm not a doctor but more than one person has done that to her.

VC: Not one person can do that.

TC: I agree with you.

VC: That's impossible.

TC: I agree with you. Who do you think done this?

VC: Who do I think done it?

TC: Um hmm.

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VC: Honestly.

TC: Keep in mind; I've already got evidence who's done it.

VC: They probably all had a role in it probably. Lemaricus, Rome and G probably all had a roll in it.

TC: Were they ever in a room together all three of them together with her?

VC: Um...not that I remember.

TC: Were you ever in the room with her?

VC: When I took her the water.

TC: Other than giving her the water?

VC: No.

TC: Well, how...what was she doing, what position was she in when you gave her the water?

VC: She was laying on the bed.

TC: Laying on the bed?

VC: Um hmm.

TC: Okay was she tied, her hands...her eyes blindfolded?

VC: Uh...she was still blindfolded. Uh...

TC: Is her hands tied?

VC: They were tied like this.

TC: In front?

VC: Yes.

TC: That's the only times you went in the room while she's in there?

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VC: I peeked a few other times.

TC: Okay.

VC: When I told y'all I had seen her tied up like this...

TC: Right.

VC: ...that's when I seen her like that.

TC: What other times did you peek in, what did you see?

VC: Um...the other times...

TC: Cause correct me if I'm wrong before you answer that, correct me if I'm wrong; you stated in one other interview that you peeked in and saw Rome in the room with her.

VC: Yes, that's what I was fixing to say, he was...can I get up and show you?

TC: Yeah, absolutely...(TAPE 2 SIDE A ENDS)...(TAPE 2 SIDE B BLANK)...(TAPE 3 BEGINS)...okay.

VC: Alright...(unintelligible)... this way. When I looked in she was at the top of the bed and it looked like she was making a...(unintelligible)...

TC: Okay, in front of her?

VC: Back.

TC: Okay, behind her?

VC: Yeah.

TC: And that was Rome?

VC: Yes.

TC: Okay, what...how long were you standing there watching?

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VC: Um...that was aft...that was a couple of minutes after the...(unintelligible)... I had peeked in there.

TC: So he's in there a couple of minutes you go take a peek, hey what's my boyfriend...

VC: Um hmm.

TC: ... doing in here with this white girl.

VC: And then he stayed in there for the rest of the time.

TC: For about 10 or 15 minutes.

VC: Um...yeah...um...

TC: Were you not pissed off; he's in there with this girl?

VC: I was pissed off.

TC: Did you tell him that?

VC: He's not the type that he'd care. He's not the type to care.

TC: So did you say anything to him about or...

VC: I asked him what he was doing in there, he said, "... (unintelligible)... I'm just watching her make sure she was alright."

TC: She look alright right there?

VC: I mean, common sense if she's tied up she's gonna be alright, where she gonna go?

TC: Right there, does she look alright?

VC: No.

TC: Guess how long this is after the fact, after we find her?

VC: Don't know.

TC: Three days later. She's dead Sunday, this is three days later.

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VC: After.

TC: Yeah. And I'm gonna...I'm gonna cut to the chase cause we've been at this for two hours, Vanessa...

VC: Okay.

TC: Over or right at two hours. I'm gonna be brutally honest with you okay. She is alive when she is put in that trash can. You can't tell me that nobody has heard shit about her in the trash can, she is still alive. She's not dead when they tie her up, okay. She died in that trash can...she suffocated. She didn't die...

VC: Are you serious?

TC: ...yes I'm dead serious. I'm not sitting here and bullshitting you, I've been at this too long tonight and been at it...this is the only case that I have worked since this day, since January 7th is the only case I've worked. Same way for him, same way for him, okay. We've got a lot of evidence built up that's why I know that she's alive when she's put in this damn trash can. She died from...she suffocated, let me show you. Right there, look at those two pictures here. What is that around her face?

VC: Looks like a white garbage bag or something.

TC: Okay, what would that...what would that...you're a normal person...or you know would know what would be a normal person would think. What would that tell you? What would that tell you with a white plastic bag around her face?

VC: Trying to suffocate her.

TC: Okay. Now I agree with that.

VC: Common sense.

TC: So what would that tell you? That she's probably still alive when she's put in this trashcan.

VC: Yep.

TC: That's the whole point I'm getting at. She's in here for two fucking days Vanessa.

VC: You don't have to cuss at me.

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TC: And you're still there, do you see what I'm saying?

VC: ...(unintelligible)...

TC: And she's alive when she's put in the trashcan. She's in there for a good little bit before she actually died. So there is no way that nobody knows about this...about her in there trying to move around or trying to knock the lid off or anything.

VC: I never heard anything, I didn't.

TC: I wouldn't expect you to hear this if you can't hear this. But you're...my thing is this trash can's been in here for two days at least with her in it, Sunday night and Monday. And you all are still there.

VC: Monday night we did not stay there.

TC: Okay, Monday. So you're looking at at least 24 hours at least that she's in this trashcan. And nobody...nobody knows anything about it. Nobody thinks it's odd that all of the sudden she's missing and now there's a trashcan in the corner of the kitchen. Because that's not where the trashcan was normally kept at.

VC: Nope.

TC: But now all of the sudden it's moved to the kitchen? Did you not think that was odd?

VC: It was it's...(unintelligible)...

TC: I mean and maybe not at the time...maybe not at the time to you. But looking back on it now, that's why I'm trying to jar your memory...what you remember.

VC: It makes you look back and add things up.

TC: That's what I'm...what we're trying to do; I'm trying to give you this opportunity. Cause I don't...like Flores said, I don't need your testimony or your...your statements. I don't need them at all. Cause the last thing I wanted to do tonight was drive up here three and a half hours to talk to you. That's why I'm giving you the opportunity now because when I leave here this time, I'm not talking to you again, okay.

VC: Okay.

TC: I'll not do it.

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VC: Okay.

TC: I know he won't do it and I don't know if Agent Waggoner will do it. So now is the time, right now to lay it on the line what you haven't told us.

RF: What you tell us here, Vanessa, does nothing but help ya.

TC: That's all it's gonna do is help you, it cannot hurt you any.

VC: I can't think of anything that I've left out.

RF: How about when y'all get back to Kentucky. Y'all get back here, where did y'all go when you get back to Kentucky.

VC: Well, we went to Natasha's house.

RF: Stayed there the whole time?

VC: No, I went to my sister's at night.

RF: ...(unintelligible)... did you go by yourself?

VC: Um...Rome went with me to my sisters.

RF: Rome was with you?

VC: And I went to the doctor Wednesday and he went to the doctor with me. Um...he...he went somewhere Wednesday night, he went by himself he was gone for about 25-30 minutes and he come back.

RF: Where was you at, your sisters?

VC: I was at Natasha's.

RF: You were at Natasha's, who else was there?

VC: Um...me, Natasha, G had left with Stacy that night.

RF: And it never crossed your mind now that everybody was gone to call the police?

VC: It did.

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RF: Did you ever try it? Did you ever pick up the phone and call the police and say, "my god, I was in Knoxville and watched this woman be murdered right before my eyes." So it never crossed your mind to call the police then? I mean you didn't have G...you didn't have G to get...

VC: I wanted to.

RF: ...you didn't have Rome standing over the top of ya. You didn't have G standing there to keep you from doing it. Never once picked up the phone and say, "I finally got away from them, this is what happened, please come help me."

VC: No sir.

AW: You not only didn't call the police, you lied to me when I first interviewed you.

VC: I'm sorry.

AW: Even though I told you it was against federal law to lie to me because I'm a federal officer.

VC: I'm sorry.

AW: And you lied to the US Attorney who helped with the interview. And for him the guy that was with me, the big tall guy.

VC: Mike.

AW: Mike Winck... so you know you can be charged with lying to us. And then you went into the federal grand jury and didn't tell the truth in there either did you?

VC: I did tell the truth.

AW: No you didn't, cause you...you told me things afterward cause you went in there...

VC: They were...when I remembered.

AW: Well, you remembered it but you didn't say it until we confronted you about it and you weren't truthful. So you're...you're saying that you answered every question in the grand jury truthfully?

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VC: That I remember. I know I left stuff out that I didn't say in there that you had wrote down afterwards.

AW: Yeah you left stuff out, that's...that's...uh...most people call that being untruthful. You need to say yes or no for the tape recorder.

VC: Yes sir.

AW: You intentionally left stuff out in the grand jury when you were asked questions about it?

VC: I left one thing out intentionally, that's all.

AW: Yeah, and what was that about?

VC: When he made me check her pulse.

AW: Yeah, you also left out that your boyfriend was in the room.

VC: Yes sir.

AW: Cause you initially told us that he sat there in the living room with you.

VC: Yes sir.

AW: So there's two things that you lied about in the grand jury right?

VC: Yes sir.

AW: And you also left out what your boyfriend, Rome told you about holding the gun to that boy's head.

VC: I had forgotten about that.

AW: Okay.

VC: I told you that we had had conversations but I didn't remember them all.

AW: And...uh...you left about the part about he told you that he helped burn the body.

VC: Yes.

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AW: You didn't forget about that one did you?

VC: No.

AW: You just left it out.

VC: I left it out.

AW: Yeah. Even though you were asked what your boyfriend had to do with this.

VC: Yes sir.

AW: And they also told...y'all got together and y'all had this story made up.

VC: Who?

AW: All of you, about coming back on a certain day that was a week earlier, remember the...

VC: Yes sir.

AW: ...alibi...

VC: Rome told me and G to say that. He told us to say that we came back on the 2nd of July.... I mean Jan...January. He did.

AW: Came back to where? Kentucky from Knoxville?

VC: Um hmm...yes.

AW: And y'all were gonna lie about having any involvement in this what so ever?

VC: I didn't have any involvement in it.

AW: Well, y'all were gonna lie about having involvement in it. You were there, can you understand that? You're involved.

VC: But I didn't have anything to do with it though. I understand I was there.

AW: You had the dead girl's purse and clothes.

VC: Lemaricus gave that stuff to me, I didn't know who's it was.

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AW: You sat in a house while your boyfriend and two other men, raped and murdered a woman not ten feet away from you; the furthest it could have been from you was ten feet. You're involved. And I'm not saying that you strangled her, you're involved. These officers...I'm not in charge of this anymore. These officers have taken over the investigation. You better tell them everything, the complete truth. If you helped tie her up you need...when she was alive or when she was dead...you need to tell them. If you watched her while they went and did something else, you need to tell them, okay. If you helped them dispose of the body, you need to tell them. Vanessa you need to tell them right now.

VC: I didn't help them do none of that.

AW: Alright.

TC: Let's make one thing clear, you understand you can go to jail for the next 51 years to be exact?

VC: Yes sir.

TC: So how old are you?

VC: 19.

TC: So that would put it about like 70, 68 years old by the time you get out of jail.

VC: Why would I go to jail that long?

TC: Cause that's life in prison. Minimum, life in prison...minimum is 51 years.

AW: Did any of these guys tell you that if you kept your mouth shut and stuck to your story that the worse we could do to you was put you in jail for a couple of years?

VC: No.

AW: They didn't tell you that?

VC: No.

AW: So why did you lie to start with? Why did you lie to try to protect your boyfriend?

PERSON INTERVIEWED: VANESSA COLEMAN
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JANUARY 31, 2007
TIME OF INTERVIEW: 9:17 P.M.
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VC: Cause they told me that if I said anything they would kill me. And I knew that his brother was still out.

AW: His brother? Whose brother?

VC: Rome's brother.

AW: Um...uh...Lemarcus was arrested actually before you all were.

VC: Oh.

AW: And we told you that.

VC: Um...the guy come in and said that he got arrested 30 minutes after we did.

AW: In the 30 minutes after you learned that 30 minutes before you learned he was arrested the same day. And I sat in this hallway back here with you on that Thursday for several hours and there were 30 police officers and agents in this building and you could have told us. And you could have told us the truth when we interviewed us in Knoxville, you could have told the truth in the grand jury and you could have told the truth when you talked to Leslie Nassios, a Knox County Prosecutor. Cause everybody's locked up and you don't have anything to be afraid of anymore so your story that you did this because they said they were going to kill you, there wasn't anybody left to threaten you.

VC: Well I knew they were in gangs and stuff.

AW: And I told you what...that we're not gonna let anything happen to you. That's when you were our witness. They find it hard to believe that somebody ties a dead body up, and I believe the girl was tied up like that to start with so could rape her over and over. And the fact that you say that you didn't hear her scream and crying or begging for her life when there is not any doors on the bedroom. They don't believe it.

VC: I understand what you're saying.

AW: But you could hear...(unintelligible)...

TC: ...(unintelligible)...

VC: But I never heard her scream at all.

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AW: No wait a minute...wait a minute...you're telling him earlier that you're in the shower when E, Eric Boyd comes over and you can hear them whispering together in the living room.

VC: Um hmm.

AW: You're taking a shower with the water running and you hear them whisper?

VC: You could hear them in there.

AW: But you don't hear...

VC: You couldn't make out what they're saying, but you could hear them.

TC: But you could hear them whispering some type of talk?

VC: Yeah...yes.

TC: Over the water running?

VC: Yes.

RF: But you can't hear that young lady, brutally raped repeatedly over a span of 24 hours...

VC: I never heard her scream or nothing.

RF: ...(unintelligible)...

VC: I heard...I told you what I heard.

AW: Okay.

TC: Why did you want to get back to Kentucky after you know...you were so worried that...so worried that something's gonna happen to you...you're in protective custody now with the federal government. Why did you...this is on the Thursday, Friday...

AW: Sunday.

TC: ...Thursday or Friday were you...

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AW: We came and got you, Jackie Herman, the other ATF agent and I called your mom and woke her up. I got in a car, we drove straight up here...say yes.

VC: Yes.

AW: Okay, cause they can't hear you moving your head on the tape recorder. I offered to put you in protective custody that night and you wanted to go home with your parents and pack your things.

VC: Yes.

AW: And then Friday, when you get here and we drive you back to Knoxville and I hide you in a motel room, don't I?

VC: Yes.

AW: And then, Sunday you called me, didn't you?

VC: Yes.

AW: And you told me that you wanted to come back home.

VC: I was ready to come home.

AW: But you're scared that these people are gonna kill you?

VC: I was but at the same time I knew what I was getting myself into when I told y'all what I knew. And I figured if something was gonna happen it should just happen. I don't want to be on the run the rest of my life from people.

AW: Well you're not going to...I just wanted to clear up a couple of things. I don't know that you're mom and dad doesn't...they don't believe you either Vanessa. I sat there Sunday with your mom and talked to ya. I was there when your dad talked to you. You know up at the DA's office and he told...he said there he didn't believe you. And they know you a whole lot better than we do. I've known you what? Three weeks roughly. They've known you for 18 years and they're...they're saying you're not being truthful and you know they don't believe you.

VC: ...(unintelligible)...

TC: So it's very hard for us to believe you.

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VC: I understand.

RF: If we can't believe ya, what are... in front of 12 average citizens gonna be in the jury. When you sit there and your story is told to them.

VC: I understand.

TC: I don't...(unintelligible)... sounds like you do.

AW: No you don't. You have no idea what you've gotten yourself into. And they're giving you an opportunity to tell the truth.

VC: I am...I'm telling you the truth.

RF: ...(unintelligible)...

AW: Why...why...why would somebody hog tie a dead body up like that?

VC: Honestly I don't know, there is no reason for that. There's no reason for it at all.

TC: Okay...(unintelligible)... you done?

AW: Yeah.

TC: You finished?

RF: Vanessa, you done... this is your one and only last opportunity. We're walking out that door and we're going back to Knoxville.

VC: I've told you everything I know.

RF: Alright. I surely hope so.

TC: Interview's going to be concluded, January 31, 2007 with Vanessa Coleman at 11:14p.m.... (END OF INTERVIEW)//mal