

MAINE STATE POLICE  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION I  
TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

52

INCIDENT #: 20-4-35897

CASE: Homicide  
(BORTNER, KASSIDY)

NAME: AMANDA BORTNER

DOB: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: 191 Milton Road, Rochester, New Hampshire  
TELEPHONE:

EMPLOYMENT: Old Navy, Kittery, Maine

OFFICER: Det. Angela C. Blodgett

*ACM 2/12/01*

I.D. #: 0292

DATE: 11/09/00

TIME START: 1855 Hrs.

TIME END: 1920 Hrs.

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Kittery Police Department, Kittery, Maine

Approved: *MSJ*

Parties present during interview:

AB - Amanda Bortner

ACB - Det. Angela C. Blodgett, Maine State Police, CID I

RCL - Det. Richard C. LeClair, Maine State Police, CID I

BEGIN TAPE 1 / SIDE 1

AB - (inaudible) play with her.

RCL - Huh?

AB - I remember she would lay on his chest, but I don't know if she didn't, I don't know if she didn't like it.

(Loud Background Noise)

ACB - Wow!

RCL - Ha, ha! Nice! There's some paper towels over there.

ACB - Um, one of the things that we've been told, you had said that CHAD had never hit you?

AB - Um hum.

ACB - Did you have bruises on your neck at a work picnic that came from CHAD?

AB - A work picnic?

ACB - Yes, for like McDonalds or something. And you had bruises on your neck. Do you know what that would be about?

AB - He got mad at me before and he's done this before and I had a bruise right here and a bruise right here.

RCL - So AMANDA, we,

(Loud Background Noise)

ACB - (inaudible)

RCL - We're trying to get to the bottom of this...

AB - But he's not...

RCL - ...and mommy's lying.

AB - He's not like, I don't know.

ACB - You didn't consider that...

AB - Well, I yelled at him and he's never did it again. (inaudible)

ACB - How long ago was that?

AB - Um, um, a month ago.

RCL - What event did you do with him?

AB - I don't remember. I don't know what event it was. If I think really hard, I'm not sure.

RCL - Huh? Now AMANDA we want the a, we're going to have to go over some things again because other people are being truthful, okay, other people who are in the know, and you're not. And you know that, right?

AB - Yeah. He, ah, well, he just grabbed my throat and stuff.

ACB - Um...

RCL - This isn't the only incident we're talking about...

(Loud Background Noise)

RCL - ...about truthfulness.

AB - What are you talking about?

ACB - We'll everyone else is telling us alot more and they say that they know this because you told them.

AB - Like, I, I've said it to some people.

RCL - We know what was said this morning when you dropped the baby into your sister's room.

ACB - You were concerned about her face and she didn't have like one little spot where a plastic ball would have hit her.

AB - No, she had some right here too.

ACB - But, down on, she had places all over and you apparently said, well you were all upset, and said 'well look at her face'. Do you remember that?

AB - Yeah. I said it looked really bad.

RCL - AMANDA why are you, can I ask you why your trying to minimize what happened here?

AB - I don't know why.

RCL - If I were to ask you yesterday what was the most important thing in your life, what would your answer be?

AB - My daughter (inaudible).

RCL - Well, guess what? She's not here anymore. And you know, you have a good reason or a good idea as to what happened. You've been sleeping with CHAD for how long? You know what happened, and you have to tell us. There are other people who are telling us things but then we can't even get the truth out of her mother. Yesterday she was the most important thing to you. This is the last thing you can do for her.

AB - Um hum.

ACB - I think that you know that he killed your daughter. He beat her to death. And that's not, I know that it's difficult, but I need you to tell me what's been going on. And she deserves that.

AB - Um hum.

ACB - Not for you to just go 'oh well, that's too bad, I guess I won't date him anymore'.

RCL - You know, auntie and uncle love your daughter.

AB - Um hum. So what do you want me to tell you?

ACB - Well, what happened last night? I think, didn't he tell you that there was more than just this whittle ball right?

AB - He, no, he did not tell me anything.

ACB - He didn't tell you about calling JEFF? Of did JEFF tell you about him calling saying...

AB - He told me he had a conversation with JEFF and they were just saying that, um, after the bruises go away I should take her to the doctor's because she acting weird.

ACB - And did he talk to you...

AB - He didn't say anything about...

ACB - ...about falling, calling JEFF saying she fell out of the truck? And that she was laying on the ground and her eyes were rolling back in her head?

AB - No, that happened with JEFF, when she was with him.

ACB - No. This was last night.

RCL - No this happened last night too.

AB - What happened last night? She fell out of the truck, truck again? All I heard about last night was whittle ball.

ACB - What did he say, he told you over the phone that she was acting funny?

AB - Yeah.

ACB - What was...

AB - Like spacey.

ACB - Did he ask you what to do or...?

AB - He told me, um, I was like, well, I'll bring her to the doctor's and he's like, well, 'you should wait until the bruises go away'.

RCL - Why's that?

AB - Because he was paranoid about this, about him getting in trouble with her.

RCL - Do you think he should be?

AB - Yes.

RCL - What time did you leave work last night?

AB - Like around eleven (11:00), eleven-thirty (11:30).

RCL - Okay. You did not go home early.

AB - No.

ACB - Your sister swears that you stormed out of the store and went home early.

AB - No! I went back to work. Call my work.

ACB - You went back to work?

AB - Yes.

RCL - Oh, don't worry. I mean...

ACB - We will, but...

AB - I was there until 11:00. I punched out.

ACB - What did you talk to her about during the break? I mean, what was said?

AB - I was mad over it.

RCL - Mad over what?

AB - About the whittle ball thing and then I...

ACB - Did you believe him? I mean, did you think it was just garbage and that he had done something?

RCL - You know, AMANDA...

AB - No, I think about it and I don't believe it.

RCL - Obviously, something happened because if I got a call right now and someone told me my son just got hit with a hockey puck, which is alot harder than a whiffle ball, it wouldn't bother me a single bit.

AB - You can even ask people at my work. I was like, I just found out that my kid got hit by a whiffle ball that and...

ACB - I mean, that's like nothing. That's...

RCL - What's the...

AB - I, I...

RCL - Describe the whiffle ball bat to me.

AB - It's yellow and there's like a ball.

RCL - Um hum. And the balls are hollow.

AB - I'm not saying that I believe it, that's what happened, I'm saying that's what I heard.

RCL - Okay.

AB - I don't know what he did but he probably did hurt her.

RCL - Did your motherly instincts kick in and you, you think something, something more's happening there?

AB - I was thinking, um, more when he was talking on the phone because he said something like he didn't want anything to do with her anymore, on the phone.

RCL - He said that last night?

AB - Yeah. He was like I don't want to get in trouble. He was worried about it.

RCL - Okay. Last night, tell me exactly what he just said, what you just told us.

AB - (inaudible) was like, um, I don't know if he was trying to cover himself up or something, but he was like 'AMANDA, um, I'm worried about her. Every time I'm with her it seems like she always hurts herself or falls down or something.' And he said, um, about the whiffle ball...

RCL - Um hum.

AB - ...and that whole story about KYLE doing it. And then he's like, 'I don't, I don't think I should have anything to do with her anymore.' Maybe he was feeling bad about it and, but, I even thought bad and I was like really mad at him and I left and went to work, back to work.

RCL - What was your feelings then?

AB - I was...

RCL - You know, this is the guy you live with. This the guy who's paying for everything. \$70000 a year. He's giving you money to go shopping. You know, kind of worried about it. Every time she's with me she falls or gets hurt, and he tries to lay the blame on KYLE with the, with the baseball? And then he tells you he thinks he shouldn't have anything to do with her? And you just said you think he's trying to cover himsel...

AB - Well, I've been trying to get an apartment. Like, I've, but then I was like, I don't know, I thought that it, you know, would get better and, I don't know.

RCL - You know, you told us, I mean, the most precious thing to you yesterday was your daughter. Now she's gone. This is where you, you can help her.

AB - I know.

RCL - I mean, you've got auntie and uncle out there spilling their guts telling us everything they know, and we have to come to you two times to get the truth on something.

AB - I'm sorry. I just can't think straight right now. Like the hair thing, I didn't think about that until I went outside and I just...

ACB - That he had pulled her by her hair?

AB - No. She, I've never seen him pull her by her hair but I told you that it was falling out.

RCL - Um hum.

ACB - On the back of her head where the hair is falling out, is that recent? Like, or has she never had a hair line back there?

AB - Oh, she's always had, like a weird hair line.

ACB - Has it gotten worse?

AB - I noticed it getting worse on the sides.

ACB - Yeah. No how long have you been living with him, with CHAD?

AB - Probably like, there everyday, probably like three (3) months.

ACB - How long have you been spending nights with the baby?

AB - Three (3) months.

ACB - Alright. Because other people are telling us, like two (2) weeks?

AB - Spending nights with the baby?

ACB - Like living there for, like two (2) weeks?

AB - Who told you that?

ACB - Like your sister and, uh, JEFF.

AB - Living at the house for two (2) weeks?

ACB - That you've been living with CHAD for maybe like two (2) weeks to a month?

AB - No. It's been longer than that.

(Loud Background Noise)

ACB - Longer than that?



AB - My mom would know the exact (inaudible) because that's when I left her, my mom's. Um, CHAD would say less than that just because he, I don't know...

ACB - So, CHAD never said anything to you last night about calling, that he had called JEFF twice saying once that she's acting funny and her eyes were rolling back and then...

AB - He talk, he didn't say her she was rolling her eyes or anything.

ACB - ...that he, he got out of the truck and she had just, she was just laying on the ground on the other side of the truck acting funny again?

AB - Oh, yeah. He told me she was laying on the ground after he went to pick her up and then KYLE started crying to pick him up first, so he went to get KYLE and when he came back and she was laying on the ground. He said that.

ACB - Was he insinuating that she had hit her head...

AB - But...

ACB - ... or something like that or?

AB - He said, um, that he walked over and her face was like face down in the ground and he thought it was weird that she didn't use her hands to like pull her up, like when she falls (inaudible).

ACB - Yeah. Was...

AB - And then, like I thought he was just referring to her, like why, why I was really mad too, because like she was retarded or something. Another reason why I was really mad, because sometimes he would call her retarded and retard.

ACB - Has she gotten slower? I mean, her, her ability to function, um, people are describing that she would just stand and stare for hours?

AB - Yeah. She never did that to, to me and I, whenever JEFF told me that she did that I just thought that maybe she didn't know where she was because she was always with me. She just woke up and she was like, didn't know where she was. He told me she did it once in the middle of the night. But she never did that with me.

ACB - Yeah. Alright. She wouldn't space off?

AMANDA BORTNER  
11/09/00  
1755 Hours

20-4-35897  
DET. BLODGETT  
Page 10

61

AB - I noticed that she was like tired and she was spacey and that one time, um, when she fell out of the truck that day, that night, and her eyes, I thought she was just tired, and I thought that was kind of weird. Then, the next day, she was fine. And that's why I didn't really think it was that bad.

ACB - Uh. Other than, um, hitting her eye on the table and then the story about getting hit with the whiffle ball, whiffle ball bat...

AB - Um hum.

ACB - ...and finding her laying on the ground and the time that she fell out of JEFF's truck...

AB - Um hum.

ACB - ...are there any other explanations that anyone has given you for injuries?

AB - I, let me think. (inaudible) my mind's like, can't think straight. I remember when she had her bruises on her face from this.

ACB - Uh huh.

AB - Um, CHAD was all paranoid about it, and he was like 'you shouldn't bring her to your mom's' because I was always planning on going up there.

ACB - Yup.

AB - Because of the bruises and stuff. And my mom like said something one day about it. So he was, he was all worried about that, and, um, he made up an excuse about saying that he was on the trampoline and she like fell and he grabbed her by the feet to hold her up.

ACB - Yeah.

AB - And then, um, I don't even know (inaudible).

ACB - Have you asked anyone not to call Social Services and report these injuries?

AB - No.

ACB - I mean, everyone we're talking to knows that he's been hurting the baby and hasn't been calling because they felt bad for you and didn't want you to lose your child because you weren't being a protective mother. You were letting someone kill the baby slowly. Um,

what, ah, as far as CHAD's sexual history, does he have any strange, or is there anything that looking back now, knowing what I've told you about the doctor's concerns about the irritation in your daughter's vaginal area...

AB - Um hum.

ACB - ...is there anything, any bells going off, that we should talk about?

AB - I really, honestly, don't think he'd do that. Like, I think, he just loses his temper, but I think it was like must have been the dirty diapers. There was, ah, CHAD wouldn't even change the diapers in the beginning. You know?

ACB - Yeah.

AB - Like, and JEFF. Whenever she was like with him there (inaudible) shitty diaper that she had all day.

ACB - Yup.

AB - Maybe that might be what it was?

ACB - So no, no unusual sexual...

AB - No. I really don't think he would do that.

ACB - I mean, did he ever want you to have sex in front of the kids?

AB - No.

ACB - No? Okay. Ah, would he ever like, walk around naked in front of the kids?

AB - No. Well, yeah, we both did at times. They were just like right there, yeah (inaudible). She was sleeping on the bed. We'd get up, go to take a shower, you know. Come out with a towel on. Not like bare naked, but...

ACB - Nothing that concerned you?

AB - No. She was always wearing clothes. There was nothing that, I don't think he'd ever do that. I think he just has a really bad temper.

ACB - Okay. Um,

AB - Can't control it. Anger.

ACB - What about him pulling her leg and that's when she started walking funny?

AB - Um, I, when that happened, I thought it, he was pulling her around her legs playing with her, and he had told me that she was walking funny, and I, I was like 'it's probably from you throwing her around and that stuff'.

ACB - So, what was he doing with her?

AB - He picked her up by her legs before.

ACB - In fun or when he was mad?

AB - No. In fun. Not when he was mad. When he's mad, he'd like, goes like this and does like this and chokes. When she was bad.

ACB - So, hold her upside down by her feet to play?

AB - Yeah. And she was just like, he would do this and that's what he would do to me.

ACB - So he would push...

AB - This is what he would do to me. Not that.

ACB - He'd push on your throat and knock the air out?

AB - He would try to. And then he was, he head butted me once.

ACB - Okay. And he would do that to her too?

AB - He never head butted her, but he would do this to her and...

ACB - Push down on her like, trachea? That hole?

AB - Yeah. And then, he wouldn't even do it and she'd automatically make herself gag. That happened like...

ACB - Did you have any concerns that she was suffering brain damage?

AB - When she fell out of the truck, that was...

ACB - From lack of oxygen? Or from banging her head so much? I mean she was...

AB - I didn't even think about that.

ACB - ...seemed to be slowing down and getting spacey and...

AB - Like, one day, I did. And then the next day she was like, talk, like, like doing smart things so I didn't think that, I didn't think to do anything.

ACB - How long has this stuff been going on?

AB - Probably for about three (3) months. Two (2) months.

ACB - Alright. And obviously, you both knew...

AB - I've probably been living there for like three (3) months.

ACB - You and CHAD both knew that this was bad and that's why...

AB - I don't, I don't think he thought it was bad.

ACB - But he didn't want you to take her to the doctor, right?

AB - Yeah, but like last night, he said 'you should take her to the doctor after she gets rid of the bruises.'

ACB - Well, I mean, that's apparently wasn't quick enough because she's dead.

AB - I, I know that.

ACB - So he must have known that he had done something wrong because...

AB - Yeah.

ACB - ...why would he care if the baby had bruises.

AB - Yeah. Yeah, that's another suspicion that I, I like can't think right.

ACB - I mean, where you hit as a child?

AB - No.

ACB - So this is not how you discipline your children...

AB - Um um, I was never hit.

ACB - ...or your experiences growing up?

AB - Um um, I got spanked and stuff but...

ACB - Not like that?

AB - No.

ACB - Uh, so probably the last two (2) months is when all this happened?

AB - Um hum.

ACB - Um, have, has she seemed to have any problems like focusing? Her eyes, do her eyes float? Did you notice anything like that?

AB - Her being spacey and like, I thought it was just tiredness.

ACB - Have her eyes ever been bloodshot?

AB - Uh huh, I don't think so.

ACB - What about CHAD's current use of cocaine? Do you think that it's a problem?

AB - Current use of cocaine?

ACB - Yeah. Does that seem to be involved in this at all?

AB - Oh, no. That was a long, long time ago. We had done it once.

ACB - Alright, because people are telling me that, that's a problem and that he also has some gambling problems. He's like a \$1,000 behind?

AB - Oh. Oh, he gambles, but he doesn't do coke.

ACB - He hasn't been doing that recently?

AB - Oh, no. No.

ACB - Okay.

AB - He's on probation right now, so he can't really any, anyway. You know what I mean?

ACB - What is he on probation for?

AB - His wife.

ACB - For assaulting her?

AB - Um hum.

ACB - Was the five (5) year old son there last night?

AB - No, he wasn't there.

ACB - Just the three (3) year old? Are those two (2) kids with two (2) different women or the same woman?

AB - No, it's not even his kid. Um, it's two (2) different kids.

ACB - It's a child that he adopted?

AB - No, he did even adopt her. Two different kids from, um, his wife, ex-wife, whatever.

ACB - Okay. So he's not the father of the five (5) year old?

AB - No.

ACB - Okay. And that occurred in New Hampshire?

AB - Yes. I don't know why. When I talked to TRISTEN, she told me that he hurt her and, um, she told me to go to the police station and look at pictures but I never did.

ACB - Um, I guess, I just don't know why you were ignoring all this. Why you just stood there and let this happen.

AB - I just, I don't really know.

ACB - Okay. So you don't think that he's still using cocaine?

(Intercom Paging Noise in Background)

AB - No. I know he isn't.

ACB - Would JEFF know more? Do he and JEFF go out together?

AB - No. No. They're not really close friends.

ACB - What about going to a strip club the other day?

AB - He went to (inaudible)?

ACB - Or looking for someone to go to one?

AB - I don't think so.

ACB - And is there a child seat in his truck? Is it a truck he drives?

AB - Who?

ACB - CHAD.

AB - No. He has a car, and yes there's a child seat. Actually, now there's both, I have his...

ACB - Because JEFF said he just threw her in the car and put the seat belt on her yesterday. No child seat or anything.

AB - JEFF said CHAD did that?

ACB - Yes.

AB - Oh, because I had her car seat in my car so he probably went to work and got it.

ACB - I don't think he did because he didn't, he didn't put her in it. If it was in the car, he would have used it.

AB - Well, I know he had one car seat. I know he wouldn't do that. Like, he, I don't think...

ACB - Did you think he would kill the baby?

AB - No, but, he would just like, bad temper. If I would ever do that he would scream at me. Maybe he did.

ACB - Um, if the only reason that KASSIDY died is because she had head injuries from being beaten, who would be responsible for that? Only CHAD or anybody else?

AB - CHAD.



ACB - CHAD? Do you feel that he is responsible her death?

AB - Yeah. I know he is.

ACB - Um, what if the testing shows that she has been sexually abused?

AB - Well, I...

ACB - Who would be responsible?

AB - I don't think it will. I don't think it would. I don't know. Because JEFF's been with her alot. I'm not gonna, ah...

ACB - Um,

AB - I don't think it would though.

ACB - Now CHAD was pretty possessive, um, how it's getting explained to us is not so much that your daughter was jealous but that CHAD didn't like the attention you gave the baby?

AB - Yeah. He thought I spoiled her.

ACB - And then he made you throw out some pictures of her father? Did you have pictures of the baby's father?

AB - I never had pictures of him.

ACB - I thought that your sister had said that he...

AB - Me and my boyfriend. My ex-boyfriend.

ACB - Oh, okay. That's not, that's a different guy. Okay.

AB - (inaudible)

ACB - Did he make you throw out pictures of your old boyfriend?

AB - I don't think I, I think he did like made fun of it when he came over one day. But I never threw it away. It's all at my mom's house, so, but he was, he was not really controlling. He just, um, wanted to know where I was and what time I'd was going to be home and all that.

ACB - Yeah.

AB - (inaudible)

ACB - Um, what do you think, um, your roommate is going to have to say about what's been going on?

AB - He knows.

ACB - Okay.

AB - Like, I told him.

ACB - Has he seen any of this?

AB - I don't know if he'll say anything because he works with CHAD. I've cried to him. I cried to him like last week with, well whatever that head thing because I stressed out over it and I was like, you know, and then the next day she was fine so I didn't do anything about it.

ACB - Now, which head thing were you concerned about?

AB - When she fell out of the truck?

ACB - Did she really fall out of the truck...

AB - Ask JEFF.

ACB - ...because JEFF didn't tell us anything about that? Whether he just forgot about it or, it was JEFF that told you that himself?

AB - Yeah. JEFF told me, um, she fell out of the truck and she was really sick when she came over.

ACB - That she fell out of his truck?

AB - JEFF's truck.

ACB - And she was sick when she came over to her house?

AB - No. When she came, when he dropped her off.

ACB - When she came, dropped her off home? Okay. Um, because he's completely at a lose.

AB - Um hum.

ACB - Um, I think he feels guilty for not calling and having that child taken away.

AB - Um hum.

ACB - Um, he's extremely upset. Ah, (inaudible)

AB - TREVOR.

ACB - TREVOR. (inaudible)

AB - I don't know if he's going like tell them about it.

ACB - Yeah.

AB - Just because it's his boss.

ACB - Well, it's all so a murder though. So, I would hope he would have some...

AB - And he lives there.

ACB - ...respect.

AB - Yeah. (inaudible)

ACB - Who owns that residence?

AB - He does. CHAD.

ACB - CHAD owns it? Um, no, who's, no one else stays there besides you, TRAVIS, CHAD and then the boys on occasion.

AB - KYLE is there.

ACB - KYLE and then there's a girl, I guess?

AB - Nope. Another boy, but he doesn't come over. He's been over once in a month.

ACB - Ah, and that's his estranged wife's child.

AB - Yeah.

ACB - Um, I can't think of anything else. Is there anything else that we should go over?

AMANDA BORTNER  
11/09/00  
1755 Hours

20-4-35897  
DET. BLODGETT  
Page 20

71

AB - I'm trying to think, like, if I didn't remember anything, you can just come back and ask me because I, I can't remember anything right now.

ACB - Okay.

AB - (inaudible) and I like think of something, and I can't focus on it.

ACB - Um, I'll go ahead and turn off the tape. It's, ah, twenty past seven (7:20) on, it must be November 9th by now.

END INTERVIEW

END TAPE 1 / SIDE 1