

[Transcript] Morbid / Episode 481: The Murder of Jennifer Corbin- Part 1

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Hey weirdos, I'm Alaina.

I'm Ash.

And this is morbid.

Yay!

Did you almost forget to say who you were?

Uh, yep, I've done that before too.

I was just looking at you like, nope, keep going.

Hey, what's up, everybody?

Hey, what's up, hello?

Hey!

Hey.

What's going on, everybody?

Oh, I was really hoping you would just continue saying hi.

I got stressed out, but...

The whole episode could just be, hey.

Yeah.

I think that would be great.

How are you?

People would definitely not hate that.

No, I think they'd love it.

100%.

We know you guys.

It's morbid in the morning.

It is morbid in the morning.

Morbid in the morning.

Put that on a show.

I was just gonna say, why the fuck have we put that on a show?

You know, with like a little morning show?

Yeah.

Like a gothy morning show?

We could do like, I mean, we're just like thinking out loud here, but we could do like a cute little bundle where you got like a shirt and a coffee mug.

Morbid in the morning.

Merch idea.

Yes.

Hell yeah.

Write it down.

Write it down.

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Mikey.

I was like, someone write it down.

Someone write it down.

Someone write it down.

Just kidding.

What the fuck?

Imagine if that's the kind of environment that we created.

Imagine.

Imagine.

A festering shit hole in here that we just yell at everybody.

Can I say something?

No.

Well, this is going to be a very quiet episode.

Just kidding.

Fuck, I forgot what I was.

Oh, I love the word fester.

It's such a yucky, disgusting word, but like when you use it properly, festering.

Like it feels like a swear word.

It has a nice like to it because you're like, you're a festering fuck head.

Uncle fester.

Like festering feels real filthy, filthy, filthy as well.

So close.

I know.

There's too many apps.

You know, but here we are.

Here we are.

And I don't know.

I don't know when this is coming out.

This is coming out like way later from now.

Yeah.

Dot com.

But I don't know what's happened that we can reference.

I mean, the guy that carved his name or his initials into the Coliseum just got arrested today.

Good, man.

Don't carve your fucking name in the Coliseum.

Yeah, that's so rude.

That's the rudest.

So rude.

Yeah.

Real ignorant.

So glad that was taken care of.

We learned yesterday.

This is not a fun fact, but I think we all should be aware because I think it's going

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to like, it's going to like change how we live our daily lives.

Oh, the sun thing.

Elena.

Yesterday.

We're just on the phone with my grandma, by the way, as this happened.

We're just like shooting the shit with calf.

And Elena holds up a tick talk to me like without the sound and it said, the sun could explode and we wouldn't know for eight minutes.

Yeah.

So like the sun may have just exploded, knock on wood that it didn't.

God forbid and all that jazz, but like.

We are always eight minutes away from the sun.

Just ending it all.

Like, so think about.

So don't that sometimes.

Don't.

And like live your life.

Fuck it.

I didn't even have anything to say after.

Don't.

I was like, just don't.

Just don't.

Don't do it.

Just don't.

Because the sun could explode.

If somebody invites you for plans and you're not sure about them.

You don't have to do it.

Fuck you.

I got to stay home tonight.

The sun could explode.

Because what if the sun explodes and I'm at these plans that I didn't even want to do?

Like, oh, waste.

Oh, the sun explodes and I'm I love you guys.

But if the sun explodes and I'm at work and I don't know for eight minutes, I'll be so bummed.

Yeah.

And I'm like, I don't know where I go next.

Yeah.

It's true.

I think the only place that I would want to be is with Drew Drew.

With Drew Drew.

Yeah.

And like, and like you guys and the girls.

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Absolutely.

Extra essential thinking.

It's it's a concept.

That's for sure.

But hopefully it makes you just think twice about like being a day, you know, being an asshole or doing things that don't bring you joy.

Yeah.

And if being an asshole brings you joy, then like go talk to someone because that's a problem.

Definitely.

That's a problem.

That's a bigger problem.

Or maybe you're just a capricorn.

I'm sorry.

I really saw the opportunity there and I couldn't let it go.

Let it go.

Let it go.

I loved you a softball.

You really did.

I love you so much.

You know.

But you know, here we are.

We're here.

Hopefully we have more than eight minutes.

Hope so.

Wow.

That starts us off.

What a way to begin.

Yeah.

Um, so I did want to, uh, before we get into date to into today's case, I just wanted to give like a trigger warning, um, there is once, I mean the whole, uh, a big theme in this case is domestic violence, but there's one spot in this and I'll give you a trigger warning like before I get into it, when we do start telling the story, but at the top of the show, there is, uh, like a section where kids are involved.

Oh no.

Just quickly.

And I brush, I like brush over it pretty quickly because, you know, that's not something we like to get too far into, but just know that that's like a quick part of it.

Okay.

No children die.

Okay.

Yeah.

But we're going to get into it.

Okay.

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All right.

And, uh, so yeah, trigger warning for domestic violence and like family violence.

Okay.

So we're going to start on a happier note and we're going to be talking about, uh, Jennifer Corbin.

Jennifer Monique Barber, before she was Jennifer Corbin, her maiden name was Barber.

She was born on January 25th, 1971 in Kentucky to Max and Narda Barber.

She was the second of their three children and not too long after she was born, the family all up and moved to Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Uh, it's like a suburb about 30 miles outside of Atlanta.

Okay.

And when asked about her family, Jennifer sister, have Jennifer sister Heather said, our family was just so incredibly close, like a really tight knit family.

So when she was younger, Jennifer, they always said was like the most grounded of the three Barber girls.

Her sister Heather said, she was just one of those people that made you feel good.

She always told you, she always told you what you needed to hear, but somehow in a gentle way.

Oh, I love that.

Everybody needs someone like that.

Cause she's like honest, but gentle.

Yeah.

She's never going to lie to you, but she's not going to be like mean about it.

Exactly.

And friends and family remembered Jennifer as being this like really adventurous, friendly kid.

She loved to be outside and she was super fearless when it came to risk taking.

She was not afraid of anything.

Now by the time she reached high school, she had made like a ton of friends.

She had a really big social circle.

She was really popular.

Her friend, Matthew Jenkins, remembered her from school and said she was one of a kind, a very caring person that always had a kind word and a shoulder to lean on.

She just sounded like the kind of person that you would want in your circle of friends.

Now outside of school, she had a job at a place called Calico Jacks, which was a local restaurant.

She worked there for years and everyone there, customers and coworkers alike, they all loved her.

So after she graduated from central Gwinnett high school, Jennifer decided that she wanted to move to Savannah.

And her goal was going to be studying photography at Savannah's College of Art.

Okay.

Now at first it was like really fun and she could see herself making a career of photography.

But after two years, her love of it kind of dwindled a bit.

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Yeah.

And it wasn't necessarily something that she saw as the right path anymore.

Okay.

So she was like, you know what?

I'm going to move back home and kind of figure things out.

So she headed back to Lawrenceville.

At that point, she wasn't really sure what she wanted to do.

So in the meantime, she got a job as a server at Barnacles, an oyster bar in Duluth, Georgia.

An oyster club.

An oyster club.

A club for oysters.

Oh, I used to love oysters so much.

But then I found out that.

And then Vibrio.

And Vibrio thing.

Yeah.

But this will come as no surprise to you at this point in no time, everybody at Barnacles loved Jennifer.

Look at her.

She just seemed to be that kind of person.

Like, I can think of so many like people that I've worked with over the years.

Like you can always pick out that one person from a job that you're like, ah, she was awesome.

Yeah.

Like he was great.

It's so true.

Now, so the couple that owned the restaurant actually, Bob and Suzanne Corbin, they liked her so much that they were discussing between the two of them what a great match she would be for their son, Bart.

And Bob specifically, the father of Bart was really insistent about introducing the two of them.

And he was like, let me tell you like a little bit about Bart.

He's a little older than you.

There was a seven year age difference.

Okay.

And he's a dentist.

Oh.

He's got this great job.

He's this handsome guy.

He's my son.

So I love him.

I think you'll love him.

Good teeth.

Good teeth.

You know, you'll have good teeth.

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Everybody will have good teeth.

You have free braces.

There you go.

Let's go.

So they introduced the two of them, the parents, introduced Jennifer and Bart.

And apparently when they met, they did hit it off because before long they were officially an item they were dating.

Now in the summer of 1996, just a few months into their relationship, they decided to have a little romantic getaway and Bart took Jennifer on a trip to Italy.

Damn.

Which like to me.

That's a romantic getaway.

To Italy so that I know it's real.

For real.

Now, it must have been wildly romantic because a couple weeks after they got home, Jennifer found out that she was pregnant.

Oh.

Now.

Damn.

She was literally prepared to be parents at that point in time.

The surprise of the pregnancy wasn't unwelcome.

It was like a happy surprise.

It was a happy surprise.

And Bart's parents weren't old fashioned in the way that they were going to put pressure on him to marry Jennifer now that she was pregnant.

But they made it clear to him that he needed to support her and the baby.

Yeah.

Like they weren't going to let him just walk away.

Good for them.

And actually on his own, Bart decided that marrying Jennifer and you know, kind of uniting as a family would be the right thing to do and that's what he wanted to do.

Okay.

So he proposed to Jennifer.

Now, his sister-in-law, so like literally not even his sister, Edwina, she didn't necessarily agree with the decision to make the proposal, which like not your fucking business.

I was just going to say, and why is it your business?

Yeah.

And she told the author of The Doctor's Wife, great reference on this case.

The author is John Glatt and Edwina told him, Bart wouldn't have married her if she hadn't been pregnant.

She was probably just a bit young or immature to consider wife material.

Like, okay, Edwina.

Number one.

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You know what?

If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all.

So I'm going to zip my lip on that one.

Especially after somebody has been murdered, you say that shit about them and also.

That's cute.

The term wife material, like, versus me out.

Honestly, I hate that shit.

I'm not a material.

I'm a fucking human.

Thank you.

And it's, it makes it like a weird job.

Yeah.

Like, I have to like aspire to be wife material and it's like, no, like we're partners.

Yeah.

I'm wife.

Yeah.

The end.

I'm wife.

I am wife.

I am wife, hear me roar.

I mean, pretty much.

So probably not knowing that her sister-in-law was a huge jerk, Jennifer did accept the proposal.

There you go.

And they got married on September 1st, 1996.

Jennifer's dad, Max, said that Bart, quote, came into the family very quickly.

And that kind of was because everybody liked him from the second they met him.

Like he was a very charming person.

They said he was funny, he was smart, he was really personable, like easy to have a conversation with the, Jennifer's father, Max said, Bart's a very funny person.

He's got a very quick wit and people are drawn to that.

Huh.

So, so far in their marriage, so good, right?

Yeah.

Now, in March of 1997, Jennifer and Bart had their son, their first son together named Dalton.

And from the outside, it seemed like they were thriving.

They were putting on the picture of like happy newlyweds.

They've got this new healthy baby, Bart's business is doing really well.

And they were always off doing something together.

They liked to volunteer, they rode their mountain bikes together, they traveled, it was all ideal.

And Jennifer was a really, really good mom.

Everybody said that.

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Her sister said she was born to be a mom.

And when she became a mom, she did it 110.

She became Miss PTA, the SUV driving baseball toting super mom.

Oh, I love that.

Goals.

And I love that her sister was like, she was a fucking fantastic mom.

Oh, that's.

And that means she was an amazing sister.

Exactly.

But unfortunately, the view that the outside world was getting of Jennifer and Bart and their marriage was mostly a facade.

And in reality, there were some serious red flags being waved in the air.

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It's an app that I want to marry.

Just kidding.

Or am I?

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For one thing, Bart had a very, very explosive temper that could be triggered in an instant.

Jennifer's father told NBC he had a temper that could snap in a second and it seemed to be getting worse.

And then you mix that with kids, that's that's not the thing because kids are going to press your buttons and there's going to be situations where you're fucking exhausted and you need to have a fucking handle on your emotions like a grown ass adult.

And interesting that you say that like when you bring kids into it changes things.

Not long after Dalton was born, their friends and family started to notice that Bart had a tendency to lose it and start yelling at Jennifer over really trivial things.

Like if he felt that she had done something wrong, he wouldn't let it go and he'd keep poking, keep poking, keep poking in like in front of people, like embarrass her.

Yeah.

And if somebody's doing that in front of people, yeah, yeah, not okay.

In the early years of the marriage, Jennifer never complained about it to any of her friends.

She just kind of like, you know, took the treatment and tried to focus on the good, it seems.

So they all just kind of thought that he was a dick, but they, there was not a lot that they could do.

And they were just trying to support their friend and their family member.

Now, just one year after Dalton was born, Jennifer became pregnant again.

And in January of 1999, she gave birth to their second baby Dylan, Dalton and Dylan.

So cute.

And at that point they had really outgrown their house.

So they started looking for a new one and they ended up finding it in Buford Atlanta.

It's like a ritzy suburb.

They moved into that new house just days after Jennifer had given birth.

Wow.

I feel like that tells you a little bit of what you need to know.

Like, I don't know why she didn't, wasn't allowed time to rest.

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Yeah.

Now, for the most part in the years that followed Dylan's birth, their second kid, Jennifer and Bart, they tried to keep up with that role of the happy family.

They spent weekends and summers on their boat at Lake Lanier.

Oh, gasp.

Eek.

I know, right?

And they were known to host big parties for friends and family at their, like their main home in Buford.

And it was all really nice for a while, but eventually the excitement of the new home, the new baby faded and the cracks and really what we should refer to as Bart's facade started to show again.

Now Dalton was five at this point and he was going to a private school.

And at this point, Bart started really like pushing both of his sons to be more physically active.

Dalton is the oldest and he's five.

I was just going to say, yeah, the two of them at four and five played basketball, took swimming lessons, martial arts lessons.

And Dalton added playing basketball, baseball, first outside of school and then on the school's little league team into the mix of all of that.

And it's like, this is why, like, you always, you want your kids to try stuff and like get to figure out what they like and keep them active, but like, if you're forcing that kind of thing on a five, like five years old, this young to be doing like so much, you're supposed to be trying like, like one or two things at a time, you know, like, yeah, you just kind of like start trying things.

That's the point of it is like figuring out what your areas of passion are, but you don't throw them into everything, you know, and the kids enjoyed their sports, but Bart always took it to the next level.

Well, I was going to say, and if they do enjoy all these, it's like, then you can't treat it like this hard, yeah, you know, like it has to be fun.

It's supposed to be fun.

Exactly.

That's the thing.

And when they're that young, they're like at an age where they're learning how to be a teammate and how to the rules of each game.

Exactly.

Yeah.

But again, Bart always took it to a place it didn't need to go to.

And because they were involved in so many sports, I think he kind of saw this as an opportunity to be more involved in those sports.

And in 2002, he decided that he was going to coach Dalton's little league team.

Okay.

Now, at that point, Dalton was six or seven, and of course was on a team with fellow six and seven year olds, of course, but Bart had ridiculously high standards and would lose

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it on Dalton and the other kids any time one of them failed to live up to those expectations. I can't imagine being that kind of adult.

No, me either.

And this is kind of where we're going to get into like a little bit of the yucky stuff.

So just so you know, it's so mean and it makes me like really sad.

But in front of like their teammates, he would call them loser, crybaby, whiner.

Any time they like struck out or fumbled a play, you know, can you imagine being a grown ass man and calling a little looking at a little seven year old?

I mean, like you're a loser.

You're a crybaby.

Like and not only like a child.

Like I can't imagine that in general, but your baby seek help.

Like I get upset when I have to say no to the girls and I couldn't imagine sitting there being like you're a loser because you didn't do well in the sport and a whiner.

Like that's gross.

In my opinion, it's a former friend and neighbor said he didn't have any patients for the kids at all.

He just gave them hell and it didn't matter who was around.

Then he should never be a coach.

And to be honest, like he had no business being a parent.

No, I agree.

If you don't have pay, if you can't learn to have patients or have any control over your emotions as an adult, you have no business being around kids.

No.

And the thing that got me about like that neighbor saying he gave them hell and it didn't matter who was around.

If you're comfortable doing what you're doing in front of people, what are you doing behind doors?

Exactly.

So if you can imagine, if that's what was going on in front of people, that's awful.

It was worse by the closed doors.

And again, getting into a yuckier part here.

I don't want to get super far into it.

And if you want to learn like more about this specific instance or the case overall, I do recommend the book that I mentioned earlier, The Doctor's Wife by John Glatt, but Bart was worse at home.

Jennifer's sisters witnessed him not only name calling Jennifer, but the kids as well.

And it was a well-known fact that his kids were afraid of him.

That's awful.

One of them, the older one, I think, I believe it was, told his grandfather Jennifer's father that after a game where he struck out, his father lost it on him in public and then hit him after the game.

What a piece of shit for striking out in a little league game.

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You're a piece of shit.

There's never, in my opinion, at least an excuse to hit your child.

Yeah, that's how I feel.

But over a fucking baseball game, you hit your kid like astonishing behavior, like truly astonishing behavior.

I can't imagine being that pathetic of an adult.

And I don't ever want my kids to be afraid of me.

Some people think like, oh, you know, like, like I think we mentioned it in one of the episodes earlier, like being fearful and respect go hand in hand.

I completely disagree with that.

No, I don't think that's it at all.

Like, that's just that's just not how I do it.

That's not how I would want to.

That's not how I do it.

You're welcome to parent however you feel is, you know, fine for you.

Right.

I don't get the fear based parenting.

It doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

No, I just I don't want that kind of environment in my house. No, I think respect breeds respect.

And if I respect them as human beings, they respect me as human beings.

And we maintain that together.

Like I grew up hearing like, I don't respect you.

You respect me.

And that's fucked up.

And because of that, I had no respect for the person.

Of course not.

I was like, OK, you don't respect me.

Go fuck yourself.

I have zero respect for people who do not respect me.

Same here. Zero.

And I'm not going to get it.

At least since I was a little kid.

So why would a little kid have to have respect for someone who openly is treating you with no respect and also telling you you have no respect?

And if I'm afraid of you, I don't respect.

No, I'm scared of you.

Exactly. Two different feelings that like I don't understand that.

It's really sad to me that like he went to his grandpa and was like, like, I'm afraid of dad and this is what happened.

That's awful.

Well, that's my my whole thing with kids and having kids.

And again, this is just my thing.

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You can do whatever you can.
We need to get that sound.
I was going to say that's a housewife's thing, by the way,
just in case you wonder where that's coming from.
Tamer judge.
But in just in case you wonder why we scream it all the time.
But like that's again, just my my thought process is like,
your kids should feel safe with you.
I shouldn't feel fearful of you.
That you should be the thing that they go to to feel completely
and utterly safe.
Yes, that's at least how I see it in my household.
I don't really understand.
I never want them to not think this is a safe place
and that I am not a safe person because I might lose my shit on them.
Yeah, well, like and they're not going to come to you with things
that you would want them to come to you with if they don't see you as a safe person.
And it's like everybody loses their like loses their temper, loses their cool
once in a while, and kids will absolutely be the thing to push you there.
But the whole point is when you lose control of your emotions a little bit,
you should apologize in my opinion, because then that only teaches them
that when they lose their cool, the right thing to do is to apologize.
Yeah, and then it teaches them that you're a human being
and that you can admit when you are wrong and that like that.
I don't hold myself to a different standard than I hold you to.
If you lose your shit, you need to apologize for it.
And we need to talk through it and vice versa.
I'm not holding myself to some holier than now standard just because I'm your mom.
Like we're on the same playing field here.
If I fuck up, I apologize.
If you fuck up, apologize.
Like we got to be on the same thing here.
Yeah, I feel like the old kind of school parenting is like do as I say, not as I do.
And the new parenting is like, let me lead by example.
Yeah, like let's be let's be like, you know, partners here
through this whole process of raising you like you need to be a part of it.
And you should feel like you are part of the process and that you can talk to me.
Right. And sadly, I don't think these kids felt that way with their father.
That always makes me so sad.
Now, Jennifer, on the other hand, she didn't outwardly challenge
or oppose Spartz preferred methods of discipline, I guess you could call them.
But she did very much try to balance it out by being super, super loving
and super supportive of the boys.
I'm glad they had that.

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Like championing them, you know? Yeah.

Now, it must have been very, very difficult to have your home life be like that and then have to put on the facade of like, we're this big happy family in public.

You know, like we are prim and proper.

Yeah. And it sounds like, despite how things appeared to those on the outsides on the outside, excuse me, Jennifer and Bart's marriage had been steadily disintegrating for a while.

I don't know why I said disintegrating, but I did.

Emphasis on different syllables.

You know, and by the fall, I don't know.

I was trying to put a different emphasis on the fall of 2003.

Bart was spending more and more time at work.

Not working, though, as I'm sure you can imagine.

I was just going to say.

He and his office manager legit named Jennifer Garner.

Whoa, actually named Jennifer Garner.

Oh, shit.

Also like, wow, they were carrying on what she described as an office affair.

So he was having an affair on his wife, Jennifer, with his secretary, Jennifer.

There's many reasons why this man needs to seek help.

And I think we're seeing layers of it compound on top of layers of it.

Truly. And also, girl, he's married with two kids.

She knew, like, don't both of you are real shitty for that.

Exactly. She said, after the last patient of the day, they would make love in his office and then go their separate ways.

Precious, truly.

I'm like, did that really did it for you?

So romantic.

But anyway, with Bart spending more time out of the house and the kids being a bit older and not needing like constant attention, you know, Jennifer found new ways to entertain herself.

And in early 2004, she bought a PlayStation

and she found herself really quickly absorbed in this game called EverQuest.

Have you heard of that? No, I haven't either.

It's an MMO game, like one of the ones where there's like a ton of other people playing all across the world. I don't know what that is.

I didn't either. Dave put a little key in there for me.

Thank goodness for Dave.

I love him.

Shout out to Dave.

Shout out to Dave.

But it's so it's like a like a World of Warcraft kind of or like a call of duty.

Yeah, exactly. You're all talking to each other and like from my understanding, right?

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OK, you can you can talk to people from all over the world.

It's like that's scary.

I think it's it was like a mult, I don't know, multi.

No, I thought I had it, but no.

Yeah, massive multiplayer online game.

Shout out to Mikey, Mikey. You rock. Never change.

And it's like a fantasy.

Yeah, kind of thing. Yeah.

So so she got really, really quickly immersed in that.

And I can see why because it's a fantasy game.

Oh, hell yeah.

You know, you're kind of like creating this the separate world that is so different from the world that you're living in right now.

Yeah.

So while the kids were off at school or at one of their various activities or, you know, Bart was at work being a cheating asshole, Jennifer would spend hours at home playing EverQuest.

OK.

And over time, she kind of started getting more and more withdrawn from real life.

Edwina on the scene to read again said there really was a marked difference.

Jen had lost a lot of weight, was dressing more sloppily than before and was not looking after the house like she used to.

It's like you're really just shitting on her over and over and over again.

I think what you meant to say, Edwina, was there was a marked difference.

We were concerned about her.

Yeah, she wasn't herself.

Yeah, like she wasn't taking care of the house.

Like, go fuck yourself.

Sorry. God.

But before long, Jennifer, she started skipping out on family functions and gatherings and people were starting to notice.

And yeah, there becomes they were getting concerned.

Yeah. And if that wasn't a strong enough indicator that the things in the marriage weren't going very well, then her own words would make things explicitly clear.

Early that summer, Jennifer confronted Bart for the first time and told him she was considering leaving him and that she wanted to take the boys with her and she said, like, this is something I've been thinking about for a while now. So of course, completely furious with that and needing to keep control on his side.

Yeah. Bart suggested that they go to counseling together.

OK, which I'm like, you're actively cheating on her right now and you want to go to counseling.

Like, maybe you should stop your affair immediately and then do counseling.

Like, that'll be great.

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But it was too late at that point for Jennifer.
And in the months that followed,
she became more and more intentional about distancing herself from Bart.
She started sleeping in a different bedroom in the house and, quote,
began separating her and Bart's possessions, apparently preparing to move out.
And this is so unfortunate because, like, on one hand, I'm like,
yeah, Jennifer, like, good for you.
But I'm like, this is scary because it's the most dangerous time.
And I hate that that is a reality.
And it's like it's one of the biggest realities.
Because you want to champion people getting the fuck out of these situations
when taking their power back.
But it's so scary and so treacherous, treacherous of a road to walk.
It really is. It sucks.
And it really does.
And it takes a lot to get to that point, too, which is like really sad that.
And then you have to fight through the the thicket to get out of it, you know?
It's like, you don't get to just walk this clear path out of the out of this awful place.
You have to, you know, I'm making a lot of weird symbolism here, but I don't know.
I'm just seeing it in my head.
It's like walking through like these crazy, you know,
brambles that are ripping you apart as you go through.
Yeah, you just try to make it to the other side.
Are you like an author or something?
I don't know why I was doing that.
I think it's how your brain works.
I've been writing a lot, so maybe I'm like thinking about a lot of
you're like translating it into prose.
Yeah, no, I mean, it was beautiful.
I welcome it. I just feel bad.
But yeah, for anybody who has to deal with this part of it. Yeah.
Bishop Gray Academy.
The most prestigious boarding school in the country.
And the most cutthroat.
Bishop Gray is like no other school on the planet.
The best fencing team in the country.
Elaborate black type.
Brunch enough drugs to sustain a blue whale.
And more money, status and privilege than God.
I'm not supposed to be here, but I'm here now.
And I'm not going to settle for mediocrity.
These secret society people, they prey on scholarship kids.
Eva Richards, you are called.
So you're the Bishop Gray Illuminati.

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Do what you have to do to survive, Eva.
That's what I would do.
You're in the night of the war.
I want to take the next step.
Get away from me.
You have a bright future ahead of you.
Don't fall in with this crowd.
Binge all 10 episodes of Academy Early and Ad Free on Wondery Plus.
Join Wondery Plus in the Wondery App or on Apple Podcasts.
Now, according to Jennifer's friend and neighbor Kelly,
Jennifer had told her husband that she wanted to separate
and find a new place for her and her boys, like I just said.
Now, at first, again, like I just said, Bart was mad,
but eventually he kind of seemed to accept
the fact that this marriage was over.
Okay.
But he had no intention of supporting Jennifer financially
if that was the case.
Fuck you.
And because of that, in the fall of 2004,
she ended up getting a job as a preschool teacher
at the Sugar Hill Methodist Church,
where both of her boys had also gone to preschool.
Okay.
Now, she had something to occupy her time during the day,
which was great.
It was probably better for her at first.
But then she fell into like this nighttime routine
of spending all night playing the EverQuest game.
Yeah, that's not great.
Exactly.
Now, eventually, while she was doing that,
she met another player online named Christopher.
And they started off just talking to each other,
the online flirtation kind of escalated a bit.
And now they were having a full-blown online affair.
Wow.
Which I can see how she got pushed to that point,
I have to say.
Absolutely.
Well, he was cheating on her.
They were both checked out of this marriage ready to divorce.
It's sad that they couldn't just divorce and both move on.
Truly.

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I don't know if anything would ever make Bart happy, but Jennifer could have had a happy life. She was obviously looking for some kind of emotional fulfillment. And support, you know.

Yeah.

So throughout most of that fall, Jennifer, you know, pursued the online relationship with this Christopher. And she really, really wanted to meet in real life. But Christopher seemed reluctant to take things into the real world, which we all know as the beginning of a MTV TV show.

Exactly.

Now, this was confusing for Jennifer because within just a couple months of meeting online, they had exchanged almost a thousand emails.

Wow.

And she was fully convinced that this Christopher was the love of her life.

Wow.

So by November 2004, the online affair with Chris completely consumed Jennifer's thoughts.

And on November 12th, that would come to a screeching halt.

Because Chris confided in Jennifer that he felt like their relationship had gotten out of control.

And he told her that he needed to admit something to her.

Chris was not a tall handsome man like she'd been told.

And there actually was no Chris.

I'm sure we kind of all saw this coming.

The person that Jennifer had been messaging was really a woman named Anita from Missouri.

Anita was super, super apologetic.

And she explained that she was in a really shitty, unsatisfying marriage.

Her home life was kind of similar to Jennifer's in the sense that she wasn't so sad.

It's really sad in every way.

And she was using the Chris profile to explore her interest in women.

OK.

You know, not the right thing to do, but...

Just sad.

Sad.

Like sad that these women were in such awful like home life.

You know, like that people have to turn to these things.

It just makes me sad.

And like have to turn to these like virtual worlds where they can't

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really experience the joy that you do in like real life.
And where it's like, like that it's not just this hobby
that makes you happy every once in a while.
You know what I mean?
That's awesome.
That's nice.
Like you want to have that, like that's awesome.
Like you play the Sims or something.
You sit there and make a house for four hours and you're like,
Holy shit.
You know, but it's like when it becomes your reality and like when
it becomes the only thing that's consuming outside of playing it.
That's when it's a problem.
And that's usually when everything around you is so unsatisfying.
Exactly.
And that's what's really sad about it.
Because anything that becomes that much of an escape is not
necessarily healthy.
I don't think.
Exactly.
You know.
But Anita did say that she really truly had fallen in love with Jennifer
and she actually hoped to continue their relationship.
So over the course of a couple months, like of Jennifer knowing Chris,
she had invested a lot into the relationship and the vision in her
head that she had was her escaping this marriage and starting over
with her boys and someone she loved.
Yeah.
This Chris person.
So when she got the news that it was actually Anita and that in real
life, Anita identified as a woman, Jennifer was confused and
honestly pretty devastated.
Of course.
Which, you know, she wasn't, she didn't necessarily identify as a
lesbian at that time.
Yeah.
And you, and you were just, you were deceived.
You were deceived.
Like no matter what, even with the intention behind it was not
malicious.
And when this person is still this person, you were deceived and that
just sucks.
It does.
So she emailed Anita and said, I just can't take this.

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I even fell in love with the name Chris.
I just don't know how you could do this to me.
I trusted you with everything in me, which is really sad.
But after a few days, the feelings of, you know, shock and betrayal, they kind of subsided and Jennifer seemed to have forgiven Anita.
She wrote in another email, I'm not sure I would have continued to talk to you for very long if you hadn't come back to me telling me that you had lied and we're still Chris, but who knows?
I do know that I've fallen deeper in love with you as each day passed.
I'm glad you didn't wait to tell me until you'd met me.
Wow.
Yeah.
Like a really big person in my opinion.
Yeah.
And there the relationship actually kind of got back on track.
Wow.
Yeah.
Emails got, you know, increasingly explicit again.
And now there were real discussions about meeting in person soon.
It is very interesting to see they just connected as humans.
Like even though this is like virtual and all that, like they didn't, she fell in love with this person.
Yeah.
Regardless of whether this was a woman or a man, she just fell in love with this person.
Like that's just a very interesting, like, you know, I think, I think we all just fall in love with people.
I think a lot can be said about stripping away a lot of.
It's just interesting.
You know, it's like, and it's like a, it's like a nice thing to see.
It's refreshing that they just were like, you know what, I just like you as a person.
Cause honestly, that's how I feel.
Like I know that like people identify like as the L, the G, the BTQ and all of that.
I kind of just am like a person that loves people.
Yeah.
Like I feel that.
But.
And it kind of seems like Jennifer realized that she might have been like a person that just loved people.
Exactly.
At least in the case of Anita, which I, I weirdly am like, like so happy about it, but I'm like, I know how it started.

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I know that's the thing.

It's like, it started pretty, pretty rough and like it's got a lot of bumps along the way.

Like there's like these weird loopholes where you're like, yeah.

And you're like, you're happy just to see that they both moved past it and that they decided to continue whatever they were doing before.

Exactly.

So yeah.

Um, so Jennifer's online relationship, you know, maybe got back on track, but in the meantime, her real world and her relationship with Bart was worse than it had ever been before.

As the family, um, this is a serious warning for the domestic violence right here trigger warning.

As the family was driving home from Jennifer's parents house after Thanksgiving dinner, Jennifer had to make a stop at a grocery store and Bart had completely caught on to the fact that Jennifer was having an affair.

Like something in him, probably the fact that he was also carrying out an affair.

That'll do it.

Like game, see game, I guess.

Exactly.

So he, he had this like sinking feeling and he used the opportunity to search through the car for evidence of this affair.

He knew that she was having and he did end up finding something.

He found a poem that Anita had written to Jennifer that was, you know, kind of like sexually explicit.

She'd printed it out and just kept it with her in her purse and he found it there.

Oh, wow.

She got back in the car.

He confronted her with the poem and started screaming in her face like a motherfucking hypocrite.

Yeah, I was going to say like you have nothing like you can't get mad about this.

You're doing the same thing.

One of those things where you just both go, see, like we're not meant to be together.

Yeah.

So he started screaming in her face and she started crying and begging him not to be so aggressive because the kids were in the back seat.

Oh my God.

And they were cowering and suddenly he punched her in the face while she was driving.

While she was driving in front of both kids, she almost lost control of the

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car.

Luckily managed to get home without getting in a serious accident.

But as soon as they did get home, Bart jumped into his own car and just took off leaving never come back by.

Unfortunately he does.

Yeah.

He left Jennifer just having been beaten essentially in front of her children and now she has to calm her traumatized children while trying to calm herself as well.

Right.

So what she had to do, she called her dad and was like, I don't know what to do right now.

Like this is the situation.

And he was like, you need to pack those kids up and bring them to my house right now.

Like let's go.

You got to get out of there.

Yeah.

But the only problem with that was that Jennifer was worried.

Bart would know that she'd gone to her parents house and he would show up there and she didn't want that happening.

So instead she took the boys to her sister's house.

Now just moments after she made the arrangements for her sister with her sister explained everything that was happening.

Heather, the sister, her cell phone started to ring and it was Bart calling.

And she answered the phone and heard the frantic sound of him making excuses.

He told her whatever she says, it's a lie.

I didn't hit her and she can't prove anything.

Like actually she can.

She has two eyewitnesses.

Exactly.

And probably a black eye.

So I don't know what you mean she can't prove anything.

What a piece of shit this guy is.

Just like a true piece of shit.

If you can hit a woman, you're fucking disgusting.

Yeah, you're a piece of shit.

If you can call your kid a baby, cry baby loser, wonder, you're a piece of shit.

There's no upside to this fucker.

No.

So the thing was he realized that he had fucked up obviously.

I don't think he cared on an emotional level.

He just didn't want to get in trouble.

He cared in the way that he didn't want to get in trouble and cared in the way that

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he had a business that he didn't want to be affected by all of this.

Yeah, of course.

So don't hit people in the face then.

Yeah, that's the answer to that.

So now he knew the divorce was completely inevitable.

He accepted that the marriage was over, but he was very, very worried about his reputation.

And of course, as a man used to having full control over every fucking aspect of his life,

he was determined to do whatever he could to protect himself and prevent Jennifer from going to the police.

Whatever he could.

So on the morning of December 4th, 2004, that neighbor Kelly that I mentioned earlier, she was at home, you know, just getting ready for her day.

And her doorbell started ringing frantically.

So she ran to the door and opened it and she found her seven-year-old neighbor Dalton crying and telling her, my daddy shot my mommy.

Oh God.

Horrifying.

Are you fucking kidding me?

What I will say is luckily they didn't see it happen.

Oh.

They knew it happened, but they didn't see it when it happened.

Oh, that like breaks my soul into a billion pieces.

A tiny, tiny comfort in a very fucked up situation.

Oh, my daddy shot my, oh God, that's so awful.

It's horrifying.

So Kelly picked up Dalton and started comforting him, but at the same time rushed over to the house to check on her friend.

I mean, this was her friend.

So she stepped foot in the house just as the younger son was walking out of his parents' bedroom crying.

And Kelly looked in to see that Jennifer, this is a horrifying scene,

she was laying on the bed dressed only in a nightgown and there was a very large hole in the back of her head.

And the younger son had just walked out of the room.

Oh God.

They had seen everything.

They had seen everything except it happened when it happened.

So Kelly carefully approached the bed and she reached out to touch Jennifer and she said she was ice cold.

She was frozen.

She'd been there a long time.

There was nothing I could do for her.

So she scooped up both boys and ran back to her house to call 911.

Wow.

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Horrifying.

Also that neighbor, what a fucking, that's a neighbor.

She walked into that house not knowing what she was going to be dealing with.

Oh, I mean, she had just heard my daddy shot my mommy.

She walked into that house.

She could have had a gun still.

Yeah.

To go get that other little boy.

Like that's heroic.

She cared deeply.

Yeah, that's a good neighbor.

And actually her and her husband are a huge part of this case and like fantastic people.

Oh, I love that.

You can tell.

Absolutely.

I'm like covered in these bumps right now.

It's just awful.

Now Gwinnett County police officers arrived at eight oh one a.m.

Just a couple minutes after Kelly called and they made their way inside the Corbin house.

And, you know, they found Jennifer just as Kelly had described to them when she met them at the front door.

Jennifer was lying on her side.

There was that gunshot wound to the back of her head and the revolver was next to her body, but it was slightly covered by the sheet of the bed and scattered across the bed in front of her were divorce

papers that had been served to her on or seem to have been served to her on behalf of Bart Corbin.

So he was trying to make it look like.

Very clearly.

Yeah.

The officers in the room, they had never been trained to jump to conclusions, obviously, but the scene in the bedroom told them a pretty simple story at that point of a wife who had become despondent at the thought of being divorced by her husband and took her own life.

That's a no.

That's what a glance told them.

But at Kelly's house across the street, Kelly's husband Steve remembered that Bart had planned to go away for that weekend

and he had left the night before, but he didn't know the number to wherever Bart had gone and he couldn't remember

like exactly where he had said he was going.

So he had no way of reaching him.

Okay.

So he called Bart's parents house and he spoke to Bart's father, Bob, and he was like, somebody needs to pick up the kids.

Like, I don't know what to do here.

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Yeah.

So he recalled the phone call later and said somebody was on the phone when I was talking to him. They were breathing really heavy.

I thought maybe it was Bart Corbin on the other line.

So like while he was talking to Bob, the father, he could tell somebody else was on a different line.

Creepy.

That's terrifying.

Now, despite how the scene appeared at a glance, investigators had more than one reason to be skeptical that Jennifer had taken her own life.

First, there was Dalton's statement to Kelly that his father had shot his mother.

Yeah.

Then there was also the fact that just a couple days earlier on December 1st, Jennifer called 911 to report that she and Bart had been in another fight

and he'd stolen her phone and a few other belongings and left the house.

Like what?

What a man baby.

Like a true man baby.

And then finally, there were reports from Jennifer's family to the police about the domestic violence and the assault that occurred on Thanksgiving.

They did report that.

Jennifer's father told NBC, I knew that she was dead and I knew that somebody did it.

He probably, like I can't imagine.

And it's like they probably were seeing this play out in real time and they were just dreading.

It's like your worst nightmare has come to fruition.

It's like you can see it all going in a really bad direction and it's like this is the worst possible outcome.

Exactly.

So while the news of Jennifer's death started making its way around stunned family members, police and crime scene technicians were processing this scene as what it was, a crime scene, luckily.

Now, among those people at the scene was Senior Assistant District Attorney Tom Davis

and he immediately was like, this place is suspicious as fuck and all of this is a little too obvious.

Yeah, the divorce paper strewn out in front of her like, come on.

Right.

There were things about the scene also that just didn't make sense.

No.

Jennifer had been shot in the back of the head.

I was also going to say like just the logistics.

Right.

So she'd been shot in the back of the head, but the gun was laying at her side, tucked under a sheet.

Yeah.

If she had shot herself, that would have meant that she would have had to slip the gun under that sheet.

Before falling over.

After having shot herself in the back of the head.

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Exactly.

Yeah.

Not possible.

No.

Didn't know if I had to throw that in there.

Yeah.

Just in case you were wondering.

But then there were the divorce papers themselves.

I don't know if you caught what I said earlier.

They seemed like they had been served to her.

This is fucking wild.

As investigators were processing this scene, a Gwinnett Sheriff's deputy, unaware of what was going on at that point,

arrived at the house to serve Jennifer divorce papers.

These were fake papers?

Yep.

This fucking idiot.

They hadn't even been served yet.

Are you kidding me?

Like how did you...

What?

That's why I don't under...

There's so many things about this that you won't understand.

Nobody should ever understand why someone kills someone in the first place.

But he's worried about his reputation and his career.

And the answer to that is I'm going to murder my wife.

That'll help my reputation?

Yeah.

No, you're just going to go to jail.

Like that doesn't help your reputation either.

Classic narcissist though.

They think I'm going to murder my wife.

It was I'm going to murder my wife and stage it like a suicide and I'm so smart.

So why would anybody ever question me?

It's like, wow, I'm glad they're so dumb in that sense because it's like they always get caught.

And it's like, thank goodness.

Right.

Fuck.

So the investigators are sitting there and they're like, well, how would she be distraught over divorce papers that she hadn't been served yet?

Yeah.

Like these are not real clearly.

That's the universe intervening right there.

Right.

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That was when I got to that point, I was like, what?

Yeah.

Another question.

Where the fuck was Bart Corbin?

Yeah.

Nobody knew where he was at this point.

And it took hours trying to locate him, but detectives were finally able to get in touch with his brother, Bobby, a little after 11 a.m.

Okay.

Now Bobby told Detective Marcus Head, you can understand my brother is pretty upset and anxious right now.

Yeah.

Uh-huh.

I could understand that.

I could understand exactly why he might be anxious.

Absolutely.

Now, the detective returned to Max Barber, Jennifer's father, who had been at the scene all morning, tending to the kids and like realizing what had just happened to his daughter.

I can't even imagine.

So the detective goes over to him and explains, you know, I talked to Bart's brother and they're on their way to pick up the kids, which I don't know why that was allowed.

Like why would Bart's family be able to like, no, I don't quite understand that.

That shouldn't have been allowed.

Like that alone must have been shocking to Max.

Like the whole thing was the kid came over and said, my daddy shot my mommy.

Exactly.

Whether you think that's the case or not, that's what that kid said and you should treat it like there's something wrong here.

Like why would you send those kids off?

Don't give those kids to his family.

Exactly.

Well, Jesus.

So they told Max that Bart and Bobby would be there in about 15 to 20 minutes.

Max waited there for three hours and Bart never showed and never called.

Of course not.

Three.

He didn't give a shit about his kids.

No, he doesn't care.

No.

I mean, any normal parent, I can imagine it's wildly hard to picture this.

Like a parent not rushing to be with their kids after such a traumatic event under normal circumstances, but these were not normal circumstances.

And Bart had other priorities.

Yeah.

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Like fucking his secretary or whatever the phone she was.

Yeah.

And this, while he was supposedly pulling himself together to go over to the house and pick the kids up, he actually was in fact consulting with his divorce lawyer, Patricia O'Kelly, asking her for lawyer recommendations, excuse me, on a criminal matter.

So she suggested that he contact Peters, Roberts, Borsig and Rubin.

And that was a decouter, sorry, based law firm specializing in criminal law.

And by noon that day, Bart had hired Doug Peters, the firm's leading criminal attorney.

It's really wild to me that not one person is being like, hey.

You should do the right thing and like go to your kids.

Yeah.

Like not one person was like, I'm going to step out of line here and I'm going to tell you, you should probably go take care of your kids.

I'm sure somebody probably.

Like did someone say that?

But honestly, who knows?

It kind of sounds like Bart was just like, he surrounded himself with a lot of yes people.

Yeah, exactly.

But so any belief that Jennifer had taken her own life quickly fell away once the crime scene technicians got to work in the house that morning.

It turned out that Tom Davis's suspicions were pretty accurate.

Given the position of the body in the gun, it would have been impossible that Jennifer shot herself.

Yeah, it doesn't make physical sense.

And the most telling piece of evidence was actually the position of her nightgown.

Oh, it had slid at some point, exposing one of her breasts.

And the technicians believed that that couldn't have happened after she had, as she had slumped over after a gunshot, like it didn't make sense.

And instead, it was their belief that it happened when somebody pulled her body in an upright, like pulled her body upright into like a half sitting position on the bed.

Oh, that's when it happened.

And to add to that, which I was like, wow, Bart, you're a fucking idiot.

One of the straps on her nightgown had slid down past her shoulder.

It couldn't be in that position if she had just lifted her arms to shoot herself.

Like it didn't make any sense.

And finally, her body was discovered with her upper body slightly twisted in a way that couldn't have happened after she had just shot herself.

I'm glad he's stupid.

Yeah.

So they were like, OK, clearly somebody repositioned her body here.

Yeah.

But this is a homicide.

Now, that was all just what the naked eye could see.

But further tests conducted at the scene also quickly disproved the suicide theory.

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There were no fingerprints on the gun.

Wow.

Whoever had used the gun had wiped it down afterwards.

Which was obviously Jennifer.

Yeah, totally.

Clearly after life, I guess.

Yes.

There was also no gunpowder or residue on either of her hands, which was noted as very difficult with that particular gun.

Yeah.

And lastly, the angle at which she would have had to handle the gun in order for the bullet to enter as it had into her head made it physically impossible.

She couldn't have gotten into that position to help to hold that gun in that way.

So while detect, or excuse me, while technicians dealt with all of that,

Detective Head and his team started talking to family members and neighbors to find out more about their marriage.

And they started by talking to Dalton Corbin, the oldest son.

A seven year old.

A seven year old.

Now, in his interview with Dalton, Detective Head asked the boy, or he was a little older than seven at this point, like a couple years ago, but still young.

Yeah.

In his interview with Dalton, Detective Head asked the boy why he told Kelly that his dad had shot his mom.

He's like, why'd you say that?

Like, you know, he's got to start off kind of.

Yeah.

You know.

And Dalton explained that he actually hadn't seen Bart shoot Jennifer, which like, think whoever.

But the fact that that was his first thought,

but given his father's explosive temper and frightening violent behavior, especially toward his mother lately,

Dalton said he immediately thought his father had done it.

The fact that a child.

Like it was that simple.

Picked up on that and was like, oh yeah, he would.

Exactly.

Like a child.

Your child is pinpointing you as the killer of his own mother.

Yeah.

Right off the bat.

Like you're a failure.

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You're a failure.

You're a fucking failure.

Absolutely.

Ugh.

So his Dalton's explanation to detect,

to Detective Head, excuse me,

echoed other family members claims that Bart had, you know, been very abusive and very violent in the very recent past.

But it was actually Steve Kelly's husband,

his statement that actually confirmed investigator's suspicions.

Now Kelly and Steve told detectives that Bart was supposed to have gone away to visit his brother the afternoon before Jennifer had been found.

Okay.

And he wasn't supposed to come home until the day after, which gave him an alibi.

Yeah.

Now Steve told those same detectives though,

that Steve himself had gotten home much later than he usually did the night before Jennifer's body had been found.

He got home sometime after 1.30 AM.

And he was awake and heard a truck pull into the Corbin's driveway around 2 AM.

That was unusual.

So he poked his head out the window.

And he saw the brake lights of Bart's truck illuminated in the driveway.

And he was like, oh, I guess like he didn't, you know, he must have come back.

Yeah.

Like that's crazy.

And about 15 minutes later,

the truck sped away from the Corbin house quote, in a great hurry.

Hmm.

What?

What happened there?

I thought you were away.

So having collected statements from the most important people at the scene, the only person investigators at this point were really fucking eager to talk to was Bart Corbin.

But I'm sure this is going to come as a shock to all.

He was being very uncooperative.

Oh, what?

Yeah.

Detectives have been trying to reach him through his brother Bobby,

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but every attempt so far was unsuccessful.

Bobby just kept telling them that Bart wanted to talk with his lawyer before he made a formal statement to the police.

So after he finished his interview with Steve,

Detective Head tried one last time to reach Bart and did it by calling Bobby Corbin.

And Bobby told the detective that Bart had retained a criminal defense lawyer and the lawyer had advised him against talking to detectives.

Yeah, of course.

So he would not be coming down to talk to them.

Wow.

You're all pieces of shit.

So right now there wasn't a ton that they could do because they didn't have necessarily anything pinning him to the crime, but they were going to start looking.

Because between the statements taken from friends and family and his continued refusal to speak to investigators, he was starting to look like a very strong suspect.

And suspicions only grew stronger when they started digging into his background.

Uh-oh.

Which I will get to in part two.

In part two.

I knew it.

I know, I don't think I actually told you at the beginning of this that it was going to be a two-potta, but it is.

This one's a...

This one is a doozy.

You know, and when you said, you said December 4th, 2004.

And I was just thinking about it.

I was like, oh, like, what was I doing in 2004?

And then I was like, do you ever think about that?

Like in these kind of cases, like on the day you're like, who was I doing that day when this was happening?

And I had no idea that this was happening somewhere in the country.

It's so weird that you said that because Drew and I had a conversation like that recently about like something terrible that happened while we were at like Universal.

And I was like, all of us here, like everybody at Universal was just walking around, like super happy, like having probably like one of the best times ever.

And then this horrible thing was just happening.

It's just like really, it's like, woof.

Yeah, it's creepy.

Yeah.

Oh, man, this is a tough one.

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I hope this guy gets it.

I don't know.

That's all I'm saying.

He might get away or he might not.

I don't know.

Those are the two choices.

So I hope we have one.

Again, we'll get to it in part two.

So we hope you keep listening and we hope you keep it weird.

But that's a word that you don't go listen to part two.

Bye.

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