

INITIAL CRIME SCENE REPORT

Supervising Investigator: Detective Jim Klass

Date: Friday 10/25/13

Time of Arrival on scene: 0107

Location: Arthur's Roundtable. One-story nightclub with basement, brick exterior with pink and deep purple trim, no windows on facing exterior, two office windows rear south rear, three office windows west rear.

Situated: 86 Death Valley Drive, Las Vegas, NV

Summons: phone call from location by Justin Case, owner of Arthur's, at 0052 Friday 10/25/13 to 911 dispatch reporting possible homicide.

Witnesses: None. Body discovered at approx. 0045 hours by Faye Morgan, victim's friend and roommate.

Description of Scene: Upon entering premises, discovered victim, identified as **Gwendolyn Veer**. Victim was lying on her left side near center of dance floor, in a pool of blood with a gunshot wound to her upper left chest, just below her shoulder. Victim was lying on her purse. A single, spent bullet casing and a half-empty, capped small plastic bottle of off-brand whiskey were lying on the floor nearby, just beneath a round cocktail table. Victim's body was riddled with abrasions and contusions.

Checking cover-charge receipts at front door revealed that club had been packed beyond legal capacity. Exterior search revealed a .45-caliber handgun in a dumpster at rear of building. Most patrons had fled scene before our arrival; remaining patrons were interviewed.

Trace: Unknown fiber found on victim's nylons.

Other Evidence: Found in the victim's purse, a letter from victim addressed to Rich Summerlin, owner of the Even Odds Casio, where victim was employed. Letter implicates a fellow employee, Morty Redd, in an ongoing scam to rob the casino.

Initial Suspects: **Justin Case** (white male, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'0", 192 lbs), **Faye Morgan** (white female, black hair, green eyes, 5'5", 140 lbs), **Mortimer Redd** (black male, balding, black hair, brown eyes, 6'4", 212 lbs).

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION SUMMARY

Interviewer: Detective Jim Klass

Date: Friday 10/25/13

Time: 0930

Interviewee: Justin Case

Relation to Victim: Former employer

Facts Presented: Victim worked day shifts at Arthur's Roundtable nightclub for over a year, but had never patronized the nightclub (to Mr. Case's knowledge) prior to the evening of her murder. Victim was originally from Wisconsin, known as an overachiever with high moral standards. Upon her arrival in Baltimore, victim enrolled in CPA classes at Montgomery College and was hired by Mr. Case as a junior accountant. Since that time, victim continued to attend evening classes, studying diligently. She graduated six weeks ago and was immediately offered a position at Even Odds Casino.

SECONDARY INTERROGATION SUMMARY

Interviewer: Detective Jim Klass

Date: Friday 10/25/13

Time: 1220

Interviewee: Justin Case

Relation to Victim: Former employer

Facts Presented: "Six months ago, one of Gwen and Faye's neighbors was assaulted in their apartment building. [Perpetrator is still at large.] So I lent Gwen my gun – she kept it hidden in her apartment. The three of us are the only ones who knew where it was kept. When Gwen quit, I got mad and told her to give the gun back, but she said she couldn't find it. Yeah, right. She's just usin' that as another way to stab me in the back. It's not enough that she just up and leaves without givin' two weeks' notice. I went to their apartment to go look myself, but Faye wouldn't let me in. Said she didn't know where it was either."

PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Interviewer: Officer Lance Lott

Date: Friday 10/25/13

Time: 0146

Interviewee: Faye Morgan

Relation to Victim: Friend and roommate

Facts Presented: Ms. Morgan accompanied the victim to Arthur's Roundtable nightclub. They arrived at approximately 2230 on Thursday, 10/24/13. Ms. Morgan indicated that the victim had previously worked as a bookkeeper at the club, but had recently left after landing a management position at the Even Odds Casino. Ms. Morgan claims she and the victim had been dancing amidst a group of girls on the overcrowded dance floor in a dense, white fog [theatrical smoke effect]. The music was so loud that they couldn't hear each other, even when face-to-face. After turning her back to the victim for a moment, Ms. Morgan suddenly lost sight of her friend. Disoriented by the sound, lights, and smoke, she frantically searched for the victim and found her passed out on the floor. "After I knelt down to help her, I saw the blood and screamed. All I saw was a blur." Ms. Morgan professed being in a state of shock as panic-stricken partygoers fled the scene.

Ms. Morgan and the victim have been roommates for the last 18 months. Ms. Morgan indicates that the victim, while previously employed by Arthur's Roundtable, had been continually rebuffing the romantic advances of the club's owner, Justin Case. Although the victim found him attractive, she considered him to have shady character and employ underhanded business practices, which were turn-offs. She reportedly couldn't wait to hand in her resignation.

Ms. Morgan had recently helped the victim get hired as a pit boss at the Even Odds Casino, where Ms. Morgan works as a blackjack dealer. Ms. Morgan states that the victim had the day off the night she was killed, and had called Ms. Morgan at work several times insisting they go to the nightclub that evening.

PRIMARY INTERROGATION SUMMARY

Interviewer: Officer Lance Lott

Date: Friday 10/25/13

Time: 1030

Interviewee: Faye Morgan

Relation to Victim: Friend and roommate

Facts Presented: Ms. Morgan indicates that in the three years she has worked as a dealer at Even Odds Casino, she has never heard of the scam referred to in victim's letter. "I only knew Morty as a co-worker. We never really socialized." Gwen Veer confided in Ms. Morgan that Gwen was forced by owner Justin Case to falsify the Arthur's Roundtable nightclub financial records to hide illegal drug sales Mr. Case was running through the club. Mr. Case threatened to fire victim if she didn't comply.

Ms. Morgan also confessed to making an erroneous statement when questioned at the crime scene, blaming this on the shock of finding her friend dead: it was Ms. Morgan who asked the victim to go to Arthur's Roundtable nightclub the night of the murder, not the other way around. "Gwen was wound so tight, I thought a night of partying would do her good. Besides, I felt it was time for her to rub it in Justin's face a little."

SECONDARY INTERROGATION SUMMARY

Interviewer: Officer Lance Lott

Date: Friday 10/25/13

Time: 1511

Interviewee: Faye Morgan

Relation to Victim: Friend and roommate

Facts Presented: I produced a letter taken from Ms. Morgan's employee file, in which she lobbies for the pit boss position at the Even Odds Casino. When asked how she felt when she was turned down for the position, and the victim, her friend with no previous experience, was hired instead, Ms. Morgan indicated she was happy for Gwen. Ms. Morgan continues to deny any involvement in Morty Redd's money-making scheme; however, her credit report shows her on the brink of personal bankruptcy.

TRACE REPORT

Trace Sample #1: Unknown fiber found on victim's nylons

Initial Identification: Plant matter

Initial Action: Forwarded to forensic botanist

Results: Fibers are spines belonging to *fero cactus* (Barrel Cactus).

Further Investigation: Officers searched exterior of Arthur's Roundtable Nightclub and exterior of all suspects' residences. *Fero cactus* was discovered growing outside condominium unit belonging to Morty Redd.

TRACE REPORT

Trace Sample #2: Suit jacket belonging to Morty Redd

Initial Identification: GSR [gunshot residue] discovered after swabbing and spraying with luminol.

Trace Sample #3: Right shoe belonging to Faye Morgan

Initial Identification: Blood traces. Shoe is decorated with rhinestones. One stone is missing.

Initial Action: Blood sample swabbed and collected per evidence protocols.

Results: Awaiting DNA results.

TRACE REPORT

Trace Sample #4: Glass fragment found in victim

Initial Identification: Unknown.

Initial Action: Density and Refractive Index tests.

Results: Man-made rhinestone, commonly used in women's clothing, accessories, and footwear.

Further Investigation: Fragment matches rhinestones on Trace Sample #3.

DNA REPORT

DNA Sample #1: Found on neck of whiskey bottle at crime scene.

Initial Identification: Unknown

Action: Submit suspects to buccal [cheek] swabs.

DNA REPORT

Results of DNA Sample #1: **MATCH FOUND.** Sample matches DNA profile of suspect Mortimer Redd.

DNA REPORT

DNA Sample #2: Blood found on right shoe of Faye Morgan.

Initial Identification: Unknown

Action: Compare to suspects' buccal swabs and victim's autopsy DNA.

Results: **MATCH FOUND.** Sample matches DNA profile of victim, Gwen Veer.

BALLISTICS REPORT

Weapon: .45-caliber handgun recovered from dumpster at crime scene

Features: Serial number filed down.

Initial Action: Fired weapon at firing range.

Results: Casing and bullet from firing range match casing found at crime scene and bullet recovered from victim's body.

Further Investigation: Raised serial number on weapon. FBI database indicates weapon is registered to Mr. Justin Case.

BALLISTICS REPORT

Weapon: Blunt-force object, cause of trauma around victim's right temple

Features: Unknown.

Initial Action: Poured silicon casting mixture into victim's wound. Noticed a small object in the wound reflecting light. Forwarded to Trace.

Results: Awaiting Trace results.

BALLISTICS REPORT

Weapon: Silicon cast of blunt-force murder weapon

Features: Weapon is some type of shoe.

Initial Action: Collected footwear from all suspects.

Results: **MATCH FOUND.** Cast matches shoe type collected from suspect Faye Morgan.

IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Location: Lid of dumpster, rear of Arthur's Roundtable nightclub.

Initial Action: Dusted for prints; found two fresh sets.

Analysis: Ran prints through AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) database.

Results: **MATCHES FOUND.**

Print set #1 matches Aldon Eaton, cook at Arthur's Roundtable.

Print set #2 matches former Philadelphia police officer Mortimer Redd.

IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Location: .45-caliber automatic handgun found in dumpster, rear of Arthur's Roundtable nightclub.

Initial Action: Dusted with Red Creeper fluorescent powder and examined in darkroom. Lifted thumbprint from one side of gun and two fingerprints from the opposite side. No prints found on trigger.

Analysis: Compared prints to exemplars collected from suspects.

Results: **MATCH FOUND.**

All prints match suspect Justin Case, owner of Arthur's Roundtable.

IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Location: .45-caliber automatic handgun found in dumpster, rear of Arthur's Roundtable nightclub.

Initial Action: Re-examined prints found on recovered gun. Prints were initially attributed to Justin Case.

Analysis: Considered position of prints on gun.

Results: Mr. Case held the gun, but could not possibly have fired it. Prints do not indicate sufficient pressure for firing. Shooter may have worn gloves. Recommend questioning of Mortimer Redd due to his background as a police officer.

AUTOPSY REPORT

Deceased: Ms. Gwendolyn Veer

Examiner: Connie DeLenz, M.D.

External Observations: Gunshot wound to her upper left torso, just below shoulder. Wound shows minimal signs of stippling [burns from gas and powder residue, found only with weapons shot from a distance of 3.5 feet or less]. Muzzle stamp impression has been left around outside of wound.

Internal Observations: Extracted bullet lodged inside left shoulder blade. Sent to Ballistics.

Ruling: **HOMICIDE.**

Other Conclusions: Victim suffered a contact wound; gun was pressed against the skin before firing.

AUTOPSY REPORT

Deceased: Ms. Gwendolyn Veer – **HOMICIDE VICTIM**

Examiner: Connie DeLenz, M.D.

External Observations: Victim suffered blunt-force trauma to the right temple with excessive swelling to the head.

Internal Observations: Toxicology report reveals low levels of alcohol in victim's system. No evidence of any drugs, chemicals, or poisons.

AUTOPSY REPORT

Deceased: Ms. Gwendolyn Veer – **HOMICIDE VICTIM**

Examiner: Connie DeLenz, M.D.

Internal Observations: No vital organs were pierced along bullet's path. With medical attention, victim would have survived bullet wound.

Ruling: **CAUSE OF DEATH: BRAIN HEMORRHAGE** resulting from blunt-force trauma to right temple.

FORENSICS REPORT

Item: Cell phone belonging to victim, Gwendolyn Veer

Location: Victim's purse

Observations: Phone's display shows three unheard voicemail messages.

Initial Action: Requested message transcript from cell provider.

Results: All three messages are from victim's friend and roommate, Faye Morgan. In each message, Ms. Morgan is trying to convince victim to go to Arthur's Roundtable nightclub on the night of Thursday, 10/17/13.

Further Action: Requested record of all calls sent and received from victim's home number.

FORENSICS REPORT

Item: Videotape from Arthur's Roundtable nightclub security surveillance

Location: Various nightclub surveillance cameras

Observations: Morty Redd is seen entering the nightclub an hour before the shooting, and leaving minutes after victim is gunned down.

Initial Action: Enhanced video images.

Results: Revealed that Mr. Redd is wearing driving gloves as he exits club.

FORENSICS REPORT

Item: Call record from home phone of apartment jointly occupied by victim, Gwendolyn Veer, and suspect Faye Morgan.

Location: Provided by Cavalier Telephone

Observations: In the last three weeks, several calls were made from this telephone to the home phone number of suspect Mortimer Redd.

Item: Victim's work attendance records

Location: Even Odds Casino

Observations: All calls were made during times while victim was at work.

FINAL CRIME REPORT

Supervising Investigator: Detective Jim Klass

Date: Friday 10/25/13

Time: 1600

Confession Summary: The victim, Gwendolyn Veer, was betrayed by her best friend and roommate, Faye Morgan. After three years as a dealer at the Even Odds Casino, Ms. Morgan felt she was due for a promotion. Cash-strapped, she needed money fast and a salary increase on its own wouldn't cut it. Ms. Morgan lied to investigators; she knew what Morty Redd was up to and, wanting in, had recently gained Mr. Redd's trust. The plan was for Ms. Morgan to be promoted to pit boss while Ms. Veer would be hired as a dealer. For a piece of the action, Ms. Morgan would recruit one of two more dealers in her pit for Mr. Redd, all the while keeping the floor manager and Ms. Veer in the dark. Ms. Morgan knew Ms. Veer was too principled to ever get involved in a scam. Rather than be happy for her friend, as she had told investigators, Ms. Morgan became incensed when she found out she had been passed over and Ms. Veer was hired in her place. As a result, Mr. Redd said Ms. Veer "had to go" and Ms. Morgan, enraged with jealousy, was more than willing to help out.

Because Mr. Redd had never been to Arthur's Roundtable nightclub before and Ms. Morgan was a regular, Ms. Morgan agreed to take pictures of the nightclub at closing, under the guise of coming to give her roommate moral support and a ride home during Ms. Veer's last days of employment at Arthur's. Ms. Morgan asked to use Ms. Veer's computer to check her email, providing the opportunity to send Mr. Redd the nightclub photos from an anonymous account.

Ms. Morgan stole the .45-caliber automatic from their apartment and delivered it to Mr. Redd the day before the murder. She gave him the gun wrapped in a towel, and he filed off the serial number. Since the weapon had originally belonged to Justin Case, it was no surprise his prints were on the gun. Mr. Redd always handled the gun while wearing gloves, including the night of the murder.

On the fateful day, Ms. Morgan convinced Ms. Veer to go to the nightclub. About an hour after they arrived, Ms. Morgan led Ms. Veer out onto the dance floor, which was packed to overcapacity. Due to the fog effects, Ms. Veer didn't see Mr. Redd approaching her from the side and shoot her at

point-blank range. As Mr. Redd pulled the gun from his pocket, he didn't realize he had dropped his whiskey bottle. Thinking he had murdered Ms. Veer, Mr. Redd rushed out and disposed of the gun in the rear dumpster of the club. Fortunately for Ms. Veer, the intoxicated Mr. Redd had missed his mark and the bullet did not kill her. She cried out for help after falling to the dance floor amidst dozens of feet, but Ms. Morgan delivered the critical blow, a fatal kick to the head. The victim was then trampled by the panicked crowd that was fleeing the club, resulting in the multiple contusions and abrasions.

Although Mortimer Redd hatched the plot to kill Gwendolyn Veer, it was Faye Morgan who committed the murder.

MEANS:

Ballistics – Faye's shoe type matched the cast of Gwen's temple wound.

MOTIVE:

Interrogation – Faye was turned down for the pit boss position; Gwen was hired instead.

OPPORTUNITY:

Trace – glass in wound matches missing rhinestone from Faye's shoe.

CASE CLOSED.

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