Ep 1

Craft moves

- Narrative about him
 - humanize him
 - Talk about
 his life +
 what he was
 like when he
 was alive
 - Make
 listeners
 sympathize
 more
- Storyline chronological order
- Silence captivating
- Narration by mom more personal

- New car BMW convertible
- 22 yr old Courtney Copeland shot in the back March 4
 - Shot through car window
- News reporting perspective
 - Got shot, drove himself to police station, officers did everything they could to help him
- Truth
 - Not enough done to solve his murder
 - Heading to see girlfriend (past midnight)
- Chicago = lowest crime solve rates in the country
 - Even lower when black
- Courtney Copeland
 - Jokes
 - Food, clothes, shoes
 - Called "Gucci" in high school
 - Friends with Chance the rapper
 - World ventures job
 - Leased BMW for him (with cosigner Christain Hernandez car register only had christain's name)
 - Was supposed to go on a roadtrip the next day
 - Nonviolent
 - Would never be involved in any type of shooting
- 2 am police knocking on door
- Mom couldn't see him at hospital until detectives arrived
- "Sorry I wasn't there for you when you needed me the most"
- White, middle aged detectives
 - Courtney flagged down police
 - Got out of car, car was still moving police told him to put it in park
 - Went back to put it in park and grabbed police arm, saying he got shot - collapse
- Suspicious detective asked Shapearl questions
 - If Courtney was owner of car
- \$10.000 reward for answers but no answers
- Trying to protect his name/image
 - News saying police saying "he wasn't a gang member"
- One witness said he drove past Courtney at police station
 - Saw police just standing around him collapsed
 - Didn't elaborate scared of police coming after him
 - Another witness video with no one helping him VS police saying they did everything they could to help him

Why would they be asking *her* questions?
Don't have the right priorities.

Why are gangs even mentioned?

 Stereotyping, covering up

Ep 2

"Police promise Shapearl they'll do everything they can to solve Courtney's case, but won't release the names of the officers who interacted with her son"

- Negative tone
- "What would you like done that I haven't done?"
- "Reinterviewed the police?"
 - Negative tone
- Black people keep having to speak out and say "i am somebody" because non-blacks keep telling them that they're nothing
 - Oppression
- MLK "i am somebody"
- Courtney was somebody
- Police not properly investigating
- Reverend jackson
 - Keep Hope Alive radio Station catalyst
- Santita advice to take notes on everything that happens (doctor, police)
 - Cover up begins after the first day
 - Beginning = truth
- Voice memo of convo with detectives
 - Recorded what she rlly believed happened to Courtney
 - Ran plates; saw black man driving in hispanic area with a car not registered under a black person's name (christian hernandez registered
 - police called christian after Courtney died to confirm *real* owner of car)
- Police knew Courtney's name
 - IR number number when arrested
- 17 yo Courtney arrested for using lost debit card
 - IR # followed him
 - Didn't matter that he was just a kid and he only bought some chicken
- Met with police day after death
 - Wrote down names
 - Police said they did everything they could to find out who killed Courtney
 - "Couldn't have 2 better guys working on case"
- Who was the officer on the scene several officers
 - "They were comforting your son, we know that for a fact"
 - Asked for names refused, stumbled over words
 - "They did all they could" "rlly proud how our officers handled the scene"
- Clear they didn't even talk to the officers on the scene
- Asked about camera outside police station would've shown Courtney driving into station
 - "Cameras don't work"
 - Lack of proper equipment
 - Lack of priority to save lives
- But when talking to the detectives, they said they had already seen footage from neighbourhood cameras
 - Wouldn't give it to Shapearl
- Everyone is a suspect until ruled out
- Funeral
 - Play "Trouble of the world"
 - "Soon I will be done with the trouble of the world"
 - New reality

Racial profiling

- Arrest record is bad

Racism at play	 Collapsed at police station so when did he get up and become combative? Arrive at hospital in cardiac arrest EMT records "Combative, dangerous to others" Handcuffed Police never told her - treat her as a fool Why would they handcuff a dying person unless they were a suspect? Had he been a white guy with a fancy car, the situation would've been totally different Coincidental meeting with ER nurse (Nurse Hawkins) who comforted Shapearl the night of death Courtney handcuffed to stretcher Never got a report that he was combative Problem - needed to transfer him to another bed Retrieve car No blood inside But police had told Shapearl that Courtney got shot <i>inside</i> car Don't add up Lots of broken glass Police took his phone Screen cracked, unlocked
Courtney died. Tea	Ep 3 egal battle with City of Chicago to get them to release videos of the night ams up with Invisible Institute. With this added pressure, the city releases the after the prompting Shapearl to re-examine the case"
	Courtney's phone Called 911 Shapearl never told of 911 call during first police meeting - would take a yr for her to find out Over a yr since police last contacted her

Become a statistic

doors slammed in our faces."

Jamie Kalvin - reporter in Laquan case

Shapearl needed someone to listen
 Alison Flowers - Invisible Institute journalist
 Main officers: Andrew Block, Sean Ronan
 Called ambulance immediately

Shot 16x

Ronan problematic + racist

Rumor going around in hospital that Courtney was being combative

"Average black family trying to fight a huge city. Everywhere we go, we get

30 complaints - more complaints than 89% of other Chicago police

Laquan Mcdonald (17) - biggest coverup of Chicago Police

But got whole country talking about race + police

No one surprised in black community

Public story: "Self defense, shot in chest"

Sad, empathetic

Why was he given this award? Why would he be praised for something like this - thinks this is acceptable - life threatening

Denied recalling everything, even though the case was special - wanted to avoid risk of getting hurt himself?

> Silence - Shapearl crying - impactful

Doesn't this mean the city hadn't even looked at the tapes clearly/thoroughly enough to see that the car wasn't Courtney's?

Black people distrust of the

- Disciplined 2x
 - Most of the complaints should get dismissed
- Racist slurs, false arrest, violence (throwing out window, tasing, refusing medical care)
- Cases settled Still stayed on force
- Yr after Courtney death
 - Vid of Ronan shooting man at traffic stop 6x
- Another shooting given top award Superintendent Medal of Honour
- Most officers don't fire gun for entire career..
- Invisible Institute step in + request city for vids
 - City finally release police radio/footage
- Disturbing way police speaking to Shapearl (grieving mother)
 - EMT records handcuffed
 - Saying it was protocol
 - "Handcuffs have nothing to do with solving his case"
 - Questioning what Shapearl had uncovered
 - "That's not a CPD document"
 - Why was he handcuffed if he wasn't arrested?
 - Gaslighting her
- Still hadn't talked to on site officers after 1yr
 - Sarcastic saying they put lots of effort into the case
 - But shapearl had talked to more ppl the police had
- Assume police officers tell the truth
- Police offended
 - Reality for black/brown ppl in Chicago not only her perspective
 - Recording without permission
 - Think her whole focus is that the police did smth wrong..
- Daniel Cortez EMT first responder
 - "Didn't recall"
 - Didn't recall that Courtney was combative, even though in the records it says he was
- CDs from city (4 camera footage in front of station, diff angles)
 - Weird format
 - Like trying to make it impossible to uncover the truth
- Footage
 - Looks like Courtney's car pulled over
 - Don't see Courtney at first
 - On ground (hands/knees), surrounded by officers
 - Pull him up forcefully
 - Handcuff him after pulling him up
 - Def not combative !!
- BMW followed by 2 police cars
- Couldn't see what happened bw being followed + collapse in front of station
 - Everything leading to police shooting Courtney
- New info car being followed wasn't Courtney's
 - Maybe it was like what police said he was shot and drove himself to station
 - If cops didn't kill him, Courtney's case would just be another unsolved murder case
 - If cops DID kill him v big coverup, would shake Chicago
- Assumptions that cops did it

police because of the racism and prejudice/oppression that police display

- Didn't want to wrongfully assume who killed Courtney
- Alison tells her perspective (as a white person, married to black)

Wouldn't count as a suspect with THAT many officers on scene..

- Had to go back to step 1
- Needed to have convo on how to interact with cops as black person
 - "Be calm, courteous"
 - Different for white ppl in america vs black ppl
 - Sense of comfort vs fear
- Fear goes way back (shapearl's grandma)
 - "You were put here to protect us but who protects us from you?"
- Goal was to keep son safe from the streets + enjoy life without worrying about being shot/killed
- Did police do everything they could to help him?
 - Paramedic reports aorta artery got hit (would've bled out in minutes)
 - But autopsy reports say it was intact
 - So did he have a chance?
 - Took too long for him to get to hospital 13 min
- Other medical reports
 - Why no blood in car: chest cavity filling with blood
- Courtney's heart stopped 4 min before arriving at hospital
 - Every delay mattered
- Trauma patients can appear combative (eg if lungs are punctured in Courtney's case)
 - But never handcuffed don't have/restrain with handcuffs
- Said he was Flailing in streets before paramedics arrived but vid doesn't show
 - Treated as suspect
 - Wouldn't have done this to someone white
- Steven russian lawyer specialize in police reform
 - 4 officers around him 11 officers on scene
 - No police in ambulance to unlock handcuffs = delay
 - Docs couldn't operate on Courtney right away had to wait for police to arrive
 - Civil liability issue
- 2nd delay Transferred to east side hospital (Illinois)
 - Wasn't the fastest to get to/nearest hospital
 - Minutes matter could've saved 5-10 min on road
 - Courtney's heart stopped 4 min before arrival
- 2 shots but only 1 known bullet
 - Police didn't find 2nd
 - Searched car unseen
 - 2nd bullet might still be in car
- Witnesses in neighbourhood
- "Not just about cops killing black ppl, also about them letting black ppl die. To them, he was just another person on the streets who got shot. The dead can no longer speak so you have to speak for them."

RTD questions

Why would police officers stand by watching as other officers misuse their authority by using excessive force, often directed at black civilians?

- According to Shapearl, there were 11 officers on the scene watching as Courtney was on the ground, begging for help
 - We know the cops treated him as a suspect

- Did not ONE person think that "oh this man is DYING, I need to help him"
- For the George Floyd situation too he repeatedly says "I can't breathe"
 - Literally complicit in murder

Structural racism vs implicit racial bias of police officer

Knowing that racism is usually playing a part in how police react to black people, how could structural racism in the justice system play a part in developing a police officer's implicit racial bias? Why is this important?

- Structural racism public policies
 - Institutional

EP 4

Shapearl + Alma (Courtney's secret girlfriend)

Isn't right to blame her but it also isn't right for her to withhold info..

- Rosia (official girlfriend) + Courtney
- Worldventures drama
 - Love life got into way of job
 - Was even removed from leadership team
- Secret girlfriend Alma
 - Everyone at work blamed her + didn't even know they were dating (ex boyfriend may have shot Courtney etc)
 - She felt guilt
 - Texted her he was outside but never showed up
 - Serious relationship?
 - Latest update from police "no updates"
- Dr Ashley digital forensics expert
 - Sent her phone
 - Detailed digital logs of his call history + time stamps
- When he and alma were in touch
 - Midnight text alma
- Meetup routine
- 1:11 last text (told her he'd arrived at her house) but never showed up ???
- 1:16 am 911 call
- Belmont Cragin neighbourhood gangs (dangerous neighbourhood?) black + hispanic
 - City cameras broken gangs know it so they know they can get away
- Reinterview ppl detectives talked to
- Reinterview Alma 2 yrs later
 - Said she heard gunshots (but sus because she said she didn't the night courtney died)
 - Tense position
- Text message at same time she heard close gunshots + car drive off
 - Doesn't make sense?
 - 4 minutes after he texted alma, he was still texting his friends
 - Wasn't unordinary for neighbourhood

Broken cameras are a problem! Citizens pay for them to help solve crime, but what happens when they don't work!!

 Errors - cameras at Alma's house corner didn't work - important footage :(

Somebody saw smth - takes a lot of courage

to TELL what they saw

- Typical for courtney to change his mind too
- Roommate coming back from store says she saw police
- Why did she take so long to speak up about this?
 - Shapearl pissed off
 - Didn't even tell detectives says they didn't ask but instead asked about his phone pass
 - Didn't consider her a witness
 - Police records say his pass is his birthday when its acc his fingerprint
- Alma exboyfriend (hawk) tried to fight courtney
 - Jealous of courtney
 - After his death: deleted fb post Sorry courtney, lord forgive me
 - Hawk also asked alma what courtney was doing going to her house
 - Another ex in prison for attempted murder
- Had convo with neighbour gang member about courtney's death
 - Said his house raided by police the day right after courtney's death (no record of raid)
 - Said it wasn't anyone from the neighbourhood or he might've gotten mistaken for someone else
- Alma problems with timeline, police didn't even interview her roommate +
 interview alma properly (ask how many shots, how many ppl running off,
 did u hear anything etc)
- Police never gave shapearl update but told nurse hawkins they suspected it was carjacking

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- Long hair gang member interview didn't remember courtney's death, but remembered he was sleeping ?? also later on remembered it was a black person
 - Ask for info on police refused to give
 - Arrest record was long
 - Sketchhhhh
- Brianna interview (alma's roommate)
 - Was dating christian hernandez at that time (who cosigned courtney's car)
- Christian interview
 - Said alma had told HIM about hearing gunshots
 - Also said she'd told shapearl when she acc hasn't??
- Alma fb posted rock on emoji (common sign courtney did) + zipped lips emoji
 - Her lips were zipped hmm
- Worldventures coworker June interivew
 - Gang relation
 - "In chicago, even if you aren't in one, you're labeled as one. Majority of the time you have no choice- its by where you live, who ur fam is"
 - Says he talked to a bunch of gangs + they would tell truth
 - Identity mixup
 - Lots of rumours about death

Why won't she speak up about it - v suspicious

Ep 5

Shapearl holds protest on 2 yr anniversary of death - drives exact route courtney took, meets 2 important witnesses + supervising officer from that night

- Bur Oak
 - Used to be only graveyard where black ppl could be buried in Illinois
 - Disrepair always run down conditions
- Caused delays by putting him in handcuffs
- Conspired to compile misleading reports
- Want justice
- Treating young black man as criminal instead of victim has consequences
- Hold driving protest take exact route just like courtney

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- Alaina living in neighbourhood also called 911 saying she heard 2 shots
 - Name + phone # redacted from police report
 - Called 6 min after courtney called saying he'd been shot
 - Parking a block from church courtney usually parked at to see alma
 - Then saw courtney's car speed down road to police station
 - Edgar (her husband) saw another car full of ppl (gangsters?)
 - Police didn't even try speaking with him even the alaina told them edgar saw everything

Protest

- Put herself in courtney's position at that moment
- Police started to surround her + ask her to move from road
- Shapearl crying + yelling raw emotions
- Sergeant Ronan supervisor the night courtney died
 - Want him to see her pain
 - Lots of complaints, false arrests, racist language
 - "Who handcuffed courtney" -
 - "Nobody cares... He just another black kid dead ..."
 - He went on and on saying he didn't know + he just saw courtney being treated in ambulance
- Surprised Alaina showed up connect on mother + mother level
 - Means a lot
- Edgar interview
 - He saw car (grand marquis) speeding down alley very fast
 - 3 guys inside + car window rolled down
 - Hair one had long hair (hmmmm connection to that gang member alma talked to)

Empathy - meant a lot to Shapearl

Ep 6

Fb message with crucial info but police dismiss tip. Similar murder happens in neighbourhood once again.

Still wanted to reach out to Shapearl cuz he felt bad and thought if he had the info, then why not

- V diff from alma...
- Believes in justice being served
- What if he had never come forward
 - Wouldn't have been able to connect dots + confirm edgar's witnesses
- Frustrating still took 2 yrs

- First meeting with police few days after death
 - Told them about tip on fb
- Witness living in belmont cragin (randall)
 - Said he saw 3 ppl in grand marquis toss a pistol
 - He called police twice
 - Police said it wasn't connected at all
 - Like "We've already decided it's not credible"
 - dismissed
 - Way later courtney shot
 - But actually only 37 min after
 - Match Edgar's witnesses
- Witness accounts match up but police never connected the dots bruh
- Randall interview
 - 3 gang members (stylers gang)
 - Tossed a pistol
 - But came back to retrieve it
 - Found iphone lost iphone
 - Mugshots how did he know who they were
 - Knows of them
 - Is now a chicago police officer .. was a regular civilian when courtney shot
- Police call records
 - 36 min bleeped out (just an extended beep)
 - Police say its not related
 - But turns out it was completely related bruh
- 2 of the gang members were acc arrested but released on same day
 - 1 who got away had 16 arrests
 - All 3 gang members have done prison time + gun offenses
 + long rap sheets
- Police should've followed these leads
- Double blind lineup of gangs for edgar
 - Landed on Alma's neighbour gang member with long hair
 - Another one was 1 who had gotten arrested that night
 - Edgar + randall's accounts match up more+more
- Asked june (coworker) if he could ask around but like opening pandora box
 - 2 gang chiefs threatened him so he stopped asking + moved + done dealing info
- Grand marquis owner crystal interview
 - Says she didn't know any of the gang members
 - Got rid of car before 2016
 - lying
 - Was acc gf of 1 of the gang members who got arrested

So many inconsistencies

there was a murder + they have long rap sheet- why wouldn't they question them **???** - esp when they had a 911 call describing them throw a gun away

Does this lack of investigative motivation have to do with the neighbourhood they're in? Think it's normal, too incompetent/lazy (??) to investigate?

Courtney's murder still doesn't seem to matter enough to the police to solve

- Randall text woman murdered in bellmont cragin again
 - Same corner courtney shot + car was also bmw
 - Man forced way into her car
 - Shot her on same street courtney shot
- Shapearl decide if she should share stuff she knew
 - Hope police could at least follow up with that woman's murder
 - Responsibility
- Police interview this time with 2 white reporters
 - Outline crime scene for them
 - Courtney parked on side of road where he normally parked to see alma
 - Texting + distracted
 - Someone shot at him, he ducked, got shot in back
 - Speed off to police station
 - That's when grand marguis sped thru alleyway edgar was in
 - After courtney was @ hospital, randall saw grand marguis on his street (toss/retrieve pistol etc), ran off on foot (arrested + released without questioning)
 - Show mugshots
 - detectives say shapearl never told them this but SHE DID (with tape proof)
- Coverup or just incompetent + patronizing tone ("this was already discussed")
 - Evasive talking about gang member arrest (there was a murder + they have long rap sheet- why wouldn't they question them - esp when they had a 911 call describing them throw a gun away)
 - And they say they don't have enough probable cause + evidence - "these are leads, not evidence"
- Would police finally do their jobs? Esp after another murder?
 - Shapearl thinks they just try to please them by saying they'll assign new detectives - prolly won't even investigate
- Been a yr police never contacted shapearl, randall, edgar ever again
 - Detective amado finally called her
 - Never followed up with leads shapearl provided from the past yr + now want to put courtney's case as a cold case file

Ep 7 - season finale

Having taken her investigation as far as she can, she wants to make sure this never happens to anyone else. Travels to brazil to speak at mothers of murdered children summative + advocate for police reform + honour courtney's legacy

You cannot win against CPD

 Breonna Taylor cops are still not arrested/charged

How diff would it have been if the same thing had been done for courtney

Just wish he was respected as a human life just like we respected him

Can't change skin ur in

End podcast with his death still left unsolved

- Gathering of mothers of murdered children all fighting for same thing (justice)
 - Everyone tell stories of their child
- They are more than what happened to them
- They can never kill the light
- Case against city
 - Kept denying everything (even handcuffing)
 - Lawyer said they should drop case
 - Heartbroken
 - Boils down to what CPD is legally allowed to do
- CPD posted lawsuit was unnecessary
 - Dismissal a WIN for CPD wtf
- Lawsuit + investigation coming to an end
- What if world is different
- Propose Courtney's law Reforms needed
 - CPD should perform first aid care + drive ppl who've been shot immediately to hospital
 - 2. Cameras need to work
 - 3. Records have to be all in one place for victim families
- Want to fight for others wants to prevent other parents to never experience this kinda pain
- Scoop + run in Philly
 - Police drive shooting victims to hospital themselves without waiting for ambulance
 - Take less than 5 min save vital time
 - Another shooting victim (lan) interview
 - Said he arrived at hospital at same time the ambulance was leaving (he'd be dead by then)
 - lan is white.
- CPD are allowed to scoop + run as well but discouraged to
 - What if courtney's life mattered just as much as ian's did
 - What if they never treated him as a criminal :(
- Changes to CPD
 - Medical training required to use it before medics arrive
- Montage of interviews with Courtney's friends
 - Bring him to life
 - All saying how he brought laughter to their lives
 - Interview sisters crying :((((
- Updates on Shapearl's life
 - Travelling, fostering, foundation in Courtney's name
 - Still close with Invisible Institute friends
- Bebe BMW someday, we'll have to say goodbye to it
- Black ppl have been shackled + abused for so long, and this happens to ur child
 - I should've been there it was beyond my control
 - Hardest moment was finding out he got shot + living without him

- Emphasizes
 problems within police system
- What-ifs
- If they cared more about his death, would they have found out who done it (gang members arrested - if they had questioned them)
- If there weren't delays..

- My son, courtney copeland, was SOMEBODY