

**Investigator Report (Abridged): L34-43029**

**First degree murder**

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**New York State Police - Major Crimes Unit**

**Date of Report: February 28, 2024**

#### **SUMMARY**

Lena Invanova was murdered between 0400 and 0500 on the morning of February 9th. The investigation into her death is unfolding into one of the most peculiar cases of my career. Central to this mystery is the discovery of a website, [findmykiller.xyz](http://findmykiller.xyz), established under the deceased's name - or someone masquerading as her - mere weeks before her murder. The emergence of a shadowy figure(s) known as "Frodo," propels this investigation into uncharted and bizarre territory.

#### **INVESTIGATION OVERVIEW**

On Feb. 09, 2024, at approx 0800 hours I was alerted to a potential homicide at a homestead on White Roe Lake Road in a rural section of Livingston Manor, NY.

The initial call to 911 was made by the housekeeper, Mindy Moriarty, at approx 0735 hours. Mindy, who resides in nearby Roscoe, NY, informed dispatch that she discovered her employer, Lena Ivanova, deceased in her home upon arrival for her weekly housekeeping duties.

Ofc. Romero, of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department, was the first responding officer and by the time I arrived, he had already secured the perimeter. He shared his initial observations with me, noting the brutality of the crime scene: "Bloody scene. Shot to the back of the head, at first glance she looked decapitated. We have forensics looking at the weapon now, but it looks large caliber, likely a .44 Magnum or similar."

After getting the summary from Ofc. Romero, I went around the back of the house to find Mindy Moriarty and conduct a preliminary interview. She had wandered away from the home and was visibly shaken by the incident. Mindy told me that she had been employed by the victim for over five years and almost always cleaned on a Tuesday. After using her security code to enter the home she saw the victim hunched over her desk, unresponsive. Mindy Moriarty gave some early clues as to how the house was secured, confirming no surveillance system that she knew of.

The digital forensics team then uncovered a cryptographic "ring signature" security system. This bespoke, homemade security setup allowed for a unique form of authentication where trusted guests could possess private, yet anonymous keys. This system, while providing a high level of security, also adds a layer of complexity to the investigation, especially regarding access control and potential breaches. It has been sent to Quantico for further analysis.

At 1130 I proceeded to interview the victim's neighbor Sam Path. He reported hearing a loud noise in the early hours of February 9, but was unable to determine its source. He acknowledged that it could have been a gunshot but was not certain. His statement suggested a rough time of death but no motive.

At 1540 I was officially informed by headquarters of Lena's identity and the contact information for her next of kin. I contacted Cobie Cobain, her step brother, who is currently in Boston for work. It's worth noting that Cobie is a semi-famous online personality who has historically been very active on social media. During the phone interview, Cobie appeared genuinely shocked. He described his relationship with Lena as distant, noting it was not unusual for them to be in the same country and not meet. Cobie last saw Lena during a family Christmas gathering. While initially helpful, in the weeks after the murder he became difficult to contact.

Later that day I accompanied Sullivan County coroner, Dr. Helen Cartwright, to the crime scene at approx 2010 hours. Dr. Cartwright's preliminary assessment confirmed that the proximate cause of Lena's death was intracranial and cerebral hemorrhaging, concurrent with a skull fracture resulting from massive head trauma. The bullet impact at the back of Lena's head, with an exit wound near her jaw, was consistent with being shot from behind at a downward angle. This finding aligned with earlier observations made by the forensic team and suggested a standing assailant who was likely familiar with Lena, given the lack of forced entry and struggle at the scene. Given the onset of rigor and livor mortis the coroner put the time of death as around 16 hours prior, approx 0400-0500 in the early morning of Feb 9. This lines up with the timing of the loud noise heard by the neighbor, Mr Path.

During my continued investigation into Lena's background, I uncovered a complex portrait of an individual both brilliant and troubled. Lena was recognized for her remarkable intellect in the fields of physics, cryptography and computing, and was considered a public figure in those worlds. Early interviews suggest Lena had a dedication to her work that was almost obsessive, with a somewhat standoffish demeanor, often perceived as superior or condescending.

The investigation has been at a standstill with no obvious leads until we received a comprehensive digital analysis of her online activities from Quantico. The report suggested a suspicious domain purchase, leading us to secure a court-ordered warrant and subsequently subpoena online hosting services.

It was at this juncture that the investigation veered into unprecedeted territory. Approximately two and a half weeks prior to her death, on January 23, a website under the name [findmykiller.xyz](http://findmykiller.xyz) was established, purportedly by Lena or an individual claiming to be her.

The website's design is notably minimalistic, featuring a stark black background and an empty frame with icons suggesting some kind of game (Files, Inspect, Connect, Mint). The "Files" icon reveals a dropdown menu, with most links inactive except social media which lead to X and Farcaster profiles for a user named "Frodo".

While it's challenging to conceive that Lena anticipated her own death and set up this site, her known traits – privacy, intelligence, and nonconformity – suggest she might have been part of a plan to safeguard specific information. If I hadn't seen her dead body myself I would have written off the whole case as an elaborate prank.

However, it appears more plausible that an individual(s) operating as "Frodo" has orchestrated an intricate and macabre game reminiscent of "Saw," where the consequences are tragically real.

In the absence of additional evidence, this "Frodo" persona has emerged as the primary suspect in the investigation. Efforts are underway to ascertain their identity, and we anticipate interrogating them imminently.

End of Report.