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Transcript of phone call between Brian Docherty (BD) and Karen Yu (KY), 18:30
Thursday 13th June.

KY: Karen Yu speaking.

BD: Oh, hello there. This is Brian - Brian Docherty.

KY: Oh, right? Yes. Brian. Hi. How are you?

BD: Not too bad, thanks. I, uh - I spoke to the police this morning. To give a statement.

KY: Me too. Do you - don't suppose you know how their investigation's going?

BD: Oh, no. They wouldn't tell this old duffer even if I asked. Wouldn't be good practice. I'm just a witness now. [Laughs.] A witness who witnessed nothing.

KY: [Pauses.] So, um - can I help you, Brian? You're not calling to complain about the article, are you?

BD: What? Oh, no. No, not that. I - I'm calling about Andrew, as it happens.

KY: Oh? Have you heard from him? Is he awake?

BD: Ah, no. No news there, I'm afraid. I meant the shooting - how he was shot.

KY: [Sighs.] Brian, look, I'm sorry, but I'm not doing that any more-

BD: But-

KY: I've got other things I need to write now-

BD: I know, yes, but-

KY: And besides, it's out of our hands now that the police are investigating.

BD: Karen, listen. I think I know how it was done. And who did it.

KY: What? [Pauses.] I - well. Let me get a pen, Brian. [Pause.] OK, first things first, why are you phoning me? Why not your old colleagues at the police?

BD: Because - well, because I have no evidence to back it up. I doubt the force would, ah - would consider it without something to go on. Even coming from one of their own, you know? I know I wouldn't have when I was a detective. You don't exactly accuse people of attempted murder based on a hunch.

KY: So you think it's attempted murder? [Pauses.] OK then. I guess I'd better hear it. On or off the record?

BD: Off, for now, I think. Yes, definitely. Right then. So I, uh, I read your piece in that *Eyewitness* magazine-

KY: *Witness*.

BD: Right. You know, answering the questions the readers sent in? And I was looking - I was going through the letters and I think one of them - one of the readers might actually have stumbled upon something without realising it.

KY: Please tell me it wasn't the doppelganger guy.

BD: Uh, actually, yes, it was. That's the chap.

KY: [Pauses.] OK then. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't sceptical, Brian. But go on.

BD: Now don't worry, I don't think there were any stunt doubles involved or anything like that. But the idea that there was someone else in the room isn't half bad, you know. We've been saying again and again that there's no way anyone could have got in or out of that study. And that's absolutely true.

KY: Yeah.

BD: So, when you actually think about it, that only leaves us with two very simple options. Either it was only ever Andrew in that room, and no one else entered until you and Lisa got to the study.

KY: Or?

BD: Or there was always someone else in there the whole time, and they never left - they were still in that room when you and Lisa and that big fella found Andrew.

KY: But, Brian, that room was empty when we broke in. Apart from Andrew, of course.

BD: But was it? Let me see. [Looks for something.] Here. The person who wrote the letter suggested that someone hid behind the desk. Remember? Now, you and Lisa told me that the desk was pushed against the door, with its front to the door, yes?

KY: Yeah, we - it was.

BD: And John's desk has a solid back to it, so that you can't see through to the other side.

KY: OK?

BD: And we've all been scratching our heads as to why Andrew would go to the effort of pushing that desk against the door. I know your anthropologist friend had some idea about toxins in the mask driving him doolally - by the way, any news on that?

KY: Ah, yeah, I - I heard back from Charlie yesterday, as a matter of fact. It's, uh, it's not good. That theory's dead.

BD: Thought as much. So we're still left asking why that desk was moved. But think about it - if someone else - if the culprit - was in that room with Andrew, then moving the desk like that would make the perfect hiding place. With its front to the door and its back to room, a person - provided they weren't too big - a person could crouch in the space between the two cabinets undetected.

KY: OK. Hang on. I just want to make sure I'm understanding you. You're saying this person hides in that room and manages to get the gun that was in the desk drawer. And with this they shoot Andrew, standing far enough away that they don't get any residue on them. And maybe - wait [pauses] - hang on. No. Brian, if that was the case this guy had to already be hidden in the room when Andrew locked the door that night. And - well, all of us were there, on the other side of the door, when he did that. Remember? Me, you, Charlie, Lisa, Jared. So it couldn't have been any of us hiding inside.

BD: Couldn't it?

KY: Besides [pauses] - Brian, you know that me and Lisa and Charlie were all outside in the garden when we broke into the study. That only leaves -

BD: Yes?

KY: Let's be clear: are you telling me Jared tried to kill Andrew?

BD: Well - [pauses]. Christ, yes. I am. That's what I think. Didn't you think it was weird that he claimed to sleep through those gunshots? That he only turned up after you lot had got into the study?

KY: I suppose I did.

BD: [Pauses.] This is off the record, right?

KY: I - yeah. Yes, it is. [Exhales.] OK. Brian, how about you just spell out what you think happened?

BD: OK. [Coughs.] Right then. So, as you say, Andrew's locked himself up in the study in that ridiculous stunt of his. We're all on the other side of that door. Now, I - that's when I head off to bed. You and everyone else say that you all went to bed pretty much straight after. Correct?

KY: Correct.

BD: Clearly, once all four of you had gone to your rooms, one of you slipped back out again. Now, that has to be Lisa's man, obviously, because the rest of you can vouch for each other being outside the study until after the shots were fired. So at some point in the night he sneaks downstairs and knocks on the study. He says something to get Andrew to unlock the door and let him in. What it was I've no idea - maybe he, uh, faked an emergency, said he needed help, something like that. Anyway, now he's in the room. He manages to get the gun, which he already knows is in one of the desk drawers, and shoots at Andrew. I can only assume that he's a terrible shot, because he first hits the skirting board before getting Andrew, and even

then it's only in the stomach. [Pauses.] If he had more time he might have, ah, finished the job, but he knows those shots will have roused the whole house. So before he can do anything else he needs to make it look like a suicide or - or an accident of some sort - not thinking that we might test for residue. And he has to act fast, because if he's seen in the study it's all over. By this point you and the other man are already coming down the stairs.

KY: [Pauses.] OK.

BD: So he places the gun next to Andrew, as if he'd been holding it. He, uh - he must have been wearing gloves for that, because there weren't any prints on that gun. Then he makes sure the door's locked again from the inside, with the key in the lock, if he hasn't done so already. Next he drags that desk until it's close to the door, squeezes in that little space between the cabinets - he's small enough for that, I reckon - and from there manoeuvres the desk until it's right against the door. Now, from your vantage point outside the windows, he's not there. Apart from Andrew, that room looks empty.

KY: [Pauses.] Wait, wait. That won't do, Brian. Sorry, but by the time me and Lisa had got into the room Jared was back outside in the hallway. He knocked on the door and - I told you this, right? - and Lisa went to let him in. Yeah, because she had to move the desk aside to let him in. So if you're telling me that Jared was squatting under that desk the entire time, how did he manage to slip out into the hallway?

BD: Now, [coughs] this is why I called you. This is important. How exactly did Lisa open that door?

KY: Oh God, Brian, I don't know. I was more concerned about Andrew-

BD: I know, I know. I mean, say, did she ask who it was first? Did she push the desk aside and then open the door, or the other way round?

KY: [Exhales.] Let me think. [Pauses.] We - we heard the knock. I remember that. Me and Lisa both jumped. And then - then we heard Jared's voice, saying something like, 'What's going on? Where's Lisa? It's Jared.' Something like that.

BD: Right.

KY: So when we hear that Lisa goes - she went to open the door. Remember, I - I'm not really watching though. She - she [pauses] - um, let me think. [Pauses.] She unlocks the door first and pushes it open - it opens outward, not into the room, right? And when she sees it's Jared, she then pushes the desk aside to let him in-

BD: In that order?

KY: Yes. Yeah. Desk then door.

BD: OK. Good. That's what I was - well, not hoping, but you know. Because - think about it. Lisa's husband doesn't need to be outside the study to knock on the door. He could do that from under the desk. Remember, that desk's right up against the door. And you and Lisa, thinking, of course, that the room's empty, would naturally - would naturally assume that the knock was coming from outside.

KY: OK.

BD: And it's the same thing with the voice. He could say all that stuff while still under the desk. His voice would still sound muffled that way, as if he were out in the hallway.

KY: But - hang on - when Lisa opens the door, surely she's going to see that there's no one there?

BD: [Sighs.] I know, that's - that's the one bit that doesn't quite fit, I grant you.

KY: [Pauses.] Unless you think Lisa was in on it?

BD: Hey? No. No, that can't be the case. She wouldn't-

KY: But then how do explain it?

BD: Well, I don't know. Not yet, anyway. That's, uh - that's the other reason I called - I called you this evening.

KY: [Pauses.] Well?

BD: You, uh - you live in London, yes? And that's where Lisa and her husband are staying for the next few days. I was [coughs] - I was wondering if you'd ask Lisa about that door - about opening it. I don't know, maybe she looked back to Andrew as she opened it? Giving him just enough time to get out from under the desk?

KY: Well, maybe that's possible? [Pauses.] OK, I can check it out. Do you have - do you know where they're staying in London?

BD: Uh, no. But I have the number of the place. Where is it? [Pauses.] They're staying with friends, right?

KY: Yeah, I think so.

BD: Right, well I have the number somewhere, but I, uh - it's not on me right now. I'll find it and call you back in a minute. OK?

KY: Wait, wait, Brian. You still haven't given me a motive for Jared. Why would he do all this? I mean, he barely even knew Andrew.

BD: [Sighs.] It's a good question. I can only assume it's about money. Same as most crimes.

KY: Money?

BD: Well, Andrew's will stipulates - in it, just about everything goes to Lisa. A few bits and bobs are bequeathed to charities, but the house, the fortune, all the gems and treasures he collected - they all go to Lisa. I'm an executor, you see. To the will.

KY: To Lisa? But I thought she and Andrew couldn't stand each other?

BD: You - ? Well, I suppose I can see where you're coming from. But I think there must have been - uh, be - there must still be some affection there. Clearly, otherwise why give everything to her? Besides, Andrew's got no other family to give it to. There's Evelyn, Lisa's mum - I pretty sure she's still alive? - but she and Andrew never got on.

KY: I suppose that adds up, in a way. [Pauses.] So you think Jared wants Andrew out the way so Lisa can inherit everything?

BD: It makes a certain kind of sense to me. Believe me, it wouldn't be the first time a will has made people do crazy things.

KY: [Exhales.] Jesus. Right, well, yes. I can try and talk to Lisa. But I can't promise she'll want to talk to me. Especially if she knows it was us who stole the mask on Tuesday.

BD: What's that?

KY: Never mind. So, yeah - I'll give it a go.

BD: Thank you, that's - that would be good. Uh, you'd better hurry, by the way - they're heading back to the States at the weekend.

KY: This weekend?

BD: Uh, yeah. Sorry I didn't think of this sooner.

KY: OK, well, fine. Never mind. I'll see what I can do. Ring back with that number when you find it.

BD: Alright. Will do. Speak in a minute.

KY: OK. Thanks. Bye.