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Argument Essay – Serial

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A Teenage Murder out of Jealousy

Can you prove your innocence in a murder case? Nobody knows who the real killer is, and the primary suspect is you. What would you do? This happened in a high school in 1999. Eighteen-year-old high school senior Hae Min Lee was killed mysteriously, leaving many questions unanswered. Adnan Syed was found guilty on February 25th, 2000. However, there is evidence that Adnan is innocent, and here is proof.

An important witness of the entire murder case, Jay Wilds, was interviewed about Adnan’s case. First, Adnan claimed Adnan confessed to killing Hae and called Jay at a payphone near a Best Buy. Later, it was proven that there was never a payphone at that Best Buy. This was only one instance of Jay lying. In addition, Jay’s timeline and story become very inconsistent throughout the podcast. According to Jay's friends and family, he is well-known as a horrendous liar. Jay exaggerates to make a story seem interesting and lies about everything, ranging from insignificant minor lies to big lies that could impact someone’s life. In episode 8, many of Jay’s friends state he’s a big liar. One of his friends, Cathy, says, “The first thing that popped into my head was ‘Jay lies. That’s why he does that. Jay lies about everything.’” It wouldn’t be surprising to hear that Jay lied during the interview that involved Adnan. Jay’s story is already very inconsistent according to the state and interviewers. Even Sarah Koenig questions the validity of Jay’s statements and when friends heard about Hae’s murder case, it was very surprising to them that Adnan was a suspect and Jay was not. Adnan was popular in the school and was considered a good kid. Adnan was active in the community and achieved high grades in his classes. Meanwhile, Jay was the type of person to slack. In episode 8, “Plenty of people I talked to said when they heard Jay was wrapped up in a murder, it didn’t surprise them. Adnan, they said no way, shocking. But Jay? Not so shocking. People also said they couldn’t square Jay feeling threatened by Adnan. The dynamic of that just seemed wrong to them.” All of the evidence stacked against Jay leads to a belief that Jay fabricated and changed details of the story to make it seem that Adan was guilty in the whole ordeal. Although Jay is a confirmed big liar, the state believes and trusts Jay since they think there is no reason to lie on such an important matter. His stories are very inconsistent and even the state figured out some drastic lies he told, making the state’s opinion and actions questionable. They should’ve questioned Jay even more and validated everything. This helps to prove that Adnan was innocent.

Suspicions arise between Don and Mr. S, who was connected with the murder of Hae. Don was Hae’s boyfriend before her passing in 1999. Hae told many people that she was meeting with Don after school. Then, Mr. S is a local maintenance worker at a local school who found Hae’s body when he was driving to work. Mr. S stopped in Leakin Park to pee and stumbled upon Hae’s body. This was very weird since Hae’s body was 127 feet into the park. The body was very difficult to find in the woods, especially since it was under a big log. In episode 12, it mentions Don being very connected with the murders. First of all, in the episode, “Don said Hae was at his house in a town north of Baltimore City on the night of January 12, the night before she went missing. He said she wanted to spend the whole next day with him too.” Also, in episode 3, Mr. S found Hae’s body in Leakin Park. Everyone was confused about how he found the body, as it was very well hidden in the ground. “I didn’t understand how camouflaged the body was until I saw photos of the crime scene, the way Mr. S found it before they removed the body.” The next quote is going to be from Justin George, a crime reporter, “How could he notice the body? I don’t understand that either. I mean it’s pretty well covered.” The quotes indicate that both Don and Mr. S may have some connection with the murder of Hae. It is very weird to have Mr. S find Hae’s body when it was difficult for a professional crime reporter, who knows where the body is, to find the body himself. Moreover, Don was very close with Hae and had been only dating her for a few weeks before she got murdered. Don is a possible suspect because of how close he was with Hae. Furthermore, Mr. S is another possible suspect because he found Hae’s body in a location that was unusual. Mr. S traveled around a hundred feet into the park to relieve himself right next to a log, out of all the places, where he found Hae’s body.

Adnan’s whole recollection of January 13th, 1999, the day Hae Min Lee was murdered, was limited. Adnan had a hard time trying to come up with evidence to prove that he wasn’t guilty on that day. It just seemed that he forgot everything he did on that day, either to hide something or that Adnan really forgot. In episode 12, Sarah Koenig asks, “I still want to know what you were doing that afternoon. I want to know who had your phone and I want to know what you were doing that afternoon.” Then, Adnan’s response was, “I don’t remember anything more.” The quotes show that Adnan cannot remember much from that day. Although not remembering a day six weeks ago to prove your innocence in a murder case is skeptical, it is not the end of the world. Trying to remember what you did on an ordinary day is difficult. Despite the fact that Adnan cannot remember important details on that day, his story is consistent throughout the case. Furthermore, he could have been trying to forget that day intentionally to avoid stress in his life.

The murder of an innocent person is something that should not be taken lightly. Allegedly, Adnan Syed killed his ex-girlfriend Hae Min Lee, and his intentions were unclear. There is a real answer to this murder case, but it has not been debunked yet. There has been evidence to prove that Adnan is guilty and to prove that he was innocent. To this day, the case of Hae Min Lee has remained unsolved.