

United States v. Brendt A. Christensen

Case No. 17-20037

Transcript of Interview on June 17, 2017

BC: Brendt Christensen

MC: Michael Carter

BS: Brian Schenkelberg

KT: Katherine Tenaglia

MC: Oh hey, Brendt.

BC: Hi.

MC: How you doin' man?

BC: Okay.

MC: Good to see you again.

BC: You too.

MC: I appreciate you coming in.

BS: Hey Brendt. Brian Schenkelberg. Nice to meet you.

MC: Do you remember me?

BC: Yeah, I remember you.

MC: Yeah, my name is Michael.

BC: Michael, okay.

MC: Michael Carter. I showed you this on Monday.

BS: Yeah. I'd better do that too. That's me.

KT: Brendt, I'm gonna step out, but, thanks for coming in again. We really appreciate it. And you have my number if you have



BC: Yes I do.

KT: questions with it or --

BC: Okay. Thank you.

KT: Thanks.

MC: I'll make sure and give you one of those. Like she said, um, thanks for coming in - first of all.

BC: Of course. I want to get this cleared up.

MC: Absolutely. Yeah, that's exactly what we want to do.

BC: Yes, of course.

MC: Um, so, just get, you know, some info from ya and, and, uh, everything that we can talk about will get us that much closer to do doin' that, okay?

BC: [nods head yes]

BC: Yep.

MC: So basically what this is is just - it's your Miranda rights.

BC: Yep.

MC: Since you asked for that last time, we don't have a choice but to read it to you again, okay?

BC: Okay.

MC: Even though you're here on your own accord and you can leave at any time you want --

BC: Yeah.

MC: and you're under no type of custody at all

BC: [nods head yes]

MC: completely free to go anytime you want, okay?

BC: Yeah.

MC: But either way - we'll still read this to you. Uh, so, I'll just read it verbatim, alright. Before we ask you any questions, you must understand your rights. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used against you in court. You have the right to talk to a lawyer for advice before we ask you any questions. You have the right to have a lawyer with you during questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for you before any questioning if you wish. Okay?

BC: [no response]

MC: If you decide to answer questions now without a lawyer present, you have the right to stop answering at any time? Okay?

BC: [nods head yes]

MC: Any questions about that or anything? Anything you don't understand?

BC: I understand.

MC: Okay. If you can, uh, if you want to read that statement there, it basically just says that you understand and if you want to sign that there.

BC: Lazy signature.

MC: Thank you. Mine's a lot worse than that.

BC: I kind of have two. I've got the lazy one and the non-lazy one.

MC: One for your - for important documents and such -

BS: 1:52 if you wanna write that down.

MC: Okay, sure.

BS: [unintelligible] The 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:52.

MC: 1:52, let me get the date there before I forget it. Yeah, that's right.

BS: I'm going to do my lazy signature too.

MC: I think that's worse than everybody's.

BS: I've got a long one.

MC: So, uh, Brian's gonna just jot a few notes down and stuff while - um, while we chat and everything so - basically what we want to do is basically just kind of get a - get a feel for, um, for your whereabouts and kind of what you - what you were doing, um, just starting late last week.

BC: Late last week?

MC: Yeah, probably Thursday.

BC: Thursday?

MC: Um, yeah, Thursday would be the 8<sup>th</sup>, um ---

BC: Uh, yeah okay. Thursday I was with my wife at home. I would have to check through my records, but I believe I actually had an interview that day.

MC: Okay.

BC: A phone interview.

BS: Phone interview you said?

BC: Yeah.

BS: Okay.

BC: I would have to - I would have to check

BS: Sure.

BC: it was sometime last week.

BS: Okay.

BC: I had a phone interview and I think I applied to a few jobs, um, outside of that, it was a pretty standard day, nothing really happened. My wife, um, actually left for her road trip at like one in the morning that night

MC: Okay.

BC: so we spent the night together - she got up and left. Yeah. Friday I woke up alone.

MC: Okay. Who - who was your interview with - your phone interview?

BC: Wolfram.

MC: Wolfram?

BC: Research. Yes. Wolfram Research.

MC: Okay. Is that like a physics thing or?

BS: down on Neil Street, isn't it?

BC: It's down on Neil Street. Yeah.

BS: Yep, I know where that's at.

BC: Um. Yeah. So it's computer science stuff.

MC: Oh awesome.

BC: Programming. They make some programs, and stuff, so

MC: Cool.

BC: Yep. Um, yeah so - Friday I woke up alone, um -

MC: What -- about what time?

BC: That's a good question - I would guess around 8:30 - 9?

MC: Is that - is that a fairly normal time?

BC: When I don't have an alarm on, yeah.

MC: Okay.

BC: Uh, when I don't have an alarm and want to sleep in, typically what happens is that I'll wake up at 6 and I'm like I'll go back to bed

MC: Yeah.

BC: and I'll wake up at 8:30 or 9.

MC: Okay.

BC: So, yeah - I woke up about then, uh, did my normal stuff, uh, which is, you know, shower, ate, drank my tea, all that kind of stuff, um, I procrastinated a bit, that kind of stuff. Um - then what I did next, um, I went to Schnucks.

MC: About what time was that at?

BC: So if I woke up at 8:30 - 9 - it must have been like - my guess is 10.

MC: Okay.

BC: These are vague -- I'm

MC: Sure.

BC: really not sure. This could be like a full hour behind. And I - I don't know.

BS: Yeah, we understand that.

BC: Uh, yeah, I went to Schnucks. I got a little bit of food, um, yeah, then I

MC: Do they have like a - like a deli style food? Is that?

BC: Uh, it's a grocery store - so I just got random groceries.

MC: Okay, so you just picked up some groceries, alright.

BC: Yeah. Cause she was gone for the weekend - I just got some stuff I wanted.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um, yeah. And after that, I mean, I was at home for a bit, I think and, you know, I was getting a bit stir crazy. I, uh, when I talked to you originally, I thought this was a Saturday that I did this, but, I'm guessing it was actually Friday. I mean, it's all a little bit fuzzy. I was not really in a great mood. My wife was gone - I was lonely - um, so I go for a drive.

MC: Okay. At about - approximate time?

BC: 11 - 11:30ish - something like that, um, it was after I ate.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um -

MC: And you ate at home - you just took all that stuff back home with you?

BC: Yeah. Uh, yeah, I just drove around, um -

MC: Where'd you go?

BC: Everywhere I could. Um - I was on campus for a while. I was a lot further south as well, um -

MC: So I'm not - I'm not real familiar with the area - what - what - what's like - what's south - I mean, as far as anything down there in particular or - any -

BC: Um, let's see. I drove past my wife's work, which is around Neil and Windsor - so that far south - um - I drove through a bunch of residential areas just, um, it's more interesting, I guess, you know, you always drive on the big streets to get to the commercial areas -

MC: Yeah, sure.

BC: it's just - it's more interesting because all I was doing was driving around - nothing to it.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um, I drove around campus a couple of times just because, impossible to miss it – so – it’s usually a little more interesting anyway.

MC: Yeah.

BC: Um – yeah – I did that for a while, uh –

MC: How long would you say that you – that you drove around?

BC: Tough to say, a few hours, I guess.

MC: Okay.

BC: A few hours. Um – yeah – and I was getting a bit bored when I get home I was getting hungry again. Um, and yeah, then I saw that girl. Uh, just waiting and – she was

MC: Where – where were you at when you saw her – do you – do you remember?

BC: On campus approximately.

MC: You remember what roads or anything like that that you were –

BC: I was on the north side of campus – um – in the engineering part of it --- I don’t remember exactly what street or anything.

MC: Okay.

BC: I was just up there. Again, it’s all a little bit of a blur.

MC: Sure.

BC: Um – and she looked panicky – looking around – looking at her phone – really worried and I wasn’t doing anything anyway so I pulled up to her – stopped – asked her if she needed help. Um – and yeah, she said she was really late for an appointment and really needed to get there – late for a bus or something like that – I only vaguely remember the conversation. Um, she was speaking in very broken English, um – I had to repeat things I said multiple times. Um – I asked her what her name was, um, I think she said it but I didn’t understand it.

BS: Sure.

BC: I mean, I didn’t ask again just because it was not really relevant so, um, I asked her if she needed a ride.

MC: Okay.

BC: I mean I wasn't doing anything anyway, I might as well.

MC: Yeah.

BC: Um, so she got in my car.

MC: Okay.

BC: And I started driving.

MC: Okay. Where - where did you go?

BC: North.

MC: On? You don't remember the street?

BC: I don't remember the street.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um - you know, I - I went north and she got the directions up on her phone and she just kind of showed me it. It was just a big map - um - didn't really see it that much just kind of like flashed it, I guess - um - and she gave me directions and I assume what happened is I misinterpreted her directions and after - after the fact, you know, after all this information was released, I know where she was going - I did take a wrong turn, um - I don't know whose fault that was I guess it's not even relevant. Um - and she freaked out after a bit - when she realized we were in the wrong place, she freaked out. I don't remember when that was because I wasn't paying that much attention

MC: Yeah.

BC: because I was trying to follow her directions. Um - it wasn't a long time, but it wasn't like five seconds either - so - yeah - she - she started really freaking out - she was grabbing at her hair, being like where am I, what are you - all that kind of stuff - and like I stopped - I didn't want a crazy girl in my car -

MC: Yeah.

BC: I mean - she got out.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um -



MC: Do - do you remember where she got out?

BC: I remember it was a residential area, um - it was north of campus because we were already on like the very tip north of campus anyway - um - that - that's kind of what I remember. It wasn't - I don't think it was that far from campus, but wasn't on campus either.

MC: Sure.

BC: But it was a residential area - I do remember that.

MC: Okay. Do - do you remember when you went - so you went north you said -

BC: Yeah.

MC: Do you remember your next turn - was it a

BC: Left.

MC: It was a left.

BC: It was a left.

MC: Okay.

BC: Definitely a left.

MC: Okay. What about - and - and after that left turn - is that when she -

BC: Um -

MC: sort of - sort of went off the wall and - or was there anymore turns that you can remember?

BC: There might have been another turn - I'm not sure. I don't remember that. Um - this is the kind of thing that's a little fuzzy, I guess.

MC: Sure.

BC: Um - I'm - I'm sorry - I wasn't - in a super clear mind, I mean that's why I was out in the first place -

MC: Um hum.

BC: I mean I wouldn't have picked her up if I wasn't in -- you know what I mean.

MC: Right.

BC: Um - but yeah it's - I don't remember exactly - it was a residential area, um, yep - that's - that's what happened.

MC: Okay. What - now after she got out

BC: Yeah -

MC: Where did you go from there?

BC: I just drove off - um went home. So, I don't remember the exact path I took, but I just went home.

MC: Okay.

BC: So.

MC: Okay. Hopefully, though, we - we should be able to find out the path shortly - they'll - they'll have the GPS out of the car here shortly, um.

BC: There's a GPS on that car?

MC: Yeah - all the - the - Onstars and the automotive computers, all that stuff - it -- it records some data so they should be able find the route, you know, hopefully here in two or three days, um - it would speed things up - would you maybe be willing after this to - to hop in a car with us and sort of take us through the area and maybe - maybe show us, if you remember any turns or if - if that kind of refreshes your recollection.

BC: Um -

MC: Maybe if we can, you know, remember where you dropped her off at then - ya know that might show somebody else so - a nearby camera or something might show her getting in another vehicle or something like that.

BC: I could try.

MC: Okay. I mean that would be great.

BS: We would appreciate that.

BC: I can try. Again, I just wanna help.

MC: Sure, sure.

BC: Yep - um - it's - that's what happened.

MC: So you don't remember the route you took home from - from there - what route would you normally take - take home from that area of town?

BC: Um, I'd usually just go West on Springfield.

MC: Okay.

BC: Sometimes I go on slightly different routes, again, just for interest.

MC: Yeah.

BC: I might have taken Green Street or something because there's less lights and it's more interesting - I don't know.

MC: Yeah.

BC: Um - yeah.

MC: Okay. Um, so do you remember maybe what time that was - ballpark?

BC: No. I don't remember.

MC: Okay, so after - after that then you went - you went home.

BC: Yeah - and was there.

MC: Okay - what - what about the rest of the -

BC: I - I was there all day - rest of the day.

MC: The rest of the day -- you didn't go anywhere else after that?

BC: No.

MC: Okay. Okay. Um - playing on the computer, or any - any of those games or anything like that?

BC: Probably - probably took a nap or something too.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um, yeah, it was uneventful after that.

MC: Okay. All right. Do you remember what time you went to bed that night or?

BC: Probably around 10.

MC: Okay. All right. Take us through Saturday.

BC: Saturday - the next day - okay. Um, didn't really do much - um - I probably spent the entire day on the computer, napping, and um, I think I went to Schnucks once - bought some stuff - food probably again.

MC: Okay.

BC: I don't know [unintelligible] uh - yeah, um that was my day.

MC: You didn't go anywhere else?

BC: No, I mean the only two people I really interact with right now are my girlfriend and my wife and they were both busy so I was alone.

MC: Okay.

BC: It's just - yeah - I was just - I was just home hanging out.

MC: Okay. Just more of the regular -

BC: Yeah.

MC: Okay. Um - Sunday. Do you remember anything from Sunday?

BC: Same. Um - I, at some point during the weekend, I don't remember if it was Saturday or Sunday, I did go up to Walmart, um - something in my apartment was smelling and I don't know what it was so I got some Drano, um, some baking soda - I don't remember where I got those - I know I got one of them at Walmart.

MC: Which Walmart? The Champaign or the Urbana one?

BC: The Champaign up on Prospect.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um, yeah - and yeah, I know my wife relayed to me that they were wondering what that white powder was - baking soda. That's all it was.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um -

MC: So was there - was there like - was there a clog then, or?

BC: Um, yeah, there was a clog.

MC: And was that in the sink or the toilet or?

BC: It was in the sink.

MC: Okay.

BC: So I just – I just Drano'd everything, I mean – sometimes it's nice to do that – there was a hair clog too – I just figured I'd deal with that – um – yeah – and it seems okay now so.

MC: Okay. Um, what about the next day, Monday?

BC: Monday my wife came home.

MC: That would be the 12<sup>th</sup>.

BC: Well my – my wife came home on Sunday night.

MC: What -- about what time?

BC: 5:00.

MC: Okay.

BC: Yeah. 5:00. Uh – then yeah.

MC: Do you do anything when she got home or?

BC: Not really. We just hung out – she was exhausted so she was at a waterpark and stuff so she was very, very tired.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um, yeah, and then Monday we just kinda hung out again and then you guys showed up and then yeah, that's pretty much the day.

MC: Okay. You don't remember any other details from Monday or anything?

BC: Um . . . there wasn't really anything of note. Not really. We jus – yeah, we just kinda hung out – there really wasn't anything going on.

MC: Okay.

BC: I do go, uh – oh I did go, I did go to my girlfriend's house that day, yeah.

MC: Tell me where – where that's at.

BC: It's near Springfield and Prospect.

MC: Springfield and Prospect, okay.

BC: Uh-huh.

MC: And – what's your girlfriend's name?

BC: Bunny.

MC: Bunny. Okay.

BC: Yeah.

MC: How - how often do you -- do you see Bunny?

BC: Two or three times a week.

MC: Okay. And you go - you go over there or does she come over to the house or um - I don't know what those terms are

BC: It's depends on where my wife

MC: with you and your wife.

BC: Yeah, it depends - they're - they like each other.

MC: Okay.

BC: We don't hang out together or anything

MC: Sure.

BC: um, I've been goin' over there lately, so I was over there.

MC: Okay.

BC: And my wife was home alone, so

MC: Okay, um, and that was the only time while, I guess while your wife was gone - that was the only time that you saw Bunny?

BC: Yeah, my wife was home at that point, it was Monday.

MC: Okay.

BC: So -

MC: So while your - while your wife was in Wisconsin, is that right?

BC: Yeah -

MC: Okay.

BC: Uh, I didn't see her at all.

MC: Okay. Did - how - how often does your wife take off like that or what - what was she doing?

BC: She was just on a road trip, um - this is the only time in a long time.

MC: Okay.

BC: so - yeah.

MC: So she doesn't leave often

BC: No.

MC: most of the time she's -

BC: That's really one of the big reasons I was in such a weird place - so - she was with her boyfriend and I wasn't super happy about it.

MC: Do you - do you get along with him or -not at all, or?

BC: I've never talked to him. I've never talked to him. That's - it's kind of a complicated thing, um - but yeah, that's - that's one of the big reasons I wasn't really in a good place. Why things are a little weird and fuzzy.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um.

MC: You wanna tell me about that at all - about the - the situation or? I'm not - I'm not real --

BC: Not really.

MC: Okay. No problem.

BC: It's complicated and I don't think it's super relevant

MC: Okay.

BC: it's just - that's why I was in a bad mood I guess

MC: Sure.

BC: you could say.

MC: Sure. Okay.

BC: I think that's the important part.

MC: All right. Um, so Monday nothin', um, nothing out of the ordinary - anything that sticks out in your head?

BC: Not really. Um, I know Michelle has been asked about a big duffle bag too. I remember that was something, um - I went back when I was hanging out with Bunny, I remembered that I actually had a present for her, so I went back to my apartment and grabbed it - it was in a big duffle bag but when I got over there - it was a big cat tower thing and when I got

over there I realized it was broken and I wasn't very happy about that.  
Um

MC: And this was on what day?

BC: Monday.

MC: This was on Monday.

BC: This was on Monday, so I never brought it inside. Um --

MC: Give me about an approximate time frame when you headed over to Bunny's.

BC: I think I went over there around noon

MC: Okay.

BC: and then I left and got the present at around two or three.

MC: Okay.

BC: That sounds right. I'm not exactly sure but that sounds right to me.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um, yeah, I mean, I never brought the duffle bag inside her place because I realized it was broken so I just left it there, um, and I have no idea where it is now, um -

MC: You left it - you say you left it there in your car?

BC: It was outside - I mean, I might have brought it back to my car, um, I'm tryin' to think - this is one of those small details you just don't think about. I either left it right there like near the sidewalk or I put it back in the passenger seat of the car. It was one of those two.

MC: Okay.

BC: And yeah, it's - it's gone now - I don't know where it is. No one at their house has seen it - I didn't bring it inside, um, when I was over there I kind of did a very quick look around - I'm sure the people that were over there asking her questions did too - it's not in the Camaro - it's not in the Saturn - it's not in my apartment. So - I - I mean after all this time, I assume someone just stole it, you know - this is a freakin' nice duffle bag - I mean it was relatively new.

MC: Right.



BC: So, I assume someone just stole it.

MC: Okay. So the sidewalk that – maybe it was left on that’s – just like kind of right there near the house or right there

BC: Yeah.

MC: where you’d parked at or

BC: Yeah. Yeah. It was right there.

MC: Okay. Um, explain to me what - what a cat tree is –

BC: It’s just a --

MC: I don’t have any cats.

BC: It’s just a big thing that cats can climb on like a cat jungle gym.

MC: Okay.

BC: It wasn’t that expensive, it’s just kind of this tall, this wide – put it in the duffle bag.

MC: Okay.

BC: Now it’s gone.

MC: And it was – it was – you say it was broke?

BC: It was broken. Yeah, I probably should have put it in a better place. That was my bad.

MC: Right. And do you remember when you bought that?

BC: A couple weeks ago.

MC: Okay. Do you remember where you bought it?

BC: Walmart? With cash though.

MC: Okay.

BC: It was at Walmart with cash. Yep.

MC: Okay. So I guess you owe, uh, you owe Bunny a gift then, huh?

BC: Yeah, I told her about it and she – she was like you got me a present. And I said yeah, I need to do it again.

MC: Yeah. Especially if it’s not too expensive.

BC: Yeah. Yeah, it wasn't that bad.

MC: Yeah. How many cats does she have?

BC: Uh, she has two cats.

MC: Okay. Okay. Um, what about Tuesday?

BC: Tuesday. Not much happened, um, cleaned up the Saturn because you guys were there last night, I realized it was kind of dirty, so I went across the street, vacuumed it out - picked up those receipts.

MC: Across the street?

BC: Oh, there's a - there's a carwash and a bunch of vacuums.

MC: Okay.

BC: I spent like 20 minutes doing it, um, something like that, um, unfortunately, um, when I was doing it, I did nick my finger a bit - I didn't feel it - and I did bleed a little bit on the inside of the car - cause I know Michelle told me that there were trace elements of blood in the car - it's mine - it's right there.

MC: But do you remember what you - what you nicked it on there or?

BC: No, um - that was the annoying part because, um, I didn't realize I was bleeding until I saw blood in the car and I was like what the fuck is this?

MC: Until you already bled everywhere?

BC: Yeah, and, well when I first noticed is when I was putting quarters back in the, um, thing to keep the vacuum going and there was some blood there and I was like -

MC: Mmmmm.

BC: I - yeah - so

MC: Where was it at in the car - I -

BC: Um, I know there was some on the driver's side - the, um, thing - uh - carpet, uh, outside of that I have no -- that's - that's where I saw it. So after that I put a Bandaid on it.

MC: Sure.

BC: Yeah. Uh - I don't think I did anything else Tuesday. She was still home. She had Monday and Tuesday off from work - she took a vacation. Yeah,

um, I think that's pretty much all that happened Tuesday, we just hung out again. That's typically what we do anyway when we're off together on the weekends - um - we worked out in the morning - we always work out Tuesdays in the morning.

MC: Where do you work out?

BC: The Refinery. Just a couple of blocks South of where we live -

MC: Yeah - yeah - I know where that's at. I hear that's nice.

BC: Uh-huh.

MC: So.

BC: I love that gym.

MC: High dollar place from what I've heard.

BC: Yeah, it's um - we - we got a cheap deal because I was student and it's still pretty cheap for us.

MC: Oh, nice.

BC: But yeah, it's uh -

MC: Like a package deal?

BC: Yeah.

MC: Get it a little cheaper for --

BC: Yeah. Yeah and they, uh, they haven't upped their rates even though I graduated so that's good.

MC: Just keep that quiet then, huh?

BC: Yeah, I wasn't gonna say anything.

MC: Absolutely.

BC: Um, I don't think anything else happened Tuesday.

MC: Okay.

BC: And then Wednesday, um, I did more job stuff, I think - uh - uneventful day until the FBI showed up at our door and then, I'm sure you guys know the rest - so - that was my week.

MC: Okay. How often do you – I know you said it was because your wife was out of town that you were sort of –

BC: Driving around.

MC: Yeah – were – were – were ya – was it just like you're sad cause she was gone or –

BC: Um, yeah, I usually do it when I have nothing else to do – don't want to sit in the apartment, or I'm kinda stressed out, um, I don't do it that often – not really. If I had to guess, I'd say once a month.

MC: Just – just kinda get out and –

BC: Yeah, just kinda drive around

MC: [Unintelligible] a little bit.

BC: and go places that I haven't been before – that kind of stuff. Um – I would say on average once a month.

MC: Okay.

BC: Sometimes like, I was teaching this last semester – sometimes after I was done teaching I wouldn't go right home, I would just drive around a bit before going home just to – helps clear my head.

MC: Sure. You just take – take different routes and stuff.

BC: Yep. Yep. It just makes things more interesting.

MC: Sure. Learn new areas and such.

BC: Um-hum.

MC: Um – tell me about you just – I mean, personally, do you – do you get any free time – do you do any other activities – hiking? Obviously you like to work out, uh –

BC: I like working out – it's been my passion for a long time. I wasn't able to for a while because of an injury – a pretty bad one – so I spent like the past five or six years trying to figure out how to do it – failed a bunch of times but in the past year and a half I kind of figured out how to do it so I've been able to make process.

BS: Can I ask what the injury was?

BC: Yeah, um, so I was working construction one day – or uh, one summer – and one day, which happened to be my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, the board underneath me broke me and I fell two stories and landed on concrete

BS: Ooooooh.

BC: [unintelligible] first. So now I have two pins in this wrist and two pins in this elbow.

BS: That's – that's why I was askin' – I figured that might have somethin' to do with it.

BC: Uh, yeah, and before that I was really into weightlifting but it's prevented me from doing pretty much any physical activity for I'd say five - five and a half years. Uh, but recently, I've finally figured out how to do it after many failures and now I think about it constantly because I am finally getting to the point where I was at right before my injury and that's a really big deal to me.

MC: Yeah.

BC: Um.

MC: Didn't injure your back at all or anything when you – when you fell?

BC: Uh, I have some lower back problems.

MC: Oh yeah?

BC: They're kinda related – kinda not.

MC: Yeah.

BC: But, um, people say I'm lucky for the injuries I got from it and I can see where they're comin' from, but you know [unintelligible].

BS: Yeah.

MC: You got some cool scars, at least, right.

BC: Yeah, for sure. Yeah. Um, yeah, so, I work out multiple times a week. I think about it a lot. Both my wife and I are very passionate about it. Um, I would say that's my main official hobby. Outside of that, I love playing video games. Good stories – it's a way to relieve stress, um, vent some of my competitive energies – I like the challenge – diverse stuff to do.

MC: Yeah.

BC: Um, I do that with a lot of my time, again, so does Michelle - we have two computers right next to each other - we use to play games together, um, those are my two main hobbies for sure. Um, let's see, what else - watching TV - um, I spend time with my girlfriend - my wife - that's my life. Don't have too many hobbies - I'm kind of a loner.

MC: Sure. And - and if I remember correctly, you're looking for a job?

BC: Yes. Um, that's actually something that's worrying me right now because I'm currently interviewing with places like actually have stuff to complete for them, I'm not just applying.

MC: Sure.

BC: And I need my computer for it. Um, unfortunately, I can't really do it at the library or something because I need to install a program that they gave me to finish the work and I need it.

MC: Sure. Uh, I - I - I'm not sure exactly what they've looked at yet

BC: Yeah.

MC: um - you may have heard there's this whole - this whole shooting in Alexandria - the - the congressman that got shot

BC: Oh.

MC: up in Virginia.

BC: I heard about that.

MC: Well, apparently the shooter is from Southern Illinois, so, uh, we've had a pool of resources in Southern Illinois

BC: I see.

MC: for

BC: Okay.

MC: some of this time. So

BC: I see.

MC: some of the stuff - the computers, unfortunately, and stuff -

BC: Yeah, I understand.

MC: haven't been looked at yet so -

BC: I'll try and figure something out for it.

MC: Sure.

BC: Yeah. Just thought I'd bring it up.

MC: They um, yeah hopefully when they - when they look at them they can get what they need quick and, uh, move on. So --

BC: Um-hum. Um-hum.

MC: We normally get good - pretty good stuff from them so, um - what else - what else can you think of that - that might - might help us out as far as um -

BC: Um -

MC: any other details about, you know, maybe where you dropped her off - did you see anything strange when you - when you picked her up -- was she with anybody when you picked her up?

BC: She was alone -- for sure. Um - as I said before, um, one of the reasons I really didn't mention stuff right away, I mean there were - there were a couple of reasons - one is that, um, my wife and I were having - are kind of in a strained part right now and I didn't want to put anymore strain on it and I was really scared of that, um, and the other reason is I legitimately didn't recognize her days and, as I told you before, like foreign people look similar in a lot of ways, I mean it's the same no matter where you go in the world - Chinese people think Americans all look the same.

MC: Sure.

BC: Um - I didn't recognize her and -

MC: When you say - what do you mean you didn't recognize her?

BC: When you showed me the mug shot of her - the pictures of her and stuff - on, uh, Monday - I didn't recognize her as the person I picked up.

MC: Oh, okay. Gotcha.

BC: So, yeah, I just didn't recognize her.

MC: Okay.

BC: Uh, yeah. It's - anything else... I'm trying to think of everything my wife asked me questions - um, the duffle bag was the main thing I wanted to

bring up - explain what happened there - I mean yeah I'm just - I'm just tryin' to help I mean -

MC: Sure.

BS: Sure. We really do appreciate this.

BC: All of our - all of our goals kind of coincide

BS: Sure.

BC: I just want this to end and the best way to do that is to find her.

BS: Right.

BC: or at least give you another lead so it's not me.

MC: Yeah.

BS: Yeah, right. And yeah, you understand that. Do you mind if I ask a few questions just cause-

BC: Of course.

BS: I've been doing some writing.

BC: Okay.

BS: Um, and these are your words, not mine, so I want to make sure I've got them

BC: Uh-huh.

BS: right.

BC: Uh-huh.

BS: Um - I think, uh, when we were, um talking about Monday, you said you drove around for a while, um, you spotted

BC: Oh Friday.

BS: Oh, I'm sorry - on Friday - you s - you saw her - was that in - in the afternoon? Was that in the morning? Um?

BC: It was in the afternoon.

BS: Okay.

BC: Yeah, I was in the afternoon. It was at the tail end of when I was out.



BS: The tail end. Okay - so you - you, um, said you might have started driving around 11 - 11:30 somewhere -

BC: Something like that.

BS: General - so it

BC: It might have been a little earlier -

BS: Okay.

BC: I'm - I'm really not sure.

BS: Yeah, that's - that's fine - I'm not, obviously, I don't remember what I was doing Friday

BC: Yeah.

BS: either.

BC: It's tough - it's tough.

BS: Right, so, um, that, was at the end of your drive - you hadn't been home or anything prior to that? Cause - I think - I'm - the only reason I'm asking is cause I wrote that you were on your way home - is that

BC: Yeah.

BS: right?

BC: I was on my way home.

BS: Okay. Okay. I just wanted to make sure that I heard

BC: Yeah.

BS: heard you say.

BC: I was on my way home.

BS: Okay. Okay. Um. So, you picked her up on your way home from that - that, um, couple hour driving around - that sort of thing---

BC: Uh-huh.

BS: Okay, so, um, and did you say approximately what time that was? Were you out driving for an hour? Were you out driving for three hours?

BC: Mid-afternoon.

BS: Mid-afternoon?

BC: Yeah.

BS: Okay. Alright.

BC: I don't remember the exact time.

BS: Sorry, I

BC: Yeah, I really wasn't looking at the clock.

BS: I - I - I understand

BC: Yeah.

BS: I'm just tryin' to get as best a timeline as I -

BC: I think the clock in my - in the Saturn is even off by like an hour

BS: Oh really?

BC: and several minutes anyway so it's like

BS: Okay.

BC: not even that -

BS: Okay.

BC: I don't know what time it was.

BS: If I say you picked her up mid-afternoon, do you think that's a fair

BC: That's fair.

BS: Okay.

BC: That's fair.

BS: And then you, uh, said that wrong turn was fairly quickly but not, uh, not five seconds.

BC: Yeah.

BS: So, uh, is that, um - how many blocks would you say maybe you went? You know, anything specific that we - and like we said, if you - if you are willing, we'd like to drive around and may -

BC: And that would be easier

BS: Okay.

BC: it's - it's really hard to say.

BS: Sure - I'm a visual person so -

BC: Yeah, it's really hard to say, I mean -

BS: Okay.

BC: I can bring you to the neighbor - I can probably bring you to the neighborhood I was in.

BS: Okay.

BC: Um. But, yeah.

BS: Okay.

BC: It's tough to say-

BS: Nope - nope - that's fine. I'm - just was, you know, tryin' to get

BC: Right.

BS: my notes.

BC: Yep. Yep.

MC: Is - is that the first time you've ever picked anybody up like that or?

BC: I think so.

MC: Is that, is that like a usual thing or?

BC: No, this - this was the first time.

MC: Okay.

BC: Um, I don't know why I did it. It's, uh, I guess I - she looked like she needed help and I wanted to help someone. It - it - it is kind of out of character for me, actually, but, uh, yeah [unintelligible]. It didn't work out, but -

MC: You said she was kind of uh, uh - I forget what - what your exact words were - sort of in distress -

BC: Yeah, she looked like she was - and I mean --

MC: But she didn't make any comments or anything when she got in the car about why she was distressed maybe or -

BC: Yeah, she, uh, she said something about being really late for a meeting, um, I think she said that outside of the car. Yeah, she told me a general

situation so I was right she was in distress, um, yeah, it was – she needed to get somewhere and she was late. Uh, yeah, so I was – that's – that's why.

MC: Okay. All right.

BS: Do you remember where she – where she was trying to go? I know you said you saw a quick map–

BC: Um – so she told me she was trying to meet her professor

BS: Okay.

BC: somewhere. She showed me the general map. And it was north of where we were, um – yeah.

BS: Okay.

BC: That's what she told me – she needed to meet her professor.

MC: And she was just like showin' you on your –

BC: Yeah, I didn't really get a great look but I just kind of

MC: Like a Google map thing or somethin' and

BC: Yeah, I just kind of decided well, whatever, I didn't wanna take her phone

MC: Yeah.

BC: so I decided whatever –

BS: Sure.

BC: I'll just [unintelligible] yeah. Let her try and direct me. Apparently a bad decision but –

MC: Yeah. Well, you know.

BC: Yeah.

MC: What – what did she – you said she started to freak out

BC: Yeah.

MC: a little bit. What – what was that – what was her demeanor like – what was her – what was she – was she yelling and screamin', you know what I mean?

BC: Yeah. Yeah, a bit, um, she said we took a wrong turn, she asked where I was taking her. She freaked out, um - I tried to calm her down a bit, uh, but then I just didn't want her in my car anymore and she didn't wanna be in there anyway - she tried to get out but the Saturn autolocks the doors so she didn't - couldn't get out - I unlocked it and she got out. That's - that's what happened.

MC: How long was she freakin' out in the car before she finally -

BC: Uh - I guess it was- I should be a little more specific about this I suppose. Um, so she, um, she was a little -- minute or two I guess - something like that. Right away she wasn't like super freaking out but she was like take this turn, take this turn, and I mean, I could tell she was getting a little more worked up, worked up, yeah - minute or two I guess. It wasn't - it wasn't that long.

MC: And what - what were you going to say there before that?

BC: I don't - I don't remember at all. Lost my train of thought.

MC: I thought you said you were going to explain a little

BC: Yeah.

MC: a little more in detail there.

BC: Um, I guess it's just she, um, kept telling me directions and, um, yeah, she was just getting a little more and more freaked out wondering what was happening, you know? That's - that's - that's the more detail.

MC: Okay.

BC: It took a couple of minutes.

MC: Sure. Okay. Um, well, if you're up to go take a ride, um, I got a brand new cell phone number and I don't know what it is yet so, I don't have it with me. I'm gonna run

BC: Okay.

MC: and grab it for you real quick and leave you that good number on my card

BC: Okay.

MC: um, and if there's - after we're done there, obviously, if, um, anything else comes up that you think will help or that we can, uh

BC: Okay.

MC: do - have you got a contact number we can reach out to you if we have any further questions

BC: Uh -

MC: or?

BC: It would be better to email me

MC: Okay.

BC: because I did get a new phone - they took my phone

MC: Oh.

BC: um, I did get a new phone, but apparently it's not accepting calls right now

MC: Uh-oh.

BC: because Katie tried to call me a bunch and it didn't go through.

MC: Okay.

BC: So, email is easily -

MC: You can still get email on the phone?

BC: Yes. Yes.

MC: Do you have wifi or something, 3G?

BC: Yeah. I can - I can still email.

MC: Yeah, we'll take that from you if you, if you don't mind-

BC: Brendt Christensen - B-r-e-n-d-t Christensen -  
C-h-r-i-s-t-e-n-s-e-n@gmail.com.

BS: Okay.

BC: Yeah, I think my phone notifies me so I should be able to answer that

MC: Okay.

BC: Relatively quickly - so.

MC: Awesome. Awesome. While I go get this, um, I don't know if -- if Katie told you - these - we brought these in here for you if you want them, um

BC: I – I do really appreciate it, but I ate not that long ago. The water's great though.

MC: Yeah. Yeah. Take another one if you want it. Hershey kisses – I don't know how diet conscience you are. I've eat – I've eaten 17 donuts today so – um, let me go – let me go get that good number for you, okay. And then – if you're available we'll – we'll take off.

BC: I can – I can do that.

BS: We appreciate it again. We can't stress that enough so, um, it helps both of us out, frankly.

BC: Yeah, it does. I'm just concerned for myself – for my girlfriend, Bunny, and my wife, Michelle – I mean – obviously for the girl that's missing

BS: Sure.

BC: But it's been such an enormous stress on everyone, I just want this over with.

BS: I can imagine.

BC: And, I know how it looks, you know, I – that's why I'm so terrified and that's – that's why I'm here.

BS: Yeah – no – and – and we appreciate that and, unfortunately there's – hum – how do I say it – we have to go through an investigation so I – I apologize, but it's

BC: I totally understand.

BS: there's things we need to do so –

BC: I mean – the things I'm holding onto are that if something was found, I would be in jail so that's kind of my thoughts right now

BS: Okay.

BC: and I know I didn't do it, uh – I know I didn't do it, but I need to prove that and that's what this is.

BS: Okay.

BC: And the easiest way is to just find her and if she's found, well, then this is all over, so, that's why I'm here.

BS: Yeah, well and, so you're right – everyone's goal is to find her so –

BC: Yeah, it's -- I mean I'm here for both selfish reasons and because I

BS: Sure.

BC: You know, I - it would be nice if she was found

BS: It's -- I can - well I appreciate that - we'd all like that - so -

BC: It seems like you guys have been working a lot -- I mean 24/7 it seems.

BS: We have some of that, like he said, we have - have somewhat limited resources but I think that's, uh, wrappin' up so we'll probably be tryin' to ramp up and

BC: Yeah.

BS: get her found and

BC: Yeah.

BS: hopefully for the best.

BC: Yeah, I hope so.

BS: That's everyone's hope.

BC: I hope so.

BS: Yeah. Yeah. So we'll see, but yeah, we've been - some of us have been hard - hard at work on it, you know, little pieces here or there, that's why, you know, we may not seem like we know a lot, we haven't been dealing with the main things. There's, you know -

BC: Yeah.

BS: admin stuff to do and

BC: Yeah, I understand.

BS: and other stuff like that too.

BC: Yeah.

BS: So, so, but we do appreciate it, um, like he said, um, if you think of anything else, please call us day or night or -

BC: Yeah. I will.

BS: Um -

BC: I will.



BS: Um, I can imagine, although I don't know at this point, that we may come up with some more questions for you. Would it be all right if we reached out to you --

BC: That's fine.

BS: Through that

BC: That's fine

BS: email address. Okay.

BC: That's totally okay.

BS: Okay. Okay. And again, I wanna stress, you came in here

BC: Yep.

BS: voluntarily so, um, we appreciate that. Obviously, you know, if we did have questions, you don't have to answer them - that sort of thing -

BC: So far I'm fine.

BS: Okay, okay.

BC: Unfortunately, the last time I came in voluntarily, I was arrested so it's kind of -

BS: Yeah. I - I - I understand your concern

BC: So - There are probably questions I won't want to answer, but so far it's been fine -

BS: Sure. Okay. And that's - that's fine - um, and that's frankly, that's why I - I stressed that -

BC: Yeah.

BS: because -

BC: Yeah.

BS: you did come in here voluntarily so

BC: Um-hum.

BS: um, it is all voluntary so - we appreciate that so. So what are you like - are you like a power lifter guy or -

BC: Um, right now, uh, it's a bit of everything so my goal right now is to get as strong as I used to be and I'm - I'm getting there, I'm just not there yet

BS: Yeah.

BC: and you know also it's esthetic driven as well.

BS: Sure.

BC: I wanna look good.

BS: Every - every guy wants to be - that.

BC: Yeah - yeah - for sure, so, and yeah, I mean I just love how it makes me feel.

BS: Yeah.

BC: In every way.

BS: Yep.

BC: I love working out. I love being at the gym. I love afterwards and, yeah.

BS: Yeah.

BC: It takes - it takes a while to get there.

BS: Yeah.

BC: The first couple months are just horrible going every time.

BS: Yeah.

BC: But after that it becomes great.

BS: Yeah. I can - I can appreciate that. Yeah, I like lifting too so

BC: Yeah.

BS: those long breaks kind of kill you

BC: Yeah.

BS: when you go back so -

BC: Unfortunately, I've only worked out once this week because of all this stuff going on

BS: Yeah.

BC: but - I plan on going later today.

BS: Okay.

BC: Because I – I have my keys back – I can drive.

BS: Sure.

BC: So.

BS: Sure.

BC: I can leave the apartment.

BS: That's good – that's good.

BC: Yeah.

BS: So were you, uh, were you a sports guy? You – you said before you –

BC: Uh, I was. That was more of a physical thing than actually enjoying the sports.

BS: Okay.

BC: I did do – I did do sports in high school. I did track, wrestling, and football

BS: Okay.

BC: and that was more just because I wanted to do physical things.

BS: Stay in shape.

BC: Yeah.

BS: Yeah.

BC: Um –

BS: Where – where, uh –

BC: Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

BS: Okay.

BC: So central Wisconsin.

BS: Gotcha. Gotcha. How big, um, like was your high school there?

BC: Division One.

BS: Oh, okay. Okay.

BC: Yeah, my senior year we went to state and lost it so –

BS: In football?

BC: Yeah.

BS: Okay. Okay. What – uh – what position?

BC: I was outside linebacker.

BS: Okay. It's kind of – it depends on where you went to school – I – I could see you as maybe a linebacker but

BC: Yeah, yeah –

BS: you know, if you – if you were at a small school you might have played center.

BC: Exactly.

BS: You know.

BC: Exactly. And it's like I'm not big enough to be in the NFL or anything like that – I'd be tiny –

BS: Right, right – yeah.

BC: Yeah. I'm big compared to a lot of people but not compared to them.

BS: Right, right. Yeah. I think a lot of people don't realize just how

BC: Oh yeah.

BS: massive those guys are because

BC: Right.

BS: you see them on TV and they all are the same size

BC: Yeah and then some look small and the small people are bigger than me.

BS: Right.

BC: I'm 6 feet 215, you compare me with their stats and it's like, I'm tiny.

BS: Right. Yeah.

BC: Like –

BS: Yeah, but you wouldn't find a linebacker probably within 30 or 40 pounds

BC: No.

BS: of that.

BC: Definitely not.

BS: So -

BC: Yeah.

BS: Yeah. That's for sure.

BC: Uh-huh.

BS: Yeah, those are some - some big dudes. People always think I'm pretty tall too.

BC: Yeah.

BS: I'm not - I mean compared to those guy I'm maybe 6'3.

BC: Okay.

BS: You know.

BC: That's pretty tall.

BS: I played basketball and in the NFL... or, NBA and the average size is like 6'7

BC: Yeah, you're tiny in basketball.

BS: Yeah, so that's.

BC: Yeah.

BS: Yeah, just they all look - look the same size when you're watchin' them there on

BC: Uh-huh.

BS: on TV.

BC: No those - those guys are huge.

BS: So did you throw in track then or?

BC: I sprinted.

BS: Oh, you were a sprinter, okay, so were a big guy who sprinted, huh?

BC: Yeah.

BS: Okay. So you must be pretty - pretty fast.

BC: I was. I was pretty fast.

BS: Um, like hundred or two hundred or?

BC: Those two were my main races.

BS: Both of those. Okay.

BC: I never, uh, I kind of quit before I got to like super varsity level.

BS: Okay.

BC: I wasn't like that fast. I wouldn't have like done anything important in it -

BS: Sure.

BC: but I was relatively fast.

BS: Sure.

BC: Just not amazing.

BS: I'm a very slow white guy so I - I did not - not run track

BC: Yeah.

BS: or anything like that, so -

BC: Yeah.

BS: I just - I played basketball in high school - that was it - I played baseball when I was younger but

BC: Mmmm.

BS: didn't - didn't keep up

BC: Yeah.

BS: with it so, basketball was my - my main love.

BC: Mmmmm.

BS: But, I was too small.

BC: Yeah.

BS: I - I can shoot a little, but that's about all I can do

BS: Huh.

BS: too slow for every - everything else.

BC: Um-hum.

BS: So, you – uh, did you play in college at all?

BC: No.

BS: No?

BC: My injury happened when I was 19

BS: Oh, oh, okay.

BC: so I – yeah, after that everything physical kind of stopped for awhile.

BS: Yeah. Yeah. Well that’s why I figured maybe you were a sports guy cause you said you were trying to get back to what you were before and most guys

BC: Yeah.

BS: who like lifting and stuff in high school usually played a sport or two

BC: Yeah.

BS: along with that.

BC: I – I guess I’m kinda the opposite. I didn’t know it for a while but, yeah, my passion is just the weightlifting and how it makes me feel – it’s not any sport in particular.

BS: Oh, okay.

BC: I know a lot of people are the opposite where they love the sports and they just kind of supplement

BS: Yeah.

BC: it but. I mean it took me until I was like 18 – 17 or 18 to really learn this but now I just like the weightlifting.

BS: Sure. Okay.

BC: Yeah. So I just – and it’s like I’m – I’m so close, you know –

BS: Yeah.

BC: It’s just like I’m gonna keep doin’ it for another six months and I’ll be there

BS: Yeah.

BC: or somethin'.

BS: Yeah, that's probably a pretty good feeling for you.

BC: It is - it's amazing.

BS: Yeah.

BC: So - it's so close to one of my goals.

BS: That's good. Yeah. Good good. That's good to have

BC: Um-hum.

BS: goals like that so.

BC: Yeah.

BS: Unfortunately, I think I'm on the downhill slide of my weight lifting career.

BC: Sorry to hear that.

BS: Well, things get busy and I'm just happy to do it a lot of - a lot of days.

BC: I don't think I could take a job like that - I know a lot of people are okay with it but I'm kind of a 9-5 - no more

BS: Yeah.

BC: type guy.

BS: Yeah. I can understand that

BC: Yeah.

BS: too. So you said you were uh, applying at Wolfram?

BC: Um-hum.

BS: Where - and you -- I know you said it - but uh - what do they do - I mean I know they're research

BC: Yeah.

BS: based but -

BC: So, um, their main thing is that they make a couple products. One of them is called Wolfram Alpha and the other is called Mathematica.

BS: Okay.



BC: So, it's kind of like a weird programming language that most scientists use and a lot of engineers use as well.

BS: Okay.

BC: Um, where Wolfram Mathematica is like their main language that you – the program you buy. Wolfram Alpha is like a website and what you do is you can like write something into it like solve and then just write an equation out and it will do it for you.

BS: Okay so it – so it's a proprietary program

BC: Yeah.

BS: that they then give out – I mean people pay to use this

BC: Yes.

BS: for various other solutions.

BC: Yes. It's like, um, I kind of think of Mathematica and Alpha as like a super calculator in a way

BS: Okay.

BC: where you can plot stuff, you can mess with the plots – it's a lot easier to use – you can do upper level math like calculus, differential equations and all that kind of stuff in it

BS: Okay.

BC: and it's just a really great program. I've actually used the programs my entire undergraduate experience and now I get to apply there.

BS: Okay.

BC: So, yeah, they are just great programs it's –

BS: Yeah.

BC: it's like a super-modern calculator that you put on your computer.

BS: Okay. So does that, um, obviously they have people working there and stuff – do they tailor that program if – I mean if I were saying I need it or I want it, would someone tailor that or is it kind of a

BC: Umm –

BS: you tailor on your own?

BC: It's um, so it's just – if you buy the Mathematica program I mean, it's just Mathematica

BS: Okay.

BC: and you use it yourself

BS: Gotcha.

BC: so just like a calculator.

BS: Gotcha.

BC: Um, the Alpha sites, which you can just google it and you'll find it, is just something that you can do, it's like Mathematica lite, almost, where

BS: Okay.

BC: you know, if you want to solve equations, see what the plot looks like you just like write in plot  $x$  squared – it's actually your  $x$  squared.

BS: Gotcha.

MC: Sorry guys, I couldn't find my keys. That's my cellphone on the back.

BC: Okay.

MC: Okay. Grab a water for the road or?

BC: Yeah, I can do that.

MC: Grab another one.

BC: Might as well.

MC: Yep.

[End of Interview]