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[Intro]

Devin-Hey guys, and welcome to another episode of Thinking Sideways, the podcast. I am Devin, joined by...

S-Steve.

D-And...

Joe-Joe.

D-My co-hosts.

J-Yeah.

S-This week.

D-This week, I guess.

J-For now.

D-For now.

S-We may be replaced by muffins in the future.

D-It's possible. Always possible.

J-Uh huh.

D-Yeah. This week we're going to talk about a mysterious disappearance. And this story was suggested by, like, literally everyone literally all the time.

J-It's been suggested a lot, yeah.

S-A couple times.

D-So I just decided that we would just do it. Just rip the band-aid off. Just going to do it.

J-This is not a bad little mystery, actually.

D-No.

S-I understand, I understand why people get so excited about this one. Why they, why it catches everybody's attention.

D-Yeah, yeah. We'll talk about, go over some of the problems with it in a little bit.

S-No. We'll pull the bottom out of this one later.

D-Yeah. True. So if you don't read the episode titles (Steve laughing), we're going to talk about the disappearance of Ray Gricar today, and here's a quick overview of the case before we dive in. On April 15, 2005, Center County, Pennsylvania District Attorney Ray Gricar called his girlfriend to let her know that he was out driving, or had just gone for a drive, or was one his way home. Accounts vary. However...

J-I thought he said he was on his way to Lewisburg?

D-You know, like I said, I've read so many different accounts. Already, we're into it, read so many different accounts of what he said that it's hard to tell. But, definitely he was in his car while he called her.

J-Yep.

D-And when she arrived home from work, she went to the gym, came back, he still wasn't home. It had been 12 hours, so she called and reported him missing.

S-Uh huh.

J-11:30 that night, right?

D-Yeah, and he's never been found. There's a lot of business to get out of the way, so you guys just want to jump in?

J-Sure.

S-We might as well.

D-Yeah, ok.

S-Who are we going to start with? Cause we got a couple of players.

D-Yeah, so let's just start with, like, a basic overview of Ray's life up until this point. Ray was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1945. In the 80s, Ray's then wife took a job teaching at Penn State, and Ray decided to be a stay-at-home dad for their young adopted daughter who's name was Laura.

S-I totally understand why.

D-Is, still is Laura. She's still alive. He had been a prosecutor before they moved to Pennsylvania. He specialized mostly in rape and murder cases prior to moving to Pennsylvania. And then when the sitting Center County DA at that time, when he heard that Ray was living in the area and was unemployed, he basically recruited him to work, first just in his office, and then as the assistant DA, which Ray accepted. He accepted the job. I think it was part-time at first, and I, even when he became DA. Spoiler alert. When he was elected DA in, um...

S-'85.

D-Thank you. In '85...

S-Yeah.

D-...it was still a part-time job until a few years later when he petitioned, when Ray petitioned for it to become a full-time job.

S-Uh huh.

D-Which it sounds like it actually really was a full-time job.

J-It sounds like.

D-So I don't really know what was happening before (laughing).

J-I think they were paying him half of what they would have to pay him to do probably 40 or more hours of work a week.

D-Yeah, probably. So, yeah, in 1985 that, the DA that hired Ray decided not to rerun for office, so Ray ran instead and won the spot.

S-Because it's an elected position.

D-It is an elected position. And he was DA until his disappearance in 2005. And I know that I've been saying DA a lot. I'm sorry.

S-District attorney.

D-It's the district attorney. I'm going to continue to call it DA, but for those of you who are not from America or maybe don't know what a district attorney is in America, basically it's what we call our public prosecutors. At a very base level, obviously. In England they're called chief crown prosecutors.

S-Yeah. It's the local district's attorney.

D-Yeah. Basically.

S-Exactly what it is.

D-And they are elected officials.

S-Uh huh.

D-I mean, there's a little more clout that comes with it, but at the basic level that's what it is. The sense that I got from all the reading and the interviews and all that stuff that I've done, all the research around this, is that Ray was really a good person. Some people say maybe he was a bit of a ladies man, but really in his core he seemed to have the best of, for people at his heart.

S-The best of intentions.

D-Yeah. I mean, he would often, if cases went against his own personal moral code, he would hand them off to people that worked for him, to prosecute them, to just make sure everything was being done fairly, instead of...

S-Yeah. He had a thing against the death penalty, didn't he?

D-He did, yeah. So he often handed that off to his assistant DA. But he really wasn't scared to take on big cases. There's some talk about, you know, so, ok. Center County is where Penn State is, obviously, because that's where they moved.

S-Pennsylvania State University.

D-Pennsylvania State University, which had some troubles.

S-Uh huh.

D-Which we'll talk about some of the bigger stuff.

S-It's a big college.

D-Yeah, it's a big college. So, you know, sometimes the athletes there get in trouble, for instance. And he prosecuted almost all those cases. He prosecuted a lot of murder, rape, mafia cases. And there was nothing, he wasn't scared to go after bad people.

S-Yeah. It doesn't appear he backed down.

D-Yeah.

J-Well, it was kind of his job, right?

S-Yeah.

D-I mean, it was his job, but he also wasn't scared to really go after people. And fun fact, you guys may or may not be familiar with the murder of Beth Doe, which was a Jane Doe in Pennsylvania. Center County.

J-Yeah.

D-It was actually a pretty horrific case. But he ended up putting the serial killer that killed Beth Doe behind bars. They still don't know who Beth Doe was, but they found who killed her, so.

J-Well, that's cool.

D-Yeah.

S-Good job.

J-Yeah.

D-Ray's wife, his first wife, that worked for Penn State, was named Barbara Gray. She and Ray did divorce in 1991. And then in 1995 Ray's brother committed suicide. Ray remarried in 1996, but also divorced. He married a woman named Emma, but you will almost never see that anywhere except for the fact that she is still, maybe, writing a book about Ray.

S-Yeah.

J-She's been working on that for an awful long time.

D-A very long time, yeah. I think the reason that she feels like she can write a book about Ray and his life, something we're going to talk about in a minute, but she was married to Ray until 2001. So from 1996 to 2001, she was his wife. And then, you know, they divorced in 2001 and then in 2002 or maybe 2003, it's hard to tell, Ray moved in with his, air quotes, "long-time girlfriend," Patty, who also worked in the district attorney's office. I keep using air quotes with the long-time girlfriend thing...

S-Because it was two or three years.

D-They were together for three years, as actual adults over 40, apparently three years is a long-term relationship. I don't know.

J-Ok.

S-Well yeah, he was in his mid-50s at the time of his disappearance, is that correct?

J-I thought he was 59.

D-He would have been, yeah, he would have been almost 60.

S-He would have been in his mid, yeah. It's funny, though. I really found it interesting, the description by different people of that relationship with Patty versus his other wives.

J-Uh huh.

S-Like, it was much more of a friendship than a passionate romance.

D-I would say it was a partnership.

S-Yeah, that's a good way to put it.

D-Yeah. But it did seem less, you know, everybody says, "Well, his marriage with Emma was so passionate. There was a lot of passion." Which means...

J-Lot of arguing.

D-Which, yeah...

S-They fought all the time.

D-...means they fought a lot, but they also were, I think, passionate in terms of the way they expressed themselves positively to each other as well.

S-Probably.

J-Uh huh.

D-But it does seem, like, everybody says, "Well, Patty really was just his soul mate." She describes herself as soul mates and all that stuff. But it was only three years, and again, who's to say, and I don't want to malign...

S-Yeah, I don't want to downplay that.

D-No, but who's to say it probably would have lasted forever, but you know, they always call her "long-time girlfriend," so that's where that is.

J-Ok.

D-Ray was planning to retire that year, in 2005, sorry. The year he disappeared. His term was up. He just wasn't seeking reelection. And his family does say that he reported feeling overworked and feeling really tired a lot. Now, the name Ray Gricar might be familiar to you even if you didn't know that he disappeared. And that's because of Jerry Sandusky. We're going to talk about some not so great stuff for a minute.

S-I believe what I referred to it earlier was "icky things."

D-Icky things involving kids.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah, pervs and stuff like that.

D-Yeah.

S-Sex abuse, so.

D-So if that bothers you, go ahead and skip ahead about five minutes, because you may not want to hear it, but you may want to hear the rest of the story. Ok.

S-So let's talk about the gem that was Jerry Sandusky.

D-Jerry Sandusky. Still is.

J-I'm sure 95% of our listeners have heard of this guy.

D-I, well, you know...

J-Well-known perv.

D-I would guess, but I, I don't know.

S-I didn't know the details until we looked into this.

D-Yeah.

J-I never looked into it too heavily myself.

D-Right, because why would you?

S-Yeah.

D-Really, you don't really want to. So Jerry Sandusky is a former assistant football coach at Penn State, which yes, there's already a little bit of, eh, Ray Grigar's wife worked for Penn State.

S-Uh huh.

D-Again, huge employer, not to say anything bad.

S-And they have a lot of clout in that town.

D-Yeah.

S-Penn State, that is.

D-Yeah. But, Jerry Sandusky was kind of an all-around bad kind of human being. He founded this charity, which I recognize I'm going to follow-up with something that sounds like an awesome thing, but just wait. He founded a charity called The Second Mile, which served underprivileged youth. George W. had really high...

S-Bush.

D-Yeah, Bush, sorry, had really high praise for the organization. He said that it was a "shining example" in a 1990 letter that he wrote. Words I'm sure that he regretted not too far after that.

J-Well, it was a little while before the whole thing came to light.

D-A little.

S-Or it hit the fan.

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah. "It" hit the fan. It's estimated that that organization served as many as 100,000 kids annually in nearly, and it existed almost 36 years.

S-That's a lot of kids.

D-That's a lot of kids. So the percentages that we're about to start talking about are low, but...

S-Extremely, but...

D-But, like, any, even, like, .0% is too many percents.

J-But anyway, long story short, he, Sandusky basically set this up and turned it into his own personal dating service.

D-A little, yeah.

J-Yeah.

D-Turns out, yeah, Sandusky was raping young boys that he met through The Second Mile. Officially he was charged with molesting nine boys, but he was also charged with 45 counts against him. He was sexually abusing his adopted son, Matt, for six or seven years. And he met literally all his victims through The Second Mile.

S-He was vetting them through it.

D-He was vetting them through it.

S-He was looking for a very specific personality type.

D-Yeah.

S-And situation.

D-Personality type that was open to the kind of suggestion that he was open to, and all of them had no father-figures.

S-Uh huh. Which is sadly, very stereotypical.

D-Oh yeah. Yeah.

S-For a predator like that.

D-Yeah. I am of the opinion that he likely had many, many more victims than just the nine, but that's, you know, my own personal feeling.

J-Yeah, that's for another mystery.

D-That's for a different mystery, yeah. In the spring of 2008 Aaron Fisher was a high school student where Sandusky was volunteering as an assistant football coach, and Aaron told his mom that Sandusky had been touching him inappropriately.

S-And Aaron was a freshman?

D-Aaron was a freshman, yeah.

S-So that would make him, what, 14? 13?



D-13 or 14.

J-14, yeah.

D-Yeah, depending on when his birthday was.

S-Yeah.

D-Sandusky's "relationship," quote unquote, with Aaron had started in 2005 with The Second Mile, and it turns out that a graduate assistant coach in Penn State had witnessed Sandusky abusing boys in 2001, and had told Joe Paterno, who was the Penn State head coach at the time. Paterno, to his credit, it seems, did report this.

S-He sure took his dear, sweet time about it, though.

D-He did. He was on vacation, so, you know. He had to wait. He was about to go on vacation when he was told about the case. And then he was like, "Well, I'm going to go on vacation, then I'll come back and tell everybody that Sandusky's been touching people inappropriately.

S-Yeah.

J-Among other things.

D-Among other things, yeah.

S-Yeah.

D-Yeah. So, but the people who were above Joe Paterno, it seems like they said, "Oh, I'm sure Sandusky was just horsing around." Even though, I mean, some of the descriptions are, like, oh a janitor saw him behind a boy. They were both naked. The boy was pushed up against the wall, and there were "slapping noises," quote unquote.

J-Oh my God.

D-And it's just, like, that didn't seem, you know, nobody at Penn State seemed to really care...

S-I think it's one of those situations where the, the disturbing nature of what was going on, in each retelling it got sanitized more and more.

D-Oh yeah.

S-To the point it was like, "Oh, they were just playing around in the shower."

D-Yeah. So the two people that Joe Paterno did tell testified in court that all they heard was there was some horsing around happening in the shower.

J-Uh huh, right.

D-So they were totally clean. But it sounds like Joe Paterno's story is he told them, and they said don't

worry about it, ignore it. Either way, it doesn't really matter, I'm telling this story because the earliest documentation of Sandusky's abuse was in 1995 by the aforementioned adopted son, Matt. Ok, well Matt didn't record it, but Matt and one of his adopted sisters tried to commit suicide, which caused CPS, Child Protective Services, to raise some concerns and say they needed to investigate.

J-That's kind of unusual. Two kids committing suicide at the same, or attempting suicide.

D-Yeah. And actually, the thing that was really interesting about this is I've read a lot of the stuff from Matt, and he, when Child Protective Services removed him from the house, and took him, obviously he was in a hospital and they said, "Ok, we're going to place you somewhere else." This was when he was still a foster kid. And he actually wrote a letter to Child Protective Services saying that he wanted to be placed back with Sandusky, despite the fact that he'd been being molested. So I don't know what, I didn't care to go into too much detail into the kind of mind games that Sandusky must have been playing with these young boys, but that, I think, is very indicative of the kind of power he had over them.

S-I would agree.

D-In 1998, an 11-year-old boy, later known as Victim 6 in the indictments of Sandusky, came forward to testify that Sandusky had showered naked with him and another boy. Enter Ray Gricar.

J-Not into the shower, I hope.

D-No, not into the shower (Steve laughing).

J-Ok.

S-No.

D-No. Not, no, no. He was the district attorney at the time.

S-He entered into the story.

D-Into the story, I'm sorry.

J-You're leaving something out there. Sandusky showered with these two young boys, and he also touched them, right?

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah.

D-I was, you know, trying to sanitize it a little bit, but yes.

J-Oh, ok.

D-But anyway, the victim's mom apparently wanted to talk to Sandusky, which is fair. And I guess, you know, I've heard it both ways. Either Sandusky said, "Hey, I want to talk to you about this." Or she said, "We need to talk about this." But either way, they arranged to talk about the situation...

J-And she, she had reported to Ray Gricar.

D-She had reported it to, she had reported it to the police...

J-To the police.

D-...who reported it to Gricar.

S-And I understood that her confronting Sandusky was actually at the prompting of Ray Gricar.

D-Of the cops, of Gricar, yeah.

S-So, let's see what you can get, quote unquote, it was a bit of a sting.

D-Yeah. No, it absolutely was. And this was one of the things that a lot of people say about him when you start talking about Ray as a professional, is that he was always the kind of guy to say, "Ok, did you try this, though?"

S-Thinking outside the box.

D-Yeah. You know, he would take it that next step, is the thing that people say about him. And so I think, you know, the mom said, "Well, my son is being abused." And he said, "Well, ok, but we need something more concrete than your 11-year-old child saying that, so."

S-Sadly.

D-Yeah. "Unfortunately, so let's see if we can get Sandusky to admit it." So they set up this sting where Sandusky comes to the mom's house. And they set up recording devices all around the house, and there's cops sitting outside monitoring, and, you know, almost like on TV, I guess. And...

S-Dun dun (Devin laughing).

D-Apparently Sandusky says, and I quote, "I understand. I was wrong. I wish I could get forgiveness from you. I know I won't get it from you. I wish I were dead." Unquote. Which sounds like an admission to me, but ok.

J-Yeah, but it's not. He doesn't actually say, really confess anything.

D-He doesn't. That's true.

S-Yeah. There's nothing there.

D-There's nothing. Unfortunately there is not. And, I mean, I think that was probably smart on Sandusky's part, unfortunately.

S-Uh huh.

D-So, Ray decides there's not enough evidence to prosecute Sandusky.

S-Uh huh.

D-I, I agree. I think there probably wasn't enough. Unfortunately, again, you can't just say, it's going to be this grown man who was really well-respected in the community.

J-And well-known.

D-It's going to be his word versus an 11-year-old boy.

J-Well, I'm sure he probably sat down with the mother too, and probably said, "Look, you know, this is going to be a high-profile case. Lot of publicity. Your kid's name might not stay secret." And so...

S-And that's the hard part with these, any kind of situation, is they're a watershed moment.

J-Hm.

S-It's kind of like the Cosby case.

D-Uh huh.

S-One comes out, and everybody goes, "That didn't happen."

J-And then suddenly five dozen more come out.

S-And then suddenly a whole bunch more show up, and that's when it gains momentum. But, there may not have been enough there for him to say, "I really think that this could go." I mean, I'm sure that's why he didn't pursue it.

D-Yeah.

S-Is he didn't even have enough to begin with.

D-Yeah. And, you know, but unfortunately, a lot of the stuff that Sandusky did eventually get charged with happened after that. So a lot of people talk about, "If Ray had just prosecuted Sandusky, none of this would have ever happened." And I don't know that that's true. I almost...

S-Sandusky may have started getting sloppy.

D-Yeah.

S-Is that what you're getting at?

D-Well, no, no, no. I just mean that people blame Ray for Sandusky's actions.

J-Uh, there were a lot of people who enabled him. Ray Gricar was the least among them.

D-I would agree, I totally agree with that.

J-I mean, all of his victims should have said something, number one.

D-Yeah. But so that's...

J-A lot of other people suspected, you know.

S-And, and, by the way, we're not pointing a finger at victims for not coming forward.

D-Oh God, no.

J-No, no.

S-I understand what you're, you're saying...

J-They should have, I understand why they wouldn't.

S-Right.

J-I get that too.

S-I just don't want anybody to be upset by that.

J-Uh huh.

D-Yeah. Anyway, this is not an episode about Sandusky though.

S-Thankfully!

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah. We're not, I think I can pretty solidly say we are never doing an episode on Sandusky.

S-Uh, yeah. I can guarantee that.

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah.

J-I don't have a lot of interest in that case, actually, but...

D-Yeah.

S-Ok.

J...I will say, though, you can't talk about Gricar without talking about Sandusky because the internet thinks they're intimately connected.

D-Exactly. Yes. So, that was just a little bit of really icky background. I promise it will factor in again in a couple of minutes.

J-Without the ick factor.

D-Let's get, let's get back to Ray Gricar, shall we?

S-Uh huh.

D-Yeah.

S-And Patty.

D-And Patty. Yeah. On April 15, 2005, around 11:30, Ray calls his long-time girlfriend Patty to let her know that he's been driving. It's very unclear in all of the stories that I've read, I've read that Patty said he was playing hooky the entire day. I've read that his colleagues said he was playing hooky for, like, half a day. He was going to take half a day off. I've heard that he was actually working. I've heard that he was driving home. I've heard that he was driving to, that he told her he was driving to somewhere. All I know is that he said, "I'm driving in this valley." Which for all I know, I mean, it could be that that's, that meant that he was on his way somewhere. It could mean that he was on his way home.

S-We don't know exactly what was said on that phone call.

D-We really don't, yeah.

J-But, yeah, but we do know that the cell phone pinged a tower that was next to Highway 192, so he was driving down that road.

D-He was, yeah. No, absolutely, and that doesn't, that's not an issue for me. It's just what he was saying and what the circumstances surrounding this are. And that, I think, is very important, because there are some things that people bring up as being weird, that aren't weird if he was coming from work, say. Right? But if he was playing hooky the entire day, it is kind of weird.

J-Uh huh.

S-Well, but the thing is is I know Patty said that he decided to go driving.

D-Uh huh.

J-Yeah.

D-Which he did frequently.

S-Yeah, he was known to go take a, I'm not one of those guys, but some people like to take a three, four hour drive.

D-Yeah.

S-And just drive.

D-Yeah.

J-Uh huh.

S-And he had, he loved his little car.

D-He had a red Mini Cooper. It was pretty cute.

S-And he loved to drive that thing.

D-Yeah.

S-Which is always hilarious to me, cause he, do you know how tall he was.

J-He was six feet tall.

D-I thought he was, like, 5'7", 5'8".

J-No, he was six feet.

S-No, yeah, he's a big guy. And it always cracks me up when I see big guys in Mini Coopers, except Mini Coopers fit tall people.

D-They do.

S-Which is the amazing part about the Mini Cooper.

J-Right.

D-This episode brought to you by Mini Cooper.

J-Yeah. Product placement.

D-Yeah, for real.

J-Yeah, I do think that he was driving on 192 north, or east-northeast to Lewisburg...

D-That's absolutely true.

J-...because he was spotted in Lewisburg that afternoon.

D-Yeah. No, and there's no doubt in my mind that he was in Lewisburg in that afternoon. Whether he told Patty that's where he was going or not, not sure.

J-I don't know. No.

D-Whether he was, you know, knocking off work for half a day or a whole day, I don't know. All I know is he ended up in Lewisburg that afternoon.

J-Fair enough.

D-I'm not concerned about that time table at all.

S-No.

D-But again, it does depend a little bit, we'll talk about that in a little bit, actually. So, as we said, Patty gets home from work, she doesn't see Ray, so she goes to the gym. She comes back...

J-Still no Ray.

D-...calls his cell phone a bunch of times.

S-Watches a little Netflix.

D-No, not yet.

J-Drinks a beer.

D-2005, no. Maybe drinks a beer or some wine. Calls Ray's cell phone a number of times. She says it goes straight to voice mail. And then finally after she had not heard from him in 12 hours, which was incredibly unlike him, she called the cops. She called 911 and said, "My boyfriend, Ray Gricar, is missing." And they, of course, said, "Oh crap!"

S-The DA.

D-"The DA's missing. Uh, better get on that. What's the last thing you know of him?"

S-Right. Which is, you know, the way you're supposed to do it.

D-Yeah, exactly. The following day, which would have been April 16<sup>th</sup>.

S and J-Yeah.

D-Investigators find his car either 45 or 55 miles away from the home that he shared with Patty, which is in Lewisburg. And it was in the parking lot of an antique mall that Ray liked, I believe. I've also seen some reports that it was in the parking lot of a park.

S-Really?

D-Yes. And that plays in in a little bit.

S-Ok.

D-In another theory.

J-Yeah.

S-Ok. I...

J-Yeah, it's, it's...

D-I've seen pictures of both parking lots as well. It kind of looks like one is across the street from the



other, and I'll be honest with you...

S-Oh.

D-...I have not gone out to Google Street View to really check that out.

S-Because it's not all that important.

D-No, it's not.

J-No, it's a gravel lot across the street from this...

D-Uh huh, or it's the antiques mall, yeah.

J-...antiques mall. No, it's across the street from it, and it's, the antiques mall is just an old industrial building that's been converted into a mall kind of thing.

D-Uh huh.

J-With, like, stalls.

D-Right. Yeah. Like a flea market.

J-Yeah. Kind of like that, yeah.

D-Yeah. In his car...

S-Is not him.

D-Is not him. There's no sign of him. There's no sign of his keys. There's no sign of his wallet. There's no sign of his county issued laptop, though his county issued cell phone was in his car. And I'm under the impression that that was his only cell phone. Originally when I started doing the research I thought surely he had a personal cell phone as well, but I have not actually seen any mention of that, so I'm going to assume that his county issued cell phone was his only cell phone.

J-Yeah, could be.

D-In 2005, I don't know that that would have been so, I mean, my mom didn't get a cell phone until 2005, and it was a cheap flip phone.

S-I was going to say, in 2005, a 60-year-old man has no interest in a cell phone.

D-Yeah. He has one because he has to have one for work.

S-Yeah. And he probably hated it.

D-Yeah. There were no signs of foul play around the car, but according go police reports, the car smelled like cigarette or cigar smoke, even though Ray was apparently, like, an avid anti-smoker. He hated the smell of smoke.

J-Yeah, he did not like cigarettes at all.

D-Yeah. But his car smelled like cigarette smoke, and they found a “fleck of ash” on the backseat which, ok, fine, whatever.

J-I heard it was more than a fleck, but, I mean, it was not a huge amount.

D-Some ash, yeah.

J-There was some cigarette ash found, yeah.

D-Family members, upon hearing that Ray was missing, his nephew particularly, drove up to come kind of help with the investigation. They showed up, they show up in Lewisburg and immediately think, you know, there's this interview that I watched with a nephew, and he says, “I immediately just thought, 'Oh my God, here we go again.'” Cause Ray's car was parked in a parking lot next to a park near a bridge over a river, and that's exactly how they found his father's stuff, Roy, Ray's brother.

S-The nephew's father.

J-Right.

D-The nephew's father...

S-Roy.

D-...that's how they found his car before they found out that he had killed himself.

J-By jumping off a bridge.

D-Yeah. So the family immediately thought, “Oh my God, Ray killed himself just the exact same way.”

S-At least according to the nephew.

D-According to the nephew.

S-Who really likes to be in front of the camera.

D-Well, he's, yeah. He calls himself the “official media liaison of the family.”

J-And nobody else in the family really want to talk about this.

D-They really don't.

S-Uh uh.

D-But, I mean, it was his father who killed himself.

J-Yeah.

D-So I can understand why he would immediately just be like, “Oh my God, why?”

J-Uh huh.

S-Right, all right, yeah, uh huh, ok.

D-Yeah. Anyway, they searched the river. They find nothing.

S-No body.

D-No body. They search all around the antique mall, all around the town. And we'll talk about some of that stuff in a little bit. But there's no, no Ray. Ray doesn't show up. Eventually, you know, they kind of start to scale back the search a little bit, because you can't do a full-on man hunt forever.

J-Not really, yeah.

D-The FBI analyzes Ray's credit records. Nothing. The money's not touched.

J-No credit card activity.

D-Nothing's going on.

J-No debit card.

D-They continue to scale back a little bit. Then, on July 30, 2005, fishermen in the Susquehanna River found a laptop which was kind of caked with mud.

S-It was sitting in the bottom.

D-It was sitting, yeah, in the bottom.

S-Cause they used a net to retrieve it.

D-But it was really caked with mud and stuff like that. And they immediately turned it over to the police. I'm not sure if it's because they thought it would be connected to this case or not, but they turned it over to the police.

S-If you look at the photos of it, it's got county property tags on the back of it.

J-Of course, they always do that.

S-Yeah. So I'm sure that these guys probably wiped it off and went, “Oh, uh, we should probably tell somebody.”

D-“Probably get this over there.” So they turned...

J-“Maybe the county will give us a reward.

D-Yeah.

S and J-Yeah.

D-So they turned it over to the cops, and the cops give it to their computer forensic expert, who immediately realized there's something very wrong with this computer, because it just doesn't have a hard drive in it.

S-Oh, I thought it was because it's full of water.

D-Well, that too (Steve laughing).

J-That wouldn't help, yeah.

D-Yeah. So there's no hard drive in this thing. So obviously, there's nothing, there's nothing they can do about it.

S-Well, it's got a fish screensaver.

D-Yeah, fish swimming on it.

J-Uh, yeah.

D-I mean, obviously, if there's no hard drive in a computer, it's not going to do anything.

S-It's useless at that point.

D-It's not.

J-There's, yeah, all the fun information is on the hard drive.

D-Yeah. Although interestingly, I will briefly mention, not that I necessarily think that it pertains to this case, but one can pull a hard drive out of a computer, out of a laptop, and plug in, via a usb, either a flash drive, or an external hard drive, and run an operating system on that. Steve is looking at me like I'm a crazy person.

S-Oh, I understand that you can do that. I don't understand the implications in this case.

D-I don't know that there are any, but I just want to throw that out there as something that is possible.

J-Well, I think that, I thought about this very thing too, and that is if somebody had Ray's laptop, but they didn't know his password, but they wanted information off of that, then removing the hard drive and plugging it in as an external drive to another computer would be a way around that.

D-Uh huh.

J-Assuming the files on the hard drive aren't, haven't themselves been encrypted.

D-Right.

S-I'm sorry, maybe I'm dumb.

J-Yeah?

S-But if the files on the hard drive are under my profile and therefore are locked behind my password, firewall, whatever you want to call it.

J-Uh huh?

S-And you plug in another hard drive to operate the computer, how are you...?

D-That's not what we're saying. We're saying that you remove the hard drive from one computer and plug it in to a different computer.

S-The hard drive into...

D-Uh huh

S-The hard drive goes from original computer to second computer?

D-Uh huh.

J-Yeah.

S-And then how are you accessing the contents of it?

J-When you, well, I've done the same thing. A couple of Mac Minis that I retired.

S-So you just, you're just going through a back door to get to the file tree and find things that way?

J-It's just, it just opens, it's like a file that appears on your desktop and you plug in. It's like plugging in a USB stick or something like that. It's, you plug it in...

S-Ok, ok, I got it. It's much like a plug and play flash drive.

D and J-Yeah.

S-Ok. That's the part that I wasn't getting.

D-Oh, ok.

S-I was like, well if the OS is locked behind his password, what the hell good does it do? (Laughing).

D-Well, and the OS would continue to be, but the files are not, right?

S-They're technically still...

D-They're still just files.

S-...accessible.

D-Hanging out on a drive.

S-Now I understand it. I've done the very same thing.

D-Right.

S-I, I know what you're getting at. Ok.

D-So I mean, I think that's interesting, as well as if he did have something to hide for some reason, you wouldn't necessarily have the hard drive in it, in the computer, in the laptop.

S-Uh huh.

J-You'd want to take it out.

D-That you could have something you would be able to disconnect from the computer. I know I have a lot of friends who do stuff like this. Where they, you know, don't necessarily want people to just be able to log on to their computer or take their actual computer. They have to have two parts of the puzzle. Right? That's a long tangent to say, it's possible that somebody removed the hard drive and had access to the files otherwise.

S-Was accessing the files.

D-Yes.

J-Uh huh.

D-Exactly.

S-Ok.

J-Different people would have had different motives.

D-It was also missing the slide-in...

S-CD tray?

D-...CD tray, thank you. I'm doing this motion.

S-I love that the hand motion that you're doing, and somehow I figured that out.

D-It's the tray, yeah.

S-Or I did my reading, one of the two (laughing).

D-Yeah.

J-I'm trying to remember this. In 2005 did they have, were we still using floppy disks back in those days?

D-Um, no.

S-Ok, so...

J-When did we go to DVDs and CDs and all that stuff?

S-Oh, that...

D-It depends on how new the model would have been.

S-Yeah, that was, this was a relatively new computer.

J-Ok.

S-I did a bunch of looking into this stinking computer.

J-Uh huh.

S-This thing you could get, it was a Micron, which was an actually fairly expensive computer at the time.

J-Uh huh.

S-And you could get, there were several different options that you could get, one of which was the CD. You could get the 3.5 inch floppy drive, that was an option, because I actually had the 3.5 inch floppy drives from not too long prior to that.

D-Uh huh, me too.

S-I still had some sitting around.

J-Uh huh.

S-This computer also had the capability, I believe it's in, in the photos you'll see when it's open and you're looking at it from the front, there's a hole in the left side, which is actually a separate, second hard drive. It had a second external hard drive.

J-Uh huh.

D-It could.

S-That was a push-button, it could have.

D-Uh huh.

S-It was, it was meant for the business professional. It had all these different configurations available.

D-Well, I would suspect that he had a floppy drive, just given that it was the government, and if you had to look at historic stuff like that, it would be on floppies.

S-He didn't have a floppy because it was floppy or CD.

D-Or, ok. Then never mind.

S-Floppy or CD is what I understood. Now, the information on Micron is hard because Micron went under. They became, I love it, they became MCP.

D-Uh huh.

S- From "Tron."

D-Uh huh.

S-And then they went away.

D-Yeah.

S-So the information of what their models were is kind of tough to dig up. It was battery in front, external hard drive here, CD drive here, and the removable, the actual physical hard drive was somewhere centerish.

J-That was the internal. So it was the internal hard drive that was removed, right? The was found on the beach.

D-Ugh! Spoiler, ok whatever. Fine. So Joe has spoiled the fact that...

J-Oh, sorry.

D-...a few months later, I think it was a few months. It was either two months or in the end of October 2005. Hard to tell.

J-It was, yeah, October.

D-A mom and her kid found the hard drive and the CD tray just, like, in the mud on the banks of the river.

S-The hard drive was found with the CD tray?

D-Pretty sure. Maybe not, maybe the CD tray was still...

S-I think the CD tray was still in the computer.

D-...in the computer, but all the pictures you see of it are...

S-They're all laid out, because they're rusty, ucky bits, yeah.

D-Yeah, it's pulled out of it, so yeah. I guess that's probably an unfair assumption on my part that it was missing. But, the hard drive was definitely missing and it was found a couple months later. Also...



S-And it was, like, a hundred yards away from where they found the computer.

D-Yeah. But also, caked in mud and all that stuff, so. The police decide to turn the hard drive over, I mean, it's obviously waterlogged.

S-This is after they found it.

D-After they find the hard drive, obviously. They turn it over to the CIA, I believe it was.

J-I thought it was the Secret Service?

D-Oh, Secret Service, thank you. And Secret Service says, "No, there's nothing on here that's usable. This is totally ruined."

J-Yeah. Mud, water.

D-But they say, "But, there's this private firm that we used to recover all the data from the Challenger when it exploded. They're pretty good at this stuff. Let's pass it on to them and see what they can find." And that firm came back to them and said, "Nuh uh. No."

S-"You're out of luck."

D-"There's, no, there's no way." Which is interesting.

J-Well I assume they took it apart and they discovered that, probably, you know, in the hard drive there's a disk in there, or it's disks...

D-Uh huh, uh huh, there were. I mean, not anymore. They don't make them that way anymore, but yeah.

J-Yeah. And they probably found out...

S-And those things are kind of delicate.

J-Well, they are, you know? And, like, months in the water. I mean, there's going to be some corrosion and stuff.

D-Uh huh.

S-Oh yeah.

J-There's no chance you're going to be able to recover data from those things.

D-Yeah.

S-No, that's the thing. The Challenger, it was flung from way far up high, and took some heat and some radiation, but that was a brief impact and brief amount, so yeah, go figure. It was still usable, whereas when it's sitting in the mud...

D-Yeah, it's not.

S-I mean, think about what the mud does to your shoes, let alone what it would do to your computer (laughing).

D-Yeah, absolutely.

J-Yeah. And by the way, this was found, this was found in open air, on the bank, right?

D-It was.

J-Yeah.

D-It was, like, the mud, but yeah. It wasn't underwater.

J-Yeah. That's one thing. You can immerse something in water for an extended period of time, but it doesn't necessarily start to rust or oxidize until it gets exposed to air.

D-As soon as you get it in the air. Yeah.

J-And this thing had been sitting in the air, so you know it was rusty as hell.

D-Yeah, absolutely. And you can look at pictures of this, and it's definitely, they're messed up. The computer and the hard drive both. So nothing. Nothing. And, you know, that really let the investigators just, they were just heartbroken. I think everybody working the case were heartbroken cause they found the hard drives, and they were thinking, "Oh my gosh. We're going to solve this thing!"

J-I don't see how anybody could have looked at that thing and gotten their hopes up (laughing).

D-Yeah, I don't know either, but hey.

S-It's a clue.

J-I guess.

S-In God knows how much time.

D-Yeah, absolutely. Divers, pretty sure that, "Ok, we found Ray's computer. That must mean that his body is somewhere down there," do another dive. They search extensively. Nothing. They don't find anything. So finally, they decide...

J-I should mention this. I was looking on, I think it was on Reddit, some guy, some local guy that lives in the area said that in the Susquehanna River, people drown all the time. He says they, the body always turns up.

D-Yes.

J-You know? It might not be found by the police, but sooner or later somebody finds it washed up on shore.

D-And we, we'll talk about that more in theories.

J-I'm sorry, am I stomping on your stuff again?

D-No, no, it's fine.

J-Ok (J and S laughing).

D-I mean, yes, but it's *fine*.

J-Ok, ok, sorry.

S-CUT IT OUT, JOE!

D-Finally, in April 2009, police revealed that prior to Ray's disappearance, just a couple days prior to Ray's disappearance, somebody had used the personal computer at Ray and Patty's house to search "how to wreck a hard drive." "How to fry a hard drive." "Water damage to notebook computer."

J-Uh, question about that.

D-Uh huh.

J-I was, I made some phone calls to try to get answers to these questions, which was when exactly did these searches take place? Because everybody says they took place before he disappeared, but I've never heard anybody say, actually pin down the actual dates of when these searches took place.

D-I haven't either. No, I haven't either. Also haven't heard why the police waited so long to say that that had happened.

J-Uh huh.

D-And...

J-Well, you know, sometimes they want to keep some certain details secret.

D-Sure. Absolutely. Yeah.

J-Yeah, so that's why. But I still, it's very frustrating to me. I called the cold case unit at the Pennsylvania State Police, and of course they didn't call me back. But I wanted the answer to that question, was that exactly when were those searches made? If anybody even knows. They could have been made after he disappeared.

D-They could have been.

J-Everybody assumes that they were made before, but I'm not so sure that's the case.

D-I think they likely, I mean, they would have had to have found that information on the computer within a day or two of Ray disappearing.

S-Well, and my other thing, Joe, is that if those searches had come up after Ray had disappeared.

J-Uh huh.

S-That brings to light a whole 'nother set of implications.

J-Oh, it does. It does.

S-That says somebody close to him is involved, and you know that they would have then looked at Patty and anybody else that had access. But I'm assuming that it comes out the way it does because it was something that he had done a week, a month, or something in advance, and they just, they pulled his search history.

J-Uh huh.

D-I just want to put this in context, to say that, you know, Ray was retiring.

S-Yes.

D-And he had actually been physically, like, personally asking people in the office, "Hey, how do you, how do you totally wipe a hard drive?"

J-Uh huh.

D-And I have heard from other people who have been district attorneys, or served...

S-It's not uncommon.

D-...that it's not uncommon to want to do something like that after you've left office. You know, you've got a computer, you want to wipe your stuff. He apparently kept a daily journal on his hard drive.

J-Uh huh.

D-Of his own personal feelings about things and all that stuff. And I think it's likely that before turning that computer back over to the county, he would have wanted to wipe it clean.

J-Yeah.

D-And so I don't, I mean I think yeah, by water, that's weird, sure.

J-yeah.

D-I'm totally willing to say, like, "how to fry a hard drive with water," that's, those are all weird things. But just his interest in how to wipe a hard drive is not so weird to me.

J-No, it's not weird at all. But the, the strings, some of these strings really set off my BS meter a lot. Like, for example, "water damage to notebook computer."

D-Uh huh.

J-Can you imagine yourself entering that search string in Google?

D-Yeah.

J-Really? Why?

D-I mean, I can't, following "how to wreck a hard drive..."

J-You know exactly what water does to a hard, you know exactly what water's going to do.

S-No, no. No, no, no, no. Let's roll it back though. You're assuming that Ray has a semi-decent grasp on how computers work.

J-Uh huh.

S-And not everybody does. And he may have been Googling "how to wipe a hard drive." And then something said, "Or, if your computer was immersed in water," he's like, "Oh, well, what does that do?" "Water in, notebook computer in water." Like, he may have been follow, I have done, we do that all the time.

D-Yeah.

S-Where we take a phrase out of an article, and start searching that phrase...

J-Uh huh.

S-...to understand what it means. He may have had no idea.

J-Hm. I can only tell you I know what happens when I drop my TV into the bathtub (D and S laughing). I know what happens when I drop my laptop into the bathtub.

S-Well, that's...

J-Every, everybody knows this.

S-This is why we keep telling you to stop watching TV in the bathtub!

J-I know, I know. I'm tired of getting electrocuted, too.

D-Yeah (Steve laughing).

J-But here's the thing. Is everybody knows that electronics, when exposed to water, are going to be destroyed. We all know this.

D-Well, can we...

J-And Ray knew this, I'm sure.

D-So can we put a pin in this discussion?

J-We can do that.

D-And start talking about it again in theories?

J-We can do that.

S-Yeah.

D-Cause I think this conversation is going there. We have more stuff to cover.

S-Yeah, you're right.

D-Ok.

J-Yeah.

D-Thanks, Steve!

S-All right, so.

D-I know.

S-Back to the Appalachian Trail.

D-Yeah, seriously. And I guess the thing that I'll echo, not about the actual, actual queries, but, like, why if you search on a home computer, like, you know that search is going to get found. Like, you would have known that. Yeah.

J-Well, not necessarily, Ray, not necessarily...

D-If you, if you don't know, I mean, maybe. I don't know.

S-You just, you just jumped from one side to the other, Devin, with that statement.

D-Well, the reason that I say that is that because his colleagues say that. His colleagues say, "He would have known that we would have found that." Because, I mean, he was part of investigative teams. He was, I mean, he would have seen this happen a lot. He would have seen that people were able to go on a computer and see what people were searching.

J-Uh huh.

D-He would have known that from investigations he had seen.

S-This, that...

D-He would know. So that's one of the things, again, we'll talk about this more in theories.

S-Ok.

D-But, to me, that means that he planned to come home.

S-[Whispering] That was Devin pointing and saying, "Steve, shut up."

D-It was.

J-Yeah, it was.

D-You're right.

J-So, yeah, no, I think you're right about that, though.

D-So.

J-And that's why I, we'll talk about it later.

D-Yeah.

J-But I have my own theory about these search strings.

D-Awesome.

J-And how they wound up there. Yeah.

D-We will talk about that in a minute.

S-[Whispering] Blaming Google.

D-Shh.

J-Yeah.

D-Ok, but that's the last we heard.

S-In terms of details about the case.

D-In terms of details about the case. In July of 2011, Laura Gricar, the adopted daughter, petitioned to have the court declare Ray legally dead, which they granted. So he is legally dead now.

S-It'd been six years.

D-It had been, yeah, six years. This is the, one of the other, there have a lot of sightings. Quote unquote "sightings" of Ray.

S-Him and Elvis.

J-Uh huh.

D-And actually, as it turns out, the police, every time they get one of these reports, they follow up on it,

it sounds like. Everybody that I've heard who's actually seen the evidence says that really the bulk of the evidence are these manilla envelopes that the police have of the quote unquote "sightings," and how they followed up on it. This one, however, was pretty interesting. It was literally one day after Ray was declared legally dead. A man in Utah was arrested and he strongly resembled Ray. He was being charged with a misdemeanor, but he refused to give him name. Apparently, he resembled Ray. He had the same height, the same weight, he had the same lips, and the same wrinkles.

J-The same lips?

D-Lips. Yeah. And, like, very similar wrinkles. And I've seen pictures of both these guys. He does look a lot like Ray. And so the authorities in Pennsylvania immediately sent Ray's fingerprints to Utah thinking, like, "Oh my God, we found him." Or, I mean, "We found him." And it turns out, no match. They eventually identified the guy and he had no, he wasn't Ray.

S-If I had to guess, this guy was pulling one of those stupid things that people tell each other. "If you say nothing, and you don't tell them who you are, then they can't book you." Like, I've...

D-Oh yeah, one of those (laughing).

S-One of those.

D-Like, hacks to get out arrest!

S-Yes.

D-Yeah.

S-Yeah, that's what this guy, that sounds...

D-Absolutely.

S-...like what this guy was doing.

D-And he just had the bad misfortune to...

S-Happen to look like a missing district attorney.

D-...happened to look exactly like, yeah. That's crazy.

J-Well actually, you know, in the interim between when they thought he might be Ray and when they had confirmed that he wasn't, he probably got treated better than otherwise (Steve laughing).

D-Probably. Frankly, probably he did, you're right.

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah.

S-And he's going to tell all of his other homeless buddies, "Dude, if you don't say who you are,



suddenly they upgrade your cell.”

J-Uh huh.

S-”They take all the other guys out. You get great food. You gotta try it!”

J-Yeah.

D-”They start calling you 'sir'.” (S and J laughing). It's crazy. Theories, you want to talk about theories?

S-We prob...yeah, ok.

D-Yeah. We're pretty close. Let's talk about this first theory.

S-We never do it, but let's do it.

D-Let's do it this time. We'll do it. The first theory is that Ray was murdered.

S-Uh huh.

D-And there are a couple different ways this could have gone. You know, he was prosecuting murderers and rapists, and generally bad people.

J and S-Yeah.

D-So even before he was the DA.

J-And drug dealers and stuff, yeah.

D-Yeah. Yeah, even before he was district attorney, and then...

S-Oh, before he came to Pennsylvania?

D-Yeah. And then again, you know, when he was...

S-The ADA.

D-Well, no, before that. When, even before he moved to Pennsylvania.

S-Right. So prior to Pennsylvania, and then when he was the ADA..

D-Yeah, he was also doing that. Sorry. His whole career, basically, we can just say he was charging bad people with the stuff they should have been charged with, so it's possible that one of those things could have come back and bit him. However, the, we're just going to get this one out of the way. The one that everybody likes to say is somebody close to the Jerry Sandusky scandal killed Ray.

J-Exactly.

D-And, furthermore, they actually killed Roy as well. Now, here's how this theory plays out. Steve is,

like, going to just explode. But here's how this theory plays out. Roy gets killed, in this theory, gets killed just about when the first allegations of Jerry Sandusky's abuse...

S-Sexual misconduct.

D-...was being, would have maybe gone onto Ray's radar.

S-To set an example to Ray. To send a message.

D-Well, so somebody comes up to Ray and says, "Hey, I heard your brother died. I'm really sorry about that. Yeah, it'd be a shame if, you know, somebody started prosecuting this case. It's pretty big, pretty high-profile. Yeah, it'd be a shame."

J-Hm. Yeah.

D-I don't buy it. I don't buy this at all. But this is something you will see on the internet a lot.

J-Here's the deal, is that if there were Penn State alumni and other heavies like that, they wouldn't be going after the DA. They would be actually having Sandusky murdered.

D-Or...

S-Yeah, the DA is the last guy that you try and strong arm.

J-Yeah.

D-Well, so the, that theory actually often gets tied in with Sandusky just ended up being the fall guy. This is a huge ring. Everybody and the higher ups in the Penn State athletic department are participating in this, blah blah blah. I don't buy any of that. I should, like, for the record, I do not buy any of that. But that's kind of where this theory ends up.

J-Uh huh.

D-Is that it's the alums weren't mad that this whole, like, abuse thing was happening. They were mad that somebody might prosecute it.

J-Yeah.

D-And that it was this huge ring, and they were trying to keep it under wraps.

S-Sandusky is a red herring.

D-Yeah, basically.

J-Hm.

D-In this theory.

S-Yes.

D-I don't buy it at all.

S-I personally feel these are red herrings to the Ray Gricar case.

D-I would agree with that, yeah.

J-I agree too, yeah.

D-But so that's how that theory tends to run. Another point to bring up is that, right, if somebody involved with the Sandusky case were trying to silence people, they wouldn't be silencing the DA, they'd be silencing witnesses. Which I know is a harsh thing to say, but they'd be going after the witnesses. They wouldn't be going after...

J-I think what they would have done is they would have paid Sandusky to retire.

D-Uh huh.

J-A lot easier than murdering people.

D-Yeah.

J-They would have paid him. They would have said, "Dude, you take your retirement. You move to the other side of the country. We don't ever want to hear from you again."

D-Yeah.

J-"Change your name."

D-Yeah.

J-"So if you get arrested, you know..."

D-Yeah, exactly.

J-Yeah, that's what they could have done. It would make more sense.

D-So, I totally, totally agree. But, we do have to talk about this because that's what, that's, like, the first thing that comes up to everybody.

S-Yeah.

J-Oh yeah.

S-So if we move away from the Sandusky angle...

D-Yeah, let's do it.

S-...then, then where is, what else is in the murder most foul category?

D-"The murder most foul" (laughing). I have one more thing about Sandusky, I'm sorry, before we move away.

S-Ok.

D-That people bring up as being kind of weird, is that there's literally no mention of Ray Gricar being involved with the Sandusky case in Gricar's stuff. So, like, the person who took over for him as DA had access to literally all his files, and didn't know that Gricar, or that Ray, sorry, had actually even been a part of Sandusky at all, except for when...

J-Yeah, there was nothing. There was no file on the case.

D-There was nothing in his files.

S-Well but, but he wasn't, he wasn't pursuing a case. It was at, it was with the police...

D-But he did a sting. But he did a sting.

S-But the police did it, and we have all that information from the police, because they were the one running it all.

J-But, I'm sure the DA's office would have had a file on it probably.

D-Yeah. So it is, it's a little weird, but also it's not really that weird.

J-Well, it's not that weird because, I mean, this is where the conspiracy theory maybe does make sense, because if there's embarrassing material about Sandusky in the DA's files, it's possible that somebody could have bribed somebody who worked in that office to remove the file and destroy it.

D-Yeah.

J-That's entirely possible.

D-Yeah. But then murder Ray? That seems silly.

J-Yeah. That, no. But, yeah. So.

S-Paper work gets misplaced and files accidentally get corrupted all the time.

J-Oh yeah.

D-Uh huh. Yeah, absolutely.

S-That's much more plausible to me than this DA, seven years later...

D-Well, it also would give a reason to have the hard drive be destroyed, right? If they thought, "Well, there's obviously copies of these on the hard drive, then we've got to destroy the hard drive as well."

J-Hm, maybe.

D-But again, I don't...(sighs).

S-Do you, can, do you want to talk about the hard drive for a second? Do you mind if we jump to that since we're talking about it?

D-Sure.

J-The hard drive? Ok.

S-Yeah.

D-We can talk about the hard drive.

S-The hard drive in that computer...

D-Uh huh.

S...is held in place by a single set screw.

D-Uh huh.

S-Have you ever seen a set screw in a laptop?

D-It's a set screw and a, like, a pull button.

S-No.

D-Yeah.

S-No, no, no. On the Micron it was a set screw. I looked at, again, I was pulling up the manuals.

D-Ok.

S- And it's a single set screw that holds the friggin' thing in. And those set screws are always teeny, tiny...

J-They are.

S-Like the size of something that's in your eyeglasses.

J-I think I see where you're going, is you're saying it might have just gotten knocked out accidentally?

S-It, ok, the whole thing goes in the water, and it begins to corrode, and that set screw is either A, not high quality, and it degrades enough that the thing just pops out, or B, it just comes loose. I mean, I've had computers where there was a screw that constantly was loosening itself.

J-Uh huh.

S-And I had to tighten it back up. So when you're talking about somebody was pulling the hard drive to do all this stuff, I don't think it's nearly as nefarious as that. I just think that it was a crappy screw that easily came out.

J-Well, here's why I don't think that, and that is if that fell out on impact with the water, then it wouldn't have been found on the river bank. I don't see how, I mean, hard drives are not positively buoyant.

S-Neither are computers.

J-Yeah.

S-But the computer was found near the bank. I mean, it can wash up.

J-I...

S-Hydraulic action pushes things.

J-It'll push things, but...

S-I'm not disagreeing that, I don't think it fell out immediately, but I think it came out and got caught in a current at some point.

J-Yeah.

S-But this crap happens, and I don't think that it was, you know, I don't think that it's this amazingly secured, welded in place hard drive. Like, it's easy to remove.

J-No, it's not, but it's negatively buoyant, and it's not going to float up onto the bank, which is where it was discovered.

S-No, but if there's current, the current is going to shove things around that are on the bottom.

J-It will.

S-That's why rocks that are in the middle of the river end up on the bank.

J-Uh huh. Well, probably. I think more likely it's just going to flow down stream, but, you know. I think probably somebody just pitched them over the side of the bridge, you know, and God knows when. It could have been at any time. It could have been months after the murder.

S-Yeah.

J-Or the disappearance, I should say.

D-Uh huh. Joe thinks it's a murder.

S-Well, we're in the murder theory, so it's ok.

D-Yeah.

S-It's ok to call it murder for the moment.

J-Yeah.

S-In five minutes you can't say it.

J-Yeah, ok.

D-So just one quick thing before we let Joe loose on this case (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-The other thing I guess is when the initial report was released by the police, they said that one call, one inbound call was made to Ray's cell phone on the day of his disappearance. And then Patty started talking and saying, "Well I was calling his cell phone all night."

S-And it was going to voice mail.

D-It was going to voice mail, but they were inbound calls.

J-That's a good question. I don't know the answer to this, but if your phone is shut off, and his was.

D-Uh huh.

J-And it goes straight to voice mail, does that actually get logged in as a call? It doesn't, does it?

D-No.

S-No.

J-Ok.

D-But so, eventually, somehow, and I'm not totally clear how, somebody gets a hold of the phone records and says, "Uh, no actually. There's a lot of calls, in and out both, on the day that Ray disappeared, to the number." And so the police edit their report to say, "Ok, well fine. All the calls were routine on that day." That's a little weird.

S-What is the phrase, the term "routine" mean?

D-That's a good question.

S-Ok.

D-Yeah.

J-Kind of hard to tell from records, huh?

D-Yeah. It's really hard to tell from records. I think, probably, what it means is that none of the numbers stood out as odd. They were all numbers that would have normally been contacted either way from his

cell phone.

S-Ok.

D-That would be what I, how I would assume that meant. How I assume that meant?

S-What that meant.

D-What I assume that meant, yeah. And then there are a lot of people out there saying that because this was a county owned cell phone the phone records should be a matter of public record, so why don't we see those? And that's not such a big deal for me, but the fact that the police initially said there was only one call, that's a little suspicious, I guess. A little. Just a tiny bit.

J-Uh, they withhold a lot of information though, in cases like this.

D-Often they do, yeah.

S-Yeah. I'm not going to point a finger about that.

D-So Joe's got some stuff about the murder.

J-Not necessarily, but I just, you know, the search strings, and you know, as I said earlier, they set off my BS detector.

D-Uh huh.

J-In a large way. Especially the one about water and electronics. And it occurs to me they didn't have to necessarily be entered by Ray, cause the guy, assuming he was abducted and murdered.

D-Yeah.

J-Which I think he probably was.

D-Yeah.

S-I would agree with this.

J-And...

S-I'm actually on board with that.

D-I, yeah.

J-And these people would have his driver's license with his address on it, and they would have his house keys, and maybe there was something they wanted. I'm not even sure that he would have had his laptop with him in that car.

D-Well, that's actually a big point of contention.



J-It is, it is. And so they might have actually driven to his home and, you know, made sure that Patty wasn't home, gone inside, found the laptop which maybe they wanted for one reason or another because maybe of the information that was on it. And then just for good measure they entered a few search strings as kind of a red herring. And then, you know, went on their way. You know, it may well be that Ray didn't do any of that searching from his computer.

D-That's true, although I guess, and maybe this is misplaced faith, but I would assume that whoever found those search terms would have been a computer expert.

J-Uh huh.

D-And would have said, "Hey, that's weird. These search terms were entered at nine pm."

J-Uh huh.

S-"When Patty was at the gym." Or something.

D-Right. Don't, I mean, don't you think that that would be something they would have, and I agree, I totally agree with you that, like, the fact that nobody ever says, "This is when the search terms were made."

J-Uh huh, well...

D-I agree, that's weird.

J-And they might not have actually considered it important to mark the exact date and time that the searches were made. That the searches themselves were really more important.

S-I don't know that when you're doing that kind of forensic analysis what you consider important comes into play. I think there's a process.

D-Yeah.

S-And you, you go by the numbers.

J-Uh huh.

S-"This, this, this, and this are what I log in about every detail."

J-Yeah.

S-Not, "Eh, I don't think that's important, so I'm not going to write it down." So I don't think that's the way it works.

J-I don't really know that they had an actually forensic computer expert do this. It might have just been a detective who did it.

S and D-That's true.

J-Yeah. And so you just...

S-No, I can't argue with that.

J-There has been a certain amount of criticism of the investigation.

D-Yeah. Although I don't think, I mean, I think they did everything they probably could have.

J-They probably did. And there's nothing wrong with having a detective go looking for search strings.

D-Right.

J-And maybe at that time it really couldn't be understood. They were just looking to see what he was up to on his computer.

D-Yeah.

J-They didn't really care about the precise time and date that he did it on.

D-Right, yeah, exactly.

J-And that's why the search string, you know, "what does water do to a laptop?" kind of sets off bells for me.

S-Well, but he may wonder, "Ok, does that just fry the system, or does that actually erase the hard drive?" is what I was getting at earlier.

J-Could have been.

D-Yeah.

S-I personally, I think that he's in a shallow grave somewhere and I think that it just has something to do with a prior case.

J-Probably.

S-And a crime of opportunity.

J-Yeah, probably.

S-Somebody went, "That a-hole right there put me away for seven years."

J-Yeah.

S-"I'm getting my revenge."

J-Right, exactly. And so this is, this is why he was on Route 192, which you've looked at on Google Maps, I'm sure.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah. It's a nice long drive through the woods. Lots of side roads. Lots of places to pull off, go down a side road and pull the shovel out of the back of your red Cooper Mini [sic], and dig a hole and bury your hard drive. No need to throw it in the river right next to where you parked your car.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah. And that makes absolutely no sense that he did that.

D-Yeah.

J-And it makes every amount of sense to me that whoever did the deed would plant that evidence there. And so I'm not totally, it's not totally beyond the realm of possibility that somebody planted those search strings too.

D-Yeah. That's fair.

J-Yeah. So anyway, that's my two bits.

D-Ok, so next theory is suicide. I don't give this one a lot of credence.

S-Most people don't.

D-No. I mean, the one thing that I will admit kind of lends credence to this theory is the fact that he was unusually tired and kind of grumpy and depressed. I mean, I think he was probably depressed.

J-Yeah, there was, I read, you read the same thing, I know, by one of his coworkers who worked with him for 20 years who said he was in a strange mood that week.

D-Yeah, he had been in a strange mood. His long-time girlfriend Patty said that he was so tired that he, that she told him that if he continued to be that tired that he needed to go to the doctor. You know, he just seemed generally lethargic and kind of be displaying the symptoms of somebody who would be depressed. But I don't, I just don't, I don't buy it. I don't buy it.

J-Yeah. Because, well he, seeing the effect of his brother's suicide on everybody around him.

S-That's a big deterrent.

J-Yeah. And so you see that, and it's like, you know, do I want to be this big of a flaming jerk to the people around me?

D-Yeah, probably not.

J-Yeah. Probably not. He didn't strike me as that kind of guy.

D-Yeah. And then also to do it, like, almost exactly like your brother did. That's, that to me is really, like, a big one. Like, even if you were going to kill yourself, and your brother had killed himself before, why would you make it look so similar to his suicide?

J-Although, if you were, you know, wanting to murder him, on the other hand, and you were aware of the details of his brother's suicide...

D-You might just mirror that?

J-You might just do that.

D-Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

S-There's an issue with the suicide theory.

D-Ok, what's that?

S-The water level.

J-That's true. It was pretty low, wasn't it?

D-Yeah.

S-Well, there's conflicting...

D-Well, let's talk about, let's just, I'm going to pose a new theory and then we can talk about that.

S-Ok, yeah, no. I'll hold, I'll back off on that.

D-A theory that I never really see, which is fair because I think that there are a lot of issues with it. But also, I guess it's possible that he was trying to dispose of the computer, albeit in a dumb way.

J-Hm.

D-Right? By throwing it over a bridge.

S-Is this the "Whoops!" theory?

D-It is the "Whoops!" theory.

J-Ah, so, I haven't actually looked too close at that bridge. Are there sidewalks on that bridge?

D-There are, yeah. There are sidewalks and a low railing across the bridge. And it's, I mean, it's not that tall of a bridge or anything like that, but you know, I guess it is possible that he was trying to dispose of his computer in a dumb way, again, and just fell in.

J-Uh huh.

D-Which again, I don't think is a very good theory, but it's possible. And I don't see people talking about that as a thing. People say, "Well, he would have intentionally jumped." But nobody says, "What if he just accidentally fell?"

J-Well, it seems kind of unlikely.

D-It seems unlikely (Joe laughing).

S-It's right up, well, that's the same thing we talked about this when we were talking about the luchador story.

D-Yeah, exactly. It's super unlikely. And actually, there's some comparisons with the luchador story, in that half the reporting that you'll hear, says that the river at that time was, like, really low. Like below waist-level low. And the bridge is pretty low. It's not really high.

J-I'm finding it, I don't, you know, April 15<sup>th</sup>?

D-Ok.

J-I mean, around here on April 15<sup>th</sup> the rivers are high.

D-Yeah. And so according to the nephew on "Dateline," which I guess we are going to say is a pretty credible source.

J-I guess he would know, yeah.

D-The water was "unseasonably" high.

S-"Dateline," not the nephew.

D-Due to rain and ice melt. But again, on the other hand.

S-It's April in Pennsylvania. It's cold.

D-It's cold. And apparently the Susquehanna River is full of islands and fast rapids, places where brush pile up fast, get packed in, that could easily hide a body. There's also a dam pretty far down the river.

S-Oh, this is, you're pulling this quote from the police chief.

D-Yeah.

S-I remember this, yeah.

D-Yeah.

S-Yeah, cause he really cringed when he made the phrase, "and disintegrate a body."

D-Uh huh.

J-It's possible, I guess.

D-But also there's a dam that apparently a body could get kind of wedged up against. Although again, on the other hand, another police officer interviewed in the same news story says that the water was crystal clear and you could literally see to the bottom. And it's pretty much just a flat rock with some silt, but not a very thick layer of silty mud stuff on top of it.

S-Uh huh.

D-So, I get, you know, it's just kind of like all these stories are conflicting, and there's no way for me to know definitively what the river looked like on that day. So I don't think he probably could have died falling off the bridge, to be honest.

J-Uh huh.

D-I think he, I don't think that that happened. Suicide or otherwise, I don't think that he died by falling in the river.

J-Yeah. Well, suicide too probably, going back to suicide, I should say, if he had committed suicide, I don't think they would have found the laptop there.

D-Exactly.

J-Yeah.

D-And, and in addition to that, you know, maybe he was depressed, and certainly mental illness and depression and things like that take all sorts of different forms, but at least on paper, he had a pretty good life. He was about to retire.

S-Yeah.

D-He had a lot of money.

S-He had it good.

D-He had, he was planning on traveling.

J-Yeah.

D-He had a love...

J-A big ol' fat pension coming to him.

D-Yeah. I mean, there's, there was a lot of stuff going for him, and frankly, this is kind of going into the next theory, but if he, if he wanted, if he was so inclined to escape his life in one way or another, it would have been pretty easy for him to do so.

S-Oh, this is the Dorothy Arnold theory?

D-The Dorothy Arnold theory.

J-Yeah, he ran off to join the circus.

D-Yeah. So the next theory is that he ran away for a new life, which is pretty unlikely.

J-Yeah. I'd called the circus, by the way.

D-Did you?

J-They haven't seen him.

D-They said no?

J-They said no.

D-Of course they did.

J-"He's not here." (Laughing).

D-They would say that, though.

J-Yeah.

S-Wait, did you talk to the bearded lady or the wolfman? Cause the wolfman's a liar.

J-Oh. No, no, I talked to, I talked to the Siamese twins.

D-Oh, ok.

S-Oh, yeah, those two.

J-Yeah, yeah.

S-They check their information against each other all the time, so.

D-They do, they really do. Yeah. Um, ok, well, so I'm going to present this in a, in a series of "but then..."

S-Oh boy.

D-Yeah. Start, ran away to start a new life is really unlikely, but then there's the dark-haired smoking woman.

S-Everybody likes the dark-haired smoking woman.

D-Yeah, that's true.

J-I like smoking women.

D-So Ray...

J-Smoking hot women!

D-Yeah. According to a lot of credible sightings, Ray was seen with a woman with dark hair who was smoking. Now, a lot of reports have them eating lunch together, but it turns out, no, no, that was a different middle-aged man who drove a Mini Cooper who was hanging out with a woman who had

dark hair...

S-There was a second red Mini running around town.

D-Yeah. Who looked kind of like Ray, who also was hanging out with a woman who matched vaguely the description of the woman who was seen with Ray. That adds some interesting complicated stuff to it. However, later in the day in the antiques shop, in the antique mall, there was a dark-haired woman who was smoking who was seen with Ray. Apparently would kind of walk together and talk, and then go into different stores, and then come back together and walk and talk. And she was smoking, so was she in Ray's car? Hard to tell.

J-Uh huh.

D-Ok. So, that's a point. It's unlikely that he ran away to start a new life, but what's up with the fact that his daughter literally just asked him to come back on the first press conference?

J-Uh huh.

D-Dun dun dun.

S-Well...

D-She just said, "Dad, I love you. Come back."

J-And that was, what date was that?

D-It was like, two days later, three days later, maybe.

S-Well, that's, I mean, that's...

J-Well, he had been known to just take off.

S-Yeah, I was going to say, that makes total sense.

D-Shh, shh, shh, we'll talk about that in a minute.

S-(Sighing)

D-Ok, it's unlikely...

S-Why does she set this up and then do this to us every time? (Devin laughing)

J-I know.

D-It's unlikely that he left to start a new life, but what's up with his fascination with Mel Wiley? This is true. He had apparently a really deep fascination with this guy named Mel Wiley, who was the Hinckley County, Ohio sheriff who disappeared with a whole lot of, like, really similar coincidences, like he parked his car with all of his belongings inside near a body of water, with no signs of foul play, and told his girlfriend he was going to do something, and then disappeared forever.



J-Uh huh.

S-Cause dudes don't ever tell their girlfriends they're going to go do one thing and then go do another.

D-He said he was going to go buy swim trunks, like, why is that the thing though?

S-First thing that pops into your mind.

D-Yeah, maybe.

J-What, how do we know he was that fascinated with Mel Wiley?

S-Cause he talked for years...

D-Cause he talked about it all the time.

J-Oh.

S-It was, it was kind of his go to.

J-It was his favorite unsolved mystery.

S-It was his go to story, yeah. It's kind of like you've got a couple of them that you will just, if we are sitting down and having a beer, you will bring up the Island of Dolls...

D-(Coughing) Joyita. Joyita. (Steve laughing).

J-The Joyita, Joyita.

D-I'm sorry, I have a cough there.

S-And we're talking about the Joyita again. But it may have been his go to thing, is what it sounds like.

D-Yeah.

J-Well, here's the deal, guys. Since he's out there, you know, living under an assumed name, we've got to cover this mystery.

D-On the Joyita, obviously.

J-Yeah, we got to cover this mystery. Mel Wiley.

D-So, it's super unlikely that he ran away to start a new life. Except for that, as you guys mentioned, he had actually run away before.

J-Well, not for more than about a day.

D-It was a day, fair. But...

S-That was reported.

D-When he was married to his second wife, Emma, they had a fight because she bought some gaudy furniture that he was not super stoked on.

J-Uh huh.

S-Understandable.

D-So he just got in the car and drove to Ohio, from Pennsylvania, to go see an Indians game.

S-Yeah.

J-Yeah.

D-And apparently that was, like, one of the first things the cops did...

S-Was go and look for him...

D-They called, they called down and said, "Does anybody matching, did Ray Gricar, did he, is he there?" And they said no. And they said, "Aw, crap."

S-So, here's the thing, is that I don't see anything weird about this, because if their relationship was as it has been described, he may have been so hot under the collar that his first instinct was, "I need to leave."

J-This is Emma you're talking about?

S-Yes.

D-Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

S-"I need to leave."

D and J-Yeah.

S-But this is why it doesn't bother me that he has disappeared before. That was a very different relationship and he, while it was reported that he did it once, he may have actually done it several times in the past, when he was so furious, "I gotta go." So that's, that's why his daughter making the plea. She's like, "Damn it, Dad. You get mad and you go hang out at the Red Lion for three days, and you won't talk to us. You jerk. Just call me."

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah, yeah.

S-That's the way I take her statement.

J-Yeah, I think so too, at that point. But as far as the, the mysterious dark-haired woman, the possibility

that, you know, maybe he had taken up with somebody new and he wanted to run off and live with her. But she could have been something else. She might have been bait.

D-Yeah, that's one of the things that really sticks out to me.

J-Yeah, yeah. I think she was bait more than, more likely than anything else. She never came forward.

D-Yeah.

J-You notice that? I mean, there could have been an embarrassment factor if she maybe was screwing around with Ray behind everybody's back.

D-Uh huh.

J-But, I think...

S-He was considered a ladies man.

J-Yeah.

D-He was. But here's the thing, is he wasn't married.

J-Yeah.

D-Right? I mean, like, it would have been fairly easy for him to just walk away from the relationship he was in. He was about to retire. He wouldn't be working with Patty anymore. And she even says, like, point blank, "If he didn't want to be with me anymore, he wouldn't have been with me. I know that."

J-Yeah, he would have just ditched her.

D-So, yeah. So I do agree it's possible that this woman was bait. I mean, kind of the interactions that people describe between the two of them, where they would just suddenly find each other again in the crowd, makes it sound like...

S-It's rom-comesque.

D-It is a little bit. It's a little bit like she was trying really hard to establish a rapport with him. Or him with her, which is fair, right? If he was a ladies man, and he just wanted to flirt with her...

J-Cause yeah, he was kind of into girls, yeah.

D-Which is fine. But one of them, or both of them were trying to establish that rapport.

J-Uh huh.

D-In that moment.

J-I think so.

D-I would think.

J-And I think what happened is she said, "You know, what I do, is I'm an antiques dealer. I sell to a lot of these people. If you want to come out and look in my van, I've got some great stuff. And it's going to be so much cheaper, cause they're going to mark it up a hundred percent." (D and S laughing).

D-Uh huh.

J-"And you'll save so much money. So just come out to my van and have a look see."

S-Well, you know, if we're going to pull the card that Devin did, which is what's the theory that hasn't been ever put out there, and I know that this will actually play into the next theory, is what if he was bait for her?

J-Uh huh.

S-In other words, he may have been involved in something, trying to pull somebody forward and extract information...

D-Yeah.

S-In some other kind of operation that nobody knew about, who's talking, and the whole thing went sideways.

D-So, ha ha.

J-How could it have gone sideways, though?

D-Sideways. Can we say again, sideways?

S-Sideways.

D-Sideways, yeah.

J-All right.

S-Thinking sideways.

D-We're doing it. The next theory that Steve was just referencing which his thing fits in nicely with, I guess, is...

S-(Whispering) I set that up.

D-(Whispering) Yeah, it's crazy. It's like we have a script or something.

S-Shh.

D-(Whispering) Thanks for doing that for me. (Normal tone) Uh, the next theory...

S-(Whispering) You have a misspelling in the script.

D-(Sighs) The next theory that Steve's most recent thing matches pretty well into is that it's possible, I guess, that Ray is in witness protection. I think this is a solid five out of seven.

S-Stars?

J-Five stars?

D-Just, it's a five out of seven. It's perfect.

J-Ok.

S-Don't know what that means. Ok.

D-Uh huh. Ok so, here's why this works. Every time somebody requests any documents relating to this case from the FBI or the local law enforcement, it is *heavily* redacted. And they always say, "Well, he was a DA so, like, we're redacting names and things like that." But apparently, almost all of the documents that you request, either you never hear back about, like Joe not getting calls back. Or it's just, like, super, super redacted. I didn't request any of the documents so, like, I don't actually know that for a fact. And Steve's shaking his head like he apparently requested documents and got them from the FBI and they weren't redacted at all. It was like, not a black mark on it, but...

J-I've never seen any FBI document without a black mark on it.

D-Nor have I (Joe laughing).

S-I, if, Deadspin did several years back, did an FOI, Freedom of Information request for docs on Gricar...

J-That had some redactions.

S-And it's redacted in the most generic form of being redacted. Social security numbers, agent's names, like, all of the normal things that would be redacted. It's the most boring seventy page PDF I've ever read through.

J-Yeah, you know I read it too, I really would have liked it if somebody had given me a heads up that none of it had anything to do with the investigation into the 2005 disappearance (Steve laughing).

D-Uh huh.

S-It's just 1986 paperwork for after he was elected.

J-Yeah. And eventually I was reading and reading, and I started spinning through it and stopping and looking at the date. Oh, '86. Spin, spin spin, oh, still '86. Yeah, I mean, that's all it was.

D-Yeah.

J-But here's the thing. I'm sure you guys saw this. They checked with the CIA. They did a name check

with the CIA, and there was a redaction on that.

S-Three names.

J-Yeah.

S-Three poss....oh yeah, the redaction is in versions of his name that could be used.

J-Yeah. But the thing about it is, is as you know, the internet went bonkers when they saw that (all laughing).

D-Yeah, they did.

J-They went nuts.

D-Bonkers.

J-Uh yeah.

D-Bonkers is exactly the word.

S-Cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs.

D-Yeah. So ok, but it's redacted, Steve. It's really redacted. Just let me get through this thing, ok?

S-(mumbling).

D-Let me get through this thing!

J-I know what you're saying though. Oh no, actually, go ahead.

D-Do you know what I'm saying (laughing).

J-Yeah. Well, I think these documents were so heavily redacted because they had to put on the appearance of investigating this assiduously.

D-Yeah, ok, exactly. I mean, that's the thing. It's the on the one hand, on the other hand. Right? On the one hand, if he were in witness protection, why all this public search? Why this, all this money? Why this extensive thing? But on the other hand, if they didn't look for him, it'd look suspicious, and like they were hiding something, so they had to put this on.

J-And that's what you do...

S-An eye roll. I would insert an eye roll.

D-I wish you could see the face I just made.

J-But that's the thing about it is, and there's an easy way to do that. You have random word generators, and then you print them out, and then you have some administrative assistant just redact about, you

know, about two-thirds of it. And it's going to be unintelligible, but it's perfect, you know? So people will think, because you have massive files on Ray, that you've actually been working hard at it, but you've actually been not wasting any resources at all.

D-Well, it's hard when his, like, computer shows up.

J-Uh huh, yeah (laughing).

D-Right? When his computer shows up and they go, "Aw, crap!"

J-Yeah.

D-"I thought we'd disposed of that really well in the river."

J-Yeah, I know.

D-Yeah. The other thing that people say, you'll see this said, is "But Ray wouldn't have been eligible for witness protection because he was a public prosecutor and prosecutors, by definition, cannot be witnesses, so they are not eligible for witness protection." Which is just bunk...

J-That's what I thought too. Is that not true?

D-No, it is true, ok. So the way, I actually consulted one of our experts on this, and he confirmed exactly what I was thinking. His name is Stephen. Thanks Stephen.

S-You're welcome.

D-Not you, shut up. But what he was, what he said is exactly what I was thinking. And that is that if, within the scope of your position as a public prosecutor, you see something, or find something out that pertains to the case, you are not a witness, you are a prosecutor.

J-Uh huh.

D-If, however, in your personal life you witness something, like a murder, and then that crazy human being starts to come after you...

J-Uh huh.

D-...you are a witness to that crime. You are not a prosecutor, and therefore you are eligible for witness protection.

S-Your job does not have an influence on your...

D-Life as a private citizen.

S-Correct.

D-However, typically, witness protection isn't this, like, Hollywood "we're just going to while you away for the rest of your life and give you a new life and everything's going to be fine." It's "we're

going to protect you until litigation's done, and then you're on your own.”

S-Yeah, it's not that Steve Martin movie.

D-No, it's not.

S-Blue...do you know the movie I'm talking about?

D-It's not...

J-No.

D-It's not “Lilyhammer.” Right? It's not, I mean it's not any of those things. You go away for a little while...

S-”My Blue Heaven.”

J-Uh huh.

D-You stay safe until that person has been prosecuted and the threat has dissolved, and then they return you to your life.

J-Besides which, you know, exactly what heinous crimes happened in Lewisburg on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>?

D-Well, it's not necessarily that that would have been when he witnessed the crime.

S-That's when they evaporated him.

J-Uh huh.

D-But that's when they, you know, that was the time, yeah, exactly. When they evaporated him. When the aliens came for him.

J-Yeah. I see.

D-If you will.

S-By the way, where are the aliens in our theories?

D-They're not.

S-Chupie?

D-No. I mean, I just did Phobos. I don't know what you want from me (laughing).

J-I don't know.

S-I want those two in every story.



D-Ok, well, my next theory is that it was the alien chupacabras...

J-Yeah. It was an alien chupacabra.

D-...who needed a new sitting judge (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-To judge their cases of intergalactic justice.

S-The only thing that could make this more like you're an eight-year-old girl making this up is...

D-Also there were unicorns.

S-...is if you, if you started twirling your hair, because the look on your face (laughing).

D-(Little girl voice) Also there were unicorns, and they were flying on ships that were sunshine and rainbows (Steve laughing).

S-You have one last thing here. What is this.

J-I have another theory, actually.

D-Yeah, let's talk about that theory, cause that last thing we already talked about.

J-Yeah.

S-Oh, thank goodness. Ok.

J-I mean, this just seems so obvious to me. It was the IRS. (Steve laughing). It was April 15<sup>th</sup>, for God's sake.

D-Yeah, they were coming after him for taxes.

J-Well, every April 15<sup>th</sup>, they, they make an example out of one taxpayer.

D-One taxpayer.

J-They do, yeah. They do.

D-But usually they, they like, advertise that, though. Usually they're like, "You remember what happened to Ray over here?"

J-Yeah, they parade your head on a pike.

D-"It could happen to you."

J-Yeah, I know (Steve laughing).

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah.

S-It's on the front page of their website all day long (laughing).

D-Yeah, it is.

J-Yeah.

S-”Don't miss the deadline.”

D-Yeah. Ok, well, that's it. Do you have anything else you want to add?

S-I will be honest, I still believe that he was murdered.

J-I think so.

S-And I still say that he's in a shallow grave in some field somewhere because somebody had a crime of opportunity to get back at him.

J-Most likely. Most likely it was that.

D-Yeah.

J-It could have been a very well-planned thing where they, you know, they actually had a really good reason to do it, or it could have been a crime of opportunity.

D-Yeah. I mean, I guess though, like, the problem is, is like, why did he have his laptop with him. That's totally solved if he was coming from work, right? That's why I'm, I'm happy to believe the colleagues who say he played hooky for half a day, he was coming from work, he happened to have it with him. You don't just leave that in your car.

S-But you do when you forget about it. My wife has done this before. She has come home and it has been Saturday at three o'clock, and all of a sudden she'll look at me and go, “Oh hell, my company laptop is in the car.”

D-Right. But I'm just saying that would explain why he would have had it on him when he disappeared, but you're probably right. Actually, probably somebody came to his car and took a bunch of stuff and tossed it, cause that's why it smelled like smoke.

J-Uh huh.

D-Right?

J-Probably.

D-Cause they were smoking while...

S-Cause what do you do after you knock somebody off? You have a drag.

D-Yeah. So but, I mean, but that's why I'm inclined to believe that he was, that he knocked off for half a day instead of taking the whole day off, cause it was, it was unusual for him to have his computer with him.

J-Uh huh.

D-There would have been no reason for him to have it with him.

J-No, there's wasn't.

D-Even in the car.

J-There wouldn't have been. But, you know, I don't know. I mean, again, I've heard, I've heard it both ways too. He took the whole day off. He took half the day off.

D-Yeah.

J-And I don't know.

D-If he took half the day, it makes sense that he'd have his laptop, his computer, and that's resolved.

J-Yeah. But yeah, I think he got knocked off. I mean, there's just no reason to believe he committed suicide.

D-I agree.

J-Or just disappeared.

D-Yeah.

J-Ran away to join the circus.

D-In my, my heart of hearts, I hope that he's, like, in witness protection or, like, ran off to have a new life, but I think he...

J-It seems unlikely.

D-...probably is in just a shallow grave.

J-Eleven years? Yeah, no, I don't think so. To bad.

D-Yeah, unfortunately.

S-He and Steve Martin and, what was the other guy in that movie? Martin Short?

J-I never saw that movie.

S-"My Blue Heaven?"

J-Yeah, I never saw that one.

S-Oh, it was hilarious. They sent him to a town that was full of ex-cons who were all in witness protection, and they all knew each other, and they were running rackets (Joe laughing). It was the funniest movie ever. And of course it was, you know, mid-90s garbage, but...

J-Uh huh.

D-There you go.

S-...Steve Martin. So.

D-Yeah.

S-So.

D-So, yeah, I guess if you want to see some of the research that we did.

S-Watch "My Blue Heaven."

J-Yeah, there you go.

D-Don't watch "My Blue Heaven." That's not research. You can find that information on our website. The website is thinking sideways podcast dot com. You can also stream and download the episodes off the website?

S-Yep. Yeah, we replaced the player.

D-I'm saying that with a question. We replaced the player, so you should be able to do that. You cannot comment, but that's ok.

J-Yeah, sorry about that, but.

D-You can find merch, links to the merch on the website. They're on the left-hand side, right-hand side, sorry. Along with links to Paypal and Patreon. Those are both donation sites. If you want to do a one time donation, we recommend Paypal. If you want to do reoccurring, we recommend Patreon. Just remember Patreon is reoccurring, so it's, like, four times a month you make that donation. Which we love.

S-Thank you, by the way.

D-It's super helpful to us, yeah.

J-Thank you all. Yeah, many people have done that.

S-We haven't said it in a couple of episodes, but thank you so much.

D-Thank you so much.

J-Yeah. Really. Thanks.

D-You are probably listening to us on iTunes. If you are and you have not already subscribed, given us a review, and a rating, do so, please, if you liked us. Even if you didn't like us, you can still give us a rating. Make it a good one, though.

J-Yeah, yeah. Five stars.

D-Yeah. Five stars. That's the only thing we accept.

S-Show, show your dislike of us by giving us five stars.

J-Uh huh.

D-Yeah. It's actually opposite for you guys.

S-Opposite (laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-Yeah, it's opposite day for you guys, yeah. If you're streaming us on whatever, we're on all of them. If you can comment and rate there, do so there as well. That's how you help other people find us. We're on Facebook. We have the group and the page, so you can like us and join the group. Lots of good discussion happening there.

S-Uh huh.

D-We're on Twitter. We're thinkin sideways. I just post a lot of random stuff. Very rarely about the show or anything like that.

S-Yeah, anymore. The closest relation to the show is, "Here's something that sort of once had Devin's face in it, and now is just completely filtered."

D-Yeah. It's really fun (Steve laughing). No, but I mean, like, we have people who will tweet and ask questions or say things or suggest or whatever. That's great. I, you know, I love, that's how I mostly interact with people.

S-Uh huh.

D-You guys are more on the Facebook.

S-I'm on the Facebook a lot.

D-I'm more on the Twitter. But we also have a subreddit as well, which I interact with people on.

S-Uh huh.

D-And that is just, it's just thinking sideways. Thinking sideways pod, that one is not us.

J-Yeah, what's going on in the subreddit these days, by the way? I've not been out there in a while.

D-Lots of discussion. There's an episode discussion for every episode, and lots of links. People post the things that they think we might find interesting, which is kind of cool.

S-Uh huh, yeah.

J-I need to go out there and look at that.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah.

D-We also have an email address if you want to talk to us, if you want to suggest something, if you want to be an expert.

S-Yeah, if you come across something, you can send it to us as a story suggestion.

D-Yeah. Or, if you just want to chat with us, that's cool too.

J-Yeah.

D-That email address is, of course, thinking sideways podcast at gmail dot com. And I guess all of that having been said, I, I don't have a joke for the end of this one. I'm just going to say bye and talk to you guys next week.

J-Yeah. Vamonos.

S-Oh! Bye.

J-Yeah. Toots.