

## Amanda Knox

Hello Daddy Gang It is your father Alex Cooper Call her Daddy will be taking a brief break this week but we will be returning January 11th 2023 new Year with a brand new episode to kick it off Please enjoy this older favorite episode from Call Her Daddy In the meantime I hope you guys enjoy your holiday break I love you all I cannot wait for you to see who is kicking off the new year for Call her Daddy until then Enjoy what is up Daddy Gang It is your founding father Alex Cooper with Daddy Game Has anyone ever studied abroad Maybe you have hopes of studying abroad Maybe you are planning a trip to a new country with a few friends to study abroad Picture this you board a flight your junior year of college Excited to spend a semester in a picturesque Italian town You find a room in a beautiful hillside home You have three roommates who you enjoy spending time with and to top it all off you meet an Italian boy named Raffaelli who is head over heels for you It's a dream come true after a romantic evening With your new boyfriend you head home to shower and change But when you get there you discover the front door of your house is wide open something is wrong The police show up and when they kick down the door to your roommate's bedroom they find a body How would you act What would you say Police are everywhere yelling in Italian and you have absolutely no idea what is going on You are confused whose body is inside Are they dead Am I in danger Does anyone speak English The body inside is your murdered roommate MEREDITH Kercher And you are the prime suspect This is a true story This is Amanda Knox's story on November 2nd 2007 Amanda's roommate MEREDITH Kercher was found brutally murdered Amanda and MEREDITH were random roommates They were friends but had known each other for about six weeks But the media had their own story They wanted to spin Amanda Knox was a beautiful blue eyed normal college student from Seattle She could have been you She could have been any of us international tabloids exploited Amanda's good looks and manufactured a story that Amanda had murdered MEREDITH in a satanic sex game gone wrong This made no sense but it sold newspapers A man's semen was found inside MEREDITH Kercher's body His name was Rudy Gay All evidence pointed to Rudy but imagining Amanda and MEREDITH involved in a sex ritual gone wrong appealed more to the media and police And despite the fact that this made no sense this is a story they told and the story you probably know headlines plastered across the world sex crazed fem fatal she

devil Foxy Knox They used Amanda's Myspace soccer nickname to sexualize and vilify her daddy gang She could have been you She could have been me 14 years later Amanda is still trying to clear her name and I'm honored to do my part to help her tell the true story of what happened in Italy Here is Amanda Knox Hi Hi I'm Alex Nice to meet you I'm so excited for you guys to be here Thank you Oh my God she's beautiful Thank you guys If you hear a baby I promise it's not Amanda and it's not me There is a baby in the room This is the first time I call her daddy that we have had someone below the age of like actually I thought this would be the perfect podcast to note that like my most recent episode of my podcast Labyrinth is Me giving birth and oh my God I don't know if you've ever heard audio of people giving birth but it sounds like I'm having the biggest orgasm ever The whole final act of the last episode is me just in labor And let me tell you going through hours of audio of me going oh God Oh God Oh God Oh my God Did you hold a microphone Up to your mouth or like who was holding the mic Mostly it was my husband Chris who was who was taking care of all of that while I was very distracted distracted you know just like giving birth to your beautiful new baby daddy gang I am sitting with Amanda Knox Thank you for we have Yes Amanda's husband and the surprise that Amanda brought her infant Eureka Muse Knox Robinson Yes Given the recognition surrounding Knox Did you ever consider leaving it out of Eureka's name I did And that it's funny like it's the whole question of like do I embrace my identity or do I not embrace my identity And I I kind of I've always been a bit stubborn about this where it's like there's nothing wrong with me like the world has sort of acted like there was something wrong with me something wrong with my sexuality above all And that is that's not my problem Like I'm pushing back and I'm trying to say no it's not my fault There's nothing wrong with me And therefore my daughter can embrace the fact that I'm her mom even while I'm like trying to protect her from all these forces that are ultimately beyond my control but I can manage Did you ever at any point consider changing your name No in the same way that I never remotely considered taking a plea deal because I didn't fucking do it And so no the story of your life is unbelievable But let's start at the beginning According to the New York Times your friends and your family described young Amanda as naive goofy unconventional harmless trusting sheltered blunt and a little bit of a rebel Did they get it Right Yeah that sounds about right Musical theater freak yoga lover Someone who didn't have a ton of experience in the world someone who didn't have a ton of experience sexually I was like I was

pretty sheltered growing up I was very well Meaning I tried well in school I tried to I tried to appease people but at the same time I had this like streak of no I don't have like a pretty girl Doesn't have to look like that She can look like this Like I had this sort of like perfectly stereotypically Seattle which is like Birkenstock granola people And how many siblings do you have I have three younger sisters and then your parents divorced when you were younger when I so I have no memory of my my actual dad and my actual mom being married but I grew up with being a part of their separate households and they you know we lived within blocks of my dad So like I was back and forth between my mom and dad's house all the time What was your most serious relationship in high school So I didn't really have a relationship That's ok I was a late bloomer No that's ok When did you lose your virginity in college So you went to college Close to your hometown You went to University of Washington What made you want to study abroad Your junior year of college So my mom actually grew up like she was born and grew up for a certain amount of time in Germany And I have um so I have a kind of international family Like I have aunts who live in Germany right now Um So I was thinking I wanted to have an international experience Actually my my really wanted me to go study abroad in high school She wanted me to go live in Germany in high school And I think my mom was not quite ready to let me go So instead it was like everyone acknowledged and accepted that this was a part of like our family experience even because we didn't just grow up in one small town in America Like my mom grew up she's an army brat baby Got it So I was like Germany Texas Um And so I was studying languages in college I was studying German I was studying Italian and because I was actually better at German I decided that I want to study in Italy And really like what ultimately like decided it is I I applied for programs in both countries and I got accepted to Italy's first So that ultimately is what brought me to Italy that and the fact that I didn't know Italian as well as I knew German Do you think about that a lot Um and that part of it No the thing that really haunts me the thing that haunts me the most is what if I had never met Raphaele who was my boyfriend of five days before I was arrested If I hadn't met him I would have been home the night that MEREDITH was murdered and I could have been murdered as well So that's the thing that haunts me in my brain and beyond the fact that like you know one of the things I really love about this podcast in general is I think it's so so important to talk about these like intimate parts of our lives and the intimate parts of my life were first of all like blown way out of proportion and then used to utterly vilify me

And so that aspect of it like I don't even know where to like pin that down Where does that impulse come from to like take a a young woman's sexuality and turn her into a monster for it Like that's the other part of it that I'm like hm because I do want to get into that because it's um yes I felt sick for you watching them slut and ming you equated to somehow you murdered someone and it like the spiral effect and we're going to get to it But it was it's shocking and I I can't imagine living it And so I'm just happy you're here today on youtube Like it's incredible So for someone who has never been to Perugia Italy can you paint the picture of the town you were living in when you got there Ok So in some ways it's like this totally idyllic Italian like hillside town with its like beautiful church and it's one main street and it's like flea market on Sunday and like you know tons of people just like being super Italian and having like great shoes and like it's like a beautiful beautiful place These hole in the wall like pubs and cafes that are just so beautiful in the sunshine It was like so fucking gorgeous And the cottage that I was living in was like right on top of the hillside overlooking the valley There were like fig trees in my garden Like it was ridiculously beautiful It was like the perfect everyone that envisions going abroad everyone that's listening You're like I want to go abroad for my junior my sophomore my freshman year like that is like the ideal Like you're like whoa I made it And how did you even get that house So I went to I visited Peru shortly before I like moved in um and I was like you know traing around getting my bearings of like oh where's the university I'm going to be studying in and trying to get a sense of the space And when I was like out front at the university just kind of like oh look here's the university I'm going to a woman was putting up a flyer for a room to rent And I was like oh is that nearby And she was like yeah you want to go check it out And I was like yeah And so I just wandered over there again Like K met like oh perfect Great Yeah we can have like I had coffee with them We ate some figs from the garden We were like oh yeah let's do it And we just made it like it was there it was done It was right like two steps away from the university It was perfect Too perfect too perfect What was the biggest if any culture shock moment you remember having after getting off the plane and getting to Italy I was not used to this world of really really aggressive Italian men Honestly I was expecting to come into a space and it being very like under the Tuscan sun kind of romantic feeling Um and instead what I encountered was a lot of like really really pushy Um If not like I had this one moment where a guy offered to give me a ride home from a bar and I was like oh ok thank goodness because it's dark out You

have a little vespa like you can just drop me off at my house and he was like yeah I'd love to do that And so he drove right past my house went right to his house and I was like um no can we go back there And he was like no no just a minute in my house and like brought me and like brought me and I got to his house and I was like no no I don't want to be here and he was like no no just come inside and meet my friends for a bit and like brought me into his apartment and I was like no no I really need to go and I didn't even know where I was at this point I was like in the middle of fricking nowhere and I was like I need you to take me home and he was like just come to my bedroom for a little bit So I like I sat there on his bed glaring at him being like take me home and he was like just a minute just a minute come down you want a beer And I'm like no that was a moment where I was like ok this is different than what I'm used to Do you feel like because you saying that honestly like do you feel like you were like a little um like I don't know if the word is uninhibited Like I feel like I'm I'm constantly paranoid of like I don't trust anyone I can't and nothing has happened to me to make me think that But like the thought of getting on the back of a man's bike I'd be like I I'd be like no like do you feel like you had such a um like what You just didn't it never occurred to me that someone would do that to me Like I was I was shocked and I was like no do not hear the words that are coming out of my mouth I want to go home You said you would take me home Like what are you talking about So do you feel like you had a lot of trust in people about this Absolutely And were you like calling your family throughout these first few weeks and gushing about how much you loved it Yeah So it was a little bit difficult because I didn't like I only ever it was a 2007 So it's a little bit like I didn't have internet in my house So I had to go to an internet cafe in order to send emails and stuff like that Um But I kept in touch I told my family about how everything was just so idyllic and beautiful Let's talk about your living situation Can you describe your roommates Sure So I was in a cottage that was two levels and in the bottom level where it was a totally separate apartment where four young guys were hanging out They also were students and that was their apartment and I was upstairs with three other girls two of them were Italian and they were slightly older than us They were in their late twenties and then there was MEREDITH who was 22 and there was me 20 Were you close at all to the two Italian girls I mean as close as I was to MEREDITH I had just met them when I arrived in Italy And so I knew them for several weeks but ahead of this and we would like go out to dinner together we would go dancing together Um We went and did grocery

shopping together but we were still you know getting to know each other You literally just met these people Um Did they speak English So Laura spoke better English than Philomena and of course MEREDITH spoke English because she's from Britain But I actually tried my best to speak Italian at home and it was very cute So you hung out with them in the beginning days but you were closer to MEREDITH Yeah just because she was closer to my age We had more in common We were going to school and they were like interning at law Looking back when you think about MEREDITH what do you remember about her I remember that we she so I got up early once to go to this There was again like these beautiful things there's this chocolate festival in Perugia and what they had were these like early in the morning they took refrigerator sized blocks of chocolate and then like a sculptor would come and like sculpt the chocolate and then people would gather like chunks of the chocolate that came off of the sculpture and just hand it out to people in the crowd They're chipping away chipping away and then a giant chunk falls off and the person who started collecting it grabs it and then is like scanning the crowd to see who wants it and then plops it right into my arms It's like as big as a tombstone And I'm carrying this tome of chocolate home I like clunk it on the kitchen table and I'm like who wants to make cookies So MEREDITH and I went and got ingredients to make cookies and then made cookies at home So like stuff like that Fun enjoyable We're abroad We're roommates Let's make the best of it moment Yeah Yeah She was like she loved to read on the little terrace that overlooked the valley And so sometimes I would take my guitar out there and sort of play on my guitar while she was reading that kind of stuff What do you think MEREDITH thought about you I mean she was always really nice to me I think she she definitely went out of her way to make me feel welcome Like at certain times she would come to I started working at a local bar Like she would like come and check in on me and be like hey you know it was like a slow bar that didn't get a lot of people coming by So she would come by and check it out and be like hey how's it going in the early days of your trip You met an Italian boy Raffaelli Is it Raffaelli Raffaele Rafaele how did you meet him What did you think about him So Rafaele stood out to me precisely because he did not come across like all of the other Italian men that I was meeting He was actually quite shy and I met him not in the context of like club or something like that I went to a classical musical recital at the university and like I happened me and MEREDITH went together and then MEREDITH had to leave and meet her friends at intermission And so he

came and sat in her seat and then we just sort of like had me speaking bad Italian him speaking bad English like connection that versus what you're describing as the Italian men that you were like what the fuck is this culture This is wild I wasn't expecting this He had apparently it seems like more of a warmth to him He had a warmth and he felt like it was just like a safe person So week one into your new hot Italian romance which I feel like is every single girl's dream It's like you get there and you meet him and you're like oh my God Now we're like running around Italy together What do you remember about November 1st 2007 Yeah So it was obviously the day after Halloween Um I had been working like half the night and then I met up with Raphael A I was like dressed like a I didn't really have a costume I sort of drew like a cat face on me and we just kind of like were hanging out outside um getting drinks and things like that Um The morning I remember that MEREDITH woke up late she liked to sleep in So that wasn't unusual and she had dressed up like a vampire and she still had like a little bit of like a little fake blood dribble on her chin Um And you know she was she was like oh I'm going to get dressed and take a shower and gonna go hang out with the girls bla bla bla she had gone to like um the British girls had had their own like little Halloween party together and she so she showered she changed Um she was like ok I'm gonna go I'm gonna go hang out with the girls I'll chat at you later and that was it I was just like ok bye Like I vividly remember her throwing a purse over her shoulder and going out the door like it was just any other day And that was the last I saw of her and that particular moment I don't feel like I've been asked about since the trial honestly because they they were very particular about wanting to know what she was wearing I think because of the evidence that was in you know in her bedroom like she had been found naked and and um but of course there were like clothes on her bed or something like that And so they wanted to know like what color purse was she wearing And I think it was like a tan or a peach colored purse Um if I recall correctly anyway so she leaves and then what do you do the rest of the day So I ended up um hanging out with Raphael a um deciding So it was November 1st It was um right before the weekend and we had been deciding like oh what do we want to do for this holiday weekend And we decided that we wanted to go to a nearby town called Guo which was famous for Truffles And Rafaele was like really big on like being a very good Italian host He wanted to like show me everything and get me an Italian perfume and like make me feel like a very special officially Italian lady So he was like very big into that Um We went over to

his place we cooked dinner Um We were hanging out I was we were reading we watched a movie we smoked a little pot we had sex and we went to bed It was just a really chill chill day The next day November 2nd 2007 you wake up you get coffee Like what do you do that morning The first thing that I did was I went home so I could take a shower and change my clothes Um I wanted to get into a cute outfit I got like a cute little white skirt on even though it was a little chilly but I wanted to look pretty because I was going on basically a date weekend with Rafaelle Um so I came home and I found that the front door was open and I thought that's odd Um the front door shouldn't be just wide open but I also knew that the the lock was a little bit broken and so maybe someone had like not closed the door and locked the door properly and maybe that's what happened So like I come into my house and I'm like is anyone here like are we ok like and no one answered So I thought ok that's odd But all right close the door lock the key go in get undressed go to take a shower And when I was in the bathroom cleaning up brushing my teeth taking a shower I notice there are some speckles of blood in the sink and there is a sort of dirty splotch of blood On the bath mat And again I'm like that's odd At first I thought when I saw the like the the speckles in the sink I was like oh my God are my gums bleeding But no it was not my or or like were my ears Like I just got my ears pierced and I was like oh my God my ears bleeding No no everything's fine That's odd I guess maybe someone is having like their period or something Like I don't know So I get changed I get dressed I go into the other bathroom to blow dry my hair and that's when I noticed that there was feces in the toilet and I was like then I got the creepy feeling of like oh my God is there someone in the house with me Like no one none of my roommates would have done that So I immediately sort of gathered my things Um went over to Raffaele's house and and like started calling my roommates basically being like hey is everything ok It looks like maybe someone left the house in a in a hurry like what's going on And I didn't hear back from MEREDITH I didn't hear back from Laura and I was only ever able to get in touch with Philomena and Philomena said well no I've been out with my boyfriend all night I don't know what happened Um meet me at the house We're going to like figure out what's going on And so Rafael and I go back to the house we do a little bit more snooping around We notice that Philo Mana's room has a broken window and has been looked like it's been ransacked like weirdly the main you know living room area that we had nothing looked to touch We looked into Laura's room spot like the bed was perfectly made It was Phil Aa's room



that was all like crazily askew and we go into my room my room seems fine I don't really I didn't look search it very thoroughly but my computer was there and I was like ok if my computer wasn't stolen maybe it's ok But then we go to Meredith's room and her door is locked and we were like ha that's odd Like I wasn't sure if MEREDITH was in the habit of locking her door or not when she left the house I didn't think so So I was like I knocked on her door and I was like MEREDITH are you in there MEREDITH MEREDITH And no answer Finally I get concerned enough that I'm like Rafael can you maybe try to kick down the door Because I don't know if maybe she's hurting there or something's wrong He tries kicking the door down doesn't succeed So he calls the cops and he's like hey there's been a break in We don't know what's going on but one of our roommates is not answering her cell phone and her door is locked blah blah blah blah While he's explaining all of this to the cops A pair of cops actually walk up and they are here because they don't know anything about our phone call We thought Oh wow That was really fast that you guys were you just around the corner You answered our phone call No they were already on their way because someone had found Meredith's cell phones just thrown into a garden someone's random garden and like they had been ringing because I had been calling MEREDITH looking for her And so they were ringing and ringing and ringing and the person who lived in the house was like what is that ringing Coming from my backyard she goes and finds these phones and then delivers them to the police And so the police finally arrived comes full circle and they're like whose phones are these whose phones are these It says the S MS like card was um was in Philomena name And I was like oh weird Phila she's on her way but I just talked to her She has her cell phone and then Philomena arrived and said no I gave I gave a card to MEREDITH Those are Meredith's phones And we were like ok but where is MEREDITH Why doesn't she have her phones And I'm like well her door is locked and Philomena is like her door is locked someone kicked down her door and then the police kicked down her door found the crime scene and kicked everyone out of the house So you weren't in the house when they kicked the door down I was in the house but I was not in the hallway like it was a narrow hallway that led into her like to my room and then her room I was in the kitchen area waiting and I was like talking to the other there were two police officers and I think I was talking with one of the other police officers while one of them went and kicked down the door with like Philomena and her boyfriend's help Yeah which is also interesting later for the story to know Philomena was also gone

and has a boyfriend So there's like two sets of couples that had the same exact dynamic You have your boyfriend you're not home you're sleeping at your boyfriend's Philomena is also at her boyfriend's And so it's like wait why you Well that's a that's a good question And I actually thought about this earlier yesterday because um what day is today is today The third So yesterday the second the sort of anniversary of discovering her body I was thinking about like why why me and why not Like Philomena right And I think one of the sort of big things is they they sort of focused on my behavior and the immediacy of the discovery of this crime scene But like the difference between me and Philomena was Philomena saw into Meredith's room she saw Meredith's body with her own eyes and I did not And so immediately coming like you know Philomena starts screaming her head off and like crying and starts everyone starts yelling and very rapid Italian So I'm like what the fuck is going on We're ushered out of the house and I'm sort of left shell shocked going what's going on what's going on and hearing weird scraps of things that I can sort of kind of understand And so I'm like I'm outside of the house going what's going on what's going on And Philomena is crying hysterically and so immediately the cops are looking at the two roommates Philomena and me one of them is crying the other one is not that was maybe the moment things started to go very very wrong and for understandable reasons because they're looking at two young women one of them is clearly the Strat and one of them is clearly confused but very different reactions and Philomena reaction was the expected one Mine wasn't And I don't think that the cops like when they made their sort of gut intuition about me and about whether or not I was involved in this crime I don't think they actually realized that I didn't really understand what was going on I just was like talking to Raphael and going wait wait what are they saying What what happened What did they find like and at first they're telling me really confusing things like they saw a foot and it's like a foot Are you talking about like a severed foot Like what are you talking about And meanwhile like and then somebody's yelling about a wardrobe and how they found a body in a wardrobe And I'm like well what body what are you talking Is it where is MEREDITH Is it MEREDITH Like what is going on here Philomena understands full It is Italian Oh yeah And you're like hello When after you were like all escorted out of the house when did you No like me it was I think it was half an hour an hour into this that like Raphaele was going and poking around and talking to people and going ok they think it's MEREDITH there was a body under a sheet or like under a blanket and they

think it's MEREDITH and that they think that her she's been stabbed because there was blood everywhere and where the fuck is Philomena Like are you to not speaking So I'm sort of like the the cops are sort of taking us all apart to like question us And so me and Raphaelle were sort of apart because we had sort of discovered the crime scene together Meanwhile Phil and her boyfriend were apart answering the questions to the cops And so we're just standing there and then eventually we all get taken to the police office to like answer even more questions and do that for days on end And then from that point your life changed forever There were paparazzi yes outside of the house And I want to talk about that because they're taking photos they're taking videos you and in that moment you knew obviously something was wildly wrong But like you're saying you're like you didn't even know that MEREDITH was dead And if there was a body in there you still didn't know for sure that it was MEREDITH what did the media say about how you were reacting to anyone that's not familiar with the case Just to summary a derogatory term that you can come up and imagine for a woman was thrown at me over the course of these trials and this like decade of coverage of the case But in that specific video that came out of you outside of the house people were annoyed and disturbed by your reaction So there was a specific like three second clip that kept getting over the years shown over and over and over again slow motion on like you know like in um in loop and it was a three second clip of Raphaelle sort of looking at me and giving me a kiss and then like hugging me basically And this clip was depicted as look at these two psychopaths who can't even keep their hands off of each other outside of a murder scene What was in fact happening was I was scared and Raphaelle was like it's ok Girl I like I got you That was that was it Do you think if you were sobbing hysterically you would have had a much different outcome Yes I do That's like the stereotypical response that people have or people expect people to have when they hear something so incredibly traumatic Like your friend has just been murdered But for me at the time I feel like I almost got like deer in headlights Like this cannot be real like almost like surreal Like this can't be happening and thinking selfishly perhaps that oh my God I'm alive Thank God I'm alive Like thank God I was at Raffaele's house like oh my God there's so many people that had an opinion on your reaction who made the rules of how you're supposed to act in a traumatic situation Like people are like she should be sobbing the fact that I was hungry at a certain point during my interrogations and I asked for food They were like if you really cared about your roommate you wouldn't even be able to eat And it's

like what are you talking about Like what this goes to show though is that once you like have a gut feeling about something somebody like whatever they do they cry they don't cry they eat they don't eat It's all through the lens of suspicion So I feel like at a certain point whenever that point happened when these investigators had their investigative intuition that I was somehow involved there was nothing that I could do That was right I agree because even if you were like I'm not hungry they're like look she's a psychopath She doesn't even need food Exactly And then to see how it spiraled of the lack of emotion that everyone was so focused on where I'm like I see a girl in shock I was not expecting to come home and find a crime scene that day I was expecting to take a shower get dressed in a cute outfit and go out with my boyfriend for a fun weekend That was what I was expecting I never ever ever ever thought like even when I was like a lot of people are like well you saw blood in the bathroom and it's like one it was not all that much blood and two Even if there was blood you don't automatically like I don't live in true crime land where like you come home and to a murder scene That's just not what I was thinking If I saw blood in my bathroom I would think Is it real blood You just told me that it was Halloween She had no I didn't immediately be like oh there's blood on the sink someone's murdered in this house What do you think of now when you do look at that that video like is it triggering I mean it is in the sense that like I've just seen that moment of my life replayed over and over and over again in order to vilify me But I know what I was feeling in that moment and that moment I was just like this cannot be happening and like I almost feel bad for for me at that time because I had no idea that I was already sort of strapped to the tracks and there was a train that was coming and I had no idea the power of a moment A 20 year old Yeah having a reaction that and that defines who you are for everyone's life forever And it's like first of all a single moment and also however anyone wants to see that moment is how they're going to define you So you basically are a blank slate onto which anyone can project whatever fucked up ideas they have about you and to like go back to how sexuality became such a huge part of this Like for me I can't help but feel like one I can't help but get rid of that like creepy feeling that maybe some of these Italian dude detectives had weird sort of sexy vibes towards me and then they decided to translate that into oh I like this is my gut instinct that somehow I'm like my my mind is attracted to this person So maybe that's like what it's coming from But also like the fact that this whole case like the whole case that was built up the whole story that was built up was essentially a vilification of female

sexuality Because we're looking at like there were two women in this case there was MEREDITH who was made into this sort of like virginal invisible ideal victim and never talked about again And then there was the violent sexually depraved lustful horror and how like it let's just burn her And like there also was evidence like there was evidence in this case that pointed to a guy who had a rap sheet and no one cared about him It was all about taking a woman who was and vilifying the shit out of her The man that killed her No one even knows his fucking name Yeah I think I read like um someone was looking at even just um like maybe daily daily mail headlines from like a time period between 2007 and 2011 which was when I was like on trial And then my first appeal and they looked at the number of times One Meredith's name was in the headline It was like 30 something How many times Rudy God's name was in the headline Zero How many times was Foxy Knoxy in the headlines 100 and 57 times that goes to show like what this case ultimately came to be about It wasn't about MEREDITH It wasn't about the person who killed her It was about vilifying a young woman's sexuality Where did Foxy Knoxy come from Soccer Nickname Like it was like prepubescent soccer nickname Like I played you played So so you know top of the diamond that that was my position And so I like squirreled around and like stole the ball from people like a fox would like steal chicken eggs So and it rhymes with knock and then it was used in a sexual way Yes It was like every fucking headline was like Foxy Knoxy et cetera And it was like you were this like sex crazed woman and a woman who was so sex crazed like so basically like the prosecution's depiction of events was that MEREDITH was a pure virginal person who basically slut shame me and I decided to rape and kill her in response to being slut shamed by her And it was just like who imagines this And then and then they find Seamen of Rudy inside of Mary and they're like no but still Amanda people really really latched on to this idea they really liked and and what bothers me is that ok I want the authorities to be held accountable for making up a story and not allowing the evidence to guide their investigation That's one aspect But then there's the aspect of like the media the role of the media is to hold authorities accountable to the people like they are it's an information tool that is in the service of the people it is in the public interest And instead of doing that instead of holding the authorities accountable to the truth they latched on to every salacious possible made up detail that they possibly could and then made bank And also Meredith's murderer is kind of getting away with it Like you know we talk about like OK yes it was fucked up for me and like I will

talk all day long about how it was fucked up for me But also one of the things that like Meredith's family has always pointed out is like when did this become the Amanda Knox show Like isn't this about justice for our daughter And like they make a good point the media decided that they could make a villain narrative and it didn't matter what the truth was to them anymore It didn't matter what happened to MEREDITH what mattered was sex game violent Foxy Knoxy beautiful American girl your picture and also MEREDITH was a beautiful person So it's like oh now we can look at these two beautiful women and imagine them having like a fucked up sexual encounter And also I like someone else pointed this out to me I forget who it was But they were talking about like the number one hit in porn is like like debasing and like humiliating beautiful women And so it felt like this was almost a pornographic enterprise of like oh let's just like imagine first of all this violent sexual encounter that we can feel all moralized about all scandalized about But at the same time like just have this like pornographic interest in Amanda Knox's like a like imagined and real sex life and like pitch her as this like ultimate sex villain And like there's this like perfect example of this there was this one English um like talk show where they were like saying you know oh you know this like psychopath woman would you would you do it with her And it's like so you all are just like you all just want to fuck and punish me And I'm a 20 year old girl who's like just I've had like maybe you know seven total sexual partners in my entire life And I'm just like learning about who I am and what I like what my experiences are I've never been in an orgy in my entire life and yet I am the stand in for everyone's like most fucked up sexual Like I imagine why didn't you go home Like right after you couldn't so I could at any point I could have gone home Um I didn't because the cops said that I was there to help them They told me like my mom was like come home immediately My aunt who is in Germany was come and stay with us until they catch the killer because we don't want you in a city where there's a killer running loose And I was being brought in for questioning every day to answer questions like look at pictures like people were bringing pictures from Halloween and like do you recognize that person that person like they were telling me I'm an important witness and that I needed to stay so that they could do their investigation And so believing them I stayed I had no idea that they had tapped my phones I had no idea that they were going to be bringing like that instead of questioning me they were actually interrogating me and I was never ever ever informed Even like the the first time I understood and was explicitly

told you are a suspect in this case was in front of a judge after I had spent three days in prison already Like that was the first time that I truly had like expelled out to me This is what is happening to you How did the Italian police conduct the interrogation Because I know it was a grueling process and you don't have to go crazy into detail but just giving an idea of that Yeah So um so again I was Raphaelle was actually called in for questioning They didn't call me in but I was staying with Raphaelle and I didn't want to be home alone because what just happened So I followed him to the police office and I was just sitting there in the lobby waiting for him But while I was sitting there some cops came by and they were like what are you doing here And I was like well Raphaelle is being questioned So and they were like well if you're here you might as well be questioned too And I was like oh all right I was trying to do my homework But ok they brought me into a room and they started asking me to recall everything that I could remember from the last time I had seen MEREDITH and over again because I had already answered these questions again And so I was going through it again And basically what they did was they tried to find fault with everything that I was saying So they were like well what exactly what time exactly did you have dinner And it's like well I don't know it was like around nine I guess maybe I don't remember We had made dinner and then we ate and we like we watched the movie afterwards and they were like well did you or did you read a book after words Because you said you read a book earlier and now you're watching movie And it's like well I did a little bit of both like what can I say And so they kept kind of like pushing at me like oh maybe what you're thinking is wrong like making me feel like my memories were confused and oh are you sure you didn't do that The night before and that wasn't this night We really need to know And meanwhile Raphaelle is being interrogated after a few hours of this they come in and tell me Raphaelle says you weren't with him that night and I'm like what the fuck Like no that's not true I was with him that night and they were like well your cell phone says that you made an appointment to see Patrick who's Patrick Are you sure you didn't meet up with Patrick And are you sure that Patrick didn't rape and kill MEREDITH And are you sure that you were remembering everything Because what if you're traumatized What if you witness something horrible And you don't even remember it And then meanwhile this this one police officer was saying I was once in a car accident and it was so traumatic like I broke my leg or something and I don't remember a thing I blacked out Do you think that that's what happened to you Did you black out Are you not

remembering correctly And like after hours of this And then like yelling at me and telling me that I'm never going to see my family again and tell and like slapping me on the back of the head telling you remember remember I finally was like OK maybe you're right Maybe I totally don't remember anything Maybe I met my boss Patrick like maybe maybe I don't I don't know but I'm confusedly trying to like remember what you're asking me to remember So I sign these statements to the police right up for me and then they finally stop yelling at me leave me alone for a second I like I am allowed to close my eyes for a single moment Like I sort of close my eyes for a half an hour I get some rest And then when I wake up I'm like oh no like what have I done I sign these statements I did not go out and see Patrick that night and I tell them like I can't like all of that is wrong Like I was just confused and scared like it's all wrong and they're like no no no you'll remember you'll remember And so like I'm sitting there like begging them to like listen to me Finally I asked for a piece of paper and I'm like look I can't I basically recant I write down I'm recanting basically I give that to them and they say ok well whatever um we need to fingerprint you we need you to strip down naked so we can take photographs of you Um You're an important witness Sorry we have to put these handcuffs on you but it's only a formality We're taking you out to a holding place for your own protection You'll see your mom soon mentally after you realize and you're going to you're going into jail Yeah I didn't even know that I was going to jail though That's not they didn't tell me I was going to jail They told me that I was going somewhere safe That's what they told me And I said I would see my mom soon Were they speaking to an Italian They were speaking to me in Italian Yeah And so again like also a part of this was I was feeling like all of this was my fault because maybe my Italian wasn't good enough Maybe I wasn't understanding them maybe they weren't understanding me Maybe this is all a huge misunderstanding And I kept thinking I just want to talk to my mom Like I honestly just wanted to talk to my mom and my mom like I had my cell phone there and they sort of confiscated my cell phone but like they put it on the table in front of me and my mom who was due to arrive that day arrived in Rome and started calling me and my phone was buzzing and buzzing and buzzing It was her I knew it was her and I was like can I please answer the phone My mom is calling me and she is going to think that something bad happened to me if I don't answer the phone and they're like no I was like my mom thinks that I'm dead I don't know what to do And that you know shortly thereafter I'm arrested it's big headlines like case closed the



police were saying case closed We figured it out in just five days We figured out who murdered MEREDITH It's Amanda and her boss Patrick Lumumba and maybe Raphaele is involved case closed And my mom's like oh my God my daughter's in jail This could be anyone You're in a foreign country You don't fully understand what these people are saying to you And it's in the biggest moment of your life where there was someone murdered and you're potentially now about to be put in jail for murdering someone And you're like I don't even fully understand what the fuck you're saying Can I please just talk to my mom I'm glad I'm actually very grateful that you put it that way because that's not the way a lot of people like to frame my experience Like I've had the experience of people saying oh you're just this cute girl who got away with it You just decided to implicate an innocent person because you just didn't want people to look at you And it's like dude is not what interrogations are like if you think I had any control over what was happening in the interrogation room you have obviously never been in an interrogation room And it also goes back to your reaction like there's people that have never been in an interrogation room they have never experienced a type of trauma that you walk into a house and your roommate is dead How do they know how you're supposed to react and respond There's other cases where people literally have just admitted something in an interrogation room because it's like you are beaten down and they're almost like brainwashing you to give them an answer that they want But a lot of people like again have decided everything I do no matter what it is is evidence of guilt How did the interrogation end So yeah I'm brought into prison Like it sounds bizarre that I didn't understand what was happening to me because it's like ok the handcuffs oh they photographed me naked Oh like a Italian dude has to like look at my junk and like like it's just like put your fingers inside of your vagina Well like what they said they were doing was checking for signs of rape and I'm just like what I never said anyone raped me Like what do you talk like But of course at that point I'm like I'm like do whatever like I'll do whatever you say And so they bring me into jail and I'm put and put into a cell I'm wondering when I'm going to see my mom I'm given like a wool blanket and I just lay on this like cot and cry That was the end of that interrogation just like sobbing in a jail cell with nothing in a room but a cot and a wool blanket I was scared I was confused I was in shock I was in disbelief I felt disassociated even from what was happening to me Um yeah it was um I just wanted my mom I really just I needed somebody to not be screaming at me and and threatening me and telling me that I had witnessed

something horrible and that like I I didn't know what to do Did you ever take a lie detector test No they don't take those Um they don't do those in Italy and they're not good because they don't actually they're not reliable What they what a lie detector test actually detects is whether or not you're nervous right And you can be nervous for lots of reasons And also you can be a liar who's not nervous at all Do you remember the first time that you saw your photo on the cover of a tabloid So in those first days I was not allowed any access to any media whatsoever But then you know over the course of the investigation once I was taken out of solitary confinement I was sort of allowed to see at least what was on the news And the news was just like nonstop coverage about me about the case that three second loop on over over over again nonstop Like for the first eight months of my imprisonment when I was like in isolation it was basically non-stop Like super new evidence comes in like oh some super witness comes in and says that they saw Amanda and Raffaele the night of the murder And then it's like oh well that actually never happened and that person just disappears into the ether But it was like this nonstop sense of like oh what's the next and the next thing And oh MEREDITH was drunk out of her mind the night that she was killed Oh wait never mind Actually that's because the cops actually took all those samples of her blood and then they got spoiled because they didn't get stored properly And so that's why they basically had fermented her blood And that's why it came across that it was had alcohol in it and it was like no no she's not like drunk out of her mind It's because you didn't store her samples Well it was a shit show Were you one of the only American women in the prison for a while I was the only American woman in the prison I was also one of the only women who had all of her teeth I was plunged into an environment of like very very very poor drug addicted broken women who had had shit for lives Like people who were not coming from a place of like comfort and warmth and family Like I was who didn't go to school who had been like traumatized from the moment they were born like they were neglected or abused or addicted to drugs Like grew up in really bad circumstances and had nothing but bad choices ahead of them But like my first cellmate was um a woman who had um who was an incest victim At least that's what I heard I can't you know for sure But for what I heard was that she was an incest victim who had murdered her child and she was like a little out of her mind like she was um she had this fixation with like scratching her skin until it bled And so she was covered with like all of these sores all over her face and arms And that was my first Sally did everyone in

the prison know what you were going through Yeah I was the famous one So everyone had an opinion Everyone wanted to talk to me about the case The way that I managed that was I always refused to talk about everything I just I didn't want to get into this place of like my life and the worst experience of my life is just a part of the gossip mill I spent a lot of my time trying to be invisible not talking to a lot of people And eventually over the course of this whole experience figuring out my hustle which was reading and writing because a lot of the people that I was imprisoned with were illiterate So I was reading and writing their letters for them helping them do like commissary shopping helping them read their court documents Is that what people like say if you're in prison like what's your hustle I mean everyone in prison has some hustle because you're part of well first of all like you are in a system that basically devalues you as a human being And so your human potential is very very limited You develop with other inmates a kind of social economy and that social economy is built up of the kinds of things that you can you can offer to the community And the thing that I could offer to the community was literacy Was there any like harassment or like abuse I never was hurt by any of the other inmates Although I did see I did see violence between inmates The thing that I experienced was um male prison guards Um there was one particular guard um who was one of the higher ups at the prison who in those first two weeks brought me into a private office with just him and interrogated me about my sex life and made sort of suggestions that we might have sex together And I at first I just played dumb I was like I don't know what you're talking about I don't understand you And then eventually like eventually I was just like no no I just want to go to my cell now and he was like you sure you want to go to like it was bullshit He just he took this sort of like private interest in me and eventually cut that out because I I rejected all of his advances Other times in the prison like I was grabbed by a male guard while I was like in the bathroom and other stuff like that But like again not as bad as some of my friends' experiences Like I know people who were raped in prison So it's like I was never raped in prison I was never beaten up I saw violence but I I largely escaped and stayed out of anything that was too horrifically traumatic The mental abuse though who told you that you had HIV that was a doctor at the prison So I was frequently being brought in for the doctors to you know they were taking like DNA samples and things like that And one time they brought me in and they told me that I had tested positive for HIV and that I needed to well they didn't say that that VJ com the man who was sexually harassing me He said that I should think

about all the people that I had ever had sex with to figure out who had done it who had given it to me And I was hysterical I came I went back into my cell and cried and was thinking that I again this is those moments where I'm like oh is all the suffering that I'm experiencing now Is this like somehow me catching up on all the suffering I'm ever supposed to live is like happening in one moment in my life Am I going to die Like am I never going to have a family Am I going to be stuck in this Like what is happening So I write down in my diary which they knew that I was writing in um because I was basically that's all I did was sit around and like write in my diary I wrote down the people that all the people I had ever had sex with And the very next day my room was everything in my room that had my handwriting on it was confiscated by the police and then leaked to the press and depicted me as someone who in the course of like two weeks had sex with seven different people and was a sex maniac And clearly because I'm a sex maniac I must be also a psychopathic murderer You had sex with seven people Yeah Yeah Yeah But this is the thing like what are we talking about here Like it's a pretty normal number by the time you're you're in college Yep That sounds about right Police looking at that and saying then she had to have probably also been capable of murdering someone Like my orgasms are so great I just have to stab someone afterwards Like what is happening like this This is like and I I at the time like I didn't really know how to respond to any of this kind of criticism I like I was also very new to my own sexuality So I didn't really have any sort of perspective or like authorship over like am I a normal person Am I not a normal person And like since coming home and looking back on all of this like first of all I think it's amazing that there's a podcast like this where people can be super frank about their experiences and like we are all sexual human beings and that's ok No one's a psychopath for having sex And also like I've learned so much like I interviewed this Dominatrix for my podcast because I was really really interested to know what the sort of kink community's response to the way that I was portrayed Like the idea like I was portrayed almost like this like sex maniac dominatrix fem fatal who orchestrated very specifically a sex game that I was like organizing this sex game to rape and murder my friend That was what was portrayed And so I was like ok what do people who actually organize like fun sex times for people think about the fact that this their their whole lifestyle is being vilified in this moment And like this really surprising thing that I got from this I very frankly reached out to a dominatrix and was like what is your experience with law enforcement Do you feel like law enforcement is just like calling

people dominatrix left and right and just like vilifying them And are you afraid of like a cop seeing you and like arresting you for a crime you don't commit And the really surprising thing was the Dominatrix elite She's based in L A She was like no actually I have a great relationship with law enforcement because law enforcement at least here in L A recognizes the difference between kink and abuse And in fact what they'll do is reach out to the kink community in order to better understand when people are falsely claiming kink in abuse cases And so they'll like Dominatrix like her will be called in to testify and like murder trials when people are like falsely claiming that they strangled their girlfriend in a sex game and they're like no no no no no You don't just start strangling your girlfriend like out of nowhere Wow Yeah So that was like I remember the moment when she told me this because I was like sitting with her she had invited me to a Dominatrix convention So I went to this Dominatrix convention with her as her personal guest to like get a glimpse into this kink world And um and she was so kind Um And we were sitting at lunch and she was telling me like I was very frankly like OK the reason I'm here I I love that you're so open and welcoming towards me um that you're also being super confidential about me even being here because can you imagine what the press would do if they found out Amanda Knox goes to a Dominatrix convention So like thank you for your warm welcome I know that I'm an outsider here The real reason I'm here is because I need to know what your relationship with law enforcement is And when she told me that they actually had a legit good understanding relationship I broke down crying because I was like I thought like was it then just me like or are they just making up sex villains Willy Nilly And was this an Italian thing Like what is like I thought maybe she would sort of like get that experience and instead I still kind of felt alone and isolated I don't know It's oh to hear you still searching for answers Yeah Why me why my sexuality Like why why this unwillingness to admit that you're wrong even in the face of like overwhelming evidence to the contrary Like why And if anything what I've found um over the course of a lot of thinking and also a lot of examination of other people's cases is that it's really just human nature People are so so averse to thinking that they were wrong because it's not like we sort of attach like values to our own identities on whether or not we're right or wrong And the idea that I'm wrong means I need to admit something about myself that I don't want to And so I think that that's what I'm ultimately facing And it's like if I think about it that way I actually feel less alone because we all face that in our lives in some way or another I just faced

it in a really extreme fucked up way What kept you going Like in when you're in jail Like was there someone you thought about today 361 in jail Like what was keeping you going I did 1428 days Uh It depended on the day right But like mostly this was my sort of like rebel aspect of it I did not want this thing that had nothing to do with me to control my life or to change me in ways that I didn't want to be changed changed I looked around me in this prison environment and I saw so many women who had gone through so much shit and were actually a lot of them were like bitter and angry because of it And I did not want that to be me I understood that my life was fucked and I was living an unfair life but I did not want that to define who I was I still felt like the one thing that I still had control over Like if everything stripped of you you realize what you still have control over and I had control over my own mind So I spent a lot of time just talking through with myself how I was going to get through one day at a time because I couldn't think about tomorrow I could only think about today And a lot of times I was able to find reasons to keep existing in a single day I had a letter to write to my mom I had a phone call that was coming up at the end of the week I could I could try to beat my record for how many sit ups I could do at a single time like really really like humble fucking goals but still ones that made me feel like it was worth living But also we are all doing this all the time anyway like we all only have so much control over our own lives And I think really embracing that like embracing first of all how things could be worse throughout the entire time that I was in that jail cell I also was very aware that I could be dead and I was like OK I'm not dead I could see someone with everything you were going through wanting to be dead Well I definitely imagined it and I don't like feeling trapped Like one of the ways that I've changed in a big way is that I no longer feel comfortable in crowds I just feel trapped It reminds me of feeling like there's no I need to know where the exit is I need to know where the door is when I was in my prison So I couldn't even look at the door because it was all bars and it made me feel claustrophobic So I would always look out the window But like when you are limited like that it sort of forces you into either a place of insanity or of like extreme mindfulness because the only thing you have is the present and that's the that's the only thing you ever have Did you ever feel like you were going insane How many more days can I fucking do this Like you stop thinking that you start thinking I have now right now is the only thing that I can deal with So you had suicidal thoughts in the jail I thought of ways that I would it was sort of my escape hatch Like if it all came down to it here's

what I can do Did you have suicidal thoughts once you got out No I did not to be clear Being outside of prison is always always always way better than being inside of prison Um The transition though from going from a a imprisoned person to a free person was not easy for me and it still hasn't really been easy for me because I my life and my identity has been defined by an accusation of a terrible sex crime And so like my life is associated with a terrible sex crime that I had nothing to do with and I am perpetually viewed through that lens as if the only thing that is valuable about me as a human being is my role in people's understandings of this case And this case only and I have found that people sort of resent me for continuing to go on Like I have a life outside of this and I have it thrown into my face all the time that MEREDITH doesn't that I'm alive and MEREDITH isn't But also people resent me for like trying to like you know shed light on wrongful convictions or like to like build off of my experience and and grow and learn and reach out to other people who have been shamed in the media What do they want you to do They want me to disappear They want me to be grateful that I'm not dead and disappear Well let's talk about that because you get out of prison and immediately right after like what was that like Adjusting to freedom Well there's I don't know if you have you listened to any of the episodes of my podcast Because there is a really good one describing like the day I got out of prison Um And I'll send you a link because there's this FBI agent who um basically volunteered his services to my family to help me get like safely from the prison back home Like the number of people who just came out of the woodwork and were like I can't save you but I can help in this way like an airline flight person who was like oh you can have my miles so that you don't have to pay as much money to like my family so they could come visit me Um And this former FBI agent he orchestrated this whole like insane like James Bond esque escape situation and we had like we had a really good moment Um Were there ever like death threats or there were definitely death threats Um And this FBI agent spent quite a lot of time setting me up with contacts that I could reach out to Um I also started taking Krav maga self defense classes um adjusting to normal life Like was it what was it like Like I I assume everyone knew who you were like you you went back to Seattle eventually after the safe house were people nice mean So here's the crazy thing and this is also like a really really sweet thing and it's a difference between what happened to me and what happened to Raffaele and there were people like in his hometown who really rallied behind him but mostly people treated him like shit like he was a murderer who got away

with it and like no one would touch him I came home and the minute I stepped out of the airplane there were people holding signs that said welcome home Amanda and like the local record store had welcome home Amanda like on their like big you know where they would have like Nirvana vinyls Like it was a welcome home Amanda And so like I came home to an incredibly warm welcome but at the same time paparazzi from all over the world descended upon Seattle and camped outside of my mom's house And like I couldn't go anywhere without being followed for months And then when I went back to school I want like the thing that I wanted more than anything else was to just go back to the life I had before I just like I had been torn away from my life and I just wanted to go back to my life and I discovered that my life from before didn't exist anymore that I no longer could go to class without people taking pictures of me I could no longer just ride my bike to school I could no longer get a regular job I couldn't there was the case had become my life and I had to find a way to process that experience and rebuild a whole new life basically out of scratch How do you get through that Um I'm still working on that but I think the biggest thing is um it's given me first of all an appreciation for the myriad ways that we all experience this Like there are ideas of us in other people's minds that we don't have control over But that ultimately don't have to define us at least to ourselves Like yes it may mean that I can't get a job like a normal person and it may mean that I can't go on a date with a normal person Like when Raphaelle Sweet Rafaella like he decided that he wanted to start dating again and he was having a hard time So he went on on Tinder and like the second like he went on Tinder a tabloid journalist like went on there and was like chatting him up as if she wanted to date with him in order to like write a fucking article about him Like it's terrible Like every little no you can't trust anyone and every intimate aspect of your life because you're a public person is now in the public interest even if it has nothing to do with the crime that initially made you a public person So this is the ongoing struggle and also the idea that like oh my gosh is it the case that there is nothing that I could ever remotely possibly do in my entire life that will define me as much as a thing that I did not do And like that may very well be the reality of my life that very well may be it Is that something I can live with Well yes because it doesn't stop me from trying to do good works It doesn't stop me from trying to like be the person who defines my own self and it doesn't stop me from making choices in my own life to move on So like ultimately it comes down to a sort of personal decision to persevere despite like the mountain of an



obstacle that you have in front of you And meanwhile like what I've discovered is I'm not the only one who's living with this Like there are lots of people who feel like they are trapped in the worst experience of their lives victims of crime and victims of the criminal justice system We all want to be the voice of our own story and so many of us are denied that opportunity So which is to say that it is so fucking great that you are even talking to me because you're giving me an opportunity to be the voice of my own experience And for years I was denied that opportunity years and to this day even like it's sort of touch and go you know like some people are like totally down to listen totally down to like understand my experience from my perspective And some people are like I'm not a real person and I don't like fit the perfect bill Like even in like the sort of world of like criminal justice reform I don't look like the ideal person to be an advocate for that I'm this like privileged white girl I don't like represent the vast majority of people even if I've served my damn time Is it hard to stay in contact with Rafael It's a little bit simply because like I completely understand that a big part of his trauma is that no one ever gave a shit about him So the only reason why he almost lost everything in his entire life was because he started dating me five days before MEREDITH was murdered He barely knew me and his entire life got thrown through a loop and no one cared about him He talked about how in the trial he was bringing up like I don't have a history like I don't have a criminal history Had no reason to take part in like a murdered game Like what are you talking about And they were like oh no no you're just Amanda's bitch So you would do whatever she said because you're a helpless like man child who would do whatever a fem fatal would say And he's like that's not who I am That's not who I am when you tried to get back into dating How was that Yeah When you tried to get back into dating how was that What ended up happening was um my first boyfriend after I got home was actually someone who I had dated before in college So someone who I knew from before who had exchanged letters with like while I was in prison So someone I knew and trusted and we dated for 2.5 years and then my next boyfriend after that was someone who I knew from middle school So like all people that I knew from before but hadn't seen in many years we had grown like learned come to know each other Um And then finally I met my future husband who um really really cute story because um again like I was saying I was writing for this local newspaper I was doing a lot of arts correspondence So like reviewing books or plays or whatever Um I was given an advance copy of his debut novel and I reviewed it for the paper I

thought was fantastic It's called War of the Encyclopedist I wrote this rave review submitted to the paper and then like whatever forget about it Like it's done next assignment except the very next day I walked out of my apartment building and in the diner window across the street was like a poster for a book reading of this exact book And I was like huh I never go out like I never I never ever ever go out to public things This is a little bookstore It's this book that I just read I thought it was super great I'll just like duck in So I ducked in and I checked out this great book reading and at the end of it I asked him can I have an interview for the paper And he was like sure come over to my house didn't kind of sort of knew who I was because there were people whispering in the crowd like oh man not man He was like I don't know like I'm a poetry guy I don't like follow true crime whatever Invite me over to his house drink scotch Watch Star Trek Hang out go on a walk I interview him great at the end of this like interview hang out session He shakes my hand and says we should be friends and it's like a throw away thing to say like ok yeah we should be friends Sure But for me it was like a month after I had been fully exonerated and it was the first time I was like whoa maybe I can make friends like a normal person maybe And so he was one of the first friends I made after I was fully exonerated and we were like friends for a good like nine months before we started dating And what's even funnier is that when we started dating he was playing the field and his roommate was who ended up being the at our wedding He was like always like pick Amanda pick a man Amanda pick a man Go for me Wait that is that's such an amazing story Were you living with your family while when you went back to Seattle So I started out living with my family Then I moved in with a friend of mine that I had known for years and then eventually I got my own apartment in like an area of downtown What was your family's experience when you came back also to town I mean my family has been through the fucking ringer like it's one of when these things happen they don't just happen to one person they happen to a whole network of people And so I feel like unraveling the trauma that happened to everyone because everyone's lives became utterly focused on save Amanda save Amanda Um That was the first priority and every other priority ended up having to become secondary like that was real But we've all like moved on like we've all we all have our lives My sister got married and had a kid Like my mom is still working as a teacher and is super happy to be grandma now Like everyone's like you got a life but we're still sort of unpacking how we've all been affected by this and how our family has been affected by it You

know my youngest sister was like nine when I was arrested And so like she didn't really even fully understand what was happening and only sort of had to figure it out over the years She's 22 now Did any of them experience bullying Yes So um my sister described my sister Deanna describes this one situation where she was with my dad and my younger sisters at the pool and Delaney my youngest sister came crying over to Diana because she said someone had said that she was sisters with the murder girl And um and then my sister Ashley has this has um talked about how people would purposefully call her Amanda Knox instead of Ashley Knox in order to sort of like again like highlight like we all know what your sister did How often do you think about MEREDITH Um It changes from the time of year like right now this time of year is one that I think about her a lot obviously because the like this week was the anniversary of her murder It's the anniversary of when I was arrested I think of her every time we come on to um like December 4th is when I was first convicted So there are like moments in the case that like are very very vivid to me There was that feeling of like this again how our lives became intertwined and we almost became like two sides of a coin Like we were both like we're almost versions of each other And yet I'm the one who lived and she's the one who died And it's so bizarre And at the same time I also know that she was her totally her own person and like had her own dreams and her own life and her own family And that all got taken away And as much as like my identity has been usurped by this like whole horrible tragedy Talk about her identity Like she never got a chance to like even fight back against you know a false narrative about her because she just is gone and there's no way to get her back And so like I'm especially thinking about that now that I've had a daughter because like on the anniversary of her death for the past many many years 14 years I've always sort of put myself in her shoes and thinking like oh my God what must it have been Like what were her last moments ever As a person Like horrible horrible moments Thinking oh my God it could have been me And this year I couldn't help but put myself in her mom's shoes and thinking like oh my God if that happened to my baby what do you do You And like I can totally understand how her mom would have willingly taken her daughter's place if she could And she couldn't in the same way that like my mom every time she walked into that jail to visit me she would have taken my place if she could But every time she had to leave me behind in a place that she knew where I was suffering and she couldn't do anything about it Do you have any contact with Meredith's family No not not yet Not yet is my sort of position

because like I know that it's a complicated situation I know that at least in the past like it's unclear to me at this point how they feel about me And I don't want to like force a relationship on to them if it's traumatic for them So I have sent messages to them through intermediaries telling them I want to have a relationship with you I want to talk to you and I'm waiting to see if that's something that they want to do you That's something you would want I want the same thing that they want I want to know the truth I want to know what happened to MEREDITH I want her to be recognized for who she was and I want their suffering to be recognized for what it is And I want them to get the closure that they deserve I want that too And like that's why like I have really complicated feelings about you know her Killer Rudy Gay Day because I've spent time in prison now too And I'm thinking here's this young guy I've like had this whole thing on my podcast talking about when he was released from prison because he's out How do you feel about that I know that he was a very young man when he made this colossal horrible decision to rape and murder MEREDITH I don't know how he feels about that today I would hope that he regrets that he hasn't actually shown that he acknowledges what he did and he hasn't like admitted to it and and asked for forgiveness So it doesn't give me a super hopeful feeling that like he truly feels rehabilitated even But at the same time we're also looking at a system that is super adversarial that disincentivize people from admitting fault and apologizing for things And maybe he feels like a fucking victim too because he was a young guy who was abandoned by his dad brought up like foster care in Italy didn't like have a great thing going for him and he sort of spiraled out of control going from burglary to burglary to burglary until he majorly majorly fucked up What is like a word to describe how you feel towards him Because essentially like I had to look up how to pronounce his fricking name Nor does a lot of the world we know Amanda Knox And it's like the person that actually murdered raped is not at the forefront of the story Like his name is not the one that is affiliated with this horrible crime Mine is yeah I wish that I could I had a better word But I think if I was going to be totally honest I'm angry I'm angry and I'm still angry That doesn't mean that I can't have compassion for him but I am angry I don't think that my name ever should have been associated with his actions And the fact that no one seems to really care about him given that they were his actions really bugs me out And like maybe my anger is a little bit sort of misdirected at him because of all of the people not seeming to care that it was him You know I don't know I don't think that's irrational at all I think that's actually

sounds like exactly what would be the appropriate response for you bearing the weight of someone else's actions and now it has affected the rest of your life But is there anything like you do every single November 2nd Like is there anything No there's not like a specific ritual There's a quietness There's a kind of um there's just like a thoughtful moment of again that like it's an expression of like acknowledgment that I'm alive and she's not in another reality It could have gone the other way or we both would be alive or we both would be dead It's like how fragile are we all in any given moment Do you still feel like people are judging your every move Especially on social media Well I know that there are certain people who are in fact judging my every move on social media like at any moment in time they're trying to find any fault that they can in me And so they'll do that and like it'll crop up like I'll go to uh like a Renaissance fair where my friends are like sword fighting and people be like oh look she can't get away from knives like stuff like that Like so there's that And I and I do feel like on the one hand I I sort of long for an existence where I don't need to like use social media to like interact with the world I understand that it's sort of like inevitably at the way that like a lot of us are communicating and being a part of like a digital community together And it is important I think it does have the negative consequence of sort of driving us to constantly seek approval from random strangers And I understand how much of a losing game that is so like I do think that the sort of mind suck time suck of social media is not necessarily healthy unless you can have a sort of meta almost disassociative relationship with it On the other hand um without social media there are so many people who have reached out to me either you know asking for help asking for like perspective on their own lives like oh I feel like no one understands me but maybe you might understand me like have those kinds of moments happen Um And then also people just saying like hey I just want to send you some nice vibes today because I know you've been through some shit Have you thought about how you will explain this to your child Yes I've thought about that a lot The moment that I'm that I'm most sort of not looking forward to is the moment when she first like when we all first say that's not fair because like when you reach the point of understanding whether or not something is fair or not you have a a you've reached a level of sophistication to understand a level of human suffering that is can be deep life really isn't fair And if you like it's such a throwaway thing like that we just say it all the time But like when you really think about it how life isn't fair and how bad things happen to good people for no reason That is something that at the very least I feel like I've

been able to think really deeply about I have a lot of perspective about that issue and it's not something that I take for granted So when she reaches that moment of her life when she starts understanding that things aren't fair I'm not just going to like throw away like life isn't fair throw a smile on your face like no that existential crisis of life isn't fair is real And it's one of the deeper problems that we have as human beings and as a society because we don't have great answers for that And that's ok Like acknowledging that we don't have great answers for big problems is gives you a level of humility to have a lot more compassion for people no matter who they are And then I'm sure like I'm going to let her guide her own understanding of my case she'll ask questions she'll want to know she'll be exposed to I have friends who have gone to prison for things they didn't do and like they like she's going to know from being around me that there's something about this justice system that is a little questionable and when she's ready she'll ask me and I'm going to be totally honest Thank you Thank you so much