

INTERVIEW WITH SEAN MENDELL

Q=Det. Jower

Q1=Det. (Tracy) Reese

A=Sean Mendell

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Q: Now did you do a photo lineup?

A: No.

Q: You did not do a photo lineup?

A: Officer came up to me, said "Is this" - "Can you take a look at this picture?" I looked inside the unmarked white car with two - not sheriffs, they were wearing...

Q: Uh-huh.

A: ...tan uniforms.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: And they had a couple more badges here.

Q: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A: They said, "Is this the guy?" and I looked in and I said, "That looks like him."

Q: So they showed you a photo of somebody?

A: They showed me a photo - he pulled up somebody's record, a photo this big, and I said, "That looks like him."

Q: How-how sure, like um, so it's with the sheriff's office guy, right? Showed a single photo?

A: There was two, but I don't know if it was sheriffs, 'cause they had an unmarked car and it didn't - sheriff's uniforms are a little darker.

46
47 Q: Right.
48
49 A: This was lighter tan.
50
51 Q: It was tan?
52
53 A: Yeah.
54
55 Q: Okay, so...
56
57 A: And they had sheriff's - it's funny 'cause I was looking for...
58
59 Q: Or maybe it was CHP?
60
61 A: CH- no. You normally have a unit, a thing from your badge. They had a
62 couple - like maybe three of these here.
63
64 Q: Uh-huh.
65
66 A: Might have been a sheriff. I know our house is in the Sheriff's Department.
67
68 Q: Showed you a single photo?
69
70 A: Yes. Says, "Is that the guy?" and I said, "It looks like him. I'm not 100%
71 positive that that photo looks like him, but then at the same time I'm like - you
72 know, I'm thinking in my head it's not him because (Nathan) is a big guy, and
73 this guy didn't look big. But I haven't seen (Nathan) in two or three - no, two
74 years.
75
76 Q: All right. Does (Nathan) have a brother?
77
78 A: I have no idea. I don't even know (Nathan) at all. I've seen him in a bar once,
79 and I've heard about him - he's a bad - he's-he's the kind of guy that might do
80 - I didn't think he was this extreme, but he's the kind of guy that definitely
81 qualifies.
82
83 Q: (Nathan)'s brother?
84
85 A: No, (Nathan) himself.
86
87 Q: (Nathan) himself, okay. Um, when you saw this guy, did you say, "Oh that's
88 Nathan, I know him"?
89
90 A: No, not at all. When I saw him, I said I had no idea who this guy was.

91
92 Q1: Would you recognize (Nathan) if you saw him?
93
94 A: Um, would I recognize the guy that was there that held the gun to my head?
95 Yes, I think so.
96
97 Q1: Okay. And would you recognize (Nathan) if you saw him?
98
99 A: Um...
100
101 Q1: Just from your memory of him...
102
103 A: No, I'd recognize his - I mean he's - I remember him being - he's a - two
104 years ago, you couldn't miss him. He's a big, muscle, break out guy.
105
106 Q: When was the last time you saw (Nathan)?
107
108 A: God, probably when I was - when the hell did I see him? See, I can't
109 remember but I think when I was doing work on - I've been good friends with
110 (Sam) and (Josh), and back when they were doing the addition, I think I came
111 by once and he was - yeah, that's where I remember him.
112
113 Q: How long ago?
114
115 A: Um, probably over four years ago. When I saw him at the bar, I don't even
116 remember what he looks like - I mean it was like...
117
118 Q: Okay. So-so you...
119
120 A: They said, "There's (Nate)," "Oh."
121
122 Q: So (Nathan)'s a stranger to you then?
123
124 A: Yes, completely.
125
126 Q: That's why...
127
128 A: He didn't know who I...
129
130 Q: So he...
131
132 A: He didn't know who I was.
133
134 Q: So I'm not - I'm not trying to put words in your mouth or anything like that,
135 but when you saw this guy, you didn't recognize him?

136
137 A: Not at all.
138
139 Q: And it could have been (Nathan), 'cause you haven't seen him for four years,
140 and before that you met him once?
141
142 A: Absolutely, exactly.
143
144 Q1: Has your girlfriend ever met him?
145
146 A: No, never.
147
148 Q: Okay. Uh...
149
150 A: (Sam), (Josh)'s mom...
151
152 Q: Mm-hm.
153
154 A: ...and (Josh) wouldn't know exactly. They can say right now - you can call
155 them and say, "Was it (Nathan)?" and they could say yes or no, guaranteed.
156
157 Q: (Sam) and (Josh) would know?
158
159 A: Oh yeah, for sure. I mean I know it sounds funny, but if you go and look at
160 (Nathan) now and if he's some guy that's not as big as he was, 'cause his
161 picture's four years ago you'll know that, I mean...