

INTERFERENCE: Radio Killer, Ep. 4

REPORTER 1

This morning the "Radio Killer," was found after law enforcement traced the distress calls to an abandoned radio station in Stanton, New Jersey.

REPORTER 2

Upon their arrival, authorities made a gruesome discovery: the bodies of four young girls... and standing over them, Jeremy Davis, a retired officer-

REPORTER 3

Barricaded in the stations sound booths were six living hostages, who reported being held captive for months-

VICTIM 1

We were drugged and turned against each other. It started with ten of us, each day we wondered who would be next-

VICTIM 2

He wasn't right in the head, said we were impure-

<the voices start rapidly speeding up, overlapping each other, growing to a crescendo as a suspenseful electronic theme song starts!>

HOST

Good evening listeners, you're tuning into "Interference" where we explore the strange and unexplained phenomena of the January 17th distress calls. Today is an important episode, because it very well may be our last. Just this morning, the Radio Killer was found...

EXT. FRONT OF COURTHOUSE

<the voices of reporters all speak over each other as cars pass and someone descends marble steps>

JEREMY

I was a homicide investigator for eight years. A veteran of the US military. I served this country and I will continue to. I'm a man of honor and civility, and most importantly, I'm innocent.

INT. HOME BIRTHDAY FOOTAGE

<a group of people sing happy birthday, clapping, a huff as someone blows out candles>

DON

Happy birthday, old man. Bet it's nice to finally get a day off from the blood and guts.

JEREMY

Eh, gotta do something to keep my mind sharp.

DON

Yeah, but you gotta retire at some point. Get a house in the Ozarks or something, maybe adopt a poodle-

JEREMY

I'll be frank with you, Don, **I'd rather blow my fucking brains out.**

<the party chatter dies out abruptly>

INT. HOST'S STUDIO

HOST

For today's segment, we're joined by Don Lockley, who worked closely with Jeremy Davis, now known as the Radio Killer. Don, could you elaborate on your friendship with Jeremy?

DON

Well, to clarify, Jeremy and I weren't really friends. We were partners. We worked on cases together.

HOST

Did you two get along?

DON

Not exactly. Working with Jeremy was a challenge, to say the least.

HOST

Why did you put up with him?

DON

Because he was my superior, and I assumed he'd retire soon. Also, I wasn't going to jeopardize my job. I was new, and I found a profound sense of purpose in bringing justice to the victims' families.

HOST

Do you think Jeremy felt that sense of purpose?

DON

Purpose? No. Stimulation? Yes. Jeremy wasn't like the rest of us. I mean, he was an incredible investigator, better than any of us, but he just wasn't fully there- emotionally I mean.

HOST

Do you think Jeremy could've been a sociopath?

DON

As someone who knew him well, I'd say so. I think he never really left the military behind. There, he was surrounded by incredibly disturbing things, and he talked about it like the prime of his life, like the good old days.

HOST

What do you think motivated him to commit this crime?

DON

I think he got bored, figured he had nothing to lose. Got tired of solving crimes, and figured he'd start committing them.

HOST

Was he prone to boredom?

DON

Extremely. I remember actually, when the distress calls first started happening, he wouldn't stop talking about it. About how fascinating it was. He had a similar fascination with other cases we were put on, particularly a series of homicides targeting preteen girls.

HOST

What about that case do you think he found fascinating?

DON

The mode of murder. The man who committed these crimes was also ex military, and he used interrogation tactics to torture the girls before slitting their throats.

HOST

What kinds of tactics?

DON

Anything that caused prolonged suffering. Waterboarding, electric shock, intermittent strangulation. Anything to break the victim down before killing them.

HOST

Do we see evidence of inspiration in the way he murdered the four girls?

DON

Yes. Two of them show severe bruising on the neck from repeated strangulation, likely the reason for many of the distress calls to have claims like 'I can't breathe.'

HOST

Did you ever feel compelled to report Jeremys behavior to your superiors?

DON

Yeah... there was one particular incident that pushed me to take action. We were interrogating a suspect, and Jeremys approach was... disturbing.

HOST

What happened during that interrogation?

DON

Jeremy used psychological tactics to wear down the suspect. It was beyond intense. He kept the guy awake for hours on end.

HOST

How did the suspect react?

DON

By the end of it, the suspect was a mess, shaking, barely coherent. Jeremy bullied him into a confession, but it turned out, the guy was innocent. We found DNA samples a week later that proved it.

HOST

What did you do after witnessing this?

DON

I reported him to my superiors.

HOST

How did your superiors respond to your report?

DON

They took it seriously. Jeremy had to retake his psychological evaluation and attend mandatory counseling.

HOST

Did they discover anything?

<call audio pauses>

HOST (CONT'D)

After talking with Don for a little, he admitted that they did discover something. Jeremy seemed very upset about an interaction with his neighbor, Brenda, who accused him of suspicious activities. Now, his psychiatrist at the time, Dr. Wendy Morris, refuses to speak on the matter, but I was able to contact Brenda and request an interview.

HOST (CONT'D)

Welcome, Brenda, we're so happy to have you here on the podcast. Would you mind telling us what your thoughts are, now that Jeremy Davis has been arrested for the Radio Killings?

BRENDA

I tried to tell them. I tried to tell people what he was doing.

HOST

I'm curious, what did you think of Jeremy when you first met him?

BRENDA

When he first moved in here, I thought he was a nice guy. He was a retired veteran, divorced, and had two young daughters. I was kind to him like I was kind to everyone new to the neighborhood.

HOST

And how did he react to this kindness?

BRENDA

Oh, he was just fine. I started talking to him just about every other morning in my lawn before I went to work, but a month into knowing him, I saw him carrying soundproofing equipment into his basement.

HOST

Soundproofing equipment, what for?

BRENDA

Well, at first I didn't know, but I'm a curious person. I like understanding what people get up to in their free time, so I asked.

HOST

I'm sure he didn't like that.

BRENDA

That was the first time I saw a glimpse of anything strange in him. He went blank. Then he told me he was building a studio in his basement.

HOST

What for?

BRENDA

For fun? He said he'd just always had a fascination with vintage radio systems. That was enough of an answer for me, so I didn't really think anything of it until that night.

HOST

What happened that night?

BRENDA

Well, neither of his kids lived with him. He'd bought a small house and turned it into his bachelor pad, so one night, I'm reading on my back balcony, and I see him talking to himself in his yard, and I'm talkative, so I really can understand talking to yourself, but this was different. He was angry, and he was digging holes in his yard.

HOST

What did you think when you saw this?

BRENDA

Well, I thought he seemed upset. I mean, I'm divorced, so I get it. It's hard. Sometimes, it takes a while to get back on your feet, so I went over and I called at his back gate.

HOST

Did he come to meet you the first time you called?

BRENDA

Well no, but I could see him standing there. I knew he was there, so I waited a minute. He came a little after that.

HOST

What did you say to him?

BRENDA

I asked him if he was alright. The next day, I reported him to the police.

HOST

What did Jeremy say to you that night?

BRENDA

Oh, he said he was fine, just dealing with something emotionally straining, felt the urge to do some late night gardening.

HOST

Then what made you contact the police?

BRENDA

I've always been a very intuitive person. Maybe it's because I'm curious, or maybe it's just a god-given gift, but whatever the reason, I can read people like a book.

HOST

So you could tell he was up to something.

BRENDA

Yes, I could tell.

HOST

When you reported him, did law enforcement believe you?

BRENDA

No. Jeremy was a veteran and I didn't have evidence. All I could tell them was that I saw him digging holes in his yard.

HOST

I'm hesitating to ask, but do you think they're going to find bodies buried there?

BRENDA

I'm almost sure of it.

HOST

Why?

BRENDA

Because who digs holes at night for no reason-

HOST

I mean I suppose that could be enough reason, but it's not exactly strong as far as evidence goes-

BRENDA

I didn't finish. There was also the smell.

HOST

The smell?

BRENDA

Oh, it wasn't long after that night that his yard started stinking.

HOST

Did you ever confront him about it?

BRENDA

Not at first, but it eventually got so bad I had to.

HOST

What did he say when you confronted him?

BRENDA

He always had different excuse for it; buried a fox he found, had to put down his daughters cat, tried a new chemical pesticide. After a while, it just didn't add up. He started getting mad, and I started getting mad. Not just at him, but at the police. The amount of times I called, just for them to blow me off? And now they've found the bodies of four girls? If they had just done their damn jobs, then none of this would've happened.

HOST

When the January 17th distress calls began, did you suspect he was behind it?

BRENDA

At the beginning, I didn't. He was home too often. But a couple weeks in, I noticed him loading up all his soundproofing equipment into his car. Again, I called the police, but I got dismissed. Looking back, I'm realizing he must've been going to the abandoned radio station. All those nights, where I saw him and knew where he was going... and I did nothing.

HOST

You didn't do nothing. You alerted the authorities, and they should've handled it. You are in no way responsible for these deaths.

BRENDA

I know that. It's just hard to remember that when you think of all the times you could've stopped him...

HOST

You did what you thought was right with the information you had at the time, Brenda. And that counts for a lot.

BRENDA

Thank you, I appreciate you saying that. If I'm honest, I don't know much else besides that. I just saw what he did on the outside. Everything I've told the police, I've told you.

HOST

That's okay. This has been so incredibly helpful, Brenda.

BRENDA

Well, thank you.

HOST

Of course, if you remember anything else, feel free to give me another call.

BRENDA

Okay, I might. Thank you, good night now.

HOST

Good night.

<end of call>

HOST (CONT'D)

Now, let's shift our focus to understanding Jeremy from another perspective. We're about to hear from Sargent Max Reynolds, a man who served in the military alongside Jeremy.

<audio begins>

HOST (CONT'D)

Max, thank you for joining us. Would you introduce yourself to our listeners?

MAX

Sure thing. I'm Max Reynolds, retired Sergeant from the US Army.

HOST

You and Jeremy served together for quite some time, didn't you?

MAX

Yeah, we did, 5 years just about.

HOST

So you would say you were close?

MAX

As close as you can be.

HOST

As close as you can be? What does that mean?

MAX

He was a good soldier, and he had my back. That's as close as you get during war.

HOST

I'm sure you've heard what Jeremy is being accused of. Given the evidence, do you believe Jeremy is guilty?

MAX

I don't.

HOST

Why?

MAX

He just wasn't like that. I saw him save more people than he killed, and that's hard to do on the front lines.

HOST

How can you explain what they found?

MAX

I can't, but I know he's not responsible.

HOST

The distress calls were traced to the radio station. His voice was heard in several of them? What about the victims testimonies?

MAX

Those could've been manipulated, tampered with. You can't just take them at face value. Believe me, the government has it's own version of the truth, and that's not always what happened.

HOST

Your loyalty to your friend is really honorable-

MAX

Loyalty has nothing to do with it. I know Jeremy, I served with him. He's not capable of something like this.

HOST

But didn't war ever make you act in ways you didn't know you were capable of? Do you think perhaps war might have affected him more deeply than you realize?

MAX

No, I don't. Look, we all saw and did things that we regret. But Jeremy? He wasn't some sociopath. He was a good guy. War didn't break him.

HOST

I understand your perspective, Max.

MAX

Do you? Because it feels like you don't. Jeremy had no reason to lose his shit on anyone, and I refuse to believe he did.

HOST

Well, thank you for your statement. I'm sure Jeremy deeply appreciates your support right now. Goodness knows, he's not getting it from anywhere else.

MAX

He deserves the benefit of the doubt. I know you don't agree, but thanks for having me today.

HOST

Of course, is this your way of ending the interview?

MAX

Yes, I think I've said all I really can, and I don't think we're going to see eye to eye any time soon. Have a good night.

HOST

You as well, Max.

<end of call>

HOST (CONT'D)

Now, before we end tonight's episode... I wanted to bring on one more guest. I'm going to let her introduce herself.

SAGE

I'm Sage Davis. Jeremy's daughter.

HOST

Sage, how old are you?

SAGE

I just turned twenty.

HOST

What made you want to come onto this podcast?

SAGE

I want people to know what he was like. Who he was. I want people to know my side of the story.

HOST

And what is your side of the story, Sage?

SAGE

I know many daughters of killers often say things like 'He was a great father, I never felt threatened by him,' and that was somewhat my experience, but not entirely. I never felt threatened by Jeremy, but he also wasn't really a parent. Our dynamic was different. Talking to him, even when I was a little girl, felt more like talking to a friend.

HOST

So you're saying you never felt in danger?

SAGE

No, I didn't, because he wasn't fully checked in.

HOST

That's an interesting perspective. Many might assume he had to be hot-headed or aggressive to commit the crimes he's been accused of. What are your thoughts on that?

SAGE

I don't believe violence always stems from being hot-headed. It can be calculated, deliberate, and cold. That's how I saw my father. I was never afraid of him because none of that was ever directed at me.

HOST

Do you believe your parents divorce was caused by his apathy?

SAGE

Oh, definitely. He never hurt my mom, he just stopped talking to her, would camp out in the basement with his case files and not talk to us for days.

HOST

Do you feel any resentment towards him for this?

SAGE

For that? No. But he just killed four girls around my cousins age. So yeah, I think he should rot.

HOST

I'm sure it's an intense feeling to grapple with. When your parents divorced, how often did you see him?

SAGE

Like once a month, but I basically just hung out in my room the whole weekend.

HOST

When the distress calls first started, did you notice your dad's behavior start to change?

SAGE

This is gonna sound sick to say, but we almost had fun talking about it. Me and my dad don't really get on, but I listen to true crime, and that used to be his job, so sometimes, we would talk about interesting murder cases, or kidnappings. We talked a lot about the distress calls, but honestly, I never suspected he was behind them. Not once.

HOST

Looking back now, with hindsight, were there any signs that he was the perpetrator?

SAGE

The studio equipment I guess. I just thought it was a dad thing, you know? The surround sound speakers, the vintage recording equipment. I just thought it was a weird hobby, but I should've put the pieces together. Also, he just seemed happier. Which is fucking disturbing, but at the time, I just thought he was getting better... and also, there's always been one thing...

HOST

Go on?

SAGE

We played this game.

HOST

What game?

SAGE

He called it "Motive."

HOST

How would you play?

SAGE

Basically... you'd invent some crazy homicide. You'd describe the way the body was found, the victim, the suspects, and then, the other player would guess the mode of murder and the motive. And honestly, it was usually silly. Like "Murder by cucumber" and we'd get really goofy with it, but I guess looking back... he was always thinking about stuff like that and how to get away with it...

HOST

Was playing that game a nice memory you had with your father?

SAGE

I mean, yeah. I'm a writer, so I have fun with hypotheticals. I think, in that way, I understood him. Like, his fascination with the cases he took on? Wanting to get to the bottom of something? ...It worries me, honestly, that I'm like him in that way.

HOST

I don't think you have a reason to worry. We aren't our parents. There's a big difference between writing about crimes and committing them. You sound like you'd make a great investigative journalist.

SAGE

Maybe. I don't think I want to anymore.

HOST

I think that's fair, and honestly wise. This line of work is rewarding, but it's not heart-warming.

<silence>

SAGE

I feel sick.

HOST

What's going on?

SAGE

I just can't believe he did it... all those times we talked about it...

<call ends abruptly>

HOST

From here on, Sage asked me to stop recording. For her privacy, I can't share any more of the recording or the information shared with me.

<outro music begins>

HOST (CONT'D)

So, where does this leave us? Jeremy maintains his innocence while the evidence directly contradicts his claims. We have testimonies from neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family members, and yet, all paint a different picture of this obsessive man. Despite this, the Radio Killer has been found. The January 17th distress calls have come to an end.

<static starts>

HOST (CONT'D)

As always, we encourage our listeners to remain vigilant, question everything, and dig deeper into the stories that shape our world. Thank you for tuning into interference. Although this is the last episode, stay critical, stay curious, and stay tuned.

<Static crackles away into silence>

HOST (CONT'D)

It's 6 pm my time, 3 hours after my interview with Sage. I was editing the last episode in the studio when I received a call from one of the victims. They came forward and asked to be on the podcast, but only if I would allow them to be completely anonymous. Here are the clips from the call.

<recording static begins>

HOST (CONT'D)

Hello? Who is this?

<the voice that speaks next is warped and edited>

VICTIM

I'm one of the victims of Jeremy Davis, and there's something you should know. I wasn't kidnapped until a week after the distress calls started..

HOST

What do you mean?

VICTIM

Jeremy was a sick fuck, but he's not the one behind the January 17th distress calls. He was a copycat, I know it for a fact.

<the call ends abruptly>

HOST

How do you know? Hello?

<silence unfolds on the other line>

HOST (CONT'D)

How do you know?!