

1 follows:

2 QUESTIONS BY MRS. JENSEN:

3 Q Could you state your name please.

4 A Demond Spruill.

5 Q Where do you live, sir?

6 A I live at 2609 Powhatten.

7 Q In what city?

8 A Alton.

9 Q Do you live at that location with anyone?

10 A Yes. A guy named Bruce Stewart.

11 Q Mr. Spruill, directing your attention to 1995,  
12 did you happen to hear about the death of Nekemar Pearson?

13 A Then I heard that he was just missing. He was  
14 missing and was supposed to be on the run from a furlough.  
15 He had just got six years in the county and they had let him  
16 out on a furlough. And I heard that he was supposed to be on  
17 the run.

18 Q And that was at the time that he was missing?

19 A Right.

20 Q Did you hear anything else about that time or  
21 when his body was found?

22 A Yes. I heard rumors that a guy named Raven -  
23 - I believe his name is James and his last name starts with  
24 an E.

1 Q Evans?

2 A Evans, yeah. I heard that he supposedly had  
3 Pookie killed.

4 Q And Pookie is Mr. Pearson's nickname?

5 A Right. Pookie is Pearson.

6 Q Okay.

7 A He supposedly had Pookie killed. We all knew  
8 Pookie robbed Raven for some money, drugs, and some other  
9 things. And Pookie was running around bragging about that he  
10 had robbed him.

11 So, you know, we all felt that he didn't want to go  
12 back to jail so he was on the run. And rumors got around  
13 that Raven had something to do with it at that time. I was  
14 in jail, so I was just hearing over the phone what had  
15 happened.

16 Q Where were you in jail?

17 A In southwest.

18 Q In where?

19 A In Mt. Sterling, Illinois.

20 Q And when did you go into jail?

21 A Ma'am?

22 Q When did you start your sentence?

23 A In ninety-five.

24 Q After Pookie was missing but before his body

1 was found?

2 A About around the time he was missing.

3 Q And then when did you get released?

4 A In ninety-six -- ninety-seven.

5 Q This year?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Since you've been released, have you had

8 occasion to have a conversation with Raven about this?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Tell us how that came about and when that

11 happened.

12 A I was in front of 2607 Powhatten and Raven was

13 driving past in a yellow Chevy S-10 truck. I flagged him

14 down.

15 He was like, "What's up." I was like, "You know  
16 everybody's going around saying that you killed Pookie." And  
17 he said, "Man, let me tell you about that boy."

18 Q You can say what he said.

19 A Okay. He said, "Man, let me tell you about  
20 that bullshit." And he said, "Get in. Drive with me."

21 So we got in the truck and he drove down the street  
22 and we drove a couple places. And he was like, "Man, you  
23 know that silly motherfucker shot him." And I was like, "Who  
24 shot him?" And he said, "Brian."

1 I said, "Brian?" I said, "Scary Brian?" He said,  
2 "Yeah." He said, "I sent Mikey around there to get him."  
3 Mikey and -- I forget the girl's name. He said, "I sent him  
4 around there to get him because I was going to ask him why he  
5 was running around telling people that he robbed me. I mean,  
6 he already did it, so why was he bragging about it."

7 He said, "I had to get him back anyway for duct  
8 taping me." And supposedly Pookie duct taped him and took a  
9 broomstick and put it in his buttocks while he was duct taped  
10 on the ground. So he was like, "I had to get him for that."

11 So he was like, "Man, I was talking to him and I  
12 smacked him. And I opened the car door and pulled him out of  
13 the car." He said that they got in a fight. And when Brian  
14 was hitting him, he heard a gunshot go off. And he said when  
15 the gunshot went off, he looked over, and Brian was holding a  
16 gun.

17 He said, "Niger, what the fuck are you doing?" And  
18 he said, "Man, you know this dude had a pistol all along."  
19 And he said that he told Mikey to go ahead and drive because  
20 the police are going to come.

21 Powhatten -- there's probably about seven houses on  
22 the street. And out of the seven houses, all of them people  
23 work. So if you do hear a gunshot, somebody is going to call  
24 the police on the street. So he said that he told Mikey to

1 go ahead and drive off.

2 He said that Mikey drives off. And he said, "Man,  
3 the dude was sitting there." And I said, "What did he do  
4 then. What were you doing while he was shot?" He said, "He  
5 was just laying there." He said he told Brian, "Man, you  
6 fucked up. You might as well go ahead and finish it."

7 So Brian was like, "Fuck that. You go ahead and do  
8 it." And he was like, "I'll pay you. Go ahead and finish."  
9 And he said that Brian took him back towards the back of the  
10 house and shot him.

11 He said that him and Brian took him and put him in  
12 the basement. He said that they were just going to leave him  
13 in the basement for a minute.

14 And he said a couple days later a girl came to the  
15 house and knocked on the door and they let her in. And she  
16 said, "Ooh, it smells like a dead body in here." And it just  
17 so happens that there was a dead body in the basement.

18 So he told Brian, "Man, we got to move him." And  
19 Brian was like, "No. Let's just put him in the back." He  
20 said him and Brian took him somewhere. He said to the woods.  
21 They took him to the woods. He said Brian was like, "We  
22 should bury him." And he was like, "No. Ain't nobody going  
23 to find him. I don't got time to be digging no dirt." And  
24 Brian said, "All right." And they just left him there.

1 Q Did they say how they transported him out to  
2 the woods?

3 A In a car.

4 Q Did he say what kind of car?

5 A A Chevy two-door.

6 Q Did he say whose car it was that they  
7 transported him in?

8 A I don't know whose car it is, but I've seen  
9 the Chevy. Raven drives the Chevy.

10 Q What color is that car?

11 A Brown with a white top.

12 Q Do you know about what month of this year that  
13 that conversation took place?

14 A I believe it was like in August -- close to  
15 the end of August.

16 Q When he talked about Brian, who was he talking  
17 about?

18 A They call him Brian -- I forget his last name.  
19 I only been with him a couple times. I didn't associate with  
20 him before or talk to him.

21 Q Do you know where he hangs out?

22 A With Raven.

23 Q With Raven?

24 A With Raven. He's Raven's friend. I've been

1 knowing Raven for about seven and a half years now. And  
2 every time I see Raven, I see Brian. They're buddies.

3 Q When you talk about Mike, who is Mike?

4 A Mike?

5 Q Yes.

6 A Mike is just a friend.

7 Q Do you know his last name?

8 A Michael Hooks.

9 Q That's the person who would have driven off  
10 after the shots, according to Raven?

11 A Right.

12 Q Did Raven say whether anybody else was there?

13 A He said a guy's name. It begins with an E,  
14 but I don't too much know him. He's kind of new in the  
15 neighborhood.

16 Q Did he say anything about after they moved the  
17 body whether they cleaned up anything?

18 A Yeah. He said a girl cleaned it up. I guess  
19 one of his girlfriends.

20 Q He didn't give a name?

21 A No.

22 Q Do you know who any of his girlfriends were?

23 A A girl named Kisha. I think Steele is her  
24 last name. Another girl, I believe, her name is Holliday or

1 something like that. We all just call her Holliday.

2 There's a couple girls. I can't really recall  
3 their names. I don't really mess with them. I just mess  
4 with Raven.

5 Q Has he said anything to you since that one day  
6 about what happened?

7 A Yes. He said the police were supposed to be  
8 watching him. He needed to lay low for a minute. Minor  
9 stuff like that.

10 Q Have you seen him around much lately in the  
11 last few months?

12 A Yes.

13 Q When you met with him on that day when he  
14 picked you up, what kind of car was he driving then?

15 A A Chevy S-10 -- a little yellow Chevy truck.

16 Q When you spoke with Raven about what happened,  
17 did he say how they got Nekemar down there to meet with him?

18 A You're talking about Pookie, right?

19 Q Pookie.

20 A He said that he sent Mikey around -- Mikey and  
21 Pookie's baby's mama. Raven had been messing with her for a  
22 little while. That was the reason Pookie robbed Raven  
23 because he was messing around with his girlfriend, and he  
24 knew Raven had money.



1 He sent her and Mikey around there to get him.  
2 They threw a barbecue. Everybody was invited to a barbecue  
3 for Pookie's sister's birthday. He sent them around there to  
4 pick him up. But Pookie was walking to use the pay phone  
5 down the street on Salu Street.

6 And when he was going down the street on Salu, they  
7 seen him walking down the street. So they picked him up and  
8 asked him if he wanted a ride. So he got in the car. I  
9 guess he didn't know that they was going around to Raven's  
10 house.

11 Q And they brought him over to Raven's house?

12 A Right.

13 Q Did you ever hear Clifton Wheeler's name  
14 involved?

15 A Who?

16 Q Clifton Wheeler?

17 A No. He was at the barbecue. That's about it.

18 MRS. JENSEN: Does anyone have any questions?

19 JUROR: Were you at the barbecue?

20 WITNESS: Ma'am?

21 JUROR: Were you at this barbecue?

22 WITNESS: No. I drove through there. I didn't  
23 stop.

24 JUROR: But you were not invited and you didn't go?

1 WITNESS: I was invited but I didn't go.

2 JUROR: You didn't go?

3 WITNESS: I was really at a pajama jam. That's a  
4 little better than, I guess, a barbecue. It's where the man  
5 comes in boxers and the females come in pajamas.

6 JUROR: I didn't understand what you just said.

7 WITNESS: I said I was at a pajama jam.

8 JUROR: I have a question. Do you know who owned  
9 the car that presumably drove the body away?

10 WITNESS: I just know Raven drives the car. He  
11 drives the car everyday, so I'm assuming that it's his.

12 MRS. JENSEN: Anything else?

13 Okay. Thank you. You may step down.

14 (Witness excused.)