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INTERVIEW

The following is an interview of LaKeisha Johnson by Rocky Montgomery and Investigator John Steele.

RM: This is Investigator Steele.

JS: Yeah, John Steele.

RM: This is LaKeisha, she's the mother of the baby. Did we get your address and all that stuff the other night?

LJ: Yes sir.

RM: That's right, uh, Stan took a statement from you, didn't he?

LJ: Mhm hm [yes].

RM: Alright. You read any of that John? Had a lot to happen since then LaKeisha. Since we talked to you. Some things have come up that, uh, not good. And, uh, they's a lot of questions that we're going to have to get answers. We need to start on it today. Got a little paperwork I got to do before I talk to you. And some of it, we're going to be going over the same stuff again. So just bear with us, o.k.? How far did you go in school?

LJ: How far?

RM: Yeah, did you graduate high school?

LJ: No.

RM: Alright, how far did you go?

LJ: 10th.

RM: And what school did you go to?

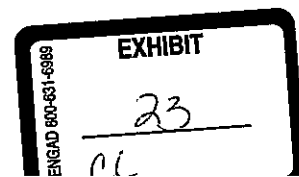
LJ: Central West.

RM: Alright LaKeisha.

JS: _____.

LJ: _____.

RM: Alright, do you have any trouble reading or writing? No the police, from the, the _____. I'm going to read you your rights here and that's to protect you and me both, o.k. Just so you understand that. Before we ask you any questions, you must understand your rights. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used against you in court. You have the right to talk to a lawyer for, for advice before we ask you any questions and to have a lawyer with you during questioning. If



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you can not afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed for you before any questions, if you wish. You can decide to answer questions now, without a lawyer present. You will still have the right to stop answering at any time. You also have the right to stop answering at any time until you talk with a lawyer. Alright, you, uh, I've read, or had this statement read to me of my rights and I understand what my rights are. I am willing to make a statement and answer questions. I do not want to talk to a lawyer at this unders, at this time. I understand and know what I am doing. No promises or threats have been made to me and no pressure or coercion of any kind has been used against me. Alright, you understand all that? You understand you got, your rights. Alright. Read this part again. I done read it to you but it's the waiver of your rights. It's saying you understand them and all that. Alright, read that part. Do you understand that?

- LJ: Yes.
- RM: Alright, are you willing to talk to us now?
- LJ: Mhm hm, what that D for.
- RM: I don't, I don't believe he said a D on there. Are you, are you not..
- LJ: Mhm hm.
- RM: ...you not..
- LJ: My middle initial S.
- RM: Oh, yeah, that's his S. Yeah, that's my partners writing. I can't read it half the time. Let me fix everything. Alright, if you're willing to make a statement, I need you to sign right there. Oh, so you're not legally married, right?
- LJ: No.
- RM: What time have you got there, John?
- JS: _____ 12:25. Date, the date is the 17th.
- RM: How did you pronounce the baby's name?
- LJ: Ebious.
- RM: Ebious. Get you to sign that. John said he witnessed the reading of the rights. Alright LaKeisha, I understand that, uh, when you left the other night that, uh, Willie and the, and the

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kids, the babies was the only people that was there? When you came back, it, there was still was no one there, right?

JS: You have to say yes and no.

RM: Yeah, you have to answer out loud. Alright. Uh, while you was over at your mother's and I understand that he called over there?

LJ: Mhm hm [yes].

RM: How many times did he call?

LJ: Once.

RM: Just one time?

LJ: Uh huh [yes].

RM: What did he say?

LJ: Told me how long I was gonna take and told me to come on to the house cause he, he told me not to take long cause he know when I go somewhere I talk forever.

RM: Yeah. Did he seem upset?

LJ: No.

RM: Alright. I understand he might have asked you to bring something back with you?

LJ: Pack of cigarettes.

RM: Pack of cigarettes. Uh, how, I just got talking, through talking to the people out at the Forensics place about the injuries to the baby.

LJ: Mhm hm.

RM: Uh, they wasn't caused by a fall. And they wasn't caused by you bumping into the door on the way out. Has he ever mistreated them babies before?

LJ: No.

RM: Do you know what happened to the baby?

LJ: It was _____ [crying].

JS: Do what? What'd you say, uh, ..

RM: I, I know it's hard and you going to have to bear with us and take your time. Can you get her some kleenex?

JS: Yes sir.

RM: John. If you will, get her a Pepsi.

JS: You want something to drink? She don't want nothing.

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RM: Water or something? I get you a Pepsi or something if you'd like that.

LJ: No.

JS: Here, take this right here and clean your face.

RM: Now, what did you say? I asked you did you know what happened to the baby and, and what did you say?

LJ: My baby was asleep when I left cause he was in the same place as I got back.

RM: Alright. He wasn't toting the baby when you got back?

LJ: No.

RM: You said in your statement last night that when you got back, he had the baby on his shoulder.

LJ: Last night I couldn't remember nothing what happened to my baby.

RM: Do what?

LJ: I couldn't remember nothing bad that would happen to my baby. I was too sad about my baby. [crying]

RM: Yeah, I know you was concerned about your baby. We're concerned about now, making sure that justice is done.

LJ: He wouldn't have did nothing to hurt his own baby.

JS: Oh,

RM: You're saying, you're saying Willie wouldn't hurt the baby?

LJ: No, cause he's the one that took care of him while I went to school, him and his sisters. And,

RM: Alright you..

LJ: ..._____ with the baby _____ would change his pampers and stuff.

RM: Alright, you telling me yest, last night, that night that Willie had been smoking marijuana.

LJ: Yeah.

RM: At about 3:00..

LJ: Earlier that day.

RM: ...that evening. Had he been drinking anything?

LJ: No.

RM: Is marijuana the only thing he smoked?

LJ: Yes.

RM: Now be real careful when you answer these ... *

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LJ: Yes.

RM: ...questions, o.k.? And make sure you tell me the truth. He hadn't smoked any crack?

LJ: No.

RM: Has he ever smoked any crack around you?

LJ: I don't know nothing about that.

RM: Then, then you've never seen him smoke any?

LJ: No, I don't know if he did or not.

RM: Alright. So when you left, the baby was in the bed?

LJ: My mother just had left the house.

RM: Alright, before you left, was the baby bleeding anywhere?

LJ: No.

RM: Did you see any when you come back?

LJ: No.

RM: You didn't see no blood?

LJ:

RM: You didn't see no blood on the pillow?

LJ: No.

RM: Uh, the baby had several internal injuries, that could not have been caused by the baby falling, and the baby couldn't have lived very long with them. So, when you left, you didn't know anything was wrong with the baby?

LJ: No, when I, my mother had came around and brought my baby the Easter, my other kids, Easter stuff. And she went to see the baby in the bed. And it,

RM: Now, he was laying in the bed? Was it..

LJ: He was laying in the bed on his stomach, he had just had eaten _____ and he was, uhm, drinking his milk and Willie burped him cause he was feeding him.

RM: Alright. When the baby was in the bed, when your mama was over there, did the baby raise up?

LJ: No, he just opened his eyes and his pacifier dropped out of his mouth.

RM: Did, was the baby moving alright?

LJ: Yes.

JS: There was nothing wrong with him, right?

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LJ: Well he, he was in, he, all that day, he was just laying around. He slept from the time he woke up around about eight something. And I fed him a bottle and changed his pamper and bathed him _____ a little.

RM: Alright.

LJ: Got a little, kind of cool in the house..

RM: Alright, you bathed him. You bathed him?

LJ: That morning.

RM: Did, did you see any bruises on him?

LJ: No.

RM: Did you see any cuts on him?

LJ: No. He didn't have none when he went to the hospital either last night.

RM: Uh.

LJ: He was fine cause my mama looked at him.

RM: You say when you got back from over at your mama's that the, that, you're saying now that the baby was in bed when you got there?

RM: The same way.

RM: Alright.

LJ: He was laying on the same...

RM: What, what made you know something was wrong with the baby?

LJ: Cause when Willie picked him up, you know, when he picked him up, he used to wiggle around and stuff. But, he didn't do none of that.

RM: How, how come...

LJ: He just opened his eyes, then he, then they closed half-way and his mouth opened. He was breathing a little while and then all the sudden, he just stopped. And then Willie _____ said Willie, the baby don't look right.

RM: Wh, why did Willie pick the baby up?

LJ: [crying]

JS: What did Willie say happened to the baby? That's what we need to know.

LJ: The baby was just laying in the bed. Ain't nothing happened to him.

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JS: No, no, you don't, you, I'm asking you a question. I'm asking you what did Willie say happened to the baby. Did, did the baby start crying or something, he couldn't shut him up?

LJ: No. He was, he was asleep from the time I left until the time I got back. He had...

JS: But Willie said nothing what happened to the baby, right? Did he say what happened to the baby?

LJ: No. He didn't say nothing.

JS: Did you ask him?

LJ: Yes.

JS: What, what did he say?

LJ: Nothing. He just said Keisha stop scaring me. I said well the baby ain't breathing, he ain't even moving no more.

RM: And he never said anything about the baby's been sick or throwing up or crying?

LJ: He had thrown up his milk, his formula.

JS: When?

LJ: This been going on. He been throwing up his milk, he'll hold some of it and he'll burp, then some of it come up. Some of his milk'll come up.

JS: All these injuries was, uh, new injuries. Had to happen between the time you left and the time, time you got back? Is that right Montgomery?

RM: That's the way I understood it. I hadn't got the written report back, but..

JS: Now, you saying Willie didn't, you saying Willie didn't do it?

LJ: _____ saying, at this minute, I _____ wouldn't hurt him [crying].

JS: Wouldn't hurt him?

LJ: No.

JS: You wouldn't think he, who would hurt him then?

LJ: Nobody. Everybody was crazy about my baby.

RM: Have you ever shook your baby?

LJ: No.

RM: Willie ever shook him?

LJ: No. He was just proud of his son. [crying]

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RM: Did Willie say anything about anybody being over there while you was gone?

LJ: No, wasn't nobody over there.

RM: Wasn't nobody over there while you was gone but Willie?

LJ: Nobody but him.

RM: Alright. So what I got is a, a two month old baby, Willie, and how old was the other baby?

LJ: Three and one.

RM: Three years old and one year old. And they're the only people in the apartment?

LJ: Yes.

RM: And then I got a baby that's got a fractured skull, broke ribs, damaged liver, busted spleen, and been hit in the groin. What, what does that tell you LaKeisha?

LJ: I don't know _____ somebody hurt my baby. [crying]

JS: Let me tell you something. Wi, did Willie tell you anything?

LJ: [crying]

RM: LaKeisha, I need you to sit up and tell me what happened.

JS: What did Willie say to you, he had to do to the baby?

LJ: [crying]

JS: I'm sure you asked him something and he told you something.

LJ: He just, he just was scared cause he said the same thing, was our son and he was just laying in there, just laying down in the bed.

RM: Yeah, I understand that. But since that happened, ya'll have talked. You've been down to his house. We know that.

LJ: Yes.

RM: And I know ya'll have talked about the baby dying.

LJ: Yes.

RM: What did he say?

LJ: He, he was, we were just talking about what happened to the baby cause if he'd been crying all that day.

JS: You didn't ask him why, uh, did he hit the baby or slap the baby. You didn't ask him?

LJ: He wouldn't hit the baby. I know that for myself.

JS: You don't, you don't, no, you don't know that. You said he'd

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been smoking, been smoking marijuana?

LJ: That was earlier in the day.

JS: Oh you, otherwise you didn't ask him nothing what happened to your baby right?

LJ: I was _____ getting my baby some help. [yelling and crying]

RM: No, I'm talking about since then. Since the, since the, you left the hospital.

LJ: _____.

RM: Since you left the hospital?

LJ: [crying]

RM: What has he told you happened?

LJ: [crying] That the baby wasn't crying or nothing. The baby just..

RM: Mhm hm.

LJ: ...was laying in the bed.

RM: Alright but since then. Since you left the hospital, what has Willie told you happened?

LJ: Nothing.

RM: He hadn't explained what happened? Ya'll hadn't talked about what, what he done while you was gone?

LJ: He was there walking through the house and the only thing he did wouldn't hurt the baby.

RM: Wait a minute LaKeisha. Now, now listen to what I'm asking you. You're, you're baby is, has, has died.

LJ: I know he has [crying and yelling].

RM: Alright. Did, and when you got home, you didn't say, did the baby fall? Did the..

LJ: He, he couldn't have fell. He was still in the same place he was when I got back.

RM: But you didn't ask anything?

LJ: He was on his stomach asleep! Cause he looked at my mama, his eyes opened and [wailing], I want my mama.

RM: But, but you hadn't asked? Sit up and talk to us. You hadn't asked anything about, you hadn't asked Willie anything that happened?

LJ: No, he's been like that all day. What I'm trying to tell you.

JS: No, you got, you got a dead baby here and the mother don't even ask the person that's staying with him what happened to him? Did you not ask him?

LJ: I did ask him. He said...

JS: What he say...

LJ: ...nothing happened to him.

JS: He said what?

LJ: He, he _____ [crying]

RM: What did he say though when you asked him?

LJ: He just said Keisha, he was laying there, he was just laying there in the bed. Just laying _____.

JS: But you said in your statement here he had him on his shoulder when you, when you got back. Is that not the truth? Which is the truth?

LJ: [crying] I don't know but they're _____ to get _____ for my baby.

RM: LaKeisha, are you telling us the whole truth?

JS: No.

LJ: Yes I am.

RM: And you want to stick by this statement. You're not going to change it? You know, I find out later that you're covering for Willie, I'm going to charge you too.

LJ: I'm not covering for him! I'm telling the truth! I ain't got no reason to tell no lie!

RM: Alright. Well, just so you understand. I, I believe in letting people know what I do and if, if I find out later that you're covering for Willie, I'm going to charge you too.

LJ: [sobbing]

RM: You understand that?

JS: When he called back over there..

LJ: He only called once.

JS: ...you, you...

LJ: He only called one time.

JS: ...you didn't ask him how the baby was doing? He didn't say nothing about the baby?

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LJ: No, he just told me to ask my mama to send him a cigarette.
JS: You didn't ask him about you're baby then?
LJ: No, I didn't. I went to get my other kids Easter clothes from my mama's house. She had got me a dress.
JS: So you really, you really don't want to know what happened to your baby, do you?
LJ: Yeah, I want to know all the, what happened to that baby. I just know it was the same way when I came back, asleep.
JS: We're asking you the question, whether you, whether you,
LJ: No I did ask him! I did ask him when I went around later.
JS: What did he say?
LJ: _____ was laying there, nothing! He didn't say nothing! He just said he was concerned about giving the baby to the doctors. Cause he was just laying around the house.
RM: Now, calm down a minute. Let's go through the whole thing. Maybe we're misunderstanding something. Alright, before you're mama come over the first time, who was there? You, Willie?
LJ: My kids.
RM: The kids, and who else?
LJ: Kelly.
RM: Kevin come over and they smoked a little dope.
LJ: Yeah.
RM: And what's Kevin's name?
LJ: Kelly.
RM: You don't know his last name?
LJ: No.
RM: Did he touch the baby?
LJ: No. My baby was still on the couch.
RM: Alright.
LJ: Laying down asleep.
RM: So Kevin leaves. And that leaves you and Willie and the, the kids.
LJ: Yes.
RM: Ya'll were by yourself? Is the baby laughing?
LJ: Yes, he was asleep still. He _____ the whole time.
JS: Otherwise, he was normal right?

LJ: He was smiling and everything and _____ we was sitting down playing with him.

RM: He was smiling when you, when you was playing with him?

LJ: Yes.

RM: Alright, so then your mom comes over.

LJ: Uh huh [agreement]

RM: She by herself?

LJ: Yes sir.

RM: Did your mom touch the baby? She hurt the baby?

LJ: No.

RM: Alright, so your mom leaves? And about five minutes later, you leave?

LJ: Yes.

RM: Going to your mama's house? That leaves Willie there. When you and your mama left, the baby was fine? Right?

LJ: He just opened his eyes. He didn't blink his eyes or nothing. He just opened his eyes up real big, he didn't blink them at all.

RM: But he raised up. Didn't your mama say he raised up?

LJ: He just opened his eyes, he did not raise his head or nothing.

RM: Alright. But as far as you know, when you leave, the baby is fine?

LJ: That's all I know. I just know he opened his eyes and didn't blink at all.

RM: Alright.

LJ: _____

RM: Well let's back, let's back up a little bit then. From the time that Kevin left til your mom got there, ya'll was playing with the baby and the baby was smiling. Right? Then you put the baby in the bed.

LJ: Yes.

RM: Did you put him in the bed?

LJ: Yes I did.

RM: Alright. So nobody could have bothered him during that time?

LJ: No.

RM: So the baby is in the bed?

LJ: Cause he was...

RM: Was Willie in the room by hisself with the baby then or was you in there with him?

LJ: No. I was in there cause I was folding up clothes

RM: You, ya'll was both in there?

LJ: Yes.

RM: Alright, so you leave. Your mama comes in, looks at the baby, then she leaves. Five minutes later, you leave. The baby is fine.

LJ: Yes.

RM: Forty-five minutes later, you come home.

LJ: Twenty-five minutes.

RM: Well, twenty, twenty, thirty, something around that.

LJ: I was going by the clock on my, the clock on my _____ my daddy wanted me to go to the store and I kept telling him it well the store closed at 10:00.

RM: Yeah.

LJ: So the store was already closed.

RM: So, about how long were you gone?

LJ: About ten, fifteen minutes.

RM: So, when you come back, the baby's not breathing? Is, is that correct? [pause] Will you tell us what happened?

LJ: I don't know what happened [crying].

RM: We're, we're going to get to the bottom...

LJ: Willie was holding the baby. When Willie went back to the room, he had picked him back up. And he was walking around the room with him.

RM: Alright. So when you got home, Willie went back and picked the baby up? And was walking around the room?

LJ: Cause I told Willie he needed to put a t-shirt on him cause it was cooling...

RM: Why..

LJ: ... down.

RM: Why did Willie pick the baby up?

LJ: I don't know. He always pick him..

RM: Baby, baby wasn't crying or nothing like that?

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LJ: He was whining in his sleep, cause he was throwing up, cause Willie said the baby was throwing up stuff out his nose. Cause the milk...

RM: Alright.

LJ: ...was coming up.

RM: Alright. So Willie picked him up?

LJ: Yeah.

RM: Started walking around the room with him. How long did he walk around the room total?

LJ: I'm not sure.

RM: Just a few minutes?

LJ: Yeah.

RM: It wasn't a, it wasn't an hour or nothing like that?

LJ:

RM: Then he layed the baby back down?

LJ: Yes.

RM: And that's when you're saying that the baby..

LJ: He was holding the baby like this on the edge of the bed. I said Willie the baby don't look right. [crying] He said, Keisha stop scaring me. He had tears in his eyes, he said, Keisha go call your, call your mama. And I called my mama and we...

RM: Alright. Alright.

LJ: ..._____ the baby was just like a little feather. [crying]

RM: O.k., just back up a minute. You walk up and you just look down and you say, the baby don't look right. What didn't look right about the baby?

LJ: Not when I walked up. He had, Willie had got the baby cause the baby was, uh, throwing the milk and stuff up. Then, he walked around for a little while in the room and I said Willie let me show you the dress I got. I said _____ got for Easter. And I put my dress on then. He sat down on the edge of the bed with Ebious.

RM: Do what now?

LJ: He and Ebious sat on the edge of the bed, the baby looked just fine then. And then all of the sudden, I looked at him, I said

Willie, the baby don't look right at all. I said, he's scaring me.

RM: O.k. O.k., what didn't look right about the baby?

LJ: His eyes was just half-way opened. They weren't open all the way. I say, I say, Ebious and he start playing. I said, [crying].

JS: You didn't ask Willie what happened to the baby?

LJ: No I didn't, I had asked him and I said I was scared.

JS: You didn't ask Willie nothing about when the baby, when you took him to the hospital and he was pronounced dead, you didn't ask him what happened to the baby?

LJ: No, I was too scared. I was just _____.

JS: Then what...

RM: You was scared. Why was you scared?

LJ: My baby gone. [wailing]

JS: I don't quite understand you now. You got a, you're baby is dead and so, you don't ask nobody about what happened to your baby? You just, you just, he's just dead, right? Is that, did you not ask Willie, did somebody come in and do this?

LJ: Ain't nobody been to my house. Nobody don't come to my house _____.

JS: Well, did you ask Willie what had happened to him. Did he hit him, or did he fall or something? You didn't ask him none of that?

LJ: Cause he wouldn't hit him. I know it.

JS: He wouldn't have hit him?

LJ: No.

JS: Well, who could have hit him?

RM: LaKeisha, somebody hit your baby and they hit him more than once.

LJ: [sobbing]

RM: Now who, who hit your baby?

LJ: Ain't nobody hit my baby. [crying]

JS: Let me ask you, did he, did he volunteer any statement to what could have happened to the baby?

LJ: Cause he was still laying in the bed..

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JS: No, I'm gonna ask you...

LJ: ...the same!

JS: ..one question. Did Willie tell you anything what could have happened to the baby?

LJ: No, he was too mad. He was too upset.

RM: Wait a minute now. Didn't you tell..

LJ: He was crying.

RM: ..didn't you tell me last night that Willie said that you hit the baby's head when you run out the door?

LJ: When I went out the door, I hit my arm on the door cause I felt it, cause my sister said, you _____ you gonna break your arm. Cause the baby was on this side, I hit my arm right here on the other side of the wall.

RM: Alright, so, so the head, the baby's head was, did not come near the door?

LJ: No.

RM: Alright. But, didn't last night, or night before last when we was at the hospital, wasn't they, wasn't Willie trying to tell you that you hit the baby's head when you come out the door?

LJ: That's what he kept saying coming here and is still saying that.

RM: That's what he kept saying, didn't he? But the baby's head wasn't near the door, was it?

JS: Now why would he...

LJ: I had the baby on this side of me.

RM: Yeah. So why would Willie say that?

LJ: He thought I had it cause, you know, my sister said I had hit something. I was too scared. I don't know what happened.

JS: Well you say you been scared....

RM: Well, your, your sister seen your arm hit the door? Would she be able to tell..

LJ: She was right there. I don't know what she said last night. I didn't even ask her and I didn't ask nobody nothing. My baby's gone.

RM: Yeah, your baby's gone and our job is to find out why. But we need help. Now listen, he kept saying that, he kept trying to tell you that you hit the baby's head and you know you didn't.

LJ: He said I might have hit the baby's head _____.
Cause my mama asked me what was that that I had hit.

RM: But you know it was your arm?

LJ: I'm pretty sure.

RM: And you know the baby's head was the other direction? Away from the door.

LJ: [wailing] I _____ wrapped my baby up. And I called my mama, would she carry me, she said yeah, come on.

JS: Did your mama not ask, ask you what happened to the baby?

LJ: My mama was scared too.

JS: Scared? Well after this, after they pronounced the baby dead, the only one there was concerned about what happened to the baby..

LJ: _____.

JS: ..well why is this, you're the mother. Ain't you concerned about your baby?

LJ: Yes I am. [sobbing]

RM: LaKeisha, it just don't make sense that you wouldn't ask what happened to my baby. I mean, it's obvious you loved your baby. And you love the other two. And so, you see, it just don't make sense that you didn't say what happened to my baby. Unless maybe you had been told what happened to your baby.

JS: Maybe you know Willie did it.

LJ: Willie wouldn't hurt him.

JS: Oh, Willie wouldn't hurt him?

LJ: No.

JS: But Willie was the only somebody there and you can, evidently, if anybody hurt him, they came in and hurt him while Willie was there. Right?

LJ: Didn't nobody come to my house cause I wasn't gone too long.

JS: Willie not say nothing what happened to your baby?

LJ: No, he was scared.

JS: Scared?

LJ: He was scared because the baby was, the baby was _____, he had went to _____ and everything.

RM: Where's Willie at now?

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LJ: At his mother's house.
RM: What's the address at his mama's house?
LJ: I _____ 22nd Street.
RM: 22nd, but you don't know the street address?
LJ: No.
RM: What's his mama's name?
LJ: Julia May.
RM: Who?
LJ: Julia May Minor.
RM: Julia May Minor. You need something to drink?
LJ: No. I want my mama.
RM: Well, we gonna let you go out in a minute and talk to your mama. We don't mean to give you a hard time but, it's obvious that, that this baby did not die of something natural. [wailing] And, and this baby didn't die of something that happened a week ago. This baby died of something that happened within three hours of when it got to the hospital. Which that means the three people that was there was you, Willie and your mother. LaKeisha, look at me a minute. I know you love Willie.
LJ: I would die for the sake of him.
RM: But, but your baby deserves, you know, something better than just not knowing what happened. Now I want, I want you to think real hard and tell me anything that Willie has said about it, that night. He didn't say anything about the baby fell? He didn't..
LJ: The baby didn't fall.
RM: O.k.
LJ: How he going to fall out the middle of the bed?
RM: O.k., that's fine if he didn't. You know, I just want the truth. And he says no one else was in the apartment. So you can see where, where we're coming from, don't you? You know this ain't stuff we just made up. We've had people trained, doctor, how long has the doctor been doing autopsies?
JS: Several years.
RM: For years, and he says this is the worst case he's ever seen. And I'm gonna find out what happened.

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JS: I'm sure you want that to happen too, don't you? But it's not logical for a mother to have her baby's been beat, to not to ask questions about it. You said the reason for that, you was afr, you was scared, right? Scared of what?

LJ: I _____ thinking about my baby some help. And then I didn't know what to do.

JS: Are you, are you afraid of Willie?

LJ: No, I'm not.

JS: Did f, Willie tell you something to say that, that he may have told you not to tell us?

LJ: No.

RM: You got anything else you can think of to tell us?

LJ: No.

RM: Anything else you want to tell us?

JS: Let, let me ask you a question. Have you, have you ever in, Willie ever spank the baby, you know light, or anything. Have he ever spanked it?

LJ: No.

JS: Have he picked it up and maybe just kind of shook it because it was crying?

LJ: No.

JS: The baby do cry occasionally, right?

LJ: Yes.

JS: Where the baby...

LJ: Every time you touch him, if he, if you bathe him, he'll holler to the top of his lungs. He was like that since he _____ when we were _____.

JS: What about changing his pampers, do he holler then?

LJ: Close _____.

JS: Was the baby hollering at, uhm, did Willie call you concerning the baby hollering that night? Was the baby was crying, did you ask him was he crying?

LJ: Yes, he said Keisha the baby wasn't crying, I was just wanting you to come to the house.

JS: Well I just asked you a few minutes ago did he say, did you say anything about the baby, you said no.

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LJ: I didn't say nothing about the baby.

JS: What did you, what did he ask you on the telephone? About the baby?

LJ: He didn't ask me nothing about the baby _____.

JS: What did you ask about the baby?

LJ: Nothing.

RM: Didn't he tell you, you needed to come home, that the baby was crying?

LJ: No, the baby wasn't crying at all. He didn't say that. The baby wasn't even crying when I got there, he was still laying down asleep.

RM: Still in the same place? Hadn't been moved? Still where you left him?

LJ: Yes. Laying on his stomach with his face, faced to mirror.

JS: And when did Willie go pick the baby up then?

LJ: When I came in, when I went to the, we walked, he met me at the door.

RM: Why did..

LJ: I gave him the cigarette.

RM: Why did he pick the baby up?

LJ: I don't know.

RM: I mean, I got two babies of mine and when they're asleep, I didn't disturb them.

LJ: The baby was throwing up his milk. It was coming through his nose.

RM: How did he see that if the baby was laying on the bed?

LJ: The baby's face was faced this away. Where we could see it.

RM: So in your opinion, from the time you left, you come back, the baby hadn't been moved?

LJ: The baby was still in the same place I left it.

RM: Well. I guess we're going to have to broaden it out to include the boy's _____.

JS: So he said, he told you to stop it, you're scaring me at one time?

LJ: Yes.

JS: What was he scared of?

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LJ: He said, Keisha, I said well, the baby, the baby don't look right. He said Keisha, sure don't. I said, Willie he's scaring me. Cause when I say Ebious, I say Ebious, and he start playing.

JS: Let me tell you something. Ma'am, you, you gonna have to help us find out what happened to your baby.

LJ: Well I don't know. I keep trying to tell you, I was scared. [crying] I didn't now what to do. I called my mama. I want to see my mama.

JS: O.k. You, that's all you got?

RM: I got, that's all I got.

JS: O.k., what we're going to do, will you take a polygraph?

LJ: Yes.

JS: O.k. We'll set you one up today. Try to get you did today.

RM: Can't get one til Tuesday, ain't that right?

JS: Well, we put it in.

RM: Try to get it set up.

JS: What we need to, come here. [leave the room]

LJ: [wailing]..my mama..[crying] I want to go home to my mama, see my mama. [wailing]..I want my mama [keening].. my mama, I want my mama. I want _____ having no pastor. [wailing] I want my mama. [wailing] I want my mama. [wailing] I want my mama [keening]. I don't want nobody _____ baby. [keening] I want _____ [crying louder]

[END OF SIDE A, TAPE 1]

Nothing further on side B in relation to this interview.

