

## THE LETTER SEASON 1, EPISODE 2: THE SURVIVOR

**Amy Donaldson:** A warning to listeners. This podcast includes descriptions of gun violence and associated trauma. Please take care when listening

**Yvette Rodier:** When I was on the side of the road, and I had left Zach to get help, I think I started feeling guilt that moment, that I wasn't with him and that he likely had died, and I didn't.

**Amy Donaldson:** And that's never left you.

**Yvette Rodier:** No.

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette Rodier has lived most of her adult life, with the kind of regret that few people experience. It's the guilt of a survivor. But to understand why she feels this way, we need to know who she was before a stranger with a gun upended her life on August 28, 1996.

**Amy Donaldson:** From KSL Podcasts, I'm Amy Donaldson, and this is The Letter - Episode Two: The Survivor.

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette has always been reluctant to draw attention to herself. No one understands this better than her younger sister, Danielle.

**Danielle Rodier:** She was the big sister that was too afraid to ask the server for ketchup. I would go up to the counter and ask for ketchup because she didn't like to put herself out like that.

**Amy Donaldson:** It's not that Yvette was shy, exactly. She just prioritized other people's needs before her own.

**Danielle Rodier:** She was always just very quiet and put together and a peacemaker. She was always really social, though, but she kind of let people come to her.

**Amy Donaldson:** The Rodier family didn't spend much time in one place when Yvette, Danielle and their little brother Brandon were young. Their father, a doctor from Chile, moved the family from Provo, Utah to Missouri to Idaho, and back to Salt Lake City, all before Yvette was in fourth grade. When Yvette was eight, Danielle was five, and Brandon was four, their parents divorced. They never discussed how the divorce changed their lives, but Danielle says if Yvette was struggling, she couldn't tell.

**Danielle Rodier:** She was just always so accepting of things as they come, and then not only just accepting, but she would also take on the role of comforting, like I would be the one having a fit about it, and then she would comfort me and maybe put her feelings aside. She hasn't ever put herself first in her life. And that's a beautiful attribute that she's just self sacrificing always, for anyone around her. She's always been the biggest giver. She's the biggest giver I know.

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette says she gets that from her mother, Linda Dart Rodier, also a giver.

**Yvette Rodier:** Oh my mom was so doting, so attentive.

**Amy Donaldson:** After the divorce, it was Linda who built a life for Yvette and her siblings.

**Yvette Rodier:** Her life revolved around her kids, her entire life.

**Amy Donaldson:** Linda passed away in 2018 after a long battle with breast cancer, but Yvette found inspiration in her mother's willingness to do the hard things that life often demands.

**Yvette Rodier:** My mom was smart. She went to college, she got her master's degree after she got a divorce. And she's always driven us to push ourselves and be better.

**Amy Donaldson:** Since I couldn't talk to Yvette's mother, I spoke with her aunt, Linda's younger sister, Toni Sullivan. Toni says after the divorce, Linda went back to school and started a career in social work, all while raising three children on her own.

**Toni Sullivan:** So incredible, but part of the reason that's important is because that's part of the example that Yvette had as a mom who, you know, you don't stop, you keep going no matter what, but you don't just continue, you set your expectations high and you achieve them.

**Amy Donaldson:** As Yvette grew up, Toni could see that she took after her mother in many ways, and she appeared to have a bright future ahead of her.

**Toni Sullivan:** She's extremely smart. And she did so well in school and loved school. Yvette just always made good choices, and it was for the right reasons. It was because she could see the big picture, typically. She was a social butterfly, but also for the right reasons because she was the one who was friends to everybody. She was always concerned about the one sitting on the sideline or the person on the outside. She pulled everybody in to make them feel warm and appreciated. That's how she felt about people.

**Amy Donaldson:** By the summer of 1996, Yvette graduated from high school with honors. She was accepted to the University of Utah where she planned to chase her dream of being a journalist. From Danielle's perspective, Yvette had all the possibilities in the world opened to her. The sister who didn't want to bother a server for ketchup was a leader in her own quiet way.

**Danielle Rodier:** She was my role model, you know. She was the dancer and the senior class president and junior prom queen, and I just looked up to her and was nowhere near anything like that. It was just a struggle for me to go to school, but to see how easy it was for her to get good grades, that she didn't never have homework in the afternoon because she got it done in class. And then she had time to hang out with her friends and the endless boys who were always courting her and coming by.

**Amy Donaldson:** Among those boys coming around was Zachary Snarr, though Yvette insists they had always just been good friends. The friendship took root in junior high, but grew significantly stronger when Yvette spent her sophomore year in France.

**Yvette Rodier:** Zach was the only friend that wrote me letters the entire time. And they were on these cute pieces of paper that you could fold up and the paper was the envelope. It was just this nice connection that he was the only person who cared for a year where I was. So that was really nice to get home and still feel like he was keeping track and remembered me and missed me.

**Amy Donaldson:** Their first official date was August 28, 1996. The night of a full moon.

**Yvette Rodier:** That night was the very first night Zach asked me out on a date, actually. We'd hung out so many times before. But that was the very first time he just asked me and it was no one else was going and I didn't know what we were going to do. But he picked me up and we went to dinner. And then he wanted to surprise me, and he was going to teach me how to take pictures of the moon and black and white.

**Amy Donaldson:** In just a week, they were both going to start their freshman year at the same university.

**Yvette Rodier:** So it was just a fun, like, catch up on what's been happening over the summer and looking forward, like it was kind of more adulty if you will for teenagers to just talk about what's ahead of us, that there's adventures ahead still.

**Amy Donaldson:** Do you remember where you ate, or what you did?

**Yvette Rodier:** Yeah, we ate at Salt Lake Pizza and Pasta. I had a ham and cheese calzone. It was delicious then. And then after that, that's when we headed up the canyon.

**Amy Donaldson:** It was about a 20 minute drive into the Wasatch Mountains headed east. Zach took an exit, drove on a curvy road into a canyon, and then pulled into a dirt parking lot. As they were getting out of the Bronco, they saw a white pickup truck pull in, but they didn't see who was inside. Otherwise, they had Little Dell Reservoir to themselves. They walked past the gate, down a paved walkway. On their left was the water. Up the hill to their right was the canyon road. They walked about 50 yards, half the length of a football field, until Zach decided it would be a good spot to take photos.

**Yvette Rodier:** Zach had brought a blanket. It was a blanket his mom had made for his dad out of denim jeans. And he had a jacket for me and put out the blanket, and then he was getting out the tripod when most of it happened. So I don't even know that the camera was out of the case, but he was working on the tripod.

**Amy Donaldson:** In retrospect, Yvette remembers feeling a little off when she noticed a stranger coming down the path.

**Yvette Rodier:** We both just kind of brushed it off. I mean, we're in Utah in the mountains and it's like eight or so at night, like bad things don't happen then.

**Amy Donaldson:** And this is where Yvette stops. She chooses not to revisit the traumatic events of that night. Yvette has told this story many times in her life. But at some point, she decided she didn't want to relive the worst details of that night ever again.

**Yvette Rodier:** I don't remember the last time I did it, but it wasn't good for me. And I just remember the anxiety before, the anxiety after it just worked up too much emotion. I realized I don't have to do this.

**Amy Donaldson:** Instead, 18-year-old Yvette will speak for her. That's after this break.

**Bob Stott actor:** Would you state your name please.

**Yvette actor:** Yvette Dart Rodier

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette detailed what happened to her in a Salt Lake City courtroom at a preliminary hearing just seven months after that night. Actors read the words of Yvette and prosecutor Bob Stott who questioned her in that hearing.

**Bob Stott actor:** About how long have you been on the blanket when you saw this other person?

**Yvette actor:** Two minutes, three minutes.

**Bob Stott actor:** What was the person doing?

**Yvette actor:** Making us nervous. It was a man, and he was walking in and out, so that you have the pavement, then there's the trees on the side or bushes, and he was walking back and forth in between.

**Amy Donaldson:** The man approached Zach and Yvette from behind, asked them a question about where the paved road went. They said they didn't know and turned back around to face the water. Yvette heard gunshots, too many to count. She screamed.

**Bob Stott actor:** Did anything happen to your body?

**Yvette actor:** Totally fell to my left side.

**Bob Stott actor:** You were sitting and fell over?

**Yvette actor:** My torso, yeah. Then my bottom half just sort of stayed the same.

**Bob Stott actor:** Could you tell what happened to Zach?

**Yvette actor:** I could feel him behind me. His body fell behind me. There was a pause, and I just hoped it was done. I hoped it was over. But it was not.

**Amy Donaldson:** The smell of sulfur and metal burned her nose. About 30 seconds after that first barrage of bullets, she heard the man reload his gun. He fired several more times. This time pointing the weapon directly at Yvette. She willed herself not to move, not to breathe. She pretended to be dead.

**Yvette actor:** The gunshot stopped and the person leaned over me to reach Zach and my eyes were open. I didn't dare close them.

**Bob Stott actor:** What did you see?

**Yvette actor:** I saw a gun and I saw his face.

**Bob Stott actor:** How close was the face to you?

**Yvette actor:** Very close. I could feel the breath. I could feel him breathing.

**Amy Donaldson:** He searched Zach's pockets. Then he rolled Yvette over and put his hands in her pockets. She worried about what else he might do, but then he ran away in the direction of the parking lot.

**Bob Stott actor:** Were you able to move?

**Yvette actor:** I didn't try. I was hot and my body tingled and it felt like I was sweating, but that was blood.

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette heard footsteps approaching again. heavy breathing. The man reached in Zach's pockets once more, this time finding his keys. Then he was running up the hill again. She heard Zach's Bronco roar to life. Yvette remained frozen, even as she heard the wheels moving over the dirt parking lot, pulling onto the paved road and driving away.

**Bob Stott actor:** How long did you kind of just lay there?

**Yvette actor:** 15 seconds after the car left. Then I tried to move. My right leg couldn't support me. I tried several times and I just kept falling.

**Bob Stott actor:** Were you able to see Zach at that time?

**Yvette actor:** I looked up towards him. And right now my memory has just - I don't have - I don't know what he looked like or anything. I yelled his name. He didn't answer. I touched him. I don't know where I touched him, but I knew he was dead. A car pulled up. I heard a woman's voice get out of the car. And I yelled, help, help, we've been shot!

**Bob Stott actor:** You called out? Were you able to get a response?

**Yvette actor:** They said okay.

**Bob Stott actor:** What did they say?

**Yvette actor:** They said okay and left.

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette had no idea if help was coming.

**Yvette actor:** I didn't know what else to do. But I knew I had to get help. And I knew that up above me, it would have taken a long time to go back up the asphalt, then over to the road. And I knew that the road was above me. So I knew I could go up the hill.

**Amy Donaldson:** So instead of heading back towards the parking lot, Yvette decided to try and crawl directly toward the canyon road, up the hillside. There was no path to follow.

**Bob Stott actor:** Tell us about the terrain that you had to go across.

**Yvette actor:** Very rocky, lots of little prickly things, lots of bushes and grass and weeds. Sometimes there were big rocks that I banged my knees against. My ears were ringing really loud. I hated that. And I was still really, really hot. The whole time up the mountain, I kept brushing away my hair because it kept getting in my face. And it was all sticky and yucky. I didn't realize there was blood. I thought that was sweat or something.

**Bob Stott actor:** What happened at the top?

**Yvette actor:** I stayed on my knees and I flagged down a car. Then I got a little nervous. I wondered if they would stop. I wondered if somebody would help me, if somebody would get to Zach, if somehow he would live.

**Amy Donaldson:** Salt Lake County Sheriff's detective Keith Stevens was just minutes away when he heard the call on his radio that night. It was a passing motorist who found Yvette.

**Keith Stevens:** A nurse was one of the passerbys that came by, which is fortunate for everybody involved.

**Amy Donaldson:** The first thing he saw in his headlights when he approached the reservoir was Yvette on the side of the road, talking with law enforcement and rescue workers.

**Keith Stevens:** I drive up almost simultaneously with emergency vehicles on the roadway above Little Dell. There's several people frantically running around, it's pretty chaotic. I can see blood, a considerable amount of blood. I wasn't close enough, but I could hear very faint things. She was talking, she was very, very concerned about her friend that was down below. That was primarily what she was talking about. I didn't want to interfere with some of the medical things that were going on, but the focus was all on Yvette because she was in trouble.

**Amy Donaldson:** After the break, we'll visit the scene of the crime with Detective Stevens.

(Commercial Break)

**Amy Donaldson:** It's hard to imagine what Yvette went through that night without seeing where it happened. So I went to the site with Keith Stevens who is now retired. He was the lead investigator on the case, and it was his suggestion that we visit the reservoir. So on a windy day in early spring, Keith and I met the show's producer Andrea Smardon in the now paved parking lot at Little Dell reservoir.

**Keith Stevens:** Hello.

**Andrea Smardon:** Hi.

**Keith Stevens:** How are you?

**Andrea Smardon:** Good. How are you?

**Amy Donaldson:** Keith this is Andrea, Andrea this is Keith.

**Amy Donaldson:** The area where Zach and Yvette were setting up to watch the moon has changed significantly. Some of that's because of updates to the reservoir and some of that is just Mother Nature, bigger trees, different foliage. But even 25 years later, Keith cannot forget the scene he encountered that night.

**Keith Stevens:** There was a full moon that night, and even the light from that wasn't enough to illuminate anything through all the brush. You could barely see the asphalt roadway to walk on. Of course, we started using flashlights, but it was extremely dark and very quiet up here.

**Amy Donaldson:** Keith points to the hills behind the reservoir.

**Keith Stevens:** So they had a perfect view of that.

**Amy Donaldson:** Beyond the hills are mountains topped with snow. But when Zach and Yvette were here in late summer, those rocky peaks would have been bare. The hillsides were covered with dry grass, evergreen trees, scrub oak and sagebrush.

**Keith Stevens:** I remember that hill right there, and I can remember the moon over it right about where the jet strafe is up there. That's about where it was when we got here. I can't tell you if it was cresting or already up when we got here - kind of the things I wasn't paying attention to a little bit.

**Amy Donaldson:** The crime scene, though, Keith remembers vividly.

**Keith Stevens:** Yeah, I can see the holes in the asphalt where the bullets either missed or went through, through and through one of the tissues of either two of them, the blood on the blankets, the blood that was on Zach, it was starting to dry. So yeah, I can visualize those like looking at pictures.

**Amy Donaldson:** Do you let yourself think very much about the kid, like about Zach, when you're on the scene, processing it and sort of going through the motions of an investigation or do you...

**Keith Stevens:** Well, at that time in my life, I would have been the same age as his parents. So I had kids his age. So it was looking almost like at my kids, you know, looking at the same kind of clothing, same kind of shoes. It's difficult to separate yourself from that.

**Amy Donaldson:** As for Yvette, Keith still can't fathom what she endured in order to survive. Even after arriving at the hospital, she had so many wounds, no one could say exactly how many times she'd been shot.

**Keith Stevens:** We came back a couple of times to photograph both at night and during the daytime just to get that different perspective. And so it was, it was just unbelievable, just like, did this really happen?

**Amy Donaldson:** Somehow, even with her body riddled with bullets, Yvette pulled herself up that steep grade and through rough terrain to flag down a car.

**Amy Donaldson:** So do you want to try to walk up the road? Do you want to try to go the path that Yvette would have had to go?

**Keith Stevens:** Yeah, she would have came right off of here.

**Amy Donaldson:** Navigating around the scrub oak and large rocks and animal droppings wasn't easy.

**Amy Donaldson:** Those are moose turds, FYI.



**Keith Stevens:** Those are big!

**Amy Donaldson:** There is no direct route from the reservoir to the road.

**Amy Donaldson:** Does it ever blow you away that she did this?

**Keith Stevens:** Every time. This in combination of how she kept her wits about her. I mean, first time she came face to face with anything like this,

**Amy Donaldson:** Imagine not being able to see,

**Keith Stevens:** Pitch black.

**Amy Donaldson:** Imagine doing this at night, thinking that somebody might come back for you. And just every light that passes like, please send another one, right?

**Keith Stevens:** Yeah, hopefully that one will be there when I get up there.

**Amy Donaldson:** And this part of the climb, this is ridiculous.

**Keith Stevens:** This would have been the area she definitely would have had to crawl up.

**Amy Donaldson:** The last part before the road was the steepest.

**Andrea Smardon:** Oh my gosh, I can't get up! (laughs)

**Amy Donaldson:** Here, Keith puts out his hand and pulls Andrea who's holding a recorder in one hand up that last part of the hill.

**Andrea Smardon:** That was hard to do even without being shot.

**Keith Stevens:** Yeah.

[Car passes]

**Keith Stevens:** And that would have been the only sounds really up here, would have been the sounds from the cars - just dead quiet, and just black.

**Amy Donaldson:** At Yvette's house that night, it was pretty late in the evening when the phone rang. But her sister Danielle was still awake in her room. In those days, they had a landline with more than one phone. So when the phone rang, Danielle picked it up and so did her mother.

**Danielle Rodier:** I heard the person on the other end of the line say Yvette's been involved in an accident, and she's asking for you. So I ran upstairs and said, Mom, I'm coming with you,

and we went down to the hospital. And the whole way we were driving there, my mom was like, it couldn't be that bad because she's asking for me and she's conscious. But never in our wildest dreams could we have imagined what had actually happened.

**Amy Donaldson:** When they arrived at the hospital that night, Yvette was already in surgery, so they couldn't see her. They were told only that she had been involved in a shooting. Danielle, who was 16 years old at the time, I can only imagine what her mom was going through.

**Danielle Rodier:** She's an incredibly strong woman. She was extremely composed. She was holding out to really panic, I think, until she knew everything that had gone on. But we did find out before Yvette was out of surgery that Zach had been killed. And then she lost it. It was really hard for my mom. I was 16, I didn't understand anything that was happening, you know. I just knew that I was glad that I was there for my mom in that time. And of course we were worried about Yvette. We didn't know if she was going to make it. So once we heard that Zach died, we immediately assumed that maybe Yvette wasn't going to do so well.

**Danielle Rodier:** What I remember more than anything was we had gone up to the chapel to pray. And it was dark and it was in the middle of the night. And I think Zach's parents had been notified at that time, and Sy Snarr walked in the door and her and my mother looked at each other and they both just started sobbing and ran to each other and held each other. It was really beautiful to see the two moms just embrace each other; there was this sadness between them that was really powerful. I remember that, the power of that sadness.

**Yvette Rodier:** When I wake up, I'm in the hospital. My mom's with me. I just know Zach's dead. I don't know how, but I'm sure of it. I don't know that my mom confirmed for me for a bit. But she was very tender and obviously distraught. And then the next thing I remember is when Zach's family came to visit me. It felt like it was early in the morning, I don't remember what time. But looking back, I just can't imagine that they, after knowing that their son had died, that that's where they went. But I can still see their faces walking in the room. And Sy came to me very first and hugged me. And she leaned in and just said, I'm so glad he was with you because I know he was happy. And I don't remember the flood of emotion that I feel right now. I'm assuming I had it at that time. I was also heavily sedated and drugged, but I remember those words daily. And it was such a gift that they would take that time and come and visit me and tell me that, you know, especially the day after their son's been killed.

**Amy Donaldson:** What was - you said the flood of emotion you feel now. What do you feel now?

**Yvette Rodier:** Gratitude, appreciation, I guess that's the same, sadness, guilt that I'm here, that they had to come to the hospital.

**Amy Donaldson:** How soon did you feel guilty about surviving? Was it right away?

**Yvette Rodier:** Yeah, that day, the first day. I think there was probably guilt that night too when I was on the side of the road. And I had left Zach to get help. I think I started feeling guilt that moment that I wasn't with him. And that he likely had died and I didn't.

**Amy Donaldson:** And that's never left you?

**Yvette Rodier:** No.

**Amy Donaldson:** Gradually, the extent of Yvette's injuries became more clear, though no one knew exactly how many times she had been shot,

**Yvette Rodier:** I was hit several times in the head. So there was a lot of blood and damage to my skull. He used hollow tip or hollow point bullets. And so one of them hit my left side in my back and went all the way through and got lodged in my left inner thigh. One hit my left side and just totally expanded and blew up the left side, just opened it up raw. And then one more along my shoulder. So we don't know how many on my head because there was also, the tripod got hit a lot. So there were bits of metal from the tripod that was going out and flying through the air.

**Amy Donaldson:** At what point did you realize like it's pretty miraculous that you survived?

**Yvette Rodier:** I... I don't... I just feel like I've always felt that way. Like, I don't know when that point came, but it's always just been crazy amazing that I survived and Zach didn't. There's no reason I should be here. He reloaded his gun and aimed at my head to make sure I died. It's just always been crazy, and so lucky.

**Amy Donaldson:** Almost immediately, Yvette had to contend with a swarm of media attention.

**Yvette Rodier:** I do remember we did a press conference, and I remember that being extremely traumatic.

**Amy Donaldson:** The random brutality of the case caused outrage in the community. And that was punctuated by intense media coverage, both locally and nationally. Reporters converged on the Salt Lake valley seeking to interview anyone and everyone who knew something about the teenagers involved.

**Reporter:** Investigators say the 19-year-old told them he decided to randomly shoot two teens while they were taking pictures.

**Monica:** He had mentioned that he wanted to use a gun and shoot somebody.

**Reporter:** Yvette survived. Zach died immediately.

**Zach's friend:** We've been friends, best friends all my life. I don't know what I'm going to do.

**Amy Donaldson:** Reporters camped outside the hospital, the Snarr home, the Rodier home, the residence of the shooter's family. They talked to friends, acquaintances, landlords, principals, police, anyone even peripherally associated with those involved. Yvette remembers the hospital giving her an alias, but once the name was leaked to the media, the medical staff had to move her to a new room.

**Yvette Rodier:** They came in and told my mom, hey, if you guys will just do an interview, this will all stop. All these people will just go away. They said, no one would come back. And you wouldn't have to do any other interviews. And I think now knowing what I know, I wish someone would have said, no way, what are you doing? But I know we had realized we had inconvenienced the hospital if you will, and made it hard for them to do certain things. So I did it.

**Amy Donaldson:** Remember, this is Yvette, who didn't even want to bother anyone for ketchup, who never liked to draw attention to herself or make waves. There she was lying in her hospital bed, severely wounded, on painkillers, hooked up to tubes, a stuffed teddy bear under one arm, surrounded by cameras and microphones. She tried to keep it focused on Zach.

**Yvette Rodier in TV footage:** He's always been there for me, he likes to call me and tease me about anything.

**Amy Donaldson:** In the video, she looks up and smiles at the reporters.

**Yvette Rodier:** But I remember just feeling like I don't know why I'm telling all these strangers what happened to my best friend and why I'm laying here in bed doing this, but I did it.

**Amy Donaldson:** What emotion did you feel when you're doing it?

**Yvette Rodier:** I think there was a lot of pressure on myself to make sure I was showing emotion, that I wasn't numb, even though I was fairly numb at that point. But I wanted them to be sure to know that this is sad and I am hurt. There was also anger, but at that age, I didn't know how to even express that I was angry about this or scared about this or didn't want to do it.

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette had been thrust into the spotlight torn between our instinct to avoid attention and her desire to put others first, to make other people happy.

**Yvette Rodier:** I'm a people pleaser. So it was just extreme pressure to not mess up, to be normal, quote unquote. So it was it was a lot of pressure and just feeling like I better not mess up because they are watching me as the girl who got shot.

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette was the sole eyewitness to Zach's murder, and she wanted to do whatever she could to help. Detective Keith Stevens interviewed her in the hospital to get a full accounting of what she remembered from that night.

**Amy Donaldson:** And as you're talking to her, What's your impression of her?

**Keith Stevens:** Um...

**Amy Donaldson:** Even 25 years later, Yvette holds a special place in this detective's heart.

**Keith Stevens:** Yeah, it's extremely selfless. She put all of her injuries aside to help with the investigation. She was very eager to help, very eager to in her own way speak for Zach.

**Amy Donaldson:** Has this case stuck with you?

**Keith Stevens:** Yeah. Just knowing what she went through and how strong she was and how she survived, it's amazing.

**Amy Donaldson:** In that press interview from her hospital room, Yvette told the world that she would pick herself back up and live her life. She would go to college as planned.

**Yvette Rodier:** I'm still planning on starting at the U in the fall. As of now, those plans haven't changed.

**Amy Donaldson:** And she did. But the truth is, the life she knew is over. She was only just beginning a long road to recovery. Almost immediately, Yvette set some boundaries that would help her heal. Rule number one, she would never say the shooter's name.

**Yvette Rodier:** What I remember is his name was everywhere in the paper, and so was Zach's name and so was my name, but his name seemed to be prominent. And it just made him more human to me. And what he did was inhumane, and so not using his name has been very helpful for me.

**Amy Donaldson:** Yvette couldn't anticipate all the challenges she would face in her life. But she will hold fast to this boundary and others in an effort to protect herself. She will build a new life in defiance of this unnamed shooter and what he took from her.

**Yvette Rodier:** I didn't have a choice. Zach didn't have a choice. But once I lived and I'm coming out into society, I have all the cards. I have all the choices.

**Amy Donaldson:** Next time on The Letter...

**Officer:** At this time, it appears that the victim's vehicle was taken by the suspect. They don't know who he is. It's a Bronco and that's as much as I've got right now.

**Keith Stevens:** We knew that Zachary's vehicle was gone and there was a vehicle left there, there was a vehicle registration there that provided us with a name, address. So immediately

people were dispatched from the scene without having any real information other than we have two people that have been shot. The individual's obviously armed and dangerous.

**Andrea Smardon:** Hi, this is producer Andrea Smardon here to let you know about some exclusive bonus material. This week, Amy digs deep into grief, and the ways in which it's misunderstood. In this bonus episode, she talks to a grief counselor about how it's not something you just get over and how grief is connected to love and growth. You can get all the bonus content and some great things we couldn't fit into the main story by subscribing to Lemonada Premium. You can subscribe right now in the Apple Podcast app by clicking on our podcast logo, and then click the subscribe button.

**Amy Donaldson:** The Letter is researched and reported by me, Amy Donaldson. It's written by myself and Andrea Smardon, who is also responsible for production and sound design. Mixing by Trent Sell.

**Andrea Smardon:** Special thanks to Nina Earnest, Becky Bruce, Kellyanne Halverson, Ryan Meeks, Josh Tilton, Ben Kuebrich, Dave Cowley, and Ed Brass.

**Amy Donaldson:** Main musical score composed by Allison Leyton-Brown.

**Andrea Smardon:** With KSL Podcasts, executive producer Sheryl Worsley, for Lemonada Media, executive producers Jessica Cordova Kramer and Stephanie Wittels Wachs and executive producers Paul Anderson and Nick Panella with Workhouse Media.

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