

RANSOM EPISODE 1: The Phone Call

[Eerie music]

911 operator: 911 what's your emergency?

Carl Everett: Ma'am this is Carl Everett I live out on Longmeyer road

911 operator: Uhuh

Carl Everett: My wife and I've been up to a little meeting at the bank and my son was here and I just came home about 10 minutes ago and the back door standing open about eight inches to a foot you know it wasn't shut good. And the phone was ringing and it was someone on the other end saying they've kidnapped my son. And they're demanding 500 thousand dollars if I want to see him alive and well again. And they going to call me in the morning at 8 o'clock.

911 operator: How old was your son?

Carl Everett: He'll soon be 13.

911 operator: When did you last see your son?

Carl Everett: Well my wife is behind me in the car. She's not here yet and she saw him last.

Paulette: And I've asked myself so many times what in the world happened? Your life will never be the same. You will never look at another person the same because you'll be thinking evil but smiling at you like they're your friend.

911 operator: And what's your son's name?

Carl Everett: His name is McKay, M-c-k-a-y Everett E-v-e-r-e-t-t.

911 operator: And what's your son look like?

Carl Everett: He's about 5'1" weighs 100 pounds, short hair, he wears braces, got blue rubber bands on them.

911 operator: Okay, do you think you know who that might have been on the phone? Was it an older person?

Carl Everett: No, it wasn't an older person. It kinda had a raspy voice and it was female. And – uh – [inhales deeply] she said well we have your son.

911 operator: Okay well we have officers on the way to your house.

[Music fades out]

Art Rascon: On September 12th, 1995, 12-year-old McKay Everett disappeared from his home in Conroe, Texas. My name's Art Rascon, and as a news anchor based in nearby Houston, I covered the kidnapping's aftermath. It was a crime that shocked the community because of its twists and turns and how unexpected the perpetrator ended up being.

It's a story that's always stuck with me, and, recently, when I looked back into it, I realized I wasn't the only one. Friends, neighbors, and law enforcement were all still haunted by McKay's kidnapping, but no one more than McKay's mother, Paulette.

Paulette: it became very disturbing when we, when we thought about it in hindsight, and we, you know, we sat there and blamed ourselves for not seeing things like that, and for not seeing indications like that. But, you know, we thought we thought he cared for McKay, when in fact he didn't care for anyone.

Art Rascon: When I found out that – to this day – Paulette still feels that justice was never truly served, I realized that this was a story that had to be told.

From KSL Podcasts, this is Ransom: A story of greed and betrayal, grief and survival, and how we never know what's *really* going on in the minds of those around us

Episode 1 - The phone call.

Paulette: My name is Paulette Everett Norman and McKay was my only child.

Art Rascon: It was September 1995. Bill Clinton was in the 3rd year of his presidency, the OJ Simpson Trial was in full swing, and in Conroe, Texas, a quiet, suburban enclave an hour north of Houston, the new school year had just begun.

Paulette: That morning, I cooked him breakfast and his dad drove him to school.

Art Rascon: That very morning, McKay's father Carl took a photo of him standing outside their home. McKay tucked his dark, baggy t-shirt into his jean shorts, slung his backpack over one shoulder, and he gave his dad a shy, closed-mouth smile.

Paulette: He was 12 and a half years old, at that age that he didn't want to be hugged on by his parents.

Art Rascon: But even though public affection embarrassed McKay, he'd found a work-around, using his favorite football team, The Lions.

Paulette: he would say 'how bout them lions' meaning I love you. And, uh, that was the last thing that he, that McKay said to his dad,

Art Rascon: The day McKay disappeared, Paulette picked him up after school.

Paulette: When he got home he just wanted some downtime which was understandable, you know, being at school all day. Part of Our yard was wooded and he puttered around for a little bit and I would say just take an hour and relax.

Art Rascon: Hailey Kahn and her mother Nancy lived across the street from the Everetts. They'd often see McKay outside building forts in the woods or even playing music in the yard.

Hailey Kahn: Was it the trumpet that he was learning? And he'd be out there for hours, just the whole neighborhood would hear the beginnings of someone learning to play a trumpet.

Nancy Kahn: He was one of those kind of kids that you that you can't wait to see what he's going to do next. Very creative and very just really adventurous but just a really sweet little boy.

Art Rascon: Back then, Conroe was the place you moved to if you wanted to live near Houston but in more of a small-town environment.

Hailey Kahn: It was kind of a magic place to grow up because of the fact that there wasn't, you know, cars to run us over or you know, we didn't think about strangers being around and we had a field next door to the Everetts house, that had blackberries, just like crazy. So in the summer times, we would, you know, pick blackberries. It was really pretty innocent, you know.

Nancy Kahn: There was a lot of ownership, you know, I'm saying this was, you know, a small group of families, you know a few families, and this was our place. And so, you know, it was,

Art Rascon: The day McKay disappeared, after unwinding outside, he went straight to the piano.

Paulette: He loved the piano. He would prepare for his lessons, but then he loved to just play on the piano and have fun.

Art Rascon: McKay was a musical kid. He played piano, trumpet, guitar, and the violin.

Paulette: When he was 4, he wanted a violin for Christmas and he did not like the person that I had hired to teach him violin. He said I'll teach myself. We were going on a trip one day he said wait a minute, and he sat down and played and he taught himself Amazing Grace.

Art Rascon to Paulette: Oh my goodness, wow – he was a prodigy in many ways, huh?

Paulette: Well my mother's side of the family were Honky Tonkers, so McKay would say when I get older, I'm gonna go Honking Tonking

Art Rascon to Paulette: [laughs]

Paulette: So I think some of that was just natural talent.

Art Rascon: But while music came easy for McKay, he struggled with his schoolwork. Paulette sat down with him to go over his assignments, something they had done since McKay was in the first grade.

Paulette: McKay had slight dyslexia, and when he started school, every afternoon I tutored, tutored, tutored because Carl did not want him to repeat first grade. And he really probably should have but Carl's ego was just a little not strong enough to handle that. So that meant, you know, McKay had to be tutored every day by me. and I just felt like that just isn't quite fair. But you know, when Carl wasn't there to do it you know, he wanted to make the decision but yet he had played no role in dealing with it.

Art Rascon: Paulette was the one tutoring McKay, in part, because her husband Carl was often traveling for work. And while Paulette sometimes resented having to tutor McKay, spending so much time with him had made the two of them extremely close.

Paulette: I talked so much to him because Carl was gone during the week when oil and gas was busy. So I would talk to McKay like he was an adult.

Art Rascon: Paulette's husband Carl had started his own small oil company in 1983, the same year McKay was born, and Paulette had quit her job teaching elementary school to help out with the business. For a while, the Everetts did well for themselves. They rode the oil boom of the late '80s and made good money, but by the early '90s oil prices were down. And Carl was getting burnt out.

Paulette 3: The idea of not having to work hard in the oil patch sounded good.

Art Rascon: And recently, Carl had heard about a new way to make money.

Amway Tape: Welcome to Amway and the business opportunity. As you open the kit and discover the many Amway products inside that box, how about congratulating yourself for building a business of your own.

Paulette 3: I think the draw to it was, you know, you could have the income coming in

Amway Tape: As with any opportunity feeling uncertain right now is only natural.

Art Rascon: Amway is a company that sells wholesale products that members could buy and then resell at a profit.

Paulette: They sell everything.

Art Rascon: But Amway is a multi-level marketing program. You make money not just by selling products, but also by recruiting more people into Amway.

Paulette Norman: They sell your bill of goods, but a lot of the people that got involved, they just dove in.

Art Rascon: While Paulette was skeptical, Her husband Carl was one of those people that just dove right in. Before long their garage was full of boxes of Amway products that Carl was trying to unload on family and friends. And Carl was also trying to recruit new Amway members. In fact, on September 12th, 1995 the night that McKay disappeared Carl was hosting an Amway meeting at a bank building downtown and one of Carl's friends, Hilton Crawford, was supposed to bring some potential recruits. The plan was Carl would head to the meeting straight from work, and Paulette would carpool over with a neighbor, and leave McKay at the house.

Paulette 3: I got him dinner and he wanted ice cream after dinner.

Art Rascon: Paulette's neighbor, Randy Bartlette, came over around 7:45 to give her a ride. McKay was sitting in front of the TV, eating ice cream straight out of a half-gallon tub.

Paulette: It was raining and I just thought lights might go out. You never know. So I gave him a flashlight.

Art Rascon: Paulette remembers waving goodbye to McKay as she left.

Paulette 3: I could see him inside the door waving bye. You know, just a typical kid. Lanky you know, you go through that phase in life when your nose looks like it's the most prominent thing on your face. And, I remember saying, you know, I've done all I can do. Cause I went through my little mental checklist I had done everything I could do to get him a flashlight and make sure the door's locked and the alarm system's on and blah, blah, blah. Maybe I had done all I could do on this earth for him. then I got in the car and drove off

Art Rascon: When they got to the Amway meeting, people had already arrived. Paulette thinks there were probably about 30 people.

Paulette:Whoever showed up showed up, and whoever didn't didn't.

Art Rascon: When Carl got there, he launched into his pitch.

Paulette: Just sign up people, and sell, sell, sell.

Art Rascon: After the meeting, the group got coffee at a nearby restaurant. Carl tried calling McKay at home, but couldn't reach him. Carl said he was worried that maybe the storm had knocked down the power lines and wanted to check on McKay, so he left early and drove back home. Half an hour after Carl left, Paulette's neighbor Randy got a phone call. He told Paulette he had to leave, but he'd give her a ride home.

Paulette didn't sense that anything was wrong. She didn't know it yet, but she'd been betrayed by someone she was close to, and her life was about to change forever.

In the Car, Randy told Paulette that it was her husband Carl that'd called him at the restaurant.

Paulette: Randy tells me McKay's missing. All I remember doing is screaming and screaming and screaming. And when I got home, the police were there, they were already sending people into the woods. I was on a different planet in a different realm. I even sunk down into the front floorboard, just screaming.

Nancy Kahn: you could hear Paulette screaming his name, and it was just a really eerie feeling.

Art Rascon: That's Nancy Kahn, the neighbor that lived across the street from Carl and Paulette.

Nancy Kahn: Whenever I think back on this, whole situation, that is the one thing that I still can't get out of my head, it was just shrill and desperate just pleading for him to come home, if he's out there somewhere. It was, you know, a parent's worst nightmare and you could hear it in their voices.

Art Rascon: Shortly after calling 911, Carl knocked on Nancy Kahn's door.

Nancy Kahn: around 10 o'clock or whatever, Carl had came and asked us if we'd seen McKay.

Art Rascon: Nancy told Carl she hadn't seen him, but her husband Bill had seen something strange that night between 8:30 and 9 p.m.

Nancy Kahn: My husband had taken trash out that night, and when he did, he saw a car go into their driveway. Because our driveways were exactly across from each other. So he saw a car go into the driveway and he didn't think anything of it, and so he put the trash cans down then he went back to the house. I had, you know, one more bag of trash that I wanted him to take back out to the street. And so when he did, the car that he saw go in, was coming out quite fast. Actually, he said it almost ran over him or ran into the trash cans as well. And then it sped off really fast. And people just didn't drive fast like that. So it kind of made him think, you know, well, maybe something's going on. Then, of course, you know, when Carl came over and said, you know, McKay's missing, then that was you know, Bill did bring that up to them. He didn't get a license plate or anything. But he thought it was a Chrysler. Maybe a greenish gold or some

color like that but he had seen an emblem on the back of the car in the shape of a crown. Like a Crown Motors or something like that.

Art Rascon: It was a tantalizing lead: A golden Chrysler with a crown sticker on the back left bumper leaving the Everett's home around the time McKay disappeared but the investigation was just getting started, and the FBI was about to arrive.

Sam Lynch: I heard the original call go out that the boy had not had gone missing from a house

Art Rascon: Sheriff's Deputy Sam Lynch was patrolling in Conroe, the night that McKay disappeared.

Sam Lynch: And didn't pay a lot of attention to it. Because on an average month, we would get 10 Kidnapping reports. And nine of them would be parental involvement, and the tenth will be just a kid that didn't come home. so I didn't pay particular attention to it. I just continued what I was doing and when Deputy Zener got on the scene, within just a minute or two, he called for a supervisor emergency. And at that point, I knew that it was more than just a false call.

Art Rascon: On his way to the Everett's, Deputy Lynch alerted his superiors, who in turn alerted the FBI. Normally, the FBI only gets involved in interstate crimes, but after the sensational kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby in 1932 congress allowed the FBI to investigate kidnappings of children 12 or younger.

Sam Lynch: I met Deputy Zener out on the front walk of the house. He told me at that time that Mr. Everett, McKay's dad, had come home and found McKay gone, the back door was open and it sounded like the real deal.

Art Rascon: Carl gave Lynch more details about the phone call.

He said the phone had begun ringing as soon as he walked in the door, and when he answered a woman with a raspy voice told him she had kidnapped his son. Carl said he'd demanded to speak to McKay, but the woman said that was impossible. She said, if he wanted to see his son again, he'd need to pay the ransom \$500,000 in \$100 dollar bills. The woman with the raspy voice knew that he had a cell phone. She demanded its number, and told him she'd call him back on the cell at 8 am with details about how to pay the ransom.

Once he had recorded Carl's story, Officer Lynch examined the crime scene.

Sam Lynch: There was no sign of forced entry, the back door was unlocked and open. No sign of it having been pried on. No broken glass. it was just as if McKay had walked out of his own free will.

Paulette: We had taken all sorts of precautions. We added an alarm system. We had a hidden room. We had told him if you feel threatened, go in there lock yourself in. We lived in a very

large home. Very elegant, well-appointed home and it was just an awareness of, might need to do that.

Art Rascon: Carl told the officers that McKay knew not to open the door for strangers the year before an alarm had gone off at a neighbor's house and a sheriff's deputy went to the Everett's home to ask if they'd seen anything. But McKay was home alone, and he'd refused to open the door for the officer.

Sam Lynch: That told us pretty quickly that McKay either recognized who it was and let them in or they knew enough to answer and ask the right questions. We'll never know exactly what got him out of the house but it was just a fairly sterile scene as far as evidence goes.

Art Rascon: After examining the back door, the one that Carl said he'd found left open, Sergeant Lynch entered the Everett's house.

Sam Lynch: Large living room. Lots of seating areas. I remember that because there were so many people in the house when we got there.

Art Rascon: When Carl had found McKay missing, he'd called close friends and neighbors to ask them if they'd seen McKay. Most dropped everything to offer any help they could.

Sam Lynch: Probably five or six neighbors and friends were there. It wasn't chaotic, but it was it was a very busy busy environment. Everyone there is a suspect, but not treated as such. Because we don't want to alienate anyone, because everyone while they may be a suspect, they're also a witness. We would want to find out where everyone was, what they were doing, just the smallest detail and it turned out to be the smallest detail that one of the neighbors provided, that helped them narrow down who the suspect was.

Art Rascon: One of Carl's friends, John Husbands, was there in the living room that night.

John Husbands: There were several close friends. I just remember Carl and Randy and I and Bill Kahn from across the street. It was a nightmare. This doesn't happen to real people, this is TV stuff. And it certainly doesn't happen in Conroe Texas and my friend.

Art Rascon: John Husbands was surprised by how fast the FBI showed up at the Everett's house.

John Husbands: That night, sometime about one o'clock. I had come out the front door of Carl's house and they had a camper backed up in In, in the driveway.

Art Rascon: Just hours after Carl called 911, the FBI arrived with a trailer to set up a mobile command post outside the Everett's home.

John Husbands: I remember coming out the front door, and two of those agents came from that trailer over there and it was almost like they were looking for me and they said Mr.

Husbands we've got a question for it was about the timing that I had given. They said, you said Mr. Everett was not there at seven o'clock and I don't remember the times but I thought to myself, they damn well knew what time I gave them. They didn't have it wrong. They were verifying the timeline because at this point they knew that I wasn't involved. In other words, they tried to get me to confuse my story. Because, obviously, in those situations, Carl was the first suspect. I mean, there's no question about it, and everybody knew it.

Art Rascon: Anytime there's a kidnapping or a domestic violence case, the father is one of the first suspects. John Husbands remembers one FBI agent in particular seemed to be keeping an eye on Carl.

John Husbands: There was a guy there that was as spooky as you can imagine I don't mean devil spooky. That guy you look into his eyes and I Guaran—damn—tee you, this guy could read your mind. Swear to God, he could. I don't mean it ugly. I'm thankful that he existed. But I am telling you he was scary as hell.

Paulette: I remember him. He stood in the door, and he listened and listened and he was like, Clint Eastwood is what I thought he had that demeanor, and you can see his mind just working and I could tell he's sizing up Carl, he's sizing up me.

Paulette: Their questioning was very systematic. We had to describe our friends. Who fit the profile of doing something like this.

Art Rascon: The FBI also had to prepare for the ransom call which Carl said was to come at 8am the next day.

Paulette: So that night, the FBI was getting set up, they were tapping the phones, and on and on and on. You know, it was just they were just getting themselves ready and making their plans to hear where to deliver the ransom money.

Art Rascon: Carl said the ransomers had asked for his cell phone number. But calls to cellphones were harder to trace, so the FBI advised Carl to turn off his cell. Agents hoped that if the ransomers couldn't get through to Carl's cellphone, they'd call his home phone instead, and they'd be able to trace the call. Of course, there was a risk to the plan as well that with the cell off, they'd miss the ransomer's call altogether. Beth Martin was the FBI supervisor on scene.

Beth Martin: When I got to the Everett home, Mrs Everett was very concerned, seemed very overwrought. Mr. Everett was coming up and down the stairs a few times. He too was very agitated.

Art Rascon: Agents tried to coach Carl about what to do when the follow-up ransom call arrived.

Beth Martin: We were going over and over it. And Mr. Everett was, just stressed out. You know, at some point I think Mr. Everett was saying that's an awful lot of money and I don't know if I can get it. And, you know, I mean, it was just stuff that somebody who's just totally stressed out would say,

Art Rascon: On the surface, the Everetts appeared very well off: they owned a business, they'd built their own dream house, Carl even had a private plane but FBI interviews with associates indicated the Everetts were having trouble paying bills. FBI hostage negotiator Ralph Harp took note of Carl's behavior.

Ralph Harp: The mother I know right from the beginning, everything I heard she was just completely distraught. The father was uhhh his emotional level appeared a little flat. He was acting rationally not emotionally but that was not enough to raise a very considerable level of concern about him but it was noticeable. He was a businessman he looked like a businessman. He conducted himself like a businessman. To me he looked like you know he was what he was supposed to be. So nothing incongruent with who he was and how he appeared.

Art Rascon: The house was tense as they waited for the ransom's follow-up phone call in the morning but before daybreak, there would be a new lead investigators discovered a friend of McKay's had spoken to him just before he disappeared.

Art Rascon: For law enforcement, the night McKay disappeared was a coffee-filled blur of prepping and investigating FBI supervisor Beth Martin says that with kidnappings like McKay's time is of the essence:

Beth Martin: you really got to do everything really fast because things change. So the whole office cooperates on something like that, and does as much as they can.

Art Rascon: Kidnappings were a rare crime, but not unheard of in Houston in the '90s.

Beth Martin: We've had all these drug kidnappings and a lot of abductions of children – it was just crazy. The drug kidnappings were always bad We had a baby thrown off a bridge, is it was a drug deal. They had taken this guy's baby and threw it off the bridge as a sign that things were not going to go well for the family.

Art Rascon: Knowing 12-year-old McKay was out there somewhere, terrified for his life, law enforcement worked through the night. Officers searched the parking lots of local motels for cars that resembled the yellow dodge or chrysler that the neighbor Bill Kahn had seen. They worked to get 500,000 dollars in cash for the ransom. And FBI agents followed up on a new lead. As word had spread of McKay's disappearance, investigators learned that McKay's friend from school, Elizabeth, had talked to him on the phone that night and she appeared to be the last person that had spoken to McKay.

FBI Agents arrived at Elizabeth's home at 4:30 AM. *Their* report describes her as McKay's girlfriend though Paulette says McKay and Elizabeth's middle-school romance was short-lived but they'd remained good friends, and talked on the phone almost every day.

According to the FBI report, McKay had called Elizabeth at 8:30pm and asked her "What's up?" Elizabeth said, "Not much here." They chatted briefly then McKay told her to hang on for a minute and set the phone down. As she waited, another call came in, so she put McKay on hold. When that call finished, she switched back to the call with McKay, but the line was still silent. Eventually, she hung up and tried to call McKay back, but the line was busy.

This phonecall between Elizabeth and McKay pushed back the last time anyone had seen or heard from him from 7:45 to around 8:30 p.m. And it also placed the phone call just before Bill Kahn had seen the car leaving the Everett's. The report says that agents spoke to Elizabeth, her parents, and their neighbor Connie Crawford, who was also a friend of the Everett's. The Agents asked them if they knew anyone who drove a golden or tan Chrysler, with a crown sticker on the back left bumper. But Elizabeth's family and Connie Crawford couldn't recall anyone who drove that kind of car.

[music beat]

Art Rascon: While law enforcement stayed busy through the night investigating, Paulette was agonizing.

Paulette: the amount of stress when your child is missing or endangered is unbelievable. I had never experienced that kind of stress before have not since. I didn't know what was happening but my left arm started pulling. I started dragging my right leg. My voice started sluwing. I didn't know what it was, I just knew I was extremely over the top stressed.-I wanted to know what the police were doing And I was, but I was praying and I was praying to God, Jesus, Holy Spirit. I just want My son back and Imma kill somebody. When I found out who it is. That's what went through my mind. I will kill him.

Art Rascon: At around 7am, on Wednesday September 13th, 1995 the sky tinted orange as day broke. The follow-up call from the ransomers was just an hour away. All eyes were on Carl as he waited by the phone. And the phone began to ring. The FBI recorded the call.

[phone call audio]

Mike Mayes: Carl, Mike Mayes I just got word anything we can do or need to do or whatever? And then I'll get off the phone.

Carl Everett: No, not right now Mike. We're waiting on a phone call

Mike Mayes: Okay, if you need anything just let me know.

Carl Everett: I just want to hang this son of a bitch, man.

Mike Mayes: I know. I just can't believe this.

Carl Everett: I appreciate your call.

Mike Mayes: Let me know.

[phone hangs up]

Art Rascon: Call after call came in from concerned friends and family.

[phone rings]

Carl Everett: Hello.

Hilton Crawford: Carl, It's Hilton. What in the world's going on?

Carl Everett: Hey Hilton, I don't know I'm trying to find my son this morning.

Hilton Crawford: I called Connie this morning about 6 o'clock. What in the hell happened?

Carl Everett: Somebody kidnapped him last night

Hilton Crawford: Are you serious?

Carl Everett: Yep. Where you at?

Hilton Crawford: I had a meeting in Silsby this morning and I'm heading back that way right now.

Carl Everett: Come see me after a while.

Hilton Crawford: I'm coming to your house, I'm coming straight there.

Carl Everett: Alright, see you later.

[phone hangs up]

[phone rings]

Carl Everett: Hello?

Ricky: Carl, It's Ricky. Hey, is McKay not home?

Carl Everett: He's been out for a little while. I'm trying to locate him today.

Ricky: Ms. Jet called and said somebody kidnapped him?

Carl Everett: We're trying to figure that out but we're waiting on a phone call.

Ricky: Well, I'm at work if you need me, bye.

[phone hangs up]

Art Rascon: But the phone call from the ransomers never arrived. Why would ransomers kidnap a child but then fail to follow up with another phone call? To Conroe Sheriff Guy Williams things weren't adding up.

Guy Williams: It raised some eyebrows. Let's put it that way.

Art Rascon: Some investigators were beginning to question whether Carl was telling them the full story.

Guy Williams: You always look at the parents. It's kind of like the person that finds a body that's the person you look at first. But you know, as a parent, we found it hard to believe that a parent would go to this extreme to do something, because the question is, what would they benefit from doing it? That was one of the main questions we had.

Art Rascon: Maybe the ransomers had tried to reach Carl on his cell phone. Remember, the FBI had Carl turn his cell phone off.. Or maybe the ransomers had somehow found out that the FBI were involved and they'd gotten spooked. Regardless, the investigation was just getting started and the Everett's house became the FBI's home base.

Paulette: Each room had a purpose. It was like commandeered by the FBI. The library is where we met with the profiler. If somebody just had to rest, they could take McKay's bedroom. But they used that too to have clothes for the hound dogs to sniff. They thought maybe he felt threatened, maybe he'd gone off in the woods to hide.

Art Rascon: The next step for law enforcement was to see whether everyone's story checked out and that meant polygraphing people.

Paulette: I kept a nursery in home whether we had a small child or not. And so that was the polygraph room a box. Kinda like machine with a little needle that sgriggity-scratches around.

Art Rascon: And the very first person the FBI wanted to polygraph was Carl Everett, McKay's father.

This season on Ransom:

Man's Voice: "He loved the ponies, but the ponies loveth him not he was four or five hundred thousand dollars in debt,"

Woman's Voice: parents in the community were locking up their kids. It really kind of had a chilling effect on everyone.

Man's Voice: This was one of two cases that I worked in 25 years that stay with me all the time.

Man's Voice: His story has always bothered me. The fact that the story really never came out.

Paulette: I was yelling at McKay, going, Look at me just look at me one more time, just one more time. And he never turned around.

Man's Voice: This is what she told us that that Crawford knew of a person that wanted to get a breakup from her husband.

Man's Voice: law enforcement personnel in general, were pretty much split down the middle over whether or not he actually did this.

Man's Voice: She wanted to stage a kidnapping to get the ransom money for her to start a new life.

Man's voice: And let me tell you, if there had been just a little bit more evidence I would have indicted her.

Nancy Kahn: He didn't do all this by himself did he? You know when there's supposed to be a ransom call earlier on so there's other people out there that haven't been arrested. So are they going to try to come after us?

[Credits Music - Amazing Grace]

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