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TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF LAUREN GIBBS

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE KRAUBETZ

CASE NUMBER – 08-74777

AUGUST 1, 2008

KK - DETECTIVE KEVIN KRAUBETZ

DS - DETECTIVE DAVID SPALL

LG - MS. LAUREN GIBBS

KK: This is Detective Kevin Kraubetz with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Today is August the 1st, 2008. The time is 1:19 p.m. Here in reference to case number 08-69208. With me in the room is Corporal Dave Spall, Orange County Sheriff's Office, and Lauren Gibbs. Is that correct?

LG: Yes.

KK: [REDACTED]

LG: [REDACTED]

KK: Okay. And Lauren, do you know why we're here today?

LG: Yes.

KK: Okay. And if you could, uhm, how do you know Casey Anthony?

LG: Uhm, we went to middle school and high school together.

KK: Okay. Were you guys friends?

LG: Yeah (affirmative), really good friends. We road to school together.

KK: Okay.

LG: Uhm, I watched Caylee for probably about eight months. But this was more when she was younger, like the first eight months she was born.

KK: Okay.

Gibbs, Lauren/Case #08-74777/GG

LG: So.

KK: (Coughs.) Kind of go back. Uhm, when and, and I'm assuming when, when
Casey got pregnant....

LG: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KK: Uhm, did she tell you immediately?

LG: No. Uhm, I didn't find out she was pregnant until about, she was about five
months. But she said she had just found out.

KK: Okay.

LG: So. (inaudible).

KK: Tell me about that.

LG: Uhm, well after she, I found out she was pregnant we started hanging out some
more. And she just you know, started setting up the nursery. Just normal like
nesting things I guess.

KK: Okay, uh, who was the father?

LG: Uhm, well at first I thought it was Jesse. I don't know his last name. But uhm,
and then she told me later that it was not and that it was somebody who was in
the Army or something like that. But then he, she told me that he had died last
year in a car accident.

KK: Okay.

LG: So....

KK: Uhm, this guy that was in the Army, what was his name?

LG: I have no idea.

KK: She never mentioned a name?

LG: Huh-huh (negative). I, like he wasn't part of Caylee's life I don't believe as far as
she told me, so.

KK: Uhm, (sighs), and, and, kind of thinking, I mean she never mentioned a
nickname?

LG: No.

KK: Did she say uhm, oh, what background he was? A white male, a black male?

LG: I'd assume he's a white male because of Caylee but I don't know.

KK: Okay. Uhm, so no talk of anything? I mean had they had a relationship? Was it
a one night stand? Was it...

LG: That's what I got the impression of that it was more like a one night stand kind of
thing because uhm, I believe she told me that he was engaged to someone else.
But I'm really, I'm not like a hundred percent sure.

KK: But at....

LG: Uhm...

KK: ...no time you remember her giving a name or anything like that?

LG: No.

KK: Okay. So you guys started hanging out a little more.

LG: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KK: Uhm, she has the baby. Uhm, still at any time throughout does she ever
mentioning the father?

LG: No. Like I, well the first, the part where I was babysitting uhm, she was with
Jesse. And then I found out later that she said that he wasn't the father of
Caylee. That they weren't engaged anymore. So.

KK: That she and Jesse weren't engaged anymore, or....

LG: No, they aren't. yeah (affirmative), her and Jesse weren't engaged anymore. I
didn't, I really don't remember her ever saying what the dad's name was, so.

KK: But no mention any time after she had the baby about you know the

grandparents wanting to, to see the child or...

LG: Huh-huh (negative).

KK: ...and anything like that?

LG: No. I think though that she had talked to his fiance whenever uhm, this guy had died. I don't, that's what, how I think she found out actually. But....

KK: Do you know what the fiancee's name was?

LG: No. She didn't really give any names when it came to that.

KK: Okay. Uhm, so you said you watched Casey for....

LG: Caylee.

KK: Or Caylee, I'm sorry.

LG: I think I watched Caylee for kind of a, I mean it wasn't like consistently for eight months, but probably like eight months. I, and then here and there, just when she needed help. But uhm, this was when she said she worked at Universal.

Another time she told me she worked at Sports Authority, but that wasn't true.

KK: Okay. Uhm, when you would watch her would it be like for a week at a time?

LG: Oh, no.

KK: I mean would she ever just...

LG: No.

KK: ...you know, hey...

LG: It was just....

KK: I got to work today. I don't have anyone to watch. Can you watch her?

LG: It was, you know, it was pretty consistent for uh, for awhile. And then....

KK: Did she pay you or just....

LG: No.

KK: I was working on the weekends and I took on-line classes. So I helped her out

as much as I could because you know, I figured she was a single mom. She probably needs help. But uhm, no, either her or her mom would come home and then I would leave, so.

KK: Okay. Uhm, how was she as a mother?

LG: That, I'm just kind of shocked at the whole situation because she always seemed like a good mom to me. That's why I was just like surprised to hear the whole thing.

KK: Did you ever notice any, any bruising, anything....

LG: No, I never noticed anything.

KK: ...with Caylee that....

LG: No. She always seemed fine to me.

KK: Okay.

DS: (Coughs.)

KK: Uhm, (sighs)....

DS: Was she a (unintelligible) to her when she had her? I mean were there lots of loves and kisses that a typical mother would be for a....

LG: Oh, yeah (affirmative), like when she....

DS: ...(unintelligible).

LG: ...would leave she would kiss her goodbye you know. It was kind of like you know when kids get to the point like where they cry when their parents leave?

KK: Uh-hum, (affirmative).

LG: She wouldn't, Casey wouldn't leave. Uh, so she'd just keep crying.

DS: Really?

LG: Like Casey felt bad about leaving her, you know and she, once she'd get home the first thing she'd do is run to Caylee and, "Oh, I missed you," you know, kind of

thing. But she always, she seemed like a good mom to me. But, so I was just pretty surprised.

DS: When was the last time you were hanging out with her?

LG: Uhm, I haven't hung out with her in a while. It's, I know the last time I seen Caylee wasn't since her last birthday party that she had. But uhm, I had talked to Casey but I hadn't, I don't think I've hung out with her really.

DS: At the birthday party was there ever anybody there that, that uh, Casey introduced as the grandparents that you know, obviously wasn't Casey's parents or anything like that?

LG: No.

DS: No?

LG: No. Huh-huh (negative).

DS: Anybody you didn't know at any of those parties?

LG: No, I think I pretty much knew everybody there.

DS: You knew everybody there at the parties?

LG: Yeah (affirmative).

KK: While you guys were in school, I mean were you considered like best friends?

DS: (Coughs.)

LG: Yeah (affirmative).

KK: Was there anyone else in your group that you guys are like....

LG: Uhm....

KK: Best friends?

LG: We hung out with a lot of like guy friends mostly. But uhm, when it came to girls our senior year we hung out with Christina Chester quite a bit, which I know that you guys have talked to I'm sure because she's been over at their house. But

uhm, that's really like the only person.

KK: Anyone else? Just you three?

LG: Yeah (affirmative). We pretty much, it was mostly just me and Casey and then
like we had like a group of guy friends, but.

KK: So I mean, if she were to talk about the father and this and that, I mean you
and Christina would probably be the ones that she would confide into?

LG: I would think so. Uhm, I mean there has been other friends though that she's
made over the years that I don't really hang out with. Like I, I mean, uhm, maybe
that she would have become better friends with them. I mean I was always there
for her if she needed me, but like it wasn't like a consistent hanging out thing.

KK: Not what about Brittany?

LG: Brittany?

KK: Schieber. Schieber.

LG: They didn't even like each other. Well as far as I was, I was told.

KK: But and were you friends with Brittany?

LG: No. I mean not really. I didn't not have a problem with her or anything, but I
didn't hang out with her in high school. I have actually just talked to her recently
because my....

KK: On the Fourth?

LG: The Fourth of July?

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative).

LG: It might have been around then, yeah (affirmative). Yeah (affirmative), because
my friend was in town, uh-hum (affirmative).

KK: When she said she saw you.

LG: Yeah (affirmative). Because uhm, she's friends with my roommate, so.

KK: Okay. Uhm, so as, as best as you can recall she never mentioned anything?
Well, she mentioned the father, who is in the service and that's pretty much....

LG: Yeah (affirmative), and like...

KK: Yeah (affirmative).

LG: And then that he had gotten in a car accident and that was pretty much all that I had really heard of him.

DS: Is, is there anybody else you can think of that if she was going to talk a little more openly about the father or the situation of the pregnancy, or how she got pregnant, that, that you can think of?

LG: I know she was good friends with Annie Downing for awhile, but that's like the only girl that I really knew that she was hanging out with.

DS: Annie Downing?

LG: But I mean they hung out for while and then uhm, something might have happened because they didn't hang out as much anymore recently either it seemed like.

KK: Yeah (affirmative), the, there was a, a bit of that. Uhm, was there any reason that you guys stopped hanging out as much, or it just, things happened?

LG: Uhm, well I stopped watching Caylee because she told me she worked at Sports Authority. And I was watching her for free, you know, trying to help her out. And then I found out she wasn't actually working. She was hanging out with friends. And that kind of made me mad.

KK: Well yeah (affirmative).

LG: So I was like....

KK: So she's taking advantage of the situation?

LG: Yeah (affirmative). I just felt like I was kind of taken advantage of when it came

to that. But I mean still if she needed anything I would have been there for her and, so she would call, you know sometimes if she needed anything, but.

KK: And the last time you spoke with her you think?

LG: Well I actually did talk to her on, I'm not sure what the uh, date is, but it was the day she got arrested, uhm, because she had sent me a text message saying that Caylee was missing. And at first I was, I mean I hadn't heard anything about it. So I called her right away like, "Oh my God," you know. Just, and she pretty much just said, "Yeah (affirmative), Caylee's missing. I haven't seen her. I talked to her yesterday so I know she's fine. It was from a private number." And I was like, "Well, do you have any idea of who it could be?" And she was like, "No," but.

KK: Did she say if it was a male or a female?

LG: No, she didn't mention anybody. She said....

KK: So....

LG:she dropped her off at a babysitter's but she didn't mention who. (Inaudible.)

KK: So just out of the blue?

LG: Yeah (affirmative), I just got a text message and I was kind of like, "Oh, my gosh," so.

DS: When, before the text message one when's the last time you had talked to her?

LG: Uhm, probably around April. And that was mostly me just telling her that I'm pregnant (chuckles), so I was just, I mean it wasn't anything.

DS: Congratulations.

LG: Thanks. It was anything like about Caylee.

DS: Okay.

KK: (Coughs.) Do you ever her, remember her mentioning anything about the lady

who's watching her now? Like you'll be like, hey, who....

LG: No.

KK: Who's watching her now....

LG: And....

KK: or anything like that>

LG: No. And that's why, where I was kind of like confused because I had heard that she had known her for bout three or four years, but I, I've hung out with Casey plenty of times and never heard of....

KK: Right. So you watched uhm, Caylee all the way until she was eight or nine months old?

LG: Yeah (affirmative.) And then you know, a little bit after that just here and there when she needed it, but.

KK: And then, yeah (affirmative), this lady she had known for three years....

LG: I don't know.

KK: ...three years of so?

LG: And I never heard of her because uh, that was like, I was like, "Who?"

KK: (Inaudible).

LG: Because you know that's a name that you wouldn't forget, Zenita or whatever.

KK: Right. And she never mentioned anything like that?

LG: No. Like I didn't, I just assumed that her mom or somebody was watching her.

KK: So April you speak to her on the phone? And then not until July you get a text message?

LG: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KK: Just out of the blue? And in that text message it said?

LG: Caylee is missing. If you have any, I have the test message in my office uhm, on

my cell phone. But it says Caylee is missing for thirty something days. And then it said if you have any information please contact me on my cell or house phone.

But....

KK: And you called?

LG: I called her cell phone but right back because I was like and so I mean I was like oh, my God.

KK: How did her demeanor seem?

LG: Uhm....

KK: Did she sound like a, a person that was concerned, or was it more like, eh?

LG: No, she seemed concerned. But I mean she wasn't overly upset. But she, she did sound like she was like getting ready to cry, you know, a little bit here and there as I was talking to her. It wasn't a long conversation. It was probably like fifteen minutes. But she did sound like you know, upset but not...

KK: Because I mean there's been people that have known her that have been more upset.

LG: No, I know.

KK:and it weren't even her child, compared to....

LG: Yeah (affirmative).

KK: And I was just wondering you know if, if you got that impression that....

LG: I didn't, I mean it was hard to tell on the phone if she was upset or not. She sounded like she might have been getting upset like bit I got off the phone with her soon after that.

KK: And do you think that....

LG: She wasn't like crying.

KK: Do you think it was weird that you get a text just out of the blue like she's

missing?

LG: I thought, I had assumed it was like a mass text, like you know, that send it to her whole phone list or something.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative).

LG: That's what I assumed it was, but uhm, yeah (affirmative), I was kind of shocked when I got it. That's why I called her right away. I was like surprised but.

KK: Okay. I can't think of anything else.

LG: Me either.

KK: Can you think of anything?

DS: No. No I can't.

KK: Okay, Lauren, can you raise your right hand for me? Do you swear and affirm that the information that you stated today is true?

DS: Yes.

KK: Okay. This concludes the interview. The time is 1:33 p.m.

End of recorded statement.