

**Proof: A True Crime Podcast**  
**Season One: Russian Roulette**  
**Episode 15:**  
**25 Years Later: Face to Face**

**Darrell Lee Clark:** Oh, you all talked to Amanda Bowling already, too?

**Susan Simpson:** Yeah.

**Susan Simpson:** Last year, after our first trip to Rome to investigate this case, I told Lee Clark about how we'd spoken to several members of Brian Bowling's family. Including Brian's sister, Amanda.

**Lee:** What all did Amanda have to say?

**Susan:**

She was really nice and helpful. And she wanted to tell someone about her brother. She wants her brother's story to be told.

**Susan Simpson:** Lee asked me if Amanda thought that he had killed Brian. Yes, I told him. She does.

Even after all these years in prison, Lee seemed kind of surprised every time I had to tell him this. That someone I'd spoken to had in fact believed he was guilty.

**Lee:**

Well, I don't know what to say about all that Susan. I just don't see how anybody down there at that house that night, I don't see how they can, anybody can believe that I was outside. That just don't make no sense to me.

**Susan:**

Well, Brian's family never got closure because they still don't... none of them feel like they know what happened.

**Lee:**

Oh no they don't. But I'll tell you this right here, Susan. Don't for one second, don't ever think that I don't feel sympathy for them. For them losing their son. I do. My heart goes out to them, it really does.

I mean I can't imagine what it's like to sit there and have somebody that you love, to lose them at such a young age. My heart pours out to them.

What they don't realize is that I sit behind these walls for all these years and that stuff, it's ate at me to sit there and know that Brian is dead. There he is, he's gone at a young age, never had a chance to live his life.

But the same way they haven't been able to get closure because they don't know what went on in that room, well I'm in the same, I'm in the same shoes they're in. I want some closure for myself, too.

They probably got all sort of stuff in their mind, they probably think I got a lot of ill feelings towards them, and I don't. But it would mean the world to me for one day, for Amanda to be able to look me in the eyes one day and for her to tell me that she knows I didn't have anything to do with anything that happened to her brother.

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**[02:22] Susan Simpson:** Hi, my name is Susan Simpson. I'm an attorney and podcaster.

**Jacinda Davis:** Hi, I'm Jacinda Davis, and I'm a true crime TV producer.

Last year Susan and I decided to team up and re-investigate the murder of Brian Bowling. Along with Kevin Fitzpatrick, president of Red Marble Media, we decided to launch – *Proof*.

You can listen to *Proof* like you would any podcast.

And you can Follow us everywhere with the handle @proofcrimepod, and on our website, proofcrimepod.com

For this episode of Proof, we have accompanying videos that you won't want to miss. You can check them out on our YouTube page or linked on social media.

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**Susan Simpson:** Wrongful convictions don't just affect those who have been wrongfully convicted – these cases have deep and traumatic impacts on the wider community around

them. Including especially on crime victims and their families – who, when they find out that the criminal justice system never gave them the answers they thought they’d found are victimized for a second time.

Most of the time, for the families of victims, the process of coming to terms with a wrongful conviction doesn’t begin until after there has been an exoneration. Until after the legal system has declared that someone innocent was convicted of the crime.

Which is why I was surprised when, a few weeks back, Brian’s uncle, Mikel Baker, sent me a message. Do you think it would be possible for me to meet with Glen Clark, he asked?

We asked Glen what he thought about the idea. He was open to it, but also hesitant. I think he was a little nervous – even though he told us he wasn’t.

**[04:04] Jacinda Davis:** Were you worried though, are you-?

**Glen Clark:** No.

**Jacinda:** Worried about what they might want to say to you?

**Glen:**

Ain't nothing they could say that I can't answer. I don't care what it is. There ain't nothing they could say that I can't answer for them.

**Susan Simpson:** Not long after I’d gotten the message from Brian’s uncle, Amanda sent a message to Glen via Facebook.

**Jacinda:** Do you still have the message that Amanda sent you?

**Glen:** Mmm-hmm.

**Jacinda:** Would you mind reading it to us?

**Glen:**

Yeah, I'll read it to you.

*It says, “Mr. Clark. I would like to start off by saying I am truly sorry from the bottom of my heart and soul about the last 25 years.”*

**Amanda Bowling, reading:**

*Lee deserves to be home. He should have never been charged or in prison. I pray Lee can forgive me one day for believing what Dallas told us. I have been praying so hard for God to help me with this. My mind and my heart has changed how I fee. Lee had nothing to do with my brother's death. There is no way that I can ever make it up to Lee or you for the past 25 years. I pray you all can forgive me and my family. I just wanted to tell you this and if you could...*

**Glen, reading:**

*"...please read this to Lee and tell him I am so sorry, and I pray he gets to get set free. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know."*

**[05:50] Jacinda Davis:** Prior to Brian's death, Brian's family and Cain's family had known one another. And after Cain's conviction, they continued to be in touch from time to time, no matter how strained those interactions might've been.

But Brian's family and Lee's family had never met. The only time they'd ever laid eyes on one another had been at the courthouse, during Lee's and Cain's trial.

In fact, before Amanda sent her message to Lee's dad, the two families had never contacted one another.

**Glen Clark:**

It took a lot for her to do that. I'm just telling you. I didn't, I didn't respond to that because it's hard for me to respond and show feelings on a text. I ain't a texter, I'm a talker. But that was real sweet for her to do that. Okay?

**Jacinda:** She says she hopes you can forgive her. Does she need forgiveness?

**Glen:** I forgave her, I love her. She was done wrong. You know, and I'm not saying that they owed me anything, they did not.

**Jacinda Davis:** Susan, Kevin, and I traveled down to Rome, Georgia and arranged for Glen to meet with Mikel and Amanda at Glen's church in Cave Spring.

**Glen:**

Well, my heart was heavy for them, you know, because I know they're going through a hard time. I wanted to talk to them. I'd love to talk to them. To just let them know that I have no hard feelings toward them whatsoever, you know what I'm saying?

**Jacinda:** Are you ready?

**Glen:** Oh yeah.

**Jacinda:** All right, let's do this.

**Glen:** I'm ready.

[Amanda and Mikel walk into the room.]

[Glen gets up from his chair to greet Amanda.]

**Amanda Bowling:** Hey.

**Glen:** Hey, sweetie.

**Amanda:** How are you?

**Glen:** Good.

[Glen and Amanda hug and pat each other's backs.]

**Glen:** How are you doing?

**Amanda:** Good.

**Glen:** Doing ok?

**Amanda:** Mm-hmm.

**Glen:** I read what you put on Facebook earlier. I pray for you.

**Amanda:** Thank you.

**Glen:** Lord will take care of everything, ok?

**Amanda:** Yes.

**Glen:** We put all our faith in him, he takes care of the rest.

**Amanda:** He sure will.

**Glen:** I think you so much for being here.

**Amanda:** You're welcome.

**Glen:** Nice to see you, man.

**Mikel:** Nice to see you, man.

[Glen, Amanda, and Mikel sit down.]

**Glen:** I never got to meet neither one of you.

**Mikel:**

Right, yeah, we never met you. That's kind of... I feel bad about that, honestly, man.

**Amanda:** Really bad about that.

**Mikel:**

We both really wanted to meet with you, talk with you... hear the other side of the story finally, after all these years. And honestly, we're on your side, man. We--

**Glen:** Praise God.

**Mikel Baker:**

We know that he's innocent. A lot of people's not been truthful. We will do what we can do to help you. And to help Lee to get him out of this mess. And, like I said, after all this, we agree 1000% over that Lee had nothing to do with it.

**Amanda Bowling:** Absolutely.

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**[08:42] Jacinda Davis:** The members of Brian's family that we spoke to all agreed to be interviewed for this podcast. They wanted Brian's story to be told. But this hasn't been an easy process for them.

**Kevin Fitzpatrick:** How difficult have the last few months been?

**Mikel:**

It has been difficult to listen to it, kind of reliving the whole thing again. We went

through just years, you know, a couple years before the trial, just pure hell. I mean, we're open to opening our wounds again just for the real true answers. And we don't want anyone that's innocent to be in jail.

**Amanda:** No.

**Mikel:** And we felt guilt for that.

**Kevin:**

It's a hard process, and I'm impressed and grateful that your family has been so open to this process because it's hard to do.

**Mikel:** It is hard... yeah.

**Amanda:** It is very hard.

**Mikel:**

But we're doing it for the whole family. You know, my sister, her and her husband both have passed, my mother and father. And that's all we've been looking for is answers.

**Jacinda Davis:** Listening to this podcast reopened old wounds for Brian's family.

But it also opened entirely new ones. They learned that the justice they thought had been obtained in this case, hadn't been justice at all. And that as a result of Brian's tragic death, two of his friends had been wrongfully taken from their families and sent to prison for the past 25 years.

**[10:10] Mikel Baker:**

We definitely sincere and from the bottom of our hearts apologize. We feel somewhat at fault for it. But we hope you understand it was what we were being fed from the police department. And from all the rumors. And we're glad after all these years to discover the truth.

**Glen Clark:**

Well, that's answer prayer my friend. I been praying for it for a long, long time.

**Mikel:** I know you have, sir.

**Glen:**

And I hated that y'all been put through what y'all been put through. And Amanda,

I thank you for what you sent out to me. And, and it meant a lot to me. And I did read that to Lee.

**Amanda Bowling:** Ok.

**Glen:**

And he, he was, he was choked up, baby. He was, he was, he really was. And I'll tell y'all both that he don't, he don't have no hard feelings toward y'all.

**Jacinda Davis:** Glen says that when this first happened 25 years ago, he did have mixed feelings about the Bowlings and what had happened to his son.

**Glen:**

A long, long time ago, long time ago when all this first went down, yeah, I had some mixed feelings. You know?

**Mikel:** Sure, yeah, that's understandable.

**Glen:**

I asked Lee and he said you know daddy we didn't do it, he said we didn't do it you know? And with all this stuff going on with Battles and all this and he's feeding you all this stuff and I understand, hey I would have been the same way, I would have been, I mean you didn't know who Lee was.

**Jacinda Davis:** Glen came to realize, though, that Brian's family had also been victims of the investigation that was done in this case.

**Glen:**

They sent two young boys off to prison for something they didn't even do, and they destroyed this family right here. I mean, they took something from them, after everything's gone, it's still, they still, they still got to live with it. They got to live with it.

Yeah. I'm gonna live with it, but to me, mine's not as bad as theirs. Even though my son's been locked up for 25 years. My son will get to come home, Brian ain't.

**Amanda Bowling:**

I want you to know how sorry, and deeply sorry I am for ever doubting and listening to the cops. I mean, you know, we're supposed to be able to trust them, you know, and they're not supposed to do us like that. So I don't, I blame, I blame the system. I blame Dallas.

**Glen Clark:**

It was a different for me, but it just the way that they used y'all to do what they, do what you want to do -

**Mikel Baker:** Trying to get people to (Unintelligible) -

**Glen:** Get you all thinking about hey look, yeah, he done it. He needs to go to prison this and that.

**Mikel:** Yeah.

**Amanda:** Yeah.

**Glen:** And that's all that was. And I'd have, it been the same way if it had been on my son.

**Jacinda Davis:** When Cain and Lee were convicted, Brian's family had not doubted that they were guilty of conspiring to murder Brian.

But at the same time, they'd always been hesitant about some aspects of the prosecution's case. Take for instance, the theory that Brian had been murdered because of the Free Bird gang. As Glen pointed out during the meeting with Brian's family, it was the centerpiece of the prosecution's case.

**Glen:**

And district attorney says, look, and he said this in closing argument, we gonna set an example here today.

**Mikel:** That we're not gonna take gangs.

**Glen:**

That Floyd County will not tolerate gangs. But th-, there ain't no gang.

**Mikel:** No.

**Glen:** There ain't no gang. But what he do is he puts it in, in the jurors' -

**Amanda Bowling:** Yup.

**Mikel:** In their head.

**Glen:** Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah. So -

**Mikel Baker:**

No, they're just a group of kids. Just a group of boys and they never believe for one minute about a gang. They question us over and over about gangs, and we kept telling them, you know, it's just a group of kids.

**Susan Simpson:** The gaps and inconsistencies in the prosecution's case meant that, even though Brian's family got the verdict that they believed to be just, there'd been no sense of closure for them.

**[14:27] Susan:** Y'all didn't ever get an answer.

**Mikel:** Never.

**Susan:** So, it never really was totally resolved for you.

**Mikel:** Right.

**Amanda:** Right.

**Glen:** Y'all never, y'all never was at peace with it.

**Mikel:** Never.

**Amanda:** No.

**Mikel:** Even on behalf of my sister, Debra, Brian's mom...

**Glen:** Yes.

**Mikel:**

You know, her and her husband both have passed away, but even after the trial she still sought the truth from then on, so.

**Glen:** Yeah. Right.

**Mikel Baker:**

I know in my heart that she knew in her heart that something wasn't right with all we were being fed. And she went to her grave trying to figure it out. Well, I know she's here with us.

**Glen Clark:** Amen. I'm sorry for that.

**Mikel:** And I know she'd be here with us and I know she knows that we're doing the right thing.

**Susan Simpson:** The lingering uncertainties about some aspects of the State's case had been one of the reasons why, when we asked to interview them for this podcast, Brian's family had agreed.

**Mikel:**

That's kind of why we've been so open to all this, because we wanted to know the truth. It's kind of why we're listening, you know, to the whole podcast. To kind of, get the other side of the story. Because you know, we never heard from Lee or your family.

**Glen:** That's right.

**Mikel:**

And very little from the Storey's, you know. So, we just wanted to make sure that all the truth was out there for us to make up our mind, you know, what truly happened. Because like I said, for years and years and a-, ever since, you know, all the years, we just didn't feel right. That it was the truth. There was still something missing.

**[15:50] Susan Simpson:** The whole process of participating in and then listening to the podcast has probably been hardest on Amanda.

For weeks, she'd be up at 5am every Monday to listen to the newest episode as soon as it was released.

At first hearing Cain and Lee deny that they had murdered her brother had been upsetting. But then, listening to the podcast started to become difficult for a different reason.

**Amanda Bowling:**

When this podcast came out, it really, really took a toll on me because, you know, I felt bad for believing that for 25 years, you know? But -

**Susan Simpson:**

When we first talked to you, I remember being struck by how little you and Kenneth knew. How little have ever been shared with you.

**Amanda Bowling:** Yeah. Yeah. We was like kind of shielded from it.

**[16:45] Jacinda Davis:** Week by week, as she listened to the podcast, Amanda started to realize that what she thought she knew about the case – what she'd been told about the case all those years ago – was not necessarily the reality of what had happened.

**Amanda:**

Yeah. You know, it takes a lot to convince somebody, something that they thought of for so long, it was hard to convince them that something really didn't happen.

**Jacinda:**

I was hoping, Amanda, Mikel, if you could talk to Glen a little bit about your personal process of changing your minds, your hearts about what happened and how, how that's been for you.

**Amanda:**

It's been, it's been rough. You know, I spent many a nights on my knees praying because, you know, I always thought that he did it.

**Glen:** Right.

**Amanda:**

You know, and I been praying. And, you know, that's helped me get through this, is praying.

**Glen:** Amen.

**Amanda:**

Without that I just, I'm not too sure, but whenever all this come out about Dallas is when my whole outlook changed. When I heard and seen things that he had done.

**Jacinda Davis:** In the lead up to the trial, investigators had been telling Brian's family that they had solid proof that Lee had been at the Bowling's trailer that night. And they had no reason to doubt this.

**Mikel Baker:**

The only thing we could go on was the Charlie Childers' statement, which was long after the fact as well.

**Glen:** Yeah.

**Mikel:**

And, but yeah, kind of the turning point was a lot of things on the podcast. They kept telling us that they sent his body to the crime lab. We were told that from the funeral home as well as the police department and coroner. Just a lot of the lies, I mean, just didn't ever add up, you know.

So, just hearing the podcast and hearing the lies, corruption from the police department. Things we were told. Kind of piecing it back together. Showing that they were, just not being truthful with us. That's what got me to open my eyes and heart.

But like I said, we went into this podcast wanting to know the truth. Wanting answers.

**Glen Clark:** Amen.

**Mikel Baker:**

So that's what we've been looking for, for like I said, twenty-five years. And like I said, my sister, you know, they went, my mom, they went to their grave trying to search for the answers.

**Glen:** Bless their heart.

**Mikel:** And we're thankful to finally get them.

**Amanda Bowling:**

I feel dumb on my part for believing them, but you know, I can't take that back. But I can go forward now.

**Glen:** Amen.

**Amanda:** Just do what I can to help both of them.

**Susan Simpson:**

Don't feel dumb for believing the detectives who are responsible for -

**Glen:** That's right.

**Susan:**

And I will say, from the very first time we met you, I was impressed and grateful about how open you were. How much you wanted to find the truth.

**Amanda:**

Yeah. That's all I wanted to know. That's all we all wanted to know. We wanted the truth to come out. And it's finally coming out. But we still will never know exactly what happened in that room, but...

**Glen Clark:** That's right.

**Amanda Bowling:** But we know it was not intentionally.

**Susan Simpson:** Brian's family does not believe that Lee was involved in any way with Brian's death.

But Lee's co-defendant, Cain Storey, indisputably was involved – and, to some degree, responsible for what happened to Brian.

**Jacinda Davis:**

I wonder now, what your feelings are at this point about Cain and his involvement. Or Josh, I'm sorry. I know you guys call him Josh.

**Mikel Baker:**

Well, I mean, I still kind of wonder, you know, exactly what happened. I know for sure that Lee's not involved. Far as Cain, or Josh, just from hearing contradicting stories and then, like I said, when he met me at the door, saying you know, he didn't mean to shoot him.

I'm not sure if it was an accident or I'm not sure if it was suicide. I would love to talk to Cain, as well, you know, to hear.

**Susan Simpson:** As Cain himself acknowledges it was his actions that night, that led to Brian's death.

**[21:09] Cain Joshua Storey:**

I had no business down there with this gun. I had no business playing Russian Roulette. And I had no business allowing Brian to do what he did ... and for that I'm sorry.

**Susan Simpson:** Cain says it was Brian who fired the shot that night. But Cain also acknowledges that he brought the gun, and the bullet to Brian's bedroom, and gave them both to Brian. And that he too had been playing Russian roulette with Brian before the fatal shot was fired – even if, at first, the two of them had been cheating at the game.

While Brian's family remains unsure about what exactly went down in Brian's bedroom, the exact details are less important to them now than is the knowledge that, whatever happened, it was no murder conspiracy.

**Amanda:**

Either Brian accidentally killed himself, or Josh accidentally shot Brian, you know. Either way, it was an accident.

**Mikel Baker:**

I'm not sure if it was suicide or if it was an accidental shooting, but I definitely do not think it was on purpose. That they had no kind of intentions to harming Brian at all. And either way, you know, I forgive him, either way. In my opinion, he served more than enough time, as well. You know, even if it was an accidental shooting.

**Susan Simpson:** Have you ever wanted to talk to Cain, Amanda? Or Josh.

**Amanda Bowling:** Yeah, I do.

**Susan:**

He's really struggled in prison. He's had a real hard... I know Lee has too but he's um...

**Amanda:**

I know it's been hard. I know. I mean, I can't put myself there but I can only imagine what it's been like for them. I'm sure it's been pure Hades for them.

**Susan:**

And the, from talking to both of them, I mean, you've heard a lot from Lee, but Josh has just given up hope at -

**Amanda:** I could tell. I could really tell. He'd just give up, really.

**Susan:**

He agreed to talk to me, but the sort of the sense every time I've talked to him is like, why bother? What's the point?

**Amanda:** Yeah. Like he don't have no hope.

**Glen:** That's right.

**Amanda:** But he needs to. He needs to have hope.

**Susan:**

And it's a hard - it's a different situation. I do feel confident that whatever happened, he never meant for Brian to die.

**Amanda:**

No, he didn't. I know he didn't. It was a complete accident, and I forgive Josh. You know, for bringing the gun in.

You know, and I know that's what he feels so guilty for. And then, having to watch Brian die...

**Mikel Baker:**

Because they were best friends. I mean, I don't think there's no way in the world he would have ever harmed him. I think he would have took up for him, to protect Brian, even, you know?

Just the day before they were playing, I had a barn there and they were running around the bar and squirting each other with water guns, you know, playing. So, just being kids.

**Susan Simpson:** Hardcore gang members, right there.

**Amanda Baker:** Yeah, really. Ain't they? Water guns. Mm-hmm.

**Jacinda Davis:** Yeah, it seems like Brian and Josh were particularly close.

**Amanda:** They was.

**Mikel:** They were.

**Amanda:** They was. We had good times. We did.

**Jacinda:**

Yeah. And it seems like your family was just so welcoming to Josh whenever he was in trouble or was getting kicked out of his house for who knows what.

**Amanda:** But yeah, we loved him. And we still do, you know.

**Mikel:**

And I'd like to see Josh get out, as well, you know. There's no way you can repeal or do anything for their time lost. I mean, they've lost, like I was telling Mr. Clark, they spent

more time in jail, than they, you know, have actually outside of jail. And it's sad. Very, very sad, that they've both grown up in jail.

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**Cain Joshua Storey:**

I was a 17-year-old dumbass kid... And now I'm a 42-year-old middle-aged man. I've been here (unintelligible). I'd love to have my chance to get out there and be the man that my daddy always wanted me to be... but if I don't, I still want the truth to be known, regardless. That's what I hope this does.

**[25:16] Susan Simpson:** Only two people were charged and put on trial for Brian's murder. But there had also been a third alleged member of the conspiracy: Brian's girlfriend, Caprice.

For 25 years, Brian's family has believed she helped kill Brian, and then managed to escape justice.

**Susan Simpson:** How do you feel about Caprice?

**Amanda Bowling:**

I'm still dealing with that. You know, I don't think she had anything to do with it. It's hard to unhate somebody that you have, you know, hard feelings against for so long. I think it'll just take a little time.

**Mikel Baker:** Yeah, we were actually just talking about that on the way over.

**Amanda:** We was. We was.

**Mikel Baker:** We owe her an apology, as well.

**Amanda:** Yeah, we do.

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**[26:02] Jacinda Davis:** Brian's family is not the only family to be impacted by this podcast. When we were down in Rome on our recent trip, we also met with someone else.

**Matt Battle:**

My name is Matt Battle. I am the middle child of Dallas Battle. I heard about the

podcast through my sister. She's a fan of the podcast, at least she was until she heard one of the episodes and she was upset. She was very upset. She loved her father. And, he loved her. So, she text me and gave me the links. So, I listened to the podcast.

And I believe that it showed, of course, if the police officer does his job, he's going to make a lot of people mad. But I believe that it showed an unfair percentage of people who obviously hated my dad, for obvious reasons. And it was just disproportionate and never showed what good he did and it by no means reflected the type of person he was, just an element of his job that some people hated. And there's nothing wrong with them having their own point of view. But my father can no longer speak for himself as he's passed away.

My dad loved his job. He wanted to help people and, but yeah, he definitely, definitely is a hero. Nobody will ever make me believe any different because I knew him.

**Jacinda Davis:** After hearing the episode about his father, Matthew Battle reached out to us, to give us the point of view about Sgt. Battle that no one else had been able to give us on the record.

**Matt Battle:**

I'm in a unique position where I did work with Floyd County, but I don't work with Floyd County anymore. I'm not bound by the same ties that some of the other people you spoke with are bound by. Some of them, if they spoke, were worried about their job security, worried about their retirement. And that, unfortunately, that is absolutely true. But I'm not employed by Floyd County. I'm no longer in law enforcement. And if you have any questions you'd like to ask me, I will answer them to the best of my ability.

**Susan Simpson:**

If you were still employed by Floyd County, do you think you could talk to us?

**Matt Battle:**

No, I wouldn't, if I was still employed by Floyd County, then they found out I was sitting here talking to you about it, there's no doubt in my mind, I would be fired.

I grew up in Floyd County. And I know, I know, whereof I speak, it's, they're very oppressive when it comes to their employees and what they do and don't want employees to say.

**Jacinda Davis:** Having grown up in, and worked for, Floyd County, Mathew Battle was not surprised when he heard on the podcast about some of the trouble we've had obtaining records from some of the agencies in Floyd County.

**Matt Battle:**

This is an opinion. Okay, this is not fact. I don't have anything factual to back it up. However, I'm not stupid. And I certainly don't believe that either one of you are.

"I lost it," is an excuse for either, "I'm incompetent at my job," or, "I don't want to give it to you."

So, a way to kind of go around the legal system and say, we're, we're making an effort. We're trying to locate it.

**Susan:**

I know we've discussed it, like if they truly couldn't find these files, you think they'd be embarrassed and there's no sign of embarrassment.

**Matt Battle:**

No, there's, and that's because they're confident, because it's worked so many times, that people will just stop and say "it's too much trouble. I have other things to do, and let it go."

And that's the strategy that's being used. That's my opinion, the strategy that's being used is, "we'll ignore them, they'll go away."

However, I do know that filing the correct paperwork, asking for open records under the open records act, you should be given what is legal for you to have. But if anybody is withholding information, I do know it's a crime.

**Jacinda Davis:** Matthew Battle told us he didn't know much about the Brian Bowling case, so there wasn't too much he could share with us about it. Though he had known one of the defendants.

**Matt Battle:**

We knew Cain Storey. We grew up in church with him up until about age 13, 12 or 13. And dad didn't want to, to put people in prison, especially people that, you know, he may have seen growing up. But it's not easy to have to arrest somebody that you know. But you have to arrest.

**Susan Simpson:** Did your dad ever mention this case?

**Matt Battle:**

When Brian was actually killed, I was 15 and I was working as a bag boy at Piggly Wiggly, you know, saving up money for a truck when I turned 16.

And he, my dad, wouldn't share a lot with me about it. I remember he told me that Cain was in a lot of trouble. And he didn't want us to be upset that somebody we knew was in a lot of trouble.

**Jacinda Davis:** Even though his father never shared details about the investigation with him, Matthew Battle does feel confident that there are things Sgt. Battle would absolutely have done as he investigated the case.

**Susan:**

And according to Craig Burns, your dad was like, "No, it's fine. We don't need an autopsy."

**Matt Battle:**

No. No, no, no. He would have had an autopsy. Why? Why would he not?

**[32:37] Susan Simpson:**

Do you know of your dad in any other cases not seeking an autopsy? Seems like a strange thing for an investigator not to do.

**Matt Battle:**

No, I don't. I know that he and David Stewart would go and witness autopsies. They didn't have to go as the investigator to see the autopsy, but they would go.

**Susan:**

So your dad clearly took a personal interest or understood the importance of the autopsies and he went in person.

**Matt Battle:**

He took it very seriously. He would go to every autopsy he could. So, no, he, Dad, the Dallas Battle that I knew, would have wanted an autopsy. I don't know why there wasn't an autopsy.

**Jacinda Davis:** Matthew Battle couldn't tell us much about the specifics of the Bowling case. But, he does know someone who could. Officer David Stewart.

**Matt Battle:**

David is a plethora of information. He does very much want to talk about this case to you. And he is stuck between a rock and a hard place because he's close to retirement, and he needs his retirement. But if there is something that suggests that there could be evidence that Lee Clark is innocent, or even Cain Storey was innocent, if there were anything to suggest that, my dad and David Stewart would be all for, "Let's get it right."

If there was a wrong done, let's get it right. They're not monsters. They've served their community. They love people. They love their families. And if they could go back and, and do it again, because of some evidence that came up, they would do it. My dad would do it. That's the kind of people they are. They would go back and do it.

They wouldn't want to send somebody to prison that didn't deserve to go there. They know how horrible prison is. I wish David could talk to you.

**Jacinda Davis:** Matthew Battle told us that his dad and Officer David Stewart had worked together on hundreds of cases.

**Matt Battle:**

It went way beyond coworkers. We were a family, still are. David's a dear friend. You don't find many friends like that in life.

I remember one time, David told me about a murder suspect was raising a gun to shoot David. They were hunting him in Polk County. And dad got between him and David Stewart and wrest- started wrestling with the gun and got the gun down. And then David was able to engage in, in the, in the fight and they were able to wrestle the gun away, and nobody got shot.

**Susan Simpson:** Before Matthew Battle met with us, he'd called up David Stewart and met with him first, to talk about the case, and to let him know that he planned to speak with us.

And he told us that David Stewart told him that he'd been listening to the show.

And, he said, Stewart told him he felt like he'd been thrown under the bus. Not by the podcast – but by Floyd County.

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**[36:17] Susan Simpson:** Glen Clark has held onto the hope that, one day, his son will be able to come home. But for a long time – for decades now – he and Lee had been at a loss for how to make that happen.

**Glen Clark:**

I been waiting and looking and searching all these years to try to find somebody that had a little leverage that could help on this, you know, with Lee because I knew that he was an innocent man, I prayed about it and prayed about it. And let me tell you now, I've, I've questioned the lord, he don't mind you question him, but it's on his time.

**Mikel Baker:** It is on his time.

**Glen:**

His will will be done, and it's working now because I prayed for him to send somebody our way and he did.

**Mikel:** He did, yes.

**Glen:**

Susan calls me one day, and she wants to come see me. That's when the lord start his work, and he's working it right now. Just like right now he bringing us together.

I talked to Lee last night. He's, ever since all this podcast stuff and all been going on he's, his mind's just racing. You know, you got somebody that's been in there as long as he has and then when it come about y'all listen to the podcast and all. And it was, he said, "Daddy," he said, "Do you realize what this means? You know, dad?"

it just really just broke him down.

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**[37:53] Susan Simpson:** It was 1997 when Lee Clark was arrested and taken away from the life he had just started to make for himself. That life he will never be able to get back.

**Glen:**

Lee's a, I saw Lee go into prison as a boy, a young boy, scared to death. I watched him become a man in prison.

**Mikel:** It's a hard way to come up.

**Glen:**

I'm just so thankful for the lord and all of this, all this stuff has came out. I really am.

**Amanda Bowling:** Me too. I wished it would came out a lot sooner.

**Glen Clark:** Amen, me too.

**Amanda:** A lot sooner. Because you can't get back twenty-five years.

**Glen:** No.

**Amanda:**

And there's just no way, you know. And I hope he does get out soon. And maybe he can find him a girl. And maybe he can have him a baby. I sure hope so.

**Mikel Baker:** Now, I think about, after the podcast, what you know, 25 years later, that we've been living a lie, or been deceived, you know. Can't change it at all.

**Glen:** Mm-mmm.

**Mikel:**

Just like Mr. Clark though, I wish the balls would get turning rapidly. I'd like to see him out of jail, today, you know.

**Glen:** Amen.

**Mikel Baker:**

I don't think it would be too soon. There's no way to go back in the past, just like he said, but I do think about it every day. My heart goes out to you and your family. Lee, Josh and Ms. Storey, as well. June, all of them. My heart hurts for every one of them for having to go through this as well.

I know we've lost Brian, where he is gone. They've lost their child, where hopefully, they will be able to see him, you know, very soon. But it's been, I would imagine, just like a death to you guys, as well. You know, not being able to see your, just like you said, Christmases and birthdays, you know, special occasions.

**Glen Clark:** That's right.

**Mikel:**

And, and I think every day, you know, about I've been wanting to talk to you. To kind of, get all this off my chest, too, you know. But just anything we can do to help you to correct the wrong.

**Amanda Bowling:**

Now, after the podcast, all I can think about is how to make this wrong, a right.

**Glen:** Amen.

**Amanda:**

That's my main concentration now.

You know, I still think about my brother, and I love my brother, I always will, you know, but we need to do what we need to do now, to help Lee and Josh, both.

Whatever we can do to help get him out, we will.

**Mikel:** We'll do anything for him. Mm-hmm.

**Amanda:** Go to the parole board meeting.

**Mikel:** Right.

**Amanda:**

Go, write letters, talk to attorneys. Do, do whatever we can.

I had the investigator from the Georgia Innocence Project contact me.

**Glen:** Oh, did you?

**Amanda:** I talked with him yesterday.

**Glen Clark:** Oh, sweet.

**Amanda Bowling:**

And so, they told me that their attorneys is going to come and talk to me. So, I told him, I'll do whatever I can to help, y'all.

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**[41:02] Jacinda Davis:** Brian's family wants to see the justice system act quickly to right the wrong that occurred here.

Unfortunately, when it comes to innocence claims, the wheels of justice often turn slowly. It can take years just to get a court hearing – and sometimes years more before the court gets

around to issuing a ruling. And then add some more time on top of that for the decision to get appealed and ruled on. And then, depending on what was ruled on, that whole process can start over at the beginning, and go back to the trial court and get appealed again, before some kind of final decision is ever reached.

In other words: it can take a really long time.

But, if and when the day comes that Lee wins his freedom, Glen Clark is ready to help his son return to the outside world.

**Glen Clark:**

I'm sixty-three-year-old now, and I pray to the lord all the time that he'll let him out soon to where I can spend some time with him.

**Mikel Baker:** Yeah.

**Amanda Bowling:** Yes.

**Glen:**

I can help him get on his feet. Help him get established. You know, and that's... that's what I want to do because we've, there's been a lot of time lost. You know?

**Mikel:** Yeah.

**Amanda:** Yeah. A lot.

**Mikel:** Too many years.

**Amanda:** Too many years.

**Glen:** And when he does, it's gonna be a shocker for him.

**Mikel Baker:** Yeah, it is, yeah.

**Amanda Bowling:** Yeah.

**Glen Clark:** Because you imagine -

**Mikel:**

Yeah, he's been in there longer than he was out, you know.. Over half his life.

**Glen:**

All he knows is gray walls and metal chairs and metal beds.

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**Darrell Lee Clark:**

I got my family out there, I got my dad, my mom and stuff like that. I love my dad and I love my mom unconditionally, but I'm just saying that's all I got, it makes me feel like I'm still a teenager.

**Susan Simpson:** Lee and his dad are close. But in some ways, Lee has told me, he thinks his dad still sees him as that teenager he was when he went in.

**Lee:**

I tell him all the time, I say, "Look, I just want to get out of here, find me a good girl, get married, have me some kids."

You know what he tells me? "Boy, you ought to be thankful you ain't got no wife to worry about. You ain't got no kids. You ain't gotta worry about all them problems."

I want them problems. I want them problems. I'm fixing to be 42 years old. I know everything I want out of life. I know what I want to do with my life. I even know what I want to do as far as work for the rest of my life. It ain't cut trees like my daddy, I can tell you that, right now. I'm gonna have to use that work, though, to get what I want accomplished, though. I'm gonna have to use that to get the money up.

**Susan Simpson:** Lee knows that, if he ever gets out of prison, his best shot at finding work is to go into the tree business like his dad. But long-term, he hopes to open up his own business.

**Lee:**

It's going to be a place for animals, like an animal hotel, yeah.

Take this for instance, you take your dog to the dog kennel if you're going out of town. You know what I'm saying? Well, this place is a step up from that. You know and I know, take your dog, for instance. Treat your dog like family, and your cat, right?

**Susan Simpson:** Yup.

**Darrell Lee Clark:**

Ok. So. You're naturally going to want the best for them if you're going out of town and you get your family members or somebody to watch out for 'em, right?

So, why would you take them to a dog kennel, when you could bring them to my place? It's gonna be a good little set up once I get it up and running. I got a lot of good things in mind for it. Something that people will come up in there, and when they see it and they see how their animals are being treated, they'll be like, "Yeah, we're gonna come back here."

It's gonna be pretty cool.

**[44:42] Susan Simpson:** Glen is not surprised that his son doesn't plan to follow in his footsteps if he ever does get released.

**Glen:** He's a cat lover. Yeah, he's up in Walker up there, he had a pet cat.

**Mikel:** Mm-hmm.

**Glen:**

And he said, he'd call me and said, Daddy, he said, I need you to send some money to buy his cat, cat food, you know. And after what Lee told me, that cat loved him because every time he'd go over there to go to work, that cat loved to see him coming. Jump up in his lap.

He was crazy about that cat. You know, Lee got a vision. And I told Lee, that's a good thing because people like their animals as much as they do the kids and family. I mean, you, you get attached to them.

**Susan Simpson:** Lee has lots of plans for what life will be like, once he's out of prison. First, though, he'll need to win his freedom.

However long that may take, Brian's family is now united with Lee's and Cain's to see that it happens.

**Kevin Fitzpatrick:** Do you all feel better having sat here?

**Glen:** Oh, Amen.

**Amanda Bowling:** Absolutely.

**Mikel Baker:** A thousand times better. Yeah.

**Glen Clark:** Ain't no doubt.

**Mikel:** Something we've been needing for years.

**Glen:** I mean, I never met this man until today, and her either.

**Amanda:** No.

**Glen:** I've never laid eyes on them.

**Amanda:** No.

**Glen:** You know.

**Amanda:** Yeah.

**Glen:** And yeah, it's a... it brings a peace. A peace in your heart.

**Amanda:** Yeah.

**Glen:** It does me.

**Amanda:** I know. It does me, too.

**Glen:** I feel like I've known them forever.

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**Susan Simpson:** Thanks for listening to Episode 15 of *Proof*. There will be a sidebar released on Thursday, but next Monday, we'll have a special episode with me, Jacinda, Kevin, and Dan the Cameraman to discuss this entire first season of *Proof*, where things stand now with the case, and what to expect in the future.

If you have questions for us about anything that happened this season, send them our way, on social media, or by email at [proofcrimepod@gmail.com](mailto:proofcrimepod@gmail.com)

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That's all for this week... thanks for listening.

*Transcribed by Skylar Park*