

**UNDISCLOSED, The Case Against Adnan Syed**  
**Episode 1 - Forbidden Love**  
**March 11, 2019**

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**[0:00] Rabia Chaudry:** Before we dive into the first episode of *The Case Against Adnan Syed*, just a little note for our listeners. As many of you may have heard, we had a unexpected and very unfortunate ruling in Adnan's case that was released on this past Friday, just a couple days before this documentary dropped. Now of course, I know all of you want to hear more about the opinion and why the Court of Appeals of Maryland has reinstated Adnan's conviction and also denied him a new trial, and we of course have a lot to say about that. We're gonna be bringing it up in this week's addendum. As usual, if you have specific questions about it feel free to tweet them at us with the hashtag #UDAddendum.

I also want to say, on a personal note, that this does put us back a bit. We have numerous legal options, but each of them could take years, even if they are successful. Having said that, I have had to relaunch Adnan's legal fund campaign. We had been fundraising for him for the past 5 years, but we closed the campaign because we really thought we were at the end of the road and we could make do with the bit of money we had left in the bank, we had been paying most of it out in legal fees over the past 4 or 5 years. However, there's no way we can fight ahead with what we have. So I have relaunched, as a trustee of the Adnan Syed Legal Defense Trust, I have relaunched the fundraising campaign and if each of our listeners gave something small, maybe 5 bucks, \$1, \$10, whatever it is you can do, it would really go a long way. To find the campaign you just have to go to [Launchgood.com/FreeAdnan](http://Launchgood.com/FreeAdnan). Once again, that's [Launchgood.com/FreeAdnan](http://Launchgood.com/FreeAdnan) and share it, and keep us in your prayers. Thank you guys.

*-Theme music plays-*

**[2:12] Rabia Chaudry:** Hi and welcome to *Undisclosed*. This is Rabia Chaudry and I'm here, as always, with my colleagues Susan Simpson and Colin Miller. Hi Susan! Hi Colin!

**Colin Miller:** Hey! How's it going?

**Susan Simpson:** Hey guys!

**Rabia Chaudry:** So we are starting a new series, we're starting off our 2019 season in fact, with this new series that I'm so excited about. I know you guys are, I know our listeners have been waiting for this. We are covering the new HBO documentary *The Case Against Adnan Syed*. And here we are to talk about the very first episode called 'Forbidden Love,' which just aired this past Sunday on March 10th.

***The Case Against Adnan Syed:***

***Rabia Chaudry:***

*Serial was the first time that I was able to see the case from the perspective of other people. What I realized then was Serial, at least, was not going to be a story that was going to exonerate him. And that in the absence of a real smoking gun evidence of his innocence or someone else's guilt, that this ambiguity would always haunt us.*

**Susan Simpson:** And for those of you who somehow have not heard about the HBO special, right now, for the next four weeks, starting yesterday, and for, I guess the next 3 weeks following, HBO is airing parts 1, 2, 3, and 4 of their series on Adnan's case.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Now here's the thing. HBO announced, I think it was last fall, that this series was being created, and since then we got tons of messages and tweets, people were very concerned. They want to make sure either we are aware of this, or are involved, (crosstalk Susan: Yep, we're aware.) and we kind of had to keep mum about the whole situation (laughs). So I thought we'd talk a little bit about, kind of the backstory about how this series came about. And Susan, you want to start with some flashbacks about how *Undisclosed* came about and then I'll get into how we got to the documentary?

**Susan Simpson:** Well, I guess for the people who are just listening now to *Undisclosed* for the first time, I'm assuming we have new listeners following the show, we've been around since 2015, which is crazy to say. We've been around for 4 years now, my god guys! How did the time go by that fast? (laughs). And after *Serial* came out, well, Rabia obviously was listening to it, and Colin and I listened as well, none of us knew one another, but Colin and Rabia and I all have blogs. And through that, we started talking, and ended up doing our own podcast about Adnan's case. Or, at least, what turned out to be Season 1 of the podcast was about Adnan's case. After we wrapped up we decided to keep covering other cases, and other instances of where the justice system

got it wrong and where we believe there's a chance the defendants in the cases are innocent. So, it was never the plan, it just kind of evolved into a multi-season affair. We've covered what, 12 cases now guys?

**Rabia Chaudry:** About a dozen cases. But I just want to point out to the listeners, in case anybody loves to go into real detail if they want to, they can actually still check out our blogs. All that stuff is still there. And Colin (everyone laughs) is the only one who remains standing as a blogger. Colin, what's the name of your blog?

**Colin Miller:** It is Evidence Prof Blog.

**Rabia Chaudry:** And Susan?

**Susan Simpson:** I'm The View from LL2. And maybe once a year you'll find me writing there.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Right. And I am Split The Moon.com. So you will find all, I don't know, hundreds probably of blog posts between the three of us on Adnan's case and other things that we talk about.

But, so as Susan said, *Serial* was ongoing in the fall of 2014, we were all blogging, we got together, started *Undisclosed* the next spring, but as I was blogging during *Serial* a literary agent reached out to me and said, "You know, you should write the book about this case, 'cause if you don't, somebody else will." It took a little bit of, I guess, persuasion, on her part, and also of Adnan agreeing to it for me to say, Okay, I'll do it. And I wrote the book with Adnan in fact, with his contributions, and then when the publisher announced the book was gonna be coming out in about 6 months, we began getting offers from different producers who wanted to option the rights to the books. And one of them was from Instinct Productions, which is co-owned by Jemima Goldsmith, and she is very famously known as the ex-wife, at least in South Asian circles, as the ex-wife of the current Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. She was known as Jemima Khan. And the reason that's a big deal is because she actually reached out to me during *Serial*, before she optioned the book, about a year before, a year and a half before. And I was, she's like our Princess Di! She's a huge celebrity in South Asia. And she's an incredible documentary filmmaker in her own right, she's Oscar nominated, she's done some amazing work. So you know, they bought the rights to the book, they did not want to make a documentary that was just, they didn't want to just document the book. They wanted to do a whole nother series on it, on what happened after *Serial*.

But the craziest thing that happened was, a couple of months later, she called me to let me know that they tapped Amy Berg to direct the series. And the reason that's crazy is for any of you who kind of know how *Serial* came about, that's because I contacted Sarah Koenig one night, I was like, I need a journalist, but I did that literally the night that I watched Amy Berg's film on the West Memphis case called *West of Memphis*. And it was so incredibly well made and she did this incredible job investigating that case and undermining the state's case and I literally turned off the TV, I turned off Netflix, I remember this clear as day, and I said, I gotta find a journalist. And I found Sarah Koenig. So it's kind of full circle that Amy Berg is the one who did this. And so for 3 ½ years Amy has been investigating with a great team. And yeah, Susan, Colin, and I have been involved.

**[7:23] Susan Simpson:** Well I don't think the plan- I mean, I don't know what the original plan was- but it wasn't certainly three years of work on the documentary. It just kind of happened that way.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Right. Susan and Colin both, I mean, and me as well, we both took an active part in the production of the series in that we provided kind of like the support that the team needed, right. Like Colin and Susan did a lot of the, providing the documents and kind of the legal stuff and Colin, you wanna talk a little bit about what you contributed and what your involvement was?

**Colin Miller:** Yeah, so I mean this is a great and thorough documentary team, I've been a big fan of Amy Berg's works for years, her various documentaries. And so yeah, my role in this was, they would ask for various documents, I put them in contact with some of the witnesses in the case, Some of the lividity evidence and the medical examiner testimony, I sort of gave them what I had worked on and presented in my blog and I did some work on that. And so yeah, essentially talking to them about legal theories, some of the facts, some of the witnesses in the case, to then air in the documentary.

**Rabia Chaudry:** So, you know, we've all been kind of in on it, but on the down low. Now going forward, we are gonna be covering these 4 episodes, every Monday we'll have an *Undisclosed* episode to cover the previous night's HBO episode. But we're also going to have 4 addenda episodes, which I know everybody loves, and Jon Cryer will be back joining us to do that, he'll take a break from being Lex Luthor, supervillain. And we'll do a recap and talk some more on the addenda episodes, which will be dropping Thursdays, as usual I believe.

So, you guys wanna get into it? Episode 1, 'Forbidden Love.'

## ***The Case Against Adnan Syed:***

### ***[8:56] Debbie Warren:***

*She was in a rush to go somewhere. But she would have come out of this staircase, directly out of these doors, down this walkway and right there to her car. She was intending to pick up her cousin directly after leaving and then going to see Don.*

**Susan Simpson:** Okay well first, just bigger picture, I'm so glad this documentary happened for many reasons, but also it really sort of helped, as we were coming to a close in our first season and then the PCR hearing for Adnan's case back in 2016, to know that it wasn't over. The investigation wasn't over. It was still ongoing! It has been this whole time, it's been ongoing. We have not been publicly investigating the case, obviously, but that doesn't mean that there was not stuff going on this whole time behind the scenes. They have done a very thorough job, and I know not all of the stuff that we've learned over the past 2 years made it into the documentary, but a lot of it has, and I'm really excited for this to come out to the world now.

**Rabia Chaudry:** We're already getting questions about whether Colin's bombshell will be in it, but... (laughs)

**Colin Miller:** I did talk with them about the bombshell, but I don't know if it's gonna make it to the episodes (laughs).

**Rabia Chaudry:** We'll find out, we'll find out. I will say this, so Susan you said earlier, we didn't expect it to take 3 ½ years, one of the reasons it did is because the state kept appealing, right? Every time we'd win, his conviction was overturned, the state would appeal. What the filmmakers were hoping, HBO, all of us were hoping, was that there would be some resolution in this case by now. And seeing that there is not, they decided that, you know, enough has happened, and they've found enough stuff and they have enough of a narrative and new information that they were just gonna go forward, and I'm glad they are.

Moving on to the meat and potatoes of the episode, Colin, what did you think about the, just kind of very general thoughts, like high overview thoughts about the episode?

**Colin Miller:** Yeah, my big takeaway is when I listened to Serial as a podcast it triggered my cognitive, legal side of my brain and that's what led me to write my initial

blog post, was oh, there's so many interesting legal concepts and theories that came to life in this case and I want to write about them. This documentary definitely hit the emotional side of my brain, is that you see Adnan's family and parents, Hae's friends, you put faces to names, you can hear the pain in people's voices...

***The Case Against Adnan Syed:***

***Shamim Rahman:***

*Eunice you alright? You're alright, okay, come on. Want to sit with me? Come on, you can sit. (Child vocalizes). She's shy.*

***Interviewer:***

*Did you have this center when Adnan was still living in the house?*

***Shamim Rahman:***

*Oh yeah, he used to help me too. Yeah. (long pause, Shamim begins to cry). I'm sorry.*

And I got pretty emotional. Almost tearing up listening and watching this first episode and so that was something that I wasn't necessarily expecting when watching this first episode.

**Susan Simpson:** And I guess the biggest question anyone has, well, a lot of people have about hearing this documentary on Adnan's case is, What's left to say? What's left to cover? How are you gonna cover a story that everyone knows? And I loved the way they did it. Just to approach it as if it wasn't a case everyone knows. Because, it isn't. There's tons of new audience here, who were not gonna be around for *Serial*, now seeing it for the first time, and plus those who listened to *Serial* have probably forgotten half the stuff, including us (laughs), over the past 4 years. So they just go back to the beginning and they cover it all. They re-orient you on the case, they remind you who everyone is, or tell you for the first time, they don't assume anything.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah that's the thing. This documentary is not for people who are just picking up after *Serial*, or picking up after *Undisclosed*, like you can be completely new to the case and you're fine. At the same time, for those of us who are so deep in the case, you know, like the three of us, like Colin said, there's still stuff that's like... I mean there are witnesses, or friends actually of Adnan and Hae's, I never actually had seen them before. I didn't know what they looked like. I didn't know what Aisha looked like, Aisha Pittman looked like. And I didn't know what Laura looked like. I didn't know some

of these... I knew the names, I didn't know the faces. So there was new stuff and there was... and I think one of the most amazing aspects of the first episode is how they brought Hae to life.

### ***The Case Against Adnan Syed:***

#### ***Voice actor as Hae Min Lee, reading from her diary***

*April 1st, 1998: I got this today at Monet exhibit from the French field trip. I thought it would be cool to write stuff in here, about my life. So I guess I would just start with my life so far...*

**Susan Simpson:** Yeah, when I first heard there was animation, my reaction, like gut level, was like, oh no. I thought, (crosstalk Rabia says: I know.) I was kind of horrified. And then, and then I watched it.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah. We were told that there was gonna be some animation, that there was an animator who was gonna be, kind of animating, and someone's gonna be narrating parts of Hae's diary, and that can be... I don't even know what the word is, it can end up looking not so highbrow, I guess. But Colin, what did you think of the animation?

**Colin Miller:** Yeah, I mean I thought it was well done. It wasn't, I thought, exploitative, I thought the goal was to bring Hae to life, which, you know, the podcasts, understandably, couldn't really talk to her family, we didn't get too much insight into Hae. And so I think, as Amy Berg has said in these interviews, they got someone to read the diary and their friends said the voice sounded similar to Hae's voice, and we don't have archival footage of Hae besides a few things from the school, so this was an attempt I think in telling this story to basically how Hae's perspective by using the diary entries and the animation, I thought they did a good job.

**Susan Simpson:** I ended up loving it. I went from being totally opposed to, wow, that works. I thought the way they took some license, but in a way that felt true to Hae, like the scene from the prom where they had her erasing Stephanie and drawing herself in, to match her blue dress to the blue crown (crosstalk Rabia: I thought that was cute). Yeah, and obviously that's not literally from the diary, it's not literally something that happened, and it was artistic license, but to me that fit.

**Rabia Chaudry:** I also, I was just kinda stunned watching the animation. It was, and it was touching to me, oh god, I'm going to get emotional, it was touching to me because

that has been something that people have brought up over and over again, and really as Colin said, we have just been at a complete loss, how do you address Hae's story in all of this? How do you find her voice when we can't find the family to talk to us, or they don't want to be involved? What do you do beyond going to the diary, which is almost all we have left? Although I will say, I was kinda shocked to see, there's so many pictures in this first episode of Hae in school with friends, I had never seen them before. It was the first time I had ever seen them and I'm guessing that they were able to get these photographs through other friends who appear in the first episode and others. And also, they didn't just animate Hae in it. So like you said, they animate the scene from the prom, and Adnan is animated in it too. And also Adnan is somebody who is kind of missing visually from this story the entire time, right. You don't see him in Serial, you don't see him in our podcast, we don't see Adnan. Ever. But here you get to actually see him, through the animation.

**Susan Simpson:** And you get to see him once, in that one clip, where he's walking into the Baltimore--is that the PCR hearing? (crosstalk Rabia: The PCR hearing.) Basically what they have is they drive him up in the van and they have these gates that swing out on the sidewalk so that inmates can walk into the court from the transport van. And there's one shot they got of him being walked in. And of course, of course, the guard happens to be on the sign between the cameraman and Adnan, so all you see mostly, again, is the guard. Which is sort of fitting for how it's been told so far. Yeah.

**[16:33] Rabia Chaudry:** Exactly. That's what I thought. I actually thought that was- I know it was intentional. There's other footage out there where you can see Adnan.

**Susan Simpson:** But not theirs. Not theirs. That was where they were.

**Rabia Chaudry:** It might not be theirs. They could probably use other news footage, like if they wanted to license it, or something. But, I think they very purposefully took a shot where he's kind of obscured. Because, in a way, the series is going to start to unobscure him- is that a work? I don't know.

Oh, one thing I thought, this is so ridiculous- I told Adnan this, actually, and he laughed. When your mom sees the animated scene of you and Hae kissing it's really going to piss her off, because she's always going to be that Auntie.

But, anyway, I thought it was beautifully done, the way they captured Hae. And there is also a community member who knew Hae who was interviewed, and who knew Hae,

who is interviewed and who is part of this, and I thought it was fantastic that they were able to include her in it.

**Susan Simpson:** Hae's family obviously did not want to participate, and that's very understandable, that's totally their call, but at the same time, as a filmmaker, I know that Amy and them really wanted to include what they could of her life, and they found a woman who knew Hae's family from the church, I believe, and she was willing to talk on camera about the family and what she remembered of the events.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah. It was pretty devastating to hear that.

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**[19:20] Rabia Chaudry:** Somebody else that we kind of hear from, or see visually for the first time, I think, in this entire narrative, is Adnan's father.

**Susan Simpson:** That's the first time I have- yeah. I was not even sure that he would appear on the film. I knew that he's always been very publicity averse.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Have you or Colin ever seen him before?

**Colin Miller:** No.

**Susan Simpson:** No, no. I've seen Aunt Shamim many times, but I know Adnan's father is-- and you can tell, you can see in the documentary you can see first-hand, how its broken him.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Oh, he's- I think he kind of became a hermit after Adnan's arrest. I call him "Father Time" sometimes, because he's got that appearance. But he's just a real gentle soul and I'm so glad they were able to get him on film, because I was so positive that he wasn't going to do it. I was like, there's no way he's going to do it. I think he agreed to do it in moments where there was nobody else around, though, and that was maybe the only thing that made him comfortable doing it.

When I see him, it's like for a blip. He'll come out, say hello, kiss the kids, go back into his bedroom.

**Susan Simpson:** My favorite line, I think, it was from Tanveer, their father said, "He can't be dating girls and getting those grades."

**Rabia Chaudry:** Clearly, uncle does not know how dating works, I think it's fair to say. See, like, back home, if you're dating someone, what that really means is you are just "pre-marriage" so you're *that* involved. You're about to get married to this person. That's what that means.

What did you think about the inclusion of Adnan's family, Colin? Anything that stood out to you?

**Colin Miller:** It was, I thought, well done. They have the scenes there obviously of Yusuf and Shamim, and they're running the daycare center, and they had that back in 1999, as well. And just, I think the footage of Shamim, his mother's face, and seeing the impact this has had on her. We can see, for both his father and his mother, the impact. She seems more of the soldier through it, and have a strong front, whereas, as you noted, it sort of broke him, it seems, and has had more of an overt effect on what he has been like the last several years.

**Rabia Chaudry:** And other than Adnan's father having to testify at the trial, he has never been to any of the hearings, any of the appeal, he just can't emotionally handle it. So, she has been the rock. She's the one who's always there, always soldiering along.

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**[21:49] Rabia Chaudry:** Alright, let's talk about all of the friends that appear, all of these kind of folks- who did we hear from in *Serial*? We did hear from--

**Susan Simpson:** We heard from them all, and I'd seen photos of all of them from high school.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Did we hear Debbie, too? I don't remember Debbie being in *Serial*.

**Susan Simpson:** Oh, we didn't hear from her, directly, I don't remember. But we heard her recording. This is the first time I've seen- well, I've seen Krista, obviously, and Asia, but I've never seen what Laura or Aisha or Debbie look like, now.

### ***The Case Against Adnan Syed:***

***Aisha Pittman:***

*Me and Hae played Field Hockey together, that's when we became friends. Both*

*of us were fans of sports, but didn't really ever pay attention to them. She was a fan of the Dallas Cowboys, but probably rarely watched an actual football game. She liked the blue and silver.*

**Susan Simpson:** And it really gave context to the fact that this is something that's really affected not just them, then, but even today, with *Serial*, its impacting lives of adult people who have had a tragedy this many years ago in high school, and now today, it's affecting their daily life pretty consistently for years.

**Rabia Chaudry:** And the interesting thing about this group of friends, it's not just that they were Adnan's friends or Hae's friends, they were *all* friends, so they were just as close to Adnan as they were to Hae. They were all part of the magnet program, which we did hear about in *Serial*.

**[23:01]** So what they do in the first episode, is they lay all of this out. It's an excellent foundation, and I think what they did is really difficult to do, because they've got these different timelines that they're going back and forth. They're trying to explain who Hae was, what her relationship to Adnan was, and then what happened to her.

So let's talk a little bit about how they get into the actual, her disappearance, and murder, and what happens then.

**Susan Simpson:** There's a lot of confusion and uncertainty about what happened, obviously, when she disappeared, and what happened in the weeks following and I think the documentary sort of conveyed that by showing how today, even after *Serial* came out, after it's been so public for so many years now, the people involved still don't fully remember, exactly, or don't always agree what happened- the sequence of events. Like, Krista recalls that her moment of 'oh gosh, something could be wrong here,' is after a party that she had on the 15th, for her 18th birthday, when they were all wearing those extremely 90s clothes. They're not worried, they're like, oh, Hae will come by for the party, and it's like, after the party--

**Rabia Chaudry:** This is two days after Hae disappeared, so- yeah, two days later.

**Susan Simpson:** Two days. And Hae never showed up for it. And when they realize, after the party's over, that she never came, they're like, oh, that's something strange. But Isha, Hae's *best friend* was talking about how she wasn't really concerned, or didn't think anything could be wrong until they found her body. It seems like it was this thing where, in hindsight, yes, they all should have been very- it seems like it should have

been obvious that something terrible had happened, but in the moment, they didn't feel that. Because these are kids, adults aren't saying anything is desperately wrong, they're like, oh, she's off somewhere. It doesn't make much sense now, thinking back, but at the time it seems like they largely kind of accepted it.

**Colin Miller:** yeah, well, what I find interesting, which maybe I just didn't remember from having worked on this case years ago, and sort of working a little bit more recently, is Hope Schab appears on this portion of the documentary. She was the French teacher who Hae worked for, and you first see her and she appears young even now, in 2018 or whatever. And what she says is basically the police approached me to ask questions of the students because I was a young teacher at the time, and I often interacted with the students as basically more of a peer than as a teacher.

### ***The Case Against Adnan Syed:***

#### ***Hope Schab:***

*I was asked by the detectives, being that I was younger in age, and close to a lot of the circle that she ran in, if I would make up some questions that I could give to the girls to kind of ask around to see if any of the magnet students knew what was going on.*

**Susan Simpson:** Well, no. Her statement is she felt like a mother to Hae and the others. Which, I can see now, as a teacher with many years of experience [...] but from what we know back then, there's definitely a vibe that she was treating these students who were like, what, four years younger than her? As a peer and friend more so than as a parental figure, because--

**Rabia Chaudry:** Which makes sense to me.

**Susan Simpson:** Yeah, it does. She was barely older than them. She's barely older than them now. But there was definitely a closer relationship there than there was with a lot of teachers which was part of why she must have gotten so involved in it.

**Colin Miller:** Yeah, and that's definitely one of the most troubling parts of this investigation to me, is that in effect, this teacher was deputized, and she was close in age to these students where, it's kind of both of those. She both is close in age and is a bit of a friend, but also is a bit like a mother figure, so to have her giving these questions to Debbie and the other students to ask about Adnan and Hae and all these issues-- that's not ideal at all to do for an investigation. It places the students in an awkward

position, the teacher in an awkward position, and it creates credibility issues there for that investigation.

**Rabia Chaudry:** And you have to ask, why wouldn't the police themselves go talk directly to the students?

**Susan Simpson:** Because they didn't think they'd get real answers from teenagers, probably. Or, it's possible even Hope was like, "Oh, look. I can do better getting answers from these students than the police..." It was probably true, to be honest. Or at least, can get more honest reactions.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah, maybe. I got an interesting vibe from her, maybe I'm just reading it wrong. Hope Schab testified at the trial, and to me, her demeanor in the trial seemed much more forceful and suspicious of Adnan- I mean, she was a State witness, she was a non-defense witness. But she seemed to kind of have pulled back on that, at least in the documentary, the footage that I- I don't know if it was just my perception- but to me she almost seemed a little bit sheepish about the whole thing, like she was just trying to explain, this is kind of how it happened or why it happened....

**Susan Simpson:** I got a similar impression that she's definitely not like, she views the case, and has for a long time, that Adnan is guilty, but it seems like there could have been an asterisk there now, like she was hedging a bit.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah!

**Susan Simpson:** And the documentary didn't get into all the details, though. Like, it didn't actually explain how invasive her questions had been, the questions that she gave to Debbie. And they were like, "Where did Hae and Adnan like to have sex?" Extremely graphic questions.

One thing that's always stumped me about Hope Schab's testimony is that the way she testifies at trial is a little bit different- at least the impression that she left, and undoubtedly why the prosecutors called her- to leave that impression, was a little more, it was definitely more incriminating than reality.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Definitely.

**Susan Simpson:** At trial, for instance, at the first trial, she's asked about the time Adnan came up to her and was like, hey, can you not ask so many questions about

me? I don't appreciate you asking questions about me. And they introduce the testimony to show how guilty Adnan is, because obviously anyone who's concerned about a teacher asking about their sex life, that's a sign of guilt.

What she testifies at trial, though, is that, "I was asked to ask Gerald Russell, who was the track coach, if Adnan was in practice on a certain day, and that was what I was told to do." And I suppose that Adnan found out about it, because he came up to ask her about it, essentially. That's not what happened.

The reason that the time happened where Adnan, not in private, in public, went up to her at class and he was like, hey, you can't be asking questions about me, was because he found the questions in Debbie Warren's planner. But the way it comes off at trial is as if this guy hears someone's checking into his alibi and freaks out. Which, to me, I don't want to call it incriminating, but certainly more incriminating than reality.

**Colin Miller:** I think, to Susan's point, even when she's talking about the hug that she gives to Adnan, and she's saying he's stiff, and she's like, well, you could interpret that one way, you could also interpret it another. Again, I sort of see it as essentially the police deputizing Hope Schab, and she kind of feels like she's an arm of the state and the Prosecution, and probably unconsciously that means when she testifies at trial and she's called as a State's Witness she's going to slant her testimony a bit against Adnan and in favor of the State, and it does seem like as this decade and a half or more has passed and she's farther removed from the situation, she's reflecting on it. It does seem like she has questions about what happened, and that's not to say that she thinks he's innocent, but I think having been removed from the case and her role in it, sort of working for the State, she can have more a more objective, nuanced take on it.

**[29:57] Susan Simpson:** I was at an event last week, and Rabia was there too, and Laura Estrada, who you see in Episode 1, was also there. And she was talking about how after seeing Hope Schab's comments in the documentary, she had mentioned... you know, I remember that, watching the documentary. I remember being there the time that Hope Schab-- Miss Schab came up to hug Adnan and how awkward it was. And the way she described it was a different impression of how Hope Schab had tried to describe it, as like, oh look, he was just really hostile to me. Whereas, as Laura recalls it, everyone was just sad, and it was just awkward, and then... that's what stood out to her. It was a very just different take away from the whole scene.

**Rabia Chaudry:** I mean, it's just one of those things where in hindsight, you can look at an event and filter it through whatever information you know at that point. I mean, we're

talking Hope Schab testified- we have to also remember- and all the students at the school, Laura talked about this, actually at that event, where she's like, you know we were told there was DNA evidence against him. I mean, like--

**Susan Simpson:** And fibers. And fingerprints.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Right. So I can understand that. So I wonder how much of the story Hope has been following now, and if she listened to Serial and I can send her my book, too, but I'm not sure if that would be appropriate or not.

**Colin Miller:** When we first met at the Night for Justice gala, you said, the way, in my culture, would be a handshake as opposed to a hug. Is there anything in terms of Adnan being a male in his faith and culture and a female teacher hugging him that that would be uncomfortable or awkward, specifically?

**Rabia Chaudry:** It depends on the person. The person that Adnan was? No. there are people who are a little more culturally conservative and they would not hug a person of the opposite gender, because it just doesn't happen back home.

**Susan Simpson:** What was the party that we were at, Rabia? Who was it? It was at your house and someone was trying to troll Irfan, your husband, by pretending to hug him?

**Rabia Chaudry:** No, I put Amelia up to it. I said, go hug my husband. He's given up now, actually last week at the event, he was just hugging everybody, and I was, too, so I was like, whatever. But there's a point where you just kind of- because, you know, you live where you live. But, for Adnan, it wouldn't have been a gender thing. Because first of all, Adnan is dating and smoking pot, and going to parties, he's--

**Susan Simpson:** It wouldn't have been a Muslim thing, but it would have been a high school boy thing. Having a teacher come up and try to hug you?

**Rabia Chaudry:** Maybe. And it could also be, and I don't know how long this was after- I'm guessing it was a day or so after they found her body, so it sounds like a lot of these kids were --

**Susan Simpson:** The day after.

**Rabia Chaudry:** -- just walking around in shock, he's trying to process this--

**Susan Simpson:** It's not his teacher. He doesn't know her that well.

**Rabia Chaudry:** So there's plenty of ways to interpret it, but the cultural lens probably wouldn't work for Adnan. In fact, I think the picture from Krista's party, I noticed this, I think there's a little- it looks like Adnan is grinding on Debbie, but, anyway, I could be wrong.

**Susan Simpson:** I've got to watch again, now.

**Rabia Chaudry:** In one of the pictures. I was like, uh-oh. Don't let Auntie see that.

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**[34:00] Rabia Chaudry:** Let's move on. Mister S., let's talk about Alonzo Sellers and how he found the body. I thought this was fascinating because we get to see, for the first time, the trial footage of Alonzo Sellers -- what he looks like and what his demeanor was like. It's very different than when you just read trial testimony.

***The Case Against Adnan Syed:***

***Judge:***

*Listen to Ms. Gutierrez who has some questions for you.*

***Cristina Gutierrez:***

*Mr. Sellers, let me direct your attention back to February the 9th, 1999. Do you recall that day?*

***Alonzo Sellers:***

*I don't recall that day. I don't know what you're sayin' ...*

***Cristina Gutierrez:***

*Well Sir, you recall the day that you found the body in Leakin Park, don't you?*

***Alonzo Sellers:***

*Oh, that's the day ..t. Yes, okay, I recall that day.*

***Cristina Gutierrez:***

*That was a pretty important day for you, was it not?*

**Defense Lawyer:**

*Objection.*

**Alonzo Sellers:**

*If you explained that I woulda known what you were talkin' about.*

**Susan Simpson:** Although his trial testimony too ... you get a very consistent picture of him not wanting to be there, being not ... I don't know if hostile is the correct word, there's definitely a vibe of hostility to it, but it's more ...

**Rabia Chaudry:** Antagonistic?

**Susan Simpson:** It's not overt hostility. Antagtic, but not like in your face. Like he knows he has to be there, he knows he's been compelled, he's in a court -- he's clearly not going to do something he knows is gonna get him in bigger trouble, but he is not there in the spirit of cooperation. I wouldn't say he's as bad as Jen, who comes off as extremely antagonistic and like mouthy and ...

**Rabia Chaudry:** Eye rolling teenager.

**Susan Simpson:** Basically sassy the whole time, whereas he is just like very, "I'm not gonna give you an inch. If you ask me a question I can't avoid answering, I will answer it, but I am not gonna give you an inch."

**Rabia Chaudry:** You know, what they explore with him is not just his demeanor at the trial, which I thought was ... I guess my question would be: why? Why would he be having that attitude unless it was just something like, "I'm having to miss work for this" -- he's just annoyed in general. But dude, you found the body (laughs), you gotta ... so it's all about how he found the body. I mean that's kind of like ... what did you think the documentary was getting at, Colin, when they were showing how difficult it was to find the body?

**Colin Miller:** Well, I think exactly -- like this wasn't an accidental discovery. I mean they are showing the photo, and supposedly there's a foot that you can see in the photo, and I'm sitting there looking at it on a pretty big screened T.V., and it takes me a good 20 seconds or so before I'm like, "Oh, is that actually a foot?" I can't imagine I would have seen that in Leakin Park if I'm just going there to relieve myself. And then the other point, of course, is that this is a guy who's known for streaking and he's, of course,

testifying about going far into the woods to avoid people seeing him urinate. And so, I think the question here, they're obviously implying, although they're not too overt about it is, this didn't seem like an innocent discovery. It seems like he knew what he was looking for.

**Susan Simpson:** Alonzo Sellers is an interesting figure because he is ... on *Serial*, and not to the same extent, but a little bit in the documentary as well, they give off more of a harmless vibe to it. I mean, in police reports you can see they called him "The Bunny Man" for his very frequent streaking efforts. But it wasn't just streaking ... I think that gives a more, ya know, whimsical feel to it (laughs), as opposed to in reality he was a pretty aggressive streaker. There was very much like ... cornering women, making aggressive gestures. It's a much more disconcerting story when you look at the police reports. It's sort of a threatening air in some of those incidents.

I do believe Alonzo Sellers is lying. I don't believe his story for various reasons. The whole thing doesn't make any sense. I don't think that in any way implicates him in the murder. I think the fact that he came forward is strong evidence he probably wasn't involved. My own guess is that he probably didn't even go see the body on the way back to work with that 22 ounce can of Budweiser that day, but that's the day he decided to come forward and tell someone about what he'd seen or heard about before. And again, that doesn't mean he knew how the body got there, but I think it means he knew about the body in advance somehow, and that after thinking it over for some time, decided to come forward.

**Rabia Chaudry:** One of the things I had wished that they had done in the documentary, because they didn't make this clear -- they showed a little diagram of him driving from home to work after grabbing the beer, but one of the things I kinda wished they had done was actually kind of ... take a camera and show what that would have looked like. Because one of the things that's important to know is that when he's driving back to work, he's on the opposite side of the road from where the body is. So his truck pulls over ...

**Susan Simpson:** Also not far from work.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Also not far from work, right (laughs).

**Susan Simpson:** Or home.

**Rabia Chaudry:** The truck pulled over on the opposite side of the road. Now, he could have taken a leak on that side of the woods, but he crossed the street. And if they had taken a camera and done that -- crossed the street, walked back into the woods as far as he had to go, around the same time, and then panned the area to show what it looks like, it would have been more of a visual in terms of showing how unlikely that story is and why, I know I don't believe it. I know, Susan, you don't believe it.

I think that's an interesting theory, that he might have known about it or found the ... See, the thing is, he couldn't have just known about it. Like, he had to have ... because he knew the location.

**Susan Simpson:** Yeah, well he had to have gone in.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Right.

**Susan Simpson:** So it's possible that he was told about it and then went looking for it and found it. I'm not sure if he actually found it by accident, perhaps maybe while streaking being "The Bunny Man", or if he'd heard about it and then gone to look for it and happened to find it. I just don't believe he stumbled across it that day while going out to urinate.

**Rabia Chaudry:** You know, the city surveyor who went out to ... with the team, the police and everybody, after Alonzo Sellers reported finding the body, he said he went and stood right on top of it and he still didn't see it. So, unlikely story. And you know what, the filmmaker Amy asked Detective Massey about the story, and I thought it was ... I did not know that Massey was interviewed for this, so I was surprised to see him.

**Susan Simpson:** I did, and I was super excited. Well, so here's the thing, no police officers wanted to participate in this whole show, except for Massey. He's the only one who agreed, probably because he loves the camera, and loves his connection to *The Wire*. And loves fame.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Well can we talk about Massey's role in the case? Colin, do you remember what his role was in the investigation?

**Colin Miller:** Yeah, his role, I think probably his only role, but maybe Susan can correct me, is that he is the one who claims to have received the anonymous call that puts them on the path of Adnan, where this caller -- he writes down it was an asian male between 18-21 and essentially points the police in the direction of Adnan and the ex-boyfriend.

**Susan Simpson:** You mean Adna Ansyed (laughs)?

**Colin Miller:** Well, right. It's spelled in an odd way, right. But I think we can kind of decipher it as Adnan Syed. But yeah, he claims he got this anonymous call, and that's his claim for why the investigation turns to Adnan instead of Don, the new boyfriend -- is, "We had this anonymous call." And there's all sorts of questions: Massey has a checkered history. He was involved in a scandal with overtime pay. There have been other cases where he's made up evidence, and been involved in wrongful convictions and so ... And even in this case, it was the case where Gutierrez, defense council, tried to track him down to have him testify and just couldn't find him, and couldn't get him to appear.

**Susan Simpson:** That's why to me it was so ironic that he was the one who agreed. Because they did try -- they tried many, many officers, and the only one who agreed was the one who literally nobody could find at the time of trial. They ended up having to stipulate to evidence just to avoid having him come in because he just mysteriously couldn't be found anywhere. Whoops.

Basically, it was very clear they did not want him under oath talking about this call.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Hmm. Okay, so let's talk about that call briefly. Now all these years we have always debated, what does the word "Asian" mean because there are different kinds of Asians involved in this case (laughs), South Asians and East Asians.

**Susan Simpson:** Or "orientals", as they put ... Adnan's race is marked as "O" at some point.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Orientals, okay. But here it sounds like Massey is being pretty clear, that he means it's somebody who ... he says Korean, doesn't he?

**Susan Simpson:** He does. That is something we've never known before. We've always wondered if it was east asian or southeast asian -- well he says now he believes it was probably Korean, which to me indicates ... assuming he has a memory of this call and assuming this call actually happened, which I'm not gonna concede, the caller was someone who sounded ... could have been Hae's family, which would possibly implicate Hae's brother, 'cause it's hard to think of who else would be calling.

**Colin Miller:** His brother would have been a little bit younger. He was probably 16, maybe 17 at the time this call was made. But, yeah plausibly him. But I also don't know ... like how do you limit it to Korean? I don't know many people to be able to say this is Korean as opposed to say, Chinese or Japanese. I don't know, maybe it Baltimore he would have more insight, but that seems awfully specific to me.

**Susan Simpson:** I think he couldn't tell Korean versus Chinese / Japanese, that's why he wrote Asian. To him that means east asian as opposed to ... I feel like you could tell a Pakistani accent from a Korean accent.

**Rabia Chaudry:** But let me stop you guys for a second, because here's the thing, we see in this episode, we see Hae's brother talking to the media, testifying. If I were to close my eyes and listen to his voice and his accent, I don't think I could identify him as Asian. I could identify an accent, but I wouldn't know what it was. It doesn't sound like an overtly Asian-influenced accent to me. Does it to you guys?

**Colin Miller:** Well one important point for me is they use subtitles when he talks, and if I close my eyes and didn't see the subtitles, I'm not sure I could make out what he was saying, so that would be, I think, difficult for it to be the brother for Massey to have the notes he has as clear as they are because it's tough to understand what he's saying.

**Susan Simpson:** Also, why would the brother call anonymously? Why would he do that? The implication, I think, from the notes is that it's supposed to be someone of Hae's ... like one of Adnan's friends is turning him in.

**Rabia Chaudry:** This call actually happened ... it was before her body was found. Now the one reason I ... 'cause I really thought about this when I saw this, I said you know it is actually quite possible that it was the brother or somebody from the family because remember, even before the body was found, the family had brought in that cultural consultant -- we've talked about this on Undisclosed in the past, who wrote this memo, and I think the family was already focused on Adnan, and so were the police to some extent. But I think the family was very, very convinced, especially given that consultant's involvement and her conviction that it was like a muslim honor killing thing, that I can see that maybe the brother was like, "I'm just gonna make this call ..."

**Susan Simpson:** It seems like everything in this case starts to take up a heightened sort of sense of importance, starting around February 1st. There's not really much indication anyone had any concerns about her being gone until then. That's about the time they did the dog search, they use her hair dryer to give the dogs the scent to go off

of. I think Laura, in the documentary, recalls seeing the dogs, which I kinda wondered about. If you see the police getting out dogs to look for a scent trail, and that still doesn't tip you off something is really direly wrong, that's how much in denial they all were. But to me it seems like something happened around that time that changes ... they're open now to the possibility that this is a murder investigation. And it's about the time that they have the Crime Stoppers ads going out.

**Colin Miller:** Well here's my question following up on this Rabia and also Susan, this write-up of the anonymous call by Detective Massey says, "this time that caller remembered about a year ago, the suspect informed a friend of his, Baser Ali", which is Yaser, "if he ever hurt his girlfriend he would drive her car into a lake." Now, how would Hae's brother, or anyone connected to Hae, know about Yaser and be able to use that in a call? So that sort of leans to me on the side of: this is a made up call by Massey. But yeah, I mean how would they know about Yassir to then have that in a call?

**Susan Simpson:** If they weren't concerned about this call, they would have had Massey testify under oath. They went out of their way to make sure Massey would not be under oath for this call.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah. I mean the police would know about these guys, because the police have the phone records and they know who he's calling and who his friends are, but yeah, okay, that could be it.

**Susan Simpson:** Well, and they didn't even try and trace it. Like, I have other cases from Baltimore in 2000 where they got anonymous calls -- first thing they do is do a freaking search for the phone to find out where it came from. Like in another Ritz case, the Ezra Mable case, they had a call so they did a search on it and found out what payphone it came in from and started monitoring it. They made no effort here to do that.

**Colin Miller:** And one of the big points of this first episode is to say -- it goes into Hae's history, of course, and reveals an incident that hadn't been revealed before, and that leads to then Hae not wanting to have friends or boyfriends come to her house or have really much interaction with her family -- and that's why it's tough for me to see, if we're talking about anyone who is in Hae's family making this call, they'd be mentioning Baser / Yaser Ali. You would think it would have to be someone from their school or their friends making this call, but then who is Korean or that type of asian who'd be making this call? We're not aware of anyone who would have that knowledge.

**Susan Simpson:** I mean, I feel very confident Massey's making the whole thing up about who called and his memory of the voice, yeah. I think the whole "probably Korean" thing is just him making shit up.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Right. I mean they needed a credible ... because when he was asked in the episode, what about Alonzo Sellers? Or how about Don and all these other leads? He's like, "Oh yeah, yeah, we checked them out, BUT we had to really focus on Adnan once the call came in." Like he identifies that as being the point at which Adnan became the lead suspect.

**Susan Simpson:** But he was like, "Yeah, we would have looked at Don, but Don didn't have the phonecalls coming in about him."

***The Case Against Adnan Syed:***

***Detective Massey:***

*Uh, don't think he didn't go uninvestigated.*

***Interviewer:***

*His alibi was his mother, and so there's a question of ...*

***Detective Massey:***

*Would the mother lie for him? Sure. He coulda caught equal attention that the defendant did. But, he didn't have any phone calls come in about him.*

**Susan Simpson:** And it shows just the mindset they had of like, oh a teenage girl is missing, it's gonna be the boyfriend, the ex-boyfriend, or the family. In this case they didn't even really look at the family or the ex-boyfriend. They just looked at the boyfriend. But just the whole approach is just so wrong. And one thing that I feel has always been overlooked in this case is the possibility of this was not someone in Hae's life who was involved. That this was, in fact, a stranger related incident.

**Rabia Chaudry:** If this was a stranger, how would Alonzo Sellers hear about it? Like I'm just trying to ... I mean?

**Susan Simpson:** I don't know, there's a lot of possibilities.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah, I guess it could be a stranger who's just a local stranger, right?

**Susan Simpson:** Well, so here's a list of examples that I have pulled up, while researching this case, of women being abducted from cars near Woodlawn in the time period where Hae went missing:

September 1997, at Owings Mills Mall. The same mall that Hae was going to work at that night. On that date, a man forced his way into a woman's car in the parking lot and tried to sexually assault her, but she was able to get free when the car hit a bump and she threw herself out of the moving vehicle to escape.

October '98, at the McDonald's on the Baltimore National Pike, just next to Westview Mall, just next to where Jen Pusateri lived. A woman was in the McDonald's parking lot at 1:30 in the afternoon, and a man wearing yellow striped gloves and a red sleeved jacket forced her into his car at knifepoint. He drove down to a wooded, secluded area in Patapsco Valley State Park and sexually assaulted her, but she escaped and ran away.

December 4th, '98, on Liberty Rd, the road between Woodlawn and where Hae was heading to the daycare center. A woman left a bar one night, she was forced into a car by three men. She was beaten, sexually assaulted, and her unconscious, partially-clothed body was dumped in Leakin Park. She survived, she woke up probably around five that morning, was able to stumble for help off of North Park Road. But they had no leads, couldn't find anyone until finally, like four years later, they finally ran the rape kit, got the DNA, and got like an instant match in the database and found the rapist, who three years after that, again they finally tested a rape kit that they had left sitting on a shelf forever, and there was another rape. This time it was a September 2000 abduction and rape, where a woman walking in that area was pushed into a car and driven to Woodlawn Memorial Park, very close to the school, and raped. But she, too, survived. And that man lived like 5 minutes from Campfield Learning Center

Or December 17th, '98, in Towson, Maryland. A 24 year old Pikesville woman was driving along the highway just north of Baltimore. It was like 2:45 on a Thursday afternoon, and a van forced her car off the road. When she got out so be like, "Hey dude, what's going on?" he forced her into his van and tried to drive away, until a third motorist intervened.

**[49:34] Susan Simpson:** February '99, again, Liberty Avenue...

**Rabia Chaudry:** My god, it just goes on and on!

**Susan Simpson:** Yeah, Rolling Road, it's again close to where the previous one was and not too far from Campfield Early Learning Center. A woman at a gas station, abducted in her own vehicle, forced to an ATM to withdraw money, survived.

September, 1999, at an apartment complex just off of Liberty Avenue and the Baltimore Beltway. So, where Hae would have been driving that day, probably to get to Campfield. A woman was going to her church in the morning, and she stepped out of her car to change the CD player, which was in the trunk of the car. And as she was getting back in her car, a man forces her into her car at knifepoint and pushes her over to the passenger side, and drives her to Woodlawn Cemetery where he sexually assaulted her, but then got spooked when a guy drove by, and she escaped.

October 1999, a Laurel woman was found stabbed to death in a wooded area. Her estranged husband was interrogated, he confessed to the murder, spent close to a year in jail awaiting trial, even after the rape kit came back and it was not his DNA. They only let him go when they actually did find out who the DNA belonged to, which was a man who had committed like eight assaults in the past six months, one of them being a carjacking and rape not far from Woodlawn just over near Ellicott City.

November 1999, in Anne Arundel County, so like just south of Baltimore. A 17 year old Meade High School student was going to school one morning and parked her car in the student parking lot, was just starting to walk towards homeroom, when a man who had driven in after her forced her at gunpoint, or pretended to have a gun, forced her back into her car, drove her away from the school and raped her, dumped her out, and then drove the car back to the school, got his own car, and left.

**Rabia Chaudry:** wow...

**Susan Simpson:** And that's an example of a high school girl being abducted in her high school parking lot, not far from Woodlawn. So to me, the idea that the question here is like, 'Is it the boyfriend or the ex-boyfriend?' is so misguided. Because there was an extremely high number of carjackings and rapes, in Western Baltimore, in this roughly like 2-3 year period.

**[51:28] Rabia Chaudry:** Well it's misguided mostly, not just because this was the state's case, but also because there is this idea that there has to be someone who's got like a motive that is some kind of personal motive, and that random stuff like this doesn't...you know what I mean, like people don't randomly pick strangers to..no, but

they do. People pick random strangers to victimize. There's not always a personal connection, and a personal motive.

**Susan Simpson:** And the idea's always been that Hae was driving somewhere, so she couldn't possibly have been intercepted by a stranger, it had to be someone she knew, when no, there are dozens of women who were driving somewhere and ended up being intercepted in their car, on basically the same streets that Hae would be driving on. And that was never even considered, even when you had a woman with a very similar sort of situation, kidnapped from very close to Campfield Learning Center, and taken to Woodlawn Cemetery near the high school. That was before Adnan's trial, they never even looked into it.

**[52:44] Rabia Chaudry:** Let's talk about another possible suspect in the case. Actually this is the first time I guess we all saw Don as well, and that's her boyfriend at the time she disappeared, Donald Clinedinst.

**Susan Simpson:** First time I saw a picture of him from the time that he knew Hae.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, right, when he worked at a store.

**Susan Simpson:** I'd seen photos of him from when he was in high school, and when he was an adult.

**Rabia Chaudry:** But here's what threw me off, is that she described him in a way that even in that photograph didn't match up. In her diary she describes Don as blond, blue eyed. Ok, he's blue eyed and white, fine. [Susan: Built] But she describes him as blond, and even his photograph with the whole team at Lenscrafters, he's not blond. His hair is dark.

**Susan Simpson:** It's a light brown.

**Rabia Chaudry:** That's not blond! I mean...

**Susan Simpson:** People get confused about that. You're talking about your new, older guy you have a crush on who is blue-eyed, and has a Camaro, you can kind of hedge it and call it blond in your diary. [Laughs] That doesn't surprise me.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Well, some of us, we have seen his high school photograph, and his high school photograph looks kind of similar to how he does now, which is kind of

heavy, and also, he has very dark hair in that photograph. He did look stunningly different at Lenscrafters, which is not that many years out of high school. He looked like a handsome guy. I can see where she would have fallen for him. But oh my goodness, what transpired between him and Debbie was kind of shocking to me. I knew a little bit about it, I did not know the whole story. What did you think about that Colin?

**Colin Miller:** Yeah, this is something where we've wondered, and I think a lot of people have wondered, there's this interview that Debbie has, and she says 'I suspected that Don', or as she calls him Donnie, 'was the one who had abducted Hae and done harm to her, and so I called under that impression, after surreptitiously reaching out over email', and she said 'We had a seven hour call.' And the question always was: was that a typo or a misprint? (Susan laughs: Typo!) She confirms, no, 'it was a seven hour call, I entered that call thinking that Don was guilty, I ended it thinking he was innocent and Adnan had done it.' And the bombshell that we learn here is that, at least according to Debbie, Don was romantically interested in Debbie and tried to put the moves on her and she had to put the brakes on it and say 'No, I'm not interested in you that way'. And that just adds another layer there when that's a part of this seven hour conversation that essentially flips Debbie from someone who is very much thinking Adnan's innocent to now thinking he's guilty, which, I mean that plays out to a large extent at trial.

**Susan Simpson:** And she still does.

**Colin Miller:** It still has ramifications today. [crosstalk Susan: still does to this day it seems like.]

**Rabia Chaudry:** I would just think that, (laughs) I don't know, maybe, and I do want to talk about Debbie in a minute, but to me fact that my friend's boyfriend, my friend who disappeared and was murdered, her boyfriend, is very shortly after the murder making the moves on me would actually make me more suspicious of him rather than less suspicious of him. So I find that whole thing strange, that suddenly she, although I don't know how persuasive Don was, but seven hours is a long time. And then they actually saw each other, and it sounds like something happened, but not everything happened, the way she put it, and that whole thing is just...doesn't sit right with me. I don't know. I don't know what Donnie's deal was, but something about that is really fishy to me.

**Susan Simpson:** And I'm unclear on the timeline. Is it when she's still missing? Or is it after her death that this...I mean they start talking before her body is found. It's not clear to me when the romantic relationship began - was it before or after the body was found?

**Colin Miller:** Yeah, I don't think that was clear, that timeline. She definitely reaches out and talks to him before the body is found, but I'm not sure this whole romantic angle, when that takes place.

**Rabia Chaudry:** That happens after. That happens after, because I think she said it was spring break, and that she went to UMBC, and so it was definitely after the body, not long after the body was found, but it was after the body is found.

**Susan Simpson:** Something like March or April. You know, I guess, from Debbie's perspective, I get it. She's going through trauma, she's obviously not very used to attention from boys, she's out of her element and a bit naive. Yeah, from her perspective I understand, I can kind of get how this thing could happen, which seems so... It kind of does seem horrific in some ways, like 'Oh my god!!' But from her, I get it. That makes sense. It was not a great choice, she obviously was - the attention and the grief came together.

**Rabia Chaudry:** And she kept her boundaries. She kept some boundaries,

**Susan Simpson:** Yeah. I'm not saying it was the worst thing in the world, like this is poor judgement from a 17 year old woman. But what I don't get is from Don's perspective.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Yeah.

**Susan Simpson:** That's the part I have a harder time explaining as high school judgement. Because he didn't know her. This wasn't like a case of old friends or something. It was this woman seeks you out, high school girl seeks you out, and is like sending you an email under an anonymous name saying 'Where's Hae? Where are you hiding her? Can you tell me where she is?' And you end up trying to start a relationship with her?

**Rabia Chaudry:** Like seduce her?

**Susan Simpson:** What? It doesn't seem like...it's very hard not to have questions about his motives. Is he just like a sleazy 22 year old dude? Maybe. But, ugh. And they do talk in the documentary about how he is ill and he stopped working shortly after Hae's death, and never worked again. To me that's not part of the story, that's not really

relevant necessarily. But the Debbie thing, I just...it's bad judgement, terrible, terrible judgement all around for sure.

**Rabia Chaudry:** It always smelled fishy to me. I mean like the whole thing is weird, unless...and at the same time, even in the documentary, and he said this on Serial too, he's like "I still think about her every day. I loved her." Ok, look. Maybe it's possible, but they had been dating for two weeks, the night she disappeared he did not try to contact her, he in fact never tried to contact her again. I don't know what kind of love that is, but I also don't know if you can fall in love that quick. I don't understand - why does he think of her every single day, why does he love her still? None of that makes sense to me. You know, they did not even have the kind of long standing relationship that she had with her friends, or even Adnan. She knew Adnan for any number of years in high school. And the other thing the documentary doesn't address is something that's troubled all of us, and those are notes, in police notes there's a line that says that the "New boyfriend assaulted Debbie." Meaning Donnie assaulted Debbie.

**Susan Simpson:** Yeah. I wondered about that.

**Rabia Chaudry:** We don't know what, we still don't know what that's about.

**Susan Simpson:** It's just an officer wrote down at some point, I believe the notes are from before the body's found maybe? It's early February, possibly, and it's clear it's just kind of, somebody's jotting down, not in an organized fashion, just going about their work and writing down random bits of relevance, and one of them is "New boyfriend assaulted Debbie."

**Rabia Chaudry:** So I guess she had seen him before.

**[59:09] Colin Miller:** Yeah I mean, I would like to hear Don's perspective on what transpired between Debbie and him. He might have a very different take on the take that Debbie had. To the extent that Debbie is being accurate as to what happens, that might be, as you say on Debbie's part bad judgement. But on Don's behalf, especially, Rabia, given what we just said about how he said he felt about Hae, if Debbie again is correct that when she's approaching Don and thinking he had something to do with it, and she's one of Hae's best friends, for him then to make sexual advances on her, again, if she's correct, that's hugely troubling in sort of looking at it. Whether you think those are legitimate feelings he has, that has issues if you think that he's sort of trying to convince her to not believe in his guilt, and that's the reason he's doing it. Either way, huge alarm bells. But again, we have to take what Debbie says with a grain of salt.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Well Debbie does say she has a photographic memory. [laughs]  
Which, I mean...

**Susan Simpson:** Here's why all this matters though. Because, this is, this is not Don's fault. His alibi was never checked into. He was never investigated as part of the murder investigation. All contact with him happened during the missing person case, and his alibi was never actually vetted at all, in fact they talked to his stepmother to get like on the phone, the confirmation. He was never questioned about it, no one's ever looked into it at the time. And that is not, Don can't control, that is not his responsibility or fault in any way. That's beyond him. But the consequence that he now has to deal with is that he doesn't have an alibi for what happened the day that Hae died.

**Colin Miller:** And of course contextualizing this and stating the importance is that according to Debbie, she is the very last person to see Hae alive. She sees her around 3:00 pm as she's leaving the school, and at least according to the police statement she says she's going to see Don. Now, she claims later it was to pick up the cousins and then go see Don, but the statement just says to see Don. So, there are questions about whether Debbie has the right day, but she's potentially the most important witness in this case because according to her own claims, she is the last innocent person to see Hae alive.

**Susan Simpson:** You know what question we didn't get answered though? About Don?

**Rabia Chaudry:** What's that?

**Susan Simpson:** Why in neither trial, in two trials he testified, he couldn't spell his own last name right.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Wait, what? (laughs)

**Susan Simpson:** I just always wondered about that - how in two different trials could he not spell Clinedinst correctly? And he spells it different ways too.

**Rabia Chaudry:** On the, you mean he actually spelled it out loud on the stand? I don't remember that.

**Susan Simpson:** In the transcripts, yeah.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Unless it's transcribed wrong, could it be? I don't know.

**Susan Simpson:** Could be, could be, could be.

**[1:01:45] Rabia Chaudry:** So let's close out with I think a bit of information which I think was devastating but completely new to me, frankly, it was completely new to me. And that is about Hae being a victim of sexual abuse. This is not something I had actually ever heard before. Had you guys?

**Susan Simpson:** There were a few things in her diary when I remember when I first read it, that I remember wondering about. And her writing style is kind of all over the place, she can go from emojis to like joking really quick, so it's hard to tell from her writing style. But there were a couple of lines I was reading and was like "Whoa". Is there something more going on here? Is there something she is...not hinting at, because it's her own diary, but like referencing things that...I remember having the question is what I'm saying, and so was not totally shocked to hear that she had spoken to several people about it.

**Rabia Chaudry:** I had heard that there might have been some physical assault or some physical violence in the home...

**Susan Simpson:** She did talk about that too.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Did they talk about that?

**Susan Simpson:** No, no in her diary. She was more outright about that.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Right, and there was something that happened with the diary, I remember, where there are parts of it that were marked out, and I can't remember who brought up that they weren't marked out before, but then her mom got it and gave it back and the were marked out. Maybe the mom didn't want some...you know, there could be things in there that obviously...and the other thing that the documentary showed was how none of her friends ever got inside her home. Her home life was completely separate from the rest of her life. And that's also kind of a new part of the story because until now it's always been Adnan's home life that's been really examined, and not Hae's home life, and I thought that was interesting and important. What did you think about that Colin, and how that added to this story?

**Colin Miller:** Yeah, well I think it goes back to what we said at the start of this episode, which is to say I think a great service this documentary has done, even in just this first episode is to give us more insight into Hae and who she was, her history, what made her who she is. And in terms of the actual case and the investigation here, yeah I think that this underscored something we've seen a bit in terms of looking through the documents and reporting is just that Hae's home life was so separate from her school life, and yeah to hear that none of these friends have been inside the house, it was sort of these two separate lives that she had, and probably this case the way it was investigated was very different from what you might see with someone who has their friends coming into their house and has those interactions where that would have led I think to a very different investigation than the one we had in this case.

**[1:04:20] Susan Simpson:** And the other big issue from the missing persons part of the investigation that never gets resolved, and still isn't resolved today, is about Hae's father, in California, who she supposedly was going to go see. And they've never, ever..we know who the stepfather presumably is, someone her mom had a relationship with at one point. For me the big question is one, where that story even came from. It did start circulating at one point, but I think the first person we have record talking about it is Don. But if that is the case that she was talking about going to see her father in California, when you have a teenage girl missing for that long, that should be like a heavy focus where you're looking, and they don't seem to have looked into it at all.

**Rabia Chaudry:** Well I guess they kind of didn't need to, because they found her here. Any last thoughts before we wrap up our coverage of the first episode

**Colin Miller:** No, I think this was a good sort of reintroduction of the case, adding that different facet of the video, and lays the foundation, and we'll see what they have to report in episodes 2-4.

**Rabia Chaudry:** I will say this, and this is what I've been told, this first episode is largely narrative and pointing out some of the issues and questions in the case, but the next few are going to be deeply investigative and I think that's going to be of special interest, especially to Undisclosed listeners.

So thank you guys for tuning in this week, make sure you subscribe and stay with us as we cover this series. Tweet your questions at us, use the hashtag as you always have, #UDAddendum, and we'll get to your questions on our addenda series with Jon Cryer.