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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF OREGON
EUGENE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

6:20-cr-00421-MC

v.

**GOVERNMENT’S SENTENCING
MEMORANDUM**

NOLAN LEVI STRAUSS,

Defendant.

“Because he was Black, and I don’t like Black people.”

These are the first words Nolan Strauss uttered after he walked up behind the victim, a Black man, and stabbed him at least twice in the neck. When later asked about his intention that day, he calmly responded, “I was trying to kill him for sure.” To hold him accountable for the brutal hate crime he committed, Defendant should receive a 220-month sentence.

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Factual Background

A. The Offense Conduct

On December 21, 2019, Adult Victim 1 (“AV1”) walked into the Arby’s Restaurant adjoining the Pilot Travel Center in Ontario, Oregon. A recent transplant to Oregon, AV1 was at the Arby’s to provide documentation for a new job and to complete his final interview. The manager needed AV1 to fill out some paperwork, after which she intended to provide a few hours of training and offer him the job. After AV1 checked in with the manager, he waited in the dining area of the restaurant.

As AV1 sat in a chair facing the restaurant counter, Defendant Nolan Strauss entered the lobby from behind. Unprovoked and without warning, Defendant took the blade of his four-inch knife and plunged it into AV1’s neck. AV1 did not see the knife until he grabbed Defendant’s hands during the subsequent struggle. The fight for the knife continued to the front of the Arby’s, while Pilot and Arby’s employees tried to run to safety or intervene in the melee. After a Pilot employee commanded Defendant to drop the knife, AV1 was finally able to break free from Defendant’s grasp. AV1 ran to the other side of the Travel Center and collapsed against a trash can, his clothes soaked with his own blood that was gushing from his neck. While waiting for the paramedics to arrive, a Pilot employee used the materials in a first aid kit to try to stop the bleeding from the “golf-ball sized” hole in AV1’s neck. Paramedics transported him to the local hospital, where he was immediately life-flighted to Boise, Idaho, because he needed a higher level of care.

AV1 suffered lacerations to his jugular vein and submandibular gland, as well as an injury to his thyroid cartilage. AV1 underwent emergency surgery to stop the bleeding and

repair the injuries, resulting in more than 50 staples being used to close the wound in AV1's neck, as seen below.



Meanwhile, as AV1 was fighting for his life, Pilot and Arby's employees tied Defendant's hands behind his back with a belt and waited for the police to arrive. A Pilot employee, the same employee who convinced Defendant to drop the knife, secured him on the ground. That employee asked him, "Why'd you fucking do it?" Defendant responded, "Because he was Black, and I don't like Black people."

Once the police arrived, Defendant told them on scene that the incident was "a misunderstanding in his head" and that he had "kind of lost control." When asked to explain his statement, Defendant said, "I kind of have a problem with black people." The officer asked

Defendant, “So you just walked up, saw a black guy, and wanted to stab him.” Defendant replied, “Yeah.” The officer then stated, “So it’s a race thing,” to which Defendant replied, “it was.”

Police transported Defendant to the county jail, where he agreed to be interviewed by Oregon State Police (OSP) detectives. *See* Exh. A and B. In an initial interview and a follow-up interview later that day, Defendant revealed his motivation for the attack in greater detail:

Um, I guess in the long run I figured that black people were really just not even people. You know? And they make you try to feel sensitive for them so that they can basically take advantage of you, and I thought that was the end of that. You know, I didn’t, I didn’t wanna, I don’t think we should be living that way anymore for one thing.

Exh. A at 5.

Defendant confirmed in the interview that he had never before met AV1, and that he was not acting in self-defense. He described how the stabbing was premeditated; he was sitting in the cab of his truck “foolin’ around with the idea” about hurting someone, when he “saw a black guy walking there and walk inside and [] thought, you know, ‘hey, I’m just gonna do it to him,’ pretty much.” Exh. A. at 4. Defendant confirmed that he didn’t have issues with members of any other race. Exh. B. at 13-14. When asked whether there was some other relationship between himself and AV1, Defendant replied, “I don’t even know his name.” Exh. B at 14.

During the course of the two interviews, Defendant also told police that he had been previously diagnosed with bipolar disorder and that his actions were “sort of religiously motivated” and “pretty racist too,” but that he believed in telepathy and “thought he was Jesus.” Exh. A at 3. He did confirm, however, that he does not hear voices in his head, that no one told him (via

telepathy or in person) to attack AV1, that he made the decision to attack AV1, and that he understood the difference between right and wrong. *Id.* at 6-9.

When the detective offered Defendant the opportunity to explain his reasoning and thought process behind the attack, he explained his view of Black people:

I think, I think, uh, black people are just fuckin' spawn from bestiality really. It's disgusting. I think they were Neanderthals and, and you know God ordered people not to, to have sex and, and Eve must have went out and, and fucked one of those fucking Neanderthals . . . [T]hey steal heartlessly from everyone and it's, it's not because they even have something to stop them from doing that. They don't have any soul. They don't have any life. It's, it's very disgusting the, the, the kind of people that they are. It's, it's like they're just made of, of shit really. They're the same color on the inside as they are on the outside. It's disgusting. They have no rationale for human communication and, and you know together and wholeness it's, it's savagery. It's what an animal feels like. It's very disgusting.

Exh. B at 12.

These statements to OSP detectives are not the only evidence of Defendant's negative views toward African Americans. In June 2015, shortly after Dylann Roof shot and killed 9 African Americans, Defendant posted a meme involving the confederate flag on his Facebook page. In 2017, he reposted widely circulated photos from the Unite the Right rally that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia. And in mid-September 2019, just a few months before the stabbing, in response to a comment by another person on Facebook, Defendant wrote two racially inflammatory statements: "You wouldn't have a fucking place to call home if your people were in charge of America have some fucking respect idiot. Name something that's not food that a Mexican invented." And later, "Yea cause blacks who make up 15% of the population totally don't account for half the murders in this country. What exactly do white people terrorize?" *Id.*

Even after the offense, Defendant continued to share his negative views about African Americans. For example, reflecting on the December 2019 attack months later, Defendant had a phone call with his work supervisor and told her that he believed “all the evil in the world was coming from Black people” on the day he stabbed AV1.

B. State and Federal Procedural History, and Guidelines Calculations

In December 2019, Defendant was charged with Attempted Murder II, Assault I, Bias Crime I, and Unlawful Use of a Weapon in Malheur County. He was mentally evaluated to determine whether he could aid and assist in his defense; when it was determined on February 19, 2020, that he could not, he was admitted to Oregon State Hospital to regain competency. Defendant was deemed able to aid and assist in his own defense in late April 2020.

On September 17, 2020, Defendant was charged in a one-count indictment with a Hate Crime Act involving an attempt to kill, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 249(a)(1)(B)(ii). Defendant agreed to plead guilty to the indictment, and in exchange, the government agreed, subject to the limitations set forth in the agreement, that a three-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility is appropriate. Pursuant to the plea agreement, the parties agree with the following PSR computations:

U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Provision	
Base Offense Level— USSG § 2A2.1(a)(1)	33
Permanent or life-threatening injury — USSG § 2A2.1(A)	+4
Hate Crime Motivation — USSG § 3A1.1	+3
Acceptance of Responsibility—	-3

USSG § 3E1.1	
Total Offense Level	37
Resulting Guideline Range	235-293 months

Pursuant to the plea agreement, the government will recommend a sentence no greater than 235 months' imprisonment. Defendant may seek any sentence he deems appropriate. The government also agreed to review and consider any mitigation evidence provided by the defense prior to finalizing its recommendation. On March 24, 2021, the defense provided the government with two documents, both reports of psychological evaluations with Defendant.

Upon consideration of the information provided by the defense, the government recommends a 220-month prison sentence, for the reasons set forth below.

Argument

A. The Court Should Impose a Significant Sentence Because of the Nature, Circumstances, and Seriousness of the Offense

AV1's life was permanently changed simply because he was Black and he crossed paths with Defendant on December 21, 2019. As Defendant told the police and bystanders, he attempted to murder AV1—a man he had never seen or met before—just because he was Black. In two interviews with OSP detectives, Defendant revealed the motivation for his attack. Black people, he believed, lack morality, “steal heartlessly,” and take advantage of others. Exh. B at 12. When asked whether there was any prior history between AV1 and himself, Defendant responded, “I don't even know his name.” *Id.* at 14.

The stabbing itself was gruesome and entirely unprovoked. Defendant approached AV1, stabbed him twice in the neck, and then fought with AV1 over the knife until a bystander intervened. AV1 suffered life-threatening injuries, including a laceration to his jugular vein and

his submandibular gland, and an injury to his thyroid cartilage. He has required months of physical therapy to regain his voice and range of motion in his neck and arm.¹

This offense permanently affected not just AV1 but also the many employees at the Arby's and Pilot Travel Center. For example, the Arby's Manager did not return to work for more than a month after the stabbing, too traumatized by what had happened. Several other employees were traumatized by what they had seen that day, and afraid that something like that could happen again. Knowing what Defendant said was his motivation for the attack, one employee told investigators, "It could have been me, because I am Mexican."

Although 18 U.S.C. § 249 is entitled "Hate Crime Acts," Defendant need not "hate" African Americans. Instead, the law addresses targeted behavior that is aimed at a member of a group (here, African Americans) because of his membership in that group. Defendant selected his victim based on a single criterion: the color of his skin. As Defendant described to OSP detectives at length, he believed Black people were evil, manipulative, and lacking morality. Some of Defendant's prior statements on social media, pre-dating this attack, echo this sentiment toward African Americans. Reflecting on the attack months later, Defendant told his work supervisor that he believed "all the evil in the world was coming from Black people" on the day he stabbed AV1. Because this attack was an attempted murder of AV1, motivated only by the

¹ The victim has indicated that he plans to attend the sentencing hearing and he wishes to address the court. The Crime Victim's Rights Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3771, enumerates victims' rights to meaningful participation in criminal proceedings. Those rights include the right to allocution placing them on the "same footing" as the defense and the prosecution. *Kenna v. U.S. Dist. Court for the CDCA*, 435 F.3d 1011, 1016-17 (9th Cir. 2006). Although the government urges the court to consider the victims' views, we do not endorse any request for a sentence that exceeds the sentence we agreed to recommend in our plea agreement with the defense.

color of AV1's skin, and because of the lasting effects that it will have on AV1, the employees of the Pilot Travel Center, and the community, the Court should impose a significant prison sentence.

B. The Government's Recommended Sentence of 220 Months Takes Defendant's History and Characteristics into Account

The government's recommended sentence balances Defendant's documented mental-health history and characteristics against the seriousness of the offense. The defense has provided to the government two reports that each address Defendant's mental health conditions. From these, it is clear that Defendant has struggled with his mental health throughout his life, and that his symptoms may have contributed to this offense. At the same time, Defendant voiced animosity toward Black people before the instant offense, and afterward. In fact, nearly all of the statements that Defendant made to OSP about Black people are grounded in common racial stereotypes. Accordingly, the government has considered Strauss's mental-health information, as well as his conduct since the assault, to recommend a 220-month sentence.

C. A Sentence of 220 Months' Imprisonment Will Protect the Public from Further Crimes of the Defendant and Those Inspired by Him, While Enabling Defendant to Receive Necessary Medical Care

The Government's recommended sentence will both protect the public from further crimes of Defendant, while enabling Defendant to receive necessary medical and mental-health care. As he told OSP, he was not receiving mental-health care at the time of the offense. This decision had dire consequences for AV1 and the community. Medical care and supervision in a Bureau of Prisons facility will ensure Defendant receives continued treatment during his incarceration—treatment that should continue upon his release.

The recommended 220-month sentence will also send a clear message that those who target members of a community based only on the color of their skin will be prosecuted and held fully accountable for their criminal conduct. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2)(B). Defendant selected his victim based on a single criterion: he was Black. Though he may not have been a member of a hate group, Defendant indicated to the police that he wanted to change society through this act of violence; he stated he “thought it was worth it” to commit an act that could result in his imprisonment, and didn’t want to “liv[e] that way anymore”—referring to being taken advantage of by Black people.

A significant prison sentence will send a clear message to any person inspired by Defendant or who shares his views and may be considering a similar attack: Crimes of violence, particularly those committed because of the color of someone’s skin, will be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Conclusion

The government recommends a sentence of 220 months’ imprisonment, followed by a 5-year term of supervised release, and restitution in an amount to be provided at sentencing.

Dated: September 1, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT ERIK ASPHAUG
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KRISTIN M. CLARKE
Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

/s/ Gavin W. Bruce
GAVIN W. BRUCE, OSB#113384
Assistant United States Attorney

/s/ Cameron A. Bell
CAMERON A. BELL
Trial Attorney, Civil Rights Division

OREGON STATE POLICE

CASE: SP19- 442944
TRANSCRIPT: Interview #1
SUBJECT: Attempted Murder

PERSON GIVING STATEMENT:	Nolan Levi Strauss		
SEX/RACE/DOB:	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> / RACE: W / DOB: ██████████		
RESIDENCE ADDRESS:	Refused to Provide		
EMPLOYMENT:	May Trucking		
TAKEN BY:	Detective Ryan Mills		
DATE:	ON: 12/21/2019	FROM: refer to video	TO: refer to video
LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:	Ontario Police Department		
IN THE PRESENCE OF:	Detective Ryan Mills; Detective Clayton Stevens		

Detective Clay Stevens: So I'm, uh, Clay Stevens. I'm with the State Police, also I'm a detective, just so you know.

Detective Ryan Mills: My name, I told you just a second ago, my name's Ryan Mills. I'm a detective with Oregon State Police. Just so you know, we will be recording our conversation.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Can I get you some water or anything, man?

Nolan Strauss: No, I'm fine.

Detective Ryan Mills: You're fine?

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, we're here to chat with ya today about a couple things that occurred earlier.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Uh, before we begin, um, I do need to advise you have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him or her present with you when you're being questioned. If you can't afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before any questioning if you wish. You have the right to interrupt the conversation at any time and invoke these rights any time. Do you understand your rights?

Nolan Strauss: Yes.

Detective Ryan Mills: So are you sure you don't need any water or nothin', man, you're doing good?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I'm fine.

Detective Ryan Mills: You need any food or anything?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Not hungry or nothin'?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Nolan, what's, uh, your last name?

Nolan Strauss: Strauss.

Detective Ryan Mills: How do you spell that, sir?

Nolan Strauss: S-T-R-A-U-S-S.

Detective Ryan Mills: Nolan like the pitcher, like the great?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Nolan Ryan, N-O-L-A-N?

Nolan Strauss: Yep.

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you know who that is?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah I do.

Detective Ryan Mills: All right. And what's your middle name?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, Levi.

Detective Ryan Mills: And your date of birth, sir.

Nolan Strauss: [REDACTED].

Detective Ryan Mills: And what's, uh, your current address?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, do I have to provide that?

Detective Ryan Mills: No.

Nolan Strauss: Okay. No, I don't want to say that.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Uh, phone number?

Nolan Strauss: [REDACTED]

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. So Nolan, I'm a big believer there's reasons why things happen. Sometimes, uh, the reasons are only known to the people that are involved in the incident.

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Ryan Mills: And uh, so basically I'm looking for what is the reason I am talking to you today, sir? Why did things happen today the way they did? I think there's probably a good reason for it. I'm just looking to get your side of the story and see if you can explain it to me in a way that it makes sense.

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah. So um –

Detective Ryan Mills: What do you got going on in your life, man?

Nolan Strauss: Well, I thought maybe, you know, I might – it's, it's really hard to explain. It's sort of religiously motivated.

Detective Clay Stevens: I'm gonna shut this door for privacy if that's okay.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Well, explain that to me. What, what do you mean by that?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I just thought, you know, I was, it's pretty racist too, but I thought, I thought I was Jesus and, you know, that, um, that just like –

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you know this guy at all?

Nolan Strauss: No I don't.

Detective Ryan Mills: Like it's not like you had a prior beef with him?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Nothing like that?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: You never met him?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Uh, were you ever like defending your life today?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: Uh, why, why this gentleman?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, just because he was, I don't know –

Detective Ryan Mills: 'Cause he was there or?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, pretty much, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Nothing else stood out about him?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Did you talk to him?

Nolan Strauss: No I didn't.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Well, would you be willing to just tell me what happened and how it went down?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah. I had a knife in my, in my truck and, um, you know, I was foolin' around with the idea in my head about doin' it, and basically I just got outa the truck and saw a black guy walking there and walk inside and I thought, you know, hey, I'm just gonna do it to him pretty much.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, when you say do it to him, what, what, can you be more specific what you mean by that?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I just wanted to hurt him basically.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. What did you do today? I wasn't there keep in mind. I just – what, what happened today. Did you use your knife on anyone?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I shot him, I stabbed him in the neck.

Detective Ryan Mills: You stabbed him in the neck?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: How many times did you stab him?

Nolan Strauss: Just once.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Well, some people are gonna ask down the road like what was your intent when you were stabbing him.

Nolan Strauss: Oh, I was trying to kill him for sure.

Detective Ryan Mills: Trying to kill him?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, for no other reason than you – you were kinda explaining this earlier so maybe I'll just ask for clarification. What was the reason for trying to kill that man?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I thought that religion had something to do with, you know, it's, it's hard to explain right now.

Detective Ryan Mills: What, what religion are you referencing, sir?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, Christian, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: And just outa curiosity, what part of the Christian faith?

Nolan Strauss: Like denomination? No, not, nothing.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, do you take any medications, Mr. Strauss?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no I don't.

Detective Ryan Mills: No?

Nolan Strauss: Mm mm.

Detective Ryan Mills: Have you ever been diagnosed with anything?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, not that I can – well, bipolar probably is one of 'em.

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you take medications?

Nolan Strauss: Like bipolar depression. No.

Detective Ryan Mills: How do you feel right now? Do you feel like you're in a mood swing or do you feel like pretty normal?

Nolan Strauss: I feel pretty, pretty good.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: So long have you been thinking about hurting someone?

Nolan Strauss: Um, just within the past 2 hours actually.

Detective Ryan Mills: Anything that brought that about? Is there any –

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Ryan Mills: – epiphany you had, is there any, did you use any drugs?

Nolan Strauss: No, I didn't use any drugs.

Detective Ryan Mills: So like what, what made you think that you wanted to hurt someone?

Nolan Strauss: I, uh, can't really remember.

Detective Ryan Mills: Were you reading anything?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Were you sleeping? Were you, I mean, how'd this come about?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, basically I, uh, I've been driving trucks for a little while and I've kinda always messed with the idea that, uh, telepathy was a real thing, you know.

Detective Ryan Mills: Mm hmm.

Nolan Strauss: And after that it, you know, became so close to my spiritual self that, uh, I couldn't really deny it anymore, but I wanted to keep 'em separate, um, but I couldn't always do that. Um, I guess in the long run I figured that black people were really just not even people. You know? And they make you try to feel sensitive for them so that they can basically take advantage of you, and I thought that was the end of that. You know, I didn't, I didn't wanna, I don't think we should be living that way anymore for one thing.

Detective Ryan Mills: Mm hmm. So if I'm understanding, I'm, I don't wanna put your words in your mouth, so if I'm off base and me tell – I'm gonna reiterate to you what I think I'm hearing.

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Ryan Mills: And if you think, if I'm off base will you correct me please?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: So if I'm hearing you right, you're, you were upset with, uh, a black man, or the black community in general, because you feel like they are oversensitive, which, um, we should be sensitive to them or, uh
–

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: – it causes ****.

Nolan Strauss: No, they, they actually have relatively no sensitivity.

Detective Ryan Mills: Uh huh.

Nolan Strauss: And it just, the flaw in, in our design, uh, was that we were sympathetic towards them and that, you know, they take advantage of it when they really have no justification at all in the end.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. So they take advantage of our sympathy.

Nolan Strauss: Exactly.

Detective Ryan Mills: And it needs to stop.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, you mentioned earlier about telepathy, you wanted to keep it separate but you couldn't deny it anymore.

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Ryan Mills: What, what did that mean? Do you still believe in telepathy? Is that how this idea came into play or?

Nolan Strauss: Um, for the most part, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Who do you think told you to do it?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I did, of course.

Detective Ryan Mills: So you're, if I'm hearing right, you made the decision, it wasn't anyone else?

Nolan Strauss: Yes.

Detective Ryan Mills: So some people are gonna ask, um, because I think that different beliefs are good.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: And uh, I don't think we know everything there is to know in this world.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: But my question is, do you know the difference between right and wrong?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I don't know.

Detective Ryan Mills: Huh?

Nolan Strauss: I'm not sure.

Detective Ryan Mills: Would you, would you think it's generally wrong to hurt somebody else that has done nothing to you?

Nolan Strauss: Yes.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Yes.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, like sometimes, sometimes people get hurt, but it's in self-defense, right?

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Ryan Mills: That, that's a justified reason.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, but I guess I'm just basically making sure you understand the difference between right and wrong.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you think you do?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I know I do, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: You know you do?

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Ryan Mills: What kinda upbringing do you have?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, just a average white boy pretty much.

Detective Ryan Mills: You mind me asking where you grew up?

Nolan Strauss: Colorado.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Where in Colorado, *****?

Nolan Strauss: Colorado Springs.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Uh, was your family religious?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, for the most part.

Detective Ryan Mills: What, what church did you guys go to?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, just a Christian church.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, uh, you have a good relationship with your mom and dad?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you still talk to 'em?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Who do you talk to more, your mom or your dad?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, my dad.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is he military?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. I know there's a base over there, right?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, Fort Carson.

Detective Ryan Mills: Yeah. And what's your dad's name?

Nolan Strauss: He is, uh, [REDACTED]

Detective Ryan Mills: [REDACTED]

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. So would your parents be surprised that you were involved in something like this today?

Nolan Strauss: Um, honestly probably not, but –

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: I mean, yeah. Yeah, they're gonna be real surprised, but um –

Detective Ryan Mills: What, what is your hope for today after, you know, you decided, you hatched this plan, you went in there, you, uh, you stabbed this gentleman, what were you hoping to get out of this? What, is there a message you're wantin' to send, is there a statement you're wantin' to make?

Nolan Strauss: Well, I'm, I'm still working on it unfortunately, so it's not entirely, um, you know, I can't just come in here and, and tell you my design and, and expect you to understand everything right now.

Detective Ryan Mills: I'm only hoping to understand what you understand.

Nolan Strauss: Okay. Well, I mean, that'll happen at some point. I'm just saying, um, right now I'm just a little bit in the middle of trying to figure out what exactly –

Detective Ryan Mills: Have you ever done this before?

Nolan Strauss: Killed somebody? No. Or stabbed somebody? No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. This is the first time?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, was it what you thought it would be?

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Ryan Mills: Sometimes I talk to people, just tell 'em what I do and that answer varies, you know. Are you, are you glad you did it, are you sorry you did it, would you do it again?

Nolan Strauss: Um, yeah, pretty glad I did it.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. So if you were given a chance, would you do it again?

Nolan Strauss: Um, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: No?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: But you're glad you did it this time?

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Ryan Mills: What makes you say that?

Nolan Strauss: Well, I, I am kinda sorry I did it actually.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. What makes you say that?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I feel like I needed to understand better what I was truly going through, um, but –

Detective Ryan Mills: What were you going through?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I don't know really.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is this a recent thing or is it something that's been ongoing?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, it's pretty recent.

Detective Ryan Mills: I'd love to hear about it.

Nolan Strauss: Well, I, I don't really have any words to describe it right now.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is it an emotional thing, is it a spiritual thing, is it a mental thing?

Nolan Strauss: It's, it's pretty much the first two.

Detective Ryan Mills: Emotional and spiritual?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Uh, just so I can clear something out of the, outa the way, so don't be offended by me asking this, do you, do you hear voices in your head?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: No?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, you didn't hear an outside voice telling you to do this?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. How long you been driving trucks?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, about, um, 6 months.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. What'd you do before that?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I was going to school for welding.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. What happened?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, just got sick of it.

Detective Ryan Mills: Gotcha. And you are 26?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: So between, before welding what were you doing?

Nolan Strauss: Um, um, basically in a call center work mostly.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Great, you're working, that's good, that's good.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: You ever go to school or anything?

Nolan Strauss: School? Um –

Detective Ryan Mills: Any college, anything like that?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, just community college for trucking and the, uh, welding thing.

Detective Ryan Mills: I notice you got real nice eyeglasses.

Nolan Strauss: Thank you.

Detective Ryan Mills: You get those recently?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, about when I started trucking.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. You got insurance and all that kinda stuff?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: All right. Well, um, you know, I kinda notice you got blood on your hands and stuff.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Uh, would you, uh, give us consent to swab your hands with, uh, with some, uh, Q-tips?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, sure.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is that okay?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Do you have any other clothing in your, in your cab?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah I do.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, would you give us consent to grab that clothing and bring it down to you?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, sure, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: The reason I say that is I don't know if you realize you kinda got blood on Darth Vader there.

Nolan Strauss: Oh, I do?

Detective Ryan Mills: Yeah.

Nolan Strauss: He kinda likes it, so.

Detective Ryan Mills: Yeah, that would be right up his alley, right?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Have you seen the new Star Wars yet?

Nolan Strauss: No. Was it good?

Detective Ryan Mills: I don't know yet. That's what I was gonna go see this afternoon, but this came up.

Nolan Strauss: Oh yeah. Sorry.

Detective Ryan Mills: That's all right. Hey, stuff happens, you know. Just, uh, like I said earlier, trying to figure out why this happened and what's going on, and I don't know you, Mr. Strauss, and uh, just gettin' to chat with ya, I appreciate ya doing that. So let's get you some new clothes, all right?

Nolan Strauss: All right.

Detective Ryan Mills: Would you agree with that?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. And then, um, I'll get some Q-tips. Hey, uh, Mr. Strauss has given us, uh, consent to get in his cab to get him some clothing. Um, are you good with that or? I'm gonna step out of the room real quick.

Detective Clay Stevens: Is it okay if I, if I call you Nolan?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, that's fine.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Uh, so one thing that I'd like to ask ya is if you could help me kinda get a visual in terms of how it took place 'cause you, you started saying you were messing around with a knife in the cab.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: And then you decided to go. So in my mind, you were parked where in the parking lot?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, towards the back.

Detective Clay Stevens: Like by the CMV fuel pumps?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, CMV, yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Commercial truck fuel pumps?

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Clay Stevens: And then do you see him walking from where?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I was actually standing outside, uh, smoking a cigarette, and I saw him walk into the restaurant. I suppose, I guess he was there for a job interview or something.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. So you were standing where, in the back as well?

Nolan Strauss: In, in the back of where?

Detective Clay Stevens: You said you were smoking a cigarette.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, like towards the front of the store.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. So where the normal passage of cars –

Nolan Strauss: Where the gas station is, yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: And he walked in there, I think it was a Arby's.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: And then so did you have to go back to the truck to get the knife or did you already have it with you at that point?

Nolan Strauss: Um, did I have to go back to the – uh, no, I had it with me.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Where did you have it on you?

Nolan Strauss: On my belt loop.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. So is there a sheath or is it just clipped on there?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, it's a foldable.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. So just had a belt clip?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. So you walk into which entrance?

Nolan Strauss: Which entrance.

Detective Clay Stevens: The Pilot side or the Arby's side?

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Clay Stevens: It's been a while since I've been there, but I think on the west side of the building there's a doorway to get into Arby's, and then there's the main entrance.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, it was the Arby's side.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. And then what happened?

Nolan Strauss: And then, um –

Detective Clay Stevens: Is he seated in a booth, standing in line?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, he was seated in a booth.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Was he facing you, back to you?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, he was facing the counter, and I, I was, uh, walking around in a perimeter, um, just waiting to do it. You know?

Detective Clay Stevens: How many times did you – are you talking about like physically walking around the whole Arby's or –

Nolan Strauss: No, the –

Detective Clay Stevens: – kinda pacing ****.

Nolan Strauss: – the inside of the, uh, of the restaurant.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Around the seats and stuff.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. And then what happened?

Nolan Strauss: And then he, uh, you know, he was just sitting there and I came up to him, and um, just he kinda looked at me like that and I just stabbed him in the neck.

Detective Clay Stevens: So he was facing you when you did it?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, pretty much, like as if you were there and I was here, you know, like that, you know, just –

Detective Clay Stevens: So it was over, over his shoulder?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Did he say anything at any point?

Nolan Strauss: Um, after I had stabbed him 'cause it, uh, bled pretty quick, um, so it, uh, he was, he was saying, you know, I'm dying. He had, he had pulled the knife out and, and we were kinda wrestling with it. If I was, you know, if he was in front of me and we were holding it, he was trying to take it away from me. And that's what I was worried about too because, you know, I knew I had the option of letting, letting go, but then he would have the knife –

Detective Clay Stevens: Right.

Nolan Strauss: – and woulda killed me, um, so I had to hold onto the knife, but what I was worried about is if the cops got there too soon and they see me with a knife with the guy and just shoot me in the back. But, um, uh, luckily people there were, you know, capable enough of reasoning with this man and said hey, you know, just let go of the knife, and one, you know, they were telling me to let go of the knife and I'm, I'm thinking fuck no, but um, one, one, uh, gentleman came up and told him, he said, you know, you need to let go of the knife, you need to let, and he, he let go and took off, and I, uh, I had the knife and I got rid of it. You know? I knew, I knew that was a good idea, so I threw it behind the Arby's counter.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. And then, um, then what happened next?

Nolan Strauss: Um, then they, uh, they asked me to get on the ground.

Detective Clay Stevens: Who did?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, one of the, uh, workers there at the Pilot.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: You know, he wanted to make sure that I was, uh, cooperating, um –

Detective Clay Stevens: Did you comply with that and get on the ground or did you take off running?

Nolan Strauss: Um, no, I got on the ground and, and uh, put my hands behind my back.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. And then what happened next?

Nolan Strauss: Um, uh, the cops got there pretty much.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. You remember the ambulance showing up or anything?

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Clay Stevens: If you don't remember, that's fine.

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no, I don't remember the ambulance getting there.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Uh, did you say anything to the officer when he showed up, he or she? I don't know who came.

Nolan Strauss: Um, no. I don't know.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Okay. What kinda knife was it? I know you said it was a foldable clip. I mean, was it a Kershaw, Benchmade, serrated edge, straight edge?

Nolan Strauss: It was a, a foldable.

Detective Clay Stevens: You know what kinda brand it was?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I think, um, Gerber.

Detective Clay Stevens: A Gerber? Do you know if it had a serrated edge on it at all?

Nolan Strauss: Serrated edge, um –

Detective Clay Stevens: **** that?

Nolan Strauss: No it didn't.

Detective Clay Stevens: So a knife will have, a typical knife, right, would just be nice and smooth, and a serrated edge is kind of the jagged.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. Yeah, it was just a normal =

Detective Clay Stevens: Normal knife?

Nolan Strauss: – smooth.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Then one thing I'd like to ask ya is, if you're okay with it, if I sit where you're sittin' can we kinda reenact what happened in there so that way we can make sure that we understand where he was seated and where you came up?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. You want, you wanna come sit over here?

Detective Clay Stevens: Yeah. If you'll stand up and then you can just tell me how that works. I'm gonna ask that you don't touch me though 'cause you got blood on you.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, yeah, I understand.

Detective Clay Stevens: So if I understood you right, he's –

Nolan Strauss: So **** turn the chair around.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: 'Cause he was sitting – no, that way.

Detective Clay Stevens: This way?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. And then –

Detective Clay Stevens: So this is the counter.

Nolan Strauss: That's the counter.

Detective Clay Stevens: Over here?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. And he's sitting like that.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: And there's a table right in front of him.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: And he's kinda leaning, you know, towards the manager, you know ****.

Detective Clay Stevens: ****?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. And um, I came up and he kinda looked up at me like I was gonna talk to him, and that's when I just –

Detective Clay Stevens: So can you do the actual hand motion that you did?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, it was like, like that.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. So there's no words exchanged?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Clay Stevens: So he didn't have a chance to defend himself?

Nolan Strauss: I mean, he did like everybody does but –

Detective Clay Stevens: He probably didn't know you were gonna stab him though is my point.

Nolan Strauss: I'm not sure if he did or not.

Detective Clay Stevens: So how do you have it in your hand?

Nolan Strauss: Just –

Detective Clay Stevens: Was it your left hand, right hand?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, left hand.

Detective Clay Stevens: So your left hand. Do you remember if the blade was down, up, **** back side?

Nolan Strauss: It was coming out the front.

Detective Clay Stevens: So you had it out towards your –

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Like this.

Nolan Strauss: Like that, yep.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Can you just stay standing? Would you give me consent to take a couple photographs?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, that's fine.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, can you just hold out your arm as best you can? ****?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I got that one in Hawaii.

Detective Ryan Mills: All right, just hold right here. Just turn around.

Detective Clay Stevens: Oh cool, when were you in Hawaii?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, 2012.

Detective Ryan Mills: Turn your hands over. I'm gonna take one of your shirt.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I was in the military out there.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: What, what branch?

Nolan Strauss: Army.

Detective Clay Stevens: What was your MOS?

Nolan Strauss: 11 Bravo.

Detective Ryan Mills: Can you turn around for me please?

Detective Clay Stevens: What's an 11 Bravo.

Nolan Strauss: Oh, it's an infantry soldier.

Detective Clay Stevens: Any deployments?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, not really.

Detective Ryan Mills: I'm gonna lift your shirt up just a little bit. You got some blood on your pants and your underwear. All right, sir, you can turn around.

Detective Clay Stevens: Did you get cut at all?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: As far as you know, did you bleed at all?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Did you get injured at all?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. And you have sterile water right there, don't ya?

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm. It's not been opened yet.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. You mind if I use that?

Nolan Strauss: ****.

Detective Ryan Mills: Sterile water bottle hasn't been opened. I'm opening it right now.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Would you, uh, so these are the swabs that I was talking about for your hands. Um, I'm just gonna do one hand at a time.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: You good with that?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. If you have any objections, let me know, okay?

Nolan Strauss: All right.

Detective Ryan Mills: This'll be the first. I'm gonna just do your right hand. Hold out your right hand. Turn your hand over. Two middle fingers, index fingers, knuckles. Done, okay. **** right hand. And it's 12:30 p.m. Okay, we're gonna do the left hand. Middle fingers, index finger, thumb, pinkie. Would you, uh, consent to us swabbing your mouth?

Nolan Strauss: Is it bloody?

Detective Ryan Mills: No, this is brand new

Nolan Strauss: No, my mouth. Is it bloody?

Detective Ryan Mills: Open up. Not that I can tell.

Nolan Strauss: Oh.

Detective Ryan Mills: This would be for DNA in your mouth.

Nolan Strauss: Oh, that's fine.

Detective Ryan Mills: That's to say that it's not –

Nolan Strauss: Oh, that's fine, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is that okay?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: So DNA inside Mr. Strauss' mouth. Sorry. Mind if we take a second DNA?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, the mouth?

Detective Ryan Mills: Yeah. It'll be real quick. Is that okay?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I guess.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Okay, thank you, sir.

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Ryan Mills: Anything else on these? I got one more. **** anything else we need.

Detective Clay Stevens: Mm, no, I don't think so. Is there anything else you'd like to say to kinda help us understand in case we missed something that you wanna make sure that we got?

Nolan Strauss: Um, no.

Detective Clay Stevens: I mean, anything at all.

Detective Ryan Mills: So I missed some of the conversation you had with, uh, Detective Stevens here.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: So um, you seem like a smart guy.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I think so.

Detective Ryan Mills: I think so. You served your country.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, if you don't mind answering this, in my mind like what makes, what would make you wanna do something that you know you could spend a long time in prison for that would take away your freedom when you –

Nolan Strauss: Well, I, I thought it was worth it. You know? I, I still do in a sense.

Detective Ryan Mills: Like explain that to me better 'cause freedom's important to a lotta people. You fought for our freedom.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I know. I, I don't look at it like that. You know?

Detective Ryan Mills: How do you look at it?

Nolan Strauss: Well, I, I lost, you know, my, my sense of freedom a while ago.

Detective Ryan Mills: And why is that?

Nolan Strauss: Well, I just, I thought, I don't know, I really wanted to do it. That's, that's why.

Detective Ryan Mills: You just wanted to do it?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Have you ever taken a life before in the military?

Nolan Strauss: No, I never have, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: Was that kinda maybe part of it? Is that somethin' you wanted to do?

Nolan Strauss: Um, you know, like every soldier that joins willingly, I thought I did, um, but I was pretty glad that I, I didn't in the end.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Ryan Mills: So I mean –

Nolan Strauss: Because I realized, you know, I didn't, I didn't have any quarrels with that country at all later. You know?

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: I, I saw no reason to actually murder any of them, but –

Detective Ryan Mills: You have a problem with any other religions?

Nolan Strauss: Any other religions? Um, I mean, I don't, I don't know at this point. You know?

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you have a problem with anybody else of color or is it just particular African Americans that you struggle with?

Nolan Strauss: It's, it's just African Americans.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Are you a part of any groups of any kind –

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: – outside of your church?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Like gangs?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: No white supremacist groups, I mean, anything like that that you follow on the Internet?

Nolan Strauss: No, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: I wouldn't find any like European Kindred stuff on your phone or anything like that?

Nolan Strauss: I don't know what that is.

Detective Ryan Mills: White supremacist group.

Nolan Strauss: Oh no.

Detective Ryan Mills: Nothing like that?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: So what do you think should happen to someone who tries to take somebody else's life?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I think they should go to jail for one thing. Um –

Detective Ryan Mills: **** two seconds. You're thinking about somethin'. What are you, what are you thinkin' about?

Nolan Strauss: I'm just confused right now. I, I really am. And it's not for lack of trying, it's just this is all happening just sorta fast for me. You know? Um, murdering somebody, uh, I would say is probably okay I guess. I don't know.

Detective Ryan Mills: Murdering someone is okay?

Nolan Strauss: Um, no it's not. It's not, but –

Detective Ryan Mills: Maybe this one is?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I think in the long run things will pay off, but um, I don't know how else to interpret it right now. You know?

Detective Ryan Mills: When you said pay off, what does that mean?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I'm trying to like, I'm trying to, um, I don't know, just change the world kinda.

Detective Ryan Mills: How do you see the world?

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Ryan Mills: If you could change it the way you wanted to, how, how do you see it?

Nolan Strauss: You know, I think, I think it's been pretty good so far. Um, but I don't know, I just, I feel like most people don't get the respect that they deserve and others do, and I think that's pretty fucked up.

Detective Ryan Mills: And in any way do you feel like you weren't getting the respect you deserved?

Nolan Strauss: Well, no, not really.

Detective Ryan Mills: You think that's maybe what led to this?

Nolan Strauss: That I wasn't getting respected? No. I think, I don't know.

Detective Ryan Mills: If you had a chance, if you had a chance to talk to your mom right now, what would you tell her?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I don't know. I don't really like her, so.

Detective Ryan Mills: You don't like your mom?

Nolan Strauss: Uh uh.

Detective Ryan Mills: How about your dad?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, he's all right.

Detective Ryan Mills: If you had a chance to talk to your dad right now, what would you tell him?

Nolan Strauss: Um, probably nothing.

Detective Ryan Mills: If you had a chance to talk to your victim's family right now, what would you tell 'em?

Nolan Strauss: Um, that I wanna help them.

Detective Ryan Mills: And why do you wanna help 'em?

Nolan Strauss: I just, I think there's something wrong.

Detective Ryan Mills: With what? Can you explain that?

Nolan Strauss: I don't know, I can't right now.

Detective Ryan Mills: The guy you stabbed, do you hope he makes it, do you hope he dies? He's not dead yet as far as I know.

Nolan Strauss: He's not? Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: What do you look for that outcome, what would you like to see outa that?

Nolan Strauss: Um, yeah, I hope he makes it. You know? I don't know.

Detective Ryan Mills: Or do you not really care one way or the other?

Nolan Strauss: I really don't care, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: You seem to have some emotions for his family though.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Why is that?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I mean, I want him to make it, I do.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I do.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, and what's the difference between that and earlier when this happened? Like what's changed with you?

Nolan Strauss: About what?

Detective Ryan Mills: Well, you said that you went in there with the intent to kill, but now you're saying that you hope he lives. So what's changed between earlier today and now?

Nolan Strauss: Um, time I guess.

Detective Ryan Mills: So can you talk to us about the reflection that you've had over the past hour plus?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I mean, I think obviously people need to get what they deserve at some point. Um, but I don't think necessarily that that means it's gonna be an everlasting thing. You know? Although it might, um, I just don't know for sure. You know? But if you don't retaliate to your oppressors, then you're just gonna be oppressed your whole life.

Detective Ryan Mills: So it's interesting you say that, um, 'cause certainly there's African Americans that feel white feel oppress them, right?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. I don't believe that at all.

Detective Ryan Mills: I certainly know you –

Nolan Strauss: ****.

Detective Ryan Mills: I certainly know you –

Nolan Strauss: **** use that as a guilt trip –

Detective Ryan Mills: Mm hmm.

Nolan Strauss: – to get people to feel sensitive for them –

Detective Ryan Mills: Mm hmm.

Nolan Strauss: – when basically they're using that to try and take what is mine essentially.

Detective Ryan Mills: And what I'm getting at with that is I know you feel that way.

Nolan Strauss: About what?

Detective Ryan Mills: That. But what I'm saying is, would you think it's okay for them to walk up to a white person and randomly kill them because they feel oppressed?

Nolan Strauss: I mean, it's happened before. You know?

Detective Ryan Mills: Well, it's happened on both sides, right?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, yeah, for sure. Um, I guess –

Detective Ryan Mills: And both sides probably feel they're right, but does that actually make it right? Do you see where I'm going with that?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. Um, no, I don't think it does make it right.

Detective Ryan Mills: Because we are all in this country together. No one's going anywhere. We gotta know how to live together.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Right? **** all of us can do a better job of, uh, getting along and making sure everyone gets to have the freedom that they, people fought for and deserve and a chance to succeed.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Everyone. But I can tell you that this isn't the way to do it.

Nolan Strauss: Why don't you think so?

Detective Ryan Mills: Because we would get nothing accomplished if everyone just started killing each other because they feel oppressed 'cause anytime someone thinks they're oppressed, and maybe they are, right, I'm not even saying they are or not.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, but it's not even my design that I'm trying, like this is gonna happen inevitably.

Detective Ryan Mills: Why do you think that?

Nolan Strauss: It's in Revelations, you know. It's, it's, it is biblical. You know? Eventually something's gonna set somebody off. You know? And it, it will happen that way, you know? You can try and make everybody good, but not everybody's gonna be good. You know?

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Well, let me ask you this. Who do you think is the ultimate judge? If you believe in the Bible, and I believe in the Bible, who do you think is the ultimate judge? 'Cause I can tell ya, it's not me.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, it's God.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. So why do you think it's okay to take the actions into your hands that belong to God?

Nolan Strauss: Because I'm his son basically.

Detective Ryan Mills: He didn't ask you to do it though.

Nolan Strauss: How do you –

Detective Ryan Mills: God told you in Revelations what he's gonna do, right? He's already told everyone in Revelations what he's gonna do. He's gonna take care of the right and wrong.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. But if, if humans didn't initiate it, then it wouldn't happen, you know? You can't just say oh, I'm gonna read this book and, you know, that would be cool if it happened one day. It doesn't happen like that.

Detective Ryan Mills: But God's already taken care of it ****.

Nolan Strauss: Well –

Detective Ryan Mills: Right?

Nolan Strauss: – it doesn't mean that I can't be a part of it either. You know?

Detective Ryan Mills: You don't think God's powerful enough to take care of it himself?

Nolan Strauss: You know, my, my view of God and yours are probably a lot different.

Detective Ryan Mills: I'm thinking so too honestly.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. You know?

Detective Ryan Mills: My version of what I read in the Bible is different than what you read.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. I, I interpret it, uh, very metaphorically, you know. I don't take anything that much literally in there. Um, but you have to look at God like you were a machine and he made you, you know, and, and if you're not working properly, you have a part that's not working, you take it out, and to the car that fucking hurts and you fix it, you put a new part in. It's, it's not, I mean, it's, it's good in the end when everything works, but in the process of getting it done it's a little bit messy I think.

Detective Clay Stevens: So if I understand you correctly, what you're telling me is, you know, in the immediate moment what you did today hurt initially, but in the end it's gonna have a positive outcome.

Nolan Strauss: For me unfortunately, you know, but I'm trying to do the best I can to help everyone else.

Detective Ryan Mills: Not be oppressed? Is that what you're, if I understand right?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, somethin' like that.

Detective Ryan Mills: Well, Mr. Strauss, I, I can't think of anything else to ask you at this point. I, I really do appreciate your cooperation. Um, do you still, do you want any food or anything?

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Ryan Mills: You don't want anything to drink?

Nolan Strauss: No, I'm all right.

Detective Ryan Mills: You're good? Have we been, have we been fair to you today?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I think so.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, is there anything that you'd like to just say since we got the recorder on here, um, just in general? Like so one thing I, I ask people in interviews like this is is, is there anything that you would like the district attorney to know, uh, the victim, the family, your parents, whether that's just a general statement, an apology, kinda now is the time 'cause we're gettin' ready to wrap it up.

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah. I guess, yeah, I don't wanna say anything to anybody right now.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. If we had any more questions, maybe some follow-up questions, 'cause I don't know everything that occurred over there, would you be willing to talk to us again?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Uh, for right now I think what's gonna happen is there's a temporary cell right over there, if you wanna call it that, where you're just gonna kinda hang out. Um, we're gonna get you your clothes here so you can change out, that's somethin' we're working on.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: You know, I was talking to Detective Benesqua and he works for the Ontario Police Department, he's the lead detective in this. So we'll get you some fresh clothes for you here shortly.

Nolan Strauss: All right.

Detective Ryan Mills: If you need some food or water, the restroom's in there. You can use the restroom there, okay?

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: But if you need any food or water, you let us know.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, and if you think of anything else you wanna add, then we can go back on record. Uh, just let me know it's like hey, I wanna talk more about this, so I can go back on record if you want.

Nolan Strauss: All right.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, time is 12:52 p m. We're gonna stop the recording and end interview for right now.

SpeakWrite
www.speakwrite.com
Job Number: 19355-001
Custom Filename: Nolan Strauss Interview 1
Date: 12/22/2019
Billed Words: 7649

OREGON STATE POLICE

CASE: SP19- 442944
TRANSCRIPT: Interview #2
SUBJECT: Attempted Murder

PERSON GIVING STATEMENT:	Nolan Levi Strauss		
SEX/RACE/DOB:	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> / RACE: W / DOB: ██████████		
RESIDENCE ADDRESS:	Refused to Provide		
EMPLOYMENT:	May Trucking		
TAKEN BY:	Detective Ryan Mills		
DATE:	ON: 12/21/2019	FROM: refer to video	TO: refer to video
LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:	Ontario Police Department		
IN THE PRESENCE OF:	Detective Ryan Mills; Detective Clayton Stevens		

Detective Ryan Mills: The time is, uh, 1:29 p.m., December 21st on Saturday. Talking again to Mr. Strauss, is that how you say it, sir?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Strauss, um, just had a couple clarifying questions. Um, you're still willing to chat with us, is that correct?

Nolan Strauss: Yes, it is.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, Detective Stevens, do you just wanna go ahead and ask him?

Detective Clay Stevens: Uh, so we kinda wanted to go back and talk about your work history. Uh, who do you work for, specifically?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, May Trucking Company.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay and I know you said it before, but remind me how long have you worked for them?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, since June.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay and then this current route your on can you tell, tell me like where you started from and headin' to and stuff like that?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, it started in, uh, somewhere in Washington and then, um, fucking was going to North Carolina.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. You don't remember what city in Washington you were at when you picked up the load?

Nolan Strauss: No. Can I just spit somethin' out?

Detective Ryan Mills: Yeah. Lemme get a –

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you know where in North Carolina you were headed?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no.

Detective Clay Stevens: Can you kinda tell me where you've been since your last day off at home?

Nolan Strauss: I can't – what?

Detective Clay Stevens: Uh, so the last time you were home in Colorado on a day off, can you just kinda tell me where you've been since then?

Nolan Strauss: Okay, what?

Detective Clay Stevens: From your last day off in, in Colorado when you were home –

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm?

Detective Clay Stevens: - and then you hit the road, however long that, how long ago that was, can you just kinda walk us through where you've been?

Nolan Strauss: Um, yeah. I was in, uh, Pennsylvania for the most part.

Detective Clay Stevens: You drove from Colorado to Pennsylvania?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay, what days? I guess what I'm looking for Mr. Strauss is could you go over the last 48 hours of your life?

Nolan Strauss: Um –

Detective Clay Stevens: So if today is, uh, Saturday, why don't you start from, if you'd be willing to, why don't you start from Thursday morning? Where were you Thursday morning?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I was up, uh, Thursday morning, um –

Detective Clay Stevens: Were you working Thursday?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I did a delivery, uh, in Oregon and, uh, you know I was runnin' basically, uh, American Furniture, you know.

Detective Clay Stevens: Do you remember what part of Oregon you were in Thursday?

Nolan Strauss: Um, Oregon? No.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay and then Friday?

Nolan Strauss: On Friday what?

Detective Ryan Mills: Where were you Friday?

Detective Clay Stevens: Where were you Thursday night?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I've been in the pilot mostly.

Detective Clay Stevens: On Thursday night?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Which pilot?

Nolan Strauss: That same one.

Detective Clay Stevens: So you've been there since Thursday?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: 'Cause, uh, I didn't –

Detective Clay Stevens: You didn't say –

Nolan Strauss: - I didn't sleep very good one night and then I, uh, you know decided I was gonna take a 34- hour rest break to reset my, my driving clock.

Detective Clay Stevens: So you've been in Ontario since Thursday night?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I think so.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Did you go anywhere outside of the pilot?

Nolan Strauss: Outside of the pilot?

Detective Clay Stevens: You went into town to get groceries, get food?

Nolan Strauss: No, I didn't.

Detective Clay Stevens: So, you've just been in your truck since Thursday?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Uh, what do you have in the truck to entertain yourself? Have you got a computer, read books?

Nolan Strauss: Oh, I got a TV. It's a flat screen. I just, uh, use like, um, fucking – 'cause it's a smart one, so I use like my phone to like the hotspot, you know?

Detective Clay Stevens: Mm hmm. What kinda shows were you watching?

Nolan Strauss: Um, the new Witcher series.

Detective Clay Stevens: How was that? I was gonna start watching.

Nolan Strauss: Oh, it's fucking awesome, man.

Detective Clay Stevens: Is it?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, but then my hotspot went out, so I had to use like the HDMI, so it got all fucked up.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: It doesn't work, look good.

Detective Clay Stevens: What kinda shows do you like?

Nolan Strauss: Um, just general, just –

Detective Clay Stevens: Like fantasy, documentaries –

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, yeah, fantasies, sci-fi.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Action and stuff.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay, so you were using your phone to do some streaming?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Is it off of Netflix, Hulu?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, that was Netflix. Yep.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Do you use any other programs?

Nolan Strauss: Um, programs?

Detective Clay Stevens: You know, like Hulu, uh, You Tube?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, Hulu and, and, and I do a lot of You Tube, too.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay, all from your phone?

Nolan Strauss: Uh –

Detective Clay Stevens: Mostly anyway?

Nolan Strauss: Yep.

Detective Ryan Mills: How about Facebook?

Nolan Strauss: Um, Facebook? Um, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Snap Chat?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: Instagram?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Is there any computers in your truck?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, there's just the Qualcomm and a –

Detective Ryan Mills: Like the electronic log?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay and that's gonna show you're at the pilot since Thursday?

Nolan Strauss: It should unless I got my, but I'm pretty sure, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Detective Clay Stevens: Your phone is in the truck then still, or is it somewhere else?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, my phone?

Detective Clay Stevens: Yeah.

Nolan Strauss: Um, it's in the truck.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. What type of phone do you have?

Nolan Strauss: Um, phone?

Detective Ryan Mills: Is that an Android or iPhone?

Nolan Strauss: No, it's an iPhone. Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: iPhone.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. I, I used to have an, and HTC. That's why I was thinking of that.

Detective Ryan Mills: That's an iPhone? Is it the new model?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, it's, uh, no, it's the 10.

Detective Ryan Mills: That's new. The ****?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Uh, is there a pin passcode or a, or a, uh –

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, it's, [REDACTED].

Detective Ryan Mills: What's that?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, well do you want, do you need to get into the phone? I don't really have anything on there.

Detective Ryan Mills: Well, if we did need to get into the phone, what would the passcode be?

Nolan Strauss: What, what would you need to get in there for?

Detective Ryan Mills: To confirm everything that you're telling us.

Nolan Strauss: Like what?

Detective Ryan Mills: Um –

Detective Clay Stevens: Well, one thing that's important to us, uh, just to kinda figure out what was going on up, up before this, and so that's why I was asking where you've been. And so like one of the things that would be on your phone to corroborate along with e-Log would be GPS, so I could tell if you were in Seattle, Washington, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Nolan Strauss: And you can't do that without –

Detective Clay Stevens: It's just a way for us to –

Nolan Strauss: - unlocking it?

Detective Clay Stevens: Huh?

Nolan Strauss: You can't do that without unlocking it?

Detective Clay Stevens: No, that's not necessarily true, but I'm just saying that that's one way that we could corroborate along with your e-Log to show the two locations from both devices just to make sure they're both correct.

Nolan Strauss: Okay, yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Let me, let me ask you this straight up.

Nolan Strauss: Uh huh?

Detective Ryan Mills: Like, I feel like you've been pretty honest with us so far.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is there anything on the phone that you're concerned about?

Nolan Strauss: No, I just don't want you, like, calling people –

Detective Ryan Mills: No, no.

Nolan Strauss: - in my contacts.

Detective Ryan Mills: We would never, ever-ever call

Nolan Strauss: Okay, I just – 'cause that –

Detective Ryan Mills: - uh, with using your phone.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, okay. All right, I just didn't want you being, like, hey you know, Nolan's in jail. You wanna, you know –

Detective Ryan Mills: No, that's not our business to do that.

Nolan Strauss: All right.

Detective Ryan Mills: Other than that, is there anything else that you're concerned about?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no, but do want the password?

Detective Ryan Mills: If you would, please.

Nolan Strauss: All right, [REDACTED]

Detective Ryan Mills: Um, that's a [REDACTED].

Detective Clay Stevens: Um, do you live alone or do you have roommates?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I live with, uh, friends of the family kind of.

Detective Clay Stevens: Do you just kinda hit and miss or do you actually have a residence?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I, I have a residence.

Detective Clay Stevens: So do you rent a room?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I kinda just stay with people that I grew up with.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is that what you're saying is your residence?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Detective Clay Stevens: But do you have your own room?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no. I have a couch actually.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is that why, why you didn't wanna tell us where you lived was 'cause you didn't want us to bother them?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah. I really don't want you to bother them, you know.

Detective Clay Stevens: Do you have any, do you keep any stuff there?

Nolan Strauss: No. I have a, a storage unit.

Detective Ryan Mills: Where is the storage unit at?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, it's in Colorado Springs.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Is that a big unit or?

Nolan Strauss: No, it's a small one.

Detective Ryan Mills: Like, what size are we talking about?

Nolan Strauss: The smallest you can get. I think it's like 4 x 4 x 10.

Detective Ryan Mills: That sounds about right.

Detective Clay Stevens: Do you know the name of the storage unit?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, Public Storage.

Detective Ryan Mills: Republic?

Nolan Strauss: Public Storage.

Detective Ryan Mills: Oh, Public Storage. We have a big company over here called Republic Storage is why I asked that.

Nolan Strauss: Oh, really?

Detective Ryan Mills: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: What's the space number?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, why? Are you gonna go in there?

Detective Clay Stevens: Uh, we're just being thorough, 'cause we're not the lead and so I, I don't have an answer to that.

Nolan Strauss: Oh.

Detective Clay Stevens: But in, in case he asks when we leave this room, I don't wanna have to come bother you again.

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I'd rather you come bother me about it, if I know that you're goin' in there or not.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay, so you don't wanna say that?

Detective Ryan Mills: Well, can I ask you this? What, what's in there?

Nolan Strauss: Nothing, just my stuff.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: I have more stuff in my truck probably than the unit.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: It's just like a TV and stuff, microwave.

Detective Ryan Mills: You talked about your military stuff with us. What years were you in?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, 2012-2013.

Detective Ryan Mills: And how'd you get out?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, just, uh, it was like a general discharge. I got, I smoked, uh, marijuana with a buddy of mine, so.

Detective Clay Stevens: So was it other than honorable?

Nolan Strauss: It was, uh, under honorable conditions.

Detective Clay Stevens: Under honorable conditions?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: General, under honorable conditions?

Detective Ryan Mills: Was it a one-time thing that gotcha out, was smoked marijuana one time?

Nolan Strauss: Uh –

Detective Ryan Mills: Or did you get in trouble more than once?

Nolan Strauss: - yeah, one time. Yeah. Yeah. I think it's 'cause Obama got reelected, just because you know, with all of his political nonsense, uh, budget cuts hit the military and fucked everything up.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. When is the last time you used any, uh, marijuana?

Nolan Strauss: Oh, it's been years.

Detective Ryan Mills: All right, when is the last time you used any other drugs, such as methamphetamine, cocaine?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, it's been years.

Detective Ryan Mills: Heroin?

Nolan Strauss: It's been a long time.

Detective Ryan Mills: Have you, have you ever used heroin before?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: When was that?

Nolan Strauss: Like, 2013.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. How about methamphetamine?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: When was that, last time you used that?

Nolan Strauss: Um, well, I took a trip down to California recently and, uh, kinda messed up down there. You know, I was gettin' drunk with a buddy of mine and I bought him some drinks and, uh, he uh, asked if I wanted, you know, to partake in some white, which I assumed was cocaine. So, we started snortin' it and I ended up doin', like, a really lot and, uh –

Detective Ryan Mills: Of meth?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah and, uh, started havin' to control my own breathing, you know.

Detective Ryan Mills: Yeah.

Nolan Strauss: I didn't, I didn't wanna breathe automatically and it was really hard.

Detective Ryan Mills: When was, when was that?

Nolan Strauss: That was in, uh, July I think. It was, like, or is, yeah, somethin' like that.

Detective Ryan Mills: Yeah.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: For your, uh, military, where'd you go to basic?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, Fort Benning.

Detective Clay Stevens: And then you're at AIG?

Nolan Strauss: Um, AIG, yeah, that was Fort Benning as well.

Detective Clay Stevens: The same?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay and then where was your first duty station?

Nolan Strauss: My first duty station? Uh, that was in Hawaii.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: That's why you were in Hawaii?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Is that the only place you've been assigned to, or did you deploy anywhere at all even if it wasn't a combat zone?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no, that was it.

Detective Clay Stevens: So, you've been to Fort Benning through basically all your training and then you went to Hawaii and that was it?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Nowhere else?

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Ryan Mills: Were you using heroin while you were in the military?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: It was after you got, after you left?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Is that what got you to use a little bit of heroin?

Nolan Strauss: What?

Detective Ryan Mills: Leaving the military, or what caused you to use heroin?

Nolan Strauss: No. I was, uh, uh, my, my dad was paying for an apartment of mine and I, uh, had like friends living with me and – you know, they were, they were cool people and I guess I just, uh, I thought maybe, um, you know we – I, I was really drink, drinking got me in the most trouble in my life. And, um, so I, uh, decided to – you know, I was drunk and we did meth and, and then they came over and started living with me and so I did it a couple times. But, um, I, I never was a big fan of it just because of the, the comedowns from that. They're really kinda fucked up. You know, they make you think some weird shit, but.

Detective Clay Stevens: So earlier, when we first were talking, you mentioned prior to, uh, stabbing this guy today that you were thinking about it for a couple of hours in your, in your, uh, in your truck.

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm?

Detective Clay Stevens: Prior to thinking about it for a couple hours, did you ever think about it before that?

Nolan Strauss: Uh –

Detective Clay Stevens: When's the first time you thought about stabbing someone?

Nolan Strauss: Oh yeah, just today.

Detective Clay Stevens: Just today?

Nolan Strauss: Mm hmm.

Detective Clay Stevens: And what was – did you hear anything on the radio that made you think to do it? What made you, what made you sprout that idea?

Nolan Strauss: Um, so like I said, I've been traveling in my truck and, you know, I've always had this concept in my mind that, you know, people were connected in a way. You know, and um, telepathy, you know all that was real, but um, I guess the thing that made me wanna do it was, um – I don't know. It's just, I'd have to do a lot of explaining as to my religious beliefs and that, that could take a while.

Detective Ryan Mills: We have plenty of time.

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, I just –

Detective Clay Stevens: As much as you wanna tell us we'll listen.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Because it's important that everybody knows where you're coming from. Otherwise, people will assume things, right?

Nolan Strauss: Like what?

Detective Ryan Mills: Just in general, like –

Detective Clay Stevens: They'll fill in the gaps that you don't fill in yourself.

Nolan Strauss: Like what?

Detective Clay Stevens: They'll make stuff up.

Nolan Strauss: As to what?

Detective Clay Stevens: Whatever suits, whatever suits their fancy.

Nolan Strauss: But see, but I don't have a problem with it, because they'd be lying to themselves anyways.

Detective Ryan Mills: Well, we don't want that for, for you, so that's why we're just asking the 'why' questions. Do you know what I'm saying?

Detective Clay Stevens: This is your opportunity to tell us your, your, uh, reasoning, your thought process. You fill in the gaps and not them. Many will twist it and it should be exactly come from you, why you did what you did and –

Nolan Strauss: Yeah I just, I, I, I think you know that, um, you know there was Adam and Eve and stuff and they were you know it, it really will take a while but I, I, I think it's, it was religious. I think, I think, uh, black people are just fuckin' spawn from bestiality really. It's disgusting. I think they were Neanderthals and, and you know God ordered people not to, to have sex and, and Eve must have went out and, and fucked one of those fucking Neanderthals and you know that was, I don't know. I think, I think that's what, what came out then was someone like that and then Able was Adam's son and, I don't know how else to explain it, but there's a reason why you know they, they steal heartlessly from everyone and it's, it's not because they even have something to stop them from doing that. They don't have any soul. They don't have any life. It's, it's very disgusting the, the, the kind of people that they are. It's, it's like they're just made of, of shit really. They're the same color on the inside as they are on the outside. It's disgusting. They have no rationale for human communication and, and you know together and wholeness it's, it's savagery. It's what an animal feels like. It's very disgusting.

Detective Clay Stevens: Have you had a lot of interactions with African-Americans?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah, all my life you know and I'm not saying this from like the worst place you know, but they, uh, they've been doing this to us forever now you know and I don't know what to think right now.

Detective Clay Stevens: Can I switch back to your, uh, military time. Did you ever have any traumatic experiences while you were there?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no.

Detective Clay Stevens: Training accidents, or anything?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. You ever been diagnosed with, uh, PTSD?

Nolan Strauss: PTSD? Uh, no.

Detective Clay Stevens: You ever thought you might have PTSD?

Nolan Strauss: Um, PTSD.

Detective Clay Stevens: Post-traumatic stress disorder?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Clay Stevens: Have you ever officially been diagnosed with bipolar disorder?

Nolan Strauss: Um, bipolar, uh, yeah, yes I have.

Detective Clay Stevens: And when was that?

Nolan Strauss: That was in, uh, um, 2016.

Detective Clay Stevens: Was that from a doctor in Colorado or where, somewhere else?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Detective Clay Stevens: You remember their name?

Nolan Strauss: Um, Dr. [REDACTED]

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Would you have any paperwork with you by chance?

Nolan Strauss: I would never carry that around, no.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. What did he tell you? Did he think you need to be on medications?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah he put me on some medication. None of it did anything good, so.

Detective Clay Stevens: Do you know when you're on a high or a low?

Nolan Strauss: Um, yeah I feel it regularly every day, um.

Detective Clay Stevens: What do you, what do you feel like right now?

Nolan Strauss: Kind of in the middle.

Detective Clay Stevens: How about this morning when this took place?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, I don't know. I, I, I really don't think bipolar is a real disease you know I think it's for people that actually have deep-set emotional issues that, uh, can get triggered at certain times. I, I don't understand how you can just say that somebody goes up and down and call them, uh, because if you're not, if you're just stable all the time you're pretty much a fucking robot to me. I, I, I think that's weird.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: But that, that's just me being myself. I'm not saying that everybody's a robot if they're normal. I don't know.

Detective Clay Stevens: So you have this thought this morning. I don't know if you ever clarified where it came from. You just decided you're gonna do something about it, uh, and if I understood you right you got out of the truck, uh, the person that you stabbed was, did you see them prior to the stabbing or you just happen to see them and then they just bet that's when they became the person you were gonna stab?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah I just saw them, uh, walking into the gas station and I thought you know you look like a good one to do it to and went up and stabbed him.

Detective Clay Stevens: If, if that person was a, did you have an intent to stab any white people?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Clay Stevens: Uh, Middle Eastern people?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Clay Stevens: What was your, who were you intending to stab?

Nolan Strauss: Just a black man.

Detective Clay Stevens: Based solely on the color of their skin?

Nolan Strauss: Yes. That was my only problem with him.

Detective Clay Stevens: No other prior **** or you never, didn't have girlfriends together or nothing, no shit like that, no ra, no rage issues, no.

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Clay Stevens: You never stole nothing from you?

Nolan Strauss: I don't even know his name.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. If you had to kind of like if you're putting your finger on a map in your life, where would you say that this, uh, began for you before you decided to you know black people were the problem in our society? Like where would you say that began?

Nolan Strauss: Where what began?

Detective Clay Stevens: That thought process?

Nolan Strauss: When do you start the map?

Detective Clay Stevens: Like TV show or did you follow somebody on a podcast?

Nolan Strauss: Oh, no. Um.

Detective Clay Stevens: Like where, where did those thought processes take hold?

Nolan Strauss: I guess I started thinking about it, um, you know, uh, 'cause I, I've never been really religious at all. You know I don't, I've, I've always hated praying. Um, I just, I, I, it, it never works. You know what I mean? It just, it always, you, you can't translate to, to God like that and so what I did was you know I, I fell in love with somebody but I just, I don't know I was kind of insecure at the time and so it, it put me in a real bad place and so what I did in the future, um, was I just, I went down a dark road. I felt like somebody, uh, I don't know. I just, so I just, I just started thinking you know. I started thinking a lot and you know about this girl and if it would ever work out and stuff and, and that kind of, um, it, it led to this big thing where you know I just.

Detective Clay Stevens: Was she a, a black lady?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: Not at all, uh.

Detective Clay Stevens: So what thought, what, what began this though through your thought processes toward African-Americans that were, what took ****?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I just know that they're not good people, you know.

Detective Clay Stevens: But when did you know that? When you were –

Nolan Strauss: Uh.

Detective Clay Stevens: – one person, last year?

Nolan Strauss: I mean you know you, you grow up with it and you kinda think like you know like you know they're kind of snobbish and, and so that you just kinda think like well like I guess I'll just you know let him win and stuff, but underneath that all they, they have nothing to, to root themselves in you know dignity wise you know. Things that are good. Things that you can base your morals on. They don't have any of that. So if you go and say well he's justified 'cause he's just a man, you're not putting them in the right place. You need to say fuck that guy. He's a fucking piece of shit.

Detective Clay Stevens: So if I understand you correctly this is more just a self-taught, uh, process through your life experience?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: So it didn't come from like say the internet, you dad?

Nolan Strauss: No, no.

Detective Clay Stevens: It's just the decisions that you made based on your own life experiences?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah for the most part.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Nolan Strauss: But I, I did start feeling you know it to be sort of religious based and stuff and, and those were things that I you know that over time and, and these feelings and, and, and mental you know stuff just, uh, kinda just triggered me into discovering what I think is the truth at this point.

Detective Clay Stevens: Where did you grow up?

Nolan Strauss: Colorado.

Detective Ryan Mills: Colorado Springs, right?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: And so you lived there your whole life?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. I've never been there, so. Is there a, a large African-American community there?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, mediocre. You know it's average for a city.

Detective Ryan Mills: Have you ever been assaulted by an African-American?

Nolan Strauss: Um, not, nothing that wasn't provoked, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: Nothing that you didn't instigate you're saying?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, well I mean I had a, a, yeah, yeah you're right.

Detective Clay Stevens: Have you ever been arrested before?

Nolan Strauss: Um, yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: What was that for? Do you remember the details on that?

Nolan Strauss: Um, I guess, uh, yeah, uh, in Lincoln I got a assault on a female officer, uh, and that was just because I, uh, slammed the door when she was trying to come into my apartment without a warrant and I guess her thumb got in the door jamb. I, I don't think –

Detective Ryan Mills: What that like a –

Nolan Strauss: – I don't think it did, but I think she made it up, but, um.

Detective Clay Stevens: Was that it?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Mind me asking why they were trying to get into your apartment in the first place?

Nolan Strauss: Um, my neighbor at the time, uh, lied about me saying that I was running around in the streets saying I wanted to kill myself for some reason, um, which I never did. I was just at home drinking and, uh, so she called the police on me and, and they came over and she was like wanting to come in and I was like no you, you don't have a warrant and she kept wanting to come in and, uh, so I just told her, uh, you know I just slammed the door and she was trying to, to hold it open, uh, because I guess she had some sort of, uh, justification if you're intent is to hurt yourself you know as a cop, but, uh, I didn't, um, I wasn't trying to hurt myself in any way.

Detective Clay Stevens: Was she black, white or something different?

Nolan Strauss: Who?

Detective Clay Stevens: The officer?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, she was white.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. So, did you talk to anybody at the Pilot while you were there since Thursday, have any communication with anybody, staff or otherwise?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, yeah. A lot actually.

Detective Clay Stevens: How did those go, those interactions?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, really good.

Detective Clay Stevens: Have you been drinking at all in the last 48 hours?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Clay Stevens: And you haven't used any drugs in the last 48 hours?

Nolan Strauss: No.

Detective Ryan Mills: I think I asked you that already ****.

Nolan Strauss: That's alright.

Detective Clay Stevens: Was there any other weapons or anything in the truck?

Nolan Strauss: Mm-mm.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: In the time that, since we talked do you know if you thought about anything that you wanted to tell us, or –

Nolan Strauss: Mm.

Detective Ryan Mills: – you said you were gonna think about some things?

Nolan Strauss: N, no. I don't remember saying that. But, uh, no, I'm good.

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you need any water?

Nolan Strauss: No, I'm alright.

Detective Ryan Mills: You, you need any food?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, no.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. Um, alright if anything comes up like that, water, food, will you just let us know?

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Ryan Mills: Or if you need to use the restroom or something like that.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Um.

Detective Clay Stevens: Is there anybody you want us to get contact on your behalf?

Nolan Strauss: Um, yeah you can try calling my dad.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay, it's [REDACTED] –

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: – correctly?

Detective Ryan Mills: Do you know his number off the top of your head?

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay go ahead. What's his number?

Nolan Strauss: It's, uh, [REDACTED].

Detective Clay Stevens: And what would you like us to tell [REDACTED]?

Nolan Strauss: Uh, you can tell him anything. I don't care. What happened.

Detective Clay Stevens: Well I want to be fair to you because you said earlier that you didn't want us reaching out to people so I don't want to say something to piss you off.

Nolan Strauss: That's alright.

Detective Clay Stevens: So just, you're okay if we kinda just give him the –

Nolan Strauss: Yeah the run down.

Detective Clay Stevens: – let him know what's going on. We can divulge too much obviously, but –

Nolan Strauss: Yeah.

Detective Clay Stevens: – okay. I just don't want you to find out that we've told him something and get mad at me.

Nolan Strauss: Okay.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay. Anybody else?

Nolan Strauss: Um, uh, no that's it.

Detective Clay Stevens: Okay.

Detective Ryan Mills: Okay. 2:00 right on the dot. We're gonna stop the interview.

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