

# 47-MINUTE HOSPITAL INTERVIEW BETWEEN FORSYTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND STABBING VICTIM, MARSHALL TALLANT

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Transcribed by: [Kimberly Boim](#)

Key to speakers' names:

- Christian = Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Investigator, Mike Christian
- Strano = Christian's Boss Sgt. Sebastian Strano
- Tallant = Stabbing victim, Marshall Danny Tallant, 4425 Church Road, Cumming, Ga.
- Sam Laser, CSI Tech (did not participate in conversation)

## **FSCO Investigator Mike Christian (Christian):**

Marshall. Hey partner, how are you? We never met before. I'm Mike Christian with the sheriff's office. This is my boss Sergeant Strano. Sam Laser, CSI tech. How are you feeling?

**Marshall Tallant (Tallant):** Real bad (whispered)

**Christian:** Not bad? Or real bad?

**Tallant:** Bad.

**Christian:** I'm sorry. Can you tell me what happened to you?

**Tallant:** Tommy Albert Samples stabbed me.

**Christian:** OK. Has he been staying with you?

**Tallant:** No, he shows up, goes off ... (inaudible). He's not on medication. Something, I don't know. I didn't even know he was in the house. I got up to go to the bathroom, and he was lying on the floor. And I went to the bathroom and came back out. He was still naked on the floor. He was supposed to be sleeping. He took a knife and stabbed me here. I remember holding the knife. He stuck it in my gut. Somebody's got the knife.

**Christian:** What kind of knife was it?

**Tallant:** Just a kitchen knife.

**Christian:** What'd it look like?

**Tallant:** Black handle. Stainless steel blade. (Inaudible). I was holding the handle and he showed up. So I wanted to make sure they had it.

**Christian:** So, the knife you were holding in your hand is the one he used?

**Tallant:** I took it away from him. I had to hold it. My hands got cut up. Let go. I said, 'no.' (Inaudible) . He

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gone bonkers. He talked about some crazy things – like stick (inaudible) some kids, so he'd go back to prison for the rest of his life.

**Forsyth County Sgt. Sebastian Strano (SS):** Do you know where he went?

**Tallant:** His mama's – 50 Pine Needle Drive, Dawsonville.

**Strano:** You think that's where he's at?

(Elapsed time 3:30)

**Tallant:** Well, there's a lot of people that he gets out with. Anywhere he can go. Tracey (or Jason) Trates (name spelling not clear) is an alcoholic. He lives in DC (Dawson County). Anderson. A guy named Julio, if that's his real name. Jimmy and (inaudible) are within walking distance of there. About anything he can get into.

**Strano:** Got any family?

**Tallant:** His mother is supposed to be Janice Samples. He says it's not his real mom. He's talking way out of his head. He talks about like you guys. He wants to kill her. I mean, geez. He's not on medication he's supposed to be taking. He might be taking it. I don't know. Just I hear bits and pieces. Sometimes it makes sense and sometimes not at all. He comes up and sleeps on the floor or something and be gone the next day, which he'll leave and not come back. He could walk all the way there. He'll get there. I got going to the bathroom. I don't

know what time I'd gone that morning.

**Christian:** So where was he sleeping at? On the floor in your room?

**Tallant:** No, I got up to go to the bathroom, and I saw him on the floor. I hate saying this. It's embarrassing. Somebody (inaudible). He had his clothes pulled off. Playing with himself or something. I don't know what he was doing. I just walked on to the bathroom, and when I come back out, he was moaning, grabbing my clothes. I don't care. Every time he comes he takes more stuff. I can't control someone like that. I said Tommy do not ever come back. And he comes back over and over and over. I can't make him quit.

**Christian:** So when was the last time he was there before last night?

**Tallant:** It's hard to remember (whispering). It was one night, the next day, he went back. His mom. He said his mom said he could stay with me. He's on parole.

**Christian:** So, honestly, has he been living with you?

**Tallant:** No. He's not living with me. I don't want him living with me.

**Christian:** Ok, I know you don't. But, how long has he been staying there?

**Tallant:** He's not been staying there. He's been staying in Dawsonville, 50 Pine Needle Drive.

**Strano:** So, stays in both places kinda? Goes to your place?

**Tallant:** He goes everywhere. He goes from place to place to place. (inaudible). His mind is going. I don't think he knows. (inaudible). I heard him talk about he wanted to go and hurt somebody, and spend the rest of his life in prison. He left here. He was .... How long with him. Atavan and Benadryl and something like estradiol or something like that.

**Christian:** Estradiol. Uh-huh.

**Tallant:** Still he was drinking.

**Strano:** Marshall, when you were fighting with him, you came out of the bathroom, and you were fighting?

**Tallant:** No, I went to the bathroom. He went and grabbed the kitchen knife.

**Strano:** So, were you fighting in the bathroom?

**Tallant:** No, he grabbed the kitchen knife and he started swinging and stuff.

**Strano:** I know. Where was that? In the bathroom? Living room?

**Tallant:** Bathroom.

**Strano:** That's what I asked, sir. OK, so it was in the bathroom. Then, you made your way out.

**Tallant:** No, I made my way back to get the cell phone.

Dialed 911 immediately.

**Strano:** He left?

**Tallant:** He was already out the door.

**Strano:** Did he say why?

**Tallant:** He was holding the knife. I was takin my hands (inaudible) can't do nothing else. I was trying to hit him in the head.

**Strano:** Did he say why he was gonna stab you? He didn't say anything. He just walked up and started stabbing you.

**Christian:** Y'all weren't arguing about nothing? It's OK to argue.

**Tallant:** Go to the bathroom. We were arguing.

**SS:** I know. Nobody likes to argue.

**Tallant:** Unfortunately, he starts talking. He hears voices. And he starts trying to speak in a language I don't understand.

**Strano:** Tommy does this?

**Tallant:** He goes by the name Albert.

**Christian:** Like talking in tongues, but different?

**Tallant:** Trying to speak Spanish or something. Jibber jabber.

**Strano:** How long have you known him?

**Tallant:** I've known him since he was about 16 or 17.

**SS:** How old is he now?

**Tallant:** He was born in 77. He's .. it hurts to talk.  
(Whispers) Can I whisper?

**Christian:** Yeah.

**Tallant:** I was wondering because he's a sever threat to himself and someone else.

**Strano:** I'm trying to find out why you guys had this fight, cause usually people just don't run up on somebody and stab them, usually there's reason that they do that. Now, I'm not saying whatever the reason is your fault, I'm not saying you deserved to be stabbed. Follow me?

**Tallant:** I didn't do anything.

**Strano:** Nobody deserves to be stabbed. I want you to understand that.

**Tallant:** He was putting clothes on.

**Strano:** He was putting clothes on, but you said he was on the floor naked.

**Tallant:** Yeah, he had black boxers.

**Strano:** He put on a pair of boxers and came at you?

**Tallant:** No

**Christian:** He was naked when he came at you?

**Tallant:** (inaudible) and trying to ... he passed me. I can't

remember if he stabbed me here first or here.

**Strano:** So here and then in the stomach?

**Tallant:** I didn't think he pierced my stomach.

**Strano:** Did the knife go in or did it slash? Like this or did it slash?

**Tallant:** It went in.

**Strano:** How many times did it go in? You think just once and you grabbed it?

**Tallant:** Well they said I was cut up. I was just holding the knife. (inaudible) Take the knife away from him.

**Strano:** Uh-huh. I understand.

**Tallant:** As soon as he let go of the knife, he just bursted through the front door.

**Strano:** Bare ass naked? He just ran out of your house?

**Tallant:** No. He put on my jeans.

**Strano:** So he put on your jeans and ran out?

**Tallant:** I don't know if he even put on shoes on or not.

**Christian:** And he ran out the front door?

**Tallant:** Yeah.

**Strano:** So he put clothes on and ran out? He didn't have clothes on when he cut you?

**Tallant:** Oh, I remember one thing. I was getting the



radio down low. .. chronicles.. my father's house. Spiritual song for me. And Dire Straights. Lots of music. I don't like the stuff.

**Strano:** So the knife you were holding when the cops came was the knife he used?

**Tallant:** The one I took away from him, yeah. They wouldn't let me go back.

**Strano:** I'm not saying that's a problem. I'm saying we're trying to figure out what happened.

**Tallant:** I asked him to turn the radio off.

**Christian:** So he asked you that?

**Tallant:** No I asked him. So I could hear if anything when on. (inaudible) Like I said. He talked some crazy stuff about people. Not in jail. Crazy talk.

**Christian:** You said he was on the floor playing with himself?

**Tallant:** Yes, masturbating or whatever. And when he seen me get up and go to the bathroom, uh, didn't even try to make eye contact, (inaudible) bleeding so bad, I could see what he was trying to do, came back out, the radio had been turned off.

**Strano:** So did he get made when you told him to turn the radio off? Was he upset?

**Tallant:** He started, he was putting on his clothes, I don't remember, geez. I didn't care I didn't want him around

me.

**Christian:** Listen, Marshall. That's fine. We're all grown ups here and if there's something going on between y'all, I don't care. But, we don't need that coming out if .. we just don't need that coming out if we make contact and start talking to him. He starts telling something like that.

(Elapsed time 15:24)

**Tallant:** There ain't no tellin what he's coming out of his mouth with. He said I had something to do with the **LEVI FRADY** murder.

**Christian:** We ain't worried about that. We ain't talkin about that.

**Strano:** Don't worry about **LEVI**. What we're worried about is what happened to you.

**Tallant:** I'm worried about it. I don't like anybody up and saying ...

**Strano interrupts:** We're worried about what happened to you. That happened 20 years ago. That's ...

**Christian:** That's in the past, yeah

**Strano:** Close to it. 15 at least.

**Tallant:** His sister, had twins too.

**Christian:** Here's the deal: We just need to know the truth, so that when we get him, we can take care of him

and do what we need to do as far as warrants or anything and not have to come back and bite us in court because we don't know the truth.

**Strano:** If you guys were fighting, that's fine.

**Tallant:** We weren't fighting.

**Strano:** Arguing, whatever . It doesn't mean you need to be stabbed.

**Tallant:** He went berserk.

**Strano:** Just berserk?

**Christian:** Does he have any injuries on him you know of?

**Tallant:** No, but he's got a hell of a hangover.

**Strano:** You said you were hitting him in the head.

**Tallant:** I used my heels, I had the knife.

**Strano:** You were on the ground? So you fell to the floor after he stabbed you?

**Tallant:** I grabbed the knife in my hand and held on and pushed him away with my heels.

**Strano:** Then what happened? Did you get up? How'd you get the knife?

**Tallant:** He went out the side door. (inaudible)

**Strano:** But when you took the knife from him? How'd

you get the knife? Did he let go of it?

**Tallant:** I was pushing so hard at one point, I knew he would continue to cut and swipe and stab me. He's the same person who stabbed me 70 something times, 14 years ago, Dec. 1, 1997. Something about sexual (inaudible). It's been that many years.

**Strano:** When did he get out of prison? When did he start coming around your place?

**Tallant:** When showed up the day he got released of Dawson County jail.

**Tallant:** I have his power of attorney, and I'd like to give it to someone else to take care of him and do the right thing for him.

**Christian:** How'd you get that?

**Tallant:** Back when he (went insane?) in prison. Back when I seen how bad he was getting on the medication. I even spoke to his primary doctor. (inaudible).

**Strano:** So when did you go to the bathroom. Is that where you waited for the police.

**Tallant:** I was on the floor and I couldn't get back up.

**Strano:** He never came back? He didn't say where he was going? He didn't say I hate you? Or die?

**Tallant:** (inaudible). He stopped taking all of his medications. Doctor put him back on some so he could

sleep.

## DETAILS ABOUT ARGUMENT OVER RADIO

**Christian:** Are you sure? It wasn't about nothing else? We're all adults here.

**Strano:** We're going to talk to him.

**Tallant:** I'm very cloudy. And the doctor asked him (inaudible). It's a miracle you're alive.

**Strano:** If he comes here, you let us know, all right?

**Tallant:** If I ever see him, I'm dialing 911.

**Christian:** Has he got a phone number?

**Tallant:** I got it somewhere in the cell phone. See if I can get it up for you. She needs to be aware since she come at him with a knife? He told me he knocked her upside the head since she come at him.

**Christian:** Who's this?

**Tallant:** Janice, his mama.

**Christian:** See if you can find his number.

**Tallant:** Ok, I apologize. This is his mama's number. She works at ChristianDonalds.

Marshall gives Christian Janice's Samples number.

**Christian:** What's her name?

**Tallant:** Janice.

**Christian:** OK, got it. Thank you.

**Tallant:** Oh, and here's another one. Julio. And here's one more. He said all these people he was going to kill. (Inaudible).

**Christian:** Ok.

**Tallant:** Here's another one. I don't know if it's his real name or not. That's it right there. (inaudible)

**Christian:** Julio. OK

**Tallant:** Here's one more. Remember the name, yard work and stuff. I heard him talking. He could be a threat to people He said all these people.

**Christian:** What's your phone number Marshall?

**Tallant:** This one?

**Christian:** Yes.

**Tallant:** 770-862-5856

**Christian:** Who's your carrier? Is that a Metro phone or somebody else?

**Strano:** Verizon?

**Christian:** All right. Real important before we get outta here. He's just laying on the floor, touching himself, whatever. You get up to go to the bathroom. Come back. Head back to bed.

**Tallant:** (inaudible) had to use the bathroom. And he

stabbed me pretty bad. (inaudible). In another part of the house. He was going to take something else (inaudible). He was also there, and this goes back to my sister's death from burning.

**Christian interrupts:** Ok, Marshall, listen to me. Focus. I understand what you're saying. I'm not here to pick on you. I know you're in the hospital. You've been stabbed. I need to know the truth. Your story doesn't make a whole lot of sense. There's a reason people get stabbed. I'm not picking on your.

**Tallant:** If you asked me questions.

**Strano:** We did.

**Christian:** There's something missing there Marshall.  
(Elapsed time 27:40)

**Strano:** All we're saying is there's a reason people assault each other. Usually steams from a disagreement or an argument.

**Christian:** Had you invited him over?

**Tallant:** No. He'd come and go. I told him to come by. I told him don't come back. I even tried to talk to Dawson and Forsyth County.

**Strano:** So did you want him in your house or not? Yes or no? You could make him leave cause it's your house. And if they don't leave, you call the police.

(Hospital machine beeper sounds loudly)

**Tallant:** He didn't anyplace to go. I wasn't upset with him being there.

**Strano:** OK, so he didn't break into your house is what I'm asking?

**Tallant:** No.

**Christian:** Was he supposed to be there or not supposed to be there?

**Strano:** Cause that's another charge if he wasn't supposed to be there. That's a burglary. So which is it? Were you upset he was there?

**Tallant:** No.

**Christian:** So you're OK with him being there.

**Tallant:** I was uncomfortable.

Christian: OK that's another thing. So, what were y'all arguing over.

**Strano:** He snapped. What did he say when he snapped? Who turned the radio off?

**Tallant:** We were listening to the radio and he snapped. I'd never seen such a rage of anger. It makes no sense to me. He did this so long ago I wanted to find out what made him tick and find out a lot of things.

**Strano:** How long was he there before this happened?



**Tallant:** This happened Thursday night. He was there Wednesday night He slept on the floor. I kind of felt sorry for him. He said he had no place to go. I made a bad choice. I wanted to save this guy in perfect love in God and Jesus Christ. ...inaudible. I was trying to help him.

**Christian:** You didn't have a physical relationship with this guy, and that's why he got pissed at you?

**Tallant:** No, but I think he, uh, I know that when this happened 14 years ago, **he was jealous**. Somebody just happen to come in the ...

**Strano interrupts:** Did you have a relationship with him 14 years ago (actually 1997, so 16 years ago)?

**Tallant:** No.

**Strano:** So, you've never been intimate with?

**Tallant:** A lot of things have been said. I was there at his mom's when took, when he was 18 getting a haircut.

**Strano:** So, you've never been intimate with him? Never had a sexual relationship with him?

(Elapsed time 32: 33)

**Tallant:** I'm not interested no more. '97 right before we (inaudible) '96 Before haven't been intimate since. We'd go to the mountains. Go trout fishing and stuff.

**Christian:** Let me ask you this Marshall. When he come over and wanted to be intimate with you and you

wouldn't do it.

**Tallant:** I don't know if that was the case, I was just kinda trying to get away from him.

**Strano:** Is that why he was masturbating?

**Tallant:** I don't know why he was doing that. Something about in prison, all kinds of crazy stuff.

**Christian:** All right Marshall, we're going to take some pictures of your injuries. Pictures of you.

**Strano:** I know you're wrapped up. We're just going to take pictures of the garb. Keep this covered. Show your gut. Know what I mean?

**Christian:** We ain't going to touch you.

**Strano:** You know where your clothes are at?

**Christian:** We called. They're supposed to be saving his clothes for us.

Pictures taken.

Nurse's voice. Can you sit up? Right there. That's fine. Can you hold your hand out like this for me? (inaudible)

**Tallant:** That's why I need help. He doesn't need to be on the streets.

Marshall adjusts in bed. More pictures taken.

**Tallant:** I don't want to see.

**Christian:** OK, close your eyes then. You're fine Marshall.

We got it. There you go.

**Tallant:** Go get the knife. (Inaudible). In pain I guess.

**Christian:** Anybody would be.

**Tallant:** I want it to stop.

**Christian:** Absolutely. Nobody's sayin' that's not the right way to feel.

(Other voice: Security)

**Tallant:** Oh, his mom. The dog.

(Water running)

**Christian:** All right Marshall we're going to get out of here. Marshall we're going to swab your mouth real quick so maybe we can see what blood in the house is yours and what's his. See if he hurt himself.

**Tallant:** My dogs?

**Christian:** We got your dogs. We're taking care of your dogs.

Tallant: Thank you so much.

**Christian:** You're welcome. They had lots and lots of cat food to eat today.

**Tallant:** (inaudible)

**Nurse's voice.** Inside your mouth.

**Christian:** Box somewhere?

**Nurse:** You want me to do it?

**Christian:** You don't have to.

**Strano:** Inside the cheek. Yeah.

**Nurse:** That's plenty

(Water running. Chatter about nurses station)

**Christian:** Marshall, they give you any indication of how long you'll be in here?

**Tallant:** (inaudible).

Water noise.

**Christian:** Ok.

(Water shut off)

**Tallant:** I don't even know what part of Dawsonville I'm in.

**Christian:** All right Marshall. We're going to get outta here. Thank you for your time. You get to feeling better, OK?

**Nurse's voice:** I'll process this later unless you want me to do it now.

**Christian:** No.

**Nurse:** No, what?

**Christian:** Not now.

**Nurse:** I'll do it now unless you want me to do it later.

**Christian:** No. No. Later is OK.

**Nurse:** Later it will be.

**Christian:** Later's fine.

(Recording ends.)