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Mary Margaret Tapia Interview Transcript

04:37:56

Mary Margaret Tapia: My name is Mary Margaret Tapia, everybody knows me by Margie. I am 41 years old born September 26, 1963. I have 4 children, 2 boys, 2 girls. I grew up in Corpus Christi, TX on Carrizo Street, well I wasn't born there but I was raised there. That's about it. My kids are 25, 24, 22 and 19. I have about 9 grandkids.

04:38:33

JSL: And where do you live now?

04:38:33

MMT: I live in San Antonio.

04:38:36

JSL: And tell me about your own immediate family, your sisters and brothers?

04:38:49

MMT: I have a sister named Mary Jane Garcia. I have another little sister, her name is Beatrice Tapia. And Cynthia Garcia. And a brother named Ralph Rodriguez.

04:39:01

JSL: And what do they call Beatrice?

04:39:03

MMT: They call her Pinky.

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04:39:06

JSL: You mentioned that you and your family once lived over on Carrizo Street? And I wondered if would just tell me about when you moved over there and who lived over there?

04:39:18

MMT: '77, about '77. Somewhere around there. It was a long dead end street; it was like a cove that went in a circle. The Durant's live, Laredo Street (and) Carrizo Street. They meet. It was a dead end street this way. On this corner, it was the Durant's. Then there was a garage apartment, that's where we used to live. Then across the street was the Garcia's, and then there was another apartment complex, I don't know who it was, and then there was a family, and then Carlos Hernandez and his mom, and the Zamora brothers lived on the other side of Laredo Street. Let's see what else. And the Zapata's used to live across the street from Laredo Street. It's, you have to be there, I would have to show you what it was like.

04:40:12

JSL: And did your, many of your..., you were older than Beatrice and Cindy?

04:40:18

MMT: Yes

04:40:46

JSL: Tell me about who your younger sisters hung out with on the

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street there at Carrizo?

04:41:07

MMT: There was Pricilla Hernandez and Lila Zapata, they were all friends. They used to go to elementary school together. And other kids that I can't remember their names.

04:41:19

JSL: You moved over to Carrizo Street when you were a young teenager. And I want you to tell me, what kind of a teenager you were?

04:41:29

MMT: I was a very rebellious teenager. I always did everything that my mom didn't want me to do.

04:41:35

JSL: Now, this was in you said '77, '78, around then, did you go to any clubs at that time?

04:41:44

MMT: I went to a club called the Casino and the White Rabbit. Of course I was under age but I went in there anyway. Just hang around with just my friends. That was before I found out I was pregnant.

04:42:00

JSL: What did the people do at those clubs, danced and what else?

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04:42:02

MMT: We danced and there was a lot of drugs going on.

04:42:07

JSL: Did they serve alcohol at these clubs?

04:42:10

MMT: Uh, Lots of alcohol to minors.

04:42:13

JSL: Now you just said to minors, now how did you manage to get into this club?

04:42:18

MMT: Knew the security guard, they would let us in.

04:42:23

JSL: Was it unusual for kids your age to be there?

04:42:25

MMT: No, no not if you knew somebody in the club. If you knew somebody in the club that could get you in, you were in.

04:42:33

JSL: Ok I'm going to show you a picture, and it has two girls in it and a, well I'll say two females in it and a male. The male is in a white t-shirt. And if you'll take a look at that picture and tell me do you recognize those?

04:42:48

MMT: I've seen them at the club. I can't remember their names but trust me they were underage. All of us; all of them. They

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were underage. Maybe not her but these two, underage.

04:43:03

JSL: Did your mother know you were over at these clubs?

04:43:06

MMT: Sometimes, not all the time. I would. We would hang, sneak out of the house and go, when she wasn't looking.

04:43:18

JSL: And was your mother around all the time?

04:43:19

MMT: No, she wasn't, she wasn't around a lot, she was around, but not around around.

04:43:25

JSL: If she wasn't around, where would she go?

04:43:26

MMT: Out with her friends. She had this lady, her name was Fidela Hernandez. She used hang with her and there were a bunch of ladies in the neighborhood that would hang around and go out and leave the kids at home. Back then it wasn't that bad.

04:43:41

JSL: And where did Fidela live?

04:43:42

MMT: She lived caddy corner to my mom.

04:43:44

JSL: Ok so that's the Hernandez's that lived caddy corner, that

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was the mom, Fidela.

04:43:47

MMT: Right.

04:44:13

JSL: So tell me when you went to the Casino Club if you can remember approximately.

04:44:21

MMT: Approximately late '77 early '78, the Casino, it was, that's where everybody hung out, if you wanted to be known you would hang out at the Casino.

04:44:33

JSL: Ok and did you go there at any other time, that you said late '77 early '78 what about at any other later time?

04:44:41

MMT: No because I got pregnant.

04:44:44

JSL: How about after you were pregnant?

04:44:45

MMT: I stayed home.

04:44:47

JSL: After that, was there a time that you came to go back to the club?

04:44:53

MMT: After I had my son. Hanged around, girls, do bad things, a

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lot of bad things,

04:45:02

JSL: And approximately when was that?

04:45:05

MMT: That was middle of '79

04:45:13

JSL: Now I'd like you tell me if you could some of the names of the people, some of the people who you met at the Casino Club sometimes regular basis? *(more that I could not understand)*

04:45:27

MMT: Excuse me, I'm sorry. There was Pedro. There was Esmerelda (??), and Juan Vela, his brother Rick, Mary Jane Perales, which had a sister name Diana and then there was Mary Anne. I didn't know her last name. Or Linda. Those that were basically the group that you had to be in. I was one of them.

04:45:56

JSL: And you said a man's name by the name of Pedro, do you remember his last name?

04:46:00

MMT: No, don't remember his last name. But I knew him because he wasn't all that great to look at but he knew how to dance. And all the girls wanted to dance with him.

04:46:10

JSL: And, what about a man named Carlos Hernandez, did you ever

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see him at the club?

04:46:16

MMT: I knew, probably, I didn't really know know him.

04:46:22

JSL: But did you see him at the club, I'm asking if you saw him at the club?

04:46:26

MMT: Saw him at the club, never spoke to him, but saw him.

04:46:30

JSL: Ok, and how about a man named Carlos DeLuna?

04:46:32

MMT: Saw him at the club, never talked to him.

04:47:53

JSL: Tell me some of the names of the people that you met over there at the Casino Club, hung out with, who the kind of cool people were?

04:48:08

MMT: There was Mary Jane Perales, Diana Perales, Mary Anne Perales, and Linda Perales, those are some girls. Esmerelda (??), Pedro, don't know, Carlos Hernandez, Carlos DeLuna, I didn't know them personally but I knew they were hanging around there. There was also the Vela's, Richard, I don't know the other ones names but I've seen them, Henry. All those were the people that were at the Casino Club.

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04:48:41

JSL: I'm going to hand you a picture here, and this is a picture that has again three people in it. And there is a woman who is kind of in the foreground. And then there is a man, in the middle, and then there is another woman smiling brightly. If you could take a look at that and tell me if you recognize any of those people.

04:49:00

MMT: Ok, I know these people. This is my friend Esmerelda (??), that's, and this is Pedro, of course, who isn't all that great. But anyway, I don't remember her name, but I remember these two.

04:49:13

JSL: Ok and so that's the Pedro you were talking with us about before who—

04:49:17

MMT: Who danced with all the girls, who wasn't all that great to look at but he could dance.

04:49:22

JSL: Ok and Esmerelda is the one in the foreground there with the curly hair?

04:49:26

MMT: That's her. We used to call her Curly. That was her nickname.

04:49:34

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JSL: You mentioned the folks, that you just listed— the various Perales' girls, Carlos Hernandez, Carlos DeLuna, and the Vela's, did all those people see each other, know each other at the Casino Club?

04:49:50

MMT: They knew each other, they knew who they were, they didn't, they weren't really in a tight group. But everybody knew who everybody was. And the girls they were mean. I wasn't a part of them.

04:50:09

JSL: Now you've mentioned a man named Carlos DeLuna, a young man I guess at that time named Carlos DeLuna. Using his whole name if you would, could you tell me any other place or places where you encountered Carlos DeLuna?

04:50:26

MMT: White Rabbit, it was a club. Um, Carlos DeLuna went there sometimes, not all (the time). Same with Carlos Hernandez. They were. I think they knew each other somehow. But I never could connect them.

JSL: Besides the Casino Club and the White Rabbit were there any other places where you encountered Carlos DeLuna?

04:51:21

MMT: I encountered Carlos Hernandez and Carlos DeLuna, they used to go to Robbie Zamora's and Richie Zamora's house in the

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neighborhood. Where I where, we grew up.

04:51:42

JSL: You mentioned one of the Hernandez boys, Carlos Hernandez a few times. Do you remember when (you) first started paying attention to him as someone in the neighborhood?

04:51:53

MMT: Well, this was in late '78, I was 15. Well actually I was just turned 15. I was pregnant with my first son and he used to, every afternoon, I used to go outside because I knew the time he would pass by. I thought he was cute, (a) guy in a hard hat. He was older than me. What did I know about guys?

04:52:24

JSL: Now, you were sort of starting to pay a little bit of attention towards Carlos Hernandez. Did he pay any attention, go ahead.

04:52:32

MMT: I used to wait for him to pass by every afternoon. And he would tell me "Hey (???) , what's up? What are you doing? Why aren't you in school yet? And I would say, "cause I'm pregnant," and he would say, "why don't you come down here?", and I would say "no". We just started, every day it was hello, hello, hello. I just made sure I was outside.

04:53:02

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JSL: And then what happened between the two of you?

04:53:06

MMT: My mom knew his mom. My mom Janie Adrian knew Fidela Hernandez. So they started like playing match maker. I have a daughter; you have a son. They're single. So let's play matchmaker. So they introduced me to Carlos. I finally found out who he was. I thought he was real cute. I mean I was young.

04:53:31

JSL: You were about 15 years old?

04:53:32

MMT: I was about 15 years old and I was about 6 months pregnant.

04:53:35

JSL: And he was about 24 years old.

04:53:37

MMT: Somewhere around there.

04:53:40

JSL: So what happened after that?

04:53:42

MMT: We started kind of like dating, going to the movies, going out to eat. He always made sure I had a lot to eat because I was pregnant. And then we just kind of went a step too far, we started dating more seriously. We started living together.

04:53:59

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JSL: And where did you live?

04:54:00

MMT: Caddy corner from my mom's house.

04:54:03

JSL: And who's house was it?

04:54:05

MMT: It was Fidela Hernandez's house.

04:54:10

JSL: And, when all this was going, you said you met him, you were pregnant. By this point, you were pretty far along in your pregnancy.

04:54:18

MMT: Yeah, I was about 8 months.

04:54:20

JSL: And what was Carlos Hernandez's attitude?

04:54:24

MMT: Oh he loved the fact that I was pregnant. He just loved it, he did everything to make sure I ate, make sure I got food, husbandly things.

04:54:46

JSL: You said that you moved into the, you said that moved into the Hernandez house. This was late 1978 approximate.

04:54:56

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MMT: Late, it was about November of '78.

04:55:02

JSL: What was the set up of the house while you were living there?

04:55:04

MMT: Um, you would go up these stairs and then there was a porch, there was a door here and a door here, there was two ways to get out of the apartment, besides the back door. The front door was converted, the room was converted into a bedroom, it used to be the living room. But we turned it into a bedroom. Then on the other side was his mom's bedroom and then the kitchen was in the back.

04:55:31

JSL: And who was in there with the mom?

04:55:34

MMT: Pricilla Hernandez

04:55:35

JSL: And who's Pricilla?

04:55:36

MMT: Carlos' niece, her mother's name is Paula. And she was married to a guy named Freddy. And they had two boys. That's what I remember

04:55:49

JSL: And how old was Pricilla at this time? Approximately.

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04:55:53

MMT: Approximately, maybe eight. About seven or eight. She was pretty young, she was tall, she was dark.

04:56:01

JSL: And she slept in the room with Fidela. But she was also a friend of your sisters.

04:56:06

MMT: Right, they used to always come over and play.

04:56:08

JSL: Now would you describe for me the routine of the house when you were there and what was going on.

04:56:17

MMT: Well Fidela Hernandez, she's the one that taught me how to cook. Not my mom, Fidela's the one that taught me how to. She always said the way to keep a man is to make him breakfast, his lunch and how can I say this without sounding, keep him happy in bed. That's how you keep a man. And I was like ok.

04:56:41

JSL: Now, I want to show you a photograph here. This is kind of an old photograph; you can tell it's been displayed for a long time. It has some stains on it. But there are three people there, its kind of reddish color. And there's two male people on either side and female in the middle. So tell me who that is.

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04:57:02

MMT: This is me for once, I was very pregnant. This is Carlos Hernandez and his brother, Efrain Hernandez. This was taken around Christmas time, of that same year.

04:57:16

JSL: And is Carlos Hernandez wearing anything on his head?

04:57:19

MMT: He was wearing a cowboy hat. That's an old picture.

04:57:24

JSL: What else?

04:57:25

MMT: I was holding a bottle and he was drinking a beer. No I wasn't drinking the liquor, I was just holding the bottle.

04:57:33

JSL: Was it unusual for Carlos Hernandez to be drinking a beer?

04:57:36

MMT: Nah, he had a beer all the time.

04:57:43

JSL: Ok, now you said you were pregnant. When was your child born?

04:57:47

MMT: He was born January the third 1979.

04:57:51

JSL: And his name?

04:57:52

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MMT: His name is Eric.

04:57:55

JSL: Tells us about how Carlos Hernandez was about the birth of Eric.

04:58:00

MMT: He was excited. I had false labor, of course, which many people do. The first time he took me to the hospital. It wasn't time, they sent us home. So he was working at Brown, I think that's the name of the company. That day he was doing the turnarounds. Turnarounds were 24 hours on 24 hours off, no ifs ands or buts. That day I had gone to my mom's. And I was only allowed to go to my mom's during the day. That day I had cleaned his house, his mom's house, Fidela Hernandez's, and then I went to go clean my mom's house because Carlos was working the turnaround. It was so funny because I was sitting down. I was watching tv. My mom kept on notice that I was squirming. She said what's wrong. I'm like I don't know my back hurts. And it hurts here. I had this big old stomach. How long has it been hurting? All day long. Does Carlos know about this? I'm like, yeah, I told him. She goes I think you're going into labor. She goes I'm going to call Carlos at work. She called Carlos, I talked to Carlos. He said you don't know how much I want to be there, but I can't get off. I have to work this turnaround. It means overtime more money for me and you. It's like ok. It's funny because my mom told me that

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that he really really wanted to be there for the birth of my son.

04:59:33

JSL: What kind of relationship did Carlos have to your son after he was born?

04:59:37

MMT: Oh he loved my son. He knew that it wasn't his but for some reason, some odd reason he thought he was. He loved my son very much.

04:59:50

JSL: You said he thought he was? He thought he was what?

04:59:53

MMT: He was the daddy. He was going to take over the daddy role. That was his son. And I couldn't take him away from him.

05:00:04

JSL: Now, when you were around Carlos in that period. Did you ever see him with any weapons?

05:00:13

MMT: He always had a knife. It was brown, corner was gold. It was kinda about yey long when it was open. It locked. It was one of those, I don't what you call it maybe a buck knife. You know that you flip open and it locks. The reason I know this is because he always carried it on his right side in a pouch. If he didn't have the pouch he carried it in his back pocket. I saw that knife constantly.

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05:00:45

JSL: Now, did Carlos, he carried the knife a lot, did he pay much attention to it?

05:00:49

MMT: Oh he, I think sometimes he paid more attention to it than he did to me. He would just sit there at night, when we were watching tv or whatever, he would just, it's called a wet stone. Put water and just be sharpening it. And after he did that he cleaned it. He would say something to it and put it under where he slept.

05:01:10

JSL: Tell me what you mean by "he would say something to it."

05:01:13

MMT: He would just talk. It was like, I don't know, like it was a real person or something. And he would just, like you would put a kid to bed. I don't know but that's what I, that's my perception.

05:01:44

JSL: How well did Carlos Hernandez sleep at night?

05:01:47

MMT: Not very well, he hardly slept. If he slept he had nightmares. He had really really bad nightmares. Sometimes he would wake up choking me. I don't know what he was dreaming about. He'd be yelling and screaming, grab me by my throat. You know I would have to tell him, "Carlos it's me wake up, wake up."

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And if I could get my hand free and slap him, maybe you know, he'd open his eyes and say, "oh I'm sorry." I'd go, "what's wrong." He would never say nothing. He'd say it's nothing go back to sleep.

05:02:20

JSL: What did you think about that?

05:02:21

MMT: I thought it was strange. I guess because he was in prison before, something happened. I never really paid attention.

05:02:35

JSL: Ok what I want to do now is I want to show you another photograph. If you'll take a look at that photograph and first I'm going to ask you some questions about the photograph itself; the fact that there is a photo. And then I'll ask you some questions about what's in the picture. Have you before now ever seen this photograph?

05:02:58

MMT: No, but I can tell you what it is.

05:03:02

JSL: What is it?

05:03:03

MMT: This is Carlos' knife.

05:03:06

JSL: Carlos who?

05:03:07

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MMT: Carlos Hernandez's knife

05:03:09

JSL: How do you know?

05:03:10

MMT: Because this is the one I used to see all the time. This the one he sharpened; this is the one he put to bed.

05:03:19

JSL: Do you know who took that picture?

05:03:21

MMT: No.

05:03:22

JSL: Do you know what that's a picture of? I mean where it was taken?

05:03:25

MMT: No.

05:03:28

JSL: But you are sure of what you see in the picture?

05:03:30

MMT: Yes very sure.

05:03:34

JSL: Ok, thank you.

05:03:43

JSL: Ok, you described Carlos as a nice person, somebody who took you out, fed you, took care of you.

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05:03:52

MMT: He took care of me. He loved my boy. There were sometimes I wish we had money to buy a camera because the way he used to lay with my son. He used to put him on his chest and just fall asleep both of them. It was funny I looked out ok, father and son deal, where's momma in all this?

05:04:14

JSL: Was Carlos Hernandez always nice?

05:04:17

MMT: No, No, Carlos Hernandez had a mean side. A very mean bad side. He would change from one day to the next. He will be ok you know couple days, and then the next day he would be all mad. There was hardly any way you could please him.

05:04:39

JSL: Tell me about that.

05:04:42

MMT: Um, you know some days he would be ok, loving, tender. The next day it was like a totally different person. I remember one time, this is afternoon, I knew he was getting off from work. I said ok the baby's asleep, I took a shower, put some shorts on. I said I'll wait for him outside, outside of the apartment. I had the door open, so I could hear the baby was crying. And he was coming up the stairs, he told me, 'what the "f"ing, what are you doing outside.' I was like, "waiting for you." I didn't say

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another word and he hit me. He hit me all the way until we got into the apartment. And that was very very ugly. I mean other things happened, but I don't know

05:05:45

JSL: What happened after you got inside the apartment?

05:05:51

MMT: Excuse me, [crying] bad things. Very bad things. He told me that I better do what he said because if I didn't he would kill me.

05:06:05

JSL: Did he have anything in his hand?

05:06:08

MMT: He had a hammer. He had a hammer. The bed is right here; the door is right here. It was like a couch. This side that was where my son was. He was asleep. He grabbed me and he threw me on the bed. And he says you are going to do what I tell you. And he raped me. I remember that so clearly. And he said if you scream I am going to kill you.

05:06:51

JSL: How long did that go on for?

05:06:52

MMT: All night, all night. The only time it stopped is when the baby would cry. And that, I don't know what got into him. It was like he was somebody else. And it really really messed with my

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head. Cause I didn't know him that way.

05:07:19

JSL: Had he been drinking then?

05:07:22

MMT: I think he had, he had some beer in the fridge. But..

05:07:30

JSL: Did he drink very much?

05:07:32

MMT: He drank all the time.

05:07:34

JSL: How did the drinking affect him?

05:07:36

MMT: Mood swings, regular stuff. He never allowed me to do anything. We just went to Robby Zamora's house, that lived in the back, we would take the baby and go to their house. That is when they would smoke and drink.

05:08:02

JSL: And when they did that, how much were you interacting with everybody?

05:08:05

MMT: I was allowed to sit in the corner and stay there and watch everything that was going on.

05:07:12

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JSL: Allowed by who?

05:07:13

MMT: By Carlos Hernandez. That was the only thing that I was allowed to do.

05:07:19

JSL: Now you said that before Eric was born, you were back and forth from your mother's house to the Hernandez's house. What about during this period, later on?

05:07:29

MMT: He wouldn't let me go to my mom's. He wouldn't, um, if I would go, but I would have to be home by the time (he got home). And I couldn't tell my mom what was going on. He wouldn't allow it. And he always made sure I was home. He never let me go out. I couldn't go to the store by myself. I couldn't take the baby out unless I was with him.

05:08:59

JSL: And what might happen if you had defied his will?

05:09:04

MMT: He would beat me. Of course, I didn't tell my mom this, because she didn't... I didn't want her to know what was going on. But that's the way he was. He changed. He just like completely changed.

05:09:17

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JSL: Do you remember about when that was? About how many months after your son had been born?

05:09:24

MMT: It was about March, April of 79.

05:09:27

JSL: Of '79?

05:09:29

MMT: Yeah.

05:09:30

JSL: How much longer after that did you stay with Carlos?

05:09:33

MMT: March, April, May, June, July. Until about June or July. End of June, beginning of July. I had it, I couldn't take it anymore. And at that time, my sister, Mary Jane Garcia, she had just gotten married to Richard Garcia, one of the guys from the neighborhood. I finally told her what was going on. Because she didn't live too far from me, I would get to see her once in awhile. And I told her, I told her what was going on. And she said, you know, "you need to get out." And I was like, "he won't let me go." A couple of days would go by, you know Carlos was there. Then my sister would knock on the door. Let her go to mom's. He would say, "no, She's not taking my son. She's not taking my son." And I would tell Carlos, "let me go." He said no.

05:10:31

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JSL: So how did you finally—

05:10:33

MMT: My sister and her husband called the cops. I meant the police, excuse me, slang. They called the cops and they told them that I was underage and that I was being held against my will. And they told them that I had a son. And the police asked me do you want to go. I'm like yes. Carlos was standing at the door. They said get the baby's things.

05:11:22

JSL: So how did you finally leave?

05:11:25

MMT: I told my sister and they called the police. They, they knocked on the door. Carlos was standing here and I was standing here. They asked for me, it was my sister and my brother-in-law. You know the way the apartment was, that side door right here, my sister was standing and my brother-in-law and the two police officers. They came asked me, you know what was my name. I told them. They go who is this man. I said that's my boyfriend. What's his name? I told them his name was Carlos Hernandez. They asked me if I wanted to leave and I said yes. And they said get your things, get your things and get your baby.

05:12:12

JSL: Had anything happened that, was this at night or during the day?

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05:12:16

MMT: It was in the afternoon, 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

05:12:20

JSL: And had something happened that day that lead you to?

05:12:23

MMT: He wouldn't let me go anywhere, he wouldn't let me do anything. It was just, it was time for me to get out. I was afraid.

05:12:34

JSL: Now you were living in the home with Fidela. And all of this was going on, he wasn't letting you leave and he was mistreating you. What did she [Fidela] do to help you?

05:12:46

MMT: Nothing, she was hardly around. She always had her sugar daddy's coming in and out.

05:12:52

JSL: Now tell me what you mean by that. How did Fidela support herself?

05:12:59

MMT: I think it was either by the men she would see or she would date. I don't know, I called it prostitution but what did I know.

05:13:08

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JSL: What did she tell you about that?

05:13:11

MMT: They were just her friends, they were just people she got money from. There was nothing else that I needed to know because it was none of my business. I was like ok.

05:13:55

JSL: First of all, did you see any men at her house?

05:13:57

MMT: All the time. She used to tell me that "(Something in Spanish)". Just like a sugar daddy, men were for the money. You give them what they want they give you what you want. That's the kind of lady she was.

05:14:33

JSL: After you left did you see Carlos Hernandez after that?

05:14:39

MMT: Once in a while. I kind of scooted out of the neighborhood. I saw him once in a while. He would ask me, "how is my son?" I said, "Eric is fine." [He would say] "How are you doing?" [I'd say] "I'm fine." [He would say] "What's going on? What's new?" [I'd say] Nothing. It was just chit chat. That's all it was

05:15:04

JSL: And when he said how's my son? Did he say how's your son or how's my son?

05:15:07

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MMT: No he would say how's his son? "How is my son?" And I was like ah, dude, he's not your son. "No, he's my son." I was like ok. "He's fine, he's growing up, going to school."

05:15:43

JSL: Margie, have you ever heard of a woman named Dahlia Saucedo?

05:15:48

MMT: I've heard of the name.

05:15:50

JSL: And do you, what did you hear happened?

05:15:53

MMT: That she was murdered. That she was murdered.

05:15:59

JSL: And did you ever hear anything, about her in connection with Carlos Hernandez?

05:16:07

MMT: Somewhat, mom and, my mom Janie Adrian and Fidela Hernandez used to talk. I would hear bits and pieces but I never put it together. Something about Carlos having something to do with it. I don't know.

05:16:25

JSL: And did you ever hear of a person named Wanda Lopez?

05:16:30

MMT: Wasn't that one of Carlos Hernandez's friends? She used to work I think at a Shamrock.

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05:16:38

JSL: And where did you hear about her? Well let me ask first, did you meet her, did you know her?

05:16:43

MMT: No

05:16:43

JSL: And what did you hear about her?

05:16:45

MMT: That she worked at a Diamond Shamrock and she also was murdered.

05:16:50

JSL: And did you hear anything about her in connection with Carlos?

05:16:54

MMT: They were friends. That's all I heard. I didn't hear anything else.

05:16:58

JSL: And who did you hear that from?

05:17:01

MMT: My mom, Janie Adrian.

05:17:06

JSL: Was Carlos ever with any other women when you were around?

05:17:10

MMT: Yeah, he was. One that I know of. He could have been with

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many, but one that I know of because her name was Mary Jane (???). I believe that's who it was. Because they were outside in the car in front of my window when I was living with Carlos.

05:17:54

JSL: Margie, you heard something's about Carlos Hernandez and a woman named Dahlia Saucedo who died in November 1979, murdered in the back of a van.

05:18:07

MMT: I heard that some guy had murdered her in her van and her daughter if I'm not mistaken was sitting in the front seat. I don't know.

05:18:20

JSL: And this was in December of 1979 which was about 5-6 months after you and Carlos had split up. And you heard some things maybe in connection to Wanda Lopez?

05:18:34

MMT: Yea that they were friends. Something, I don't know.

05:18:42

JSL: I want to return and ask you to take another look at that photograph of the knife, and I want to tell you something now for the first time. I asked you before whether you knew who took that picture. That picture was actually taken by a man by the name of Joel Infante, who worked for the Corpus Christi Police Department in 1983 and was an identification officer, somebody who processed

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crime scenes looking for evidence. He took that picture on February 4, 1983 sometime between say 8:30 and 9:00 pm and that is the knife that was found at the base of the counter behind which Wanda Lopez was stabbed to death with that knife.

05:19:43

MMT: This is Carlos Hernandez's knife, I know because I used to see it everyday.

05:19:54

JSL: Now Margie as you look back on your time with Carlos Hernandez and think about everything you've experienced from him and with him and what you've learned about since. What goes through your head when you hear all of that?

05:20:14

MMT: I'm lucky to be alive. I'm very lucky to be alive. The Carlos Hernandez that I knew he was capable of hurting a woman but I don't know... It makes me think it could have been me. I don't know. That's a scary thought.