

MENENDEZ CONFESSION

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3 SPEAKERS: JO - Dr. Jerome Oziel      DATE:      12/11/89  
4                      LM - Lyle Menendez                      TIME:  
5                      EM - Erik Menendez                      LOCATION:  
6

7 (SIDE I)  
8

9 EM: Yet we thought that no matter what we did in our life, my father would be there, and  
10 that it would be kind of like Kennedy, when Kennedy was president, his father told him  
11 that he wanted Bobby in this position, and it did not matter what, what, what John said.

12 JO: Uh, huh.

13 EM: And we thought that whether we became the senator, or whether we made hundreds of  
14 millions of dollars, it would all be because my father was this incredible man, and we  
15 were just too pushed.

16 JO: Uh, huh.

17 EM: And, and pressures, and there was no question we felt that.

18 JO: The other sense I felt, or I had, is that you felt totally trapped. (tape clicks) Ah, I, I  
19 really think that, that there just. you know, there wasn't really a family. And when you  
20 talk to me about a family, um, and you try to find out what's wrong with your family,  
21 but in the sense what's really wrong with your family is that there wasn't a family. I  
22 mean, um, your, your, there was no communication. There was no closeness. There  
23 was no bonding in your family. Ah and, and the only, the only people who had a bond  
24 really in your family, I mean really, were the two of you. I mean, you couldn't really  
25 bond either of you with your mom, because of what happened with your mother in terms  
26 of all of the separation. She didn't communicate openly and honestly with you, and  
27 didn't trust you ultimately, and you couldn't communicate with her, and trust that she  
28

1 wouldn't tell your dad, and trust that she wouldn't go to your dad. Your dad was like  
2 the enforcer, and your father didn't communicate honestly with your mother, and your  
3 mother was absolutely terrified of your father, and would not communicate honestly with  
4 your father. Um, the, the only people that were left to have a bond were the two of you.  
5 And you know throughout, throughout the time that....

6 LM: Well, he found the first suicide note. That, that created a huge bond there, because he  
7 called me on the phone, so on and so forth. And then I immediately let my mother....

8 EM: Yeah, I remember that. I, I, I found the suicide note, and I started crying. I could not  
9 reach my brother over the phone, and just started to cry.

10 JO: Uh, huh. Where did you find it?

11 EM: I found it in her drawer. I don't remember what I was looking for.

12 LM: Under a book.

13 EM: Under a book.

14 JO: What'd it say?

15 EM: And it said that ah, she was going to, it said that she was going to um, kill herself, and  
16 that ah....

17 LM: No it didn't. What it said is ah, um, "I, I, I'm sorry I had to do this. I love you both,  
18 Lyle and Erik. I love your father. (I just can't seem to deal with my own problems any  
19 more. And I want you to go ahead and have the life I thought I wanted for you, and all  
20 the things I've told you, and I'm really sorry it had to, it had to happen this way, but I  
21 have to do this.)" And blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And at first he thought it was just  
22 that my mother was leaving my father. And it was not until I told him that, you know,  
23 "Don't get excited, but there's a strong possibility that what's she talking about is she's  
24 going to kill herself."

25 EM: That's right.

26 LM: That he became hysterical.

27 JO: Uh, huh.

28

1 LM: And that, because at first he thought, "Well, mom's just leaving dad. ...(unint.)" And  
2 now it was any, any day.  
3 EM: Any second, and...  
4 LM: So ah...  
5 EM: Well, well, it was, it was also the fact that ah...  
6 LM: At that point I was living alone in New Jersey in the mansion that they had left, and ah,  
7 that was a tough time, but ah, that I immediately pushed my mother.  
8 JO: And this was a tough time.  
9 LM: Really.  
10 JO: Why?  
11 LM: Really aggravating. Well, because I alone.  
12 JO: Uh, huh.  
13 LM: ...(unint).  
14 EM: Well I think, I think the, the reason...  
15 LM: It's a tough time, because it was so far away from what people thought, that you can't,  
16 you couldn't tell anybody. I couldn't tell my aunt. 'What we gonna do about my  
17 mother's suicide thing?' I mean, it was, you couldn't do anything like that, and it was  
18 just.  
19 EM: The reason why she didn't, I, I, I in fact believe at that time, was, ah, because she, she  
20 couldn't.  
21 JO: She couldn't what?  
22 EM: She couldn't kill herself. I mean, you can take a gun, and you can even put it to your  
23 head. To pull the trigger, it takes an amazing amount of energy, and she was so drained  
24 from learning about the affair, which was right after she learned about the affair, because  
25 I was, I was, I was listening in the next room, and for, and for, for, for months and  
26 months and months I would have to listen to my mother crying in the house. I would  
27 come home, my mother would be crying upstairs, and I would be just watching TV  
28

1 downstairs, and I would just hear the sobbing, and I couldn't go up and see what was  
2 wrong. And, and I was...

3 JO: Why, why couldn't you?

4 EM: Because I didn't have that kind of relationship. I just never...

5 JO: No closeness.

6 EM: I wish I had, and I look back on it now, and I wish I had that kind of relationship, but  
7 I, I, I remember when we first moved out and we were living in the condominium right,  
8 right, I would hear right through the wall, and I would listen about how, how they were  
9 about to have a divorce, and how my mom, my dad would tell my mom that they should  
10 not have a divorce. And I was just, that year, I had just gone right through it. And  
11 from listening to her, she, I mean, she wasn't strong enough.

12 JO: What year was that?

13 EM: It was the year we first moved out here.

14 JO: That was a few years ago.

15 EM: Yeah. It was, it was in nineteen eighty-seven.

16 JO: Well, when, when you ended up um, killing your mom, did you feel like you were, did  
17 you feel like you were sparing her? I know she was horribly depressed, and um, she  
18 was totally dominated by your dad. She was like a shell of a person. She had no  
19 identity or strength left any more. You had been, I know that you had been responding  
20 to her as, as, I think almost like a person that becomes sort of pitiful. Now, that's a  
21 strong word, but is that how you felt?

22 EM: Well, we, we were, we were doing almost, in my mom's case, something that, that first  
23 of all, there was, there was no way, never could she live without my father.

24 JO: Uh, huh.

25 EM: It was...

26 LM: That was something that we had to really, it was a big thing holding us back. Ah, from  
27 killing my father was that we thought that we would just kill dad, and eliminate the  
28

1 problem.

2 JO: Uh, huh.

3 LM: And ah, see the first step, which is when I found out about the first suicide note, and  
4 then it got worse and worse, but ah, was that, okay. I will now support my mother, and  
5 Erik and I decided we would rally behind my mother.

6 JO: Uh, huh.

7 LM: Instead of my father who could take care of himself. He would understand, he would  
8 probably want us to rally against...ah, for my mother, cause all along his view was,  
9 'You take your mother. She's your mother. You only have one mother. I may be your  
10 father, but your father is not as close to you as your mother.' And that was his view,  
11 and, and even though I was never as close to my mother as Erik in the early years, and  
12 I sort of rallied behind my dad, because we had more in common, and so on. But ah,  
13 so I decided, okay. I'm gonna rally behind my mother, and I said, and I had a  
14 conversation with her, and I wrote her a long letter saying if she ever wanted to leave  
15 dad, and whatever, she could move to Princeton. I'd live with her. She wouldn't be  
16 alone. There'd be no problems. There wouldn't be any big fight over custody of the  
17 children. We'd go with her if she wanted. And this went back and forth. Whatever she  
18 wanted. And ah, she, that didn't work, because she cut me short immediately. There  
19 was no discussion. It was, 'Lyle, you're fabricating this.' I started out by not really  
20 wanting to really deal with her problems. I didn't want her to know I found the note.

21 JO: Uh, huh.

22 LM: It wouldn't be as effective. So I said, I started to go through all the things that  
23 aggravated me about dad, and how he was suppressing myself, and, and, and all these  
24 things, and he, she kept saying, "No," she wouldn't even let me do that. She was...

25 JO: She said...(unint).

26 LM: 'This, is um, something you're fabricating this. You know that really you bring up a lot  
27 of this upon yourself, Lyle. You don't realize this and you don't realize that.' And  
28

1 | ah...

2 | EM: She was just making sure...

3 | LM: She was the worst psychologist ever. She was not, in my opinion, a good open mother  
4 | like she wanted to be. I thought that at that point she was so tainted by the fact that  
5 | things were so horrible between her and dad, that she couldn't come out and say, "You  
6 | know, you're right I'm having the same problems with my husband that you're having  
7 | with your father and ah, and maybe we should talk about it." Like a mother should.  
8 | Even just out of curiosity of wanting to discuss something. She would rather discuss my  
9 | girlfriends, than my relationship with my father.

10 | JO: Uh, huh.

11 | LM: And she was definitely with dad on that issue. And so it was a dead issue within five  
12 | minutes.

13 | JO: Uh, huh.

14 | LM: "I don't want to talk about it. Nope. You're wrong. You're overreacting. If you  
15 | wanna leave the family, and you wanna go off on your own, fine."

16 | JO: See, you had no one to really talk with about it except Erik.

17 | LM: Except Erik. And then, and I sort of just said, all right, fine. She doesn't wanna get  
18 | divorced. Things seemed to almost get better. And then all of a sudden, they just turned  
19 | for the worse, and I think they turned for the worse after she found out that she couldn't,  
20 | she had made a decision that she couldn't take it anymore, and that dad didn't love her  
21 | anymore, and she...

22 | JO: Is this after the affair?

23 | LM: I believe it was after she found out about one of the affairs.

24 | JO: Uh, huh.

25 | LM: Like the main affair, that had been eight years long....

26 | JO: Uh, huh.

27 | LM: ...or whatever it was. Maybe if after she found out that there had been more than one.

28 |

1 JO: Uh, huh.

2 LM: It was some point where she just decided, "Boom. No way ah, did he ever love me.  
3 I was wrong thinking that he loved me, and he was just doing this 'cause he needed to."  
4 And ah, at this point, I had stopped trying to help her divorce, so she didn't have my  
5 support anymore. I was, you know, gradually being separated from her, because she  
6 was no longer ah, ah, someone I could talk to about anything. Anything I talked to her  
7 about, "Talk to your father."

8 JO: Did she actually get angry at you for bringing up, bringing up stuff that, that was ah,  
9 negative?

10 LM: She was very cold. My mother was always very good at stressful situations. Very calm.  
11 This was obviously something that was of extreme stress for her. And, you know, if  
12 Erik would have walked in the room when she was crying, or when I did, especially me,  
13 ah, she would stop crying. 'I don't wanna talk about it. It's my own problem.' Blah,  
14 blah, blah.

15 JO: She wouldn't let you in at all?

16 LM: No. Very matter-of-fact. also. about stressful things. Which would mean, if I started  
17 saying, which I would do if her, to try to get her emotional and get her emotions out.  
18 "Hey, you know. I'm with you. I think we should leave dad. He's crazy. He's doing  
19 this and this to you. It's obvious he's doing this to me." Ah, her reaction is, "No. I'm  
20 fine. There's nothing wrong with me. I think you're overreacting, Lyle. Here's all the  
21 reason. things that Lyle, he bought you this car. He really wanted you to do this. He  
22 wanted you to do that. He's a loving father. I don't know what you're talking about.  
23 I think we should, we should stop talk...thinking about it."

24 JO: How angering was that?

25 LM: And ah, what?

26 JO: How angering was this?

27 LM: To me?

28

1 JO: Huh, uh.

2 LM: Oh, it was extremely angering for me, because she was putting me in the position to  
3 defend the things that my father was doing to me, and that wasn't even supposed to be  
4 the issue.

5 JO: Uh, huh.

6 LM: It was the things that, there was, I had to get past first, the things he was doing to me  
7 to get to the things he was doing to her, and there was just no way.

8 JO: You, you couldn't even get her to acknowledge that he was doing anything to her, or to  
9 you. I, mean she wouldn't even,...you were trying to protect her, and you were trying  
10 to say, "Mom. We know what he's doing." And you were trying to tell her that he was  
11 doing the same thing to you. and to her, and to Erik, and she wouldn't acknowledge he  
12 was doing any of it, and turned it around, and actually blamed you. As if you were an  
13 ingrate.

14 LM: Right.

15 JO: And, and she, she basically invalidated all of your perceptions, and everything that you  
16 knew that was going on, she told you wasn't happening. Got angry at you. Blamed you.  
17 Turned on you. And ah, you ended up ah, trying to protect her, and getting punished  
18 and rejected. And as a, as a person, and getting told you're a bad guy when really what  
19 you were trying to do is save her from what your dad was doing to you and your mom.  
20 I mean that, that's what I'm hearing.

21 LM: That, that's it. I mean, that's it. And ah, I didn't try as much as I wished I would of  
22 tried. I didn't know a lot of it. I found out a lot of it later on. I found out more and  
23 more and more, and she, in my opinion, she got worse and worse and worse. And ah,  
24 but for a while I was traveling so much. I was away from the picture. I'd only hear  
25 about it from Erik. 'Oh, my mom, mom freaked out about this. Oh, mom burst out  
26 crying about this, and mentioned Louise again.' And couldn't trust dad here or there.  
27 And ah...

28



1 EM: ....(unint).

2 LM: My reaction is, "I don't wanna be involved. It's a situation I can't help." And ah, I,  
3 you know, the alcohol, ah the drugs, she would bring up to me. It was a sign that it was  
4 getting worse. When she would finally come to me and go, "You don't understand how  
5 much stress I'm under. I take thirteen pills a day. I drink.' Ah, you know. "Be  
6 careful about this Princeton issue,' or whatever." I'm not handling it well. I don't  
7 wanna hear about this or that." And ah, you know, but I, there was no way I could open  
8 up to her about the real issues. Ah, just ah, I knew that she was seeking help, and I was  
9 hoping that it would help. Ah, I mean from my girlfriend reading the, the letters that  
10 I found afterwards, and before, ah, her conclusion and it seems to be a lot of my  
11 relatives' conclusions is that my mother could possibly have staged the whole thing, and  
12 killed both of them herself, because she was unable to kill herself. And ah, so she had  
13 someone, she just said, "Okay. Kill us at some point." And that's their feeling. I mean  
14 obviously it isn't my feeling. I don't have, but ah, ah, I could see how they would  
15 believe that. Reading those letters.

16 JO: Uh, huh.

17 LM: Ah, you know. I kept thinking it over. Almost as if it was true. Almost as if I was like  
18 an instrument of hers in killing herself. That's where we sort of feel like, you mentioned  
19 before, that we were doing her and us a favor. In putting her out of her misery, really,  
20 and that she could kill herself at any moment, and our, our reaction was we knew that  
21 if she killed herself, my father was in trouble. He would physically not be able to handle  
22 that, because she was really a helpless victim. And we saw, I, I...

23 EM: ...(unint).

24 LM: ...saw her going through her own.

25 EM: If we, we, we I had it in my mind that, that I would, I would, I would be the turning  
26 point. If my mother killed herself.

27 JO: Uh, huh.

28

1 EM: I would hate my father for life. And there would be, there's no point about it.

2 LM: And I didn't know how my mother could live with it, because, and I tried not to think  
3 about mom. Thinking about her was a very painful thing. So I don't have dreams about  
4 her now. And I don't think about it now. It's a serious sore spot. My mother. And  
5 that whole issue, because, you know, I, even if I think about it for a moment, I say to  
6 myself, dad was having an affair. The whole time he was saying he was out work, out  
7 late ah, working, and she was at home bearing the fact that she couldn't be with her  
8 husband. They couldn't go to the dinner parties and so on. To take care of his kids, and  
9 do all the things he wanted her to do. And she worked like a dog doing that. Thinking  
10 she was helping their relationship for a better time, and then he would come home, and  
11 say he's tired from working late, and therefore didn't wanna go to dinner parties, and  
12 she would cry about that.

13 But she would have to, she was, her strength came from the fact that he was doing it for the  
14 family, and for her, and so she was gonna sacrifice, and then she realized that the twenty years  
15 of sacrifice was for nothing. If he was fooling around with other women, and so on, and that  
16 her whole basis for being able to go through it all was ah, really a falsehood, and that I could  
17 see how, boom. You'd wanna kill yourself. Can't handle. My whole life was a waste. I've  
18 wasted all these years. I could've been something. And our feelings, she would tell us about  
19 all the things she could have been and done, and couldn't, 'cause dad, she told us, "Dad gave  
20 me an ultimatum. Take care of the kids, and stay home, and forget the acting, and the hostess  
21 job that you, were offered." And all this other stuff...(unint). And that was my dad's general  
22 feeling. Ah, when she was crying, which was, "Hey I want my life the way I want it. If, if  
23 I have to do things I don't wanna do to satisfy the marriage, that, that's not the way I wanna  
24 live. We'll go our separate ways." And my feeling was very strong. That's not the way it is.  
25 I told him flat out. "You know, you make sacrifices in order to have a, a relationship. You  
26 make compromises. That's the whole point of the relationship. You're each not gonna get  
27 exactly what you wants. So you've gotta come to, you know, you go to a dinner party, even  
28

1 | if you don't want to, because she hasn't been able to go to one in a week because you've been  
2 | working late." It was not his feeling at all that he should do that.

3 | JO: How did he respond? What'd he say?

4 | LM: That's it. He responded by saying, "Well, I'm not prepared to do that. My feeling is  
5 | that you have a relationship. One person controls the show. If I have to do things I  
6 | don't wanna do, even the smallest things, then I don't wanna be a part of the  
7 | relationship."

8 | JO: So it was his way or no way.

9 | LM: It's his way or no way. And he did that, and he was smoking a cigarette, and I  
10 | remember the scene very well. Back in Pennington and I was shocked by the statement.  
11 | 'Cause I realized there if I pursued it, it could lead to a divorce. If I pursued it, and you  
12 | know, his feeling was, he would rather have a divorce, than work out even a small thing  
13 | like a dinner party to me was amazing.

14 | JO: He needed total control, or he wanted a divorce.

15 | LM: Right.

16 | JO: Did, so, and, and is that...

17 | LM: And he thought, he felt that it worked best that way.

18 | JO: Uh, huh.

19 | LM: That, that's what kept their relationship going. Was that one person knew that this  
20 | person was in control, or it was over.

21 | JO: Do you think he, do you think he believed that, or do you think he needed to have that  
22 | total control, and he sort of justified it with a, with those kind of statements. How  
23 | much, how much did you feel that you were killing your dad because of what he was  
24 | doing to you each and how much did you feel you were killing your dad in part because  
25 | of what he did to your mom, and, and what part was each? I mean, did you...

26 | LM: It was...

27 | JO: Can you sort it out?

28 |

1 LM: It was not because of what he was doing to me, because I had already decided and had  
2 pretty much splintered off from my family, ah, and tried many a time. I decided at one  
3 point I don't wanna another cent. I don't wanna have anything to do with it. I tried to  
4 be self-supportive. Ah, I'm gonna marry this girl, and go have my own life, and ah,  
5 then it was, it was my mother actually telling me, "Okay, you do that, but its not  
6 because of what your father is doing. I want you to know that." That would anger me,  
7 and bring me back in to help her out. Cause I realized she was so disillusioned, and  
8 fucked up over the, the, the whole thing that she would actually think that. If, if she  
9 would have just said, "You know, I realize its really strenuous. Your dad is really doing  
10 all these things. It's terrible. I agree with you. Maybe you should go off, and do your  
11 own thing." It would have been a lot easier for me to do it. I needed her agreement that  
12 there was a problem, and....

13 JO: She never agreed?

14 LM: There was none. And ah, I didn't think about it for a long time, until Erik and I, we'd  
15 get together, and we would share what was happening in the family. And ah, ah, it was  
16 obvious my mother was deteriorating. We didn't want to get to a point where my  
17 mother would kill herself. And my father, we were left to deal with my father.

18 JO: Uh, huh.

19 LM: That would be too hard on us almost, because you know, I wouldn't want to, it would  
20 be hard on my father, and yet I couldn't let him get away with this. What I would  
21 consider a murder, that there was no way anyone would ever find out about it.

22 JO: Uh, huh.

23 LM: And ah, so ah, for my, for my mother's sake. I, I thought that ah, we did it, it was  
24 we had to come, like I was saying before, we had to make a decision. It was one of the  
25 harder ones, and it was a separate issue. ..(unint). He's the reason. My father should  
26 be killed. There's no question. What he's doing is, he's impossible to live with for  
27 myself, and for . .

1 JO: ..(unint).

2 LM: ...myself, based on what he's doing to my mother. And...

3 JO: Based on what? What, what were, what were the things that he was doing? I mean, it's  
4 obvious to me that he was doing all kinds of stuff. From totally controlling everybody  
5 in the family. Being completely cold-blooded about, about his decisions ah, considering  
6 everyone is sort of an instrument of his own will, and there's a lot of stuff that your dad  
7 was doing, ah, including talking about disinheriting ah, ah, you or actually having said  
8 that he did disinherit you, I guess, at a couple of points. Um...

9 LM: That didn't enter into it too much. cause I, I felt like Erik and I could handle it.

10 JO: Uh. huh.

11 LM: That he would expect us to handle it.

12 JO: Uh, huh.

13 LM: And we would, you know, we were, we were strong. And I, I still felt he was an ideal  
14 father for the longest time. Because I felt like, our dad can't be with us, and he is  
15 strong. And he's overpowering. That he gives this advice. Fathers who are friends to  
16 their sons, in, in his words, like wimpy, ah don't give. And he, he teaches us to be a  
17 man, and then almost that he had raised us to be able to handle doing this thing that was  
18 necessary, and that we could deal with it, better than any other eighteen or twenty-one  
19 year old in the country. Cause he had trained us like basic training. My twenty-one  
20 years was a basic training course.

21 JO: To do what?

22 LM: On how to survive. And how to do what was necessary. And...

23 JO: To survive by, by living without him, or by killing him ....(unint)?

24 EM: To survive...

25 LM: By living without him.

26 JO: Uh. huh.

27 LM: And that ah. ah...

28

1 JO: Because you really never have lived with him anyway. I mean you were never, you've  
2 never had that father/son closeness anyway. There was no, there's no, he had trained  
3 you mainly by, by being a disciplinarian, and being tough. Not by having a loving bond  
4 with you.

5 LM: Yeah, exactly. I mean, ah...

6 EM: Well, to survive without having his support.

7 LM: I felt the bond though, you know. I mean I felt like I would go back and forth as to  
8 whether I was closer to my mother or my father. When I really started to see my  
9 mother's problems. I'd be much closer to her, then I'd hate my father. And then I'd  
10 get away from that, and ah, when he had the ah problem, the heart condition, and so on,  
11 I, I went in, and I spent, and I watched the Super Bowl with him. And we were close.  
12 And ah, after the Calabasas issue, he cried, and ah, and we were together, and ah, we  
13 were close. That was the first time he ever cried in front of me. He felt much more  
14 uncomfortable. I used to feel very uncomfortable and cry whenever he told me he loved  
15 me, well, because of the unusual thing, and ah, I couldn't handle, and, cause we were  
16 supposed to be man to man, and he would say that. He would say it matter-of-factly  
17 with no emotion and it bothered the shit out of me. And I could not talk to him about  
18 anything concerning anything emotional without getting too emotional myself.

19 And then it changed. And he became the one that, as I became more comfortable with  
20 it, I, I could bring up the fact, you know, I love you, and I'm doing this for this. And  
21 he could not handle it. Couldn't talk to me about it. Didn't wanna deal with anything  
22 like that, because it became a genuine emotion. If I expressed a genuine emotion, he  
23 would close up, and it would have hurt him. Like it would be a chink in his armor that  
24 would just, he couldn't withstand it, and ah, he cried after the Calabasas issue, after I  
25 said that ah, you know, Erik and I were very sorry. And the whole deal, and ah, and  
26 I'm sorry for all the trouble that you were caused through this whole issue. And ah, ah,  
27 he cried. And ah, he felt ...(unint), and I think he cried a lot after the Princeton issue,  
28

1 and ah, I came to him and said this and that. But with me he was very cold. I'd cry,  
2 I never saw him. He would be very upset if I saw him crying or anything. Men don't  
3 cry. And ah, so it came down to that decision, and we decided that ah, my mother could  
4 not live without my father. And it was, it was sort of nice for me to hear my cousin  
5 Sylvia...

6 JO: Why did your dad have to die? I mean I know for your mom, why she, why he had to  
7 die. How about for the two of you? What, what, what, it's clear to me how much he  
8 totally controlled the two of you, and it's also clear he's, he was, when he'd talk about  
9 you when you weren't here, he was very ah, he was derogating about both of you in  
10 different ways. I mean, he would be judgmental of you in one way, and judgmental of  
11 you, Erik, in another way, and it. it was real clear that he, that at the same time he was  
12 saying he expected you, quote. to be men, that he was treating you as if you were  
13 disappointments, and that you weren't strong enough. And that you were weak in one  
14 way, and you were weak in another way, and I don't know if that came across, and, and  
15 yet that was part of what you felt in your relationship with him. That you could never  
16 be good enough. You could never do enough.

17 LM: Oh sure. He even told Erik that the Calabasas issue, and the way he handled it, he  
18 handled it terribly. If he, if he were in charge of it, he could have handled it way better  
19 than Erik. "You made all kinds of mistakes, and you don't know how to do that even!"

20 JO: It wasn't, it wasn't even so much what you did. It was more that you were, you were  
21 stupid in how you did it.

22 LM: Right.

23 JO: You did it in, in an inferior and incompetent way.

24 LM: But I still don't think it had anything to do with, killing him had nothing to do with us.  
25 It had to do with me realizing a number of things that all culminated, which was, and  
26 could have culminated at any point. And it was just a question of Erik and I getting  
27 together, and somebody bringing it up. and us realizing the value in it. Ah, which was,  
28

1 my father had a dream of now going into politics, and it was becoming apparent, and  
2 that my mother would not be able to handle that. She had expressed over and over again  
3 how that would be the worst thing in the world for their relationship. He would, what  
4 she wanted was for him to get away from this business, and dictatoria...dictatorship life  
5 with business and stressed out and all this other thing. And just sort of retire with her,  
6 and be with her, and get to know her. And ah, if he went into politics, she would again  
7 be that shell of a showcase for him, and he would be boom, boom, boom. Be very busy.  
8 It'd be time consuming. And be, that would be his new love. Politics, instead of  
9 business. Instead of her.

10 JO: Instead of an affair.

11 LM: And ah, and it would be his sort of affair, really. He, he had almost said, I felt like, and  
12 now I feel like, he had given up women, and taken up politics. It was his new affair.  
13 Just something that would be his, his passion. He needed passion in his life. Very  
14 passionate man. But not with her.

15 JO: Uh, huh.

16 LM: She had expressed in her letters there was no passion.

17 JO: Uh, huh.

18 LM: And ah, and yet on the outside, everyone thought that their relationship was all passion.  
19 All consuming. Everyone was crazy. But ah, my feeling was that with him deciding to  
20 enter into politics, ah, it was her doom. It was over. She was, there was no escape.  
21 And Erik and I were getting, he was on the verge of going to UCLA.

22 JO: No escape from, from what? When you say 'no escape,' from what?

23 LM: No, no escape from ah, ah, being separated from my dad in an environment, in, in a  
24 relationship where she had no identity. And ah...

25 JO: ...(unint).

26 LM: She was being ah, battered. And ah, and he had take...she at least felt comfortable in  
27 Princeton, New Jersey, and he knew that. And she had her friends, and she had a  
28



1 bonding. A relationship, and she was busy, and he took her out of that, and brought her  
2 to California, and Erik and I knew it was devastating for her. I mean, it was, it was  
3 really her death there, and if he went into politics, it would be another one. And it was  
4 just one blow after another. cause moving to California was just the worst thing in the  
5 world and he knew it. And ah...

6 JO: For him? For her?

7 LM: For her.

8 JO: For both of them?

9 LM: For her. For him it was great. He didn't care. It was just a continuation of his career  
10 and this and that, and his wife was obviously gonna go with him. There was no  
11 question.

12 JO: Uh, huh.

13 LM: He made a thing where he would fly back and forth to New Jersey, because he realized  
14 that this was a serious thing. His wife might not be able to handle this. Ah, I think he  
15 realized that. Ah, it was obvious that he was very careful. "Kitty, you're gonna love  
16 it here. Come on." And Kitty was very sincere about the fact, I don't even know why  
17 she left. If there was a time for a divorce, that would have been the best time to pursue  
18 it, because she had a real bond there.

19 JO: Uh, huh.

20 LM: A real emotional breakup with that community, and her. And she had never had a friend  
21 out here. Had one friend, or whatever, and ah, and never really saw her that much.  
22 And ah, she never inquired into tennis lessons, or leagues, or community things, or  
23 nothing. She got involved in this house that dad was building. And that that was it.

24 JO: The one in Calabasas?

25 EM: And we were trying to push her into those kind of things, and she, for some reason she  
26 just inverted.

27 LM: And she would say, "No. There's not enough money in it to spend it on the kids."  
28

1 JO: Tried to push her into, or what?

2 LM: She would, she had both, she believed.

3 EM: Community activities.

4 JO: I think, don't you think she, she was probably too depressed and felt too powerless.

5 EM: Right.

6 LM: She was too depressed, and yet she, but she also, and its an interesting thing Erik just  
7 brought up. Ah, she believed, dad had her convinced, and it was an amazing day when  
8 this happened. That they had no money. That he had her convinced that they were  
9 poor, because, and that she could literally not afford to take tennis lessons, and do  
10 different things for herself, and buy herself nice stuff, and ever get a leather jacket for  
11 a couple hundred. I was buying leather, hundred dollar jackets on the allowance I was  
12 getting easily, and she said she couldn't afford one. She wished she could get one. And  
13 I remember a day when I said, "Come on mom." Cause I had bought something. "How  
14 can you say, 'I can't afford this,' when dad just got a stock bonus of, worth six million  
15 dollars." And ah, and she said, and she had no, and, and his salary is a million three.  
16 And she had no idea. She said, "What stock? What do you mean? His salary is, is  
17 three hundred thousand." Or whatever it was.

18 JO: So he totally controlled her.

19 LM: And...

20 JO: It was his way of keeping control...

21 LM: And she said, "How do you know that? That's not true. That's not your..." And ah,  
22 "Because we're cash poor. We're cash poor." And I was shocked, and I said, I knew  
23 it, because I worked with the company, and it was right in the stock letter, which  
24 obviously she didn't read, but said he got this much stock, and sure, his salary was three  
25 hundred thousand, five hundred thousand, but his bonus every year was eight-fifty. No  
26 idea. She had no idea. And she didn't know about the life insurance thing. That came  
27 afterwards. So, I realized that he was withholding tremendous amount of financial  
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1 information from her. My, my feeling then was, well, it's obviously in case they get a  
2 divorce. He doesn't wanna know, her to know what she, he's worth. But, that enabled  
3 her to, to never buy anything. Never do anything creative like that.

4 JO: You say that. When you said that, I think you're right about that, but there's a, there's  
5 another part of it which is, it also enabled him again to never allow her to have, I mean,  
6 your father was a totally controlling man.

7 LM: Uh, huh.

8 JO: Which meant that in their relationship, like you said, he needed to make all decisions.  
9 He needed to have her completely subservient. He needed to, to, he needed to take all  
10 the will out of her, all the identity out of her, so that she was basically nothing but an  
11 extension of him, and, and a shell of a person. So one way of controlling somebody so  
12 that they never develop any sense of identity, you don't, you don't tell, you tell 'em,  
13 they have no money. They can't buy things. They can't, they don't have the ability to  
14 go and do community activities. They don't have the money to go out and, and develop  
15 an identity. It's a way of keeping total control of someone, so he wasn't only controlling  
16 the flow of information, but by telling her that they had no money, it was also a way to  
17 keep her totally imprisoned and, and, and ah, totally unable to develop any strength. If  
18 she had a sense of money, she might have also had a sense of freedom. She might have  
19 also had a sense of being able to leave, to get away from him. To escape him. If she  
20 had a sense of no money, and no power, and emotionally she was really stripped of all  
21 her identity, then he would put her totally under his control, which is, which is real  
22 clearly um, what I think ended up happening with your mom and stuff. I think you're  
23 right that your dad, in case they got a divorce, they'd wanna know how much money he  
24 had, but I think even more, your father's whole instinct...

25  
26 (END OF SIDE 1)  
27  
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1  
2  
3 JO: ...to ah, to just completely control you. And that he used money and power to control  
4 you. He used money and power ah, to control you. Um, Erik and, and he used it  
5 absolutely to control ah, your mom, and I mean, isn't that really, isn't that really after  
6 all, I mean, isn't that, isn't that what it was about, killing him? I mean wasn't it about  
7 the, the amount of absolute control and the ruthlessness in terms of just completely,  
8 almost being like an automaton. He was focused on, on, I mean, it's like, do you think  
9 your father had any sense of what he even was doing to your mother, or do you think  
10 that your father basically is so much on automatic pilot in terms of being focused on  
11 control and domination, that he, did he not care, or did he not know? What do you  
12 think? Erik, how about, how about you saying something here. You haven't said a  
13 whole lot. What do you think?

14 EM: I just don't like hearing it.

15 LM: What does that mean?

16 EM: I don't like hearing it.

17 JO: You don't like hearing what?

18 EM: I don't like hearing these things about my father.

19 LM: True.

20 JO: What are you feeling?

21 EM: Upset.

22 JO: And, hurt? Sad? What? You wanna tell me?

23 EM: Well I had pushed him outta my mind. And ah, my father and my mother were, were  
24 the two people that I loved, and I just don't wanna hear anything about 'em. It doesn't  
25 matter what they were, or what they actually were, I, whether it's a fantasy or it wasn't.  
26 Um, I ah, I, they were very apparent in my mind before this, led up to the fact where  
27 I had no other choice. I would have taken any other choice. Ah, because I, I look back  
28

1 on it, and realizing what people are worth, and so I much regret it. I may not have had  
2 a choice at the time, but I regret it now. Ah, and I simply ah, I'm like, I like, the image  
3 that I had, I'm, from when I was fourteen years old, you know I had a mother and father  
4 that, that loved each other, and loved me.

5 JO: Uh, huh.

6 EM: It was that kind of relationship. And ah, and I try to bring that back in my mind. It was  
7 the kind of like, it was like that, and I liked that. Plain and simple...feeling. And ah,  
8 I don't like hearing ah my father put in this sort of way.

9 JO: It's too painful?

10 EM: Yes.

11 JO: Talk about it.

12 EM: (pause) I can't.

13 JO: Try.

14 EM: He was somebody that I loved and almost had no choice to do what I did, and I hate  
15 myself for doing it. And ah, and I understand why it was done, but I somehow in my  
16 mind I can't rationalize it. because (crying) because the love that I had for him and my  
17 mother. And how it was misconception in the family and no one else. And no one  
18 understood. And hav..having to listen to the fights. And ah, and somebody would be  
19 yelling and screaming. It was always taking place downstairs. And ah, and finding  
20 blood on the "" (unint). And I just tried to rationalize everything. And ah, I break  
21 down every once in a while because I, ah... it's really, it's difficult. I don't mean, I  
22 love my father, and, and don't like living without him. And it's more difficult because  
23 of my mother, because I realize what an amazing tragedy of her life was compared to  
24 what it could have been. Because of my father. And I hate him for that. And I love  
25 him. And ah, and it's something that ah, way beyond control. And...

26 JO: What was beyond control? That you had to kill him?

27 EM: Eventually it had to happen. It was basically ruining my life, and I guess Lyle's. And,  
28

1 and, and he was putting my mother through torture, and it got to a point where, where,  
2 it ah... He was amazing. He would do great things for me, and, he would, I wouldn't  
3 understand why. I know that she loved me. Somehow, we could just...

4 JO: Couldn't ever tell you or show you?

5 EM: No.

6 JO: I was there. I remember, I remember when your mom called. And ah, called me and  
7 told me that, that your dad was disinheriting you, because you, cause he didn't like how  
8 you were behaving and that he thought you weren't being respectful enough. And he  
9 couldn't tell you because he never talked about feelings, and he wouldn't talk about  
10 feelings. And he, I remember telling you that, and you, you didn't even look that  
11 surprised. That must have been what your dad was like.

12 EM: Well, I just, I'm sad because I look back on my life now when my parents, and I wish  
13 it would have such, so much more different. I look back, and I wish that my mother and  
14 I would have had an extremely close relationship, and I would tell her everything that  
15 ever happened over it. I would tell her everything. And all my relationships with  
16 different people, and everything. She wanted to know, and, and I, I, I was raised that  
17 I couldn't tell her. That she couldn't express to me, and, and I wish I had a close  
18 relationship with my father. The dreams that I have and...

19 JO: You couldn't get close to either one of them?

20 EM: No. I just never gave it a chance to. From an early age, it's just that, I guess, was  
21 taught, both Lyle and I that. That you just don't.

22 JO: You just don't what?

23 EM: Have a close relationship.

24 JO: You just don't talk about feelings and what's going on.

25 EM: We keep it inside.

26 JO: Uh, huh. Did you ever try to tell your mom, or talk with your mom about what your  
27 dad was doing?

1 EM: No, I couldn't face that. I left that up to my brother. I couldn't even face that. That  
2 issue, I told my brother over the phone, and ah, and he, I couldn't, I didn't wanna face  
3 it. I didn't want to realize it, but I knew that if my mom had died, I would have to  
4 leave. I would have to leave. And ah, and it didn't matter, because I always thought  
5 that I could, I could make all this money, or whatever, and it wouldn't make a  
6 difference. And I, I didn't, leaving wouldn't be a problem. I would have to do it. And  
7 ah, it's, I couldn't live with them anymore. ...(unint). And I guess I was taught to love  
8 him because he was your father, and ah, and because I wanted to love him. And ah,  
9 when the affair whatever came out. Probably ah, face the fact that, that my mother had  
10 to be killed. And ah, it was the only way out. It was the only way out for her. And  
11 that's why he cannot even face it. ...(unint). It's, if you would have to face that, and  
12 understand that, it would kill you. Because its just, its just so sad. And, and ah, I love  
13 him, and in ways I'm, I'm pissed off that he was like it, and in other ways I'm, I'm glad  
14 he made me such a strong person, but I really can't say whether I would have wanted  
15 another kind of father. I just wish the relationship would have been better. And I ah,  
16 I mean, I have all kinds of dreams about it, and ah..

17 JO: What kind of dreams?

18 EM: I had a dream where, where I had, was trying to convince ah, two of my friends to shoot  
19 me. And ah, and they wouldn't do it. No matter how hard I tried to convince them, so  
20 I took the gun that was in my hand, and ah, shot myself several times in the heart, and  
21 then ah, and I, I, died, and ah there was a moment where there is just immense pleasure.  
22 That I was happy, and there was no tension on my mind. There was no stress. And  
23 everything was calm, and everything was great. And ah, and then I woke up in the  
24 morning, and I was upset that I was alive, because of the great feeling that I had when  
25 I was no longer alive.

26 JO: Was it. was it, what kind of a feeling were you feeling?

27 EM: There was a feeling that there was no depression. And there was no more sadness to be  
28

1 had. And that I no longer had to feel sad about your parents. And because, it's just so  
2 immense. And ah, I guess one of the hard things about it is that, is that everyone now,  
3 they don't even know the truth. And they can't relate. And that, that's difficult.

4 JO: Can't relate to, to any of your feelings that you have.

5 EM: Yeah. Exactly.

6 JO: And there's so much pain, and, and you know, ah, its so clear that both of you 'are  
7 relating to the, now, not so much to the pain that you had in, in being in the family,  
8 although there's a, there's a lot of pain there. You both knew you could escape that.  
9 You're about to go away to school. Lyle, you already were away, but the pain of  
10 knowing that your mother was going to be left behind and victimized, and that she was  
11 so defensive and protective of your father, that even while she was being totally  
12 destroyed by him, that she was blocking absolutely your, even your love for her, and  
13 your trying to help her, and especially you Lyle.

14 ?: Well.

15 JO: Trying to talk with her. That you, you were, you were blamed for it. Here you were  
16 loving her and trying to care for her, and instead you got blamed for it, and there was  
17 an absolute denial of what was happening, and yet you knew the pain she was in. You  
18 saw her totally deteriorating, and its almost like, I mean, your, your love for your  
19 mother was, and your, the pain with her getting just totally brutalized over all those  
20 years, was al..like it was a lot worse than the pain you went through, being in, being  
21 with your dad.

22 ?: Well.

23 JO: You thought you could deal with your dad more than your mother. Your mother  
24 couldn't deal with your dad. Your mother had no way to deal with your dad.

25 EM: By going to college, it didn't matter. Even if I was in college. I remember when I was  
26 in college, I, I wanted to ah. to ah, ah, ah, major in act in theater. And my mom  
27 wanted me to major in theater, but couldn't tell me that, because she was an actress, and  
28



1 she was a great actress, and ah, and so she had this love for theater when she saw me  
2 at stage when I was at Beverly, she, she, she loved it, and, and she wanted me to, major  
3 in it, but I, I couldn't even bring it up to my father. Um, I, I did once, and it was, he,  
4 well, he thought I was kidding. I, it wasn't even something that was gonna be brought  
5 up.

6 And my mom certainly never would bring it up, and ah, and so what I was doing, what  
7 I was taking, I wasn't even going to decide. It was, my courses, when I had an hour or  
8 two to select my courses I would already have the sheet, and already have it worked  
9 out, and my dad would already have worked out what I was gonna take. And ah, and  
10 so I mean it wasn't, there was freedom in my life kind of, but my life would be  
11 structured and I would have freedom outside of structure. And ah, and I mean, it was  
12 signs of, signs of pain. Ah, I mean, Lyle and I definitely had a different kind of  
13 relationship with our parents, and different, different ways that, certainly dealt with it  
14 differently. Um, like I got scared, ah, with Lyle, um, I mean I wasn't sure, Lyle and  
15 I really didn't talk about how, how each other was feeling that much after, after this all  
16 happened, and ah, we thought that it didn't make matter about our feelings, and it  
17 probably relates more to men because we, we weren't supposed to. Our parents weren't  
18 there. And ah, he told me that he was very depressed, and so on. And ah, I didn't  
19 know it, because, you know, we hadn't talked about it, and his showing of his feelings  
20 are different from mine. He wasn't as open about it. And ah, and I got worried, you  
21 know, what his depressions mean to Lyle, and could end up killing himself, and ah, and  
22 I cried about that one for a while.

23 JO: Did you ever tell Lyle that before? Is this the first time Lyle knows that?

24 EM: Yeah. He knows. I don't, you know, I don't, not much to explain.

25 JO: Why don't you look at him and tell him that you were worried about him. Erik. Erik.  
26 No, no. Come on. Look at him. Tell your brother.

27 LM: I know.

1 JO: No, no. No, no. Don't be ...(unint) strong. This is what you're trying to undo that  
2 happened.

3 LM: ...(unint).

4 JO: No. But he needs to tell you.

5 LM: No. I mean I ...

6 JO: Lyle.

7 LM: What?

8 EM: (crying)

9 JO: Let, let him do this. He needs to do this. And you know what? This is part of your  
10 way of undoing what happened in your family. Is that Erik needs to express his thing.  
11 His way, and he needs to tell you how much he loves you, and how concerned he was  
12 for you. Its real important. I know you stepped in and sort of saved him, but you know  
13 what? The best way for him to really be able to save himself, and for you to get closer  
14 and have that contact is for you to be able to talk to him. You couldn't talk to him then.  
15 Why don't you, Erik? Can you turn towards Lyle and tell him what you feel? You can  
16 do it.

17 EM: There's no reason to.

18 JO: Yeah, there's a lot a reasons. Come on. This is what it was all about. The reason this  
19 was all about. What this is all about is you not having done this in vain, but for, for you  
20 really to get to the place where you can deal with your feelings, and, and not be a  
21 prisoner of whatever happened and so, yeah, there's a reason to it. Do you love Lyle?

22 EM: Yeah. ....(unint).

23 JO: No, no, no.

24 EM: ....(unint).

25 JO: No, but do you love Lyle?

26 EM: Yes.

27 JO: You told me that between the two of you, if one of you was gonna die, you'd rather you  
28

1 die, and that Lyle lived. Did you say that? Did you say that?

2 EM: Yes. (crying)

3 JO: What are you feeling?

4 EM: Ah, it really didn't, didn't work out ...(unint).

5 LM: I, I agree that ah, that ah, Erik and I need to, the whole family works behind closed  
6 doors, just like politics. And ah, that's one of the things. Love for politics. It was all  
7 closed game. And ah, we still play a game that ah, ah, I know, I wish I was very close  
8 to Erik, and we made all our decisions together, and when it came to advice, he came  
9 to me first. Just like ...

10 JO: Remember how hurt you were when Erik told me what happened, and, and, I remember  
11 the hurt and the pain that he didn't talk with you about it first. You felt really violated.  
12 Ah, that was real painful for you. I remember that.

13 LM: Yeah. And the worst thing about it was, was, ah, you know, it, there's so much ah, it  
14 could be something, its just like, just like the tragedy of the family. Could be another  
15 tragedy, if we don't be very close, because ah, and tell each other things first, and so  
16 on, and trust that we care. It's very hard to trust that you care. We've been taught to  
17 deal with it ourselves, and then go a-round-about way and let up when it's necessary, and  
18 if he feels its really important for me to get this, he'll push that for me, but without me  
19 really knowing the real reason why he's pushing it for me. That bothers me, or  
20 whatever. And then we'll get real stubborn, and hate each other about some little issues  
21 that I'd wished, ah we wouldn't. Ah, that, you know, I'll favor, he'll think, or I will  
22 favor my girlfriend more over an issue than he himself. Ah, or he'll, I'm very conscious  
23 if he takes sides with somebody else over myself, and then I'll say "Well, screw you.  
24 You're not, you don't care." And ah, it's easy for that to happen, and ah, and that's  
25 something that would be great if it could be worked out about. We've sort of worked  
26 out some strange relationship where we can convey that, like you said, without having  
27 to say it face to face.

28

1 JO: Why don't you say it face ...(unint)? Why do you feel caused that?  
2 EM: Because you've never been taught to.  
3 JO: ...(unint)? Turn your chair and face him.  
4 EM: Well, we've never been taught to. And no. I...  
5 JO: Erik  
6 EM: I, no.  
7 JO: Erik.  
8 EM: I'd rather. I feel uncomfortable. I'd rather not.  
9 JO: Erik. Wait a minute. Wait. Okay. What am I here for? Aren't we trying to ....  
10 EM: But for some reason it seems like I can say it to almost anyone else except for my  
11 family.  
12 JO: Okay. But wait a minute. You, you're trying to learn how to deal with that, and trying  
13 to undo that. You've got one family member.  
14 LM: I think it comes, stems from a, the reluctance stems and the mind....  
15 JO: Lyle.  
16 LM: ....stems from a pride issue.  
17 JO: ...(unint).  
18 LM: He's still afraid that I may not feel the same way, and that his pride will be hurt. That's  
19 the way we...  
20 JO: Do you love him?  
21 LM: ....dad and I always felt. Yeah. I love Erik very much.  
22 JO: Okay. Can you turn a little more towards him?  
23 ?: ...(unint).  
24 JO: (laughing) Oh God. Come on. You can do this. I know you can do this.  
25 LM: We hate that hugging shit by the way. We fucking hate that.  
26 JO: You know what? I don't care.  
27 LM: I know you don't.  
28

1 JO: Cause I don't care if you hate it.  
2 LM: (laugh).  
3 JO: But just cause you said that (laughter) come on. No. You know what? You gonna have  
4 trouble with it.  
5 LM: Alright. Alright. Alright. Alright.  
6 JO: Come on.  
7 LM: Alright.  
8 JO: You gonna have trouble with it. ....(unint).  
9 LM: Alright.  
10 JO: And you know what about all this stuff that happened that you wanna reverse the fact  
11 that you couldn't be close. If you let me, okay. What I, what I wanna, what I wanna  
12 do if you let me, okay. And you trust each other enough, and you trust me enough. I  
13 don't wanna have this be something where we're doing something that has to do with  
14 your, you know, legally protecting you, cause that's not what we're doing here. What  
15 we're really doing is trying to, to help you, help you undo what happened, and help you  
16 create what never got created so that, you know, what happened, happened for a reason,  
17 and that you now can create something between the two of you that, that is supposed to  
18 be there to begin with. 'Cause you're what you have left, ah, you're your family now.  
19 And, you know, you don't wanna, you don't wanna be a victim anymore of what  
20 happened. And I know how much Erik loves you, cause when you were not here, its  
21 okay if I tell him, Erik? Is it alright? ....(unint). Ah, he told me that um, if, if  
22 something happened. If, if anything happened, and one of you had to die, he would  
23 much rather it be him than you. He would much rather that, you know, someone, if  
24 something happened to him, ah, he doesn't even, Erik's got all kinds of problems with,  
25 with having anything to do with any money, and anything as a result of all this. Ah,  
26 feeling real, real, ah, guilty, and, and badly about it. Uh and ah, he's having all kinds  
27 of difficulties with it. And you know, ah, he said to me over and over again how much  
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1 he loves you, and ah, and how much um, would ah, he really would do anything for  
2 you, and, you know, including ...(unint.) It was, if one of you had to go, it would  
3 rather it be him. And I know that it's not easy for Erik to tell you that in words, but you  
4 know what? Talk about, your talking about it is getting real sad with your mom. But  
5 it would be just as sad if the two of you didn't get to the place where...

6 LM: I agree. I feel like that almost has happened a couple of times. Obviously, it happened  
7 twice. Once where I was depressed, and could never really convey it. And I was close  
8 to suicide. And felt that it would be the best way out, and a nice way out. And ah, ah,  
9 wishing that somebody would be good enough to have me killed. And ah, then there was  
10 a time, ah, then, then Erik also. Going through a period where he ne...he never  
11 expressed to me. ..(unint) me saying that I was in Princeton, was gonna stay in  
12 Princeton and go do school, and not be part of the tennis tour. It would be emotionally  
13 devastating to himself, and his reaction is "Okay. Fine. If that's what you wanna do,  
14 do it. I think it's fine." And that's it. And me actually being hurt by the fact that he  
15 didn't care enough to say that he wishes I was on the tour. And so we both walk away  
16 majorly depressed.

17 JO: Uh, huh.

18 LM: Ah, that he doesn't care if I'm on the tour or not. He just thinks it's the wrong decision  
19 intellectually. And Erik, ah, is not gonna be on the tour with me. He doesn't care.  
20 And ah, you know that, and it could lead to two suicides, and ah, you know, just like  
21 ah, you know, it led to my mothers. And ah, and I still think mom's was a suicide.  
22 Because I, you know, I feel that in her letters to, to Erik and I, she gave me the  
23 permission. And it's, the burden seemed to continually be handed to me. Erik handed  
24 me it, "to talk to mom." Ah, dad handed a lot of things to me. Ah, to sort of, she had  
25 given me permission to, to, to, to please carry out her suicide, and that it was obvious  
26 that she had decided in her own mind, she wants to die. She can't do it. Ah, and she  
27 doesn't wanna to talk about it. And there's nothing that I can do to help her. There's  
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1 nothing anyone else can do. and she doe..and she very much doesn't wanna anyone else  
2 to know. Doesn't want me to go to her Uncle Brian or if I look back I wish I,would  
3 have done. And it's that. I mean, I feel like if I would have just said to Uncle Brian,  
4 "This is the situation," he would have done something. I feel that. I had a lot of anger  
5 toward my relatives. And my uncles and my aunts. My Uncle Carlos and Aunt Terry,  
6 who knew, ah, about what was happening to my mother, and did nothing. I just think  
7 that they were cowards. That what Erik and I did took courage beyond belief. Beyond,  
8 beyond strength. There was no way I was gonna make a decision to kill my mother  
9 without Erik's consent. I was going, I didn't even wanna influence him in that issue.  
10 I just let him sleep on it for a couple of days. Cause ah, I did...I, I, I'm in a very ah,  
11 good position to influence Erik in a lot of things. Because he knows that I care, and a  
12 whole number of issues. That I can talk eloquently or whatever. And ah, but when it  
13 came to that issue. I wanted nothing to do with it. It had to be his own personal issue.  
14 If he felt the same way I did about killing mom. And ah, you know, I, I feel angry  
15 toward my relatives. "Why didn't you do something, when you knew what was going  
16 on, and I didn't?" And when I found out, you know, I did something about it. I did  
17 what I thought my mother would want me to do. Which is, 'Please kill me, and I can't,'  
18 you know, and I, and I just couldn't, just kill my mom. That would be ridiculous. I  
19 wanted to get rid of the source there. I couldn't live with that. Nobody could. I mean,  
20 ah, and in a way I'm happy that people say afterwards, "You know, there's no way that  
21 your mom could have lived without your dad." I'm glad...  
22 Even my mom's side of the family says, I'm glad that ah, if your dad was gonna be  
23 killed for business reasons. that they were both killed. Even knowing what I know about  
24 it all, and the people that do know it all, my mom's side of the family does what they  
25 think. it's because they love each other so much. But my mom's side of the family,  
26 Sylvia. and a few other people. that have read some of the letters, and know some of the  
27 stuff. ah, feel the same way. That she was just, she couldn't have lived. She wouldn't  
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1 want to live. Ah, she wouldn't, she wouldn't think of it as I wish she would think of it  
2 as, 'I'm free. Now I can take the money. Go back to Princeton. I can recover and  
3 remarry,' which is what I wanted for her. That, it was only after that ceased to be an  
4 answer. Ceased to be a way out. That it was a very, then a dangerous situation.  
5 Where, where Erik and I realized that at any point, sort of subconsciously, the go ahead  
6 was given "to kill us, to kill me, before you leave." And basically leave our lives, "and  
7 go your separate ways."

8 EM: Was she, was she rushed to the hospital once?

9 LM: You mean after the car accident?

10 EM: No. When ah she took, ....maybe it's not true, she took too many pills.

11 LM: When, when was this?

12 EM: I thought you told me about it.

13 LM: In New Jersey?

14 EM: Yeah.

15 LM: Back in New Jersey. Yeah. Took the wrong pills or something. ....(unint). Rushed  
16 to the hospital for some reason or another. But ah, ah.. The New Jersey stuff I didn't  
17 realize what was going on. I was in high school. I was dealing with my mom on a daily  
18 basis. And it wasn't as bad as when I was no longer around. She, she had something  
19 to occupy her time. All of a the sudden she just, Erik wasn't enough. The things that  
20 were ....(unint). She didn't know about the affairs then, I don't think.

21 EM: No, she didn't know about the affairs until she was.

22 LM: And it was bad enough that she was really having a hard time dealing with her marriage  
23 just because of the, what my dad was putting her through, without even knowing that he  
24 was putting her through it for completely devious reasons. And she was in bad enough  
25 shape. and it was, and everybody, my tennis coach, who was sort of a psychiatrist for  
26 me back then, Brad Warner, um, would say, "God, I really feel for your mother. She  
27 opens up to me a lot. She's just tormented by your father. And ah, I would hate to have  
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1 her life. Her life is terrible. And ah, that your dad is just the typical serious business  
2 executive." And he mentioned over and over that my dad could be having affairs, and  
3 I just missed it entirely. 'Cause I didn't think my dad was capable of that. And ah,  
4 getting back to ah, what, what Erik was ah feeling and I wanted to say that we, you  
5 know, it would be great if, if we were able to work on it, cause even, you know our  
6 relationship, because even the planning out of this, the reason it took such a short period  
7 of time to figure it out was one, because it could have happened at any moment.

8 JO: Uh, huh.

9 LM: All the thinking...

10 JO: Uh, huh.

11 LM: "" beforehand was done really.

12 JO: Yeah. You already know what you felt.

13 LM: Ah, we knew what we felt, and we knew everything about that. Ah, honestly I never  
14 thought it would happen. Even though I had thought about it. Ah, but it was ah, it was  
15 done so quickly, and so, sort of callously almost, because one, we, if you thought about  
16 it too much, the feelings of not having your parents around, and so on, would get in the  
17 way of what was more important. Which was helping your mother really. And ah,  
18 thinking about that. The feeling for her was so easy to separate yourself. I've done it  
19 for too long. Into your own life, and go, 'I don't I wanna deal mother's agony.' (unint).

20 And I, I, it was just, it sort of a cowardice way out. And ah, for one moment before  
21 I went back to school, I had a chance, even though my life was going really well. And  
22 ah, to show some courage, I felt. And ah, help Erik and I. Help my mother, and ah,  
23 we got together, and it was the fact that we can't communicate, couldn't communicate  
24 together, and sit down and face each other, and talk about the real issues. That it was  
25 almost done looking in different directions. It was just a little word here, a little word  
26 there, and a little word here. And this sort of thing doesn't, you don't kill your parents  
27 based on a little word here, and a little word there. It was obvious that we felt  
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1 tremendous amount of emotion.

2 JO: Uh, huh.

3 LM: Exactly the same emotion. And ah, it just took a little word here and there, almost as  
4 if a third party was discussing.

5 JO: Uh, huh.

6 LM: And it was just a meeting of the minds. The time is now. Its not a great time. I'm  
7 doing well. You're ready to go to UCLA. We started to buy a lot of things. But, we  
8 can't ignore the fact that my mother has to live with this.

9 JO: Uh, huh.

10 LM: And ah, it was that. It was, it was, Erik was at, I mean, I remember when we had to  
11 go down wherever to take care of an important issue concerning ah, ah, he said, "I can't  
12 do it. I've gotta, I've gotta practice, because I have a tournament coming up." And he  
13 was, he was completely blocking out. And I would, you known, I couldn't even tell  
14 him, but I was feeling he doesn't realize the impact of what he's doing. He wants to  
15 take care of this problem and wish his life was the same. And he still had normal  
16 parents. But he could never have. He doesn't realize that what he's doing, there will  
17 be no more tournaments like that. There's gonna be no more. All the, all the little good  
18 things that are in our relationship, and I think of the big, biggest pains he has is that you  
19 miss just having these people around. I miss not having my dog around. If I can make  
20 such a gross analogy.

21 JO: Uh, huh.

22 LM: That, you know, whether I hated the thing when it was around, and I've given it away,  
23 now that its gone, I miss all the things that we, you know, we had a boating trip right  
24 before the incident, and it had nothing to do with the main problem, which, which  
25 required a lot of courage. But ah, we, I miss not having my father, and I, it's almost  
26 worse after I find out more and more about how he was such a genius. And all the  
27 things he was able to do, and, and more and more about the agony of my mother, that  
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1 I, instead of her being a shell. I realize she was really feeling a lot of emotion, that I  
2 wish I could've now confronted her, and discussed things with her that I, I can't. And  
3 I didn't know, and think I would ever have to ....

4 (END OF TAPE)

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