

Janis Panttila



Mischaracterization and False Claims Made by Author James Renner

Sir/Ma'am,

I feel compelled to document how my interaction with Mr. James Renner was mischaracterized and twisted in his book 'True Crime Addict: How I Lost Myself in the Mysterious Disappearance of Maura Murray' published in 2016. My name is Janis Panttila and I am Maura Murray's aunt. My niece Maura disappeared in February of 2004, after a car crash in Woodsville, New Hampshire. She has never been seen or heard from again.

James Renner ambushed me at my home as was his tactic with other members of my family to include my daughter and her young daughter. He then took parts of our conversation out of context to cast her parents Laurie and Fred Murray in a bad light. On page 118 he published the following:

"I always thought that was strange, Maura going camping up there with her father, They would share a tent. She was, what, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen? If my dad had ever asked me to go camping alone with him and share a tent, I would have said, 'What are you, nuts?'"


This is simply not true. I was commenting on the fact I did not particularly enjoy camping but Mr. Renner twisted my words implying something sinister about a single tent. In fact, Fred always had a separate tent for the girls and I can't remember a single time he only took one of his kids. If I thought for a second Fred was abusing his kids in any way, I would have reported it to police immediately. Further, I often allowed my own daughters to accompany Fred on camping trips. This complete mischaracterization of my words is just a small sample of the tactics Mr. Renner uses as retribution for Fred's refusal to participate in his book. Another example is on page 120 where he writes this:

Janis believed Maura went up to New Hampshire to get away from Fred. "They had an argument about the car accident," she said, meaning the late-night crash in Amherst that put Fred's Toyota in the shop. "He really reamed her over it. But he claims it wasn't why she left."

Again, this is not true and does not accurately reflect what I stated. The dark insinuation is that Maura went to New Hampshire to escape Fred. I never even spoke to Fred about the

Amherst accident or any such argument. I emphatically object to the way our interaction was portrayed in his book - it is sickening. It has caused irreparable damages to Maura's family and he should be ashamed to call himself a journalist.

Regards,


Janis Panttila