

Barry and I returned from the boat around 7:30-8:00 am. Ed O'Brien was on the front porch of his house, I went over to tell him about the boat. Trisha came out with coffee and we both looked down at Gina Mahoneys house and waved to Janet who was sitting on Gina's porch. Trisha and I walked in to get coffee and both stated our amazement that Janet was at Gina's house.

A little after noon my daughter brought my granddaughter over to be babysat. Around 5:30 I was walking the baby and stopped at Gina Mahoneys house to chat with Gina. Around 6 pm Jeannie O'Brien pulled up in her Aunts car with Paul Downing. Gina and I joked with Paul as he walked into his house. Neither Janet nor her car were around.

A little after 6:30 pm my daughter and her husband arrived to have dinner and pick up the baby. Between 7 to 7:30-45 we had dinner then went outside to let the baby play in the wading pool. About 8:15 my daughter, the baby and I went back into the house to change the baby and to get my husbands birthday cake ready.

Between 8:15 and 8:30 my daughter Chrissy and I were changing the baby in the dining room and heard a loud banging noise on the stairs next door. It sounded like someone coming down the stairs and banging down the last three or four. My daughter was concerned about the noise but we did not respond as there was no yelling, screaming or dog barking and I would consider this to be an unusual but fairly common noise coming from the apartment next door.

Panashe, Chrissy and baby left around 9:05 - 9:10 pm and after they pulled out of the driveway Barry, who had walked them out to their car, went across the street to speak with Ed O'Brien.

During this time I washed the dishes in the kitchen and clean up around the downstairs of the house. I hear no unusual/loud noises from next door.

Barry returned about 9:30 or so and came in to watch television.

Shortly after, Ed O'Brien ran down the sidewalk in front of our house yelling "Barry, come quick". Barry and I both ran out of the house and as we ran in the same direction as Ed, Elena Graziano (across the street) yelled out "In Janet's house."

Ed entered first, Barry second and I followed. I stopped about four feet inside the second entry door. The first thing that I noticed was that the water in the bathroom was running over the sink. I do not recall seeing any blood in or around the sink area or in the hallway where I was standing. I turned and looked straight into the dining room and Janet was lying on the floor beneath the windows with her feet facing me. There was what appeared to be blood around her body although there did not appear to be blood on her person. She was wearing a light pink, short sleeved, v-neck top and a pair of beige shorts. Her arms were extended down towards her sides slightly away from her body and her legs were straight, slightly apart and her head was slightly turned towards the left. Her eyes were

open and she was not breathing. She was pale and "waxy" and drained. I noticed one slash type mark on the front of her shirt although there was no blood surrounding the mark. I also noticed that her knees and legs were slashed. Again there was no blood on these wounds. There appeared to be no other blood other than that which she was lying in. The dog, Joshua, was cowering beneath the dining room table. Ed O'Brien said "Oh my God!" and someone said (I don't know if it was Barry or Ed) "I think she is dead".

I attempted to step back and my foot (I was barefoot) felt something. I looked down and saw two overturned picture frames placed perfectly, one in front of the other, directly at my feet. There was not any broken glass or blood anywhere on the floor in that area.

Barry turned and grabbed my arms and said "Get him out of here!". I looked to my right and noticed Ryan standing in the entry way. I immediately turned, grabbed Ryan, and directed him out of the door and down to the brick steps at the front of the house where we stopped and sat down.

We began taking off his roller blades and Ryan kept repeating "She is dead isn't she?" "My mothers dead, isn't she?" I replied "We don't know that yet, let's wait till the ambulance gets here." "We don't know that Ryan".

When we completed taking off his roller blades we walked to the end of the entry walk and at that time a Somerville Police cruiser pulled up in front of the walk and an officer casually got out of the car and asked what was wrong. I said to him "Inside the house, please go inside the house!" The officer again asked what was wrong and I told him that he needed to go inside the house. The officer moved to go into the house.

I moved Ryan to the driveway area where he gripped the fence and began shaking it violently. I grabbed him and he turned around and hugged me tightly and just kept holding on to me saying "My mother, my mother". Other police cruisers pulled up on the street along with fire vehicles and ambulances.

Three girls approached us and asked what had happened. I told them that something had happened to Ryans mother and did they know where we could get ahold of Paul or Erin. One of the young ladies who had been standing at the end of my driveway asked to use the phone - I showed her where it was in my house and as she placed her call I left her in the kitchen. She came out and told me that while she was on the phone a Somerville officer had forced my cellar door open, breaking the lock, and entered the kitchen. I went back into the kitchen, opened the cellar door and a Somerville officer was at the bottom of the cellar stairs. I asked him about the door and he claimed that he did not know anything about it but that he would come up and check the house for me, which he did. When the officer was finished he returned to the cellar and I went back outside in the driveway

Within several minutes a Somerville officer approached us and asked if Ryan was "The son", I confirmed that he was Janet Downings son and he took Ryan and placed him inside of his cruiser.

I moved from the driveway to the sidewalk and that was when Jessica O'Brien came running out of her house to me and screamed "Ed was mugged in the Square and they cut his hand off!". I took a hold of Jessie and said "What happened? Tell me slow" Jessica again screamed "Ed was mugged in the Square and they cut his hand off!". I asked her how she knew this and she said that Walter from Midnight Market called the house and told her to get her father that Ed had been mugged and they cut his hand. I asked the police officer standing at the end of the Downing house front walk if he could go inside and get Mr. O'Brien that his son had been mugged. The officer went into the house.

Mr. Abreau (Marco's father) was standing across the street from Jessica and me and asked what had happened. I repeated to him what Jessica had told me and he said that he would go down to the Square for Ed. At this time the officer returned from the house and told me that Mr. O'Brien was not able to leave the house. Mr. Abreau said again that he would go down to Union Square for Ed and Mr. Abreau left.

I asked Jessica who was in the house with the other O'Brien children and she said that she was supposed to be so I took her across the street to the house and Beda and John Roberts were in front of the O'Brien house and Beda volunteered to go inside with Jessica and watch the other children.

I noticed Artie Ortiz standing across the street from the house (in front of Gina Mahoney's house) using the portable phone and talking to Gina Mahoney. At this time the ambulance attendants removed Janet from the house.

The car belonging to Michelle Cameron pulled up with Paul Downing and Jeannie O'Brien in the back seat. Paul immediately started scrambling out of the car in a very agitated state. He looked around at me and I told him to go over to his father who was standing beside the police cruiser that contained Ryan Downing. He ran toward his father, spoke with him for a second and began screaming and running across the street towards the front lawn running towards the front door of his house. I moved into his way to block him as did the police officer standing at the end of the walk and Paul turned and ran back toward his father. His father grabbed him and Paul became hysterical, sobbing and repeating "My mother, Ma, Mama, Ma. I want to see my Mama" We told Paul that his mother was not inside the house and that he could see her later at the hospital. He continued to be hysterical and asking for his "Mama" so we moved him to the sidewalk directly behind the cruiser that Ryan was seated in. (This would be the front yard of the O'Briens house.)

Paul continued to be hysterical to the point of at times not being able to breath. Ryan came out of the cruiser and sat in front of the O'Brien house with Paul, Jeannie O'Brien, Regina Mahoney, myself, and several others.

Artie Ortiz, Janet's brother-in-law came over and motioned for me to come to him. I asked him what was up and he said that Janet was dead. Carol, his wife, had told him on the phone that Janet was dead on arrival at Mass General. I asked if the boys or their

father had been told and he said that they were not going to be told until the father, Paul Sr., went to Mass General. I asked Artie how he had found out about this incident and he stated that he had heard it over the police radio in his cab. He also stated that he had lost the keys to the cab somewhere on the lawn and that he need to search for them but the police would not allow him on the lawn.

I went back to sit with the boys (Ryan and Paul) and Gina Mahoney is concerned that Paul Jr. does not have a shirt on. I went into the house and got one of my sons t-shirts and came out and put it on Paul Jr. Paul Jr. appeared to be in shock and repeated continually, "It's my fault, I left the front door open, it's my fault". We try to assure him that he should not worry and just focus on breathing and holding himself together. Ryan lays his head on my lap and is not crying, he is simply holding his brothers hand. At one point Paul is so distressed that I get a towel with ice and glasses of ice water for the boys and try and get them to drink and have Regina Mahoney hold the cold towel on Paul's neck. Others in the area are reassuring Paul that whatever happened he should not worry. He continually repeats that he is sure that he left the front door open.

Paul Jr. was still not doing well so I asked Barry (my husband) to walk him around a bit so that he can try and focus on walking. Barry and some of the kids held up Paul and walked him down the street and around the corner. I asked Ryan if he wanted to walk also and he said that he would. We walked to the end of the street and back during which when we stopped in front of the Lund house, Ryan said to me two or three times "I know what they did. They hid in the house and surprised her and did it. Thats what happened". I remember saying that we couldn't be sure what happened that we would have to see what the police found.

Ryan and I returned to the area in front of the O'Briens house as does Barry with Paul. Paul is still not responding well and I spoke with Paul Downing Sr. He stated that he needed to take the boys to the police station and I explained that I believed that Paul Jr. needed medical attention - he was in shock and needed to see a Doctor. He agreed that his son needed medical attention and asks his wife to attend to Paul and Ryan.