



# Ben Rodgers

Private Investigator

**Date:** December 8, 23

**To:** August King

78 Crestwood Drive  
North West Heritage Hills

**Dear August,**

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to provide an update on our ongoing investigation into your mother's unfortunate demise. Enclosed is a transcript of my recent interviews with Cassandra Montgomery and Mr. Donny West, your mother's former partner.

Throughout the interview, Mr. West's statements aligned with the existing facts of the case, and he provided a coherent narrative of his relationship with your mother. However, during our discussion, I observed a notable shift in his body language. As someone trained in the subtleties of non-verbal communication, I couldn't help but feel that something was amiss. Although his words were consistent with what we know, these non-verbal cues suggest there may be more to his story.

Following the interview, I decided to conduct surveillance on Mr. West. During this period, I witnessed him disposing of a box containing various items that seemed of no apparent value. Given the peculiar timing and nature of this act, I secured the items for further examination. I have included these items with this letter, hoping you might recognize their potential significance.

Additionally, I have conducted extensive interviews with other individuals close to your mother. At this point, I can confidently exclude Cliff and Mia, her best friends, from further suspicion. Their involvement seems increasingly unlikely as their accounts have been consistent, and they display no discernible motive related to your mother's demise. Conversely, a detailed conversation with Cassandra Montgomery has directed significant suspicion toward the Whitewoods, identifying them as potentially crucial figures in this investigation. I am currently waiting for a return call from Evelyn Whitewood and will update you on the results once it's completed.

Please review the enclosed transcript and item descriptions at your convenience. Your insights could prove crucial in advancing our understanding of the situation. Should you have any questions or require further discussion, please contact me.

Sincerely

*Ben Rodgers*

**Ben Rodgers**

Enclosure: Donny West and Cassandra Montgomery's interview transcript, West Venture Letter, a bag of 14 dominoes, a pocket guide to classic games, a word scrabble game, and two playing cards.





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**interviewer:** Ben Rodgers

**Interviewee:** Cassandra Montgomery

**Location:** My office

**Date:** November 28, 2023

**Rodgers:** Thanks for coming in, Cassandra. I know this hasn't been easy for you.

**Montgomery:** No, it hasn't, Ben. But silence isn't an option, not anymore. We're talking about Bridget here—my friend, your case. I told you over the phone I needed to come in and share everything I've uncovered.

**Rodgers:** I appreciate that. You mentioned checking on the gun involved.

**Montgomery:** Yes, the gun—Smith & Wesson M&P Shield EZ .380 ACP. It's common, too common. Nothing came up on it, just like with the detective. But that's not the only trail I've been following.

**Rodgers:** What else have you found?

**Montgomery:** I looked into the Whitewoods, Gabe, Cliff, and Donny. No gun registrations matched. It was a long shot, but necessary.

**Rodgers:** Right, we're clear there. Anything else?

**Montgomery:** The Whitewoods, Ben. Remember my article from 2018? It wasn't just a tribute. It exposed how the legitimate Whitewood bloodline ended with Samuel. His son was sired by Don Monte, Bridget's great-grandfather. Plus, it exposed a Whitewood involved in the murder of a historical figure.

**Rodgers:** That's a lot of skeletons.

**Montgomery:** And why I went public. If Bridget was killed for digging up those secrets, I needed to ensure I wasn't next.

**Rodgers:** Did her knowledge of this make her a target? Did Evelyn know she knew anything?

**Montgomery:** I remember a lunch we had with Evelyn, and we brought up the book. She seemed unimpressed and even blamed Bridget's family for stealing the book. But what if that was all a ruse? What if that was one of the triggers? But that's not all. Before Bridget was killed, I found something at the Whitewood's Lodge. A newspaper article about Jonathon Bell, arrested for murder. I didn't learn this til recently because she buried her past deep. Guess what Evelyn's maiden name is!

**Rodgers:** Evelyn Bell... new name, new life.

**Montgomery:** It was very difficult for me to connect the dots here. Knowing how hard she worked to disconnect herself from the Bells. I think Bridget found out and confronted Evelyn because this put August in the equation. Gabe was Evelyn's nephew. Evelyn probably asked Bridget to keep everything quiet.

**Rodgers:** And you think Bridget refused?



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**Montgomery:** Knowing Bridget, she wouldn't promise to hide anything. She believed in revealing truths, not concealing them.

**Rodgers:** So, Evelyn could see Bridget as a threat to the shiny Whitewood name?

**Montgomery:** Exactly.

**Rodgers:** This theory could be a game changer. We need to be careful.

**Montgomery:** Agreed. And I'm here until we uncover the whole truth. It's what Bridget deserves.

**Rodgers:** Thank you, Cassandra. Let's start looking into Evelyn.

**End of Interview]**



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**Interviewer:** Ben Rodgers

**Interviewee:** Donny West

**Location:** SE 785 W St Heritage Hills

**Date:** December 1, 2023

**Rodgers:** Donny, I appreciate you carving out some time for this meeting. I've been hired to investigate the circumstances surrounding Bridget King's death.

**West:** Absolutely. My assistant informed me about the purpose of your visit. I'm more than willing to help in any way I can.

**Rodgers:** Could you describe your relationship with Bridget?

**West:** Certainly. Although it feels like a lifetime ago, I genuinely cared for her. We were just beginning to deepen our relationship. I would've even called her my girlfriend. Despite our hectic business schedules, we found a lot of common ground and comfort in our interactions.

**Rodgers:** When was the last time you saw her?

**West:** It's a bit fuzzy on the exact date, but it was definitely a few days before her passing. We had dinner after she visited a client—Nina Mill, that was the client's name. I've never met Nina personally, but the name Nina always resonated with me because it was also my grandmother's name.

**Rodgers:** Have you ever heard the names Olivia Smith or Tim Hall?

**West:** Olivia Smith does sound vaguely familiar, though I can't pinpoint where I've heard it. Tim Hall, on the other hand, doesn't ring any bells.

**Rodgers:** How did you cope with Bridget's passing?

**West:** It was tough; I'm not the type who handles loss well. I didn't attend her funeral—emotions and all. I felt with my short relationship with Bridget, it would be a little invasive attending out of respect for her family.

**Rodgers:** I recently learned you purchased the building where the antique shop is located. How did that come about?

**West:** Not long after the funeral, I decided to visit the antique shop to pay my respects to her daughter, August. It was there I ran into Mia, Bridget's friend. I was surprised to learn she had inherited the shop. We had met a few times when Bridget was alive. We both had a history of volunteering overseas right after college, which sparked some meaningful conversations. Mia was struggling with the potential closure of the shop, and I couldn't just stand by. So, I offered to help, and she accepted.

**Rodgers:** How has your investment in the antique shop turned out?



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**West:** It's not exactly a gold mine, but for me, it's more about supporting the community. I've also been involved in local philanthropy, like donating annually to support housing for those in need. It's rewarding in ways that go beyond financial returns.

**Rodgers:** What about your dealings with Evelyn and Samuel Whitewood? I've heard around town that you partner with them occasionally on events or something similar.

**West:** Yes, I do have dealings with the Whitewoods, but I'd rather keep the specifics confidential. It's completely separate from my connection with Bridget or the shop.

**Rodgers:** Just one last question I have been asking everyone I talk to. Do you own a Smith & Wesson M&P Shield EZ .380 ACP?

**West:** No sir, I have never owned a gun.

**[End of Interview]**

**Observations:** Mr. West presented himself as quite financially secure. He was impeccably dressed, and his office was decorated with numerous accolades, suggesting a successful career. A wedding ring adorned his finger, and photos of his children added a personal touch to his workspace. Despite his wealth, his demeanor remained approachable and grounded.