

# Episode 17



**Season 1 : E17 - Be Afraid. Be Mary Afraid: Mclean County Corrections Officer - Mary Burns**

**August 29, 2020**

**Speakers: Bruce Fischer, Jamie Snow, Tammy Alexander, Lesley Pires**

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**Episode Description:** Just days before the trial, defense witness Mary Burns, an all too friendly corrections officer, was contacted by the state. Reports suggest that she resigned from the McLean County Jail in 2000, after having an affair with an inmate she supervised. Custodial sexual misconduct is a class 3 felony in Illinois. Mary Burns reported having many conversations with Jamie and his co-defendant while she supervised them. But Mary would only testify to two, which included thoughts about who may have done it, and a joke about being chased by police. She said other inmates were present when Jamie confessed, but then recanted on the stand, saying that it was just her and Jamie present during the conversation. All three men she originally named said the conversation never happened, two of these men tell their story for the first time here. This seventeenth episode of Snow Files exposes how the state underhandedly used a disgraced law enforcement agent to provide credibility in their case against Jamie Snow.

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**Jamie Snow:** And I think about this all the time. If I have to spend the rest of my life in prison for a crime I didn't commit, I need the world to know what happened and how it happened.

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**Music Intro:** Injustice Anywhere presents Snow Files: The wrongful conviction of Jamie Snow and how they got away with it.

The mission of the Snow Files Podcast is to expose the misconduct of the State's Attorney's office under Charles Reynard. It is not our intention in any way to disparage the current State's Attorney's Office or the Bloomington Police Department.

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**Jamie Snow:** I guess we're going to talk about Mary Jane Burns. Mary was a correctional officer that worked in the, in the McLean county jail when I was in there. I had actually put Mary Burns on the defense witness list. Because, you know, she had told me that, you know, she could talk to Jody Winkler, and that, you know, Jody Winkler told her, you know, these detectives were trying to, you know, pressure me into, you know, coming up with some information, you know on Jamie. Because, I used to live with him down in Florida, but, you know, I really don't know anything about it. And, you know, I don't know what to do, you know? He, you know, and he was telling her he had kids and whatnot, you know and all that. So that's really why I had put her on the list, in the first place, but Frank Picl and Pat Riley never did to talk to her.

So, like a week before my trial, you know, Mary had gotten herself into a situation when she was in the county jail in which she was working in there as an officer, she had become involved in an intimate relationship with an inmate while she was, while she was a correctional officer. She was she actually became engaged to the guy while she was, while she was still working. It was the worst kept secret, you know, that her and the guy was, you know, carrying on. The rumor was, from some of the other officers that work that worked in the county jail was that she had been, she had been forced to resign, you know, in order to avoid any sort of an investigation into what was going on. Because having a relationship with an inmate while your correctional officer is actually felony. It's called official misconduct. So, you know, she resigned and she was gone.

Like a week before my trial...I mean, like a week before my trial, my lawyers bring me this statement, you know, that all of a sudden Mary Burns has this statement to give. And basically, you know, she was saying, you know, not that I told her that I had committed the crime, but that, you know, I thought maybe I knew who did. And she, you know, related this story that, you know, I told her this and that, you know, blah, blah, blah. And the officers that were interviewing her was like, you know, was there anybody else there? Was there anybody else present when you and Jamie were having this conversation, and she said, yeah, there was a guy named Darren Smart,

and a guy named Demetrice Crite were both present when this was going on. And she said, I think it was Aaron. Aaron said, you know, if you know who...if you know who did it, why aren't you telling your, your lawyers this, you know. And, and she said that I got, you know, kind of freaked out or whatever and I and I walked off.

Now, you have to remember all this took place a week before my trial. She also said that she had told her immediate supervisor who was a sergeant in the county jail about this conversation, his name was Chris Salmon - who we're trying to locate, locate Chris to see whether or not he'll talk to us - but um, which I had later, you know, after I'd gotten this report, you know, I went to, you know, the sergeant sergeant Salmon and I was like, you know, did these detectives come to talk to you? And, and he was like, yeah, you know, they came to talk to me, and I told them that, you know, this, this never happened and, you know, had it have happened, had she have told me that I would have wrote a report. So, you know, they need to check that aspect of her story out and it did check it out. They've never told us about it, which Pat and Frank should have went off to Chris Salmon. You know, the state has an obligation and duty to turn over. If they go to check it out and find out that it's not correct, they have a duty to disclose that they did.

So from the time she gave that statement, they went to the detectives, talk to Darren Smart in Pontiac, and Demetrice Crite in in Stateville Correctional Center. So they, they went and talked to both of them. And Darren has given us an affidavit and said that, you know, when they came and talked to him, that, you know, he told them no, never happened. And then they went and talked to Demetrice in Stateville and he also told them that it didn't happen. And they had actually offered, you know, Demetrice had a pretty lengthy prison sentence..he's got three 20-year-prison sentences run consecutively, so that was like 60 years. One of the detectives, I think it was Dan Katz said that they could take one of his consecutive sentences and run it concurrent, you know, which would effectively knock off 18 and a half years of his sentences. And you know, that is kind of telling, because that's exactly what they did with Bruce Roland. They took his consecutive sentences and ran one concurrent. And that's what Katz has done with the state attorney in (unintelligible) case... they had gotten this guy all kinds of deals on his criminal cases.

So you know, they, they threatened Demetrice with transferring to another prison. While they were interviewing Demetrice I guess... one of the things they do here in Stateville, they'll be like, you know, have you ever been to Menard? Have you ever been the Menard you know, nobody wants to go to Menard, because Menard is like

in as far south as you can possibly get. It's hot and it's really a much more violent prison, so nobody wants to go to Menard. And they always use that as a threat "have you ever been to Menard?" So, you know, they were telling him, you know, have you ever been to Menard? And so on so forth...after he basically told them, you know, I don't know anything about it, he never talked to me, you know, he never said anything about the conversation that Mary Burns is saying took place, never took place. And, you know, after he, you know, basically told them "No, it didn't happen." Shortly after they left, they did actually ship him to Menard. You know, he was in Menard for a dozen years before he finally get out of there. You know, and that's, that's reminiscent of what they did to Mark McCowan, you know, they put him in seg. You know, it's reminiscent of what they did to Ed Palumbo, threatening him with whatever they were threatening him with. So I mean, it's par for the course. What they did, but...

You know, what was really telling about the whole Mary Burns' story was that, you know, she came... this, this story just popped up a week before my trial, she tells them this story, yeah Jamie told me, you know, blah, blah, blah, blah, told Chris Salmon and Darren Smart was there for the conversation, Demetrice Crite was there for the conversation. She tells the story. The detectives and the States Attorney go when they talk to these three people. These three people say that it didn't happen- these are three independent people. They're not connected to each other, you know. All three of them say no, no that never happened. The very first thing that Mary Burns did when she got on the stand was she said, you know, I have to recant my earlier statement. It was just me and Jamie there this conversation.

Had Frank and Pat have done their job; had they went and talked to Chris Salmon, had they went and talked with Demetrice, had they went and talked to Darren, they would have known that, you know, all three of these people were denying that this conversation took place. And it would have really shined a, you know, a huge spotlight and would have been a major red flag for, you know, the entirety of her testimony. I mean, she gave a statement a week earlier, they went check it out. And everything that, you know, she said, that involved other people being a part of the conversation, they checked it out. It didn't check out... it didn't happen. So their strategy or her- I would say their strategy was to you know, just say, okay, you know, you know, the people weren't there. I mean, how, how else... put- putting two and two together it's just, it's clear. I mean, it's really clear what happened.

**Bruce Fischer:** Mary Burns was a correctional officer in McLean County, while Jamie and Susan, were awaiting trial. As Jamie stated, he requested Burns to be put on the defense witness list because Burns had told Jamie that Jody Winkler told her that police were putting pressure on him to give them information about the case. Unfortunately, Jamie's attorneys Picl and Riley never interviewed Burns. But the state's attorney Reynard and Detective Katz did...just a little over a week before trial. Interestingly, the recording wasn't turned over during the Freedom of Information Act requests. However, the transcript was. Burns stated she had booked Susan in September of 1999 when she was arrested on this case. She said Susan told her she was pregnant and told Burns directly that she didn't have anything to do with this murder. And that she doesn't understand why Jamie would lie about that, because she doesn't ever remember driving a car anywhere with Jamie. Burns went on to say that Susan had told her between six to 10 times within three to four days that she never drove Jamie anywhere.

She continued to say that she had several conversations with Jamie during that time. The first occurred in late March or early April 2000. Jamie was sitting at her desk with two other inmate workers present, Darren Smart and Demetrice Crite, and he told Burns that he remembers an early evening joy ride in a car with Susan driving, another female up front, and a male in the back with himself and he might know who did the crime. Burns said she warned him that she would have to tell anything he said to her because she was a correctional officer. She said Jamie continued that he asked the driver to pull over so he could get sick in an alley behind the Clark gas station, and the male left for a little while and then came back. She said he read about the murder in the paper the next morning, so he thought the other male did it. She said that Darren Smart asked him if he knew who did it...and why wasn't he telling his lawyer? She said Jamie then ended the conversation and went back to his cell. Burns told police in this interview that she had several other conversations with Jamie talking about different aspects of the case. However, these were not mentioned in her testimony.

Police then went on to speak to both Darren Smart and Demetrice Crite in an attempt to corroborate Burns information. However, both of them deny that the conversation had ever taken place. But you guessed it, they put Burns on the stand anyway. A little over a week later on January 9, 2001, Burns took the stand in Jamie's trial. She talked about how she was a McClean county correctional officer from April 1998 to August 2000, only two and a half years. And at that time, she testified that she was also employed as a security guard while employed as a correctional officer,

she worked the overnight shift. She went on to make an in court identification of Jamie Snow. Burns talked about how they got along very well when he was a pod worker, and that she had a conversation with him between the end of March and the first of April, but not the differences in her accounting. Burns seems to recant her previous statements with this answer while testifying at Jamie's trial:

*It was myself and Jamie and at least one other pod worker. I believe it was Lindsey Caldwell or Darren Smart, and what it entailed was in fact-I want to recant. It was just Jamie and I at this particular conversation. And was, it was, he has said that he had been recalling some memories. And he said he remembers one time him and Susan- Susan Claycomb Powell, and two other individuals who he didn't mention any names had gone out. They had been drinking all day and decided to go for a ride and I was a little concerned.*

**Bruce Fischer:** That's right. Burns, literally recanted on the stand during trial, and stated that it was only she and Jamie there during that conversation. Burns continued recounting the alleged story from the initial interview about there being two females in the front, and him and another male in the back, they pulled in the alley, Jamie got sick, and the other male went into the store. Then stated that Jamie said he read about the murder the next day in the paper. Burns stated several months later, they had another conversation and Lindsay Caldwell was present when Jamie allegedly told the story about running from the police in Ohio. She stated at the time, she found it amusing. Burns testified that she told a senior officer Chris Salmon about both conversations, but she didn't believe that he wrote a report.

There were no surprises on Picl's cross examination. He basically said the same thing he did with every witness in the case. Instead of defending Jamie, he asked if Jamie was trying to impress either her or Lindsay when he asked 'what kind of man would I be if I didn't run?' Instead of asking her why she recanted at trial, he asked her if Jamie reported to her that he had shot Bill Little, or reported to her that he had robbed the Clark gas station. The only decent thing Picl did was to bring out the Burns stated that she reported both conversations to senior officer Chris Salmon, but then he never attempted to interview officer Salmon or any of the others.

Picl never even bothered to even explore the worst kept secret in McLean county jail, which was that Burns was having a relationship with an inmate. As a law enforcement officer, she could have gone to prison for that. Picl didn't bother to ask

her why she, as a former corrections officer, was now a security officer...why the demotion? Why did she quit? The State withheld evidence that they spoke with both Darren Smart and Demetrice Crite prior to trial. The state's withholding of that evidence denied Jamie his due process right to a fair trial. That information was favorable to Jamie and could have been used on cross examination to undermine the credibility of Burns as well as the integrity of this entire case.

We cannot emphasize enough, the credibility of the state's witnesses in this case was the linchpin in securing the conviction against Jamie Snow. This case rose and fell based on a credibility determination of the state's witnesses by the jury. Furthermore, Jamie's attorneys failed miserably to properly prepare for this witness. They should have first interviewed the witnesses claims in her original statement, they have an obligation to investigate the claims of state witnesses. It was impossible for them to make informed decisions concerning trial strategy for Burns. They could have easily impeached her with her changing story and the timing. But the jury never heard any of this. The jury saw a McClain county corrections officer on the stand and upstanding citizen with absolutely no reason to lie.

On September 23, 2003, Darren Smart signed an affidavit stating that Jamie's attorney never contacted him before trial. He stated that never, at any time, did Jamie Snow ever say to him or anyone in front of him, that he knew who committed the murder of Bill Little. He went on to say that Jamie only ever told him that he did not do it, and that he told detectives the same thing when they came to see him before trial. We also reached out to Demetrice Crite, who agreed to an interview. Demetrice stated that detectives visited him in Stateville, where he was serving three consecutive 20 year sentences. He said police mentioned reward money offered him a concurrent sentence on one of the charges. And when he wouldn't corroborate Burns story threatened to send him to Menard prison.

(From recording)

**Tammy Alexander:** Did he talk to you about his case? Did he tell you whether he was guilty or not?

**Demetrice Crite:** (Unintelligible)I asked him about it though, I was always told it wasn't my business whether he did it or not, but, the only thing he ever told me was he didn't do it.

**Tammy Alexander:** And was that was that in county that he told you?

**Demetrice Crite:** Yeah I was in county when I was talking to him.

**Tammy Alexander:** Did you know a guard named Mary Burns?

**Demetrice Crite:** I knew her like a book. She was datin' a guy who was working with us and they were having like a...I guess you's call it a relationship... I guess I call it relationship. Actually, I know they were engaged. Some other stuff that was going on while she was still working there. He was still in jail...the rumor was and she was supposed to had to resign right? She was forced to resign (unintelligible) left. Well, you know that's what the rumor was, I kept in contact. I don't know if it changes (unintelligible) Mary (unintelligible), but she's passed now.

**Tammy Alexander:** Yeah.

**Demetrice Crite:** I used to keep in contact with her. She was like a godmother to me. But she, she basically just used to tell them, you know, they forced her to get-to resign, because they found out they were messing around and actually get engaged, I think... I'm not sure they even got married but the board might- some sort of investigation into, you know what was going on with them.

**Tammy Alexander:** I mean, so she told you that she was having an a relationship.

**Demetrice Crite:** She didn't have to tell, it was obvious, you know, I mean, late at night, when we had to clean up the pod, or wherever. I mean, two people just don't disappear for 20, 30 minutes at a time. Come back looking a little disheveled or whatever I mean, I'm not (unintelligible) hold back it was (unintelligible). It was coming off basically. Yeah. You know, and I don't think she really tried to hide it as much from you know, people that she kind of like, you know, knew who it was obvious to.

**Tammy Alexander:** Did any officers ever tell you anything or was this just talk among the inmates?

**Demetrice Crite:** Like I said, Mary and Matthew let me know that she, she had to Mary had to resign because she was..they were trying to avoid an investigation.



**Tammy Alexander:** So was there a time when when you were visited by detectives when you were in Stateville? Can you tell me about that?

**Demetrice Crite:** Yeah, there's one time they came up like...I'm trying to remember now..I think it's Katz is one of them's name and Bernard or something like that. They offered me a time cut to run my time together. And actually, if they would have done it then, I would have made a deal...I know, I'd probably be out right now I'm getting ready to go out in about eight or nine years I don't know, but I just basically told him, you know, f- off, you're wasting your time coming up here and ask me questions like that because Jamie never told me anything so I would never, I would never do that to him. I just think it's the lowest of the lowest.

And besides, you know, I told him, you know, he didn't he told me he didn't do it. You know, they offered to you know, like I said, cut my time and actually kind of threatened me- transferring me down to Menard, almost, you know, (unintelligible) is like a punitive, like transfer really for a lot of people, because it's so far down south. And what they did, they did the transfer me down to Menard. I laugh because they didn't realize they were doing me a favor because I have family in (unintelligible). They asked me to corroborate her story, and I can't corroborate something I don't know, so I told them it's a waste of their time coming up. I'm sorry, but I'm getting the hell up out of here.

**Tammy Alexander:** You know, at that time you had What? Three 20 year consecutive- three 20 year sentences.

**Demetrice Crite:** Yeah, that's what I had.

**Tammy Alexander:** And then they offered you...did they offer you the time cut?

**Demetrice Crite:** They got offered to run- or would run one concurrent..the third one of the 20 run concurrent, so that would have gave me 40 years. But like I said, I've already done 1 20 so I'd been on my way out, now. In about nine years but, like I said, I wasn't- even even if I did I, that's just not my character and I wouldn't, I wouldn't do it. I don't give a damn if you offered me, you know, to get out tomorrow, I just...I have a consciousness and I just...I wouldn't feel right doing something to somebody I knew was not guilty.

**Tammy Alexander:** What exactly did they offer you? You said they talked about reward money was it...I mean it was that a direct offer or did they...like how did that come about?

**Demetrice Crite:** You know, it wasn't a direct...you know, they said you know there's a reward out for information leading to the conviction, and I told them "fuck off." I can't remember exact amount of money, but I know they were offering me a reward. And also they, like I said, they cut one of my sentences...18, they basically cuttin' like, like 18 and a half years off. Just look at 'em and I said you just wasted a trip. I don't understand why they can't see that she was she was covering her own hide.

(End recording)

**Bruce Fischer:** In the end, they did in fact send Demetrice to Menard. Had he said what they wanted him to say. He would have had 18 and a half years knocked off of his sentence. That's incredible. We also got the chance to speak with Lindsey, who said that Jamie never said that he committed the crime. In fact, Jamie said the opposite. And Jamie also never said that he knew who committed the crime.

(From recording)

**Tammy Alexander:** Do you remember having any conversations on at Mary Burns cubicle with maybe Darren Smart and Demetrice Crite and Jamie?

**Lindsey Caldwell:** Ah, we was all over that pod, I mean it was something they didn't (unintelligible) we wandered all over the place. I could have been standing anywhere...I was at that desk a couple of times around any given a moment. I talked to Jamie more than once while I was locked up there. I hardly knew him at first, you know I sat down and, ah, became a friend and talked about cases and stuff.

**Tammy Alexander:** So you talked about the case...did he ever tell you that he committed the crime?

**Lindsey Caldwell:** Naw, he did not do that, for sure. He felt like he was being set up. A lot of stuff in his motion didn't-wasn't...like-didn't (Unintelligible) I guess you could say...you know he was going through that motion and highlighting a few

things and seemed like- to him, like the police were setting him up, or the state was trying to basically, use him as the main suspect.

**Tammy Alexander:** So he never said...did he ever say that he knew who committed the crime?

**Lindsey Caldwell:** No, he never mentioned that either...it was so long ago we had the conversation, it's kind of vague to me now, but we both know where the location was at and it was right down the street from the high school I used to go to, that's how I knew where that gas station was, which eventually they end up tearing down. (unintelligible) the witnesses- the people that already had already, basically didn't like Jamie to begin with and those are basically the people that they interviewed, and it was like, you know, kinda like premeditated, you know what I mean?

**Tammy Alexander:** So did the police ever come to talk to you?

**Lindsey Caldwell:** No. No police ever come and talked to me.

**Tammy Alexander:** What did you think of Mary Burns? Did you know her?

**Lindsey Caldwell:** Yeah, I've met her- she was a nice CO... I didn't know her that well either. I just started talking to her and a lot of times, I was getting a lot of injuries during that time, my family was really concerned about my well being here and you know, my outcome, so they came and visited me a lot, and she would let me like stay over maybe and extra 20 minutes, 15 minutes.

**Tammy Alexander:** And you didn't know anything about, you just saying that there was gossip about Mary Burns, but you didn't know anything directly about the situation with her?

**Lindsey Caldwell:** I didn't know anything being a fact...a lot of gossip in the county you know everybody got their own opinion about everything but I thought she was a nice person regardless about what anybody else said about her. I judge people for who they are not what people say about them.

**Tammy Alexander:** Right. And is there anything else that you can tell me...or you remember about any any of this or you just-

**Lindsey Caldwell:** You know, in the long way...the way he had mentioned it and the way my motion was going...he made me look through my motion actually, that kind of helped me with another case I was working on and I went through my motion just like he had went through his and highlighted a few things that I thought should be cross referenced in court. Jamie was a lot of help to me. He was a good guy as far as I was concerned...he didn't seem like a person who would do something like that. As far as the, I mean so many... so many people and so many police points directly at him without doing detective work and look at the real facts of the case. I mean, I read it in a paper, as far as what the Pantagraph had put in there, I didn't know who the victim was or anything like that or how the paper had put it in there but when they had printed that fact is...even the paper here gets everything twisted.

**Tammy Alexander:** Do you know Demetrice Crite and Darren Smart? Do you remember them?

**Lindsey Caldwell:** Um I don't know the personally. Most of the guys during that time...I was kind of new to being locked up. You know, I think he was going off of people's character and how they handled their demeanor and what was really in their heart, you know. If I was hanging out with anybody, you know, I feel like they were some good guys. You know, as far as I've known about them, my opinion about them, you know, we're just in a place at the wrong time, you know? I'm pretty sure nobody wants to be in there at all. And we was all bought all personal struggles.

(End recording)

**Bruce Fischer:** Tam. So just to recap, is Jamie saying this conversation never occurred...that Mary is making it up? Or is he saying that she is adding information into a casual conversation that they were accustomed to having?

**Tammy Alexander:** Well, Jamie is saying it never occurred, and that Mary is making it up. That's right. I'm sure they have conversations, but as Demetrice stated, they didn't really talk about their cases and certainly not in any depth Demetrice does recall Jamie saying that he didn't do it, but there were no long conversations about the case, according to Jamie and Demetrice.

**Bruce Fischer:** Was this possibly another incident of Jamie talking about the bus station robbery? And Mary changing the incident from robbery to murder, as we have seen with several the other witnesses so far?

**Tammy Alexander:** No, I- Jamie wasn't involved in the bus station robbery that was Ed Palumbo and Mike Neely. She may have heard rumors, but I think that was the extent of it. I mean, if the pattern holds true, the cops gave her the information, right? I mean, if this is if she's lying, then the cops probably told her what she needed to say.

**Bruce Fischer:** She was obviously fed the information from the police.

**Tammy Alexander:** Right...like everybody else was.

**Bruce Fischer:** Like we've seen many times. Were you or anyone on Jamie's defense ever able to verify any of the legal trouble Mary Burns was having in 2000?

**Tammy Alexander:** not concrete verification like in, you know on paper, we've been told by several people that it was well known that she was having an affair with an inmate. Demetrice even said he kept up with Mary Matthews. She was another CO from McLean County, and that that Mary Matthews told him directly that she was in trouble for this. But unfortunately, Mary Matthews has passed away so we can't get a statement from her. But certainly if anyone knows about this incident, we would love to hear from you. You can contact us at the podcast any of us because we'd love to talk with you.

**Bruce Fischer:** Certainly other people may have spoke with Mary Matthews on this as well.

**Tammy Alexander:** Possibly. That's what we're hoping.

**Bruce Fischer:** Has anyone from the defense spoken of Mary Burns since the trial? What about her supervisor Chris Salmon, or that other inmate she named during trial? Lindsey Caldwell?

**Tammy Alexander:** Well, we haven't been able to locate Burns or Salmon yet. And again, if Mary burns or Chris Salmon is listening, we would love for you to contact us. I'm supposed to speak with Lindsey Caldwell this evening. But from the brief

correspondence we've had, he doesn't recall the conversation happening and his, you know, some of the things, the things he said are in line with Darren Smart and Demetrice.

**Bruce Fischer:** During Mary's first statement, she talks a lot about Susan Claycomb and Jamie. She identified up to 10 conversations she had had with Susan and six with Jamie. She actually said a lot of things that were in defense of Jamie, can you recap some of those?

**Tammy Alexander:** Well, Burns said in September 1999, when Susan was arrested, that Susan had told her at intake that she was pregnant and that she did not commit the crime. She said Susan said she didn't know why Jamie would lie, because she doesn't ever remember being in a car with him. She denied ever being in a car with him. They both have denied being in a car together- ever. She said Susan denied ever been in the car with Jamie about six to 10 times before trial. She also said Susan was a hall worker and recognized Jody Winkler and asked but he was there for. As far as the conversations with Jamie, she reported to- she testified to, those were the conversations about Jamie thinking a male he wrote in the car with did it and the other about being chased by the cops when he was arrested.

But there were four others. There was a third conversation with Jamie where he wondered why the state had someone on the witness list that he shared a cell with for eight hours after being processed for a prior case years earlier. There was a fourth conversation where Jamie supposedly discussed helping Jody Winkler and being upset that he would now turn on him...a fifth conversation about the Hendrix family in a suppose that murder happening in which Mary admits she got wrong. But claimed Jamie said if Hendrix could get away with it in McLean county then so could he, and a sixth where she said Jamie was, Jamie was sick in his cell and told her it was over the crime scene photos he saw that day. Those last four conversations were not discussed at trial.

**Lesley Pires:** You can kind of see how she had a lot to say. And then the state just like cherry picked the two that, you know.

**Bruce Fischer:** They didn't even use it all.

**Lesley Pires:** (unintelligible) it up. Yeah, and I don't know if Picl had a copy of this interview, so he would have never known he could have questioned her about those

other four things.

**Bruce Fischer:** Jamie explained that Mary was on his list as a defense witness because she could dispute Jody Winkler's testimony. You know, that guy who said Jamie somewhat confessed in a truck by the beach in the rain. Why do you think Jamie's attorney, Picl, did not contact Mary first?

**Tammy Alexander:** I mean, that's the question of the year, right? Why didn't he contact any of the state's witnesses... at all?

**Bruce Fischer:** It's just another case to show his inability to put up a proper defense. To put it politely.

**Tammy Alexander:** Exactly.

**Bruce Fischer:** Lesley, how did the prosecution handle Mary on the stand?

**Lesley Pires:** Well, Mary's questioning was very uneventful and rather short. I find it incredibly interesting that she was first approached about this case, only a week and a half before she took the stand. She had a lot to say in that first interview. But when she got on the stand, she only gives information about two of the six conversations she had with Jamie, and she changes who is present. So she clearly turned from defense witness to state's witness very quickly. So to start Reynard just asked her to confirm she worked in the jail the same time Jamie was living there during the trials, and to describe the conversations they had. She tried to describe the first conversation, which is the one where he supposedly confesses that he thinks he knows who did the murder, but she messes up and says two other inmates are also present at this time, and then awkwardly exclaims, I want to recant. It was just Jamie and I. So it seems to me she can't get her story straight. And this is her first time testifying. Some thinking if continually questioned over time, she may not have been able to recall the details consistently, like all the other state's witnesses. But we don't know if Picl ever had a copy of that initial interview. So he might not have had that advantage, because it was only eight days old, and it might have been withheld.

The other issue I noticed is that she told the jury that both of the conversations she had with Jamie, with others present, happened at her cubicle, even the one where they were watching Cops, but during her police interview, she made a big deal out of clarifying that it was on the couch in front of the TV with Demetrice Crite present.

But during trial, Demetrice is never mentioned as being present and she says it was Lindsay Caldwell who heard the second conversation on her desk, where Jamie joked about running from the cops. And then that's it. That's all the state wanted to know. They didn't ask about anything else she told the cops about Susan or Jamie always wondering why people would lie against him, just those two things.

**Bruce Fischer:** So when looking at Jamie's trial, then how did the defense handle Mary on the stand? What was the quality of that questioning?

**Lesley Pires:** On cross Picl does his usual questioning to get it on the record that Jamie never said he shot Bill Little, or robbed the gas station himself or saw someone else do it. That was the main revelation he wanted. Interesting when Mary had described the second conversation to both Reynard and Picl. She said Lindsey Caldwell was there but leaves out Darren Smart this time, and Demetrice Crite is never mentioned. So why didn't Picl ask her if Darren Smart was there to account for why she mentioned his name in the first place, so that he could get it on record that there was a supposed conversation with another witness present. She told the detectives he was there during her first interview, it's verified in his affidavit that the police approached him about it too. And then she mentioned some briefly on the stand, but then she's not grilled about him at all. And that's a big opportunity missed by Picl. And then Mary is excused without being asked about her own history, why she left her job as a corrections officer to be a security guard, or what kind of reputation she has for truth and honesty. And I think those are big issues that were clearly missed here.

And the last big opportunity that Picl missed was never calling her superior, Chris Salmon into the stand. He could have asked him if Mary ever gave him the report, and it would have been very easy to call him since he still worked there. And we just have to wonder if this was another Picl screw up where he didn't put them on the list in time. It had only been one year since the supposed second conversation, so surely he would have recalled it. And Picl obviously also didn't call the three other inmates named by Mary- Darren, Demetrice or Lindsey. So overall, I think Mary didn't have anything that significant to say it was just a story about Jamie thinking about who may have done it and a joke about running from the cops. But since Picl didn't have anything good to say either, what she said ended up mattering to the jury way too much.



**Tammy Alexander:** I mean, he should have hammered home that she all of a sudden said that it was that it was just her and Jamie. I mean, that's her story contradicts itself throughout the testimony even.

**Lesley Pires:** Yeah, I mean, she says I want to recant. We, like that's like, you know.

**Tammy Alexander:** From eight days ago.

**Lesley Pires:** Yeah, that's like weird verbiage to use. So she laid the foundation for that. So when he's cross examining her, why didn't he just say what are you talking about? I want to recant about who is this guy? Why did you mention him? Is there a third conversation he was involved in? Why would you bring him up? I mean, none of that ever happens at all.

**Tammy Alexander:** I mean, it, you know, and I've always wondered if he wasn't working with the state on this just because it's so...I mean, that's just a huge red flag.

**Lesley Pires:** I wonder if like Jamie was kicking him under the table like, you know, he said he was with so many other people.

**Tammy Alexander:** Man.

**Bruce Fischer:** Lesley, you mentioned in your first question that, as we know this interview with her happened shortly before the trial, you said it's possible that Picl did not have her initial interview... a copy of that interview. Do we know anything about that? Is it poss-is it really possible that he wouldn't have had that interview?

**Tammy Alexander:** I don't know. I caught that too. And that and that made me wonder that man, I'm definitely gonna follow up on that.

**Bruce Fischer:** Because this is a witness that could have easily been discredited immediately on the stand. And not that we think Picl great at his job, but it would have been an easy one for him.

**Tammy Alexander:** It would have been an easy one for him. But what doesn't surprise me is that that he may have had it because just as for example, with Jeff Pelo, or the others, I mean, there's inconsistent statements all over the place. It just seems like you would hand them those police reports and make them read them. So

this is what you said yesterday. And now you're on the stand saying this. It's completely different.

**Bruce Fischer:** Is there anything to suggest that Picl just thought this witness did matter all that much?

**Tammy Alexander:** Not that I'm aware of. But I'm going to talk to Jamie today, and I've definitely asked him about that.

**Bruce Fischer:** We'd like any witness featured on the Snow Files podcast, to come on the show, to give their point of view, or to clarify anything that they think might have been misstated.

**Lesley Pires:** In Episode 17, we heard how a young woman caught in love with her prisoner was leveraged to discredit Jamie's defense. Mary Burns was a McLean county jail corrections officer with the inside scoop, as she often bantered with inmates during her overnight shifts. But days before Jamie's trial, she was approached by the state. And switched from defense witness to state's witness overnight. Mary Burns resigned from her posts for unknown reasons, testified against Jamie and was never heard from again.

If you have any information that may help Jamie please call the tip line at 888-710-SNOW. There is a \$10,000 reward for any information leading to a new trial or the exoneration of Jamie Snow. The tip line is free and confidential. Want to join the Jamie Snow support team become a patron for as little as \$1 a month just go to [SnowFiles.podbean.com](https://SnowFiles.podbean.com) and click on be my patron on pod bean. All donors will have our undying appreciation and acknowledgement on the show. The highest tier donors will be invited to host a Q&A segment. Funds are used to cover our administrative costs and to keep Jamie in the media.

Jamie's case was a very salacious for a small town. And there were other women who got caught in the mix. Gal pals Bridget and Julie made up a story about Jamie's wife confessing at a bar. And Julie even gossiped about a possible second murder. Both of these stories made it into court. How did Bridget Logsdon and Julie Knight get away with it? That's next time on Snow Files.

*Transcribed by: Cathy McElhaney*

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