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CASE NO.: BA381627  
CASE NAME: People v. David Viens  
INTERVIEW DATE: March 15, 2011

1           SERGEANT GARCIA: Okay. It's March the 15<sup>th</sup>,  
2           2011 at approximately 1115 hours. This is the audio  
3           portion of the interview behind the case out of the  
4           Lomita Sheriff's Station under Sheriff's File Number  
5           009-04249-1711-400. This interview will be conducted  
6           by myself and my partner. I'm Sergeant Richard  
7           Garcia. And my partner is Detective Mitch Robeson,  
8           both of Sheriff's Homicide.

9                         We'll be interviewing David Viens on this  
10           particular case. We are presently at the LCMC jail  
11           ward at the -- at the hospital downtown. David,  
12           could you state your name for us, please.

13           DAVID VIENS: David Robert Viens.

14           SERGEANT GARCIA: Okay. Before we get talking to  
15           you, I want to advise you of your rights. David, you  
16           have the right to remain silent. Anything you say  
17           can and will be used against in a court of law. You  
18           have the right to have an attorney present before we  
19           talk to you. If you cannot afford an attorney, one  
20           will be represented -- one will be provided for you  
21           free of charge. Do you understand your rights?

22           DAVID VIENS: I do understand them.

23           DETECTIVE ROBESON: If you want to give us your  
24           statement, we're happy to take it.

25           DAVID VIENS: That's fine.

1           DETECTIVE ROBESON:   Okay.

2           SERGEANT GARCIA:   Okay.   So you understand your  
3           rights?

4           DAVID VIENS:    Uh-huh.

5           SERGEANT GARCIA:   And you want to talk to us  
6           about it?

7           DAVID VIENS:    Yes.

8           SERGEANT GARCIA:   This case?   Okay.   All right.  
9           Go ahead.   Once again, you want to go ahead and  
10          describe what happened that evening.

11          DAVID VIENS:    It was the first week the  
12          restaurant was open.   I worked 100 hours a week.   I  
13          gone home that Saturday night with Dawn.   She had  
14          been doing a lot of cocaine and drinking.   I went to  
15          bed, tired, and I definitely didn't want any part of  
16          that.   I woke up the next morning, she's watching  
17          football, eating pizza, and drinking more beer,  
18          didn't appear -- didn't appear to be doing -- what?  
19          All right.

20                 At this point, I started going through all  
21          the cash receipts, and I realized that a lot of money  
22          has been -- was missing.   So I'm very calmly -- I go  
23          to my mom's house, and I go over there with her, and  
24          I show her everything that I've seen.   And everything  
25          I've seen is correct.   I go back to the house -- and

1 I realize, you know, Dawn's my girl, you know, she  
2 makes mistakes. But once we got through our first  
3 big week, I wanted to hang out with her even still,  
4 you know.

5 So I said, Get dressed. Let's go get  
6 something to eat. We drive over to the California  
7 Pizza Kitchen, okay. That's one of the spots that I  
8 remember us going to on Hawthorne Boulevard. We get  
9 there, you know, we don't really see much of anything  
10 we want to eat. Maybe I had a glass of lemonade, she  
11 had a beer, and that was as much as what we had -- a  
12 little bread basket. So while I'm there, this guy  
13 Todd calls.

14 Todd is a longshoreman who fronted me some  
15 material to build a pot and pan rack in the kitchen.  
16 Tonight's his only night to put it up. So I said,  
17 Dawn, I'm going to have to drop you off, I'm going to  
18 go to put up this pot and pan rack. She's pissy at  
19 me. So we go there, and I told her to go home, I  
20 won't be that long. So then this guy Charlie shows  
21 up. Charlie's another guy who's a -- works for -- as  
22 a chef. He's going to be my backup. He comes over,  
23 he's complaining about his wife, I can smell booze on  
24 his breath. And so we stay there, we put up the pot  
25 and pan rack, we commiserate about our wives, and

1           this, that, and the other thing.

2                       Anyways, Dawn keeps calling. She wants --  
3 she thinks we're having this party. I said, We're  
4 not partying, you know. Anyways, Todd leaves --  
5 probably to go see her. And Charlie and I go to all  
6 these godforsaken places that I would never go to.

7           SERGEANT GARCIA: What kind of places?

8           DAVID VIENS: Like Texas Lucy's, The hole in the  
9 Wall, like pool clubs, dart clubs. And he's driving  
10 like an ass and he's getting belligerent so I'm not  
11 enjoying myself with this guy much. And really, I  
12 just want to go home and be with Dawn. I'm pissed at  
13 her, but I still would rather have done that than  
14 done this.

15                       So we're driving down Hawthorne and -- we're  
16 driving down Hawthorne, and we're just past like that  
17 Pizza Kitchen place. And we just past the Pizza  
18 Kitchen place, you know, the -- the what do you call  
19 it? The -- not the Pizza Hut, the big Italian  
20 restaurant -- the Olive Garden. You follow me now?

21           DETECTIVE ROBESON: Uh-huh.

22           SERGEANT GARCIA: Yeah.

23           DAVID VIENS: All right. He's going 100 miles an  
24 hour. I look over, and I reach over, and I pull the  
25 tags -- or the keys out of his ignition. So I have

1 his car stalled. I said, "Get out. I'm driving."  
2 So I drive down that Airplane Lane to get back to  
3 Lomita safely as possible. I'm pulling in behind the  
4 restaurant because I know it would be safe there,  
5 take the keys with me, and I get out, and I walk to  
6 this other little eatery. It's not too far for me to  
7 get home to.

8 I call Dawn -- or maybe she calls me -- I  
9 don't remember. And I tell her basically what's  
10 happened, and she's cool for a minute, then she shows  
11 up at a bar, and she starts to get (Inaudible) I'm  
12 being an asshole, she's being difficult herself. And  
13 so she decided to leave in her Jeep, drive over to  
14 where Charlie is behind the restaurant, and help him.  
15 At this point I had already called --

16 SERGEANT GARCIA: Is that the motorcycle guy?

17 DAVID VIENS: The motorcycle guy was over in that  
18 area, but no.

19 SERGEANT GARCIA: Oh.

20 DAVID VIENS: Charlie's the guy that worked for  
21 me and at Basil and Rosemary's, went to the Navy,  
22 works for the Jonathan Club.

23 SERGEANT GARCIA: Oh, okay.

24 DAVID VIENS: This thing is hurting me. And so  
25 she's (Inaudible) not to drive. I can walk home all

1 right, because I don't live that far. It's up a  
2 couple of streets. I go in, I take the Ambien, I  
3 move the big bureau in front of the door. There's a  
4 big ass bureau, and just assume she's not going to be  
5 able to get in. She gets in, she just raising hell  
6 outside the door. And I keep saying the same thing  
7 over and over. I tell her -- and I keep telling her,  
8 Either go spend the night somewhere else, or I  
9 (Inaudible) somewhere else. You're not staying here  
10 because I can tell I'm going to go to jail any minute  
11 for all this domestic violence.

12 SERGEANT GARCIA: Right.

13 DAVID VIENS: And up until this point, I haven't  
14 even seen her or laid a hand on her. So I lay back  
15 down, and the Ambien kicks my ass. I got real  
16 lightheaded on these things. So I'm laying there,  
17 and the next thing I know, she's all over me and  
18 she's got the light on my face, calling me all kinds  
19 of mean names and stuff. And I keep telling her the  
20 same thing, Just leave me alone. I just need to  
21 sleep. I just need to sleep. Just let me sleep.

22 And then I get up, and I grab her right by  
23 the hand -- both hands, and I bring her out into the  
24 living room, and I go ahead and I force her onto the  
25 floor, and I wrap her hands up real quick, I wrap her

1 feet up real quick, and I take a piece of clear duct  
2 tape -- wrapping tape and I put that over her mouth.  
3 And that was it. I said, Good night.

4 SERGEANT GARCIA: And you went to sleep?

5 DAVID VIENS: I went right to sleep, and I woke  
6 up. And four hours later, I'm like, Dawn. I just  
7 freaked. I go, Oh, my god. And I go rushing out  
8 there, and she's gone.

9 SERGEANT GARCIA: She had already died?

10 DAVID VIENS: Yes.

11 SERGEANT GARCIA: And then what happened?

12 DAVID VIENS: And then I had meetings that  
13 morning, and I was just trying to keep my head up and  
14 think through this. How the fuck had this had  
15 happened? So I obviously can't bring her back to  
16 life. And -- but what can I do? What can I do?  
17 What can I do? And that's when I came up with the  
18 idea of cleaning the grease traps and comingling in  
19 the -- the excess -- excess protein -- the excess  
20 protein in those units. If you ever really looked at  
21 that, you would see where we mix up real good.

22 SERGEANT GARCIA: So how did you get rid of her  
23 remains?

24 DAVID VIENS: I got rid of her remains through  
25 the garbage bag, poured some -- I had torn heavy duty



1           ones though. I can show you. And then you can see  
2           exactly what I'm talking about. It probably weighed  
3           seven or eight pounds in grease. I didn't want to  
4           put too much in it because I didn't want it to rip.

5           SERGEANT GARCIA: Okay. What did you -- how did  
6           you -- how did you get her body into grease? Explain  
7           how you --

8           DAVID VIENS: Well, the body -- it wasn't grease  
9           it was water.

10          SERGEANT GARCIA: It was water?

11          DETECTIVE ROBESON: Water?

12          SERGEANT GARCIA: Well, how did it get -- how did  
13          it get that way? What did you do with her body?  
14          After she was dead, what did you do with it after  
15          that?

16          DAVID VIENS: I boiled the water.

17          DETECTIVE ROBESON: In what size of a vat?

18          DAVID VIENS: It was big. (Inaudible)

19          DETECTIVE ROBESON: So a 50-gallon or --

20          DAVID VIENS: Bigger.

21          DETECTIVE ROBESON: 55-gallon?

22          DAVID VIENS: It was heavy for me to carry.

23          DETECTIVE ROBESON: Okay.

24          SERGEANT GARCIA: You put her body in there? Her  
25          whole body fit in there?

1           DAVID VIENS: Whole body fit in there.

2           SERGEANT GARCIA: And then what did you do with

3           that?

4           DAVID VIENS: I manipulated her so the face was

5           -- the face is down, and I took some -- some things

6           -- like weights that we use, and I put them on the

7           top of her body, and I just slowly cooked it and I

8           ended up cooking her for four days.

9           SERGEANT GARCIA: You cooked on Dawn's body for

10          four days?

11          DAVID VIENS: Before it was done.

12          SERGEANT GARCIA: So then -- and then what did

13          you do with it then?

14          DAVID VIENS: Fuckers. My back hurts.

15          SERGEANT GARCIA: Okay. We're going to call the

16          nurse right now. So you cooked her for four days?

17          DAVID VIENS: I cooked her four days, I let her

18          cool, I strained it out as I -- as I was in there,

19          okay. I said (Inaudible) be able to identify her.

20          SERGEANT GARCIA: Right.

21          DAVID VIENS: I mixed her in with some of the

22          other shit (Inaudible)

23          SERGEANT GARCIA: (Inaudible) so you got rid of

24          the -- that stuff in the --

25          DAVID VIENS: Because my lower back is in pain,

1           excruciating pain.

2           LYDIA MALA: I have your pain medications --

3           DAVID VIENS: And I haven't had a drink of water  
4 yet.

5           SERGEANT GARCIA: Yeah, sure -- sure. Go ahead  
6 and give it to him. She's going to give you your --  
7 your water and your pain pills. And then are all of  
8 her remains gone then?

9           DAVID VIENS: I didn't touch any of her stuff.

10          SERGEANT GARCIA: No, no. Her body parts.

11          DAVID VIENS: All right. I think there's one bag  
12 left. I'm confused now, and -- because of these  
13 dreams and stuff I've had. I think the skull is  
14 there.

15          SERGEANT GARCIA: In where?

16          DAVID VIENS: In my mother's attic. And there's  
17 no reason to wreck her attic.

18          SERGEANT GARCIA: It's in her attic, or in  
19 garage, or --

20          DAVID VIENS: In her attic -- in her attic. If  
21 you walk into my mom's -- if you walk into my  
22 mother's side of the garage where all the books are  
23 and stuff --

24          SERGEANT GARCIA: In her house?

25          DAVID VIENS: In her garage.

1           SERGEANT GARCIA: In her -- in her -- at the  
2 house she lives in?

3           DAVID VIENS: Yes.

4           LYDIA MALA: I have your -- I have your Vicodins  
5 and pills, okay.

6           DAVID VIENS: All right. Please.

7           LYDIA MALA: Can you lift your head a little bit  
8 up?

9           DAVID VIENS: All right.

10          LYDIA MALA: Okay. (Inaudible) do you need  
11 water?

12          DAVID VIENS: More water, please. (Long pause)  
13 Okay. So -- so once again, when you walk in to the  
14 garage area, okay.

15          SERGEANT GARCIA: Okay.

16          DAVID VIENS: And there's a bunch of my brother's  
17 stuff in there right now because he moved to Florida.

18          SERGEANT GARCIA: Who knows this is up there?  
19 Anybody? Does your brother know? Is that yes or no?

20          DAVID VIENS: I thought I saw in a dream --

21          SERGEANT GARCIA: Okay.

22          DAVID VIENS: -- that he knew it was in there.  
23 But I don't believe -- I never wanted to get him in  
24 trouble.

25          SERGEANT GARCIA: Okay. And so what's inside

1           that bag?

2           DAVID VIENS:   The whole skull and jaw came out in  
3 perfectly one piece.

4           SERGEANT GARCIA:   Okay.   That's the only thing  
5 that you couldn't get rid of?

6           DAVID VIENS:   That's the only -- that's the only  
7 thing I didn't want to get rid of in case I wanted to  
8 leave it somewhere.

9           SERGEANT GARCIA:   You didn't bury it anywhere?

10          SERGEANT ROBESON: Did you bury any part of her?

11          DAVID VIENS:   That's why I buried everything else  
12 in like the garbage bags very carefully.

13          SERGEANT GARCIA:   And you put the garbage bags --

14          DAVID VIENS:   In my Dumpster mixed in --

15          SERGEANT GARCIA:   With --

16          DAVID VIENS:   -- strategically placed in with  
17 debris and other crap.

18          SERGEANT GARCIA:   Okay.   All right.

19          DAVID VIENS:   That's the God's honest truth.

20          SERGEANT GARCIA:   Okay.   I believe you.

21          DAVID VIENS:   You can put me on a polygraph test  
22 any day of the week and I'll pass that --

23          DETECTIVE ROBESON:   We'll verify that, David.  
24 That's not a problem.

25          SERGEANT GARCIA:   Okay.   I'm going to go talk to

1           your nurses, and I'm going to come and give your mom  
2           a call too, okay.

3           DAVID VIENS:   Okay.

4           DETECTIVE ROBESON:  All right.

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