

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000

No!

2

00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:04,000

No!

3

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:06,000

No!

4

00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:08,000

No!

5

00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:10,000

No!

6

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:12,000

No!

7

00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:14,000

No!

8

00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:17,000

My son was my whole world.

9

00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:21,000

And one day, I'm gonna find him.

10

00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:27,000

Everything had been thrown out,

11

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:29,000

and the entire place was cleaned.

12

00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:32,000

They were just gone. There's nothing left.

13

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:36,000

Oh, my God.

14

00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:38,000

He took the kids.

15

00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:42,000

Every day our hope was that he's coming back.

16

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:44,000

But there was nothing.

17

00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:47,000

He disappeared without a trace.

18

00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:49,000

Everything was turned upside down,

19

00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:52,000

and everything that I believed to be true is not true.

20

00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:55,000

There is no playbook for kidnapping.

21

00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:32,000

but I believe he's gonna die.

22

00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:44,440

Who will throw this ■ visiting urc

23

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:54,000

When I dream about my kids,

24

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:56,000

sometimes they're in trouble,

25

00:01:56,000 --> 00:02:04,140

to get to them. And sometimes we're just spending time doing the things that we

26

00:02:04,140 --> 00:02:19,780

like to do together. For that moment, they're alive and they're with me. So I

27

00:02:19,780 --> 00:02:24,880

love dreaming about my kids because they're actually there.

28

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:44,680

I met Ahmed Kindeel when I was 28 and he was 30. I was planning to go to medical

29

00:02:44,680 --> 00:02:48,920

school and he was pursuing an MBA in order to spend more time in finance.

30

00:02:48,920 --> 00:02:52,640

When we initially started dating, all of our dates were sports, whether it was

31

00:02:52,640 --> 00:02:57,760

playing soccer, going to a volleyball group, racket ball. Gosh, we used to go

32

00:02:57,760 --> 00:03:02,760

dancing a lot every Friday. It was either East Coast, Swing, West Coast, Swing. We did

33

00:03:02,760 --> 00:03:06,480

all sorts of great dance routines and it was really fun.

34

00:03:06,480 --> 00:03:14,320

Ahmed grew up in Cairo. He's Muslim. I grew up in Berlin and my background was

35

00:03:14,320 --> 00:03:19,800

Christian. But what I felt really brought us together is that we both came from a

36

00:03:19,800 --> 00:03:25,320

very middle-class upbringing and so we had some of the same values even if we

37

00:03:25,320 --> 00:03:31,240

came from different religious backgrounds. Ahmed and I knew each other a

38

00:03:31,240 --> 00:03:36,240

couple of years before we got married. And then nine months later, my daughter,

39

00:03:36,240 --> 00:03:41,520

Aminam, was born September 1st, 2003. It was just about three weeks after I

40

00:03:41,520 --> 00:03:47,160

started medical school. And then right between a second and third year, my son

41

00:03:47,200 --> 00:03:56,200

Belel was born in January 4th, 2006. Aminam is such a warm person. She's a little bit

42

00:03:56,200 --> 00:04:00,400

more shy than her brother, but she has this core of inner strength that comes

43

00:04:00,400 --> 00:04:06,640

through every once in a while. Belel is more outward and fun-oriented in a lot of

44

00:04:06,640 --> 00:04:10,720

ways and he engaged everyone.

45

00:04:10,720 --> 00:04:16,320

Rebecca and I met the first day of residency in Boston and subsequently

46

00:04:16,360 --> 00:04:23,560

followed each other to Virginia for a job. And when Rebecca and Ahmed first moved

47

00:04:23,560 --> 00:04:33,040

to Virginia, every Wednesday was dinner night. We had sleepover nights for the

48

00:04:33,040 --> 00:04:43,920

kids, game nights. And Ahmed was always very welcoming. He took good care of the

49

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:53,200

kids. He was a good dad. But he at that point was actually not working. He had a

50

00:04:53,200 --> 00:04:58,040

job in Boston and then in the financial crisis had lost his employment there.

51

00:04:58,040 --> 00:05:03,560

And after 2008, finance was just not a very good area to be working in. From that

52

00:05:03,560 --> 00:05:13,800

point, Ahmed did not ever show interest in getting a job. He smiled less and he

53

00:05:13,800 --> 00:05:21,720

was less positive and not open at all to any dialogue or discussion. He regarded

54

00:05:21,720 --> 00:05:26,520

me solely focused towards the children and within my function as a mother, more

55

00:05:26,520 --> 00:05:33,000

so than as a woman or a professional. So he really was not the same person that he

56

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:40,320

was when I met him. Ahmed would have just stayed together the way that we were,

57

00:05:40,920 --> 00:05:46,640

but I was the one who is not happy. So Ahmed and I separated in June of 2013.

58

00:05:50,240 --> 00:05:55,560

After we separated, I would get the kids for two weekdays and Ahmed would have them

59

00:05:55,560 --> 00:06:00,960

the other weekdays and then we would basically split the weekends. But Ahmed

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00:06:01,560 --> 00:06:06,760

tried to make it very difficult for Rebecca to see Amina in Belal because

61

00:06:06,800 --> 00:06:13,000

Rebecca was the working parent. He was also moving in a much more conservative

62

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:19,200

religious direction and Amina and Belal were attending the school at the mosque

63

00:06:19,200 --> 00:06:25,080

on Saturdays. So it became abundantly clear that Ahmed was on one trajectory and

64

00:06:25,080 --> 00:06:29,960

how he wanted the kids to be raised and I felt I was pretty squarely on a very

65

00:06:29,960 --> 00:06:31,120

different trajectory.

66

00:06:37,760 --> 00:06:44,800

It was a Thursday before Labor Day. The children were going to go with Ahmed to

67

00:06:44,800 --> 00:06:51,400

Toronto to look at a college for their cousin. He said that he was going to be

68

00:06:51,400 --> 00:06:57,080

returning on September 1st that Monday, which is Amina's birthday. She was

69

00:06:57,080 --> 00:07:01,720

turning 11 years old. So he expected to be back in the country at that point.

70

00:07:01,960 --> 00:07:07,120

When Ahmed came to pick up the children, we were sitting on the couch watching

71

00:07:07,120 --> 00:07:13,680

something on the iPad. Belal immediately ran over to the front door and had to

72

00:07:13,680 --> 00:07:21,280

show it to his father. Then immediately ran out to the car and I told Amina that

73

00:07:21,280 --> 00:07:28,240

it was time to go. And right at the door, she gave me a hug, gave me two kisses.

74

00:07:28,280 --> 00:07:32,160

I told her that she should have a good weekend in Toronto with her cousins and

75

00:07:32,160 --> 00:07:36,160

that I was looking forward to wishing her a happy birthday. Not too much longer

76

00:07:36,160 --> 00:07:37,160

after that.

77

00:07:43,160 --> 00:07:45,160

I watched them driving off.

78

00:07:52,560 --> 00:07:54,560

That was the last time I saw my kids.

79

00:07:58,240 --> 00:08:10,920

On Friday, the day after the kids got picked up in the evening, I texted Ahmed

80

00:08:10,920 --> 00:08:16,320

and told him that I want to call Amina on her birthday. He confirmed that he was

81

00:08:16,320 --> 00:08:21,840

going to be back on the 1st. I didn't have any contact with them on Saturday and

82

00:08:21,840 --> 00:08:29,640

Sunday, but on Monday, I tried to call him multiple times on his cell phone and

83

00:08:29,640 --> 00:08:33,040

he wouldn't pick up and at that point, September 1st, he really should have been

84

00:08:33,040 --> 00:08:40,200

back. It was infuriating not to be able to reach my children. I called multiple

85

00:08:40,200 --> 00:08:45,040

times from the hospital and couldn't get a response. It was a little

86

00:08:45,040 --> 00:08:50,280

disconcerting, although it wasn't unusual for him. Just a passive aggressive move,

87

00:08:50,320 --> 00:08:59,160

not to let me talk to my daughter on her birthday. So that night, I texted Ahmed to

88

00:08:59,160 --> 00:09:01,160

please tell Amina happy birthday.

89

00:09:06,680 --> 00:09:11,760

That Tuesday, September 2nd, Amina was going to go to middle school for the

90

00:09:11,760 --> 00:09:18,280

first time and Belal was going back to elementary school. So my sense was that

91

00:09:18,280 --> 00:09:26,160

if the kids were in school, then everything was fine. But I called both

92

00:09:26,160 --> 00:09:30,240

schools in the morning. They told me that they weren't there and they hadn't

93

00:09:30,240 --> 00:09:38,080

shown up that day. At that point, I got really concerned and panicked and angry

94

00:09:38,080 --> 00:09:43,480

and just hurt and really concerned about the kids.

95

00:09:43,480 --> 00:09:51,600

The problem was that I was at my remote clinic where I'm the only anesthesiologist

96

00:09:51,600 --> 00:10:00,080

around and there were still patients to be seen and I can't leave. I contacted the

97

00:10:00,080 --> 00:10:04,360

police that day and I called every hospital in Toronto just to see if maybe

98

00:10:04,360 --> 00:10:10,200

they had possibly gotten into an accident. And then I called Ahmed's father in

99

00:10:10,440 --> 00:10:16,840

Egypt and I asked him where Ahmed was and what had happened. He didn't know what

100

00:10:16,840 --> 00:10:21,640

I was talking about and he wasn't concerned, which concerned me. And that to me

101

00:10:21,640 --> 00:10:30,040

was a real warning sign that he must have known something. So I called Daphne and I

102

00:10:30,040 --> 00:10:33,040

asked if she could please check Ahmed's house for me.

103

00:10:33,040 --> 00:10:50,320

When I went to the house, there were no cars and nobody was home and the windows

104

00:10:50,320 --> 00:10:56,720

were blocked. So I went to the back of the house. There was a curtain that was

105

00:10:57,200 --> 00:11:06,240

pulled aside and I looked through a glass door and I knew that something bad had happened.

106

00:11:07,280 --> 00:11:16,960

I called Rebecca and I told her the house is empty, completely empty. She told me that

107

00:11:17,760 --> 00:11:21,360

everything was gone. There's nothing left.

108

00:11:29,840 --> 00:11:37,440

The bottom just fell out and I was in a free fall. There's just no other way to describe it.

109

00:11:37,440 --> 00:11:42,640

I mean everything is torn away from you and everything was turned upside down. I don't know what's going on.

110

00:11:43,360 --> 00:11:52,800

But moments later they said that we needed intubator patients so I remember going right back to work.

111

00:11:52,800 --> 00:12:00,080

I was just in tears. I couldn't stop crying and the surgeon and the entire team looked up and said,

112

00:12:00,080 --> 00:12:07,840

are you okay? And I said, really not. I don't know where my kids are. I was just like simultaneously

113

00:12:07,840 --> 00:12:15,200

panicked and just sliced open.

114

00:12:26,720 --> 00:12:33,680

On that Friday, the James City County Police Department explained that the flight records

115

00:12:33,680 --> 00:12:39,280

had been found and it was clear that Ahmed and the kids did not in fact travel to Canada.

116

00:12:40,640 --> 00:12:50,000

They actually flew from JFK through Kyiv and from Kyiv then to Istanbul and in Turkey.

117

00:12:51,440 --> 00:12:58,640

That was really shocking and that frightened me in ways I can't even describe to you.

118

00:12:59,040 --> 00:13:10,480

The FBI became involved with the case in September 2014 and immediately after the FBI was tipped off

119

00:13:10,480 --> 00:13:17,600

that Amina and Belal had been taken by their father, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Ahmed

120

00:13:17,600 --> 00:13:21,760

by the Eastern District of Virginia for two counts of international parental kidnapping.

121

00:13:22,640 --> 00:13:25,040

One for Belal and one for Amina.

122

00:13:27,200 --> 00:13:32,880

And one of the first steps to the initial part of the investigation was to do a thorough review of

123

00:13:32,880 --> 00:13:38,320

his financials looking for anything that would lead to Ahmed and the children.

124

00:13:39,680 --> 00:13:46,000

When I looked through bank records and credit card records from the FBI, it was shocking to me.

125

00:13:46,080 --> 00:13:52,080

Ahmed had gone to a survivalist camp that was up in the mountains.

126

00:13:53,120 --> 00:13:58,240

He went to a shooting club to learn how to shoot guns multiple times.

127

00:13:59,360 --> 00:14:00,800

He was never a gun fanatic.

128

00:14:01,440 --> 00:14:06,240

Survival training would be helpful to anyone if they were crossing through borders,

129

00:14:06,240 --> 00:14:09,200

doing some things on foot, spending a couple days outside.

130

00:14:10,480 --> 00:14:15,200

He also bought different types of camping equipment such as sleeping bags, boots for the children,

131

00:14:15,760 --> 00:14:17,600

and he sent them overseas.

132

00:14:18,160 --> 00:14:23,760

So there's our little things that showed that Ahmed didn't just take his children on a whim.

133

00:14:23,760 --> 00:14:26,000

He had a well-oiled plan before he left the country.

134

00:14:27,920 --> 00:14:30,400

But now I needed to find my children.

135

00:14:36,320 --> 00:14:43,600

I checked Amina's email account multiple times and the tablet that the children had

136

00:14:43,600 --> 00:14:47,760

was used to check Amina's email address in December of 2014.

137

00:14:48,960 --> 00:14:56,640

When I looked at the IP address of where that tablet was, it was in the Hattay province,

138

00:14:56,640 --> 00:15:00,880

close to the city of Reyhanli, which is in that little southern tip of Turkey that's right on

139

00:15:00,880 --> 00:15:04,160

the border to Syria. That was close to a war zone.

140

00:15:04,720 --> 00:15:12,240

That frightened me. That really, really frightened me because I thought, what does that mean?

141

00:15:12,240 --> 00:15:17,760

I'm enjoying something that he was not supposed to join and pull my children into.

142

00:15:17,760 --> 00:15:22,880

That maybe he was in a really unsafe place with my kids right now and I don't know where they are.

143

00:15:22,880 --> 00:15:24,560

I can't keep them safe anymore.

144

00:15:25,600 --> 00:15:30,320

We don't know where he was going and whether Ahmed has changed his name,

145

00:15:30,480 --> 00:15:38,800

his children's name, created new identities. These are all possibilities and potentially that's a

146

00:15:38,800 --> 00:15:44,400

reason they can't be tracked. I was actively involved in just trying to find any way to

147

00:15:44,400 --> 00:15:52,400

reach my children. I've hired three different private investigators and I've contacted congressmen

148

00:15:52,400 --> 00:15:58,880

and senators. I set up a webpage that allowed me to say, I am looking for my children.

149

00:15:58,880 --> 00:16:04,800

If you know anything, please get in touch. But nothing seemed to be substantive.

150

00:16:06,800 --> 00:16:15,600

Until September of 2015, about a year since Ahmed had abducted the kids, I received an email

151

00:16:15,600 --> 00:16:23,680

that was simply called, kids are okay. And it was from Ahmed. Just wanted to let you know that they

152

00:16:23,680 --> 00:16:30,160

are well and doing great. We live on a small farm and they are loving it. They got all kinds of

153

00:16:30,160 --> 00:16:36,480

animals and it's keeping them busy. I understand you must be angry at me, but you left me no other

154

00:16:36,480 --> 00:16:43,120

choice. I knew long before you asked for a divorce that it is coming and it wasn't going to wait

155

00:16:43,120 --> 00:16:49,040

till you find a job somewhere and take full custody of them. So once they're old enough and can

156

00:16:49,040 --> 00:16:55,120

distinguish right from wrong, they will contact you. And at the right age, they can decide where they

157

00:16:55,120 --> 00:17:07,680

want to live. It was an infuriating email. On the one hand, it was a relief to hear that my kids were

158

00:17:07,680 --> 00:17:14,480

alive. It was also clear to me that the kids were being heavily influenced to adopt whatever

159

00:17:14,720 --> 00:17:21,760

approach to life Ahmed felt was appropriate. And he was going to influence them to the point that they

160

00:17:21,760 --> 00:17:28,240

probably would never want to contact me. What was found out about the email was that the recovery

161

00:17:28,240 --> 00:17:35,520

email address was one of Ahmed's known email addresses. It was clearly from him. And it originated

162

00:17:35,520 --> 00:17:41,680

in that same area in Turkey where Amina's email address had previously been checked. That same

163

00:17:41,760 --> 00:17:50,720

small part that's close to Syria. I got the contact of a Turkish detective who went down to Southern

164

00:17:50,720 --> 00:17:56,560

Turkey that's close to the Syrian border looking for the kids there looking for the IP address of

165

00:17:56,560 --> 00:18:02,640

this particular email. He found an internet cafe that this might have been attributable to, but he

166

00:18:02,640 --> 00:18:07,440

really did not find out any information over and above what the State Department, the police and the

167

00:18:07,680 --> 00:18:15,680

FBI were able to recover. So there had been absolutely nothing for quite a while. That was a

168

00:18:15,680 --> 00:18:24,480

really hard period of time. And then I found out that Ahmed applied for an Egyptian ID card in

169

00:18:24,480 --> 00:18:34,880

2016 and he registered his ID at his parents address in Giza. If that is true and along with Ahmed's

170

00:18:35,440 --> 00:18:41,680

email in 2015 saying they're on a farm surrounded by animals tied with Rebecca's understanding of

171

00:18:41,680 --> 00:18:48,480

that Ahmed's father also owned a farm located midway between Cairo and Alexandria is probably the best

172

00:18:48,480 --> 00:18:55,360

clue that we have that they are possibly in Egypt. So I hired an investigator trying to work together

173

00:18:55,360 --> 00:19:00,640

with people in Egypt to see if there was any trace of the kids or if they were seen anywhere

174

00:19:00,640 --> 00:19:06,800

around Ahmed's parents, but they didn't come up with anything. I really wanted to go to Egypt,

175

00:19:06,800 --> 00:19:14,960

but I've been intently warned against going there. I am not protected overseas. Anyone can come up

176

00:19:14,960 --> 00:19:24,080

with any kind of charges. So it's from what I hear a very unwise idea. The fact that we believe Ahmed

177

00:19:24,080 --> 00:19:29,840

is overseas makes things a lot more challenging because specifically in Egypt parental kidnapping

178

00:19:29,840 --> 00:19:34,240

is not considered a crime. He's a biological parent of these children. They're his children just

179

00:19:34,240 --> 00:19:41,760

like their Rebecca's children. The father can decide what he wants to do with those children.

180

00:19:43,200 --> 00:19:50,160

I as a mother don't have any possibility of getting those children back or even forcing a

181

00:19:50,160 --> 00:20:01,600

communication with them. There's a really new recourse and that's so unfair. I don't know why

182

00:20:01,600 --> 00:20:07,600

they haven't contacted Rebecca, but I'm wondering if he didn't stage some accident and told the kids

183

00:20:08,560 --> 00:20:16,160

she's dead or just banned them from the internet because there's absolutely no way in the world

184

00:20:17,120 --> 00:20:24,800

Amina and Belal would not have contacted mom. They adore their mom and their mom adored them.

185

00:20:34,720 --> 00:20:42,400

January 4th, 2017. Belal, today's your birthday and though I'm sad that I'm not with you,

186

00:20:43,360 --> 00:20:47,200

I hope you're surrounded by happiness, hope, fun and kindness.

187

00:20:50,480 --> 00:20:57,840

The loss of not having my kids is so great it would be crippling to feel that emotional impact

188

00:20:57,840 --> 00:21:07,920

every time I enter the house. So I write in a journal to them every day and that's what I really

189

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:11,680

allow myself to feel and to feel close to them again.

190

00:21:20,160 --> 00:21:26,800

She writes to them every single day. She made it very personal. These are her children. She didn't

191

00:21:26,800 --> 00:21:32,160

deserve to have them taken from her. So my heart breaks for Rebecca and the fact that she has gone

192

00:21:32,160 --> 00:21:36,880

so long and that we haven't been able to provide the answers for her that she and her children deserve.

193

00:21:37,920 --> 00:21:42,240

It's not their fault and they deserve to know that their mother cares about them.

194

00:21:55,040 --> 00:22:00,640

I miss most of you Amina and Belal so much and

195

00:22:01,120 --> 00:22:07,360

I hope that I have an opportunity to see the people that you've grown into.

196

00:22:10,800 --> 00:22:17,360

The people that you are now and how lovely you must be and how curious about the world.

197

00:22:31,440 --> 00:22:44,160

Aziz was born on November 13, 2010.

198

00:22:47,520 --> 00:22:53,040

And that day changed my life. We were all there the day that he was born

199

00:22:53,840 --> 00:23:02,400

and Aziz was the greatest blessing to our family. He brought such joy to our house.

200

00:23:06,400 --> 00:23:09,200

And Abdul really loved spending time with him.

201

00:23:11,520 --> 00:23:13,200

Oh my god catch him catch him catch him.

202

00:23:16,640 --> 00:23:22,400

Aziz's mother Rabia was born in Columbus Georgia. Her families originally from India and Pakistan.

203

00:23:23,440 --> 00:23:28,960

We met in Alabama when we were in school and it was actually my mom introduced us.

204

00:23:29,760 --> 00:23:36,720

Rabia was in undergrad. She's a very strong personality. She's somebody that makes it a

205

00:23:36,720 --> 00:23:42,000

point to know what she wants and demand what she wants. And for someone who also has a strong

206

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:48,960

personality we were attracted to each other. Over the course of a few years we realized that we

207

00:23:48,960 --> 00:23:55,600

wanted to get married. And when Aziz was first born we actually lived with my parents in New Orleans.

208

00:24:02,720 --> 00:24:07,120

But you know Rabia had a hard time getting along with them and you know it was very clear that we

209

00:24:07,120 --> 00:24:10,480

couldn't live in the house and so we moved out.

210

00:24:11,440 --> 00:24:20,880

I'm a pulmonologist that works in an intensive care unit and Rabia initially worked at the same

211

00:24:20,880 --> 00:24:26,800

hospital I did for a very short period of time and then she quit that job and then she worked at a

212

00:24:26,800 --> 00:24:34,640

local cancer agency and then she left that job. She would always find a reason to change her job.

213

00:24:34,640 --> 00:24:43,040

You know she didn't like somebody. She didn't like her boss. Her personality was very guarded

214

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:48,800

and you never got the feeling that you really knew who she was.

215

00:24:50,800 --> 00:24:56,720

As Aziz grew older we started having lots of problems. You know fighting was almost daily.

216

00:24:57,440 --> 00:25:03,120

There were arguments in front of Aziz so in April of 2014 we decided to separate.

217

00:25:05,280 --> 00:25:10,160

She requested that she go back to Atlanta because that's where her family's support was.

218

00:25:10,160 --> 00:25:15,680

I really agreed with her initially because I thought if she needs help with Aziz that it might

219

00:25:15,680 --> 00:25:20,720

be a good idea and she made it seem like hey we're still working on this marriage let's try to make

220

00:25:20,720 --> 00:25:28,400

this work. It was hard for me but we basically had an agreement where we did every other weekend

221

00:25:28,400 --> 00:25:33,600

and so I just thought you know this is temporary. And then after several months

222

00:25:34,480 --> 00:25:41,760

out of left field Nemtil was served with divorce papers and it was a shock.

223

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:51,360

It all changed. Rabia would put up hindrances and roadblocks trying to stop me from seeing Aziz.

224

00:25:51,360 --> 00:25:57,280

She would schedule soccer games during my weekends and she would make up excuses about him being sick

225

00:25:57,840 --> 00:26:00,000

so she would try to prevent him from seeing me.

226

00:26:02,480 --> 00:26:07,920

It seems that during that whole period she was meeting with lawyers, she was finding out about

227

00:26:07,920 --> 00:26:14,960

custody, she was figuring out what she needed to do in order to keep Aziz in Atlanta.

228

00:26:15,680 --> 00:26:21,920

Ultimately Rabia wanted Aziz to have nothing to do with his life you know in New Orleans.

229

00:26:22,640 --> 00:26:32,000

And then once she filed divorce papers Rabia blocked Abdul from seeing Aziz and he had to go to court

230

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:39,120

and had her served with papers to have them inform her that he had a right to see his child.

231

00:26:45,280 --> 00:26:48,400

The divorce was finalized in 2015

232

00:26:48,560 --> 00:26:53,360

but Rabia still kept Aziz from his dad.

233

00:26:54,480 --> 00:26:59,360

And that's what led me to push hard for a custody evaluation. I wanted to have

234

00:27:00,080 --> 00:27:06,640

the right to spend as much time with my son that was allowed and it was right about a year later

235

00:27:06,640 --> 00:27:12,320

when the custody evaluators recommended that I get primary custody of Aziz because they felt like

236

00:27:12,320 --> 00:27:17,760

Rabia was not allowing me to spend my due time and be a good dad for Aziz.

237

00:27:19,360 --> 00:27:25,120

When Rabia found out that Abdul was going to be awarded a full primary custody of Aziz

238

00:27:25,120 --> 00:27:31,440

she went to the courts and made these horrific baseless abuse allegations against Abdul.

239

00:27:33,440 --> 00:27:40,480

She went into the criminal court system making accusations that me and my family were abusive

240

00:27:40,480 --> 00:27:46,240

in order to delay the court evaluation from happening and it turned into this world

241

00:27:46,240 --> 00:27:52,080

when where a lot of lawyers got involved and it became about a year and a half of investigation

242

00:27:52,800 --> 00:27:58,880

but what made it so hard was that I wasn't allowed to see Aziz. That was really tough.

243

00:27:59,920 --> 00:28:06,880

And then as all of the court staff progressed we became aware that Rabia had been in a relationship

244

00:28:06,880 --> 00:28:13,360

with someone else. Elliot Bouchois was a friend of hers that she knew in college.

245

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:18,080

Towards the end of our marriage when we were having problems there were some phone calls

246

00:28:18,080 --> 00:28:24,320

between them so at some point when our marriage was ending was when they were reconnecting.

247

00:28:24,320 --> 00:28:31,040

Elliot started coming to court with Rabia and that's how he found out that Elliot and Rabia

248

00:28:31,040 --> 00:28:38,560

were actually married. He wasn't a lawyer but she fired three or four lawyers. Her and Elliot

249

00:28:38,560 --> 00:28:43,520

became their own lawyers and they represented themselves when they came to court and with

250

00:28:43,520 --> 00:28:49,200

time every judge that they went in front of started seeing their lies and manipulation.

251

00:28:50,320 --> 00:28:56,720

And then finally after 18 months of thorough investigation the DA in Atlanta realized that

252

00:28:56,720 --> 00:29:01,280

all the accusations were all false and I was going to get full custody for Aziz.

253

00:29:03,360 --> 00:29:08,480

We were to meet on November 28, 2017 in the Atlanta courtroom and that's when all the

254

00:29:08,480 --> 00:29:13,120

restrictions were going to be lifted. It was really going to happen so there was this joy.

255

00:29:17,360 --> 00:29:23,760

We get to the Atlanta courtroom we're waiting for our case. The judge shows up and

256

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:26,480

Rabia is not there.

257

00:29:29,120 --> 00:29:36,240

There was a momentary panic amongst our family but we just thought okay this is Rabia being

258

00:29:36,240 --> 00:29:40,880

Rabia she's going to try to throw something else at us you know to try to prolong this.

259

00:29:42,960 --> 00:29:47,120

We waited several hours thinking or hoping that there was a delay

260

00:29:49,120 --> 00:29:50,400

but Rabia didn't show up.

261

00:29:54,240 --> 00:30:05,840

I left the courthouse and I didn't have my son.

262

00:30:14,720 --> 00:30:19,760

At this point I'm very worried I'm calling his school. His school says that they haven't seen him

263

00:30:19,760 --> 00:30:24,560

for a week. He didn't come to school the week before Thanksgiving the last time they saw him

264

00:30:24,560 --> 00:30:30,480

was the Friday before. I make phone calls to her family and we don't get any response.

265

00:30:31,920 --> 00:30:36,080

And then finally we realized that she kidnapped him that's what was happening.

266

00:30:37,680 --> 00:30:38,960

She kidnapped him and ran.

267

00:30:44,320 --> 00:30:45,040

Devastating.

268

00:30:45,840 --> 00:30:51,200

Horrific. It was confusing you know it didn't seem real.

269

00:30:53,520 --> 00:31:05,520

And Abdul was terrified. It was as if removing his heart. He always said the nights were the toughest for him.

270

00:31:06,240 --> 00:31:12,560

Look in the quiet that's when he has time with his thoughts you know.

271

00:31:15,200 --> 00:31:16,880

To think about his life with Aziz.

272

00:31:21,520 --> 00:31:26,960

I remember the last time I saw Aziz. It was March of 2016.

273

00:31:29,200 --> 00:31:30,640

It was just a normal weekend.

274

00:31:33,440 --> 00:31:35,520

He had a lot of fun we took a lot of pictures.

275

00:31:37,680 --> 00:31:40,160

But I said hey Aziz it's time for you to leave.

276

00:31:40,480 --> 00:31:53,040

And I put him in her car. And he used to always he'd put up his hands and he'd say

277

00:31:53,040 --> 00:31:55,680

Baba how many days before I see you again.

278

00:32:00,480 --> 00:32:01,920

It was like five more days.

279

00:32:02,720 --> 00:32:09,280

And they drove off and my thought was hey I'm going to see you in five days because it's my weekend.

280

00:32:09,280 --> 00:32:14,240

I'm at spring break. That was you know four plus years ago.

281

00:32:19,440 --> 00:32:26,000

We thought Robby was crazy. We thought that she was vindictive.

282

00:32:26,560 --> 00:32:30,880

But we never thought that Robby was capable of this.

283

00:32:33,360 --> 00:32:38,160

We hired private eye after private eye in Atlanta in New Orleans

284

00:32:38,160 --> 00:32:42,640

and other places around the country to find any information about Aziz.

285

00:32:43,920 --> 00:32:48,960

The first thing that everyone said was that I need to get national law enforcement

286

00:32:48,960 --> 00:32:51,760

involved to investigate Aziz's abduction.

287

00:32:52,320 --> 00:32:57,040

But there has to be a felony warrant out for Rabia.

288

00:32:57,040 --> 00:33:03,520

And initially there was some disagreement between police departments that the jurisdiction is in Atlanta or New Orleans.

289

00:33:05,360 --> 00:33:13,520

Finally after two years the court gave a felony kidnapping warrant against Rabia for the abduction of Aziz.

290

00:33:15,920 --> 00:33:18,880

Once there was a felony kidnapping warrant against Rabia

291

00:33:19,200 --> 00:33:21,120

the U.S. Marshals got involved in the case.

292

00:33:23,120 --> 00:33:26,240

The U.S. Marshals got involved in early 2020

293

00:33:27,040 --> 00:33:32,880

and the U.S. Marshals involvement was about three years or so behind the actual disappearance.

294

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:36,880

So we're basically starting off way behind already.

295

00:33:37,760 --> 00:33:40,880

We conducted multiple interviews in several states.

296

00:33:41,600 --> 00:33:45,200

Add up to U.S. Marshals from the Northern District of Georgia went out to Duluth

297

00:33:45,600 --> 00:33:48,560

and attempted to interview Rabia's mother and father.

298

00:33:49,520 --> 00:33:56,560

They were being evasive during questioning and they appeared to not be concerned about where their daughter was,

299

00:33:56,560 --> 00:33:59,440

where their grandchild was or where Elliot was located.

300

00:33:59,440 --> 00:34:02,000

They just referred everything to their attorney.

301

00:34:05,360 --> 00:34:13,040

After talking to the U.S. Marshals I found out that this was something that Rabia and Elliot planned out.

302

00:34:13,360 --> 00:34:15,360

I mean it was cold and calculated.

303

00:34:16,560 --> 00:34:21,360

Rabia and Elliot had taken Aziz out of school 10 days prior to November 28th.

304

00:34:23,760 --> 00:34:26,960

They sold their cars to CarMax in Atlanta.

305

00:34:26,960 --> 00:34:28,960

Elliot had quit his job.

306

00:34:28,960 --> 00:34:36,560

They both shut down their cell phones, closed their bank accounts, closed all their social media and they disappeared.

307

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:47,440

If they assumed new identities they could get new employment,

308

00:34:48,320 --> 00:34:51,680

maybe establish lines of credit, create a whole new lifestyle.

309

00:34:51,680 --> 00:34:57,840

It's obviously been done before or if somebody were to finance them they could also be living off cash.

310

00:34:58,720 --> 00:35:00,720

Could be friends, could be family.

311

00:35:01,760 --> 00:35:02,320

I don't know.

312

00:35:07,760 --> 00:35:09,040

This is the day he was born.

313

00:35:09,760 --> 00:35:10,260

God.

314

00:35:10,960 --> 00:35:17,760

We've done everything that we can think of to find some trace of Aziz, Rabia, Elliot.

315

00:35:18,320 --> 00:35:21,520

His laugh was contagious.

316

00:35:21,520 --> 00:35:23,280

Was everything contagious.

317

00:35:24,160 --> 00:35:28,960

And outside of you know when they sold their cars in 2017,

318

00:35:30,320 --> 00:35:36,080

we have yet to find any credible link to them in any way.

319

00:35:37,040 --> 00:35:39,440

And that's what makes this so hard.

320

00:35:40,240 --> 00:35:44,160

Four years later we still don't have any sign of them.

321

00:35:45,680 --> 00:35:47,680

But if you think that we're going away,

322

00:35:49,120 --> 00:35:56,800

if you think that Abdul or me or my family is ever going to stop looking for Aziz,

323

00:35:58,400 --> 00:36:04,960

if you are sorely mistaken, because we will never, never rest.

324

00:36:07,040 --> 00:36:08,400

Until he's returned.

325

00:36:13,840 --> 00:36:18,400

When Aziz disappeared, time literally stopped.

326

00:36:21,040 --> 00:36:24,560

So to me, he left yesterday.

327

00:36:26,240 --> 00:36:30,960

And so I think about him every day and I do things every day to try to find him.

328

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:34,000

I'm going to keep fighting till I see him.

329

00:36:34,800 --> 00:36:39,920

And one day he's going to walk through a door and I'm going to be standing on the other side.

330

00:36:42,960 --> 00:36:44,960

It's time for him to come home.

331

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:06,000

You

332

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:36,960

You