













32           The letter had no return address. But I recalled Agatha’s  
33 famous sense of humor. In *Death in a Bottle*, the victim was Kerry  
34 Belleon. I did some digging and discovered that -- on the very same  
35 day Agatha listed her Alabama home for sale -- a holding company  
36 called Bell Leon LLC purchased a plot of land in Ryder County,  
37 Midlands. On June 7, I gave Rogers the address and Rogers gave  
38 me the \$10,000 we had agreed upon. Sure, the location of  
39 America’s most famous missing authoress might be worth a lot  
40 more than \$10,000 to the tabloids, but M. Bond knows how to keep  
41 a secret. I considered the matter closed.

42           Fast forward to August 15, 2018. At 8:45 a.m. -- that time is  
43 not an estimate; I do not round -- my phone rang. It was Stevie  
44 Rogers. Rogers said, “Nana was murdered. How soon can you be in  
45 Midlands?” I said, “My dear Stevie, I am sorry for your loss. I will be  
46 there inside of an hour.”

47           I arrived at Lee Manor at 9:25 a.m. and proceeded directly  
48 through the unlocked front door, up the stairs, and to Lee’s second-  
49 floor bedroom. I found three people inside: Stevie Rogers, Drew  
50 Mars, and Agatha Lee. Rogers looked angry. Mars looked nervous.  
51 Lee looked dead. She was in her bed, under the covers. At first  
52 glance, it looked like death by natural causes: an 82-year-old  
53 woman, no blood, no signs of suffocation or a struggle, dead in her  
54 bed. But looks can deceive. I assume nothing. That is the second  
55 rule of detection.

56           Detective Noura Khan arrived soon after I did, at 9:30 a.m. I  
57 did not know Detective Khan, but based on her greeting she  
58 recognized me. Detective Khan asked who found the body, and  
59 Rogers said it had been Mars. I led Detective Khan through the  
60 front door, up the stairs, and to Agatha’s bedroom, where Mars had  
61 remained. Khan asked Rogers and myself to wait outside the room  
62 so she could speak with Mars and apologized to me for the  
63 formality. I nodded.

64 As Detective Khan spoke to Mars in the bedroom, I spoke to  
65 Rogers in hushed tones in the sitting area. I asked Rogers, “Why are  
66 you so convinced Mars murdered Agatha? What motive does Mars  
67 possess?” Rogers summarized a conversation that Rogers had with  
68 Agatha in the study the morning before, on August 14th, and said  
69 Mars was right outside the study and overheard everything. “What  
70 was said?” I asked. Rogers said that Agatha was changing her will.  
71 “No,” I demanded. “Tell me *exactly* what was said.” Rogers said,  
72 “Nana told me that she was going to rewrite her will to make me the  
73 sole heir.” I asked, “Did Agatha say she was taking Drew Mars out  
74 of the will?” Rogers said “No: just that she was leaving her estate to  
75 me.” I asked Rogers, “So why would Drew Mars have a motive to kill  
76 Agatha? Even if Mars overheard the entire conversation, nothing  
77 from that conversation conveyed that Mars stood to inherit even a  
78 penny under Agatha’s current will.” Rogers admitted that was true.  
79 I told Rogers that I needed to stretch my legs, as that is when I  
80 think best.

81 By 10:00 a.m., Khan, Rogers, Mars, and I gathered in Agatha’s  
82 study, the same one where you all sit today. Khan suggested that  
83 Agatha’s body be taken to the funeral home. Rogers protested,  
84 saying an autopsy and tox screen were necessary. Mars said Agatha  
85 wanted to be cremated. Rogers said that cremation would destroy  
86 the evidence of a crime. Khan said this looked like natural causes.  
87 It was then, you will recall, that I spoke up for the first time that  
88 day. “I don’t doubt your instincts, Detective,” I said. “But what  
89 harm can ensue from a little patience?” Khan reluctantly agreed to  
90 send the body to the coroner’s office, not promising an autopsy or  
91 tox screen but kindly leaving the possibility a possibility.

92 That morning, I noted the position and contents of the pill  
93 organizer on Agatha’s nightstand, which is well documented by  
94 Detective Khan’s report and the photographs.



95 I asked Mars if Mars might chat with me alone for a few  
96 moments about Agatha's health. Mars, after all, was Agatha's  
97 caretaker, a licensed nurse who had been with Agatha for a  
98 decade's time. Mars said that Agatha was in good health for 82; that  
99 Agatha had arthritis and occasional back spasms; that Agatha took  
100 certain medications daily: aspirin, winterin (prescription arthritis  
101 medication), and Vitamin B. I asked Mars if Agatha had any  
102 allergies or medical conditions beyond the arthritis. Mars said that  
103 as a young girl, Agatha was diagnosed with a terrible, potentially  
104 fatal, chloroandromine allergy. Chloroandromine is an over-the-  
105 counter drug for heartburn. I recalled chloroandromine as the  
106 murder weapon in *Death in a Bottle*, a book I've read and enjoyed  
107 countless times. I realized then that Agatha had used her own  
108 exceedingly rare allergy as inspiration for the method of murder in  
109 her own magnum opus.

110 Mars said Agatha had looked rather ashen and lethargic in the  
111 days leading up to her death. Mars said Mars had voiced concerns  
112 about Agatha's appearance on August 12, 13, and 14, but that  
113 Rogers and Agatha had waved off her concerns.

114 I asked Mars if I might look around Mars's room. Mars said  
115 no. It occurred to me that Drew Mars might, literally, have had  
116 something to hide.

117 I left Lee Manor at noon on August 15. I will not stand before  
118 you with false humility. Even then, I suspected foul play.

119 On Monday, August 20, we gathered at nine o'clock in the  
120 morning in this very room for the reading of Agatha's will. You were  
121 all here. The barrister, Doolittle, announced that Agatha had left  
122 her entire estate to Drew Mars. Rogers, you did not react at all, as  
123 your grandmother told you earlier this year that everything would  
124 be left to Mars. Cabrera, you covered your mouth in surprise and  
125 said nothing. Mars, you expressed great surprise. You said, more

126 than once, "I cannot believe it. I had no idea." Detective Khan  
127 immediately told me she would be ordering that autopsy and tox  
128 screen after all. Better late than never, right, Noura?

129 On Tuesday morning, I greeted Detective Khan as she exited  
130 the building where the autopsy and tox screen had been performed.  
131 Rather than speaking, Khan handed me an envelope with the  
132 results. "Let me guess," I said before opening it. Khan started to say  
133 there was no way I could guess, but I interrupted so she wouldn't  
134 embarrass us both. "Chloroandromine," I said. Indeed it was. Life, it  
135 seems, had imitated art.

136 I will reveal my methods. Chloroandromine pills look identical  
137 -- identical! -- to Agatha's arthritis pills. They are odorless and  
138 tasteless, just like her arthritis pills. I saw pills in the organizer by  
139 Agatha's bedside table on August 15. I heard Mars say Agatha was  
140 dangerously allergic to chloroandromine. It was two plus two.

141 But who switched the pills? Was it Agatha herself, deciding to  
142 end her life with the same poison that made her famous? Was it  
143 Drew Mars, the caretaker who feared that Agatha might soon  
144 change her will? Was it Stevie Rogers, angry that Agatha refused to  
145 add her only grandchild back to the will? Yes, Rogers is my paying  
146 client. Rogers has already paid me \$10,000 and promised me  
147 \$25,000 more for my work in this case. But were Rogers the killer, I  
148 would have no trouble reporting that now. Clients might pay my  
149 bills, but the only party I truly represent is the truth.

150 So, again, who switched the pills? On the afternoon of  
151 Tuesday, August 21, Detective Khan ordered everyone out of Lee  
152 Manor and searched the entire grounds. She graciously invited me  
153 to observe the search. In Agatha's bathroom, Khan found a bottle of  
154 winterin pills, and exactly two of those pills had Mars's fingerprints.  
155 In Mars's closet, Khan found a black bag. In it were a box of  
156 cigarettes and a bottle of pills. Khan expertly performed a

157 fingerprint analysis of the bag, the box, and the bottle and had the  
158 pills tested the next morning. No usable prints on the bag, box, or  
159 bottle. One partial print belonging to Drew Mars on the bag's zipper  
160 handle. And a chemical test that conclusively identifies the pills as  
161 chloroandromine.

162         At first glance, this case against Drew Mars is like a back door  
163 in a heavy wind: open and shut. Agatha died because of a lifelong  
164 allergy to chloroandromine. Mars, as her caretaker, knew of that  
165 allergy. Agatha was killed by pills. Mars was the one who prepared  
166 her pills. Indeed, we found those little purple chloroandromine pills  
167 in Mars's closet with Mars's fingerprint to boot. And the timing is  
168 most suspicious. In February, Agatha decides to leave everything to  
169 Mars. The day before she died, Agatha says she will be leaving  
170 everything to Rogers and that she will soon be changing her will.  
171 But not 24 hours later, Agatha is dead. So Mars gets everything.  
172 The money. The car. The manor you're sitting in -- and I'm standing  
173 in -- right now.

174         But on a second glance, perhaps the latches on that back door  
175 are rusted, and it swings wide open. Yes, Mars knew of Agatha's  
176 allergy. But so did Rogers. Yes, Mars had access to Agatha's pill  
177 organizer on August 14th. But so did Rogers. Yes, the pills were  
178 found in Mars's closet. But isn't that just a little too tidy? Mars has  
179 nearly a week to get rid of the murder weapon, but not only holds  
180 onto it, but keeps it in Mars's own closet?

181         “But, but,” I hear you saying, “What about motive?” It is true  
182 that from the facts I have placed before you thus far, Drew Mars  
183 has no motive. For I have mentioned no evidence that Mars knew  
184 Mars would benefit from Agatha's most recent will. No one ever saw  
185 Mars reading Agatha's 2018 will. Even if we believe Rogers's  
186 retelling of the August 14 conversation between Agatha and Rogers,  
187 there was nothing in that conversation that would have told Mars

188 that Mars was the current beneficiary of the 2018 will. Without the  
189 missing link, the case against Mars crumbles.

190 But I must confess, I have to this moment withheld one fact  
191 from you all. I never lied. I just ... saved it for later. Recall that on  
192 August 14th, while Detective Khan was speaking with Mars, I  
193 decided to stretch my legs. I just didn't say where. You see, that  
194 morning I decided to peek into Mars's bedroom. I found Mars's  
195 laptop. It was password-protected. Mars has a difficult password, so  
196 it took me four tries. Within moments I had Mars's emails.  
197 Including one email from February where Mars told a friend named  
198 Logan, "Agatha just told me she changed her will to leave everything  
199 to me." I photographed the email but didn't say anything to anyone.  
200 Instead, I just watched.

201 Remember the will reading, when Mars said, "I had no idea"?  
202 You all trusted Mars was telling the truth. I say to you: Trust no  
203 one. That is the first rule of detection.

204 I expect you've now connected the donut crumbs. August  
205 14th. Eight days ago. Mars wakes up thinking this manor and  
206 Agatha's money will one day belong to Mars. Until Mars overhears a  
207 conversation in the study. Mars realizes the inheritance will soon  
208 belong to someone else. So Mars springs to action. After dropping  
209 Agatha off for a lunch with Cabrera, Mars buys some  
210 chloroandromine. Later that day, Mars replaces Agatha's arthritis  
211 pills with identical looking chloroandromine pills and puts the  
212 arthritis pills back in the bottle. The next day Agatha is dead. Mars  
213 tells Rogers, and Rogers calls 911. Mars thinks there will be no  
214 investigation. After all, an old lady is dead in her bed. It doesn't look  
215 criminal. It looks common. What Mars did not know, what Mars  
216 could not know, was that Stevie Rogers would make a second phone  
217 call that morning.

218 Detective Khan, I will leave the handcuffs to you.

Transcript of the Deposition of Drew Mars

- 1
- 2 CR. We are on the record, July 17, 2020, in the case of Rogers v. Mars. The witness has sworn an oath
- 3 to tell the truth under penalty of perjury.
- 4 Q. Please state your name.
- 5 A. Drew Mars.
- 6 Q. What is your date of birth?
- 7 A. January 1, 1987. I'm 33 years old.
- 8 Q. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or crime of dishonesty?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Can you summarize your education?
- 11 A. I have a bachelors in nursing from Alex Taylor College.
- 12 Q. Can you summarize your work experience?
- 13 A. Yes. I've really only had one job. In February 2008, I was a junior in college. I answered a
- 14 classified ad and was hired as an assistant caretaker to a woman in Monroeville, Alabama. That was
- 15 Agatha Lee. I was Agatha's assistant caretaker for the rest of college and then for another year after
- 16 college. In 2009, right around when I graduated college, the head caretaker mysteriously vanished
- 17 and Agatha hired me full-time. I was her only caretaker from that point until she died.
- 18 Q. Why did Agatha need a caretaker?
- 19 A. In January 2008, she had a heart attack. It caused organ damage. Agatha required nursing care as
- 20 she recovered and did physical therapy. Normally that would happen at an in-patient facility, but
- 21 Agatha was adamant about privacy and living in her own home. So we provided in-home care.
- 22 Q. To what extent did Agatha recover from the 2008 heart attack?
- 23 A. She made a full recovery. She was a strong woman. As strong as I've known.
- 24 Q. What caused the heart attack?
- 25 A. An allergic reaction. The previous caretaker, Hunter Cooper, told me on the very first day I started
- 26 working for Agatha in 2008 that Agatha had accidentally taken some chloroandromine.
- 27 Q. What is chloroandromine?
- 28 A. It's an over-the-counter medication for heartburn. For almost everyone, it has no side effects or mild
- 29 side effects. But a very small segment of the population is allergic. Agatha's allergy was
- 30 particularly acute.
- 31 Q. How much chloroandromine did Agatha take in 2008?
- 32 A. I wasn't there. But I'm told it was just one pill. 250 milligrams.
- 33 Q. What do chloroandromine pills look like?

34 A. They are small purple pills.

35 Q. Have they had the same appearance since January 2008?

36 A. Yes. Same size, color, shape, weight, everything.

37 Q. Can you think of any drugs that resemble chloroandromine?

38 A. Just one. Winterin.

39 Q. What is winterin?

40 A. It's a prescription arthritis medication. In pill form, it looks, feels, smells, and tastes identical to

41 chloroandromine. Each winterin pill, like each chloroandromine pill, is 250 mg.

42 Q. Is that resemblance significant?

43 A. For 99.9999 percent of the population, no. The only way the similarity could make a difference is if

44 you happened to have a rare allergy to chloroandromine and a prescription for arthritis.

45 Unfortunately, Agatha was such a person.

46 Q. When did Agatha Lee start taking winterin?

47 A. 2015. She was diagnosed with arthritis. Her doctor, Dr. E. Lopez, prescribed winterin.

48 Q. How much winterin did Agatha take?

49 A. Two pills a day. 250 milligrams each. She was on that regimen from 2015 until she died.

50 Q. What is Exhibit 1?

51 A. That's Agatha.

52 Q. Let's talk about your job with Agatha. What were your job duties?

53 A. I prepared Agatha's meds. Every Saturday, I would put Agatha's pills for the week in her pill

54 organizer. And I checked on her health. Checked her blood pressure. That sort of thing.

55 Q. What is Exhibit 12?

56 A. Agatha's pill organizer. This is how it appeared when she died. The slots for Sunday, Monday, and

57 Tuesday are empty.

58 Q. As of August 2018, what drugs or medications was Agatha taking?

59 A. Agatha took the same pills every day, and she always took them from her pill organizer right before

60 she went to bed. She was taking one aspirin, one 500 milligram Vitamin B pill, and two 250

61 milligram winterin pills.

62 Q. Besides the nursing and medical side, did you have any other job duties?

63 A. I did whatever Agatha needed. Housekeeper, cook, driver. But I don't want to overstate what I did.

64 Agatha was really able and fit. She often cooked her own meals. She enjoyed tidying her own

65 home. She loved gardening. I would fill in the gaps or do what needed to be done. It was sort of

66 informal.

67 Q. Where did you live?

68 A. At Lee Manor, with Agatha. I moved in after I finished college. I had my own room. In 2011,  
69 Agatha decided she wanted to move to Midlands. She had purchased a plot of land and hired  
70 architects and builders to make it identical to Lee Manor in Alabama. She asked if I wanted to come  
71 to Midlands with her. I said yes. So I lived with Agatha from 2009 until Agatha passed. And I've  
72 continued to live at Lee Manor since.

73 Q. What is Exhibit 4?

74 A. Lee Manor. In Midlands.

75 Q. What is Exhibit 5?

76 A. This is the floor plan of the second floor of Lee Manor. It had the same floor plan in Midlands that  
77 it did in Alabama.

78 Q. What did Agatha pay you?

79 A. I received salary, room, and board. Agatha covered my medical expenses. She told me she would  
80 also pay for any education I wanted. I was doing online nursing classes in 2017 and 2018, working  
81 toward a degree, and Agatha paid for everything. I also had free use of Agatha's car whenever I  
82 wanted. She paid for gas. She was very generous with me.

83 Q. What was your salary?

84 A. It went up a little each year. It was 80 thousand dollars a year when Agatha died.

85 Q. Were you happy with that salary?

86 A. Very. Remember, that was on top of free room, board, medical.

87 Q. How many times during your employment with Agatha did you ask for a raise?

88 A. Never. I never had to. She just gave me a raise each year, and I always thought I was paid  
89 adequately and generously.

90 Q. How would you describe your relationship with Agatha?

91 A. Obviously she was my boss. When it came to nursing and caretaking, she was kind of like a patient.  
92 But she was so much more than that to me. A friend. A grandmother. A role model. She was lovely.

93 Q. Apart from job duties, did you and Agatha spend time together?

94 A. Of course. We lived together for almost a decade.

95 Q. How did you two spend time together?

96 A. We talked. We watched movies. We enjoyed reading together in silence. Agatha loved nonfiction. I  
97 loved mystery novels. Agatha had a collection of mystery novels in her study, so I would often read  
98 those. Agatha and I also played backgammon a lot. She said I was the only person who could beat  
99 her.

100 Q. Did you know Agatha was a world-famous author?

101 A. Yes. But not at first.

102 Q. Explain.

103 A. When I started working for Agatha, I knew her name. But I didn't know she was *the* Agatha Lee. I

104 probably didn't realize until six months into the job. You see, Agatha was so down to earth. She

105 didn't act like a celebrity or a prima donna. She didn't live in luxury. I never could have guessed

106 she was famous or rich.

107 Q. How much money did you think Agatha had?

108 A. I didn't know. She never talked about it. I never asked. I just figured she had enough money that she

109 never needed to worry about it.

110 Q. Okay, but if you had to guess how much money Agatha had?

111 A. I know she had about 20 million dollars. If you asked me before she died, I probably would have

112 guessed more. It's hard for me to comprehend what it means to have millions of dollars.

113 Q. How much money do you have?

114 A. I have about 20 thousand dollars in savings.

115 Q. What happened to the rest of your salary?

116 A. I gave it to my family. My family back home needs it more than I do. For rent. For medical. We've

117 never been wealthy.

118 Q. What is Exhibit 8?

119 A. This is Agatha's will from 2008.

120 Q. When did you first see it?

121 A. In February 2018. Around the time she wrote a new will.

122 Q. Isn't that your signature on Exhibit 8?

123 A. Oh. Yes, that's definitely my signature. I guess I saw this back in 2008. I just don't remember that.

124 Q. What is Exhibit 9?

125 A. This is the will Agatha wrote in 2018.

126 Q. When did you first see Exhibit 9?

127 A. Sometime in February 2018. Agatha showed it to me, along with the 2008 will.

128 Q. What did Agatha say to you when she showed you these two wills?

129 A. She said she loved me. She said I had been working for her for ten years and she appreciated

130 everything I had done for her.

131 Q. When you read Exhibit 9, what did you understand it to mean?

132 A. That when Agatha died, I would get everything.



133 Q. How did that make you feel?

134 A. Overwhelmed. I grew up in a family that didn't have much money. We lived in a small home. I  
135 shared a bedroom with my sibling. My grandparents lived with us. The idea of inheriting millions of  
136 dollars was overwhelming.

137 Q. Did the idea of inheriting millions make you happy?

138 A. When I first found out in February, I felt guilty and undeserving.

139 Q. Did your feelings change?

140 A. I don't know. It was complicated.

141 Q. How so?

142 A. My family back home needed money. My sibling was sick. I knew I would be able to take care of  
143 them eventually, that Agatha's money would mean we never had to worry about money again. But I  
144 worried that it might be too late.

145 Q. What do you mean?

146 A. Agatha was in good health. I knew my sibling might die before Agatha passed, and I wouldn't be  
147 able to help my sibling.

148 Q. Did you ever consider asking Agatha for a loan? For money to help your sibling?

149 A. No. Agatha told me she hated when people asked her for money. She said that after she became a  
150 famous author, all of a sudden people she barely knew started wanting to be her best friend and  
151 relatives who had ignored her suddenly wanted to come visit. Agatha cut them all out of her life.

152 Q. After Agatha showed you Exhibit 9 in February 2018, when did you two next discuss her estate?  
153 Or money in general?

154 A. Never again. It wasn't something we discussed.

155 Q. The 2008 will, Exhibit 8, would have left everything to Stevie Rogers, right?

156 A. Yes.

157 Q. Who is Stevie Rogers?

158 A. Stevie is Agatha's grandchild. Stevie is Agatha's only living family.

159 Q. What happened to the rest of Agatha's family?

160 A. Agatha had a daughter, Veronica, who died in a car crash on July 4, 2008. Veronica and her  
161 husband were killed by a drunk driver while they were coming home from watching the fireworks.  
162 That's why Agatha ultimately left Alabama.

163 Q. What do you mean?

164 A. Agatha and Veronica were very close. They talked every day and saw each other multiple nights a  
165 week. Agatha went into a tailspin after Veronica died. She stopped eating, stopped bathing, stopped

166 wanting to do her physical therapy. This lasted months. But even after she recovered physically,  
167 Agatha decided she couldn't continue to live in Monroeville, Alabama. Everything reminded her of  
168 Veronica. The park where she liked to read was the park where Veronica played as a child. The  
169 library where Agatha loved to borrow books was the library where Veronica worked in high school.  
170 So Agatha decided to move to Midlands.

171 Q. Going back to Stevie Rogers, did Agatha ever discuss her feelings about Stevie?

172 A. All the time.

173 Q. When you first started working for Agatha in 2008, what did she say about Stevie?

174 A. Agatha called Stevie her favorite person on Earth. Stevie was her amazing grandchild. Agatha  
175 wasn't a big spender in general, but she loved to be generous with Stevie. "It's a grandmother's  
176 right to spoil!" she used to tell Veronica.

177 Q. Back in 2008, how much time did Stevie and Agatha spend together?

178 A. A lot. Stevie took time away from school to visit Agatha after she had her heart attack in 2008.  
179 After Stevie returned to school, Stevie called Agatha almost every day. Stevie also stayed with  
180 Agatha for the entire month of June that summer. They got along great.

181 Q. When did things change?

182 A. When Veronica died. Stevie stopped coming to visit. Stopped calling. It broke Agatha's heart. She  
183 talked about it often.

184 Q. Between July 4, 2008 and July 4, 2018, how many times did Stevie Rogers visit Agatha?

185 A. Maybe once or twice while Agatha still lived in Alabama? But never after Agatha moved.

186 Q. Between July 4, 2008 and July 4, 2018, how many times did Stevie Rogers call Agatha?

187 A. To my knowledge, a few times in 2008 and 2009, but never after that. Not even on her birthday.

188 Q. Between July 4, 2008 and July 4, 2018, how many times did Stevie Rogers write Agatha a letter?  
189 Or send an email?

190 A. To my knowledge, never.

191 Q. Between July 4, 2008 and July 4, 2018, did Agatha try to maintain a relationship with Stevie?

192 A. Yes. She wrote to Stevie, she left Stevie voicemails, she emailed Stevie.

193 Q. What is Exhibit 10?

194 A. This is a letter Agatha wrote to Stevie. She showed it to me before she sent it.

195 Q. How did this change in relationship affect Agatha?

196 A. She was crushed. She had already lost her daughter, and now she felt like she lost her grandchild  
197 too.

198 Q. What happened on July 4, 2018?

199 A. Stevie showed up at Agatha's doorstep at Lee Manor in Midlands.

200 Q. What was Agatha's reaction to Stevie's arrival?

201 A. Shock. Skepticism. Hope. That's what Agatha told me and what I saw from her.

202 Q. What was Stevie's explanation for coming to Lee Manor in 2018?

203 A. Stevie never gave me an explanation. Agatha told me, "Stevie says, 'I just left an addiction

204 treatment program and need a place to stay.' I don't know if I believe Stevie. I am guessing Stevie

205 just ran out of money. But I am not turning away my grandchild."

206 Q. How long did Stevie stay at Lee Manor?

207 A. From July 4, 2018 until well after Agatha died.

208 Q. Does Stevie still live at Lee Manor?

209 A. No. On August 9, 2019, I told Stevie to get out and Stevie hasn't been back since.

210 Q. Where did Stevie sleep when Stevie lived at Lee Manor?

211 A. The second-floor guest room became Stevie's room.

212 Q. Describe Agatha's relationship with Stevie after Stevie moved into Lee Manor in 2018.

213 A. At first, Agatha was distant. She kept Stevie at arm's length. But Stevie was warm and loving

214 toward Agatha. Within a few days of Stevie's arrival, Agatha seemed to embrace Stevie's return to

215 her life.

216 Q. How so?

217 A. By July 11, they were watching movies together, eating every meal together, playing backgammon

218 together. They laughed a lot and got along great. I hadn't seen Agatha that happy since before

219 Veronica died.

220 Q. How long did they get along?

221 A. Until August 14, 2018.

222 Q. How did you feel about Agatha rekindling her relationship with Stevie?

223 A. I was happy for Agatha. But I was suspicious of Stevie.

224 Q. Why?

225 A. I feared Stevie just wanted Agatha's money.

226 Q. Do you have any proof of that?

227 A. I don't.

228 Q. When Agatha and Stevie rekindled their relationship in July and August 2018, how did it affect

229 your relationship with Agatha?

230 A. I continued to do my job. Agatha continued to treat me nicely.

231 Q. But did Agatha continue to spend as much time with you once Stevie arrived?

232 A. No. Agatha and Stevie would often have meals together, just the two of them. They would watch  
233 movies together, just the two of them, in Agatha's study. She played backgammon with Stevie, not  
234 me.

235 Q. How did you feel about that?

236 A. I was fine. Agatha hadn't seen Stevie in a long time.

237 Q. Who is Rian Cabrera?

238 A. A biographer that befriended Agatha in 2018. Rian was writing a biography about Agatha. From  
239 January 2018 on, Rian visited Lee Manor a few times a week, and sometimes I took Agatha to meet  
240 Rian for lunch at restaurants.

241 Q. Did you tell Rian Cabrera in early August 2018 that Stevie had ruined your relationship with  
242 Agatha?

243 A. No. I said nothing like that. I didn't feel that way.

244 Q. You said Agatha and Stevie maintained a good relationship until August 14, 2018. What happened  
245 that day?

246 A. Agatha told Stevie that Agatha wasn't changing her will.

247 Q. Where did this conversation take place?

248 A. In Agatha's study.

249 Q. Was the door closed?

250 A. Yes. Both doors were closed.

251 Q. How did you hear the conversation?

252 A. I made Agatha some tea. I overheard the conversation when I came upstairs to deliver it.

253 Q. Were you eavesdropping?

254 A. Not at all. I just happened to overhear as I came to the door.

255 Q. Where were you standing when you overheard the conversation?

256 A. In the sitting area. Outside the doors to the study.

257 Q. Did you ever enter the study during Agatha's conversation with Stevie?

258 A. No. Again, I just happened to overhear a bit as I came to the door.

259 Q. Tell me what you overheard.

260 A. Stevie said, "I want to bring up a potentially sensitive subject, Nana. I know you cut me out of the  
261 will. But I really hope you will reconsider. I have shown myself to be devoted to you. I have turned  
262 my life around. You can see this, Nana. I think I want to go back to school. I really hope you will  
263 reconsider."

264 Q. How did Agatha respond?

265 A. Agatha whispered. She said, "Stevie, I love you. I love having you home. I have missed you for  
266 years. I want to help you. Which is why I will not give you a penny. Not now. Not when I die. You  
267 need to stand on your own two feet."

268 Q. How did Stevie respond?

269 A. Stevie said, "But, Nana," and she interrupted Stevie. Agatha whispered, "No buts. You may live  
270 here as long as you wish. But I will not subsidize a lifestyle of sloth and indirection. I love you too  
271 much to do so."

272 Q. What happened then?

273 A. I heard them coming to the door, so I started to back up. I accidentally spilled the tea.

274 Q. Then?

275 A. They walked into the sitting area. Agatha asked me to get the car for her lunch with Rian Cabrera.  
276 Stevie stood in the doorway and glared at me. When Agatha was out of earshot, Stevie said to me,  
277 "Don't count your millions just yet."

278 Q. Did you take Agatha to lunch?

279 A. Yes. I drove Agatha to a new spot, Stupendous Steaks. Agatha had a noon reservation with Rian  
280 Cabrera. Agatha asked me to pick her up 1:30 p.m.

281 Q. On your way to lunch, did Agatha make any phone calls?

282 A. Yes, she made one call on her cell phone. I only heard Agatha's end of the conversation.

283 Q. What did she say?

284 A. "Hello, Kirby. It's Agatha Lee. I'd like to make an appointment for you to come by. Do you have  
285 time this week?" Then she paused and said, "I'll tell you when I see you." That was it.

286 Q. Who is Kirby?

287 A. The only Kirby I've met is Agatha's personal attorney, Kirby Doolittle. That's who I assumed  
288 Agatha was speaking to on August 14.

289 Q. What did you do while Agatha had lunch with Rian Cabrera?

290 A. I went to the pharmacy.

291 Q. What did you get?

292 A. A couple toiletries for myself. I don't remember specifically. It was two years ago.

293 Q. Do you have a receipt? A credit card record of the purchase?

294 A. I paid cash. I didn't save the receipt. It was a quick trip to the drug store.

295 Q. Did you buy chloroandromine that day?

296 A. No. I have never bought chloroandromine.

297 Q. What happened after you picked Agatha up from lunch at 1:30 pm on August 14, 2018?

298 A. I brought Agatha back to Lee Manor.

299 Q. What time did you and Agatha arrive back at Lee Manor?

300 A. Two o'clock p.m.

301 Q. Who was home?

302 A. Just Stevie. Stevie was in the sitting room upstairs, drinking. There was an empty bottle of wine on  
303 the table.

304 Q. When did Agatha die?

305 A. I don't know exactly. Agatha went to bed around 10 p.m. on August 14th. I found Agatha dead in  
306 her bed on August 15 at 8:30 a.m.

307 Q. From two o'clock on August 14, 2018 until you found Agatha dead the next morning, name  
308 everyone who was in Lee Manor?

309 A. Me, Agatha, Stevie. That's it.

310 Q. How was Agatha's health on August 14, 2018?

311 A. She seemed a little pale. She seemed a little sluggish. She was walking slowly. This is how she'd  
312 looked for a couple days. I told her I was a little concerned. She said she was fine.

313 Q. Tell me everything you did between arriving back at Lee Manor at two o'clock in the afternoon on  
314 August 14 and when you found Agatha dead on August 15.

315 A. Agatha said she was going upstairs to take a nap. I washed some dishes downstairs. At 2:15 p.m., I  
316 went upstairs to change clothes before making dinner. I saw Agatha walking into her bedroom to  
317 take a nap and I heard her lock the door. I went downstairs to prepare dinner. At six o'clock I went  
318 upstairs to tell Agatha and Stevie that dinner was ready. At 6:30 p.m., I served Agatha and Stevie  
319 dinner in Agatha's study. I went downstairs to clean up. I went to my room at 7:30 pm. I fell asleep  
320 around 9:30 p.m. I woke up at 7:00 a.m. the next morning, went for a walk, and made coffee. I  
321 brought coffee to Agatha's bedroom at 8:30 a.m. That's when I found her dead.

322 Q. Let's break that down. You said Agatha went to take a nap. How do you know that was her  
323 intention?

324 A. She told me so.

325 Q. You said she locked her bedroom door. How do you know?

326 A. I heard the sound of the lock turning.

327 Q. How often did Agatha take afternoon naps?

328 A. Occasionally.

329 Q. How often had you known her to lock her bedroom door?

330 A. Almost never.

331 Q. If at 2:00 Agatha said she was going upstairs to take a nap, why was she still outside her bedroom at  
332 2:15?

333 A. I have no idea.

334 Q. Where exactly did you see her when you came upstairs at 2:15?

335 A. I will try to be precise. All the bedrooms are on the second level. There are two flights of stairs from  
336 the ground level to the second level. As I reached the landing area at the top of the first flight, I saw  
337 Agatha's feet for a split second before they disappeared from view. She was right outside my room,  
338 which was at the top of the stairs.

339 Q. Was she coming out of your room?

340 A. I don't know. I didn't see her come out of my room. I don't know why she would have. But she was  
341 right outside my room for the split second I saw her.

342 Q. Then?

343 A. I climbed the second flight of stairs. I saw Agatha go into her bedroom and lock the door.

344 Q. What did you do?

345 A. I went into my room and changed clothes. I didn't want to wear anything white while cooking.

346 Q. Did your room look like it had been disturbed?

347 A. No. Well, I don't think so. I didn't notice anything out of the ordinary.

348 Q. You said you went back downstairs and cooked until 6:00 p.m. What were you cooking?

349 A. Fig and orange scones with clotted cream. All made from scratch.

350 Q. That's an unusual dinner.

351 A. That's what Agatha asked for.

352 Q. How often did Agatha request that meal?

353 A. It had been more than a year. And it had always been for breakfast or brunch, never for dinner.

354 Q. What happened when you went upstairs at 6:00 p.m.?

355 A. The door to Agatha's bedroom was still locked. I entered her room through her study and the  
356 attached bathroom, both of which were unlocked.

357 Q. Was Agatha sleeping?

358 A. No. She was in bed. She looked like she might have been crying. Her eyes were puffy. There was a  
359 box of tissues beside her in bed. Agatha was sitting upright, staring straight ahead. I told her dinner  
360 was ready. Without looking at me, she said, "I'll eat in the study." So I left her room to get dinner.

361 Q. How did you exit Agatha's bedroom?

362 A. I unlocked the door from the inside, went into the hallway, and left the door open behind me.

363 Q. What happened then?

364 A. I brought dinner for two to the study and left. I saw Stevie enter the study and close the door.  
365 Q. What did you do?  
366 A. I went downstairs, cleaned up, and went upstairs to read. I fell asleep reading around 9:30.  
367 Q. When was the last time you saw Agatha alive?  
368 A. At 6:00 p.m. or so, when I talked to her in her bedroom.  
369 Q. When was the last time you went into Agatha's room on August 14?  
370 A. At 6:00 p.m.  
371 Q. From the time you arrived home at Lee Manor at two o'clock p.m. on August 14 until the time you  
372 found Agatha dead on August 15, please tell me everything you saw Stevie Rogers do.  
373 A. Around 2:15 p.m., I saw Stevie on the couch in the sitting area. Stevie was drinking. I saw Stevie  
374 enter Agatha's study when I was serving dinner, between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. And I saw Stevie at  
375 8:35 the next morning when I came to say that Agatha was dead.  
376 Q. On August 14, did you see Stevie go into Agatha's room?  
377 A. No. As I said, I saw Stevie go into the study, but not Agatha's room. I didn't see Stevie near  
378 Agatha's pills. I didn't see Stevie holding a bottle of pills. Okay? I don't know how or when Stevie  
379 did this. I just know if someone poisoned Agatha, it had to be Stevie.  
380 Q. You had access to Agatha's pill organizer on August 14?  
381 A. I guess so. But I didn't go into her room after I saw her at 6:00.  
382 Q. What is Exhibit 11?  
383 A. That's a photograph of Agatha's bedside table. This is how it looked when I found her dead on  
384 August 15.  
385 Q. What happened after you found Agatha dead?  
386 A. I couldn't breathe. I was devastated. I stumbled to Stevie's room and told Stevie. I slid to the floor. I  
387 heard Stevie call the police. Pretty soon there was a police detective named Noura Khan and a  
388 private detective name Bond.  
389 Q. Bond?  
390 A. M. Bond.  
391 Q. Did you speak to Detective Khan?  
392 A. Yes, that day and several other times. I told her what I've been telling you.  
393 Q. Did you speak to M. Bond?  
394 A. Yes. Because I have nothing to hide.  
395 Q. Did you refuse to let Bond search your room on August 15?  
396 A. Yes.



397 Q. Why?

398 A. Bond had no search warrant. I know my rights.

399 Q. Did you attend a public reading of Agatha's will on August 20, 2018?

400 A. Yes, it was in Agatha's study.

401 Q. After attorney Kirby Doolittle announced that you would inherit Agatha's entire estate, did you say  
402 repeatedly, "I can't believe it, I had no idea"?

403 A. Yes. I said it three or four times.

404 Q. You acted surprised to hear that you were inheriting Agatha's estate?

405 A. Yes.

406 Q. But you weren't actually surprised?

407 A. No, I already knew.

408 Q. So you lied?

409 A. I pretended.

410 Q. What is Exhibit 13?

411 A. This is a photograph of an email I sent to my friend Logan on February 1, 2018. It mentions that  
412 Agatha told me I would be inheriting her estate. I found out later that Bond snuck into my room,  
413 opened my computer without my permission, and took a photo of the email.

414 Q. Did you send the email in Exhibit 13?

415 A. Yes.

416 Q. So when you acted surprised at the public will reading on August 20, you were lying?

417 A. Yes.

418 Q. Why did you pretend to be surprised? Why did you lie about not knowing about the inheritance?

419 A. I was afraid the police would suspect me of killing Agatha. I was afraid they would think I had  
420 motive. I was right.

421 Q. To that point, had anyone suggested her death might have been murder?

422 A. Stevie. As soon as Detective Khan arrived on August 15, Stevie said it was murder. I thought Stevie  
423 was crazy. Detective Khan seemed to think Stevie was crazy.

424 Q. The autopsy says Agatha died from chloroandromine. How did she get chloroandromine?

425 A. I have no idea. I have never seen chloroandromine inside Lee Manor.

426 Q. What is Exhibit 14?

427 A. That's a photo of my closet at Lee Manor. Looks like it was taken August 21, 2018 when Detective  
428 Khan searched Lee Manor. But I was outside the house when they searched.

429 Q. Who is "they"?

430 A. For some reason, Bond was allowed inside the house during the search. Detective Khan said no one  
431 else could be present.

432 Q. What is Exhibit 15?

433 A. This is the bag Detective Khan says she found in the closet.

434 Q. Do you recognize it?

435 A. I don't think so. I know Agatha kept some stuff in the closet. So it's possible this was among her  
436 other stuff, and I didn't see it. But I don't remember ever seeing this.

437 Q. You did use the closet in your room, right?

438 A. Yes. Every day. That's where I kept all my clothes.

439 Q. This bag contained cigarettes. Do you smoke?

440 A. I haven't smoked in at least five years.

441 Q. Exhibit 16 is a photo of cigarettes found in the black bag. Have you seen these before?

442 A. I've never seen this photo before, and I don't recognize the cigarettes.

443 Q. Did Agatha smoke?

444 A. I never saw Agatha smoke. And she said she didn't. But every few months or so I'd notice the smell  
445 of cigarettes on her breath or her clothes. At first, I asked Agatha if she had been smoking and told  
446 her it was bad for her heart. But Agatha denied it and got defensive, so I stopped bringing it up.

447 Q. Did Agatha keep cigarettes in the house?

448 A. I don't know. I never saw any.

449 Q. What is depicted in Exhibit 17?

450 A. Chloroandromine pills.

451 Q. Don't they also look identical to winterin pills?

452 A. That's true. I guess they could also be winterin pills.

453 Q. Did you ever touch the black bag in Exhibit 15?

454 A. Never.

455 Q. How did your partial fingerprint get on the bag?

456 A. I don't know. But if it was in my closet, I guess I could have touched it at some point.

457 Q. What happened after the police found this black bag in your closet?

458 A. On August 22, we all gathered in Agatha's study. Rian Cabrera, Detective Khan, Stevie Rogers, M.  
459 Bond, and me. Bond made a big speech. It was pretty obnoxious. Bond said the pills found in the  
460 bag in my closet were chloroandromine. Bond talked about finding the letter to Logan on my  
461 computer. Bond accused me of murder, told Detective Khan she could arrest me, and just walked  
462 out of the room.

463 Q. Were you actually arrested that day?

464 A. No. Detective Khan arrested me the next day.

465 Q. What happened then?

466 A. The State of Midlands put me on trial for murder. And of course, I wasn't convicted.

467 Q. Wasn't it was hung jury?

468 A. Yes.

469 Q. What is Exhibit 18?

470 A. A press release from the Midlands district attorney saying they won't be retrying the case.

471 Q. What role did you play in Agatha Lee's death?

472 A. None. Zero. I loved Agatha. I would never hurt her.

473 Q. Are you aware that there are some similarities between her death and the story in her bestselling  
474 novel, *Death in a Bottle*?

475 A. So I've heard. But I've never read *Death in a Bottle*, and Agatha never talked about it. I don't really  
476 know the story.