

Jade Bidwell Testimony – Feb 13, 2009

Key to abbreviations

GCM	Giancarlo Massei	Judge	Presidente
GM	Giuliano Mignini	Prosecutor	Pubblico Ministero
JB	Jade Bidwell	Witness being questioned	Meredith Kercher's friend
CP	Carlo Pacelli	Lumumba civil lawyer	Avvocato
DR	Daniela Rocchi	Defense Counsel for Raffaele Sollecito	Avvocato
MB	Marco Brusco	Raffaele Sollecito's defense lawyer	Avvocato
LG	Luciano Ghirga	Knox defense lawyer	Avvocato
CDV	Carlo Dalla Vedova	Knox defense lawyer	Avvocato

Deposition of the witness – Jade Bidwell

GCM:

She doesn't speak Italian. The interpreter is here, she can therefore speak in English and the questions put to her will be translated into English to allow her to respond as precisely and appropriately as possible.

Witness, having received the statutory warning of art. 497 of the penal procedural code, reads the formula of the rite.

Identification: Jade Bidwell, born at Birkenhead on October 4, 1985.

GCM:

The Public Prosecutor may proceed to examination.

Public Prosecutor

GM:

So, you knew Meredith Kercher?

JB:

Yes.

GM:

Did you see her often? Did she hang out with anybody in particular? Tell us who.

JB:

Yes, we went out, to pubs, and she was with her friends, Amy and Robin.

GM:

So you usually saw her out with her English friends?

JB:

Yes.

GM:

When did you see Meredith for the last time?

JB:

Halloween night.

GM:

Where did you see her?

JB:

At the Merlin.

GM:

Did you stay at Merlin or did you leave?

JB:

I left and we went to Domus.

GM:

Did Meredith go with you?

JB:

No.

GM:

So you were at Merlin with Meredith and her friends, right?

JB:

They got there a little later, yes.

GM:

Do you remember if Meredith talked or met with any guys, especially any black guys, at Merlin?

JB:

I don't remember.

GM:

Then you said you went to Domus?

JB:

Yes.

GM:

When did you see Meredith? Until what time?

JB:

I don't know.

GM:

When and how and through whom did you learn of Meredith's death?

JB:

My mother called to tell me an English girl had been killed, so I called my friend Sam who came to my house and we went to her house, then we went to Sam's house. Sam got the phone call from the police, somebody came to get us and took us down to the police station.

GM:

Who was there at the Police Station? Whom did you see?

JB:

First of all Amy and Robin. Nathalie was there too, and my friend Helen and another girl called Allison came too. Then there were Sophie, Amanda and Raffaele, Meredith's two roommates and their boyfriends.

GM:

And can you tell us what was the general attitude among those present?

JB:

Most of them were upset, and crying. Most people were really upset but I noticed that Amanda did not seem very upset.

GM:

Did you see Amanda talking on the phone?

JB:

Yes.

GM:

How did she seem? Did she have the same attitude even when she was talking on the phone?

JB:

She was the same, she didn't seem upset.

GM:

So she was, let's say, impassive, more or less.

JB:

Yes.

GM:

Do you remember what she said on the phone and what she said to those present?

JB:

I just remember a few things she said, I remember she said Meredith had been found in the closet. She also said later that she had found Meredith.

GM:

She said what? I don't understand.

JB:

Later on she said she had found Meredith.

GM:

When did she say that?

JB:

I don't know.

GM:

To whom did she say that?

JB:

I don't remember, I was very upset, I just remember that I heard her say it.

GM:

What else did she say, anything about the fact that somebody might have broken into the house?

JB:

No.

GM:

Did she say anything about the behavior of the killer, for example? Like how the crime must have been done?

JB:

No.

GM:

Listen, she said, January 28, 2008, on page 17 of my report, I remember that she was reported of having said that whoever committed the crime, as she said, "must surely have been watching the house from outside to make sure Meredith was alone."

JB:

Yes, I remember.

GM:

Do you remember now?

JB:

Yes.

GM:

Did Amanda ever talk to any of Meredith's English friends that night?

JB:

At one point she came up and introduced herself but I didn't talk to her.

GM:

Let's go back to when Amanda said she found Meredith. What did she say? Where did she find her?

JB:

She said she had found her.

GM:

She mentioned the wardrobe too, inside.

JB:

Yes but those were two separate statements, on two separate occasions.

GM:

At first Amanda said she found her in the wardrobe?

JB:

No, I said that in my first declaration but then I corrected it, I corrected this declaration.

GM:

But you declared, January 28 2008, page 12, at that time she said she was found, "I found her, she was found in the wardrobe." This is the last declaration, if I am not mistaken.

INT:

Can you read it again? Because you said "I found her, she was found."

GM:

I am just reading the report, it's the interpreter who is translating her responses: "then she said she was found, I found her."

CP:

I, "I found her."

GCM:

Please, we have the witness right here.

GM:

"She was found in the wardrobe."

JB:

Yes, then I went back to the police station to correct what I had said.

GM:

And how did you correct it?

CP:

(voices, unintelligible) ours is 11, his (hers)[impossible to tell the meaning of Italian third person possessive pronoun "sua" without context] is 12, his (hers) is 17, ours is 16, the sentence.

GM:

I am disputing a passage of the declaration she made.

GCM:

Excuse me, Public Prosecutor, the attorney asks what page it is on to follow.

CP:

It's page 12 on mine.

GCM:

Excuse me, let's just wait a minute for the attorney.

GM:

Then you said something else, you said that Amanda and the persons who were there, it's not very clear to me, indicated another place where the body was supposed to have been found.

JB:

I don't remember that.

GM:

I will read it to you, page 12. "Then somebody else said: She wasn't on the bed, she was on the floor." And everybody was saying something different. But in regards to...Jade says, the interpreter is speaking, "that maybe she also changed her story, that later she said the body was found on the bed."

INT:

She who?...who changed her story? I can't translate if I don't know who "she" is.

GM:

If she changed her story...presumably Amanda, but I don't know...What she remembers. And going on. What she remembers, she was on the bed, what she remembers, "She wasn't speaking directly with me, she was saying it to everybody, she was just declaring it in other words." This is what you declared on page 12 of January 28 2008 which should be the report compiled in Bergamo.

INT:

I...don't know if it's possible, if I can read it and translate it? Because if I don't know who "she" and "he" are it won't make any sense in English.

GCM:

We can do that...if we highlight the passage.

THE INTERPRETER TRANSLATES THE REPORT

GM:

Do you remember now?

JB:

No, I don't remember.

GM:

You don't remember?

JB:

No.

GM:

No further questions.

GCM:

The witness is only of the Public Prosecutor, are there questions?

Civil Party Attorney Pacelli

CP:

The evening of November 2, while you were at the police station, you heard somebody of those present say that poor Meredith before she was killed had had sexual relations with someone, or in any case had sex?

CDV:

(not into the microphone) ...We are in cross-examination.

CP:

I am in cross-examination.

GCM:

(voices) Since we are in cross-examination.

CP:

The two questions concern the hypothesis relative to calumny, President.

GCM:

As to the story at the police station. In regards to the story you heard at the police station, did you hear, because this is what we are talking about, if anyone mentioned any sexual relations that were had?

CP:

Before being killed.

JB:

No.

CP:

The other question is still relative to the hypothetical accusation of calumny, mister President. In regard to that same evening, while you were talking at the police station, did you hear any of the people present say that poor Meredith, before dying, had shouted or screamed?

JB:

No.

CP:

Thank you, President.

Defense Attorney Rocchi

DR:

Just a detail. You stated that you heard the news of the death from your mother.

JB:

I heard someone was killed but not who.

DR:

Can you tell us what time you learned this?

JB:

In the late afternoon, early evening, maybe five or six, I don't remember.

DR:

Did they also tell you how this girl was killed.

JB:

Yes, my mother told me her throat had been slit.

DR:

No further questions

Defense Attorney Brusco

MB:

Just a few brief details. Going back to the public prosecutor's question to ask for clarification. And that is, regarding that which Amanda said November 2 at the police station, that evening, especially regarding the body of poor Meredith. What I would like to know is: was it just Amanda speaking or was it more or less everybody giving a version, let's say, more or less credible?

JB:

Other people talking about how the body was found?

MB:

Yes.

JB:

No, it was just Amanda because nobody else knew.

MB:

But you, in the report of January 28, page 11, explicitly stated “practically everybody was saying something different, some saying she was found in the bathroom, others saying something else and she, Amanda, said it was the wardrobe.”

JB:

But when the others talked about this they were just guessing, but what Amanda said she said as if she were reporting facts.

MB:

I understand, but everybody was talking about it, or not?

JB:

About how she was found?

MB:

Yes. If we look at the report there is the discrepancy, in other words.

JB:

Yes.

GCM:

Everybody was saying it?

JB:

I don't know if it was absolutely everybody.

MB:

Yes, ok, that's obvious. Did you know Amanda or was this the first time you saw her?

JB:

That was the first time I saw her.

MB:

Had Meredith ever mentioned Rudy Guede to you?

JB:

No.

MB:

Back to the time in the police station. How was the behavior of the Italian roommates? In particular, did they cry? Do you remember?

JB:

I don't remember them crying, I remember that they were very sad and upset.

MB:

Back to the circumstances of the death, you said you learned it from your mother in the early...mid-afternoon. Do you remember who your mother heard it from?

JB:

My sister called my mother because she heard it on the radio.

MB:

So it was already known at what time Meredith had been murdered, according to her?

JB:

As far as I can recall.

GCM:

Excuse me, but was your sister in Perugia or England?

JB:

England.

GCM:

And your mother as well?

JB:

Yes.

MB:

Did Raffaele say anything at the police station that night, as far as you can recall?

JB:

No, he was very quiet.

MB:

After that night did you ever speak to Amanda or Raffaele again?

JB:

No.

MB:

Do you remember, still talking about that night, if Amanda or Raffaele or anybody else had any scratches or visible wounds?

JB:

No, I don't remember.

Defense Attorney Ghirga

LG:

Amanda Knox defense. So you, that night at the police station, everybody is there, we understand how the people were there. Did the witness ever speak directly with Amanda? Or did she listen to her speaking?

JB:

No.

LG:

Do you know who Filomena Romanelli is?

JB:

Can you repeat the question.

LG:

The question is if you know Filomena Romanelli, the roommate, and if she was present among those at the police station.

JB:

I don't know her but I know the roommates were there.

LG:

I ask you if you, at the police station, responding to a question by the public prosecutor, remember that Amanda said she was in a different part of the room and therefore could not tell us anything in particular about that which was in the room. And therefore if the witness remembers, in listening to Amanda, if Amanda also said "I was in a different part of Meredith's room and she didn't tell us anything in particular about that which she might have seen inside."

JB:

I don't understand the question.

LG:

Exactly, maybe you're right. You heard Amanda but you never spoke to her directly.

JB:

Yes.

LG:

Do you remember if Amanda, when speaking, said she was in a different position regarding Meredith's room?

JB:

I don't understand the question.

LG:

It's not a dispute, it's just to try and spark a memory. If you permit I will read.

GCM:

Go ahead.

LG:

To the question of the Public Prosecutor she responds on January 28, here we are on page 14, it should be page 15 for the Public Prosecutor: "Amanda says: I was in another part of the room; actually it's not that she ever spoke to us to tell us anything in particular, so these comments regarding hoping Meredith's death was painless were comments we made amongst ourselves." If you like I will give it to you and translate it for you as was done with the Public Prosecutor, if you so authorize, President.

GCM:

President – go ahead.

THE INTERPRETER TRANSLATES THE REPORT.

JB:

Yes.

LG:

No further questions.

Defense Attorney Dalla Vedova

CDV:

Regarding your acquaintanceship with Meredith, you told us you didn't know Meredith well, but you also told us that the evening of the 31st you saw Meredith first at the Merlin and then at the Domus.

JB:

Yes.

CDV:

Do you remember when you talked about boyfriends with Meredith?

JB:

Meredith mentioned a guy once.

CDV:

What did she say? Did you know if the boy was Italian or English, first of all?

JB:

I knew he was Italian.

CDV:

And do you remember that she talked about some exceptions regarding faithfulness in regard to the relationship with this boy?

JB:

I remember once when she talked to me about this guy, it was really brief, I don't remember well, I just remember she had some doubts about the lad but I don't remember well. It was a very quick comment.

CDV:

Do you remember that Meredith told you that this boy wasn't where he was supposed to be once and told a lie about it and Meredith thought then that he wasn't honest, or faithful?

JB:

I don't remember all of it, I think she said she was supposed to meet him and he wasn't there, I don't remember well.

CDV:

I'm reading the report of summary information from November 2, where I find that on the 31st, you had this conversation with Meredith.

GCM:

Is this true? It was the 31st?

JB:

It wasn't the 31st, that was Halloween. She spoke to me about the boy but not Halloween night.

GCM:

Who was the boy? What was his name?

CDV:

It's not in the report.

JB:

No.

GCM:

You don't know the name, she didn't mention the name of this boy?

JB:

I knew it was the boyfriend she had then, the boy who lived in the apartment downstairs.

CDV:

I understand. Because in fact, I will remind you that you declared that "for the way in which she spoke of her boyfriend, I think—I meaning you—that she didn't think of him as a boyfriend but as a person she hung out with without plans for the future." Do you confirm this?

GCM:

Do you remember this?

THE INTERPRETER TRANSLATES THE REPORT

JB:

I didn't know, I thought that at that time he wasn't really her boyfriend but somebody she liked.

CDV:

Did Meredith tell you anything about any other boys or boyfriends?

JB:

No.

CDV:

And on the 31st, when you saw her at the two clubs, did you notice if Meredith was with someone?

JB:

Just her female friends.

CDV:

No boys?

JB:

Just girls.

CDV:

At the police station, when you remember that you heard someone say, Amanda, regarding the way Meredith was found, and the fact that she was in a wardrobe covered by a blanket. Do you remember that someone said Amanda had said it could have been her instead of Meredith as the victim?

JB:

Yes.

CDV:

And Amanda, how did she seem in that moment? Worried? You said earlier she was angry but did she seem afraid, for example?

JB:

No.

CDV:

But she was angry, you said before.

JB:

She wasn't upset, she said, "It could have been me," she seemed more angry than anything.

CDV:

Then in relation to the clarification requested by the public prosecutor regarding the declaration, there is a report dated the 30th, and therefore after the one made on January 28, since we're talking about January 30th, where the same witness makes a correction. She says, and I am just asking for a confirmation, is it true that you, after two days, thought it necessary to return to correct your statement in regard to the timing of when you heard about the declaration that somebody told you about Amanda, that she was the first one to find the body, and the second that came after, acquired when Amanda [missing word] that Meredith had been found in a wardrobe wrapped in a blanket. So you confirm this.

JB:

Yes, I went back and I said that Amanda first said she had found the body and later she said the body "had been" found.

CDV:

But when you say "Amanda said" actually you also [missing word] that Amanda never spoke to us to tell us anything in particular. So I am trying to understand, when you say "Amanda said" in reality you are saying "I heard somebody say this about Amanda." Because you say you never spoke to Amanda directly.

JB:

No, I heard her.

CDV:

But excuse me, I have to dispute that because it has already been analyzed, even the Public Prosecutor I believe has referred to it. You affirmed that Amanda...I will reread the report of January 28, my page 14: "she says she was in another part of the room and actually she never spoke directly with us."

JB:

She was in another part of the room but she was walking around in the room, talking on the phone, she never spoke with me directly but she spoke with other people.

CDV:

And so you didn't learn it directly from...this was the point. Also because I also dispute that you say that these comments, especially the ones about hoping that Meredith's death had been painless, "we made amongst ourselves." Who is ourselves? The English, I suppose.

JB:

My friends and I.

GCM:

If the Public Prosecutor wants to terminate the examination if there are further questions, or if there aren't.

Public Prosecutor

GM:

The question is: Amanda said "I saw her" and you heard her because she was talking loudly? So even if she wasn't speaking with you, you heard her?

JB:

I heard Amanda say she found her, she didn't say it to me directly.

President

GCM:

I still have one doubt. First the witness said: Amanda spoke about the finding of the body in terms of facts and circumstances while the others spoke in terms of guesses. If you can specify first of all what the guesses of the others were? The English girls, or if they were the Italian girls or the Italian boys?

JB:

There were different things said during the evening but I can't remember who said what, or how they knew these things, but Amanda seemed sure of what she was saying.

GCM:

We can dismiss the witness, you can go.