

00:02.31

astudyincrime24

Bill, welcome to the show.

00:04.26

Bill Geiger

Oh, thank you very much for having me.

00:05.70

astudyincrime24

Hey, I appreciate it. I was going to tell you my, uh, I was sick for about two weeks here last up until a few days ago. And so my voice is doing weird things. So hopefully it will not give out during our conversation.

00:19.96

Bill Geiger

Well, if it makes you feel any better, my voice generally does weird things.

00:20.23

astudyincrime24

the Otherwise you'll need to do all the talking.

00:23.09

Bill Geiger

So between the two of us, we'll figure it out.

00:27.79

Bill Geiger

Yeah, that may not be all that interesting to your ah listeners.

00:28.98

astudyincrime24

Well,

00:33.65

astudyincrime24

So before we start, we're gonna discuss the the story of the girl in the cage is what I, what it's kind of been referred to in the media and by you and others. um Who was JP, you know, James JP Cargill and and was was he was he already known to the Dayton, Ohio police department? Was he a a frequent flyer or was he someone that on was not on your radar?

00:56.33

Bill Geiger

Not really. Cargill wasn't unknown to me personally and my understanding is our Vice Guys didn't really know him either. Now kind of like what you pointed out, that doesn't mean he did or did not have

any criminal record because let's face it, a lot of times the folks that we dealt with as police officers had extensive criminal histories and certainly with Cargill there was a criminal charge in a nearby jurisdiction that kind of set up all of this case. But at the time of this case, as far as I know, he wasn't the target of any human trafficking or any other type of investigations.

01:32.42

astudyincrime24

Well, I believe at the time you had you had been promoted, you were a homicide detective. How did how did this case come to you?

01:40.36

Bill Geiger

Dumb luck mostly. um At the time, I was a detective assigned to the homicide unit. ah Generally, Saturdays and Sundays were my scheduled days off.

01:50.90

Bill Geiger

Now, as a detective in the homicide unit, you get used to the idea of being called in anytime, day or night.

01:51.66

astudyincrime24

Sure.

01:57.99

astudyincrime24

sure

01:58.20

Bill Geiger

But Sunday mornings and afternoons were kind of an exception to that. ah Per state laws, ah felony prisoners had to be charged within 72 hours being arrested.

02:10.24

Bill Geiger

In our department, formal charges had to be approved by an assistant county prosecutor. the courts and the prosecutor's office were both closed on the weekends, but on Sunday mornings, a few prosecutors worked to process the prisoners who were arrested on Fridays and Saturdays in order to make that 72-hour deadline. What that meant was that on a rotating basis, a skeleton crew of detectives also worked on Sundays to process those prisoners and present those cases to the prosecutors. Now, that skeleton crew also handled

02:46.13

Bill Geiger

any issues that came up during the day that required a detective response. So generally that meant if it wasn't your turn to work on a Sunday, odds were pretty good you wouldn't be called in to work at all. So around noon on Sunday, November 27th, 2016, I was on my scheduled day off and was pretty confident that I could enjoy my afternoon. So I pulled a beer out of my refrigerator and sat down to watch my beloved the Cincinnati Bengals play the Baltimore Ravens.

03:19.66

Bill Geiger

I had the beer sitting on my coffee table, hadn't even opened it yet, and my phone rang.

03:24.94

astudyincrime24

Oh.

03:25.52

Bill Geiger

Apparently, the skeleton crew of detectives was tied up on an unrelated case when the responding officers were calling for a detective for this incident. So the duty sergeant called my sergeant looking for a detective to assist on this case.

03:42.17

Bill Geiger

luck would have it.

03:42.28

astudyincrime24

So you.

03:43.40

Bill Geiger

My name was the first one on the alphabetical phone list. So he wound up calling me.

03:49.47

astudyincrime24

You just happen to be lucky.

03:51.11

Bill Geiger

I was the lucky one.

03:52.94

astudyincrime24

Well, there were two victims in this case we're gonna talk about. And I wanna talk about the girl in the cage first, and then the woman who was sexually assaulted because that's how it happened chronologically.

And we're also gonna use pseudonyms for the victims. I'd like to refer to the girl in the cage as Mia, and the woman who was sexually assaulted as Jane, if that's all right.

04:14.91

Bill Geiger  
And that's fine.

04:15.70

astudyincrime24  
Okay, this whole thing actually started a few weeks earlier and ah in a nearby town. And what was the what was the relationship between Mia and Cargill and what happened at that hotel?

04:27.09

Bill Geiger  
Well, Mia and Kargle's relationship was, in my opinion, as knotted and as predatory. According to Mia, she was addicted to drugs and Kargle was her pimp. They also had a sexual relationship with each other. According to Mia,

04:44.15

Bill Geiger  
She and Cargill were at a hotel in Fairbourn, Ohio, which is a suburb of Dayton. This was in August of 2016. During the course of the night at the hotel, she and Cargill got into an argument with each other and that argument escalated to physical violence. She claimed he hit her and tried to run her over with a car. This was all witnessed by another guest at the hotel who called the police. Cargill was then arrested for the assault of Mia by the Fairbourn Police Department. Cargill expected that Mia would refuse to press charges against him and recant the statement she gave the police on the night of the assault, but Mia never did.

05:28.62

astudyincrime24  
Oh, wow. So so he was picked up then.

05:31.91

Bill Geiger  
Yeah, he was actually arrested that night, but again, Cargill was kind of a manipulator in my opinion and he He counted that Mia, because of the issues that she had, wasn't going to follow through with anything. And he gambled wrong on that.

05:49.17

astudyincrime24  
But he was released ah after the arrest. He was released shortly thereafter.

05:53.61

Bill Geiger

That's correct. He was a re on ah released. um I believe he was released on bond, but the whole matter had not been resolved through the court system by the time that I got involved with Mia.

06:07.47

astudyincrime24

Well, Friday after Thanksgiving in 2016, I believe Mia agrees to meet Cargill at a local nightclub. um What happened after that?

06:19.62

Bill Geiger

Well, basically that was the beginning of a nightmare. Mia told me, although she had ended her relationship with Cargill in August, she was still a drug addict. He had called her claiming he wanted to work things out with her.

06:34.62

Bill Geiger

She wanted drugs and believed Cargill could help her with that. So she agreed to meet him at the nightclub because she figured it was a crowded place with plenty of people around, so she would be safe.

06:45.49

astudyincrime24

Sure.

06:47.53

Bill Geiger

She told me she went to the nightclub and Cargill turned on the charm when she got there. He took responsibility for what happened in Fairbourn and seemed to her to be trying to work things out. As the night went on, she felt more comfortable around him. And at the end of the night, she agreed to go to his home and have sex with him. When they got to Cargill's car after leaving the club, Cargill told her he had to make a quick stop at his aunt's house to check on it before they went to his house.

07:20.17

astudyincrime24

I lost you.

07:21.55

Bill Geiger

Oh, I'm sorry.

07:22.57

astudyincrime24

Yeah, I heard the quick stop.

07:22.80

Bill Geiger

Where'd you leave me at? Okay. um As I was saying, Cargill told Mia he had to make a quick stop at his aunt's house to check on it before they went to his house. He explained he was watching his aunt's house while she was out of town. Of course, that was all of ruse and Cargill had already plan to trap for Mia, but she didn't know anything about it at the time. He drove her to a side of town that she didn't know and she was unfamiliar with. She told me that they went to the house through a dark alley and pulled up behind the house. Cargill had her come inside the house with him. Again, Mia didn't know the neighborhood and

08:10.09

Bill Geiger

figured it was probably a little bit safer for her to go inside a house she didn't know than it was to stay in a car in the middle of a dark alley. So she agreed to go inside with Cargill. Once inside the house, Cargill again poured on the charm and the two began kissing. They made their way to the front bedroom of the house and started to fool around. As they climbed onto the bed, two women came bursting into the bedroom.

08:37.97

Bill Geiger

ah women were both wearing ski masks and were armed with a stun gun and mace. Mia said she got zapped with a stun gun and the girl started dragging her away. According to Mia, Kargle yelled a little bit but never really did anything to help her out. Not only that, but in spite of the ski masks, Mia recognized one of the girls as Jennifer. Mia had known Jennifer for quite a while because Jennifer worked for Kargle.

09:06.66

Bill Geiger

She was so his gopher and kind of his right-armed woman, a right-hand woman. Jennifer also had a very distinctive look. The best way to describe her is if you've ever watched the TV show, American Horror Story Asylum. There's a character on that show called Pepper. Jennifer looks like she could be Pepper's sister.

09:32.96

astudyincrime24

Yeah, I don't like scary stuff. and It's around Halloween here. Yeah, so though the Science of the Lambs, that's about as scary as I get.

09:42.19

Bill Geiger

Well, um I bring it up not because it's particularly sco scary in relation to this case, but if you know who that character is, Pepper,

and I'm sure anyone listening to this right now is Googling that, you will see a picture that will stand out in your mind. And the thing is, like I said, Jennifer looked like she could be Pepper's sister. So there really was no hiding the shape of Jennifer's features with a ski mask.

10:11.52

Bill Geiger

Moreover, because Jennifer was around Cargill a lot, Mia knew the sound of her voice and she knew the gate of Jennifer's walk. And she figured out pretty quickly she was being set up. Mia fought the two girls as best she could. Finally, one of them started spraying the mace. That was able to bring Mia under control and they dragged her from the bedroom across the living room in the kitchen and then down into the house's basement. Once in the basement,

10:40.23

Bill Geiger

Mia found there was a large dog cage set up that had been reinforced with plastic zip ties. Jennifer and the other girl, who was later identified as Jennifer's friend, Sonya, shoved Mia into the cage and secured her with zip ties around her hands that were also fastened to a dumbbell weight. Jennifer later agreed to testify against Cargill at his trial. According to her, Cargill had planned this for a few days.

11:10.32

Bill Geiger

He had Jennifer buy the dog cage and the ski masks a day or two before this and had her set up everything inside the basement of the house that they went to. He then had Jennifer and Sonia waiting in the basement of the house for him and Mia to get to the house. Once they got there, Jennifer said that Cargill texted her and told her and Sonia to come up and get Mia.

11:39.94

Bill Geiger

Once they had Mia in the cage, Jennifer claimed she and Sonya harassed Mia for the rest of the night. They spent the night smoking meth and kicking Mia's cage. every Everyone agreed that Kargle never went to the basement at any time during the weekend. However, he was directing everything and spent a lot of his time in the house throughout the weekend while this was going on. On that Friday night in a Saturday morning, when daybreak came, Sonya left the house.

12:09.86

Bill Geiger

According to Jennifer, Cargill still wanted someone else to help watch Mia. So he went and he got the other co-defendant, Cassidy. According to Jennifer, Cassidy was described by Cargill as being a savage. According to Jennifer, Cassidy and her friend Alison arrived at the

house. However, upon seeing Mia locked in a cage, Alison decided she didn't want anything to do with what was going on and left.

12:40.31

Bill Geiger

Cargill still wanted someone else to watch Mia, and so he got Jane to come to the house as well. For the rest of Saturday and into Saturday night, Jennifer, Cassidy, and Jane would take turns going down to the basement and being beating on Maya and on the cage. They claimed Cargill was going through Mia's phone and looking up names trying to find someone they could extort money from who might be willing to pay a ransom for Mia.

13:10.49

Bill Geiger

Now, personally, I think he was looking for one specific person. Mia had a regular customer as a prostitute with whom she had developed a relationship. He owned a small business and had enough money to pay for a nice apartment that Mia was living in after she left Cargill in August. I think that was a person he was looking for, but apparently he did not know that customer's name.

13:37.12

Bill Geiger

So Cargill would find a name and a phone number on Mia's phone and send the girls down to the basement to question Mia as to who the name was and if that person had any money. However, Jennifer claimed Mia never gave them any information or told them if any of the people in her phone had any money to pay a ransom. Out of frustration, they continued the beatings on Mia and on her cage. Throughout the day,

14:07.31

Bill Geiger

When Mia had to go to the bathroom, they gave her a red solo cup to urinate in. However, when they started questioning Mia about the names in her phone and were not getting the answers they wanted, out of frustration, one of them, likely Cassidy, dumped the cup of urine on Mia. At one point, the captors got so frustrated with Mia that they started rolling her as she was trapped inside the dog cage and they rolled the cage around the basement floor. And that turned out to be a crucial mistake. When Saturday night became early Sunday morning, Cargill and Cassidy went to the bedroom together. It was the same bedroom that Jennifer and Sonia had taken Mia from earlier on Friday. Before he went to bed, Cargill told Jane it was her job to stay awake all night and check on Mia and make sure she didn't get free.

15:06.63

Bill Geiger

Cardinal and Cassidy then went to the bedroom while Jane and Jennifer sat together in the living room and started doing meth. Eventually



though, Jennifer fell asleep. Jane claimed she never fell asleep, but she also didn't check on Mia. While the rest of the house went to bed, Mia discovered that the zip ties used to secure her cage had been loosened when the cage was rolled and the bars had been bent.

15:36.24

Bill Geiger

Her wrists, which were daisy-chained with zip ties to the dumbbell, were also beginning to wiggle free. So she started working on bending the plastic of the zip ties around her wrist until they finally broke away. She then started working on the cage bars themselves until she was finally able to work her hands outside of the cage and undo the cage's latch. By the time she was able to undo the latch and get out of the cage,

16:05.41

Bill Geiger

It was mid-morning on Sunday. Mia found her way up the basement steps and frantically under the lock to the back door and ran outside. She was barefoot wearing only a thread worn t-shirt and yoga pants. She had no shoes or socks and the temperature was below 40 degrees. She ran for a bit and after a while Mia started walking and she found herself walking down the middle of the street that was adjacent to the street where the house she was held captive in was located. A neighbor was on her front porch and saw Mia walking. In the cold with no shoes on and no jacket, the neighbor of course was concerned and asked me if she was okay. That neighbor wound up taking Mia in and calling the police for her.

16:56.33

astudyincrime24

All these ladies, were they working as sex workers for Cargill or or he was their drug supplier?

17:03.86

Bill Geiger

hello There's a lot of allegations that went back and forth related to that. ah Cargill was never convicted of drug trafficking, so I don't really want to and answer that question beyond what he was found guilty of, but they were all there with him for a reason.

17:21.39

astudyincrime24

Understood, yeah. And ah by the way, I did Google Pepper. And very distinctive.

17:26.06

Bill Geiger

Yeah. Distinctive look, right?

17:29.83

astudyincrime24

it's You can't even describe it. You got to Google Pepper, American Horror Asylum. Yeah, that's ah that's crazy. It sucks. I'm from the X-Files.

17:38.16

Bill Geiger

yeah And there was no hiding that with a ski mask.

17:40.99

astudyincrime24

Oh, man. So once Cargill discovers Mia has escaped, obviously he's he's furious. And he blames Jane, who was you know one of the girls that was supposed to watch Mia.

17:52.92

astudyincrime24

And at this point, things take a pretty dark in turn. What happened?

17:59.60

Bill Geiger

Well, both Jennifer and Cassidy testified at trial that in the morning they woke up to Cargill screaming that Mia had escaped. He was furious and got into a car with Cassidy to go out and try to find Mia. Of course, by the time he left the house, Mia was already safely in a neighbor's house waiting for the police to come. So Cargill called Jennifer while he was out, who was with Jane. And he told her to bring Jane and meet him at a detached garage at another house on the opposite side of town. Cassidy and Cargill

18:35.21

Bill Geiger

were already in the garage when Jennifer and Jane arrived. Jennifer and Jane parked their car outside of the garage and entered. And once they were inside, Cargill shut the garage door and he started yelling at Jane. Finally, he told Jane that she had really let him down. And according to Cassidy, he grabbed Jane by the neck and threw her to the ground. Cargill then started beating on Jane and told Jennifer and Cassidy that They needed to beat on her too. And he promised that he would make them bleed if they didn't make Jane bleed. Jennifer and Cassidy then started beating on Jane as well. After the girls finished beating Jane, Cargill grabbed a board that was in the garage and smacked Jane on the back of the head with it. Jane later said the blow was so hard that she nearly passed out from it. Even Jennifer said after Cargill struck Jane with the board,

19:35.25

Bill Geiger

she saw Jane's eyes roll into the back of her head. As Jane laid on

the ground, semi-conscious, Cargill instructed Jennifer and Cassidy to strip Jane naked, and they did so.

19:48.47

Bill Geiger

They both claimed they were afraid of what Cargill might do to them, and that's why they agreed to participate.

19:54.84

astudyincrime24

Understandable.

19:56.19

Bill Geiger

Cargill then picked up a bottle of antifreeze and dumped it on Jane. Cargill then ordered Jennifer and Cassidy tied Jane up with some rope that was in the garage and put her in the back end of an SUZ that was parked in the garage. The two did so. As Jane laid in the back of the SUV, Cargill picked up an old rusty window weight that was in the garage. For those who don't know what a window weight is, older houses, typically those built before the 1950s, had windows in them

20:32.61

Bill Geiger

that use counterweights to help balance a window and keep it open. These weights were typically made of lead or cast iron, could weight as much as 10 pounds, were two tubular shaped, and were around a foot or so in length. Cargill handed the weight to Cassidy and he told her to stick the weight in Jane's rectum. Cassidy tried to do so, but couldn't fit it in.

21:01.62

Bill Geiger

Cargill also tried to put the jane the weight in Jane's rectum, but was likewise unsuccessful. So he told Cassidy to ram that old rusty window weight inside Jane's vagina. Jennifer told me for a moment after Cargill told them this, both she and Cassidy looked at each other. But whatever between them calls to that pause didn't last long because Cassidy did what she was told to do, callously, viciously, and multiple times. When it was over, Cargill had Jennifer and Cassidy put Jane in the trunk of his car, the one he and Cassidy drove up in. Cargill and Cassidy then got in the car and drove it away while Jennifer left in the car that she and Jane arrived in.

22:00.73

Bill Geiger

Inside the trunk, Jane was able to struggle against the ropes and get free. And in the darkness of the trunk, Jane was able to find the emergency trunk release for the craw and opened it.

22:16.68

astudyincrime24

And she jumped out of the trunk, I think, when Cargill was at a stop sign.

22:20.47

Bill Geiger

That's correct. They came to a stop sign or at least a place where he slowed down enough where Jane felt she could make a jump. And so she did. And Jane was fortunate.

22:30.43

astudyincrime24

but she able to Was she able to get away from him then?

22:32.05

Bill Geiger

I'm sorry. Yes. She, she jumped out of the car and Jane was fortunate that it was a Sunday afternoon. And even though it was a little chilly, there were still people that were out and about.

22:44.17

Bill Geiger

They saw Jane, who was completely naked, jump out of the back end of the car and rushed to help her. Of course, Kargle and Cassidy, who were in the car, realized they were in trouble and took off as fast as they could in the car.

22:59.36

Bill Geiger

The people who aided Jane, of course, called the police. By the time this all had happened, I had already been called in and had already talked to the original victim, Maya, and she had identified the house she had been held captive in and provided me with both Cargill and Jennifer's names. Once we had these names, we put out a broadcast for them as suspects in Mia's case.

23:27.06

Bill Geiger

Other police officers responded to the scene with Jane. Initially, she did not tell them about the incident with Mia, but she readily identified Cargill, Cassidy, and Jennifer and what they did to her. The officers naturally recognized Cargill and Jennifer's names from the broadcasts related to Mia's case. Their sergeant then contacted me about it. At the time he did so, I was writing a search warrant for the house Mia was held captive in.

23:58.39

Bill Geiger

The Sergeant wanted me to respond to Jane's scene and work on that

investigation too. That was a little bit of a problem for me. Again, when telling the police about what happened to her, Jane did not mention anything about what happened to Mia or her involvement in it. That omission, of course, made me believe she was one of the masked women who tormented Mia over the weekend, which of course she was.

24:25.10  
astudyincrime24  
Sure.

24:25.56  
Bill Geiger  
so So Jane was simultaneously the suspect of one horrible crime and the victim of another. To avoid the conflict of interest, I had the sergeant call in another detective who investigated Jane's crime. The detective who was called in was named Casey Cantrell, and she did a phenomenal job of investigating that case. She located the garage where Jane was attacked, which Jane had never been in prior to that day.

24:55.81  
Bill Geiger  
She got a search warrant for it and recovered a bunch of evidence that was true that was crucial in the case against Cargill. Some of the evidence that she got included the window weight that was used in the attack of Jane.

25:13.49  
astudyincrime24  
Well, this guy sounds like a real psychopath. I tell you, it's horrible.

25:18.18  
Bill Geiger  
Yeah, Cargill.

25:20.47  
astudyincrime24  
but with the with the you know it's but There are several crimes involved in all this, but it's basically one crime spree. so But the way that you had it separated with different detectives, I think, was the best approach to finding out what happened.

25:35.39  
Bill Geiger  
Yeah, because it's it's a little difficult for you as a detective, ah particularly on a sexual assault case, where having a victim's trust and having a victim's confidence and having a victim's faith that you're going to do justice for them is crucial. um Because a lot of times sexual assault victims, because of what happened is so horrible,

they don't want to relive it, first of all. They don't want to tell you about it.

26:03.37

Bill Geiger

And when they finally do get up courage to talk about it, they want to have confidence that there's going to be a result that's favorable to them at the end. Now, of course, in Jane's case, that would have been impossible with me because she was a suspect in my crime.

26:23.35

astudyincrime24

Well, we'll talk about what happened, what the final results were, but let's take a quick break and I'll be right back.

26:33.97

astudyincrime24

Okay, I'm back with bill geiger a retired dayton ah um'm back with Bill Geiger, a retired Dayton, Ohio police officer, polygrapher and writer. I was gonna say budding writer, but you are a writer, you're published. Anyway, so how was ah how was Cargill eventually caught?

26:51.56

Bill Geiger

Well, that was due to some really good police work done by patrol officers and chief among those officers was an officer named Mitch Olmsted. And, uh, uh, Mitch was actually my training officer when I first came on the department as luck would have it. He was working on the Sunday morning when Mitch, when Mia got free and he was one of the first responding officers to the scene. It took a couple of days, but cargo was eventually located.

27:19.85

Bill Geiger

by patrol officers on the traffic stop. By that time, of course, we had an active warrant for his arrest for the crimes he did against both Mia and Jane, jane rather.

27:32.37

astudyincrime24

So he ends up going to trial. Does he take a plea or does he do a jury trial? what And what was the outcome?

27:38.32

Bill Geiger

Well, getting to trial was tricky for several reasons. First, our main witnesses, with the exception of Mia, were all suspects in the same crime Cargill was charged with.

27:48.42

astudyincrime24  
Right.

27:49.34

Bill Geiger

Then, of course, there were issues as far as knowing everyone's full names or their real names, specifically dealing with Sonya and Allison. Eventually, I was able to identify who they were and I was able to interview them. The prosecutor assigned to the case then entered into plea agreements with the female suspects in this case in exchange for their testimonies against Cargill.

28:14.99

Bill Geiger

After those plea bargains and giving the mounting evidence against him, Cargill also took a plea deal from the prosecutor and agreed to do around 11 years in prison. However, on the date in which Cargill was supposed to be sentenced by the court for his plea deal, Cargill changed his mind. He withdrew from his plea deal and decided he wanted to take it to trial.

28:42.74

Bill Geiger

And he learned very quickly that that was foolish because when it did go to trial, he was found guilty on all counts and he was sentenced to 41 years in prison.

28:45.74

astudyincrime24

yeah

28:55.00

astudyincrime24

Well, good deal. And he's still there today, I'm sure.

28:58.04

Bill Geiger

He is still there today.

29:00.21

astudyincrime24

Well, it's good that he's in the who's gal or the clink or the cooler or whatever we call it prison, because this is just a bad, bad guy, bad person. Well, let's switch gears a little bit. I want to talk about your role as a police polygrapher, which I find fascinating. You have administered over a thousand polygraphs. Now,

29:20.89

astudyincrime24

I want you to clear some things up for us because folks call it a lie

detector, but it it doesn't really detect lies. What does it do? What does a a polygraph machine do? And how do you learn whether people are lying?

29:33.49

Bill Geiger

Well, you don't really need a polygraph to tell you people are lying. We actually have another scientific device that shows 100% of the time that people who use it are liars, and that's called a mirror. The trick, of course, is figuring out what they are lying about, and that's what the polygraph is used for. Basically, the polygraph measures multiple physiological responses in the body simultaneously, and it notes these changes in these responses when a subject responds to a series of questions related to a particular subject. These responses include respiratory rates, blood pressure, heartbeat, as well as galvanic skin responses related to a person's sweat glands. Changes in these functions have been correlated as being present when someone lies. Now, critics of the polygraph will point out that these changes can occur for other reasons,

30:30.45

Bill Geiger

and they're actually right, they can be. That's part of the reason why polygraph tests repeat the same question multiple times to eliminate outside factors that could skew the test results. That's also why most polygraphists no longer declare someone is lying or truthful after taking a polygraph test. Now they are defined as either having significant reactions to the two test questions or having no significant reactions to the test questions.

30:59.99

Bill Geiger

The most important tool for figuring out if someone is lying or is not, is not the polygraph instrument itself. It's the quality of the interview of the test subject both before and after a polygraph test is given. How a person tells you a story not only gives you information about an event that happened, but also tells you about the values of the storyteller themselves. What they leave in and what they leave out tells you a lot about their motivations and possible involvements in a matter. So paying attention to an interview you give prior to the polygraph is crucial.

31:41.37

astudyincrime24

Well, and and I understand what you say about it's not a 100% yes or no question or answer when it comes to whether someone's lying or not. I mean, the the polygraph results are not accepted in court. um But one of the things you've got to speak into lies is you have cop intuition. and And every cop I've known has a really great BS meter.



32:04.56

astudyincrime24

You can always tell when folks are lying to you.

32:04.85

Bill Geiger

Yeah.

32:06.61

astudyincrime24

Everybody lies to cops.

32:07.90

Bill Geiger

And that's actually what I was going to get to. you know it's It's actually not that hard to ah pick up that BS meter, as you called it. you know Think about yourself for a minute. You ever get pulled over for speeding?

32:18.81

astudyincrime24

yes

32:19.12

Bill Geiger

Cop comes up, asks you, how fast were you going?

32:20.11

astudyincrime24

Yes.

32:21.60

Bill Geiger

What's your first answer? I don't know. I don't know. You knew right away you were going to have a speed limit. don't Don't even give me that. Or in some other cases, you know somebody gets pulled over for DUI.

32:32.31

Bill Geiger

How many of you had to drink? Two? Come on, you know you had more than two. So that BS meter is not it's not really all that hard to develop. Everybody talks to a cop lies to them.

32:43.65

astudyincrime24

Yeah, you got plenty of practice listening to people's idea.

32:47.39

Bill Geiger

Yes.

32:48.17

astudyincrime24

Well, I'm interested, have you ever had ah anyone beat the box? and anyone Anyone that you so so suspected they were lying, but it they showed them to be you know truthful or whatever you the the term you used.

33:02.69

Bill Geiger

You know, there are a lot of polygraph training schools that would find students a couple of bucks if they referred to a polygraph instrument as a box or a machine or anything other than a polygraph instrument.

33:12.80

astudyincrime24

Uh-oh.

33:14.04

Bill Geiger

Now, personally, I say, whatever, get over yourself. I don't care what you call it as long as you use it properly. And using it properly is kind of the key to your question.

33:25.02

Bill Geiger

Like all tests, polygraph tests have an error rate. And error rates are not anything to be afraid of because, basically, they define how effective your test is at finding out the thing you're testing for.

33:37.78

astudyincrime24

chair

33:37.83

Bill Geiger

Now, obviously, you want that error rate to be as low as possible. There are a lot of factors that go into the effectiveness of a polygraph test, but chief among them is making sure the polygraphist asks the test subject the right question.

33:53.37

Bill Geiger

For example, suppose you and I decide to go and rob a bank together. We agree that you're going to be the wheel man and drive the getaway car. And I'm going to be the guy who's going to go in the bank, point a gun at the teller and get the money.

34:06.61  
astudyincrime24  
Sounds good.

34:07.88  
Bill Geiger  
And sounds good for you, maybe.

34:09.54  
astudyincrime24  
Yeah, I don't want to be in the bank.

34:10.98  
Bill Geiger  
Now, now suppose after the bank robbery, you're caught by the police and you start to think to yourself, you know, Geiger was the one that robbed the bank.

34:21.96  
Bill Geiger  
I didn't. He was the one that had the gun, went in, got the money. I just gave him a ride. And you decide you want to take a polygraph to prove you're innocent.

34:33.05  
Bill Geiger  
Now, depending on how good you are at rationalizing things and what you honestly believe, you might just pass a polygraph if the only question on the test was, did you rob that bank?

34:48.39  
Bill Geiger  
So in my opinion, a better question would be, did you participate in that bank robbery?

34:54.42  
astudyincrime24  
Okay.

34:55.04  
Bill Geiger  
And of course, prior to even taking the test, A good polygraphist is going to go over that question with you and make sure there's agreement on what it means to participate in an action. By doing that, you drastically decrease the ability of someone to rationalize away their their actions.

35:16.72  
astudyincrime24  
Well, speaking of polygraphs, you have written your first novel, the

polygraphist.

35:21.37

Bill Geiger

Yes, I have.

35:22.78

astudyincrime24

And now you refer to it as your first novel. Does that mean you plan on writing more books?

35:27.51

Bill Geiger

Well, I graduated from college with a degree in English, and I've always enjoyed writing. So yeah, I am going to write more. As a matter of fact, I'm currently working on a book about the Cargill case.

35:38.43

astudyincrime24

Oh, wow.

35:38.90

Bill Geiger

Now, whether or not it ever gets published depends on how well my current novel, *The Polygraphist*, does.

35:45.69

astudyincrime24

Sure. Well, you're retired. You get all the time in the world now, right?

35:48.90

Bill Geiger

That's right. That's how I look at it.

35:51.85

astudyincrime24

Well, let's talk about the polygraphist, yeah your novel. ah Tell me about it. What's it about? And where can people find it?

35:58.34

Bill Geiger

Well, it's a work of fiction, but all of the polygraph stories in it are based on actual polygraphs that I administered. Although it is told as a memoir, it's not my memoir, and the main character in the book is meant to be just that, a character in the story. It follows his career as a polygraphist as he observes the shortcomings of the people he administers polygraph tests to. Often those shortcomings mirror flaws within himself but he's too focused on his job to recognize this. He's good at his job, but he lacks introspection and

ultimately loses the things he should the most that should be the most important to him. The book starts out with a lot of humor and a certain lightness to it, but it's kind of like the way new officers begin their careers. Towards the end of the book, however, the humor is less prevalent.

36:52.70

Bill Geiger

and more dark and similar to how a lot of cops feel towards the end of their careers. Throughout the book, the reader sees how a polygraphist interviews people and is able to deduce who the people are and what they did based on those interviews. And hopefully the reader will be able to use some of those same skills in evaluating the main character of the book. It's not so much a whodunit book as it is a how do you get him to admit it book.

37:20.48

astudyincrime24

Oh, okay.

37:20.88

Bill Geiger

Currently, it's available exclusively on Amazon Books and Kindle Unlimited readers can read it for free.

37:27.77

astudyincrime24

Excellent. And I appreciate you, Bill, you sent me a copy. I have not started it yet because I had to prepare for this podcast, but now I can go read your book after this.

37:37.36

Bill Geiger

There you go. And I hope you enjoy it.

37:40.17

astudyincrime24

I'm going to give you the last word, Bill. What did what did you learn or or take away from the the case around about Cargill? Was there anything that stood out to you?

37:49.22

Bill Geiger

Yeah, there's actually a lot about this case, I think, to be learned. First, there's the incredible strength of survival of both of the victims in this case. Both had objectively horrible things that happened to them, but each found the strength in themselves not to be overwhelmed by it, not to give up, but to continue to fight their way to freedom and eventually to get help.

38:18.07

Bill Geiger

Keep in mind, these were drug addicts and prostitutes, people that, you know, I think a lot of people in society give up on. Nonetheless, they had the grit to persevere.

38:29.52

Bill Geiger

So don't give up on anybody. They're stronger than you think they are and probably a lot stronger than they even realize themselves. The second thing that I took away from it,

38:37.96

astudyincrime24

You want to repeat? Sorry, and you cut out. To start with, don't give up on anybody if you would.

38:41.06

Bill Geiger

um

38:44.37

Bill Geiger

Okay. um I think, again, the key is you don't give up on anybody. They're stronger than you think, and they're probably a lot stronger than they even realize themselves. Second, there is the importance of witnesses, the need for people to get involved in things, even if they are concerned that maybe they shouldn't. A neighbor took Mia in after she escaped to call the police. If she hadn't, maybe Cargill would have found her.

39:14.67

Bill Geiger

and her story would have ended very differently. Pastor Baez saw Jane jump for freedom from Cargill's trunk. Again, if they hadn't come to assist her, maybe her story would have ended very badly as well. So many times as a police officer, I know I was alerted to crimes that would have gone unsolved if it wasn't for a witness willing to stand up, do the right thing, and talk about what they saw.

39:42.88

Bill Geiger

Being a community willing to stand up against criminals is what makes a society just. And finally, I think the last thing I learned was if you're a homicide detective, never count on being able to enjoy a beer and watch a football game.

40:09.09

astudyincrime24

Thank you.

