

1 Q. After you got your paycheck and after you had been
2 at your grandfather's for a while you said you went shopping
3 for clothing and then you went to pick up your girls?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Where had your girls been during the day?
6 A. They were at their baby-sitter's house.
7 Q. And after you got your girls, where did you go?
8 A. I went straight to home.
9 Q. And home for you at that point was Michael Sanders'
10 mobile home?
11 A. Yes, it was.
12 Q. When you got to the mobile home, what time of day
13 would you estimate it was?
14 A. I'd estimate it being 5-ish, 5:20.
15 Q. And when you got there, did anybody greet you
16 outside?
17 A. Michael did.
18 Q. And what happened then when you got there to the
19 mobile home?
20 A. There was, Michael came out to, you know, meet me.
21 And there was a car that had pulled down I guess it had been
22 behind me.
23 Q. Did you recognize that car?
24 A. No.
25 Q. Could you see the face of whoever was in it?

1 evening?
2 A. Yes. Yes, they were.
3 Q. Were the four kids and you and Michael Sanders the
4 only people there in the mobile home?
5 A. Yes, we were.
6 Q. After you had been at the mobile home there for a
7 while, did there come a knock at the door?
8 A. I didn't hear a knock at the door.
9 Q. What was the first thing you heard, if anything?
10 A. I heard John Michael say there's someone at the
11 door.
12 Q. What happened next?
13 A. Me and Michael as soon as we heard John Michael say
14 that, he went first and I followed him to the window in the
15 kitchen where you could see who was at the door. And he
16 looked at me, he said, he said "Oh my God, Stephanie, it's
17 Rusty." And then he told me "Get all the kids to the back
18 bedroom." So the kids went first. We were trying to get them
19 to the back room. And I was behind the children. And Michael
20 went last. He was behind me. And we got the kids back to the
21 back bedroom which was our bedroom. And Michael, we had a
22 rifle, shotgun in the top of the closet my father had given me
23 for protection against Russell Bucklew.
24 Q. And explore that a little more at this point. Sort
25 of interrupting. Approximately when was it? Was it some time

1 A. No.
2 Q. What did Michael Sanders do if anything as far as
3 greeting you when you got home?
4 A. He asked who that car was. And I said I didn't
5 know. And he asked could it be Rusty. And I told him, I said
6 well, I don't think so. And he acted kind of nervous but we
7 went inside and he --
8 Q. Did he give you any signs of affection outside when
9 you got there?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. What?
12 A. (The witness began to cry.)
13 Sorry. He always came outside and put his arm
14 around me and gave me a kiss and told me he missed me.
15 Q. When you went inside, do you recall whether you all
16 locked the door?
17 A. Yes, the door was locked.
18 Q. And what happened when you got inside the house as
19 far as who went where in the mobile home and what was going
20 on?
21 A. The kids were playing Nintendo which they did every
22 day. And I was getting ready to start cleaning up the house
23 and cooking supper and Michael would come in and play his
24 guitar.
25 Q. And were all four kids present in the home that

1 between March 8 of 1996 and March 21st that your father had
2 loaned you that shotgun?
3 A. Yes, it was.
4 Q. And during that time frame after your dad had loaned
5 it to you, did Michael Sanders take it outside and try to load
6 it or unload it?
7 A. Yes, he did.
8 Q. Can you describe for us what happened that day?
9 A. The weapon was loaded. And we had it put up. But
10 we decided it wasn't a good idea to have it loaded with all
11 the kids around. So we was trying to unload it outside. He
12 was. And I was inside. And evidently he didn't do it right
13 'cause it went off.
14 Q. Did you hear it go off?
15 A. Yeah.
16 Q. What happened after it went off?
17 A. I popped my head outside and I was like "What are
18 you doing?" And he was trying to unload it, and he fired it.
19 Q. Did you and he bring it back in then and stick it?
20 A. Stuck it back in the top of the closet. I was going
21 to take it to the police station and have them unload it. But
22 I never did.
23 Q. Now, back to that evening on March 21st, 1996 after
24 Michael Sanders and you had hurried the children back to the
25 back bedroom and you and he had gone to the closet to get the

1 shotgun, pick it up there and describe for us what happened
 2 next.
 3 A. Okay. Michael --
 4 I need to blow my nose.
 5 Michael had me hand him the gun. And he was having
 6 me stay back with the kids. He went, he went to the doorway
 7 and he was going to go out.
 8 Q. You say the doorway, you mean the doorway from the
 9 bedroom into the hall?
 10 A. To the bedroom. He was standing, he was naturally
 11 going out to confront Bucklew. I was behind him. And when he
 12 got to the doorway, Russell, he was already inside.
 13 Q. Russell Bucklew was already inside the mobile home?
 14 A. (Responded by nodding his head up and down.)
 15 Q. And when you got to the doorway, could you see
 16 Russell Bucklew?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Did you see whether he had anything in his hands?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. What did he have in his hands?
 21 A. Guns.
 22 Q. Could you see whether it was one gun or two guns?
 23 A. Two guns.
 24 Q. And how did he have the guns? Can you use with your
 25 hands, show the jury?

1 A. Just, he was just shooting them, his hand, just down
 2 by them like he had seen on TV.
 3 Q. And as far as the timing of when the shooting
 4 started when Michael Sanders went from the bedroom into the
 5 hallway, was there an argument or a fight or was the
 6 shooting --
 7 A. There was no argument. There was no argument at
 8 all. He kept screaming to get down.
 9 Q. Who was screaming?
 10 A. Russell was screaming to us "Get down. Get down.
 11 Get down." And Mike didn't have time to get down. The only
 12 words Mike said was he was already shot. He was in the back.
 13 He fell into a different room. And the only words he said was
 14 "Oh my God." He said "I'm down, man. I'm cool." That's all
 15 he had time to say.
 16 Q. As Russell Bucklew was shooting, was he standing
 17 still or was he --
 18 A. He was walking toward us.
 19 Q. Walking toward you down the hall?
 20 A. Yes. He was walking towards us shooting.
 21 Q. And after Michael Sanders was down and was saying
 22 "I'm down, I'm cool," what did Russell Bucklew do, if
 23 anything?
 24 A. He was still walking down towards the hall. I mean
 25 I was, I was just right there. I just, I was looking at

1 Michael. And -- This is hard. And he walked towards the
 2 doorway which Michael had fell into, a spare room. And he had
 3 walked kind of like towards that doorway with the gun. My
 4 thought was that he was going to shoot him again. So I --
 5 Q. Did he do anything to gesture with the gun towards
 6 Michael at that point?
 7 A. He was just pointing it.
 8 Q. Where was he pointing it from what you could see?
 9 A. From what I could see it looked like he was aiming
 10 it at his head.
 11 Q. What did you do when you saw him aiming at Mike's
 12 head after Mike was down?
 13 A. I got in the doorway.
 14 Q. Pardon me.
 15 A. I stepped into the doorway in which Michael was at
 16 that time behind me.
 17 Q. Did that put you between Russell Bucklew and Michael
 18 Sanders?
 19 A. Yes, it did.
 20 Q. And the last you had seen of Michael Sanders, what
 21 position was he on the floor as far as on his back, on his
 22 stomach or sitting or lying or what?
 23 A. He was sitting and leaning against the wall holding
 24 his chest.
 25 Q. About how many feet from the doorway to that spare

1 bedroom in the hallway?
 2 A. I'd say about 3 feet.
 3 Q. Once you had stepped between Michael Sanders and
 4 Russell Bucklew, did Russell Bucklew then do anything to you?
 5 A. Was telling me to get on my knees, just kept telling
 6 me get on my knees.
 7 Q. Did you voluntarily get on your knees?
 8 A. No, I did not.
 9 Q. What happened?
 10 A. We kind of wrestled and scuffled up through the
 11 trailer.
 12 Q. Up where?
 13 A. Up through the hallway going like through the
 14 kitchen to where we'd be exiting where Russ, we wrestled
 15 around until one of my girls got my attention and at that time
 16 he took a pistol and hit me with it in the face and I went
 17 down to the ground.
 18 Q. Where were you when he hit you with the pistol?
 19 A. Right by the refrigerator in the kitchen.
 20 Q. And you mentioned one of your girls had got your
 21 attention?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. How, what do you mean?
 24 A. Well, they were crying, screaming. They were crying
 25 for their mom.

1 Q. Did she get your attention by crying or by touching
2 you or what?
3 A. They were coming toward us. And I didn't want them
4 near us. I wanted them away from me. So I was trying to get
5 away. And here they were coming towards us. I started
6 screaming at them to get back in the room. And at that time
7 is when he put the pistol, hit me in the face with it.
8 Q. Where exactly did he hit you?
9 A. Exactly right there on the --
10 Q. You're pointing to like your left cheek bone?
11 A. Yes, makeup is covering it, but there's a small scar
12 hooking around.
13 Q. Did it knock you unconscious when you were hit?
14 A. I wasn't completely unconscious. I couldn't move
15 and everything around me was blurry. I couldn't hear
16 everything real well. But I wasn't completely unconscious. I
17 could still kind of see.
18 Q. Did you end up going to your knees or did you stay
19 standing?
20 A. I, it knocked me down on the ground. I was laying
21 flat.
22 Q. On the kitchen floor?
23 A. On the kitchen floor. Face down.
24 Q. Then what happened?
25 A. He took my arms and placed them behind my back and

1 away.
2 A. The conversation or?
3 Q. Yes, ma'am.
4 A. Well, he found it humorous that he killed Michael.
5 Q. What did he say or do that makes you say he found it
6 humorous?
7 A. He said, he was smirking about it and he said he
8 knew that Michael was dead because he used hollow points and
9 that it was so far out in the country that they'd rip through
10 him and it would kill him before anybody had a chance to help
11 him. And then this is, he was really anxious, just really
12 weird. And he started talking about how he'd shot John
13 Michael, he was pretty sure he had shot John Michael which is
14 Mike's oldest boy.
15 Q. Do you remember his exact wording?
16 A. Shall I quote it?
17 Q. Yes, ma'am.
18 A. "Oh, yeah, I think I killed your fucking punk ass
19 boyfriend's kid too." Those words I'll never forget.
20 Q. After you had been driving around, did he demand any
21 sexual acts?
22 A. He demanded I give him oral sex on the way to
23 wherever we were going.
24 Q. And did you do that?
25 A. Yes, I did.

1 he put metal handcuffs on me.
2 Q. What happened after he put the handcuffs on you?
3 A. He got me up. We went out the door into the car.
4 Q. And do you remember where the car was parked
5 compared to Michael Sanders'?
6 A. It was behind, it was behind our vehicles.
7 Q. Behind your vehicles?
8 A. Yes. We had, there was three cars. And his.
9 Q. Were your handcuffs, are your hands handcuffed in
10 front of you or behind you?
11 A. Behind me.
12 Q. Were they handcuffed as he took you out of the
13 mobile home?
14 A. Yes, they were.
15 Q. And once he had you in that car, what happened next?
16 A. We left the trailer and we went out to the highway,
17 made a right. Basically he took me back into the country way
18 off in the country.
19 Q. Were you in the back seat or in the passenger?
20 A. I was in the passenger's side seat of the vehicle.
21 Q. And he was driving?
22 A. Yes, he was.
23 Q. Were you still handcuffed for a period of time?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. Describe for us then what happened as he drove you

1 Q. At that time were you still handcuffed or had he
2 unhandcuffed --
3 A. I was still handcuffed.
4 Q. Was he driving while he did that?
5 A. Yes, he was.
6 Q. Now, mentioned he was taking you somewhere. Did
7 there come a time where he got you to a place where he stopped
8 the car?
9 A. Yes, he did.
10 Q. Can you describe for the jury to the best you're
11 able, where was that place?
12 A. It was down way out in the country down the gravel
13 lane. It was a place where I had picked up an old car I was
14 working on. It was like a field. And I guess he had
15 remembered that spot.
16 Q. You said it was on a gravel lane. Does the name
17 Agate Lane sound right?
18 A. The name really, it was, I took him where it was.
19 I --
20 Q. Did you later take the police to the spot?
21 A. Yes, I did. To the exact spot.
22 Q. Would you describe for the jury what happened when
23 you got to that spot where he stopped the car?
24 A. He stopped the car. And he said that I was going to
25 have sex with him now. I said "No, I'm not." That's when he