



EVIDENCE FROM THE WITNESS

MARIA ANTONIETTA SALVADORI DEL PRATO TITONE

THE WITNESS WAS WARNED ABOUT ART. 497, PENAL PROCEDURE CODE, AND SWORE ON OATH.

DETAILS: Maria Antonietta Salvadori Del Prato Titone, born in Marsala, province of Trapani, on November 10 1965.

JUDGE - You have been called as a witness, you must tell the truth, you are warned about this obligation. The defense who called this witness may go ahead.

DEFENSE - AVV. DONATI

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Good morning Madam.

WITNESS - Good morning.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Attorney Donati, Sollecito's defense. Listen Madam, what do you do for a living?

WITNESS - I am the owner and headteacher of a nursery school in Milan at number 16 Via Plinio.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - In this court we are dealing with a murder which took place between November 1 and 2 2007; five days before, that is a handful of days before this date something happened to you which could be highly relevant, could you tell the Court what happened on October 27 2007.

WITNESS - October 27 was a Saturday and that morning I went to my nursery school because I had an appointment with a metal worker as I wanted him to install some steps in the garden and there was the metal worker and a representative with him. The appointment was at nine in the morning and I arrived at quarter past nine, a little late, I was with my son who at the time was six and so we went inside, they had waited for me, we went inside and I saw a stranger in the entrance

coming out of my office, I saw a young man and obviously I was afraid and then he turned out to be Mr Guede.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Listen, you said: "they had waited for me", they who? Who were you with? You said "I was with my son".

WITNESS - I had an appointment with the metal worker and the gardening representative who had delivered, garden equipment...

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - So who were these two people, were they present?

WITNESS - They were there waiting because they had to install these steel steps inside the garden, which were part of the garden equipment.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Listen, this person who you saw inside the nursery school, did he say anything to you? Did you speak when you bumped into him?

WITNESS - I was obviously surprised and I asked him who he was and said "I am..." he was very calm, he seemed to be at ease even though I had found him in my office and he said

"I am from Perugia, I arrived from Perugia yesterday evening by train and I didn't know where I could sleep and someone told me I could sleep here".

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Listen, were there any signs of any doors or windows being forced?

WITNESS - No, I only noticed that he had opened my cupboard probably to look for money.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - So had anything been damaged, I don't know, the lock, a padlock?

WITNESS - No, it had not been damaged but it was open normally I lock it and also the drawer we keep the cash in was open and some money was missing but only a small sum, nothing...

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Listen, regarding your computer did you notice anything... had any cables been pulled out?

WITNESS - No, I saw that he had probably tried to connect to the Internet I think with his laptop, I remember he had a rucksack with a laptop inside and I asked him where he had got it from as I have computers there, he said "no, no problem this is mine" and he let me see that in fact it was his and then we called the police who arrived.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Excuse me Madam, regarding the computer you mentioned, I would like to remind you that at 3pm on October 27, when you went to the Milan police station to officially report this person, you stated "two cables of my computer had been pulled out".

WITNESS - Yes, they had been pulled out.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - So you remember this happening.

WITNESS - Yes, I remember, this is what made me think that he might have tried to connect to my computer cables or to my computer I don't know he might have needed the cables to connect his laptop, I think.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - I understand. Listen, previously you said "then I called the police, we called the police".

WITNESS - Yes, the four of us called, there was me, my son and obviously the metal worker and the representative, and we called the police and when they arrived they asked him some questions, he said he slept in the nursery school but I later found out that couldn't have been possible also because he said he had slept on tiny footstools, so he couldn't have. And then in fact the police made him open his rucksack and inside the rucksack we noticed he had taken a meat knife from our kitchen.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Can you describe it?

WITNESS - A knife, I don't know, 40 centimetres I think with a black plastic handle which obviously... that was later given back to me after the official report and which I threw away.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - I understand. Listen but this knife that was found inside this rucksack, this person's rucksack, was it a valuable object? An object, I don't know, did it have... or else was it a knife, a simple knife?

WITNESS - No, it was the only knife that the cook used in the kitchen to cut meat.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - I understand. Listen, do you remember if there was anything else inside the rucksack?

WITNESS - There was a bunch of keys, there was a small gold woman's watch and then there was a small hammer, like the ones you find in buses to smash the windows with, I remember only this.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Computer, you don't remember if there was a computer.

WITNESS - No, I don't think he had taken anything else apart from the knife.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - No, no, not that he had taken anything from the nursery school, but if inside the rucksack there was a computer, a cellular phone if you remember.

WITNESS - I don't remember a cellular phone, I only remember these things, I remember his computer, the laptop and the knife, the keys, the watch and the small hammer.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - I understand. Then do you remember what happened later? What happened? Did you go to the police station? Was this person identified?

WITNESS - The person was taken away by the police and then they asked me to go and make an official report, so that day I went to make the official report and later the knife was given back to me and I threw it away because I didn't want to keep it.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Sure, and do you know if this person was identified?

WITNESS - Then they told me... The police I remember that the laptop, the computer he had had been stolen from a legal studio in Perugia and so he had previous but they let him go, the police woman who had come who had turned up at the nursery school told me this, that they let him go because they didn't know what to do with him, in the sense that probably there was nowhere to keep him and so they let him go, Mr Guede.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Ah so, so he had later been identified you said "Mr Guede", and did you later see him anywhere?

WITNESS - I saw him afterwards, after the crime when he was searched for as the third person, they talked about him on the television and I recognized him.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - I understand.

WITNESS - Watching the TV news.

DEFENSE - Avv. Donati - Fine. I have no more questions.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - Just one question. So did you check if he had slept in the nursery school or not?

WITNESS - No, so, I checked I looked into it and the obvious place to sleep would have been the gym where there are soft mattresses, but everything was left in the way the cleaning woman usually leaves things.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - So you don't know where he actually slept.

WITNESS - Where he slept?

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - Yes.

WITNESS - I don't think he slept in the nursery school because probably I think he was there to look for money because we suffered a theft a week before or a fortnight before and so initially I thought it was the same person who had stolen money at the nursery school a fortnight before and had come back to see if there was more.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - Do you know how he got into your nursery school?

WITNESS - Well, at the time the entrance door was a little defective and there was no gate and in fact later I had a gate installed for safety, but at the time the door was a bit defective and it opened if you kicked it, but this was only known by... us or those who worked in the school knew.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - And regarding this previous theft you had suffered..?

WITNESS - Well the theft happened... I have some employees who are mother tongue English...

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - What are the dates?

WITNESS - Excuse me.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - Referring to which dates?

WITNESS - I don't remember the dates exactly.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - In the same period or a long time before?

WITNESS - It would have been a week or two weekends before, one of my employees had left me a payment of two thousand euros in cash from some parents, she had phoned me to tell me she had put the money away, she was an English employee who worked there and yes she told me she had put the money away in every cupboard, she had locked the door to my office so the money was safe, but on the Monday we realized there

had been a theft and the money had been taken so I immediately thought that young man had come to look for something or it had been him or he had been sent, I don't know, I never found that out but I immediately thought it had been him.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - When this first theft took place had there already been this problem with the entrance door?

WITNESS - There was already the problem, there had been the problem for some months but then with the summer in the middle I hadn't had a chance to sort it out and so we were in October and the door had this problem.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - Listen, can you describe to us which other signs you found inside the nursery school on that first occasion, after that first theft you had suffered?

WITNESS - OK, on the first occasion two thousand euros in cash was taken and I suffered... great damage no. Sincerely I believed it had been staged to make out a tramp or a gypsy had come in because some food had been cooked in the kitchen and a cot had been put in one of the rooms as if a baby had slept in the cot with a bowl with food but it seemed unlikely to me. There was a man's sock on the floor, they had also stolen a camera, but it gave me the impression to have been staged, that it was not realistic, there were some folders open in the kitchen near the sink, it didn't make much sense to me.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - And then a week later you suffered this other theft?

WITNESS - Yes, a week or two later, now I can't remember if a week, because the next or the one after, maybe the one after this happened.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - And following this second theft did you go to the police station again?

WITNESS - No.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - I mean do you remember if you went to the Milan police station again on November 20?

WITNESS - No, I don't know, I don't think so, no. What for?

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - To inform them after finding out that it involved... after hearing about the murder and after recognizing...

WITNESS - Ah yes, I went there yes for... I don't remember why though!

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - You don't remember, maybe it was because you had realized that it was the same person who...

WITNESS - Yes, yes exactly, now I remember!

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - ...and because you knew that some young Anglo-Saxon women worked in your institute?

WITNESS - Yes the fact struck me that I'd heard on television during the news when they said that Mr Guede had a particular passion for English or Swedish women and this made me think that one of my employees might have known Mr Guede, in particular the woman who had put the money away that evening before the theft because she shared a place with one or two Swedish women.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - However following the murder you recognized the young man who had entered your nursery school...

WITNESS - Yes, yes, also because as desktop wallpaper on his laptop he had a photo of his with Giorgio Armani which had been broadcast...

INTERVENTION - Did you say Giorgio Armani? We didn't understand.

WITNESS - Yes, there was a photo of him with Giorgio Armani as wallpaper which I saw again on the Internet on the news so I worked out it was really him.

DEFENSE - Avv. Rocchi - Very well, thank you.

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - I would like to ask you a question about the knife which was found, second episode that of October 27 2007, it is already clear, but were you present when the knife was found inside this young man's rucksack?

WITNESS - Yes, yes I was present.

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - And you realized that that knife whose dimensions you have described was used in the kitchen.

WITNESS - It was used in the kitchen and in fact it was missing.

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - So a knife used in the kitchen of this nursery school you run, you saw it inside this young black man's rucksack?

WITNESS - Yes.

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - You said this knife was given back to you during the afternoon after your official report statement, it was returned to you?

WITNESS - Yes, by the police.

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - So this is fine. My colleague referred to a second declaration, when you went back to the police station on November 20, there is a statement, it doesn't mention English and Swedish women it mentions only Swedish women, do you remember? If you wish I will read it to you!

WITNESS - No, I said a passion for women...

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - "He was often with Swedish women who he had a sort of predilection for", English you said today. So do you remember that you didn't say this?

WITNESS - Anglo-Saxon perhaps! Anglo-Saxon, yes, the news said...

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - So there is a mistake?

WITNESS - ...he had a passion for Anglo-Saxon and Swedish women and I had some Anglo-Saxon women.

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - It's not that it is so important, the Court is not angry, but you say "only Swedish" and I take you up on that, do you remember you say only Swedish, today you say also Anglo-Saxon, is that right?

WITNESS - That is, that I said only Swedish? That I declared?

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - Can I read it?

JUDGE - Certainly as something in dispute, go ahead attorney!

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - "This person was often with Swedish women who he had a sort of predilection for", you show fear that there may be a link with the story you told, you only say Swedish!

WITNESS - No that is what has been written by who...

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - If you remember better!

WITNESS - No no, the thing that struck me was really that they said Anglo-Saxon women because I have some English, Anglo-Saxon, English, Americans that work for me.

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - The question was if you had also said Anglo-Saxon, today you say that...

WITNESS - I did say it!

DEFENSE - Avv. Ghirga - You did say it? Very well, thank you, it is written here.

WITNESS - I certainly did say it!

JUDGE

JUDGE - Excuse me, to complete this aspect, passion for Anglo-Saxon or Swedish women, English, how did you know this fact? Where did you find it out?

WITNESS - No, because I heard it on the news, they said it on the news more than once.

JUDGE - I understand. Very well, go ahead.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Attorney Dalla Vedova for Ms Knox. Good morning Madam.

WITNESS - Good morning.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Just to clear something up. I would like to understand better how your nursery school is set out, because you referred to your office and then I assume there are school rooms. Can you briefly tell us how it is set out. Is there a second floor? Is there a garden?

WITNESS - Yes, OK, the nursery school is found inside a court yard inside a building, there is an entrance with a few steps so it is a raised floor, you go up the steps there is an entrance where the children are welcomed, my office is immediately visible on the right, there is also a window shaped like a porthole then there are the school rooms that is the main room and then we have a gym, we have a garden that has a shape a bit like a "T".

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Listen, and in your office you have a personal cupboard with a padlock.

WITNESS - I had a cupboard with a key, a metal cupboard.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Was this cupboard stolen from during both the first and the second thefts?

WITNESS - Yes.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Did you notice that this key had been moved?

WITNESS - Yes, yes.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - In the first case it was open because you said some money had disappeared!

WITNESS - Yes in the first case it was open but to tell you the truth no, I'm sorry but a year and a half have gone by so... no, there wasn't much... the cupboard wasn't damaged, in fact the impression was that someone had the key but I think that it was a lock that was quite easy to unlock also without a key perhaps...

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Because you talk about a metal cash box containing the sum of two thousand euros which you mentioned before...

WITNESS - Yes, but that was unlocked, that was always unlocked, the only thing you could lock was the cupboard.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - I understand. And the same cupboard was instead forced open during the second episode?

WITNESS - No, forced open no, it might have been because sometimes I locked it and sometimes I didn't, I don't remember... it depends if there was money or not. That time, the second time when I saw Mr Guede I don't think there was a large sum, just a small sum in cash.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Listen, I want to understand the other circumstance, Who saw Guede first?

WITNESS - Me.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - The second time.

WITNESS - The second time me, yes, because I went in first my son followed and then the two workmen who had come in with the heavy steel steps, they were carrying the steps up and were behind me.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - What did Guede say to you? Can you remember?

WITNESS - Oh, he said nothing.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Did he have an excuse, was he surprised?

WITNESS - Hew was very calm, the thing that struck me was that he was very calm very relaxed, he seemed like it was only natural being in someone else's home and immediately I said to him, I almost shouted

"what are you doing here?" and he said "no, no be calm relax, I only came to sleep because I didn't know where to go" and I asked him questions such as "but who are you? Where are you from? Who told you to come here?" and he answered "I was at the central station and I didn't know where to sleep and I asked a young man who told me for fifty euros to come and sleep here". Obviously I never believed this story.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - At that time were you with the metal worker and the other gentleman?

WITNESS - I was with the metal worker and the other gentleman fortunately!

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Did these two men also question Guede, did they ask him why he was there?

WITNESS - Initially yes, they were a bit shocked to see this stranger, they didn't say anything but then they also asked some questions that I can't remember now like "but who told you to come here?"...

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Listen is Via Plinio near the central station?

WITNESS - Quite near, but not very near, the continuation of Via Vitruvio which shoots off from Piazza Duca D'Aosta which is the central station...

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - On foot?

WITNESS - On foot twenty minutes, a quarter of an hour!

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Instead going back to the answer Guede gave you about this fifty euros which he said he gave to someone to let him sleep there?

WITNESS - He said he gave the money to a person but who had suggested to come here because it was very difficult to find somewhere to sleep in Milan and he wouldn't have found a place anywhere and so suggested to come to the nursery for fifty euros.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - And did you believe this story?

WITNESS - No, also because I asked him who this person was and he said he didn't know what nationality he was, it seemed made up, an excuse...

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Not real?

WITNESS - ...not real yes!

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - So Guede's story seemed far from the truth.

WITNESS - Yes, yes.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Listen, at that time was the nursery school working?

WITNESS - Yes, yes.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - So you had lessons every day.

WITNESS - Yes, the nursery school had been working since September 2004.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - So in October 2007 you had nursery school every day? Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday..?

WITNESS - No, no, the nursery school is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, so the children don't come.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - It is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. I have no more questions, thank you!

JUDGE - Go ahead, prosecution.

PROSECUTION

PROSECUTION - Listen, was there a broken window?

WITNESS - No.

PROSECUTION - Was there a rock?

WITNESS - No.

PROSECUTION - Listen, were there signs the toilet had been used?

WITNESS - I remember finding urine on the children's toilet...

PROSECUTION - I understand.

WITNESS - But I can't know if... usually it is cleaned afterwards by the cleaners.

PROSECUTION - It also happens with the children. Can it happen?

WITNESS - No, but on Saturday it is cleaned and so the cleaning is done so it shouldn't...

PROSECUTION - I understand. When was the last time the cleaning had been done?

WITNESS - It is done every evening including Friday evening.

PROSECUTION - Fine, I have no more questions.

JUDGE - If there are other questions.

CIVIL PARTY - Avv. Perna

CIVIL PARTY - Avv. Perna - Only a judge for the civil party. Madam, the kitchen knife that was found with Mr Rudy Guede was it a large or small knife?

WITNESS - Neither large nor small, medium.

CIVIL PARTY - Avv. Perna - Could you give me an indication?

WITNESS - I think a 30-centimetre blade.

CIVIL PARTY - Avv. Perna - Good. I have no more questions.

JUDGE - Are there any other questions just to finish off?

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Just to be exhaustive. Madam, you said that in the rucksack there was a small hammer like those in the trains.

WITNESS - Like the ones in the trains, in the buses to smash...

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - To smash the windows in case of emergency.

WITNESS - ...in the case of emergency, yes.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - I understand. And did this hammer seem like it had been used?

WITNESS - No, I repeat, the entrance door is easily openable with a punch, with a kick at the time and the windows above the courtyard to get into the nursery school had grates, no...

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Grates?

WITNESS - Grates yes, iron grates.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Listen, in your kitchen have you got a lot of knives?

WITNESS - No, no.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - How many have you got if you need..?

WITNESS - No, the children don't use a knife and the only knife were two small vegetable knives and the one used for the meat, to cut...

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Is it kept in a drawer?

WITNESS - It is kept in a drawer.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - The kitchen drawers aren't locked and so can be opened by anybody.

WITNESS - Yes, exactly.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Was the kitchen also unlocked? Or was it a locked room inside the nursery school?

WITNESS - When we saw Mr Guede? No, it was closed.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - And how did he get the knife from inside the kitchen?

WITNESS - No, it was closed in the sense that the door was...

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Unlocked.

WITNESS - Unlocked.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - It was only closed, not locked.

WITNESS - Yes.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - I understand. Is that door usually locked?

WITNESS - No, no.

DEFENSE - Avv. Dalla Vedova - Thank you, no more questions thank you.

JUDGE

JUDGE - There are no other questions. Perhaps you've said this, perhaps we didn't make it out, but the episode happens on October 27.

WITNESS - Yes.

JUDGE - Is it a Saturday?

WITNESS - It is a Saturday.

JUDGE - What time do you enter?

WITNESS - It must have been around nine twenty because I arrived at the appointment at quarter past nine.

JUDGE - In the morning.

WITNESS - In the morning.

JUDGE - And this young man who you later recognized as Rudy Guede, where was he?

WITNESS - He was inside my office, when I was in the entrance I saw a man coming out of the office...

WITNESS - Coming out?[1]

WITNESS - ...coming out of my office, in the sense that I came in and while I was going into the nursery school entrance I saw a shadow coming out of my office and so this young man I had bumped into, he might have tried to escape but obviously but I was in the only narrow entrance, and there were workmen behind, so he...

Judge - There are no other questions; the witness is discharged.

[1] The original court transcript in Italian attributes this question to the witness, but logic dictates that it was the judge who asked.