POST SERIAL

Noose tightens around Jordan's neck

Then something strange happened. In a bizarre twist, it turned out that my girlfriend Jordan had been stalking not only me, but also my deceased wife.

Security cameras at Carla's Sand Hill Road office clued in the police. Apparently Jordan had followed my wife to work in her car, and parked outside the restricted lot.

On at least two occasions, Jordan had then waited in her car several hours for Carla to leave the workplace, and followed her off once again.

As the police report put it so nicely, "The suspect's mistress waited outside the deceased's house, and followed her to work."

Video evidence

This turned out to be an unexpected turn of events in my favor.

The police also found Jordan's car on video going through the Dumbarton toll plaza, following several vehicles behind Carla's car.

My first thought was, wow, I may have hit the jackpot.

The police interviewed Jordan. "Did you follow Mrs. Davenport's car?" the Russian detective asked.

"No, I didn't," said Jordan. "I'm not a weir-do. I'm not a freak." She was digging herself in deeper.

A Deadly Secret Homicide in Palo Alto

A fictional serial by John Angell Grant

"We have video of your car going through the Dumbarton tollgate three cars behind the deceased," said the detective.

"Well what does that mean?" shouted Jordan, indignant. "It's a free world. If I want to drive across the bridge, I can drive across the bridge. Or is this Russia? You are confused about where you are living, lady!"

Awesome. It couldn't have played better.

As I reflected on it, I wondered what was Jordan hiding, that she didn't want people to see.

Humiliated

It turned out, not surprisingly, she was simply embarrassed by her own stalker behavior. Jordan did not want people to know that she had been following my wife. She was a secretive person, and tracking others turned out to be one of her hidden behaviors. She felt deeply humiliated.

As it all unfolded, we learned that Jordan had also followed Carla in her car not only to work, but to the gym, and to Safeway. She was captured on a Safeway security camera following Carla down an aisle.

Similarly, she had tracked Carla through Stanford Shopping Center on one occasion, and watched her buy an expensive purse.

Later that night, after Jordan's first afternoon of police interrogation, she said to me, "If they know I've been following her, they will think I'm a freak." (The next day I reported this remark, verbatim, to the police.)

"I don't want people to think I'm a fruit loop," Jordan said to me. "It's just that I get emotional when something is important to me."

'He belongs to me'

To the detective, she said, "You have to understand. I love Marcel. He ended up with the wrong woman. He belongs to me."

It couldn't have worked out more perfectly.

In a later interview, with Detective Bennikov playing the good cop to her partner's bad cop, Jordan said to the Russian woman, "This is a story of love. I'm sure you understand. Marcel and I were meant to be together. He told me that himself. He said that his biggest wish was that he was free of his wife, so that he could marry me."

Over the next couple of weeks, everything changed.

Tomorrow: Episode 28. To catch up on previous episodes, go to johnangellgrant.com.