

Trial excerpt — March 9, 2011 (redacted)

Cross-examination of the accuser · People v. Edward Hopkins

Source: Official trial transcript, Manhattan Supreme Court (defense hold: primary-accuser Vol. 3).

Public use: Then-minor names removed. Labels: **the accuser** / **the stepdaughter**. Detective Robert Arbuiso named as in the open record.

What this is: Selected Q&A from cross — not the full day's transcript. **What this is not:** Memoir narration or news clips.

A. The 2008 detective notes — walked back under oath

Defense counsel put Det. Arbuiso's spring-2008 notes to the accuser, one detail at a time.

Q. You told the detective that when you went into the room, there was a towel covering the window, didn't you?

A. I didn't say that.

Q. When you spoke to the detective, you told him [a child in the household] was home.

A. I didn't tell him that. I said I didn't know who was in the house.

Q. You told the detective that you were screaming.

A. I didn't say that, either. I said I wasn't screaming. I was not screaming.

Q. You told the detective the stepdaughter was in the room right next door.

A. There's no room next door to the bedroom, so that's impossible.

Q. You told the detective you were screaming for the stepdaughter.

A. No, I didn't say that.

On blood "all over the bed" / "so bad," stolen or kept clothes, and a claimed sequel involving the stepdaughter, the accuser denied the notes' violent furniture. Of the claimed sequel:

A. That was purely an opinion-based statement... not... factual.

Institutional note (open record): The People did not call Det. Arbuiso on their case. The defense did.

B. Who set the dates

First grand-jury theory fixed September / fall 2004. After alibi paper, a superseding indictment moved the window to spring 2004. On cross:

Q. Before the second grand jury, you and the ADA talked about the dates, right?

A. Yes.

Q. She told you there's no way it happened in September, October of 2004.

A. Right. That was after I had said I don't think it happened then. I don't know when it could have happened.

A. I wasn't the one who set up the dates for September or October. That is the time that the district attorneys and the detective, given that I told them stuff, they came up with it, along with my mother... I never said it was for sure... Even in the grand jury, I said I think so.

Q. [Exact date?]

A. No. After Great Adventure.

Evidence-page caption: Under oath in March 2011, the accuser walked back core details attributed to her in the 2008 detective notes, and testified she did not set the September/October 2004 dates — that the district attorneys, the detective, and her mother came up with that window. Those dates were the calendar that required a man still in a New York apartment his paper trail said he had already left.

Not legal advice. Redacted for public posting.