

Official Interview Transcript - Drop Hammer Publishing

Interviewer: **Katia M. Davis (KMD)**

Subject: **BECKETT MANNING (BM) from Broomstick Wood**

Purpose: **CHARACTER INTERVIEW**

Date: **24th April 2019**

0846 [interview started]

KMD: Hi Beck...can I call you Beck?

BM: Sure.

KMD: Thanks. I appreciate you coming in, Beck. There's coffee if you'd like.

BM: I'm good.

KMD: We'll get right down to it then. I've asked you to come in so we can find out a little more about you. A short story's great, but it only scratches the surface of who you are.

BM: Wait, someone wrote about me? This isn't a job interview?

KMD: It's a character interview, and yeah...I wrote about you, about Broomstick Wood.

BM: What the hell for?

KMD: You told me to.

BM: You've got that wrong. I don't remember giving you permission, and why the hell would I tell you about that?

KMD: Maybe you needed to get it off your chest, you know, after what happened?

0852 [interview paused at "request" of subject]

0859 [interview resumed]

KMD To clarify, Beck, if you mention Broomstick Wood it is just between us and I'll only use it for research purposes.

BM: Then why do you need to record it?

KMD: In case I forget what you say.

BM: Fine. And you'll cut it from the transcript?

KMD: I'll redact any reference you make to Broomstick from this point on.

BM: Fine. Okay, let's get on with it.

KMD: Thanks. Thinking back, Beck, was there anything unusual about your childhood?

BM: Nope.

KMD: That's a pretty definitive answer. Nothing even a little bit weird?

BM: My dad liked to dip french-fries in his chocolate shake. He made me do it once. Didn't like it.

KMD: Did he often make you do things?

BM: You mean sexual things?

KMD: I wasn't going there, but if you have something you'd like to tell me...

BM: No, my dad didn't make me do *sexual* things.

KMD: But he made you do other things though?

BM: Sure: eat my greens, rake the leaves, wash the dishes, do my homework.

KMD: I get the picture.

BM: Told you, pretty normal.

KMD: So what made you want to kill people?

BM: You want me to answer that?

KMD: Please.

BM: I'm not talking about [REDACTED].

KMD: You don't have to.

BM: I like the feel of a dead body.

KMD: In what way?

BM: The weight of it, it flops about when you try and move it.

KMD: Couldn't you get that from an unconscious person?

BM: No. It's not the same at all.

KMD: Tell me.

BM: It's still breathing. And the temperature, it doesn't change. A dead one cools down. Different parts have a different feel at different times. Hands get cold quick, bellies stay warm longer. Lips, when you kiss them don't feel soft and warm, but like putty. There's lots to explore.

KMD: And you enjoy exploring as much as the feel of them?

BM: Oh yeah. Something I can take my time with. I treat them properly, with respect. I'll cover them up if I'm leaving them to come back later.

KMD: Are you sure that's respect? It's not because you don't want them to be found, or someone else see them? Wouldn't that spoil them for you, if someone else came along and had a peek?

BM: It's respect. I'm the only one who knows where they are. No-one's going to be peeking at anything.

KMD: But what if someone *did* find them?

BM: They wouldn't, but I'll play your game. I guess it'd be like if someone stole something from me; not a thing like you can hold in your hand, but like a part of me, like being cheated on, dirty.

KMD: Let me get this right, you kill a woman but then you'd feel cheated on if someone found her body?

BM: Yeah.

KMD: And if forensics took her away?

BM: It'd break my heart.

KMD: A lot of serial killers keep or take trophies of their victims to have with them: Ed Gein made things out of their skin, Dahmer kept their genitals. Do you keep anything?

BM: What kind of question is that?

KMD: A normal one for a serial killer. You are a serial killer aren't you?

BM: Technically.

KMD: Do you take anything specific, or is it the whole body?

BM: Look, lady—

KMD: Kat. My name is Kat, or Katia, even Miss Davis if you have to.

BM: Okay, Kat, no. No, I don't keep anything specific with me. Their memory is enough...especially now.

KMD: Did something happen to you at [REDACTED], Mr Manning?

BM: How many times do I have to say it? I'm [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

KMD: I'm sorry. I didn't realise. Can I have just one more question before you go?

BM: One.

KMD: If you had a chance to do it all over again, would you do it the same, all the killing?

BM: I might change one or two, mix it up a bit more. I'm getting a bit predictable.

KMD: That's not what I meant—

BM: I know what you meant, Kat.

0934 [interview ended]