

Gomez: Let me know when you're ready.

Camera Man: Ready to roll.

Gomez: OK, so first of all, describe what the past month has been for you.

Peterson: It's been absolutely terrible as it is for everyone. I mean you see us in press conferences, you don't see me as much in the media but you see our families and the raw emotions out there and the grief, um the frustration. You know, we go through a range of emotions from anger to frustration, to grief. For me it's ah a ah it comes at different times during the day. Two weeks ago I knew exactly what to do. I'd go to the volunteer center at the Red Lion and open up the center, wait for the volunteers to come and work on things and then I'd go out and put up flyers. I knew exactly what to do and that was going to bring Laci home. Um, and now I don't know exactly what I'm doing. That's so frustrating, that's the hardest part I mean we have a core group of volunteers still working to get her picture out there nationally through corporations and organizations and obviously media and other means. So we continue to work tirelessly, um many people do to bring her home and we can do that during the day and unfortunately at night, don't know what to do and uh the grief hits and it's unbearable but you, you also have to recognize that Laci is hurting worse than any of us. She's the one that's not with our family. She's the one that we need to find and bring home.

Gomez: I know you have moments.

Peterson: So that gives you focus, it gives you, yeah, yeah, there are times when you just can't continue and you have to..... You're driving and you have to pull over and stop and if you're doing something you just uh can't continue

um, just try to stay busy and have a task to know what to do, a positive task and try to try to focus on that.

Gomez: I know that there are certain areas you can't go to. It's hard to go to the park.

Peterson: It's hard to go to, yeah, it's important though cuz in the mornings when down there alone and.... yeah I feel closer to her. Maybe that's an attempt to communicate or something but.....yeah definitely.

Peterson: No.

Gomez: Why?

Peterson: Um, it was um the first three days or so when she disappeared it was a absolute privacy issue not showing the grief of our family, not exploiting that. After that it was a conscious decision to remain out of the media eye decided upon by everyone in the family and the volunteers in order to, and I'm sorry to say it ah, to media, but to keep the media here. To keep them hungry for um, you know an interview with me or picture so that they would keep coming back so that the story won't fall through the cracks as it has happened with other missing people with other abductions um and it's up to the family to keep that going so we made that conscious decision together. That I wouldn't speak obviously we did lots of media with the rest of the family um and to keep them here, I didn't. But unfortunately now the suspicions of me have grown so great due to um people you know, wondering what happened to um the, inappropriate relationship that I had with, with Amber Frey that it's necessary, um, to speak, it's appropriate time to, in order to ask people to keep looking for Laci because they're not looking for Laci as much as they should be right now.

Gomez: Uh huh, lets talk about some of those suspicions because there are a lot

of suspicions out there. I think people want to know...

Peterson: Uh huh.

Gomez: ...first of all, why would you leave Laci who is eight and a half months pregnant, alone to go fishing on Christmas Eve?

Peterson: Okay, um our day was planned for ya know, Christmas Eve dinner at her mom's house, our mom's house. Preparations were all made, um gifts done, Laci was simply going to be baking that day and it is not uncommon for us to you know, simply um, we have separate pursuits, ah she does not you know, play golf as I do which was my other option for that day. And being you know, seven and a half months pregnant, she's not going to want to go out in a boat, um but it's simply a leisure activity to pursue that day and you know, it's what our plans were. Um, you know, it may not be everyone's choice to do things like that but it's the way that our relationship works.

Gomez: Uh huh. I know when I approached you on Amber Frey and I told you that I would reporting that you had a girlfriend.....

Peterson: Right.

Gomez: your response to me is that you had no comment either way.

Peterson: Uh huh.

Gomez: Why didn't you just come clean then?

Peterson: Well I'm glad you asked, asked the question. Um it's simply ya know, wasn't um appropriate to comment on it, and unfortunately there has been a statement, um in the press that I denied it which was made with um another reporter when I characterized a National Enquirer article as a pack of lies, um and I did so without reading the article, unfortunately. The article I thought to include, that I know also included, um a supposed life insurance policy, supposed blood evidence, um and I forget what else

but also included

(Cellular Phone Ringing)

Peterson:the report of uh Amber, um so I, um called it a pack of lies not knowing that she was in there so, um it's just not important to comment about um that. I'm glad that Amber came forward. Do you want me to turn that off?

Gomez: Yeah, what is that?

Peterson: That's my phone. Unfortunately I thought.....

Gomez: OK.

Peterson:it was off and I'll just answer that question again.

Gomez: Ok. (Sigh)

Peterson: It's somewhere here.

Gomez: It didn't even sound like a phone.

Peterson: Yeah, it's kinda going crazy isn't it? Ahh.. Ok.

Gomez: Hmm

Peterson: Yeah, so ya just want to ask your question again I'll just, ummm

Gomez: Ok, so um once again if you can just talk about why, why didn't you just come forward at the time when I asked you if you had a girlfriend? Why didn't you just come clean then?

Peterson: Right, right. Um, at that time it wasn't appropriate to comment about because it's not relevant. Um, I'm glad you asked it because there were reports that I denied it, um when I characterized a National Enquirer article as a pack of lies it included um unknowing to me, I knew that the article included this life insurance, supposed life insurance policy that I bought this summer, supposed blood evidence and other strange reports like taking the floors out of our home, um and I didn't know it, it included ah you know, this ah re-relationship that I had. So I characterized that as a pack of lies, um and that's come out as a denial, um which is, it was

never intended to be. I simply, uh approached that issue as it's not relevant and there's no reason to comment about it. You know, there's a reason to comment about the number. Now I'm glad Amber did the press conference. I'm glad that she came forward because it allows us, it allows lots of people, I believe, to start looking for Laci again because it's slacked off because of that because of their suspicion about me.

Gomez: She claims you deceived her. She claims that.....

Peterson: Amber?

Gomez: Yeah, she claims that you.....

Peterson: Yes, she did not know, she did not know that I was married. That is correct, um and you know, so I'm glad she came forward, um I informed her, um that I am married and of Laci's disappearance shortly after ah you know, um Christmas Eve is a couple days after Christmas Eve, I don't know the exact date. I'm glad she did the press conference, I'm glad that's out there. It had nothing to do with Laci's disappearance.

Gomez: Your stomach must have been turning though, when you see her go on television and it's national and here's this girl saying, he lied to me. He told me he was single.

Peterson: True

Gomez: I mean, your stomach must have been turning.

Peterson: You know what? It's a positive to allow us to go on to search for Laci. That's how I view it, and that's how I felt about it.

Gomez: The Rocha family says.....

Peterson: I said this will be good.....this will be.....this will be done, and we can keep looking for Laci.

Gomez: Ya know, Laci's family says they can no longer trust you.

Peterson: Uh hum.

Gomez: What are your thoughts on that?

Peterson: It was, it was unfair and inappropriate for me to have that relationship and.....

Gomez: How do you feel though, that you know the Ro...the Rocha family says they can't trust you?

Peterson: They're, They're wonderful people the Rocha family. I know that you know we all have love between us and I know that we will all keep searching for Laci and you know, um I told Laci about the, the relationship. Um she knew about it and it's important between us and uh we'll, we'll continue to search for her and we'll bring her home, that's all I want to say.

Gomez: That's another problem people had a big issue with. A lot of Laci's family talked to me and friends saying if Laci knew that you were having an affair, she would have said something to someone. She wouldn't have kept quiet about it.

Peterson: I don't know if she mentioned it to anyone or not. Um, I did see a report in the news, an interview with um a friend of ours, Lori, that indicated that she, um did not believe that I told Laci. Um, Lori also said I know Scott and he had nothing to do with her disappearance and that statement to me is what's relevant. Because, you can, you know okay, question my, my morals and my poor decision making, that's fine, but don't stop looking for Laci. She's out there somewhere, she shouldn't be. She should be with our family.....

Gomez: You mentioned.....

Peterson: So let's keep working to bring her home.

Gomez: I know that you mentioned during the network interview that only you and Laci know your marriage.

Peterson: That's correct.

Gomez: Explain that.

Peterson: Just as anyone's you know, intimate relationships. It's uh, you know, ah it's between those two people and yes, you sh-share things with people and some things you know, you don't share with people.

Gomez: Now did Laci find out about the affair or did you just come out and tell her?

Peterson: No, I informed her about it.

Gomez: You just.....

Peterson: I don't believe she knew.

Gomez: Why, why come out? I mean what made you say I'm going to tell her today? What, what made that day the day to tell her?

Peterson: Just because it was the right thing to do and as you know when you're not doing the right thing it just, you know, eats you up. You know, you feel you know, sick to your stomach and you can't function and you have a hard time, you know, looking at someone.

Gomez: Right. You mentioned it was the right thing to do.

Peterson: Uh hum.

Gomez: But from my understanding is that after you told Laci, you continued to see Amber? Was that also the right thing to do?

Peterson: I saw her yeah. No, no it was not.

Gomez: Explain that.

Peterson: Um, that is the explanation. It was not the right thing to do.

Gomez: But you continued to do it.

Peterson: Right, and it was not the right thing to do.

Gomez: And then even after Laci went missing you continued to romance this girl?

Peterson: No.

Gomez: She claims that you called her on the twenty-fourth and told her that.....

Peterson: I informed Amber about Laci's disappearance and the fact that I was married.

Gomez: On the twenty-fourth?

Peterson: No.

Gomez: December twenty-fourth?

Peterson: No, no not on the twenty-fourth. I ah believe it was probably the...it was a few days after.

Gomez: She says that you called her on the twenty-fourth, December twenty-fourth and told her you were with your parents in Maine. Is that true?

Peterson: Ok, Um Ah this is ...I called her and informed her about Laci's disappearance.

Gomez: On the twenty-fourth of December?

Peterson: No, no I did not. It was a few days after that. I called her and told her I was married.

Gomez: OK.

Peterson: Um....

Gomez: She claims...let me just finish. She just claims that you called her on the twenty-fourth, told her that you were going to Maine, you were visiting your family in Maine and then you were going to Brussels. Is that true?

Peterson: Gloria I'm not going to waste what little media time we have and in this forum with, you know, this is a short news cast and I don't know how much of these words you're going to use or not. But, I'm not going to waste that by defending myself talking about irrelevant things. It's better served if we talk about what happened and where's Laci.

Gomez: Ok.

Peterson: So the facts are that we know that on Christmas Eve I left the house here

around nine-thirty she was here in the home.

Gomez: Uh um.

Peterson: Ok that's a fact that has to get out there because it's been reported erroneously that I saw her leave the house. Ok, she was in the house that is one thing we know. The second thing we know is that the dog was returned to our yard with it's leash on at ten thirty by a neighbor. Those are the two things we know about her disappearance and hopefully those can help some people. There are things that we need to get out there, are the tip lines which is the Modesto Police Tip Line 2-0-9-3-4-2-6-1-6-6 and also 1-8-6-6 Laci info, L-A-C-I info and that's a tip line for people who have talked to the police. Even if they talked to them, please call that tip line if you saw her that day, if you've seen her since, or there is something you think is important in the neighborhood we want to be very specific.

Gomez: OK.

Peterson: The other big push that we need is Laci Peterson dot com. People can go there and print off the flyers and distribute those in every medical center, bus stop, high traffic area in the nation, cuz it could be the next flyer that brings her home to our family.

Gomez: And I know, I know more than eh eh more than, I, I know that you want to find Laci and the second thing you want to do is clear yourself from suspicion, correct? I mean that is ...you want the focus back on Laci and not on you, correct?

Peterson: I want people looking for Laci cuz they are not doing that right now. And that's why I'm sitting down with you in hopes that people will go, you know what, if I think he had some involvement, if I don't think he had some involvement, that doesn't matter because Laci is what matters and she's out there missing and she needs to be home with her families. So I don't

care to defend myself. I don't care what people think of me. You know, as I've said, question my moral character if you want to, but look at your heart, think of Laci, her picture, the baby and make the effort to bring her home and that's, that's the simple reality, that's a simple thing we need to do just, you know, um think what ever you want of me. As long as you're out there and you're comfortable with yourself that you're doing what you need to be doing to find Laci and bring her home.

Gomez: The life insurance policy, why take one out on Laci? Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand?

Peterson: We have life insurance policies in place that were established when we bought this home that you're in right now two years ago.

Gomez: Ok.

Peterson: There was no life insurance policy taken out, uh recently as has been reported in the National Enquirer, the dubious source of, you know, alien information as well.

Gomez: You mentioned this morning that it was umbrellas?

Peterson: Yeah, we have some uh large umbrella's for the backyard pool area. Market umbrellas I think is the term for them.

Gomez: Why would you store those in the winter?

Peterson: It started to rain so I was going to store them. Just like you asked why would I store them. I was taking them from the pool to store.

Gomez: Ok. Um officials of mine have told me, sources have mentioned to me that there were cement bags that were in the storage area and that apparently a few of them were empty?

Peterson: Sure.

Gomez: Explain that?

Peterson: Well, I could take you out in the back yard and show you all the cement

work and brick work that we've done to this home and you'd find you know, cement bags around here.

Gomez: So this was something that it was home remodeling or what were you doing with the cement?

Peterson: Uh hum, yeah, and again you are, you are starting to go into areas that investigators have asked me not to comment about. So we should probably ya know, simply put the brakes on at that point.

Gomez: Ok.

Peterson: I don't mind commenting about the life insurance policy. Um but I, you know, I don't wanna give specific times or other information that could jeopardize, um what they find is valuable information in finding Laci.

Gomez: Ok. I know that you mentioned on, on Good Morning America that it wouldn't surprise you if they found blood...

Peterson: Sure.

Gomez:in your vehicles. Explain why?

Peterson: Well, take a look at my hands. You can see you know, cuts here on my knuckles, numerous scars. I, I work on farms. I work with machinery. Um I know I, I cut my knuckle that day.

Gomez: On what day?

Peterson: On Christmas Eve.

Gomez: Doing what?

Peterson: Um, reaching in the tool box of my truck and then into the, uh pocket on the door. I cut open my knuckle and there's a blood stain on the door. On the driver's side door.

Gomez: Um, sources of mine have mentioned that you also, when you came home on the twenty-fourth did some laundry. You washed your clothes. Do you understand why that may look a little suspicious to the average person?

Why would he come home and do his laundry?

Peterson: Well, um the average guy that goes out in the ocean fishing, gets some salt water on him, comes home wet.

Gomez: And so you're, you're pretty tidy

Peterson: What are you going to do with your wet, salt water clothes?

Gomez: Yeah, so you just decided.....

Peterson: Anyway but now again we're.....I probably shouldn't have mentioned that because of the....what they've ask me not ah, so we should ya know....

Gomez: Ok.

Peterson:just....we'll have to stop with that line of questioning.

Gomez: Uh I wanted to mention one other thing to you and that was I talked to Mr. Rocha yesterday, Dennis Rocha?

Peterson: Um, ok good.

Gomez: And um he didn't have too many positive things to say.

Peterson: Correct.

Gomez: One of the things he said, and I'm quoting here...

Peterson: Uh huh.

Gomez:as far as you're concerned, "It's lie after lie with Scott. Does the guy ever tell the truth?"

Peterson: Huh.

Gomez: Your reaction?

Peterson: That's unfortunate that that's his thought of me.

Gomez: Do you understand why he feels that way though? As far as the girlfriend is concerned and....?

Peterson: Well, certainly I, ya know, it was an inappropriate thing, um and I never lied to Dennis. I have never lied to Dennis.

Gomez: People want to.....

Peterson: Um, I think I saw him last um Laci's disappearance and prior to that it was a year before that that Laci and I ever saw him, that's her father Dennis.

Gomez: Right, right. Um, and I have to ask you.....

Peterson: Sure.

Gomez: Are you in anyway connected to Laci's disappearance?

Peterson: I had nothing to do with Laci's disappearance.

Gomez: What would you.....

Peterson: And again, even if people out there question that, if they would just look at their hearts and make the effort to bring her home to her family. I don't care what you think of me, but know.....

Gomez: Because someone out there knows....

Peterson: Yes, someone out there knows and you could be the key to finding them by putting that ya know, next flyer.

Gomez: You're looking at the camera.

Peterson: Well, it's a, it's a plea to the audience.

Gomez: Go ahead.

Peterson: That's why we're doing this.

Gomez: Go ahead, I mean if you want to make a statement to anybody who out, out there.

Peterson: Well, that is I mean, look in your hearts and know that you've done what you can to bring Laci home and if you haven't please do it and that's, go into Laci Peterson dot com and print out that flyer and put it in every medical building, on your car, in bus stations or use the tip lines if you have any information. That's what's going to bring her home. And think what you want of me, but you know in your hearts you should be helping Laci.

Gomez: I know that...

Peterson: That's all that I think I have to say.....thanks Gloria.

Gomez: Ok, I just want to ask you one last thing if that's ok. Um, about Laci because I know you really get choked up when you talk about it. Tell me what you love about Laci?

Peterson: God, what..... you know.....I think you can sum it up pretty easily with looking at her photograph. The photograph of her big smile in the press.

Gomez: Because you guys met in college, or?

Peterson: Uh huh, Yeah.

Gomez: And, and tell me what what connected you two right away. I know she's got a beautiful smile, but what linked you guys?

Peterson: I don't know just um being able to complete each other. I think that's it. But I mean you asked how, ya know, and all you have to do is look at that picture and you know that's she's a, a bright one and a bright light in a lot of people's lives, so....

Gomez: Do you think she's still alive?

Peterson: She is.

Gomez: You're sure of that?

Peterson: Yes, Laci's still alive. She's out there and someone's holding her and these are critical days that we have left until the due date of February sixteenth. And we just need all of your help.

Gomez: You haven't said anything about your baby.

Peterson: That's entirely too difficult to speak about.

Gomez: Do you go into the baby's room?

Peterson: No, that door's closed.

Gomez: How long will it remain closed?

Peterson: Until there's a little guy in there. Thank you. Thank you..

Gomez: (Sigh) Thanks Scott.

Camera Man: Can I just get one (unintelligible) shot?

Gomez: Yeah, you don't have to use audio, just.....

Peterson: Thanks..... (unintelligible) But we, we get together as a group quite often and ya know, report on uh the progress and bring (unintelligible).

Gomez: And I know that your family, you, you grew up in San Diego, right?

Peterson: I did.

Gomez: OK, so is that another place that you're also searching or is there going to be like a base down there too or..?

Peterson: Well, we'll have the event there this Saturday.

Gomez: What's, what's going on there this Saturday?

Peterson: Uh the prayer vigil. People come by....

Gomez: That's what I heard, that's what I heard. Ok, so um the prayer vigil will be in San Diego or Los Angeles?

Peterson: San Diego.

Gomez: San Diego. And so what do you encourage people here to do?

Peterson: Um I would encourage them to it will be simulcast to churches that have that capability ya know, web simulcast um to attend their churches, to print out the flyers, and to do the same thing we are doing in San Diego just to be (unintelligible) hopefully we can get a nation-wide response to all of that.

Gomez: You're probably getting either calls or e-mails from all over the country, right?

Peterson: Uh huh, definitely (unintelligible)

Gomez: Explain what, explain that's like because that....

Peterson: It's great, it's wonderful.

Gomez: Were you surprised how, how this erupted into a national story?

Peterson: Um....surprised, I don't know, but definitely glad you know, that it gets her

picture out there.

Gomez: Yeah, cuz I know you've always said.

Peterson: (unintelligible)

Gomez: Right, right and what about your family I mean, how are they, how are they doing throughout all of this?

Peterson: They're great people and they keep working.

Gomez: Uh huh. The prayer vigil....what time can I tell people about? I mean what.....

Peterson: Um I don't have the exact details.

Gomez: Ok, but you know it is this weekend for sure?

Peterson: Correct.

Gomez: Ok. It will be in a church in San Diego?

Peterson: Uh hum.

Gomez: Ok, and it's simulcast, you said?

Peterson: Yeah, they're working on simulcasting nation-wide to ya know the churches have that capability.

Gomez: Anything else that we want to let the public know about?

Peterson: I don't believe so.

Gomez: You mentioned the 800 number, the tip line number.

Peterson: Yeah, oh if you could please put that.

Gomez: And do you have that number?

Peterson: Yeah, it's 1-8-6-6

Gomez: 8...uh huh.....

Peterson: Laci Info...L-A-C-I Info, I-N-F-O

Gomez: (unintelligible)