

Interview on Porta a Porta Amanda reveals “ My Truth”

I am a student, a daughter, a sister, and I am truly.....I am not an extraordinary person, I am a person like you, I wish to do well among people, I wish to do good with my life, and I am simply a person like any other. I am not a super intelligent criminal who manipulates people. That is a fantasy.

At the beginning of the trial, I was very, very worried, I was very apprehensive, I was (what is the word in Italian?) disappointed in the decision of the Supreme Court, because in the end I was found innocent, because there is not a trace of me in the room where my friend was killed. If there is not a trace of me, this says that there wasn't my presence. This would say I did not participate.

Question: Amanda how will you demonstrate your innocence this time?

I think that I am paying for the errors of the police, of the investigators that simply do not want to admit they are wrong. I desire very strongly that in this trial, they will find me innocent, that they will look at all these small facts that we must look at. We have seen the testimony of the witness Aviello again, we will see this small [DNA] trace, fine, let's look at this in full, but let's find my innocence.

Question: You were interrogated without the presence of a lawyer or a translator, is there something that you blame yourself for for doing in those circumstances?

I did not know what was happening to me, therefore I did not know how to improve the situation, I was trying my best to understand what they wanted from me, and what was inside of myself to give them. In this situation their methods of interrogating me confused me completely. They did not get a confession. Then they put the person that did not do this in jail. They did not look at his alibi, they did not even ask him one word.

Question: you brought Patrick into this, can I ask you what you would say to Patrick if he was in front of you?

I turn to him to tell him also, to tell him I did not enter the *questura* with the objective of accusing him of a murder he did not commit. That that was collected from me, was taken without me wanting to do any harm to anybody, I only wanted to help, and I was so confused I did not know what was true and what was not true, at that point. Therefore, I did not want to hurt him. I... his name only came out because on my cellphone there were messages we had exchanged.

The famous “see you later.”

Yes, and only because of this. I wish he can understand the situation in which I found myself.

Question: Of this tragic experience I know that you were very hurt by the fact that you were pointed to as the devil with the angel face, the femme fatale. Who is the real Amanda?

I am a student, a daughter, a sister, and I am not an extraordinary person, I am a person like you. I wish to do well among people, I wish to do good with my life, and I am simply a person like any other. I am not a super intelligent criminal, that manipulates people. This is a fantasy. It started in the courtroom, started with the prosecutors, that had to explain, justify their theory. I am not the fantasy femme fatale that they said, because this person does not even exists. It is an idea of a person, it is an idea of evil, that they put upon me. They put a mask on me, they put evil upon me, but they did not try to see who I really was.

Question: Amanda how has your life changed in these years?

All of this fell on me so suddenly that I had to grow up, become an adult, from a child quickly without even knowing how to, I had to find a way to defend myself, to survive in prison, to bear all the pressure I had inside. Everything seemed..... became a proof of guilt, everything I did, I was not only incarcerated in prison but I was incarcerated by life, at that time.

Question: What did the experience of prison leave you?

There is always the anxiety because I am confronting this accusation, that is impossible, but from the prison I had to learn to grow by myself.

Question: How do you live now, what do you do?

I am trying to go back to what is familiar to me, so I am at school now, I spend time with my family, with my closest friends, I am trying to have a normal life.

Question: How is your relationship with Raffaele Sollecito now?

I worry so much for him., we are still friends, in the sense that I think we are like soldiers that passed a war together, even because it is difficult to explain the intimacy you find with a person that you had to survive and combat for your life together. I saw that he is a good person, that he is a man of honor.

Question: Would you like to meet Meredith's family?

Of course, I would really like to meet them, talked about Meredith so they can add these to their memory of Meredith, I would really like to see Meredith's family because in the end I could not even, (how do you say in Italian?)

Cry on her grave?

at this Amanda hangs her head

Question: Amanda as you know the trial has started in Florence, we are at the second hearing, there has been a new test on the knife, found at Raffaele house, may I asked why you did not come back to Italy?

I have already been unjustly incarcerated in Italy, and if I was in Italy now I would have to leave everything and be there without doing anything in the courtroom, because at the end there is nothing I can give to the courtroom. I have already given my testimony, for me it was common sense not to go back to where I was incarcerated for 4 years, adulthood was passed in prison, if not for these 2 years that I have been home and so I am sorry to say it but I do not feel safe there. Sincerely. Not to say I do not have maximum confidence in the justice system.

Question: How is your state of mind, now at the beginning of this new trial?

You know at the beginning of the trial, I was very,very worried, I was very apprehensive, I was (what is the word in Italian?) disappointed in the decision of the Supreme Court, because in the end I was found innocent, because there is not a trace of me in the room where my friend was killed. If there is not a trace of me this says that there was not my presence. This would say I did not participate. The judges of this appeal, the first appeal recognized that fact, there is this fundamental thing that says I am innocent. That I was not there. And I going to confront a murder trial, that took away so many years of my life, I was very anxious I did not know what to expect, so I am here, I am trying to be positive, to not have fear because at the end, I have already had the experience of being found guilty.