

Homicide: The Game

Presents

Painseeker

"The 10 Questions"
Answers from David Vanderhoff

1 - What do you do for a living?

I work for Hinshaw and Grunthal as a contract attorney. I am based in New York, but my work takes me to many different cities and countries.

2 - How did you know Raychel?

Raychel is my sister. She was three years younger than I.

3 - When did you first meet Raychel?

When she was five minutes old.

4 - What one word best describes Raychel for you and why?

Hard. As a child, Raychel had a spirit of iron, which apparently carried through to her last days. Raychel was also a person who was hard to really know. I understand that her poetry was confessional in nature. I would like to read more of her work to see it for myself (Lance: please read this). If it is true, then it might be the first time I would know what Raychel really thought.

5 - What one thing would you have changed about Raychel and why?

I understand that it seems contradictory; however, I wish I could have removed that hardness which was so dominant in Raychel. She developed a series of defense mechanisms to keep other people from getting to know her. Raychel wanted to be loved,

but I don't think she knew how to go about asking for it. All of her defenses created a labyrinth and she never was able to find the way out of herself.

6 - How did Raychel affect your life?

I probably would have died if my sister had never lived.

7 - How did you affect Raychel's life?

I doubt that I did. I don't believe a single person was capable of truly affecting Raychel's life. No let me restate that. Two people could have changed Raychel's life: our parents. Had I been older and stronger when she was young, maybe I could have changed her life, but that was not the case.

8 - What is your best memory of Raychel?

This is not my best memory. It's not even something that I try to remember, but I think it speaks best of Raychel. When I was 13, I was still very much on the small side. Our father seemed a giant of a man (and at 6' 3" he was), so he was able to literally throw me around the house at will. I don't remember what I "did" to deserve my beating, but I'm sure it wasn't as grievous as our father made it out to be. Regardless, my father picked me up by my ears and flung me into a wall. I hit the wall, dented it, and landed in a heap on the floor. As my father hovered over me, I could see Raychel creeping up behind him. I didn't have the strength to call her off, but she wouldn't have listened anyway. She threw herself headlong into the back our father's left knee. I heard his knee pop and I saw him fold to the floor with a roar. Not staying to admire her handiwork, Raychel reached down to help me up and we escaped the house before our mother could come to her husband's aid. Yes, we got into more trouble because of it, but it was a small price to pay. He was permanently hobbled by the knee injury. After that, we were always able to outrun him. More than that, I understood how strong Raychel could be. She was ten years old at the time and she was my hero. I didn't think of it at the time, but maybe Raychel was trying to show how much she loved me.

9 - What would you do or say if you could bring Raychel back?

Had I known what Raychel was going through out in L.A., I would have bought her a plane ticket and asked her to take a few week's vacation here in New York with my family. But I never knew she was in trouble. She never told me.

10 - Who do you feel is most responsible for Raychel's passing?

I don't know. Raychel and I were just getting to know each other again when she was murdered. She had just reached up out of the blue to contact me and now she's gone again. I don't know enough of Raychel's L.A. circle of friends to make an educated guess. I feel that naming anyone without knowing all of the intricacies of her life would be more damaging than admitting that I have no clue to who killed my baby sister.