



Who Murdered Amanda Fleetwood?



Suspect in double shooting caught on surveillance tape / Survivor says the pair gave man a lift before he shot, robbed them

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The videos don't suggest that anything sinister is about to happen. Three people who appear to be friends sit around smoking cigarettes, engaged in easy conversation. Then, they drive off together. Minutes later, two of them are found shot in the head inside their car, still wearing their seat belts. The third person, a stranger who coaxed a ride with them, is gone. Police released security camera video Thursday, hoping someone will recognize the man seen talking with Amanda Fleetwood, 20, and Jonathan Tromp, 20, at the Bizarre Times novelty shop in southwest Houston a half-hour before the pair were gunned down July 10.

The friends were shot in the backs of their heads during a robbery inside their car, investigators said. The badly wounded Tromp managed to drive a short distance before wrecking his car. Off-duty officers found the vehicle in a cordoned-off construction area near the West Sam Houston Parkway and Bellaire around 6:30 a.m. that day. Fleetwood died three days later. Tromp remains in Ben Taub General Hospital in fair condition, but suffered injuries to his eyes and throat. Tromp can communicate only by writing notes, police said Thursday. The pair had no chance to defend themselves, Investigator Alan Brown of the Houston Police Department's homicide division said. "The scary part about this guy is . . . he shot them, never gave them a chance, shot them before he ever tried to rob them," Brown said. "Someone like that is scary."

The unidentified man arrived at Bizarre Times in the 8200 block of Richmond around 5:30 that morning, dropped off by someone in a newer-model, blue sport utility vehicle. Police said he hung around the parking lot, then followed Fleetwood and Tromp into the store when they arrived to buy cigarettes. The man struck up a conversation with them, but it did not appear Fleetwood or Tromp knew him, police said. When Fleetwood and Tromp walked out, the man stayed with them, and the three smoked cigarettes outside the store. Store security video showed the three speaking in a friendly fashion as Fleetwood and Tromp lounged on the hood of their car.

After 15 minutes of conversation, the man convinced the pair to give him a ride. They drove off together in Tromp's gray Nissan Sentra around 6:10 a.m. Tromp told police the shootings happened when they dropped the man off at some nearby apartments. He couldn't recall which apartment complex it was, Brown said. The man was sitting in the back seat when he opened fire. Tromp lost consciousness. When he awoke, he felt the gunman going through his pockets and taking his wallet, investigators said. Once they were left alone, Tromp tried to drive to get help, but crashed the car.

The gunman was described as black, clean-shaven, in his 20s, with a medium to stocky build, weighing 175 to 180 pounds and about 5 feet, 9 inches tall. He had a tan jacket tied around his waist, and his jeans were rolled up two or three times. He was wearing a dark shirt and a baseball cap. While loitering at the store before Fleetwood and Tromp arrived, the man was seen getting into a small gray pickup and talking to someone for about two minutes. Police said they want to talk to whoever was in that truck.

Anyone with information is urged to call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Suspect Photos

