1 when you start to deliberate. 2 (A recess was taken at 1:20 p.m.) 3 (In open court, outside the presence of the jury, in the presence of the Court, the Defendant, and counsel at 5 6 2:15 p.m.) 7 THE COURT: The record shall 8 reflect that all counsel are present and the Defendant. The break for noon and for 10 the jury to eat is over. You may bring in 11 the jury. 12 (In open court, in the presence of 13 the jury, the Court, the Defendant, and 14 counsel at 2:16 p.m.) 15 THE COURT: Please be seated 16 everyone. Everyone has now been seated. 17 Ms. Schaefer, you may proceed with 18 your argument. 19 MS. SCHAEFER: May it please the 20 Court. 21 THE COURT: Ms. Schaefer. 22 MS. SCHAEFER: Counsel. 23 Good afternoon. I trust the pizza was good, and probably well needed. I 24 25 will not take two hours, just to let you

know. I promise.

We talked a lot in voir dire about reasonable doubt because it is the most important term we have in criminal law. It is the doubt that Ms. Timmins has to surpass in order for you to find Mr. Trane guilty of anything. And reasonable doubt abounds everywhere.

And we talked in voir dire about two sides to every story. And when we have two versions of events, neither of which are really corroborated, how do you know beyond a reasonable doubt? How can you be firmly convinced that something happened?

You heard Mr. Trane yesterday and again this morning tell you nothing

happened. I didn't take pictures of spots on her body. I didn't enter her dorm room and digitally penetrate her. I didn't take her to my house in the basement and digitally penetrate her. I did not fondle her. I did not have her masturbate me. I did not have intercourse with her. It just didn't happen.

To me that's reasonable doubt,
because what do we really have to
corroborate Ms. Stalbaum, other than she
says it did? Any physical evidence that
was obtained—and when I say physical
evidence, I'm talking DNA, the good stuff,
the CSI stuff that we all find
interesting. Anything they found was not
attributable to Ben Trane or Kxxxxxx

There was no video evidence. She described being videotaped. There was a camera. We heard Agent Lestina say, yeah, we found SD cards. We didn't find anything on them, which is inconsistent with Ms. Stalbaum.

She threw a lot of names of people

who were supposedly there in the area or the vicinity when all these events occurred: Mxxxx I believe there was a Txxxxxx; and a Jxxxxxx, and a Jxxxxxx, and a Jxxxxxx, and a Jxxxxxx, and a Axxxx. But the only way we know that is because she told us. We didn't hear from any of those folks who said, oh, yeah, I remember that. I remember when we went to the seminar room and Mr. Ben took Kxxxxxx upstairs. We didn't hear that.

The instruction for reasonable doubt tells you that you are to weigh the evidence, or lack of evidence, in determining whether Ben is guilty of anything. There is a significant lack of evidence in this case. This is truly he said, she said.

Nothing really corroborates what she says, except for some generalizations by Dr. Salter, who remember told you that statistics show between 5 and 8 percent of allegations of sexual abuse are false.

What do we know about Kxxxxxx and her allegations? We know at about the

angry at Mr. Trane. We know that. Kxxxxx told you that Kxxxxxx had sought her out to talk to her, and she was very, very mad right around Thanksgiving.

Well, what do we know was going on at Thanksgiving? We know that Ben and Kxxxxxx had been working on her transition out of the program, because she was doing well. She did not want to go back to her parents. That does not mean that Ms. Stalbaum wanted to stay at Midwest Academy. She didn't want to go home to her parents, or her aunt and uncle. She wanted to go live with her sister.

Ben was working on a visit with her biological parents to re-establish that relationship and more specifically with her sister. Until, as Ben told you, her mom, slash, aunt--I know I got confused by that family tree throughout this case--said I'm not comfortable with that. I don't want her going off site with her sister. So Ben told Kxxxxxxx it's not going to happen. And like a typical

teenager, fine; I don't want any visit.

And you heard Ben testify from there on in, she wouldn't talk with him, because she didn't get what she wanted.

You heard Ms. Timmins talk about Dr. Salter's testimony with delayed disclosure and how Kxxxxxx would timidly do this. But when I was preparing for this case and I listened to all the testimony, it brought back to me a time when I was fairly young.

And I remember being--I was always much braver than I thought I was. I talked real tough until I actually had to do something. And I remember going on my first rollercoaster ride that was going to do upside down. And, oh, yeah, I was going to do it. All my friends were going to do it. I could do this, until they strapped me in the seat. And all I could think was, oh, holy crap, what have I done? But by that time, the gears were shifting and we were going. There was no way to get off that ride. All I could do was see it through.

Kxxxxxx makes some statements to
Cheyenne Jerred because she's mad. She's
trying to find a way to get back at Ben.
I'll show him, telling me I can't see my
sister. Well, then it just kind of
snowballs. Everybody else takes it a lot
more seriously than she expects. So she
goes along for the ride, whether it's
continuing to tell Cheyenne more and more
things are happening without really
telling Cheyenne anything.

When staff from Midwest Academy
bring her in and say, what's going on?
Nothing. Oh, no, holy crap. I'm on the
ride. Things are happening. And the ride
continued to progress throughout the
investigation, and the multiple interviews
with Agent Lestina, all the way up to last
week.

She started a series of events in progress that she just couldn't stop, because once they began and she got buckled in, it was all beyond her control. Ben told you he didn't do it.

Now, we heard a lot of testimony

about Victoria's Secret and other-- Those are red herrings. They have nothing to do with Kxxxxxx. Incredibly stupid red herrings? Yes. He even conceded that in hindsight. I think some of his staff even said that was not a good move. But we've all done stupid things, and then in hindsight we're like maybe that was not my wisest course of action. But again, that had nothing to do with Kxxxxxx

He didn't take pictures of her because she didn't want to go to CPC.

They just didn't get taken. He didn't go into her dorm room, which mind you 8 to 10 other girls were in, in an open doorway with staff in the hallway. Every event she describes there were people around.

We know Mr. Ben is a very important person at that school. He owns it. The kids know that. Is he really going to be so stupid as to take the chance of getting caught in a room full of other girls with staff right outside? Or in his own home where his wife and children are? Or the seminar room, which he testified he did

take kids there, Kxxxxxxx included, but
there are multiple children. Is he really
going to take that kind of chance? Common
sense would tell you no.

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And while the State presented Dr.

Salter's testimony to kind of bolster all

the things that seemed really strange

about Kxxxxxx

s testimony, the

progression doesn't even make sense.

Dr. Salter said, well, you know, it's a slow progression to this desensitizing. If it happened the way said it did, that was a Kxxxxxxpretty rapid progression, because even she testified she'd never had any physical contact with him before the pictures. Which even if you wanted to assume it was true for the sake of argument, even Ms. Timmins conceded that's not something to go from that -- to go from absolutely nothing to that, again, if you want to assume it happened, to all of a sudden he's walking into a room with 8 to 10 other girls and digitally penetrating a child, who mind you, who testified she was

laying on her stomach. That would have required a little bit more coordination.

It doesn't make sense. The progression would have been too fast for common sense.

Even Dr. Salter said that would take a period of time to do that.

But Ms. Timmins wants you to believe that Kxxxxxx was completely desensitized by one incident that Mr. Trane said never even happened. And this is a person who we heard several people testify would have taken a little bit to get her desensitized. She didn't like people touching her. She didn't give hugs. She didn't do that. She was a very reserved individual.

But yet Ms. Timmins wants you to believe this one incident that didn't actually occur would have been enough to do that and that within a matter of weeks, it progressed from that to full-blown intercourse. That just--that goes beyond all common sense. It just wouldn't have happened that way.

The incident in the hallway. As I

thinking about reasonable doubt, I'm thinking what makes me question whether or not this is actually true? The incident in the hallway where Kxxxxxx testified that Ben had brought her out to talk to her as she was overseeing the other girls going to bed. Again, a common area.

We're not even talking a floor away from everyone else. We're just talking down the hall in a common area where the couches are, where we know staff walks by because Kxxxxxx even said, yeah, Mike Holker walked by and asked me if I was okay.

Again, is Ben Trane, a wellrespected member of the community and
obviously respected by those who worked
for him, is he going to do that where
anyone could walk in on him?

The incident at the house. It made me think of the ride. Kxxxxxxx testified and even Layani and Ben said, yeah,
Kxxxxxx was in our house, early August,
right about the time that Ben took over

the caseload for her and Mxxxx

We already made cinnamon rolls.

It was a big deal. Apparently, it was a big enough deal that that's the one part of it that Ben remembered with any degree of detail.

Kxxxxxx testified that the photograph in one of the exhibits——I don't even remember——you get all those so you can see that. She described the black and white carpet. We heard Layani Trane testify that didn't even go in until almost Thanksgiving. So if what Kxxxxxx is telling is true, how would she have seen carpet on a basement floor that wasn't there? Or is it that she was shown the photographs later that were taken during the raid after the carpet was laid and went, oh, yeah, that's exactly what they looked like?

Now, her description of the upstairs may have been good, because we know she was in that upstairs looking around with Mxxxx , who we didn't hear from.

When you take all of Ms. Stalbaum's stories, which apparently when I deposed her there were only seven instances, but that grew even between the time of deposition and the time of trial. At trial it was up to ten. When you take her story as a whole, any of Dr. Salter's generalizations can fit just about any situation.

Remember, Dr. Salter said, I don't know Kxxxxxx I've never met

Kxxxxxx The only thing I know about this case is what I was provided by Ms. Timmins. That's the beauty of generalizations, you can make them fit any situation.

The same with Dr. Grassian. You can make lots of generalizations that fit any situation. But when you really look at Kxxxxxx steetimony, it just doesn't add up. It just doesn't add up. There are too many things that just don't match. And why? It didn't happen.

Around Thanksgiving after Ben told her, sorry about that off-site visit with

your sister, but it's not going to happen, she was extremely angry, extremely angry.

Kxxxxx told you. You didn't see a lot of emotion from Kxx, but you knew when she was mad, because she had that kind of hot, simmering anger. And Kxxxxx knew she was angry right about the time when her plans were falling apart. I'll show him.

That's what this was.

Do I think she planned on all of this? No. Again, she climbed into the seat; she buckled in; and before she could get off, the cart was already gone. So she had to see the ride through.

So Count I is pretty easy. We don't have to worry about force or against the will if it did not occur. You have two versions, hers and his. And his has been the consistent one. He has always said, I did not do this. I simply did not do this. And because of that, that's reasonable doubt, because we don't know. We weren't there. If we were we'd have had different chairs for the last two weeks, because we would have been sitting

there (indicating to the witness stand) if we knew what happened.

When you have two versions, neither of which are really corroborated by anything else other than they're two different statements regarding the same event; in this case, she says it happened and he says it didn't, that in and of itself is reasonable doubt when there's nothing to corroborate what she says.

Don't let the red herrings of

Victoria's Secret and body shape exercise

information, don't let those red herrings

throw you, because they have nothing to do

with what happened with Kxxxxxx

Stupid? Yes. Criminal? No. The focus

needs to be on did it happen? And I argue

to you, no, it did not.

The fact that there are two people of equal credibility, except one had a particular motive at the time for getting back at the Defendant. It just kind of blew up into something she wasn't expecting. That's reasonable doubt, when you have to stop and think, I'm just not

sure.

Another way to think of reasonable doubt--because I know the instructions says that it would make you hesitate to act. And I agree with Ms. Timmins, hesitation and deliberation are two totally different things. We want you to talk it out and think about it.

And it made me think about an incident a couple of years ago. Some of you may remember it. It was a--we're big spinach eaters in my house, just the bagged stuff. We eat it 15 different ways. And a couple of years ago, there was a huge E. coli breakout. And I remember they gave the dates from here--if you bought your spinach and it was dated from here to here (indicating), you needed to get rid of it. But if it was before or after that, you should be fine.

And I remember looking in my vegetable crisper drawer. I opened it up because I knew I had spinach in there of that particular brand. And I looked and it was only about one or two days outside

of that little span they had given. Now, I've never had E. coli and I've never known anyone who has had E. coli. But from what I understand, it's not good.

And I had to sit and think, well, you know, the CDC is telling me I should be fine. Do I really want to feed this to my family? That's deliberation, the thinking about it. But for me, the hesitation was, I might be fine but I don't know that I want to risk that because I might not be fine. And I don't want to make my family sick.

When it comes to Count II, one of the things that the State has to prove beyond a reasonable doubt is there was sexual conduct between Ben Trane and Kxxxxxx

I'm not going to go over the same argument, because you just heard me say it. It didn't happen. The rest of it doesn't matter if the acts themselves did not occur, or if you have reasonable doubt as to whether they occurred.

Again, when you are thinking, gee,

she tells a pretty good story, but he says it didn't happen. I'm not sure. That's reasonable doubt. And because of that doubt, when it comes to Count I and Count II, the Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree and the Sexual Exploitation, you must find the Defendant not guilty.

She had nothing to corroborate her statement, nor did he. It happened. No, it didn't. Do you really want to act with that kind of uncertainty?

Finally, Count III, the Child
Endangerment. We'll give you the first
two. There's no question that as the
owner of Midwest Academy Ben Trane would
have had custody and control of the
children. They were entrusted to the care
of Midwest Academy, not necessarily him
specifically, but Midwest Academy. And it
was clear that they were both under the
age of 14. We know those things. I never
argue things that are not in dispute.
Well, sometimes, but that's just for the
fun of it. Those two are easy.

What's not so easy is, 1, were

Bxxxxxx and Dxxx truly at a substantial risk to their physical safety?

And even if they were, did he know it?

We heard him describe the hierarchy of Midwest Academy. And he kind of became a jack of all trades. That's the beauty of a small business owner. You become everything to everybody. But he wasn't running the program when Bxxxxxx and and Dxxx were there. It was either Shasta Heidbreder, James Paulus, or later on Devon Dade and Ray Forrester. All the staff were to--program staff, such as the people watching OSS, the people watching the nights, would have all reported to them.

Ms. Timmins has to prove that he knew; that he had a conscious awareness that these two particular children were at a safety risk. He was too high up in the food chain for that. Those are things that would have been dealt with by the direct staff, some of which you heard from.

You cannot ignore the testimony of

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Gary Lachapelle. Dxxx was--if weight loss 2 is the thing you want to hang your hat on, 3 he said Dxxx was an overweight kid. The pictures support that. He's a big kid. He didn't necessarily look unhealthy when DHS took the pictures in the spring of 7 2015. In fact, he looked pretty good. Не 8 looked more like a normal 12 year old, at least to me. 9

We heard Gary Lachapelle, and even Mike Davis and Jane Riter, say if they truly believed a child's safety was at risk, they would take care of it. We heard Jane say, she sent girls--because she worked with the girls--she sent girls to the hospital. But that was them. wasn't Ben Trane. All he would do was come in and say, hi, how are you doing? Why are you here? You know, we need to get with the program. Let's do what needs to be done. Let's get you out of here and we'll work on the other things that we need to do.

He didn't have that kind of indepth contact like Gary Lachapelle did,

who would spend hours with Dxxx
when Mike Davis would spend hours with
Bxxxxxx

Now, we heard a lot of talk from Dr. Grassian about isolation and solitary confinement. Even putting Ben Trane's testimony out of it, you heard Mike Davis, Gary Lachapelle, and Jane Riter say, we were in there all the time. There were usually only a handful that would be there on a pretty regular basis. Most kids did fine. Most kids did not go to OSS more than once or twice, if at all.

Bxxxxxx and Dxxx obviously did.

Mr. Trane wasn't going to contest that.

The logs say what they say. He recognized that they were in there a lot. But if there was truly a safety concern, there was several people below him, both on the program and the clinical side, who would have been the ones who were consciously aware.

Now, we know there were issues with Bxxxxxx. Mr. Trane was telling his mom as early as November, just a couple of months

after he was there, this isn't working.

You need to find someplace else to put
him. This isn't working. He's not doing
what we thought he should be doing by now.

And remember, Mr. Trane said they denied
Mr. initially, because they thought he
was too young and had too many problems.

The only reason he was at Midwest Academy
is because his mom begged for him to be
there.

They recognized that there was an issue, but Midwest Academy and Ben Trane were also responsible for all of the other children that were there. And Bxxxxxx and Dxxx both represented a safety risk to those kids when they were acting out violently and arguing with staff and assaulting staff and assaulting other students. Their duty was to protect all the kids.

They were working on getting

Bxxxxxx out of there. They knew. Mike

Davis knew. Mike Davis talked to Ben.

They talked to Bxxxxxx's mother. You need to find someplace else to put him. This

than we can give. You heard her say it,

Ben said it, but that never got done.

They offered recommendations to her, but

nothing ever got done until DHS came in in

the spring, and that's when

decided, oh, I need to take my son.

Bxxxxxx and Dxxx were troubled kids, as were all of the kids at Midwest Academy. These were not your average high school kids. There was a reason they were there. These two particularly had issues. And you heard Ben testify that immaturity could play a role in that.

You heard Gary Lachapelle, the one person--not Dr. Grassian--but Gary Lachapelle who actually knows Dxxx tell you the reason Dxxx was in OSS is because Dxxx chose to be in OSS. Those were his decisions. He knew how to do what he wanted to do. He went there to get away from things. Several of the girls said that as well, that they would go there voluntarily to get away from everything else.

They were monitored. They had teen mentors available. Nothing that was described by the staff, and might I add the staff that continued to be employed at Midwest Academy until it closed, nothing that they said sounded anything like what Dr. Grassian was describing. There was someone watching them to make sure that they didn't hurt themselves.

The counselors and the family reps and especially the therapists were in there every day, multiple times a day, spending as much time as they could with these kids to get them to understand, we just need you to behave.

You even heard Bxxxxxx testify, I had the ability to do it. I didn't. We never did hear from Dxxx . So we have to rely on Gary Lachapelle who knew him and spent hours with him. He knew how to do it. He just didn't want to.

Ms. Timmins wants to bootstrap Mr.

Trane's position in Midwest Academy to
say, because he is at the top of the
pyramid, he knows everything that goes on.

I have five people in my household, and I never know anything that's going on. And it's a much smaller place than Midwest Academy.

The folks that were working with Bxxxxxx and Dxxx, who they were already addressing Bxxxxxxx's problems, no one was overly concerned about Dxxx's physical safety. They were doing everything they could do to keep Bxxxxxx safe, and everyone else from Bxxxxxx. That doesn't mean that Mr. Trane knew everything that was going on. Just because he wrote the policies and the rules? Sam Walton created Walmart. That doesn't mean he knows what was going on in every store, just because he created the corporate structure.

She's wanting you to make a whole lot of assumptions in order to find that the Defendant knew things that he says he didn't really know. Assumptions aren't truth. They're not fact. They are assumptions.

This case is like a connect the

dots picture. We all remember doing those as kids. Except the dots don't all connect. They really don't give you that full picture. All Ms. Timmins provided you was Kxxxxxx who offered an interesting story and a bunch of students who hated Midwest Academy, made it clear they hated Midwest Academy, and they did not want to be at Midwest Academy and found ways to get out of Midwest Academy, and two employees that got terminated and made their animosity toward Ben Trane and Midwest Academy fairly clear.

The other people you did hear from, one was the State's own witness, Mike

Davis, who told you Mr. Trane always had the interest of his students in mind; that he was always interested in doing what was best for those kids. That was from the State's witness.

But we also heard from Jane Riter and Gary Lachapelle, people who actually worked with the children, who counseled the children.

And in thinking about that

substantial risk--again, I told you when I heard testimony I write down questions that I would have if I were a juror--if they were at such a substantial risk, why did DHS return them after they interviewed them in the spring? Dxxx went back. So obviously DHS wasn't so concerned about their safety; otherwise, they would have removed them. They showed how quickly they can do that. They did it with Kxxxxxx in a day.

The only reason Bxxxxxx didn't return is because Christina Tang knew the gig was up; I have to get my son out of there.

We have lots of dots but none of them create a full picture. There's just a lot of dots on the page.

Ladies and gentlemen, Ms. Timmins has failed to meet her burden. She has not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that any sexual acts ever occurred between Ben Trane and Kxxxxxx

She has not proven either that

Bxxxxxx or Dxxx were at a

substantial risk of safety. They lost weight. Nor could she prove or did she prove that the Defendant actually knew what was going on in the OSS.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you when you go back and you deliberate, not hesitate but deliberate, think about those questions. Am I truly, firmly convinced that the events occurred the way the State has presented?

And when you deliberate and you look at all the evidence, put all assumptions aside and look only at the facts you heard, you will find there are just too many doubts. There are just too many doubts. And you will find the Defendant not guilty of all charges.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Ms. Timmins, you may proceed.

MS. TIMMINS: It must be nice to be at the top of the food chain and not have to be responsible. Is that what happens when Exxon Mobile spills oil in the ocean and kills animals? Does the president get