

R v Gomer

OFFICIAL CASE SCENARIO 2023



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OBA FOUNDATION
LA FONDATION DE L'ABO

**Canada,
Province of Ontario,
County of Missinaba**

In the Superior Court of Justice,

HIS MAJESTY THE KING

- AGAINST -

RAYNE GOMER

Rayne Gomer stands charged:

1. That he/she, on or about the 31st day of December, 2022, in the City of Mariposa in the County of Missinaba, did in committing an unlawful act to wit: assault with a weapon cause the death of Avery Lee, thereby committing manslaughter contrary to section 236.

Dated this 11th day of January A.D. 2023 at Mariposa, Ontario



Ivie Edobor,
Agent for the Attorney-General of Ontario

Witness List

Crown witnesses

1. Detective Sergeant Jorah Augustus
2. Dofi Kudjoe

Defence witnesses

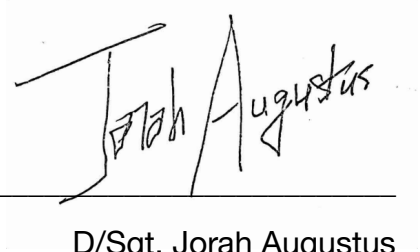
1. Blake Benvolio
2. Rayne Gomer (accused)

SWORN STATEMENT OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT JORAH AUGUSTUS

1. I have been a police officer for 22 years. I have worked as a detective for the past six years and was appointed to the rank of Detective Sergeant on September 9th, 2022. This is the third homicide investigation in which I was the lead investigator, and I have investigated many serious crimes in my career.
2. In the early morning of Sunday, January 1st, 2023. I attended “Jazzy Blues”, a cocktail lounge at 310 Range Street in Mariposa. I arrived at approximately 2:00 a.m. to investigate the apparent homicide of (as I would learn) Avery Lee, a young adult aged 29. Patrol officers had responded to a 9-1-1 call at approximately 1:30 a.m., and had immediately cordoned off the property.
3. I observed the deceased, Lee, lying on the ground outside the east exit of the building. It appeared that they had suffered trauma to the chest area, and tripped over a furnace exhaust pipe, causing further trauma. Lee was dressed in a red dress shirt and black pants.
4. On the ground, close to Lee, was a piece of green fabric that looked ripped from a larger piece of clothing. This piece of cloth did not appear to be connected to what Lee was wearing, and I took it into evidence. This was “New Year’s weekend”; I had learned that Jazzy Blues was hosting a New Year’s Eve dinner and dance party at the lounge, and the dress code was semi-formal with shirts to be in winter holiday colours, namely, blue, green, red, and gold. Next to the piece of green fabric. I observed a frying pan put out by the garbage bins. The pan appeared to have dried blood on the bottom, and I took it into evidence.

5. I inspected the rest of the scene. A little further away, caught at the top of the chain link fence that was around the east exit, was a piece of yellow or gold fabric. I drew a rough diagram of the scene and took the gold fabric into evidence as well. Through a brief interview with Jazzy Blues owner Blake Benvolio, I learned that the last person seen speaking to the deceased was one Rayne Gomer.
6. I attended Rayne Gomer's residence at 101 Wayside Avenue, Unit #10A on the fourth floor of the building, at approximately 4 a.m. This is about a 10-minute walk from Jazzy Blues. Gomer was our primary person of interest, given that, a) Gomer was the last person seen with Lee; b) according to Blake Benvolio, only a few regulars know about the east exit of the building, where Lee was found, including Gomer; and c) there was the green fabric found at the crime scene, which we thought may have come from Gomer's attire as it was reported to us that they were wearing green that night at Jazzy Blues.
7. Gomer did not answer the door at 4 a.m., so I obtained a warrant to search the premises, which was approved at 7:00 a.m. I returned to Gomer's residence at approximately 7:30 a.m. to execute the warrant. This time, Gomer answered the door. Gomer appeared sleepy and had an ice pack on their face. Gomer was cooperative, but professed no knowledge of any incident on the east end of the cocktail lounge other than arguing with Lee before being punched by someone who came from his left side.
8. I asked Gomer to remove the ice pack, and observed bruising on the right side of Gomer's jaw. Gomer denied harming Lee. Executing the search warrant, officers found green and brown clothing in a pile next to Gomer's bed. These had blood stains on them and were taken into evidence. We also identified the shoes that Gomer wore the night before, which had dried blood on them.

9. Based on the totality of the evidence, we charged Rayne Gomer with manslaughter on Monday, January 2nd, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jorah Augustus", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized, with the first name "Jorah" and the last name "Augustus" clearly legible.

D/Sgt. Jorah Augustus

SWORN STATEMENT OF DOFI KUDJOE

1. I am 30 years old and I have worked for Missinaba Architects over the last five years. In my spare time I play competitive rugby and curl.
2. The night of December 31st, 2022, a bunch of us Missinaba architects went out curling and then to the annual Jazzy Blues New Year's Eve party. I wore a gold crewneck, black and white striped pants, and grey dress shoes.
3. We ended up at Jazzy Blues on Range Street around 11:30 p.m. It's a Mariposa favourite, with good food and sweet cocktails. It was busy and there were five staff going around in the lounge serving drinks. I was sitting at the end of one of the sofas in the lounge, and the person next to me sitting in the middle of the sofa was chatting to one of the servers. They were wearing a dark green long sleeve shirt complaining about their recent break up with their partner. It went on for like ten minutes, and finally I butted in and asked the server for a custom cocktail. The person in the green shirt cursed me for interrupting the conversation, and threatened to knock me out if it happens again next time while they waved their clenched fist in my direction as they spoke in an aggressive tone saying "I didn't know who I was dealing with". The bartender told the person in the green shirt to take it easy, but was also pretty rude to me. Excuse me for wanting to get served at a cocktail lounge!
4. I went about my drinking and chillax-ing and a few minutes later went out to make some calls out the east exit. Right there, I saw the person in the green shirt talking to another person in a red shirt. I shot the person in the green shirt a look as if to say "buzz off", but they were intensely discussing something with the person in the red shirt anyway. The person in the green shirt looked pretty

upset and it looked like the person in the red shirt was crying as they spoke. All of a sudden they were both yelling, but the place was so loud I couldn't hear anything above the noise.

5. This place seemed a little rowdy, so I went off on my own to make the calls I was planning to make. After the calls, I looked at my watch and realized it was already 12:45 am. I knew my coworkers would be on their way to the next stop, the Jamorama for some late night bowling. I took off running down Range Street to catch up.
6. I ended up going home around 3 a.m. I had special work projects to do the next day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dofi Kudjoe', written over a horizontal line.

Dofi Kudjoe

SWORN STATEMENT OF BLAKE BENVOLIO

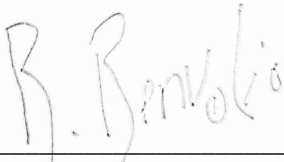
1. I am 45 years old. I own Jazzy Blues cocktail lounge at 310 Range Street, which I have managed over the last 20 years. The lounge is a family-owned business, and my father passed it down to me when he retired from working 20 years ago. Jazzy Blues is a hotspot in town, and I always love meeting old and new customers.
2. I know both Avery Lee and Rayne Gomer from the neighbourhood. I used to tutor both of them when they were in high school. I was hired as a part-time tutor at Mariposa Excellence Academy, a tutoring company in our community. Avery loved geography but needed some extra help with math, while Rayne was very interested in visual arts but needed help with chemistry. They were always two peas in a pod and a couple of little rascals, especially Rayne. Avery was always the more responsible, level-headed one. Probably kept Rayne out of trouble. Avery did well, too. Avery worked as a baker since their teenage years, and then opened their own business earlier this year. Avery was really good at what they did, just the kind of person you want to bake goodies for your special events: fair, honest, reliable – all that.
3. New Year's Eve is always a big evening for Jazzy Blues. It is our annual tradition to host a dinner and dance party for groups of professional associations from across Missinaba, and we ask people to wear a top of some kind that is blue, red, green, or gold in the spirit of the winter holiday season. We have drinks, live music, food, and dancing throughout the evening.
4. Avery came in around 11 p.m. Avery is a member of the landscaping association that was invited to the evening of fun, and they were in a red dress shirt with

sequins on the sleeves. Avery was just hanging out, talking to people, playing pool. Avery was quiet but sociable and easy to hang out with. I believe that Rayne and Avery had broken up and my observations of her behaviour that night seemed to confirm that. Avery was avoiding any part of the bar where Rayne was. I was not totally surprised. Rayne wasn't always the nicest person to Avery, which I noticed whenever they used to come to Jazzy Blues on Saturday mornings for coffee.

5. I first saw Rayne in the cocktail lounge around 11:35 p.m. Like I said, it looked like Avery avoided anywhere in the lounge that Rayne was in, but Rayne looked like they were trying to work their way to get closer to Avery. Rayne was wearing a green top.
6. Rayne went to the area in the lounge with all the sofas around 11:45 p.m. We started talking, but as we were doing that, this person dressed in a gold sweater butted in to say, "Excuse me, can I get some service over here?" Rayne mouthed off, of course. I told Rayne to simmer down. I shot the other person a dirty look and mixed his drink order a little slowly. Who orders a custom cocktail at Jazzy Blues, anyway? Not like I don't want to look after my customers, but the way the person in gold asked was rude and I don't put up with that. And I look after my regulars. In fact, it was more than rude. All of a sudden, goldy started getting really angry! They were not letting the drink thing go. I have had some impatient customers in my time, but this was really an overreaction. When I did finish making the drink, they weren't anywhere to be seen! I guess they had stormed off. Rayne was gone, too. I was worried things were going to escalate.
7. The group of architects who were at the lounge that night left around 1:00 am and the crowd thinned out. I went to take out the garbage a few minutes before

1:30 am, and that's when I found Avery, lying on the ground with blood on their chest and with blood all over the ground around their upper body, mid-section, and head. I called 9-1-1 immediately.

8. I don't know when it would have happened. Only regulars really even know about that east exit we have at the lounge. It's not an exit that leads to the main road or parking lot – it just leads to the garbage, recycling bins, and most of the pipes that come out of the building. Some people go out there to have side conversations, but even a lot of the regulars just go out one of the two front doors (we're on a corner). You only see the east exit when you go to where the coat check is, and it doesn't look like it goes anywhere customers are supposed to be. So, Avery could have been lying there for a while before I found Avery. The security cameras at Jazzy Blues recently broke down, and I've been planning to have new ones installed, but I just haven't been able to contract the work out yet.
9. I hadn't seen Rayne since that spat with the goldy. I can't imagine that Rayne would ever have done this. They were so close – always had been. And Rayne seemed more sad than angry about the whole thing when they spoke to me about the recent breakup.



Blake Benvolio

SWORN STATEMENT OF RAYNE GOMER

1. On Saturday, December 31st, I went out to a New Year's Eve party at a cocktail lounge. I wore a green turtleneck and brown corduroy pants. The shirt was a gift from my pal in university, and I got the pants from my grandmother. Both pieces are always a good pick for semi-formal events like the New Year's Eve party I went to.
2. I was upset and heartbroken after Avery Lee broke up with me after 5 years of being together. We've been friends since we were kids. I really loved Avery, and I owe them a lot for putting up with me over the years. Avery never yelled at me, Avery just told me how they felt, told me to smarten up when I went off the rails. But I took advantage of their forgiveness. Avery is - was - a great person.
3. We got into a really heated argument two weeks ago, which led Avery to give up on us and break up with me. I was so angry that I decided to go on a walk to cool down. When I came back to our apartment, Avery was gone and so were their belongings. Avery left a note on the dining table letting me know that we were done, that they were breaking up with me. I admit I didn't take the break up well, and I just wasn't in the mood to talk to anyone about it. I needed to "toughen up" so to speak. I let the disappointment, sadness, and anger sit with me.
4. On Saturday, I went out to the party to try to have some fun, but I wasn't having any. Normally, I don't join my professional association when they go to Jazzy Blues every New Year's Eve. But this year, I went with them because I had a feeling Avery would be there with their professional association, and so it would give me a chance to see Avery again. I got there sometime around 11:30 p.m.

Avery was obviously avoiding me, but I persisted in keeping an eye on Avery and tried to bump into them throughout the evening. I did manage to talk to them very briefly but they made an excuse and left me sitting at the table by myself.

5. That's when my memory gets spotty, because I'd already had a fair bit to drink by then. I remember going over to talk to Blake Benvolio, the owner of Jazzy Blues. I remember snapping at somebody who butt in to get Blake's attention asking for some fancy drink. They seemed really mad and erratic, and obsessed over getting their drink, but I didn't have time to focus on that. I remember going out through the east exit following behind Avery to try and catch them again before they left the lounge. At that point I was just pretty sad and angry, and trying to explain away my behaviour to Avery. I remember hearing the east exit door open, something got my attention. Then I remember someone punching me. It wasn't Avery; there was someone else out there. It was dark so I didn't get a great look at them, but I know it was that person in the gold shirt. First of all, they were exactly the same height. Second, they were unhinged when I spoke to them earlier in the evening, and I know they were mad about me talking to Blake. Third, I caught a hint of something gold as they came at me. They swung at me with something big and round, but I moved out of the way in time. I remember seeing Avery out of the corner of my eye, right before I blacked out. I guess somebody must have helped me home or something. I don't remember anything after that, until the police came to my door the next morning. When I checked myself in the mirror I saw that my jaw was all swollen, so I figured I must have gotten punched a couple of times in the face.
6. I want to help find Avery's killer any way that I can. I had nothing to do with it. I couldn't have. Avery was my favourite person in the world.


Rayne Gomer