

## TRANSCRIPT - Question Everything Newsletter 1

**Gay Alcorn:** But it just, I just thought when is he gonna say why is he using this? I mean it came up a bit when The woman rings to say that John has taken his own life. Your record is still going and it records you saying, Oh no, this is terrible. Uh, and then when you call, I think a day or two later, Tyler, to give your condolences, there's something that's it's like, Oh, I called him just on my phone, but then I said, can we record it?

And he said, yes. And we went to record it. So you're recording yourself saying, How sorry I am that, that, uh, John has, has taken his own life. And I think, well, why are you recording that? You know, have you already decided to, can you, do you ever turn the recorder off? And do you ever, had you already decided then, Oh, I'm going to tell John's story.

And I wish you'd let the listener into your...

**Brian Reed:** It's so interesting. Yeah. I mean, I could answer at least that question and maybe take that as a start for this discussion. Um, specifically, uh, that was Skylar Goodson who called me, it was, um, Tyler Goodson's sister in law. Um, if I'm remembering correctly, I believe what happened is I got a text from her or her husband's phone saying, call me.

And I went into the studio to call her, um, which is what I do normally do when I'm in a reporting project is call from the studio and, um, that conversation was recorded, uh, because that was my standard practice. Though I did before we

**Gay Alcorn:** still reporting project at that stage. Sorry. Sorry. Oh, yeah, that's it.

**Brian Reed:** So this is my, my, my state of mind at that point. I didn't know John had died. Um, I had about a month before, um, I think maybe a month or two before. Yeah. Yeah. Determined that the murder John had contacted me about, which many people believed had happened in Bibb County, um, including John, um, was not a murder.

It was an assault. Nobody died. And at that point, I was still hoping to do a story. about John and his town and the relationships there and his community. So something I think that I actually regret in the storytelling of the story is that I chose the murder as the case to focus on. You know, John wrote us initially about two cases.

His headline was, this is a shit town and I want someone to come look at it. That was his headline. And here are two cases that illustrate that. And then over the course of talking and visiting there were many others that he offered up and he almost was bored with this murder by the time I was through with investigating it.

I kind of was the one like honing on that because I needed something to focus on as a reporter. And then over the course of talking and visiting there were many others that he offered up. All this other, these ideas, information, takes, stories about, His town, his life there, the people he knew. I had just That's interesting because

**Gay Alcorn:** As a listener, the impression I got was you'd put this story aside, you know, I think you say somewhere like, Oh, I hadn't kept in touch with John that much.

He was obviously sending you lots of emails, but that makes sense to me now that while you're recording everything still, because you're still actively thinking that at some point there might be a story.