

## *Transcript of Ian's Cover-up of Assault on Sterling, 5-6-05*

**Background:** Two weeks prior, Ian reported that his dad had angrily kicked Sterling around the house before school that morning. CPS was notified.

**On 5-6-05,** Ian secretly called his Mom to meet him at the Dragon's Lair, an arcade shop, where his father routinely dropped Sterling and Ian off on Friday nights. Ian asked his Mom to get him a drink at the 7-11. This is what followed.

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*(road noise as Ian and his Mom step outside the Dragon's Lair)*

**ian** Can we take the car?

Mom Do you want to go in the car?

**ian** Yeah. Is this one it?

Mom This is the car.

*(Ian gets in the car)*

Mom Careful, there's computers in the car.

**ian** Mom, get a clicker for it. *(sucks in breath)* Two of them? *(talking about computers)* Oh, Oh, Oh, where'd you get the second? Where'd you get the second?

Mom My pen and paper...

**ian** Where'd you get the second one, Mom?

Mom One of them's a loaner.

**ian** It's a loaner?

Mom Uh Huh, it means that they, uh...

**ian** We're going to go and then come right back, alright?

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Mom Yes. Where are we going?

**lan** *Mom...7-11*

Mom Oh, you're driving to the... I was going to walk.

**lan** *How far is it?*

Mom It's just down the street, just right down here...

**lan** *Well go that way first because there's something I want to show you. Something that's real cheap and real cool.*

Mom Seat belt.

**lan** *I have these. I'm really not going to go anywhere with these.*

Mom Uh-uh, won't protect you. Please get in your seat belt.

**lan** *Hmmm.*

Mom Even if we're going across the parking lot, you need to wear one; it is the law.

**lan** *Mom, my dad's going to kill me if he finds out I'm going somewhere with you.*

Mom Well, we could walk.

**lan** *Oh yeah, a good point.*

Mom Let me park my car again. How far is it that you want to go?

**lan** *Just down to that Auto Zone place.*

Mom Auto Zone? How far is that? I think it's up a couple of blocks.

**lan** *Couple of blocks?*

Mom Isn't it? I don't see Auto Zone yet, so it must be. Fasten your seat belt. We're heading out.

**lan** *Mom, I don't really feel safe driving with you.*

Mom Because...

**lan** *My dad might call and Sterling might spoil it.*

Mom Okay, we'll get out. He thought you were going to 7-11, which is where we're going. But I don't want you to get...

**lan** *But Dad might call and Sterling might spoil it.*

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Mom He'll get mad if you're in the car with me?

**lan** *He'll get mad if I'm with you at all. Right now he hates you.*

Mom Oh, honey...

**lan** *He thinks you told the Child Protective Services, and they said they're going to take me away for like a year or something.*

Mom Who said that?

**lan** ***Child Protective Services. They think my dad abuses us so they're going to take me away from both of ya'll for a year.***

Mom Child Protective Services said that?

**lan** *Yeah. And my dad is really pissed at you right now.*

Mom Wait. Did they say that, or did your dad say—tell you they said that?

**lan** *They said that.*

Mom To you?

**lan** Yes.

Mom I thought you didn't talk to them yet.

**lan** *Well, they came and talked to me today.*

Mom Wait, you said they were going to talk to you next week.

**lan** *Next week is basically Friday. Because I consider Friday the next week.*

Mom Ian, you told me they were coming to talk to you next week. You never said that...

**lan** *Mom I never said they weren't going to take me away. I just said they were going to talk to me.*

Mom So they're not taking you away...

**lan** *Not yet.*

Mom Who said they're going to take you away?

**lan** *Child Protective Services.*

Mom Who'd they say that to?

**lan** *When they talked to Sterling a couple of weeks ago.*

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Mom        They told Sterling that?

**lan**        *UmHmm. They talked to us a couple of weeks ago.*

**Mom**        **Well, was Sterling—was Sterling honest with them about your dad kicking him?**

**lan**        *Mom...*

Mom        Sterling doesn't generally...

**lan**        ***You'd better be—Mom, you'd better be glad that he covered up. Because if he didn't cover up, it wouldn't have just been bad for our dad and then we'd go to you. We'd get taken away and we'd go to a foster home.***

Mom        So he did cover up?

**lan**        ***(yelling) If he didn't, we'd never see you or our dad! You'd better be glad he covered up!***

Mom        Oh, honey. Do you want, do you...

**lan**        ***If my dad hadn't arranged this thing with court, he wouldn't have covered. But since he did, he covered up.***

Mom        What did he arrange with court?

**lan**        ***My dad arranged with court that if we get taken away from him we won't go with you. Instead, we'll go to a foster home.***

Mom        Who said that?

**lan**        ***My dad. He arranged it with court. So you'd better be glad he covered up. Because if he didn't, instead of us coming over to you once in a while, it'd be NEVER! Come on.***

Mom        How do you feel about that?

**lan**        *I hate it. Come on, let's go to the 7-11. (gets out of car) I'm going to tell Sterling not to tell dad that I'm gone. Just to tell him that if he comes by I'm in the restroom. And if anyone calls, I'm in the restroom.*

Mom        Okay.

**lan**        *I'll be right back.*

Mom        All right.

**lan**        *Get out of the car until I come out. (lan runs back to Sterling...road noise)*