

Meo Ponte also pointed out, however, that the same story Amanda told in court could be found in a letter she sent to her lawyer Luciano Ghirga on November 9, 2007. A letter whose existence was a surprise to many reporters. Even more than Amanda's testimony, it filled in the dead air between 10:30 P.M. on November 5, 2007—when the Seattle girl was just a twenty-year-old college student doing her Italian language homework—to 5:45 A.M. on November 6, when she was a murder suspect carted off to prison with her alleged accomplice Raffaele and Patrick Lumumba.

“They told me that they had already arrested the murderer,” Amanda wrote in English, “and that they only wanted me to say his name, but I knew nothing. An officer hit me twice in the head. My mind was searching for answers. I was really confused. I thought that I'd been at home with my boyfriend, but what if that wasn't true. I tried and tried but I could not remember anything until all of the officers had left the room except one. She told me there was only one means of avoiding spending the next thirty years in jail. . . . I imagined that I'd met Patrick near the basketball courts. I imagined that I must have covered my ears so I wouldn't hear the screams of Meredith and I named Patrick and I totally regret it now because I know that what I said has hurt him.”