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ISSUES WITH JANE VELEZ-MITCHELL

Casey Anthony Attorney Under Fire for Entertainment Deals, Requests Change of Venue; The "Lost Tapes" on the Caylee Anthony Case; Coed Murder Trial

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.... Now, from the unthinkable in terms of stupidity to shockingly inappropriate behavior by an American coed, on trial for the drug-fueled ritualistic sex murder of her British roommate.

Amanda Knox dubbed a "femme fatale" and her estranged boyfriend being tried in Italy for the stabbing death of 21-year-old British student, Meredith Kercher. We're also going to say Kercher was tortured and killed after she refused to take part in a sick game -- a sick game, sick, sick, sick -- sick game of sexual high jinx. Police found her half-naked body in a pool of blood and her throat was cut.

And now new appalling images from the courtroom reveal the smiling and apparently carefree Seattle coed laughing with her attorneys and the translator. Witnesses say during a recess, she also flirted with her one-time lover and current co-defendant who she once accused of lying to investigators.

Meantime, defendant Amanda Knox a.k.a. "Foxy Knoxy" has filed a \$600,000 lawsuit. It's over a salacious sex-filled tell-all book based on her secret diaries seized by cops when she was arrested. Are you following all this? They want a book called "Amanda and the Others" pulled from the shelves.

Oh boy, so much to discuss in this case, give me a holler. 1-877-JVM-SAYS. That's 1-877-586-7297 to weigh in. That was a mouthful of bad behavior there, folks.

Joining me now, my panel: Anita Kay, criminal defense attorney and former prosecutor Robi Ludwig, a psychotherapist and Steve Huff, editor of the "The True Crime Report" a Village Voice media blog. He has been covering this story from the very start.

This is a huge case in Italy; hundreds of journalists and paparazzi converging on this trial. What's the back story with these two former lovers now on trial and what did they say to each other in court? Steve Huff.

STEVE HUFF, WWW.TRUECRIMEREPORT.COM: The back story, of Amanda and Raffaele were dating, of course, when Meredith Kercher was murdered and they were arrested together. And what they said to each other in court though, which was so interesting was -- I think it was during a recess. Amanda approached Rudi -- not Rudi, Raffaele -- Rudi is the guy who has already been convicted.

She approached Raffaele and said, "Ciao, how are you doing," and told him that he looked great with his hair cut short. He'd been wearing it long in prison and recently got it cut short. And he blushed. And then they had a conversation about him being moved to a new facility where he was going to be isolated from the rest of the prisoners.

And she complained about one of her cell mates snoring. It was a casual conversation except they're both murder defendants. It was a little bit bizarre and surreal, the way it's been described in British and Italian newspapers.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Anita Kay, as a defense attorney, do you think it's inappropriate and just bad strategy to flirt with your co-defendant when you're charged with a murder that involves sex games?

ANITA KAY, CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Jane, I think to say inappropriate is putting it mildly. As a defense attorney, the first thing I tell my clients is how you behave in court. And everybody is watching you: the judge, the prosecutor, the jury. They're all watching your behavior.

And as a prosecutor, I certainly watch defendants' behavior because I may glean a little information from that. So as her attorney, I would say, "Hey, knock it off. Inappropriate. You don't talk to him. Let alone talk about the things that you're talking about, about a

hair cut." Because the reality is it makes her look guilty.

And if she's not guilty, you still say, inappropriate. Your roommate was murdered. Even if you didn't do it, you'd think you'd be a little upset to be on trial for your life.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: You know, Robi Ludwig, her nickname is "Foxy Knoxy." And I'm thinking maybe she's crazy like a fox because she'd had a falling out with this former lover/co-defendant. She had given an alibi and saying I wasn't there that I was at his house and he apparently said, no she wasn't at my house for the entire evening when this went down.

Is it possible that she's trying to befriend him so that he doesn't basically throw her under the bus?

LUDWIG: I don't know. I mean, it might be that she's young and really doesn't get it and perhaps she's just very seductive. And that's how she interacts with the various people in her life. Because she doesn't know what flirting and getting on his good side would do. Listen, when it comes to a murder trial, it's every man for himself.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Now, I also have another theory. Is it possible -- and I have to direct this to Robi because you're the psychotherapist -- that she might be a sex-addict.

Let's look at the evidence: that she was allegedly involved in this sex game that turned into a murder, she wrote secret diaries that we're seized when she was arrested that are now the subject of a best-selling book, all filled with sexual details. And that's probably why it's a best-seller in Italy right now.

LUDWIG: Yes.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: And on top of that, she's flirting with her co-defendant in court. Sex-addict?

LUDWIG: Well, if that's a possibility. I'd also want to know about if there was any type of sexual abuse in her history and also want to know if there was some drug abuse. Because it sounds like if there was some crazy, bizarre sex crime, I would wonder if she

was high on something. But it's possible to have two addictions at the same time.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Amanda Knox suing for more than \$500,000 because she says this tell-all book loaded with sexual details has caused her a lot of damage. Here is the author, an Italian crime journalist talking about Knox. Listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

FIORENZA SARZANINI, AUTHOR, "AMANDA AND THE OTHERS" (through translator): What comes out in the investigation is her ability to transform herself. She is certainly a girl with many faces.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Anita Kay, does she have any legal authority to knock this book off the shelves because it's bad for her trial?

KAY: Well, here is the thing, Jane, this is going on in Italy, so there's a different -- obviously, a different system. You know here in the states, those accused of crimes, and certainly those who are prosecuted and convicted of crimes, can't make money off their -- their stories, so to speak.

But here, she's going to say, well, what? The diary was stolen. Or did she actually give it to them. I don't think this case is going to go anywhere.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I think it's already out of the -- that bird has flown the coop.

KAY: Exactly.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Because it's a bestseller in Italy, all right.

KAY: Right.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Stay right there, everyone. More on this bizarre sex murder in Italy in just a minute.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I'm back with my guests and we're taking your calls. We're talking about the seditious sex ritual murder of British student, Meredith Kercher. Her American roommate, Amanda Knox and Amanda's Italian former boyfriend on trial in Italy for the crime.

Phone lines lighting up. Dana, Washington, question or thought, ma'am?

DANA OF WASHINGTON: Well, hi, Jane and you're doing a fabulous job.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Thank you.

DANA: My question is are her parents going to be able to fly over to Italy to attend her trial and obtain a lawyer for her over there?

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Oh, very good question. Steve Huff.

HUFF: As far as I know, they have -- her stepfather and her mother and, as well as I think her biological father, have flown over to Italy several times. In fact, I think they've even rented apartments in Perugia. And they have been able to raise money. I'm not sure of the source to get Amanda her attorneys.

But they've been able to help her out and they've been able to be with her on several occasions.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Pam in California, question or thought?

PAM IN CALIFORNIA: Hi. I was just wondering if this is going to be a death penalty case? And if so, second question, is there a death penalty in Italy?

VELEZ-MITCHELL: All right I think we're going to go to Steve Huff first, because you have all of the details on this.

HUFF: To my knowledge, no death penalty in Italy and she may get what the Italians

consider life. And it could be as little as 25 years.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: You know, Robi Ludwig, people are so fascinated with this case all across Europe. Again some of the quote, "details from her secret diary," the sexual details or a best-selling book in Italy, everybody's talking about it; hundreds of journalists there.

And one describes this. Saying that Amanda Knox, the American who is charged with murder is quote, "a strange but fascinating mixture of femme fatale and fresh face, innocent" end quote.

What is so -- particularly intriguing about that combination?

LUDWIG: Well, it's bizarre when a person's looks doesn't indicate who they really are. And there is something very intriguing about that especially when there is a sexual sadism so of speak and a sexuality. Whenever you're talking about sex it's interesting and then you marry that with a person who is fresh faced and young and innocent looking and that's a pretty powerful combination.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: It sure is. Only have a couple of seconds.

Steve Huff, forensics against her. Apparently her DNA is on the murder weapon along with the victim's DNA.

HUFF: The prosecutor says that Amanda's DNA is on the handle of the knife and Meredith's is on the tip the knife.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: All right, we're going have to leave it right there. Anita, Robi, Steve, thank you so much for joining me tonight.

I'm Jane Velez-Mitchell and you are watching "ISSUES" on HLN.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VELEZ-MITCHELL: That story we're covering of course, authorities say 21- year-old

Amanda Knox`s girl next door beauty masks a predator who used a bizarre ritualistic sex game to satisfy her very twisted appetite. That game prosecutors claim ended the death of another young woman.

Knox`s fate now basically in the hands of an Italian jury after they hear all the evidence. As this case unfolds I`m going to bring you the very latest on "ISSUES."