

## Jennifer Pan

In November of 2010, the residents of Markham, a city located northeast of Toronto, were shocked to hear that a deadly home invasion had occurred in one of the neighborhoods. The Pan family were the targets, and the closest neighbors feared they might be next. However, the police soon learned the threat was much closer to home.

### Background

Jennifer Pan was born on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1986, in Markham, Canada. Her parents, Bich Ha Pan and Huei Hann Pan immigrated to Canada from Vietnam. Hann, the father, arrived in 1979 and soon met Jennifer's mother, Bich Ha, in Toronto. The couple got married and decided to move to Scarborough. Jennifer had one younger brother, Felix, who was born in 1989.

Hann and Bich Ha both worked at Magna International in Aurora. Their goal was to move to a better neighborhood and be closer to their families and friends. The Pans purchased a house in Markham in 2004 and owned two cars – a Lexus and a Mercedes-Benz. The family was also good at saving money and had more than \$200,000 in their bank account.

Since Bich Ha and Hann weren't strangers to hard work, they expected the same from their children, especially Jennifer. They were strict parents who wanted the best for their children. And the Pans had saved enough money over the years so that Jennifer and Felix could attend college, preferably the University of Toronto.

Jennifer started taking piano lessons when she was four years old and practiced figure skating almost daily. Her goal was to earn a spot in Canada's Winter Olympic Team. Even though Jennifer was a good figure skater, she wasn't extraordinary. She attended Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School and studied hard but was never a valedictorian. Bich Ha and Hann didn't allow their daughter to attend parties, school dances, or sleepovers. And she wasn't allowed to date until college graduation.

Being a gifted musician earned Jennifer a spot in the school orchestra. So her parents let her go on a two-week trip to Europe with the orchestra in 2003. While she was away from her parents, Jennifer started a relationship with a fellow member of the orchestra, Daniel Chi-Kwong Wong. They continued to see each other when the pair returned home but kept the relationship a secret from Jennifer's parents.

Jennifer was accepted to Ryerson University on early admission but never graduated from high school. She failed a calculus class and decided not to tell anyone. Jennifer knew her parents would be angry and disappointed, so she lied and pretended everything was on track.

### The made-up college

Bich Ha and Hann were sure that Jennifer was attending classes at Ryerson University. They supported her financially and even drove her to classes. Once out of the house, Jennifer spent her time in cafés, worked at a restaurant, and gave piano lessons. She told her parents she had won a scholarship and would transfer to the University of Toronto after completing two years at Ryerson.

Her parents wanted to give her more freedom because she was working hard on her degree, so they agreed to let her sleep at her friend's place near campus several times a week. Instead, Jennifer was at

Daniel Wong's house. Their relationship was still going strong even though Wong was a drug dealer, and Jennifer disapproved of it.

To make her lies more believable, Jennifer purchased second-hand textbooks and spent hours online filling out notebooks with information related to pharmacology. She told her parents she had transferred to the University of Toronto and became a volunteer at The Hospital for Sick Children. After several months, Bich Ha and Hann were suspicious because Jennifer didn't have a hospital uniform or a badge.

Bich Ha followed Jennifer to the hospital one day and discovered she had been lying to them. Realizing she was caught, Jennifer admitted to everything. Hann was angry when he heard she hadn't even completed high school and wanted to throw Jennifer out of the house. Bich Ha calmed the situation and told Jennifer she should pass calculus and apply to college.

Jennifer wasn't allowed to leave the house except for piano lessons. That included seeing her boyfriend Wong, but the two continued to talk to each other in secret. Since his 24-year-old girlfriend was essentially grounded, Wong decided to move on and start dating other people.

### The robbery and murder

On the morning of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Jennifer was studying piano history for a test. Bich Ha dropped by Jennifer's grandfather and did a couple of errands. She was home by 3:00 pm and started making dinner for the family. Hann came home from work at 4:30 pm and called his brother to see if he wanted to go with him to Home Depot.

Jennifer and Bich Ha ate dinner, and the mother got ready for her line dancing class. Meanwhile, Hann returned home around 6:15 pm, ate dinner, and went to his study to read the news on the computer. He went to sleep shortly after. Jennifer's friend Adriane arrived at 6:30 pm, and the two young women went to the basement to watch Gossip Girl and How I Met Your Mother. Adriane left at 9:00 pm, and Jennifer went to her room upstairs.

She continued watching TV until her mother came back home at 9:15 pm. Jennifer went downstairs to greet her, and then she returned to her room. She then called her former co-worker and chatted with him until hearing unknown voices in the house. Bich Ha yelled for Hann, who was sleeping in the bedroom. Jennifer listened carefully to what was happening outside her door. Someone was coming up the stairs, and she was scared they might come to her room.

Instead, the footsteps went straight to the main bedroom. Hann woke up, and a man in a baseball cap was standing next to his bed. He was asked where he kept the money. Before Hann could answer the question, he was taken downstairs and placed next to Bich Ha, who was crying. Not sure what was happening in the house, Jennifer peeked out of her bedroom and was seen by a man with dreadlocks.

He ran up the stairs, grabbed Jennifer, and tied her hands. She was asked about the money, and Jennifer took the man to her room, telling him to take the \$200 she had saved. Thinking Jennifer would know about her parents' stash, she was dragged to the bedroom. Jennifer couldn't tell him where the money was, so the man rummaged through the room. She was then taken downstairs to her parents.

Hann said he had \$60 more in his jacket, so Jennifer was again in the bedroom to find the money. She remembered one of her mother's stashes and gave the intruders \$1100. Jennifer was then tied to a

banister with a shoelace while her parents were taken to the basement. The intruders forced them to sit on a couch and covered their heads with blankets.

Hann was shot twice, with one bullet to his face and the other into his shoulder. As Bich Ha screamed, she was shot three times in her shoulder, neck, and head. She was dead instantly. Miraculously, Hann was still alive, but he was passed out. Jennifer had heard the shots and was trying to untie her hands. Then she remembered her cell phone was in the waistband of her yoga pants. She managed to reach the device and dialed 911.

She stayed on the line as the police drove towards the house on Helen Avenue. As Jennifer talked to the dispatch, Hann regained consciousness and managed to climb the stairs from the basement. Even though he was in pain, Hann ran out of the house and saw his neighbor walking to his car to go to work. Hann collapsed as police vehicles reached the house.

Officers approached Hann, who was wailing on the ground. He told them his wife was in the basement, and his daughter was still inside the house. Not sure if the intruders had fled the scene, the officers entered the Pan residence with guns drawn. They went downstairs to the basement and discovered Bich Ha covered in blood.

One of the officers went up the stairs to Jennifer and checked the rooms on the upper floor. Once he was sure nobody was hiding in one of the rooms, he used scissors to cut the shoelace. Jennifer was taken out of the house and saw his dad in an ambulance. She was then informed her mother was dead. The officer who untied her hands asked Jennifer to tell him what had happened, and she replied that three men armed with guns had broken into their home. She could only remember that one of the intruders had dreadlocks, and that was it.

### The investigation

After the home invasion, Jennifer was taken directly to the hospital. She wasn't hurt but was feeling shaky. While there, she asked about her dad and was told he was in surgery. Doctors weren't sure if he would survive. Hoping Jennifer could provide more details about the incident, she was driven to the police station at 1:30 am.

Jennifer talked to one of the investigators who met her on the scene and did her best to describe the men who had broken into her family home. She remembered an African American man with dreadlocks, one shorter man wearing a bandana over his mouth, and an intruder with a Jamaican accent. Since Jennifer said she hung up on her friend when she heard the commotion downstairs, the police took her phone as evidence because it would tell them when the break-in happened.

The police officer informed her they would check all the calls she had made in the last nine days, and Jennifer was visibly uncomfortable. Several hours after the home invasion, the police theorized someone had followed Bich Ha from her dance class and attacked the family.

Jennifer was taken to her cousin's house because she couldn't go home. The investigators were still searching for clues and evidence at 240 Helen Avenue. Meanwhile, Hann was out of surgery and in an induced coma. He was lucky to be alive because a bullet fragment was still lodged in his skull. Regardless, the doctors expected he would recover.

One day after the home invasion, the police held a press conference, and the descriptions of the intruders were all over the media. Investigators started talking to the family, friends, and neighbors who knew the Pans, hoping they could provide more details about their everyday life, which could help them solve the crime. They quickly learned that Jennifer was dating a drug dealer named Daniel Wong. His background check confirmed he had a criminal record.

Daniel Wong was called in for an interview on November 10<sup>th</sup>, and he openly talked about his drug dealing past. She told the investigators about his secretive relationship with Jennifer that lasted until her parents gave her an ultimatum in 2009. They blamed him for all the lies she had told them and considered Daniel a bad influence.

According to him, Jennifer's dad Hann didn't like that he was part Philipino. Daniel started dating a young woman named Christina in February 2010 but kept in touch with Jennifer. He believed her parents were too strict and that she was a prisoner in her own house. By now, the police suspected that Jennifer had something to do with the home invasion.

She was invited for a second interview with the investigators on November 11<sup>th</sup>. As soon as she entered the room, Jennifer was anxious. She was asked to recall the incident and provide as many details as possible. It was apparent that she was changing her story. The interview lasted for hours, and they talked about her parents and the relationship she had with them. She also admitted to owning more than one cell phone.

Hann woke up from a coma on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and told the investigators that on the night of the home invasion, he saw his daughter Jennifer talk to one of the intruders like they were friends. It is why he ran out of the house without checking on her. Hann knew Jennifer was involved in the crime.

Jennifer was interviewed for the third time on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, and the detectives decided to use a different approach. The investigator told her he had software capable of analyzing speech and saying if statements were true or not. Of course, this was a lie, but Jennifer believed him and finally broke down. According to her, she had hired three men to kill her, not her parents.

## The truth

Investigators soon learned Daniel Wong introduced Jennifer to Lenford Roy Crawford, also known as Homeboy. The couple planned to pay \$10,000 for the murder of Bich Ha and Hann Pan. Jennifer was supposed to inherit the family money afterward, which she wanted to use to buy an apartment for her and Daniel.

Crawford contacted Eric Shawn Carty, also known as Sniper, and David Mylvaganam. Jennifer had used a phone given to her by Daniel to communicate with Crawford and organize the home invasion. On the evening of November 8<sup>th</sup>, she left the front door open before going upstairs to her room. She called Mylvaganam to let the group know they could enter the house. Daniel Wong and Lenford Crawford were at work during the home invasion. Carty later claimed he was the getaway driver. It is unknown who was in the house besides Mylvaganam.

Jennifer Pan was arrested on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, and transported to Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ontario, to wait for her trial. David Mylvaganam was arrested on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Eric Carty was already in prison on a different charge and was arrested on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Daniel Wong was arrested on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Lenford Crawford was taken into custody on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## The trial

The trial began on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Jennifer Pan, Daniel Wong, David Mylvaganam, Lenford Crawford, and Eric Carty were charged with first-degree murder, attempted murder, and conspiracy to commit murder. All five of them pleaded not guilty. The prosecution introduced the data collected from Jennifer's cell phones, her communication with Daniel, and the interviews with the York Regional Police.

Her father, Hann, testified against Jennifer and told a completely different story about what happened during the home invasion, pointing out she communicated with the intruders in a friendly way. Pan, Wong, Crawford, and David Mylvaganam were found guilty on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014. All four received a life sentence with a chance of parole after 25 years.

In December 2015, Carty pleaded guilty to the conspiracy to commit murder and was sentenced to 18 years behind bars, with the possibility of parole after nine years. Jennifer Pan is serving her sentence at the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, Ontario.

Hann and Felix filed a court order that forbids Jennifer from contacting any members of her family, and it was approved by the judge. Furthermore, Jennifer is not allowed to be in contact with Daniel Wong ever again.

## Sources

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[Interrogation of Jennifer Pan](#)