

BLOODY TRAIL MARKS END OF PATH OF COUPLE 'S JEALOUSY AND RAGE

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It was a pairing marked by **jealousy** and **rage** , a **couple** who couldn't get along but couldn't let go.

Detroit neighbors and friends had long known about the troubled relationship **of** 28-year-old Michael J. Anderson and Nicole Washington, 23. Some had seen their bad times firsthand and even foresaw violence.

But no one was prepared for how she died; how, as police tell it, he severed her head and hands with a chain saw before painting over the spattered blood on the basement walls.

Residents in the 20400 block **of** Hawthorne winced Friday as they discussed the grisly killing on their one-way street on Detroit's north side.

Anderson was their neighbor. To some, he was a friend. But on Friday he was in police custody awaiting charges in the death **of** Washington. Police say he may be charged today.

"They should never have been together," said Willie Hallman, 45, who once lived in a ground-floor flat beneath Anderson. "They are trying to make it look like Mike was a bad person, but she was not supposed to be around him because **of** trouble they'd had before."

But none **of** the neighbors denied he had battered her in the past.

Some neighbors spoke **of** a restraining order Washington had against Anderson, but Wayne County Circuit Court officials said there are no records that she ever sought legal protection from her estranged boyfriend. The only court documents on file relate to the birth **of** their 18-month-old daughter, Alaka.

Hallman remembers an incident two years ago in which Washington showed up at Anderson's residence suspecting he had a woman inside. Enraged, she hurled rocks and broke out his windows, Hallman said.

"She was not a bad person, but she was obsessed with him. She always tried to provoke him. . . ."

Anderson's gray-shingled house sat empty and quiet Friday. Some curious motorists slowed as they passed, peering out **of** their windows at the scene **of** the killing.

In the hard-packed snow at the **end of** the driveway, small drops **of** blood were still visible.

Police broke the case Thursday night, a day after Washington's mother, a 911 dispatcher with the Detroit Police Department, reported her daughter missing.

The mother found her daughter's bloodstained Ford Escort around the corner from Anderson's house on Hawthorne. When police arrived at the house, they found Anderson with the **couple** 's daughter. Behind the house, they uncovered a **bloody** chain saw.

And after further searching, police followed a **trail of** blood to the basement, where they discovered a severed finger sitting on the stove in a pool **of** blood.

Police, who have not named the suspect, say he has confessed to killing and dismembering Washington. But neighbors have identified Anderson as the occupant **of** the home, the father **of** the girl, and the man they saw being arrested Thursday night.

Police say that after lengthy questioning Thursday, their suspect led them to Washington's body, head and hands severed, behind a record store in Hazel Park.

As the evening wore on Thursday, neighbors spotted officers with flashlights sifting through garbage cans on Hawthorne and neighboring streets.

"It's awful nerve-racking. It's very upsetting," said a woman who declined to give her name.

"It's horrible. It's a terrible shock to me," said Jessie Gibbs, 43, who lives a few doors away from Anderson. "To think that something like that could happen right down the street from where you live."

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