

NEWLYWED AMBUSHED AT HIS DETROIT HOME - FATAL SHOT SHATTERS FAMILY MOTIVE IS A MYSTERY

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Just before promising "till death do us part," a joyful bride serenaded her groom, **Ronald Jackson**, with Natalie Cole's "Inseparable" Saturday before wedding guests at Bethany Christian Church. "Inseparable.

That's how we'll always be.

Inseparable.

Just you and me. It's so wonderful to know you'll always be around, me." Four days later he was gone -- the victim of a gunman's bullet and now the center of questions by Detroit police and family members.

Jackson, 30, was shot and killed Wednesday morning in an ambush after he stepped out of his east-side Detroit home. A masked gunman emerged from the backyard, chased him into the newlywed's house on Carlisle and opened fire with an AK47, killing **Jackson** in the basement, police said. The gunman fled on foot, police said.

"The gunman was waiting for him," Detroit Police Officer Lonze Reynolds, of the homicide section, said Wednesday. "We still don't know why."

The victim's wife, Danetta **Jackson**, 29, witnessed the 7:45 a.m. slaying, as her husband was going outside to move his car so she could go to work as a consultant for Ford Motor Co. in Farmington Hills. She was unharmed.

Late Wednesday afternoon, after hours of questioning by police, the widow walked slowly toward her mother-in-law's front porch on Buckingham where friends and family gathered. She sobbed as her husband's mother, Patricia Cotton, sat down a wedding album and ran to embrace her.

"My son was beautiful," Cotton told the Free Press. "He loved his family. They had such a happy life ahead of them."

Ronald Jackson grew up on Detroit's east side and graduated in 1991 from Southeastern High School, where he played forward on the basketball team. He worked in construction with his father and bought his home on the 15400 block of Carlisle, near Gratiot, about a year ago.

Danetta Hutchinson and **Ronald Jackson** met as children and dated on and off throughout high school. They had a 3-year-old son, **Ronald Jackson II**, who was a junior groom at their wedding. **Ronald Jackson** also had a 10-year-old daughter, Arielle, who was a junior bride Saturday.

Jackson 's aunt, Cheryl Walton, described Saturday's wedding as lovely. More than 200 people attended the ceremony at the church and the reception, which followed at the Southfield Ramada Inn.

"Everybody had a great time," Walton said. "He just called me this week and said, 'Auntie, your nephew is a married man. I can't believe I'm married.' He sounded so happy."

A wedding album shows the couple dancing, kissing and sipping champagne. They planned a honeymoon at the end of the year. On Wednesday afternoon, Danetta **Jackson** began planning a funeral.

"She was very much in love with him," Walton said. "They've been together for such a long time."

His death was still a mystery to police and family members Wednesday, but Reynolds said robbery had been ruled out as a motive.

"We just don't know," **Jackson** 's mother said.

A neighbor, who requested anonymity out of fear for her safety, said she saw a small man wearing a black-hooded parka crossing the street around 5 a.m.

She said he was walking slowly by the house.

The neighbor said she woke to **Jackson** 's wife's screams after the shooting.

Detroit Police Cmdr. Craig Schwartz, head of the department's major crimes division, said the department is asking for the public's help.

"We would encourage anyone with knowledge of this to call us," he said.

Anyone with information about **Jackson** 's death is asked to call the Detroit police homicide section at 313-596-2260 or Crimestoppers at 800-773-2587.

Contact BEN SCHMITT at 313-222-6597 or schmitt@freepress.com.

Caption: Photo Family photo

Ronald Jackson , 30, and bride Danetta **Jackson** , 29. The photo was taken on Saturday -- their wedding day. They planned a honeymoon at the end of the year. He worked in construction; she is a consultant for Ford Motor Co. in Farmington Hills.

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