

TEXTS: 'My insides and outsides literally hurt'

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I am going to use the booze I brought to light it all on fire in your apartment. In the middle of your bed."

On April 9, Robison claims to have poisoned the local heroin supply, and cautions her against using.

"I turned a 1/4 lbs in a 1/2 lbs and now it's making it's way through Salem from 4 different routes. Don't risk it. It's not worth dying for," Robison wrote.

Robison himself later faced charges of manufacturing and delivering methamphetamine.

In a text to the victim's father, on May 2, Robison uses the word kidnap for the first time: I saw her today and she was scared and angry. I knew I should have grabbed her. I should have thrown her over my shoulder and walked her to my truck a (sic) kidnapped her."

The following day, in another text to the father, he threatens to put a tracker on the victim's car.

Also on May 3, Robison contacts a friend saying he needs a "big favor from you by being my driver for 10 minutes then I jump in my jeep, you bail in your direction and we part ways."

On May 5, Robison wrote to another ex-girlfriend about his plans: "I have to get this girl. I have to, I can't wait any more. I have never experienced this before. My insides and outsides literally hurt. When I see her my heart races faster than it's ever raced."

Robison also texted his mother on the same day saying he is going to go out looking for the victim.

On May 9, Robison asked another person if he could help acquire methadone, a drug used by heroin addicts while detoxing, and tells him he plans to kidnap his ex-girlfriend.

On May 10 and 11, Robison has a long exchange with his cousin, David Elliot Cook, and the two lay out plans for a kidnapping attempt. Robison wanted Cook to be his getaway driver. Cook would later claim he talked Robison down and the pair worked on Cook's car instead. The messages show Robison asking Cook to purchase black hair dye on his way to Salem, and whether Cook's girlfriend knows anything about dying hair.

Cook eventually plead guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and attempt to commit kidnapping.

At the same time, Robison was writing love

letters to the victim in a notebook later seized by police. In an entry dated May 10, Robison wrote, "My love, you mean so much to me that I become physically sick when I think about how I treated you and the place it drove you to."

Also on May 11, Robison asks another man about the availability of space on a large property he owns. He asks specifically if there is a barn or shack on the property.

Additionally, he contacts the victim's father again trying to explain himself. He wrote, "It's like I have a mental breakdown several times a day sometimes. I have never felt this messed up about anything before." Robison also mentions kidnapping again later in the exchange.

On May 15, in a note to the victim, Robison details driving around the streets of Keizer looking for the victim or her car when he spots it in front of a house that would become the site of his first arrest four days later.

Robison initially drove past and cleaned out the front seat of his car before parking near the Cherry Avenue home, "I didn't want you to have anything to hit me with if I took you. I didn't think I would find you let alone have an opportunity to grab you. My heart was racing .. I seriously felt like you could hook jumper cables to me and start a vehicle."

Robison wrote he got as far as kneeling down between the victim's car and a neighbor's car before deciding to leave.

Sometime between May 15 and his arrest on May 19 at the site of the SWAT team serving a search warrant on at the 3555 Cherry Avenue home, Robison appears to have made another attempt to kidnap the victim. He asked a friend and her boyfriend to drive him to the victim's house. Once they arrived, the woman and her boyfriend told police that Robison hid in the bushes while sending them to the front door. Robison wanted them to get her outside where he could grab her. The woman went to the door and spoke to the victim and told her to call the police.

Robison sent one last message admonishing the woman and her boyfriend before being arrested trying to "rescue" his intended kidnap victim at the house on Cherry Avenue Northeast.

He makes a plea for them to understand his mission, "The girl who owns my heart is afraid of me because of miscommunication and lies, and drugs. It's(sic) honestly feels like my chest is on fire when I think about it for too long."

BOX,

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Northeast.

When SWAT is on a scene two perimeters are established, one for the immediate area where the team is operating and a secondary, outer ring for additional protection. While the operation was ongoing, Robison drove a van through the outer perimeter, around a police vehicle with lights flashing and into a nearby parking lot.

"He went through the exterior perimeter and I thought he was going to pop back out after the driver realized he'd made a mistake," Olafson said.

Robison had other ideas. He got out of his van and started walking toward the house where the search warrant was being served. Olafson got out of his vehicle and began asking what he was doing. Robison told Olafson that he needed to get to the house to "rescue" his ex-girlfriend.

"The visual presence of the SWAT team would be enough to deter many, many people and he was walking toward them," said Officer James Young, who became the second primary investigator on Robison's case.

The ex-girlfriend, and Robison's intended kidnapping victim, was known to police as part of other investigations.

While Olafson was talking with Robison in the parking lot, other officers noticed the butt of a handgun sticking out of Robison's pants. At that point, Robison was taken into custody and he gave consent to search his vehicle. The search yielded a pipe that tested positive for methamphetamine, a can of bear spray — a type of pepper mace — and a notebook with details about the comings and goings at the house being searched.

"He was watching the house like we would," Olafson said.

Police also seized Robison's phone based on the assumption that it may have additional evidence of stalking behavior.

Robison was taken to the Keizer police station and questioned regarding his approach of the house and motivations. Olafson left the encounter feeling like he had been the one under interrogation.

Robison was taken to Marion County Correctional Facility and charged for the concealed weapon and drugs, but he had no prior record and was likely back on the street within 12 hours.

The Phone

Robison seemed to police unconcerned about them keeping his phone and alluded to the possibility of trying to "wipe" it remotely. It was kept in a protective bag to prevent such access while Olafson applied for a warrant to search it.

The warrant was approved six days after police met Robison in the parking lot and Olafson began reviewing its contents on May 31.

The messages included threats to the victim and others that appeared to show he had attempted to kidnap the woman at least twice in the three weeks leading up to his encounter with police.

Messages also revealed that Robison had told numerous people about his intentions and no one had contacted police with any concerns.

One exchange between Robison and the victim suggested that he had let himself into her home and assaulted her while trying to take possession of her phones.

Another exchange between Robison and a friend showed him asking her for a ride to the victim's apartment. When the friend arrived, Robison had a

black bag with him containing a gun and bear spray.

"Robison told (the woman and her boyfriend) about his plan to take the victim and get her clean. He wanted them to go up to the door and get her to come outside," Olafson said.

When they arrived at the apartment, Robison got out of the vehicle and hid behind bushes while the woman went to the door. The woman told the victim about Robison's intentions and told her to call the police before leaving.

The couple drove away with Robison still hiding in the bushes and searching through his bag. No one called the police.

"The victim didn't and the couple thought they had done their duty," Olafson said.

Another kidnap attempt occurred while police were surveilling the house on Cherry Avenue. Text messages from Robison to the victim provided details about her cleaning her car outside the Cherry Avenue home when he drove past. Robison continued driving and pulled into the Keizer/Salem Area Senior Center parking lot so that he could clean out the front seat of his car and remove anything the victim might hit him with.

In text messages, Robison described returning to the nearby area and parking before approaching the home and crouching near the victim's car. He eventually left without executing his scheme.

Police knew precisely when Robison was in the area that day because surveillance notes and photographs showed the victim cleaning out her car.

"He would also send her circular ultimatums," Olafson said. "He would tell her that she needed to text

him in the next five minutes or he would take it as a sign that he needed to come rescue her."

No matter what the victim chose to do, it required making contact she did not want.

"The texts would get more and more descriptive and graphic. He would threaten to poison the drugs going around the Salem-Keizer area and caution her against using them," Young said. "He would tell her to watch the news that night for something happening around where she lived, and if something happened it was the result of something he had done because of her."

Olafson and Young read the text messages together and came to the same conclusion.

"We looked at each other and said we have to go find her," Young said.

Searches

Olafson and Young found the victim at her father's home. They had badges displayed, but they were in plainclothes and the woman would not come to the door.

She later told the officers she feared they were more of Robison's accomplices sent to get her out of the home.

Eventually, the woman's father arrived on the scene and he was able to diffuse the situation.

They brought the victim to the Keizer Police Station for a full interview, and requested the help of the KPD detective squad in finding Robison himself. Detectives initially tried to find Robison at his Woodburn employer, but he had called in sick. They tried a home he shared with a roommate next and found him there.

Additional search warrants were issued for a new search of Robison's van and the home itself.

"In the car we found dope, delivery tools and packaging

scales to the point where we could charge him with the manufacture and delivery of methamphetamine. He was trying to save a girl from dope while manufacturing and selling it," Olafson said.

Items found in and around the home were more troubling.

"I found a bag that I described as a 'go-bag.' It had survivalist books, rope, lubricants, restraints and other types of tie-downs. Small amounts of alcohol and marijuana," Young said.

A ball gag, collars and sawed-off weapons were also among Robison's possessions.

Olafson was standing outside the house and noticed a large amount of plywood leaning up against something else. Olafson moved the plywood and found the box.

The box, which is now in the possession of KPD, is about five foot tall and three-and-a-half foot wide. It's constructed out of four-by-four posts and layer-upon-layer of plywood. It is extremely heavy. The interior space is about three-foot wide and four feet tall.

Robison would later tell police that it was constructed to keep and ship tools, but some of the details do not bear that out.

"You would pay hundreds of dollars to ship just the box," Young said.

Officers found industrial-type kitchen mats with porous surfaces inside. They suspect Robison planned to put his victim in the box while she detoxed and the mats would keep her from drowning in her own vomit if she got sick and passed out. Additionally, bracing

brackets are on the outside of the box where they cannot be tampered with inside. If the box was meant for shipping, the parcel would be more secure with the brackets on the

interior.

"It was pretty clear it had been built for a person," Olafson said.

Olafson was ready to call off the search of the house when Young opened one last cabinet. Inside he found an improvised explosive device. The Salem Bomb Squad determined it was inactive in its current form, but that it was likely meant to be affixed to box and detonate if the box was violently jostled or tipped over.

Things had been moving so quickly, it wasn't until the search was completed that Young was able to take stock of it all.

"The gravity of it didn't really sink in until we found things like the box and the sawed-off weapons and the explosive device," Young said.

A Quick Plea

On July 7, 2016, Robison pleaded guilty to many of the charges filed against him. Olafson and Young had nothing but praise for how the case was handled given that Robison had no priors.

"(Deputy District Attorney) Jennifer Gardiner did a miraculous job of organizing the case and presenting it. He plead guilty to felonies and they convinced the judge that he needed the maximum sentence of 15 years," Olafson said.

He said KPD officers take any case of stalking seriously, but that most of the offenses involve people driving by someone's home or workplace or harassing phone calls. Robison took it to another level.

"It's like having a high school baseball team up against a major league team or one level below it," Olafson said. "If he had the opportunity he would have taken her. He says that he just wanted to help her get clean, but I'm not certain she would ever have seen the light of day again."

PLANS,

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James Young, "During interviews, no one said he wouldn't do it."

The closest it appears anyone got to interfering with his plans was a veiled threat from the victim's father on April 6, 2016, "I have made some phone calls. I highly suggest you stay away from my house the apartment property and my daughter if you call her look at her or touch her even one more time even think about her it is not going to end well for you thank you and have a nice day."

Robison's roommate gave him 10 days to move out after the victim forwarded him emails from Robison to her.

"You're doing crazy stalker s—t. I can't even bring myself to open the emails. I was sick to my stomach all yesterday and today. This situation has become poisonous to me," the roommate wrote.

Two months later, Robison was still living at the same address.

Robison tried to enlist another acquaintance as a getaway driver for the kidnap-

ping, but the deal appears to have had a falling out over the drugs Robison was offering in return.

When Robison confided in another ex-girlfriend about the turmoil he was experiencing and the violent thoughts he was having, the woman responded, "Jeez! :-(")

The woman later told police she thought Robison was just ranting.

Robison's mother advised him to get counseling. In a later exchange, Robison was frustrated about his mother's ability to understand the "code" he was speaking in.

"Oh ok," was the response from another acquaintance Robison told about his kidnap plans. Robison had wanted the friend to help him get methadone for his girlfriend who believed he would be "rescuing" from drug abuse.

At times, Robison's cousin, David Elliot Cook, appears to be helping plan a kidnapping attempt discussing details like purchasing hair dye, where

to lay low and how both men could make their escape. Cook was eventually charged as an accomplice.

Finally, Robison enlisted a friend and her boyfriend to give him a ride over to the victim's apartment. The pair grew suspicious of a black bag Robison brought with him, and the conversation led to him divulging his kidnap plans.

Robison wanted the couple to get the victim out of her house

so he could grab her. Instead, the woman went to the door and spoke to the victim and told her to call the police.

They left Robison hiding in the bushes and did not call police themselves. When the man was later questioned, he said he didn't interfere because the intended victim might have needed the help.

"Every person we talked to was like, 'Oh yeah, (Robison is) a problem. Inevitably, we'd ask them if they called the police,'" Young said.

None of them had.

"During interviews, no one said he wouldn't do it."

— Officer James Young
Keizer Police Department

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