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'America's Most Wanted' - Fugitive Terrorists

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Sheila MacVicar reports on the two World Trade Center bombing suspects who got away.

FORREST SAWYER, ABC News: Good evening. I'm Forrest Sawyer and this is Day One. Tonight: It's not over, the worst terrorist attack ever on American soil and the man authorities say made the bomb, got away. JAMES FOX, former Assistant Director, New York FBI: I don't believe there would have been a bomb without Ramzi Yousef. FORREST SAWYER: How did he get into America and where did he go after the bombing? A Day One/Newsweek magazine investigation.

She was more than a murder victim. PHILIP CUMMINS, Club Owner: We all knew her by sight but, obviously, someone as striking as she was, you noticed. FORREST SAWYER: She was a wife, a mother, a sister and a friend. NICOLE'S SISTER: She was just a really strong woman and had a big zest for life. FORREST SAWYER: We've heard so much about the man accused of murder, but what do we know about Nicole Brown Simpson? He is among the best and the brightest. JUDY MULLER, ABC News: You went to MIT. BENNETT BROWN: Right. JUDY MULLER: Got a lot of job offers? BENNETT BROWN: Uh-huh. FORREST SAWYER: What he chose is the toughest job of all. BENNETT BROWN: At least once a day, I see a student who really shows some hope and might not have otherwise. FORREST SAWYER: A child of privilege teaching and learning with the children of the inner city. And what's a Cuban-American doing in a country band? RAUL MALO: Why should country music only come out of people that live in Oklahoma or in Texas? TONY BROWN: I saw these guys. They knocked me out. I'm serious. FORREST SAWYER: Tonight, the Mavericks, chasing the American dream. ANNOUNCER: From ABC News, Forrest Sawyer, Sheila MacVicar, John Hockenberry, Michel McQueen, John McKenzie, Lloyd Kramer and Robert Krulwich. This is Day One. America's Most Wanted FORREST SAWYER: We begin tonight with new information about the two men most wanted by the U.S. government. They are the subject of an international manhunt that was set off by one terrible act: the bombing of the World Trade Center. Just days after the disaster, we learned that those at the center of the conspiracy had been captured. Score one for the FBI. But now a Day One/Newsweek investigation suggests that the one man most responsible for building the bomb got away, along with one other mysterious conspirator. We've also learned that the U.S. government made a series of mistakes that allowed the conspirators to get into the country and pull off the attack. The story now from Sheila MacVicar. SHEILA MacVICAR, ABC News: [voice-over] Last month, the four men convicted in America's worst terrorist attack were taken to a federal courthouse in New York. They would each be sentenced to spend 240 years in prison. The bomb they exploded at One World Trade Center on February 26th, 1993, caused six deaths, more than 1,000 injuries, nearly half a billion dollars in damages and lost business income. Sixteen months later, the building is repaired, business is restored and it seems the case is closed. JIM DWYER, Columnist, 'Newsday': I think that the idea that this was- these were the village idiots of the global village and we got them all in hand- I think that's definitely the idea that we've been led to believe. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] But there are two men who have not been caught, two men who were crucial to the plot and who made the bomb possible. They have disappeared and are now fugitives, each with a \$2 million price tag on his head. [on camera] The real story of the World Trade Center bombing is not just a tale of stumbling amateurs. American security officials say the conspirators in New Jersey had professional help, the skills and expertise of a trained terrorist and his accomplice. The case, as developed against them but not yet tried in court, shows how they came into this country, carried out their mission and successfully escaped. U.S. authorities had opportunities to stop them, but failed each time. [voice-over] The plot had its roots in Jersey City, just across the river from Manhattan. Above this storefront on Kennedy Boulevard is the El Salaam mosque. Among the worshipers there was a small group united in their hatred of Israel and America. By June, 1992, according to this document filed in federal court by the U.S. attorney, the group had become a conspiracy and they had a lot of big ideas. They talked about assassinating a judge, killing politicians and buying ready-made bombs. But the FBI knew about these plans because they had an informant named Emad Salem planted right in the middle of the group. Salem was a former Egyptian Army officer. The group planned to rely on his military skills. As it was becoming clear the group was both serious and dangerous, Salem and the FBI had a falling-out over how to proceed. He stopped being an informant and dropped out of the group. The FBI lost their only source on the inside. They no longer knew what the conspirators were doing. Day One has pieced together what the FBI could not know, as the conspirators moved from talk to action. The first thing they did was try to find someone else who knew how to build bombs. One of the conspirators began a series of phone calls day and night, \$1,400 worth,

first to Baghdad, **Iraq**, and then to Peshawar, Pakistan. On the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Peshawar is a haven for gun runners, spies and veterans of the war between Afghan guerrillas and the Soviet Union. It was here that the conspirators in New Jersey contacted the man who had organized them and, investigators say, build their bomb. He is now wanted by the U.S. government. His name: Ramzi Yousef. JAMES FOX, former Assistant Director, New York FBI: If somebody could be called the mastermind, the bomb master, in this plot, in my view, it's Ramzi Yousef. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] James Fox is the former director of the New York FBI. He led the investigation. JAMES FOX: I don't believe there would have been a bomb without Ramzi Yousef or someone exactly like Yousef- that is, with his skills and expertise. Without that person, I don't think they could have made the bomb work. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] The bomb-maker's first task was to get into the United States. To do that, he needed a companion to get past American authorities at Kennedy Airport, so Ramzi Yousef found this man, Ahmad Ajaj. AHMAD AJAJ: [through interpreter] No one suggested I travel with him. I met him at the end of July or the beginning of August. I just wanted to get back to the United States. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] But Ajaj is now serving a 240-year sentence at this federal maximum-security prison in Florence, Colorado, for what the government says was his part in the bombing of the World Trade Center. The government says his involvement began when he and Yousef, using assumed names, bought these first-class tickets on a Pakistan Airways flight bound for New York. On September 2nd, 1992, their flight landed at New York's JFK Airport. They left their first-class seats and headed for the immigration hall. JIM DWYER: It's one of the great cattle calls of our society. It's packed, the immigration hall at JFK. There are, you know, probably a couple hundred people getting off of this flight. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] Jim Dwyer is a columnist at Newsday and co-author of a book about the bombing. JIM DWYER: Towards the front of the line, we have our man, Ajaj, and he's got this blatantly fake passport. One fingernail from the INS agent and she's able to peel back the picture and see that there's somebody else's face really pasted onto this passport, that it's a fake. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] Ahmad Ajaj, traveling on a stolen Swedish passport, was arrested. When Customs officers opened his luggage, the contents were startling. They found a suitcase packed with military manuals, volumes on explosives, how to make bombs, rig grenades and shoot to kill. JAMES FOX: I think he knew what he was carrying and I think he knew that, by those documents being in his possession, he was protecting this man who was the key man for the operation. And he did it willingly, in my view. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] At the same time as Ajaj was being arrested, Yousef, the bomb-maker, was standing nearby, still waiting to clear immigration. JIM DWYER: Ramzi Yousef is there in this harem shirt and big, baggy silk pants and it's almost- it's almost like a caricature. Why is this man drawing so much attention to himself, in a way? Maybe what we're seeing here is the old thing about robbing a bank. If you go to rob a bank, wear some outlandish clothes and everybody'll be looking at your clothes and they won't remember your face. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] When Yousef's turn came, he pulled out an Iraqi passport and asked for political asylum. The officer in the booth wanted to refuse him entry, but her supervisors overruled her, so the bomb-maker was allowed to enter the United States. [interviewing] What could they have been thinking of? They weren't exactly trying to sneak in quietly. JAMES FOX: The bottom line is, what happened? The bomb master got in and was able to pull off the bombing. So what appears as obvious to us, as a ridiculous situation, obviously wasn't that ridiculous. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] Ajaj, Yousef's traveling companion, has been in prison since his arrest at Kennedy Airport. He denies the manuals were meant to be used by Yousef. [interviewing] You're traveling with the guy that the FBI says made that bomb and you're traveling with a suitcase full of bomb manuals and you say to me that that is all a coincidence? AHMAD AJAJ: [through interpreter] We never talked about doing anything illegal inside the United States. I was bringing those books here to mail them to others. SHEILA MacVICAR: Did he tell you were he was going to live in New York? AHMAD AJAJ: [through interpreter] He told me he would go and live with some people he knows around New York. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] Yousef, the bomb-maker, knew exactly where he was going, to this apartment building at 34 Kensington Avenue in Jersey City, where some of the conspirators lived. JAMES FOX: Suddenly, Ramzi Yousef comes from the Middle East and I think they all knew what Ramzi Yousef was here for. And he quickly went right to work. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] Everybody was in place, except for one last man. He would become the second fugitive. Abdul Rahman **Yasin** arrived just a few days after Yousef. **Yasin** is a 34-year-old Iraqi who has lived most of his life in Baghdad. Unlike the bomb-maker, Yousef, **Yasin** didn't have to worry about U.S. immigration. That's because he was born in Indiana, where his father was a Ph.D. student. As an American citizen, **Yasin** could simply walk into any U.S. embassy and apply for an American passport. He did exactly that in the summer of 1992 in Amman, Jordan. Three months later, he used his new American passport to enter the United States. By the end of September, all the conspirators were living just a few blocks apart in Jersey City. Long into the night, when the neighborhood had settled down and most were asleep, the lights at 34 Kensington Avenue continued to burn. Led by Yousef, the bomb-maker, they made their plans. [on camera] Even though they had no informant among the conspirators, the FBI was still concerned about their activities. They actually had members of the group under investigation. But Day One has learned that agents were turned down by headquarters in Washington when they sought permission to use wiretaps and full-time surveillance to get more information. [voice-over] In late November, Yousef, using yet another assumed identity, went to City Chemical Corporation to buy the materials he needed for the bomb: nitric acid, sulfuric acid, ammonium hydroxide. In February, at this house, Yousef, with the help of **Yasin** and the others, began preparing the bomb. [interviewing] Why do you think they chose this- this neighborhood? JAMES FOX: Well, I think they were probably looking for a place they would not stand out, be inconspicuous, and the address, 40 Pan Rapao, is exactly that. It's set back off the street, well off the street, much further back than any of the other houses. This address came to be known as the bomb factory. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] In the days before the bombing, Yousef made almost daily trips to a neighborhood bank. These images from a security camera in the lobby provide a rare look at the man we know as Yousef, the bomb-maker. Here he is, withdrawing money from a cash machine. Two days later, he is back to use the pay phone in the corner. The countdown has begun. He assigns an accomplice to rent a van. Everything is now ready. The time is set. 4:00 A.M., February 26th, the day of the bombing. The conspirators meet at a gas station. The bomb is in the van. JAMES FOX: Ramzi Yousef was in the van, making one more checklist,

saying, 'Is this right? Is this right?' Everything had to be really well placed and it had to be done by somebody who had been trained by professional terrorists. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] They drove through the Holland Tunnel to Manhattan. Yousef and an accomplice took the van down into the garage of One World Trade Center. They locked the door and walked away. JAMES FOX: We're at the B-2 level, of course, of the parking garage. This is where the van was parked when the bomb was detonated. It looks fairly well organized and clean and tidy now. On that day, it was absolute devastation. Cars were thrown around like they were tinkertoys. SHEILA MacVICAR: How do you think that they had the expertise to know exactly where to put it? JAMES FOX: I think you have to come back to the theory that someone was the key man, the mastermind. And we, of course, think it was Ramzi Yousef. And it was probably Yousef that made the determination exactly where the van should be parked. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] Investigators say that what happened next is the most compelling evidence of Yousef's profile as a professional terrorist. Only seven hours after the bomb went off, Yousef was at Kennedy Airport, checking in for a flight to Pakistan. It was a perfect getaway. Weeks before, he had obtained a passport in still another assumed name and nationality. He left the United States as Abdul Basit, a Pakistani. He left behind the other conspirators. Within days, the FBI began making arrests. One of those taken in for questioning was Abdul Rahman **Yasin**. JAMES FOX: He was not hostile and belligerent and hateful and I think he left, in those initial hours, a favorable impression with the agents. SHEILA MacVICAR: The agents believed that he was cooperating. JAMES FOX: They felt that he could be very helpful in this investigation. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] So helpful, **Yasin** told the FBI about key locations in the plot, gave them names and addresses to search. Inexplicably, the FBI decided not to arrest him and, just like Yousef, he left the country. He became the second fugitive. JAMES FOX: I can't explain what all we knew and what all we didn't know at that time but, obviously, we felt it wasn't enough to justify keeping him, at that early stage. SHEILA MacVICAR: But what he did that night was under his own name, go to JFK and use a plane ticket he'd bought days before and go to Jordan. JAMES FOX: And who can explain? We certainly can't explain it now. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] From New York, fugitive number 2, Abdul Rahman **Yasin**, flew to Amman, Jordan. By late spring, 1993, he had disappeared down the highway into neighboring **Iraq**. Last week, Day One confirmed he is in Baghdad. This is his father's house, where Abdul Rahman **Yasin** visits almost daily. Just a few days ago, he was seen at the house by ABC News. Neighbors told us **Yasin** comes and goes freely. In Washington, where the State Department has put a \$2 million price tag on **Yasin's** head, a spokesman declined to comment on what, if any, steps are being taken to bring him to justice. He said they were previously aware of reports that **Yasin** was in Baghdad. As for Ramzi Yousef, the bomb-maker, the other \$2-million fugitive, from New York he flew to Quetta in Pakistan. Unconfirmed reports say he may have crossed into Afghanistan. There the trail runs cold. JAMES FOX: Yousef is really a shadowy figure in this whole thing. There's so little that we know about him for certain and so much that we may never find out. SHEILA MacVICAR: [voice-over] And unless they find him, key questions, like who paid him, who trained him and who sent him on his deadly mission, may never be answered. FORREST SAWYER: Sheila, you've hit on a critical point, whether these guys were acting on their own or this may have been state-sponsored terrorism. SHEILA MacVICAR: Or there's another scenario. Perhaps some state, some organization somewhere, learned about the conspiracy in New Jersey and decided that they could use it to their own ends and so they sent in a professional, like Ramzi Yousef. Until we get at least one of the two fugitives, we aren't going to know the answer to that question for sure. FORREST SAWYER: Which raises another question. How cold is the trail? SHEILA MacVICAR: In the case of Ramzi Yousef, we believe the trail to be very cold. We don't even know who this guy is. We don't know his name, where he's from- very, very little about him. In the case of **Yasin** is easier. We know where he is and there are some indications from sources outside this country that there have been some discussions to try to get him to come in from the cold. FORREST SAWYER: Sheila MacVicar, thanks a lot. We'll be back in just one moment. ANNOUNCER: Still to come on Day One: the teacher- BENNETT BROWN: Electrons get pumped in- ANNOUNCER: -the students. STUDENT: Frequency times wavelength. BENNETT BROWN: Good. ANNOUNCER: They come from worlds apart and together they're working wonders. When Day One continues. [Commercial break] Class Act FORREST SAWYER: If you sometimes feel discouraged by the hard realities of life, we think this next story could give you a lift. It's about a young man who has it all: brains, energy and a sense of optimism that just won't quit. He graduated with honors from one of the toughest, most prestigious schools in the nation, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. And then he surprised everyone with his choice of careers. Judy Muller, herself a former teacher, has the story. [voice-over] Bennett Brown is a brilliant guy, graduated from MIT with a straight-A average in physics, could have had any job he wanted, could have made bundles of money working in prestigious research labs. So what did this brilliant guy do? He accepted a low-paying, low-prestige teaching job at one of Chicago's worst inner-city schools, DuSable High. No student from DuSable has ever gone to MIT. In fact, very few make it to college. Just making it to class is an effort. BENNETT BROWN: Here is the first one. This is from yesterday. Raise your hand if you weren't here. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] On any given day, DuSable has a 30 percent absentee rate; in any given year, a 50 percent drop-out rate. Academically, it ranks at the bottom of the Chicago school system. [interviewing] You went to MIT, graduated with honors in physics, correct? BENNETT BROWN: Right. JUDY MULLER: Got a lot of job offers? BENNETT BROWN: Uh-huh. JUDY MULLER: Yet you chose to come to an inner-city, black school in Chicago to teach. Why? BENNETT BROWN: I was born with a lot of privilege and I feel an obligation to share it. If I had been born in my students' place, I would feel cheated and I feel cheated for them. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] They are especially cheated when it comes to top-notch teachers. Brown is the only teacher at DuSable to be fully accredited in physics and chemistry. BENNETT BROWN: Do you hear it? Okay? That's pretty cool, don't you think? JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] Pretty cool and pretty creative. Brown is teaching these kids how to make pan pipes out of straws. Along the way, he is also teaching them the science of sound waves. BENNETT BROWN: 'V,' which stands for what? STUDENT: Velocity. BENNETT BROWN: Velocity equals? STUDENT: Frequency times wavelength. BENNETT BROWN: Good. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] As the kids see that formula come to life, so do they. Brown knows that such moments of joy are rare in the lives of these kids. Most of his students live in or near the Robert Taylor Homes, a sprawling housing project with some very grim statistics. Unemployment is 96 percent; families on welfare, 80 percent. Gang violence is a constant threat. Mothers keep their kids off the playgrounds, and

sometimes home from school, out of fear for their safety. [interviewing] You've seen where some of these kids live. Seeing that, do you have new respect for those who manage to make it up and out? BENNETT BROWN: I know that if I had been one of my students that I wouldn't have made it through the year, that I would never have come to school every day, walked through the sometimes urine-soaked stairwells, bullet-filled sidewalks and playgrounds to get to school. Some of these students are truly self-motivated. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] But once they get to school, it's Brown's turn to motivate. BENNETT BROWN: You ready? Are you ready? STUDENTS: Yes! BENNETT BROWN: Okay. Okay. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] Brown's teaching style is high on energy, on interaction, on incentives. Each right answer, for example, earns a coupon that can be exchanged later for snacks or school supplies. VASHOUND TAYLOR, Student: See, I never see no teacher, like, jump around and get along and get you all into it, you know, be all, like, hyped up and all that stuff. He gets all into it. He's, like- he's like he's on his own little show in his own little world. And I'm, like, 'Man.' JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] Not that there aren't obstacles. Continuity is a problem when so many kids are absent every day. And those who do show up often show up late and may have trouble catching up. But on this day, a hands-on experiment about electroplating works like an electrical charge on the class, even on the late and lethargic. [interviewing] As a former teacher, I know that there are moments where you go, 'Oh!' It's almost literally seeing a light go on in the eyes. BENNETT BROWN: Uh-huh, a light of excitement. JUDY MULLER: Yes. Do you see that? BENNETT BROWN: Sometimes. Sometimes. I'd say, you know, once or twice a day. And that's all it takes for me to go home happy. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] But those enlightened looks didn't come overnight. In his very first class two years ago, captured on videotape, Brown came off not so much as young and energetic as young and inexperienced. [interviewing] You look like you're 18, 13, 12! BENNETT BROWN: Fourteen. I was terrible. JUDY MULLER: He's cuing you. BENNETT BROWN: Yeah, he's trying to teach me how to teach. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] The man who coached Brown that first day was Doc Hamberlin, a biology teacher and a 30-year veteran of DuSable. DOC HAMBERLIN: Do to this carnation what Hamberlin does with what? Teaching. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] Hamberlin gave this white kid from Des Moines, Iowa, some valuable advice about teaching in an inner-city school. DOC HAMBERLIN: Forget about color. Just teach. Forget about who I am or what I- just teach, teach with excitement. Hopefully, they will catch on to it. Understand that there are going to be failures. There's going to be some that you will never reach. But do your best. And that's what he has done. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] That's what he's done, all right. Brown was named one of the 100 best new teachers in America last year by a student aid group. But Brown has no time to rest on his laurels. He's too busy trying to stand his ground in the daily onslaught of disruptions. On the day we visited DuSable, students set off two false fire alarms and that set off Bennett Brown. BENNETT BROWN: People are stealing your education, okay, people in this school, your classmates, are stealing your- you have a right to an education! JUDY MULLER: Does it frustrate you? Do you just feel some days, 'I can't deal with this anymore. I can't teach under these circumstances?' BENNETT BROWN: If I came to school and thought about all the problems here and all the difficulties and all the hopelessness, then it would be problematic, difficult and hopeless. But at least once a day, I see a student who really shows some hope and might not have otherwise- Sherrice Dotson staying until 9:00 o'clock, 10:00 o'clock every night for two- I think, two and a half, three weeks, preparing for the science fair not because I'm pushing her, but because she's excited about it. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] But his pushing does make a difference. SHERRICE DOTSON: He always lift us up, say positive words about our work and stuff. JUDY MULLER: He's a scientific cheer-leader. [voice-over] This year, Sherrice Dotson made it all the way to the city finals in the science fair and several of his other students also won prizes. Randy Calmese made a motor from some wire, a block of wood and a couple of paper clips. RANDY CALMESE: It was my first time entering and I was, like, 'Wow, this is great,' you know? JUDY MULLER: What was the reaction at home? RANDY CALMESE: Everybody was, 'Wow, Randy did it!' BENNETT BROWN: I think that I have students who now believe, and I think correctly, that if they really work hard and keep their chin up that they could become an electronic engineer, that they could become a doctor, that they could become a veterinarian. And I think that they're one step closer than they were at the beginning of the year to knowing what the path to that occupation would be. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] If these students head down paths they've never dreamed of before, much of the credit has to go to this Pied Piper of physics. VASHOUND TAYLOR: He must got a lot of kindness in the heart to really do something because, you know, if anybody else was in that position, they would have went for the money because, of course, that's the main thing that rules society, money, and money and power. But I really thank Mr. Brown for coming because without him, I don't know where we'd be right now. JUDY MULLER: [voice-over] No need to worry. The feeling is mutual. [interviewing] What is it about teaching that excites you? BENNETT BROWN: I'm good at it and I like it. I like students saying, 'Oh!' I get a kick out of it. FORREST SAWYER: I'm sure it doesn't surprise you to hear that Bennett Brown has big plans for the future. Eventually, he'd like to teach at a university and he wants to design ways to make high school science more accessible to the average student. ANNOUNCER: Later on Day One: She was beginning a new life on the eve of her death. 1st FRIEND: She was just real positive. It was almost like that night, she says, 'Everything is going to change and we're going to be happy.' ANNOUNCER: You've heard his story. Nicole Brown Simpson- her story later on Day One. [Commercial break] FORREST SAWYER: And now a follow-up to a couple of stories we reported recently on Day One. [voice-over] There was a city-wide gay rights celebration in New York this past weekend and they probably weren't celebrating the news out of Hawaii. A few weeks ago, we told you about the battle over gay marriage and how it was playing out in the Hawaiian supreme court. It's there that the justices ruled that a ban on gay marriage may be unconstitutional. JUDGE: A male and a female walk in and they're not married, they want a license, you give it to them. A male and a male walk in, want a license, you won't give it to them. You are discriminating against them. FORREST SAWYER: [voice-over] But that settled nothing. Late last week, Hawaii's governor signed a bill banning same-sex marriages. He said the supreme court's ruling encroached on the legislature's power to make laws. And there's a big new development in this story about the battle over these 5-year-old twins, Felicia and Natasha Schlaepfer. Before their father, Rob Schlaepfer, died from AIDS, he drew up a detailed will naming his friends, Kandi Geary and her husband, Lance, as the children's legal guardians. Schlaepfer clearly stated that he did not want his mother to raise the children. But immediately after Schlaepfer's death, his mother, Phyllis Durichek, took his children to Houston, where a

judge granted her permanent custody. KANDI GEARY: She walked into a courtroom with two little girls and said, 'I want them,' and she got them, like that. PHYLLIS DURICHEK: I done the only natural- only natural thing, to have my grandchildren with me. And I don't think that's selfish. I don't think it's wrong. FORREST SAWYER: [voice-over] Over the last nine months, the Minnesota couple appealed to the Houston judge three times, asking him to set aside his decision. Three times the judge refused. But last week the Texas supreme court ruled that the Houston judge did not have jurisdiction in this case and ordered him to return the case to Minnesota. In the coming weeks, the foster parents hope to bring the twins back to Minnesota where a judge has already granted the couple permanent custody. ANNOUNCER: Day One will continue after this from our ABC stations. [Commercial break] The Mavericks ANNOUNCER: Day One continues from New York. Once again, Forrest Sawyer. FORREST SAWYER: If you could take Elvis Presley and Roy Orbison and add a dash of Ricky Ricardo, you'd get a band with a catchy new sound that has taken Nashville by surprise. They're called the Mavericks and their front man is a young Cuban-American who looks and acts like nothing we've ever seen in Nashville. This is the story of a band on the rise, fighting for stardom in a town where millions of dollars are at stake and maverick musicians are rarely tolerated. Here's John Hockenberry. CARL PERKINS: [singing] We're going to have a jubilee down in Memphis, Tennessee / Going to shout Hallelujah all the way- RAUL MALO: Oh, I love that song. JOHN HOCKENBERRY, ABC News: [voice-over] A music studio in Nashville, Tennessee. Country rock legends Carl Perkins and Duane Eddy are making a record. But who are those youngsters in there with them? They are the Mavericks, a vision of country music's past and perhaps its future all rolled into one. CARL PERKINS: They play by feel. They're there. They're happening. I predict big things for this group. I really do. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] The Mavericks are a challenge to country music in the '90s. They are a band trying to prove that you can break all the rules in Nashville and still succeed. NICK KANE: We're outside of the accepted norm of what country music is supposed to be today. ROBERT REYNOLDS: Well put. NICK KANE: There's some very, very narrow parameters. 'This is country. That is not country.' And we are right on the edge of that parameter. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] Who in country music talks about parameters? The Mavericks do. They also play rockabilly songs and wear earrings. But what really sets the band apart is their lead singer, song writer and driving force, a 28-year-old Cuban-American from Miami named Raul Malo. RAUL MALO: Why should country music only come out people that live in Oklahoma or in Texas? You know, I don't buy that. I mean, if it weren't for Spaniards, we wouldn't have cowboys, you know? JOHN HOCKENBERRY: So it's really Spanish music. RAUL MALO: Yeah. See? KEN TUCKER, 'Entertainment Weekly': The formula in Nashville right now is have a lot of sexy young women singers, have a lot of handsome hunks who sound like George Jones and look like they moonlight at Chippendales and smile a lot. And if you don't look like that and if you have music that's slightly more downbeat or slightly more complex or slightly more from your heart, you have a real tough battle in Nashville these days breaking down those doors and I think that's- that's the Mavericks' problem. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] But Raul Malo's music is all heart, not a Nashville formula. His songs are moody and deeply personal, like this one, called 'Pretend.' MAVERICKS: [singing] Maybe there's a chance that you could change your mind / If you just pretend you love me all the time / I don't want to be a memory or a friend- RAUL MALO: Everything's in the music. MAVERICKS: [singing] Darling, you don't have to love me, just pretend- RAUL MALO: I mean, it- it has been since I was a kid. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] Raul fell in love early with music, his first love the old '50s records his parents brought with them when they fled Castro's Cuba. NORMA MALO: He was about a year and 10 months and he would stand in front of that record player. And at that time, I remember Frank Sinatra was famous for that song- [singing] Doobie, doobie doo- JOHN HOCKENBERRY: 'Strangers in the Night.' NORMA MALO: 'Strangers in the Night.' So he would- he would look at me and he said, 'Mom, doobie, doobie, doo.' JOHN HOCKENBERRY: One year, 10 months, he's doing Sinatra? NORMA MALO: He was listening to Sinatra. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: And doing him- 'doobie, doobie, do.' [crosstalk] NORMA MALO: Not doing- he was asking me, 'Mom, doobie, doobie, doo.' JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] Sinatra was fine for little kids, but as he got older, Raul wanted something more. RAUL MALO: I was about 8 years old and I saw the Elvis 'Aloha From Hawaii' special. ELVIS PRESLEY: [singing] Wise men say- RAUL MALO: He performed that night with that cape and kissing girls and playing music and shaking a leg and having fun. I said, 'That's what I want to do. I don't want to work.' You know, 'That's what I want to do. I don't want- that looks like a good job to have,' you know? NORMA MALO: And then the house started getting full with equipment and today it was one guitar and then it was a bass and then it was an amplifier. RAUL MALO, Sr.: An amplifier, another amplifier, another amplifier for the bass, another amplifier for the guitar, another guitar- NORMA MALO: And I said, 'Well, all right. That's it. Okay. We're going to have a whole room for your own,' so we gave him a studio. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: Oh, you really put your foot down, huh. RAUL MALO, Sr.: Yeah! JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] But in Miami in the '70s, an aspiring teenage musician who loved Elvis and hated disco was not terribly popular. And even at home, Raul was pretty much on his own. RAUL MALO, Sr.: We always tried to tell him, 'Raul, okay, but this is only temporary. When you are in the high school, you play your music. You play this, you play the other. But your real life's not going to be like this, you know. You're going to be a lawyer. You have to be an attorney. You have to be a CPA. You have to be an architect.' RAUL MALO: They always said, you know, 'Well, yeah, you can do the music thing, but you need something to fall back on.' I hated those words. That 'fall back on' meant that you would fail. I hate failing. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] So Raul began to look for musicians in Miami who loved the music he did. This was hard, but Raul found Robert Reynolds, Paul Deakin, Nick Kane. The Mavericks were soon the best-known local country band in south Florida, where they had little competition. But what they did have was a style that attracted attention far from Miami and the national offices of Tony Brown, president of MCA Records. TONY BROWN: My A& R person, at the time, she said, 'You've got to see these guys and you don't have time to come down here, so maybe we should bring them to Nashville. They want to come to Nashville and showcase.' JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] Brown agreed and flew the Mavericks to Nashville. It didn't take long for him to make up his mind. TONY BROWN: I saw these guys. They knocked me out. I'm serious. I was convinced, you know? That's what I do for a living, so I just responded to my instincts. RAUL MALO: He told us, 'Yeah, it's cool. Want you on our label.' 'What?' JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] The Mavericks' first album got critical acclaim and no air play, but the title track of

their current album, 'What a Crying Shame,' became a hit. The Mavericks were off and running. [interviewing] People recognize you? ROBERT REYNOLDS: Starting to happen. NICK KANE: We got into a truck stop. They see the bus. Cashier asks, 'Oh, you guys with the group?' And goes, 'Yeah.' 'What's the name of the band?' 'Mavericks.' And then the next trucker in line will go, [singing] 'Oh, what a crying shame'- just like that, you know? And that- that's kind of - PAUL DEAKIN: That was a good rendition, Nick. NICK KANE: Yeah. PAUL DEAKIN: You should sing leads. NICK KANE: I should sing, yeah. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] And he's not the only one who wants a shot at singing lead. NORMA MALO: [singing] Oh, what a crying shame- you want me to go on? No. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: Sure! NORMA MALO: No! JOHN HOCKENBERRY: And, of course, you sing a lot, Dad, right? RAUL MALO, Sr.: Oh, yeah. I sing. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: Yeah? NORMA MALO: Come on, Raul. Hum. Come on. RAUL MALO, Sr.: [singing] Oh, what a crying shame- NORMA MALO: Very good! Yeah! JOHN HOCKENBERRY: So there's a solid genetic basis for this music. NORMA MALO: Oh, the genes are there, definitely! JOHN HOCKENBERRY: Maybe more on one side of the family than the other? NORMA MALO: Definitely. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: Yeah. RAUL MALO, Sr.: But not that much because I got a good cousin that was a good singer, who- NORMA MALO: A cousin? RAUL MALO, Sr.: Well, a cousin, but- NORMA MALO: Raul has his grandfathers, his aunts, his mother! JOHN HOCKENBERRY: There's some disagreement between your mom and dad over whose side of the family is responsible for your musical talent. Could you resolve that? RAUL MALO: Sure. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: They do fight about it, right? RAUL MALO: Yeah. Definitely my mom's side. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: Dad might be a little crushed to hear that on national television. RAUL MALO: He- yeah, he will, but he'll get over it. MAVERICKS: [singing] It's funny how my whole world fell apart / I think I saw it coming from the start- JOHN HOCKENBERRY: [voice-over] So what are the Mavericks, a cult band, Cuban country crossover, rock-and-roll revival? None of the above. They're four guys with a maverick vision hoping to find a place in country music's future. [interviewing] Let's take a poll. ROBERT REYNOLDS: Okay. JOHN HOCKENBERRY: Who most believed that this band would make it? ROBERT REYNOLDS: Raul's mom. Norma! JOHN HOCKENBERRY: So is this the, you know, American dream story, here- family escapes from communism, comes to America, works really hard and raises a son to play the Grand Ol' Opry? RAUL MALO, Sr.: Yeah, unbelievable. MAVERICKS: [singing] 'Cause I believe the things she says to me, things she says to me- FORREST SAWYER: We'll be right back. ANNOUNCER: Still to come: She was the victim of a notorious murder. Tonight, Nicole Brown Simpson, when Day One continues. [Commercial break] Nicole's Story FORREST SAWYER: Since the murder of his former wife just over two weeks ago, we have heard more about the life of O.J. Simpson than we ever heard in his football days. But the figure who remains something of a mystery is Nicole Brown Simpson, who was killed, along with Ronald Goldman. Tonight, her story, told by people who knew her as a sister and a friend. Here's Ken Kashiwahara. KEN KASHIWAHARA, ABC News: [voice-over] It is a poignant picture: candles in Nicole Simpson's living room still flickering the morning after the murder, symbols, her friends say, of the romantic Nicole was and a clue to what she was planning the night before. But first, who was Nicole Simpson? She was blond and beautiful and living the California dream. FRIEND: Beyond beautiful. Just stunning. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] The quintessential lifestyle of the rich and famous. PHILIP CUMMINS, Club Owner: We all knew her by sight. Someone as striking as she was, you noticed. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] The personalized license plate on her Ferrari - 'L84AD8' - reflected her personality. NICOLE'S SISTER: She was a real romantic. She had a big zest for life. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] But beyond the beauty and the public image, we now know, her private life was punctuated by torment and terror. Nicole Simpson's dream was becoming a nightmare. 911: Okay, just stay on the line. NICOLE BROWN SIMPSON: I don't want to stay on the line! He's going to beat the shit out of me! 911: Wait a minute! Wait! Just stay on the line so we can know what's going on till the police get there, okay? KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Nicole Brown was raised in Southern California, the land of suntans, blondes and surfers. At Dana Hills High School, she was a homecoming princess. Some of her classmates thought she would become a model or a movie star, thought she was destined for big things. ROBERT TAEGER, former School Counselor: Nicole was an attractive young lady. She was very popular. I got the impression that she was going to go on to college. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Instead, after graduating from high school, she began working as a waitress. It was then that 18-year-old Nicole Brown met 30-year-old O.J. Simpson. For six years, Nicole and O.J. lived together, a life she described as lavish, this \$5 million house in Brentwood, as well as a beach house, a New York apartment. BRENT WILLIAMS: As beautiful as she was, she never seemed to flaunt it. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Brent Williams knew Nicole then. They modeled together. BRENT WILLIAMS: After we started doing the ads together, we became pretty comfortable working with each other and we would be in different embraces and looking very romantic and I think sometimes people even thought we were a couple. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] But even then, there were signs of O.J.'s jealousy. BRENT WILLIAMS: I had asked Nicole if O.J. was jealous about this and- and she just kind of smiled and said, 'He's jealous.' KEN KASHIWAHARA: Nicole and O.J. were married in February of 1985, but just a few months after that, police were called here, to the Simpson home. According to the investigating officer, Nicole was sitting on a car, crying, the windshield smashed. O.J. admitted he broke the windshield with a bat. [voice-over] In the years that followed, more calls to police, more complaints about O.J.'s behavior, including the now famous 1989 incident when Nicole ran out of the bushes, repeatedly yelling, 'He's going to kill me.' ROBERT L. PINGEL, Deputy City Attorney: She had swelling to her forehead. One of her eyes was like a black eye and her cheek was swelling. She had, I believe, a cut lip and scratches on her neck. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] O.J. dismissed the incident. O.J. SIMPSON: [ESPN, 1989] You know, we had a fight. We were both guilty. No one was hurt. It was no big deal and we got on with our life. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Football player Vance Johnson admits to a history of wife abuse and says he, too, denied the problem. He's now married for the third time and receives counseling. VANCE JOHNSON: Till my second wife told me that I was an abusive person and that I needed to get help, I didn't really realize it. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Ironically, Johnson says O.J. Simpson counseled him and helped straighten out his life. Was he surprised to learn that O.J. had the same problem? VANCE JOHNSON: I don't think I'm surprised by any- any allegations or anything that has to do with domestic violence and abuse that women are going through and the different men that are doing these things. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Friends of Nicole's say her life was controlled and dominated by her husband. His life was hers. In her divorce

document, she said, 'I only attended junior college for a very short time because O.J. wanted me to be available to travel with him, even if it was for a short period of time.' Nicole's friends say her marriage alternated between periods of loving bliss and emotional battering. LENORE WALKER: It's power and control, again. And for some men, it's an obsession. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Psychologist Lenore Walker has written a number of books on battered women. LENORE WALKER: Most battered women don't leave, for a variety of reasons. I think the most important reason is that leaving does not stop the violence. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] After they separated, Nicole moved into this house about a half mile from O.J.'s. Even then, her friends say, O.J. was jealous and possessive. Dave Bursin says a few years ago he, Nicole and a group of their friends were at the Mezzaluna Restaurant when O.J. walked in. DAVE BURSIN: He put his hand on my shoulder and I turned around and he said, 'Hi. I'm O.J. and we're not divorced yet,' just like that. Turned around and walked out. And Nicole walked out after him and my friend, who I was sitting next to, and I looked at each other and went, 'Wow.' KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] After her divorce in 1992, Nicole Simpson tried to lead her own life. She and her friends regularly visited this nightclub. PHILIP CUMMINS: She actually was one of those people who, at the end of the evening, when you bring up the lights at 2:00 o'clock, would still be here. So she really enjoyed herself, had a good time. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Still the jealousy continued. Day One has learned that about a year ago, O.J. flew into a rage while he and Nicole were on a double date at this sushi restaurant in Hermosa Beach just south of Los Angeles. Nicole, according to eyewitnesses, had just mentioned the name of an old boyfriend. TONY WAYBRIGHT, Restaurant Manager: He just all of a sudden got up from his seat, stormed out cursing, calling the girls 'bitches' or whatever. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Hermosa Beach police confirm they were called to the scene, but never wrote a report. And in a 911 call last October, Nicole said O.J. kicked in the door of her house. NICOLE BROWN SIMPSON: He broke the back door down to get in before- 911: Okay. Wait a minute. What's your name? NICOLE BROWN SIMPSON: Nicole Simpson. 911: Okay. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] He told police that he had become upset after seeing a picture of her former boyfriend, even though O.J. was dating other women. LENORE WALKER: Jealousy is perhaps the most common feature we see in men who are abusive and who need power and control and who use violence to get that power and control, particularly with obsessive men. KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] There were attempts at reconciliation. Friends say just three months ago Nicole, O.J. and their children spent time together in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, describing Nicole and O.J. as romantic and affectionate. But it didn't last. DAVE BURSIN: He was, once again, very possessive of her and didn't want her to talk to her old- her old- to, you know, male friends and- he never contacted me, but he does- I do know people he's- he contacted and said, you know, 'Don't- don't talk to Nicole. Stay away from Nicole.' KEN KASHIWAHARA: [voice-over] Because of O.J.'s jealousy, Nicole's friends have told ABC News, she would only date when O.J. was out of town, which brings us back to the candles. Nicole's friends insist the only time she lit them in the living room was when she was expecting a date. They do not know if that was Ron Goldman. What they do know is a few hours later, he and Nicole Brown Simpson were dead. Her dream and her nightmare had ended. FORREST SAWYER: As to the charges and the evidence against O.J. Simpson, a preliminary hearing will be held on Thursday to determine if the case should go to trial. ABC News will provide live coverage. [Commercial break] FORREST SAWYER: One program note. Wednesday on Turning Point with Peter Jennings- how do you solve a murder? Ask Kansas City's murder squad, an elite force that solves more murders than just about any other police department in the country. And later tonight on Nightline, the shake-up at the White House. But that's our broadcast for tonight. I'm Forrest Sawyer. For all of us here at ABC News, good night.

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