



REWARD
\$50,000.00

FOR INFORMATION ON
 THE MURDER OF

CHRISTOPHER WALLACE
 AKA: "NOTORIOUS B.I.G."
 ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1997

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT MAY 15 1997

THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND CHRISTOPHER'S FAMILY ARE OFFERING A MONETARY REWARD FOR THE INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF EARL ROYCE BROWN, AKA: "NOTORIOUS B.I.G."



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before Kim, Faith and Charli came Jan, she's the woman who stood by her man—from his hustling days through his rise as rap phenomenon. In an exclusive interview, the mother of Biggie's first child bares all.

NEVER let me down

interview dara cook
images christian lantry

notorious B.I.G. only gave his daughter the spotlight. She was the one promised five-carat earrings in "Juicy," the toddler he held in the video and the first person he thanked on the *Ready To Die* liner notes ("This album is dedicated to my daughter T'yanna"). Meanwhile, the woman who gave birth to T'yanna, Big's former girlfriend of four and half years, Jan, didn't get her "Thank you" until 100-plus names later, buried between shout-outs to 500 Washington Ave. and Karl Kani.

This woman, who only wants to be known by her first name, calls herself Christopher Wallace's "quiet, in-the-dark, baby mother"—a description that's more apropos than she may know. Jan was with Christopher Wallace when that was his only name, before the lights got brighter and the women got lighter. She is the forgotten woman, that offhand reference in rhyme, the extra geometry that couldn't fit into Biggie's Kim-Faith-Charli love quadrangle.

She has the articulation of a schoolteacher, and is funny with a "fuck it" attitude. (She spent much of the interview unraveling her extensions and piling the used hair on a den table). She seems like Big's sister, a person you'd imagine him gravitating to before the riches and fame magnetized other types. Jan is one of his few loved ones to refer to him by his real name, and the thoughts she attaches to it tend to be present-tense ("Chris is so cocky!").

But she's not stuck in a time warp. Last year, she married a good friend. ("He helped me get through Chris' death," she says.) She's now a stay-at-home mom, abiding among the rural calm of fields the size of Brooklyn blocks, attending soccer practice, shoveling snow and living next to Big's mother Voletta Wallace. Five years ago, Jan moved into a home next to Ms. Wallace's crib in the Poconos so T'yanna could be closer to her father's closest kin. Sitting amidst pictures of Biggie and their now 10-year-old daughter, Jan talks, for the first time in a publication, about her relationship with him, her claim to one of his classics, the women he's loved and what one of the greatest rappers of all time said in what may have been the last phone call of his life.

XXL: Tell us about the day you met Big.

Jan: There's a part in the "Juicy" video where he's talking on the phone and his friend is doing push-ups. I met him right at that phone. We grew up a block apart in Bed-Stuy, but we never met until January of 1990. I came out of the subway from work and I stopped to use the phone and he approached. "I always see you getting off the train, you always so *serious*—why don't you smile?" He came in the telephone booth with me, and I'm like, "Can you please leave? I don't know you!" After that, every day when I got off the train, he would walk me up the block to my house. It was really sweet.

What was the first year of your relationship like?

Filled with drama. There was always some woman lurking around the corner, or some woman's phone number [that I was finding]. When you look back, it's so funny. I can't count how many girls I approached.

So he was a bad boy before Bad Boy?

He always had the women. It wasn't about the money. This man had charisma out the wazoo. I don't care what anybody says about his looks, his weight. There's something about his personality that makes him able to pull almost any woman that he wants. That didn't start after the money, it was that way in the beginning.

But despite all this, you still got serious.

I moved out of my mother's house to live with him at his mother's house. We probably lived together for over a year, [not including the time] that he went to North Carolina.

During that time, were you aware that he had a talent for rhyming?

His friends would tell me about different battling escapades, but he would never rap in front of me. He would express other talents in

front of me. The man had such a talent for drawing! He would draw me pictures of things and make 'em into a ghetto style. But he wasn't one to pursue a rap career. If they wanted Chris, they would have to come to Chris. He's a very cocksure person.

Tell us about the birth of your daughter, T'yanna.

Around the time my daughter was conceived, Chris got his record deal. We weren't getting along, and I moved back in with my mother. He was working on his album, so we weren't spending a lot of time together. We finally broke up when my daughter was eight months old. He got married [to Faith Evans] three months later.

That hurts.

I was shocked when he got married. Up until that point, I still had hope alive. He was still coming to see me, we were still interacting with each other. I really thought I was going along for the ride. We were such kindred spirits. I had this

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impression that nothing would come between us, but I guess rap came between us. Maybe it was, "I'm a rapper now and I can have anyone I want to and I'm gonna take advantage of it."

It seemed like all the women he was with from that point on were much lighter than the both of you. Do you think he was color-struck?

Probably. Because I see the same thing everyone else sees: after me I never saw him with another dark-skinned woman. That's where the animosity came in, like, *These people are gonna dog the shit out of you and you're gonna see who really loved you.*

You say you're the "in-the-dark" baby's mother. Did Big ever give you any shine in his lyrics?

There are references to an inside joke we had in "Suicidal Thoughts." [From *Ready To Die*: "My baby momma kissed me but she glad I'm gone/She knew me and her sister had some-thin' goin' on."] And "#! *@ You Tonight." [From *Life After Death*: "At the Marriott, we be lucky if we find a spot/Next to yo' sister, damn I really missed the way she used to rub my back, when I hit that/Way she used to giggle when yo' ass would wiggle."] It was a joke between us. Because my sister had walked in on us having sex at least three times, and we used to kid that she was getting in on the act.

But there was one record that was all about me. When we were living together he came home one day and said, "I recorded a song for you today." I told him to stop playing, but he was like, "You'll see." Then I heard "Me & My Bitch."

I knew you were gonna say that one! But how much of that was truth? When you talked slick did he really "beat you right"?

I didn't get my ass kicked, but we have physically fought. When he went to North Carolina, I was right there helping him when he was bagging his drugs. It was the truth. I love the song. That's my theme song, my stake of claim.

What was your relationship like after Big married Faith?

Six months might pass and I wouldn't see him, but we would talk on the phone. When he got into his car accident [in September of 1996], he had a girlfriend, a wife and a mistress—so why was I the one taking care of him? Ms. Wallace told me he wanted Jan. He said he didn't ask anyone else to take care of him because he wanted someone he knew was doing it because they wanted to, and not because they expected something when it was over. He couldn't walk. His hip was shattered. Up until a month before he passed, he was strictly from the bed to physical therapy. And when he did go to the bathroom he needed someone to help him.

That was just before his death. The last time you talked to him, did you sense any danger?

I knew something was wrong that night of the *Soul Train Awards* because he called me out of the blue. We would always speak, but this was a day when he was in California. He'd just performed, and was taking care of business, so I wasn't expecting to hear from him. I had a couple of friends over and we had all watched the show when he called. We were joking around and he was like, "Did you see me? Did I look sexy?" And I was like, "You know you looked sexy, baby." Then we started talking about T'yanna and he said, "I really miss my baby. I don't have her out here with me. I feel so lonely out here and I know I'm not gonna see her for a while." I told him to call me in the next week so we could make a plan for one of his girlfriends at the time, Tiffany [a.k.a. "Charli Baltimore"], to take T'yanna with her when she visited him. I told him I know he was gonna be gone for a while, and I didn't want him to lose his bond. Then we hung up. And a couple of hours later, my phone was ringing with the news.

Do you think that was his last phone call?

Amongst the people I know, it was. After [calling me], he left to go to the after-party. I know he didn't speak to Tiffany, Kim or Faith because he had been in arguments with all of them. Out of the women in his life, I was the last phone call he made.

What about his mother?

I don't think so.

You and Ms. Wallace flew to LA together to meet Faith and make funeral arrangements. Now you live right next door to each other. You two must be close.

No. Other than, we don't have a relationship. [Up until] a year and a half ago, we had a beautiful relationship. Everything was me and Ms. Wallace, including decisions that needed to be made about my daughter.



What happened?

All I wanna say is that we went through some personal issues.

Okay, but you can't avoid your next-door neighbor. When you see each other in the driveway, do you speak, do you wave?

No.

Lil' Kim fought to split Big's ashes with Faith. They share them now, right? Do you think Kim has a right to those ashes?

This man never claimed her in the media or in front of anybody. I definitely heard through the hood grapevine that they were sleeping together, but I never heard it from him. I knew about his girlfriend Tiffany, and his wife Faith. I'm not saying he didn't have a relationship with Kim, but it wasn't to the degree that she thought it was—to be asking for ashes. Sometimes you have to know your position and play it.

But she makes it sound like they go way back. Like they were as tight as you two.

I first heard of her when he got his rap deal. "Lil' Kim raps so I'm trying to get her and Junior M.A.F.I.A. together and help them along." [Before that] I knew of her, but I didn't know of her connection with him.

How do you feel about Faith—the woman he legally claimed, the mother of his second child?

Me and Faith are cool. I have to give her respect because she didn't show me any animosity when we met up in California [after B.I.G. was murdered]. I felt like she embraced me like, "We both going through something." From there, we were able to build a good relationship. She calls me, I call her, and our kids speak to each other.

You've got a house with a truck in the driveway. You've got a free schedule to take T'yanna to private school and soccer practice. This is a far cry from taking the subway after work to Bed-Stuy. Even though Chris is not here, he takes very good care of his daughter.

What about Puffy? Some of the proceeds from "I'll Be Missing You" go to T'yanna, right?

That's her school trust fund.

We know T'yanna can't remember much about her father, but do you see any of Big in your daughter?

When her [paternal] great-grandmother comes

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up from Jamaica in the summertime, she's so amused by T'yanna. Some of the things T'yanna says border on rude, but her great-grandmother's like, "Every time she opens her mouth, she's just like Christopher!"

What do you miss most about Big, and the relationship you shared?

He brought out the best in me. I knew that anything I wanted to accomplish, he would back me up on it. I miss that he was my fall guy. I knew if everything in my life was going wrong, he would do anything. I would call and he would do everything he could to make it right.

Was he your first love?

I did not know what love was

before I met him. I thought I did, but I didn't.

Do you think you were you his first love?

I can't say that, because that man loved a lot. I don't wanna toot my own horn, and then somebody else will be in the magazine saying, "I was his first love!" But I will say I do believe he loved me. I will say that. ♠