



## Beth Karas' exclusive interview with Rachel Wade

By Beth Karas

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I had a rare opportunity earlier this week to sit down with Rachel Wade. After lengthy negotiations, the jail personnel agreed to an in-person meeting and selected a cavernous room that looked like a small warehouse within the jail complex for us to meet. A "contact" visit is a break from the normal procedures. Daily visits by family and friends of the inmates are by video conference only.

It was late Tuesday morning by the time Rachel walked across the yard from the building that has been home for the past 17 months, accompanied by two deputies. She had her hair pulled back, wore a

dark blue jail-issued, oversized shirt and pants with socks and plastic slip-on sandals. Although she was being recorded for television, the rules didn't permit makeup. An "inmate" identification tag was fastened to the front of her shirt.

I asked, and was granted, permission to shake her hand before we started to talk. She was not handcuffed or shackled. We had placed a bottle of water next to Rachel's chair before she arrived but quickly learned that a plastic bottle was verboten. Instead, a deputy poured the water into a cup for her.

Rachel was remarkably composed during most of the interview. Not surprisingly, she cried as she relived that night and described how sorry she was to have taken Sarah away from her parents. She cried when she spoke of her own parents and told me they are the most important part of her life. Her greatest wish is to go home to them one day.

When Rachel broke down as she talked about the night she fatally stabbed Sarah in a love triangle, I reached for a packet of tissues in my bag to give her one. I was not allowed to hand it to her; rather I had to give the packet to a deputy who removed one tissue for Rachel.

For months Rachel has reflected on why she's locked up. She recognizes now that she lacked self-respect in allowing the man in the middle, Joshua Camacho, to control her and fuel the mounting tension between her and Sarah. If given the chance one day, she would lecture young women about the importance of maintaining self-respect. If "you allow things like this to go on and then it will escalate into problems and you never know what you're getting yourself into and then you subject yourself to the life I'm living now...You never know what could happen and it's a life-changing situation that's ahead of you, or that's possible, and girls don't realize that."

# Beth Karas

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Rachel was due back in court in three days for the sentencing hearing. She told me she expects Sarah's family to say things that are going to hurt her. She, too, will speak. To the judge, she hopes he will understand that "I was a young girl. I'm not a horrible person. I'm not the monster everybody tries to make me out to be...give me another chance."

Rachel believes that God and Sarah have already forgiven her and hopes that one day Sarah's parents will forgive her too.