 Resource 09

The context of Serial

Baltimore Characteristics

Koenig: Baltimore County is like this, at least on the west side. It's where a lot of middle class and working class people go, many immigrants included, to get their kids out of the badass city. Though the badass city is close by.

Koenig: It’s huge, over 1000 acres. On the western edge of Baltimore city. It’s got a reputation and not for the beauty of its woods or its trails or its nature center. What it’s known for, sadly, is its dead bodies. Mention Leakin Park to people from Baltimore as I often did, and you’re pretty much guaranteed to get a comment like this.

Unidentified Man: While you’re digging in Leakin Park to bury your body, you’re gonna find somebody else’s. That’s Leakin Park.

Koenig: When I told a rental car guy in west Baltimore I was working on a story about a girl who was found in Leakin Park, he said, “Oh yeah? My uncle was found dead in Leakin Park.” A macabre website dedicated to Baltimore murders lists sixty-eight bodies found there since 1946, though the list is missing at least seven years of stats and that number is probably low.

Koenig: One guy says, “We moved from a very peaceful town in Oregon to a violent community,” and Judge Quarles says, “Welcome to Baltimore.”

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