
An Interview with Sky Bouche

Transcribed by AYSHA LONICH, M.ED.

This is a transcript of Sky Bouche speaking to reporters at the Marion County Jail on 20 April 2018, the day of his attack.

REPORTER What do you have to say to people who are out there — who are scared because of what you did today?

BOUCHE Uh, I don't know if it is going to make it any better or not. I can say sorry all I want, but doesn't matter now.

REPORTER Do you feel sorry? Do you feel remorseful?

BOUCHE Yeah. That's why I put down the gun. I could have kept going. There was no officers there to stop me. I put it down because there was a girl there. She didn't run from me. She just, you know, I shot through the door. I could have shot her, but I just, I don't know ... I just couldn't do it. So I just shot through the door. She was walking and crying and walking away, but it just made me throw down the gun instead of bumping it. I kept, you know, instead of shooting through more doors, I stopped and gave myself up to the teacher.

REPORTER Now that this has ended the way that it did, what do you have to say to the seventeen-year-old who was hurt?

BOUCHE I didn't see him, but ...

REPORTER So that was unintentional what happened there?

BOUCHE It was just through the door, but I heard someone screaming like they were hurt, because I've never heard that scream before, so ... but what I got to say to him is nothing, just he's going to think whatever he wants about me, I don't know.

REPORTER Are you sorry for hurting him?

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BOUCHE Yeah, but he can hate me all he wants. Doesn't matter anymore.

REPORTER You say that you have a mental health problem. That's something, I mean, do you want help for that?

BOUCHE It's not really my mental, or disease or anything like that. It's just being around stuff that, you know, that a child shouldn't be around. My first memory is violence and conflict. That's my first memory, and no one will believe me. That's one of the reasons people don't take me serious. I tell people, one of my first memories was violence and conflict, they don't believe me, but ...

REPORTER Sky, how did you get a gun?

BOUCHE I was watching *Vice News*, and they showed ways how to get a gun without a background check. They showed gun shows, which they do require background checks, but then they showed this website called Armsless.com, where you can get private sales with anyone in your state. It's instant messaging, so you're not like buying guns online. You're just meeting people to sell you the guns, and that's how I got it.

REPORTER That's how you got it?

BOUCHE Yes, sir.

REPORTER Do you feel that you should have had a gun?

BOUCHE No, sir.

REPORTER What do you foresee in your future now, after today?

BOUCHE Uh, solitary.

REPORTER Is there any kind of message that you want to send, your side of this?

BOUCHE I don't know. I don't think there is anything to say, because it's just a storm, you know, there's nothing you can do to prevent it. When you got tornados coming through, you don't know if this wind is going to make a tornado or just, you know, like breeze. So no one knows. And that's just the way it's going to be.

REPORTER Okay. Were you ever abused at all, or anything, whether it be physical or emotional?

BOUCHE I was just around mental illness my whole life, but I wasn't hit or anything. It was probably just neglect a lot.

REPORTER So your mental illness ... um ...

BOUCHE I'm not mentally ill. I'm more of uh ...

REPORTER I'm just saying, were you around ...

BOUCHE Yes, a lot of bipolar, schizophrenic people in my family that are violent and scream pretty much on a daily basis.

REPORTER And you want to just get away from that?

BOUCHE I was going to join the Marine Corps, but I was Baker Acted¹ at fourteen years old, so that's prevented me from getting into the military and getting away from them.

REPORTER So did you see this as your only way out of your situation?

BOUCHE Pretty much, yeah.

REPORTER And walk me through this morning when you got up to when the incident happened.

BOUCHE I woke up, I took my sawed-off shotgun, I chambered one of the shells in, because it only holds three rounds, so I put another one in the tube, put it away. And

1 "Baker Acted" refers to Florida's Baker Act; the meaning is that Bouche had been involuntarily committed to an institution for mental health reasons.

pretty much the only thing I'm feeling at this time is just adrenaline rush. It's not anger. It's not hatred. It's just this adrenaline rush, that you know, I'm about to just do something and you know, I spend most of my time in a room alone. So I'm like getting this rush, so that's what I was feeling. But until I actually got to the school, you know, the excitement built and it built and it built, and I realized there's no resource officers around. There's no one to stop me, like I thought there would be. And I just got into the bathroom. I took my time putting on my gloves, my tactical vest, but as soon as I walked ...

REPORTER You went into the bathroom, you said?

BOUCHE Yes.

REPORTER And then you put on all your gear?

BOUCHE Everyone would've just got into the classroom. It just started, so ... they ... and then as soon as I stepped out the bathroom, the excitement just like went to like a dead halt, and I just, and it felt like this disgusting feeling came over me, like I didn't know what to do, just confused.

REPORTER Well, you did go through and fire the one shot?

BOUCHE Yeah, I didn't know what to do and just figured, you know, if people are just going to see, oh this guy is just coming in with a toy gun, so I ... I didn't even think the gun would work. That's why I pointed it at the door. So you know, I just shot, and at first I just saw a hole. I couldn't hear right away, but then, you know, as soon as I saw ...

REPORTER Are you at least thankful no one ...

BOUCHE Yeah, I'm very thankful that. I asked, you know, everyone I could that, because I didn't even know I hit someone; the news reporter said, "Did you know that kid?" And I'm like, I don't know what you're talking about.

REPORTER When did you order the gun? When did you get the gun?

BOUCHE Uh, I went on Armsless. They did this uh ... The news was showing this after the Valentine's Day massacre at Parkland, and that's how they ... so it was around that time.

REPORTER Around that time you ordered it?

BOUCHE Yeah, right before the age went up to twenty-one. That's when I got it.

REPORTER And when did you actually get the gun? It came in the mail?

BOUCHE No, no. I went to the guy's house.

REPORTER You went to the guy's house.

BOUCHE It's a private sale.

REPORTER So you did a private sale?

BOUCHE Yes. And the gun, it was, it's a 1930s shotgun, so there's no papers on it.

REPORTER And when did you get it basically?

BOUCHE I don't remember the exact date but around ...

REPORTER But, like a couple of weeks after, three weeks?

BOUCHE Yeah, like a week after.

REPORTER A week. So a week after the Parkland shooting?

BOUCHE Yeah, around there.

REPORTER So it hasn't been long that you've been planning this?

BOUCHE I don't have these like sort of fantasies towards hatreds, towards people, unless I get really depressed. And I was training martial arts before this. I was training

Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and I was feeling, you know, I wasn't depressed or anything, but I just didn't have any friends, and as soon as I got a knee injury, you know, I'm alone in my house and there's nothing to do, so the depression and the rage came back. And you know, I just, I didn't express it. I couldn't express it and violence in a martial arts place, so I expressed it in violence in public, which I shouldn't have done.

REPORTER Are you a former student of that school?

BOUCHE Yes, sir.

REPORTER What happened? Did you drop out or ... ?

BOUCHE Yeah, I was just, you know, contemplating my Baker Acting, because I still didn't know if I could join the military or not, like I haven't gone to the recruiters yet, but then I went to the recruiters and they told me, you know, if you're Baker Acted or did any drugs we can't take you. And that's when I flipped out and, you know, just dropped out.

REPORTER When did you drop out from school?

BOUCHE Uh, it was 2016.

REPORTER 2016. And you haven't been to any formal schooling since?

BOUCHE No, sir.

REPORTER Unless you have anything else you want to say ...

BOUCHE No.

REPORTER Or anything to your family?

BOUCHE No.

REPORTER Do you have any brothers or any sisters?

BOUCHE I've got nothing to say. [SS.I]