

Young Ivy League Grad Arrested After Health Care CEO Shooting

**Jamie Foxx
Reveals Stroke
'I Don't Remember
20 Days'**

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Cancer led Princess Kate to reevaluate her priorities. But now, as King Charles continues treatment, she must prepare to be Queen

December 23, 2024

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rfannah-described by those who kno, \lterns o
rrec spirit - has become the focus of a headline-
making viral mystery that bc an after she missed
her connecting Oight 1n Los Angeles on Nov. 8
\While traveling from 1nu1 to New York City.
Over four days (sec timeline) she wandered the
streets of Los Angeles nnd sent friends and family
menlbers cryptic, troubling text messages ("Deep
Hnckers \vipe<my identity, stole o.lbf my funds.

Hannah (left, in 2022) vanished after crossing the border on Nov. 12. "We are trying to remain hopeful," says her aunt Larie Pidgeon.

DID SHE REALLY WANT TO DISAPPEAR?

MISSED A FLIGHT AND VANISHED, HER FAMILY IS CONVINCED SHE'S
INSIST SHE SIMPLY DOESN'T WANT TO BE FOUND **BY JOHNNY DODD**

& have had her on a mind f-- since Fridnyft she wrote to one friend). Then she ditched her cell phone and cut off all contact

Amid the family's search efforts, her father, Ryan Kobayashi, died by suicide (see sidebar). Along with Hannah's mom, Brandi Yee, and sister Sydne Kobayashi, told the media that they feared the aspiring photographer had fallen prey to human traffickers. But after hundreds of hours of investigative work by LAPD detectives—which included locating surveillance video footage of her border crossing—police say that she willingly chose to disappear. "To date, the investigation has not uncovered any evidence that Kobayashi is being trafficked or is the victim of foul play," LAPD chief Jim McDonnell said during a Dec. 2 press conference. "She has a right to her privacy, and we respect her choices, but we also understand the concern her loved ones feel for her."

Only Hannah knows why she chose not to board her connecting flight to N.Y.C. after a 45-minute layover on Nov. 8. She was traveling to visit relatives and photograph a concert with an ex-boyfriend, who made his connection, using nonrefundable tickets she'd purchased before their breakup in August. "She was so excited for the trip," recalls Pidgeon. For the next four days in between, she sent her aunt updates detailing her efforts to rebook her flight, while also making cryptic references to an "intense spiritual awakening" she'd experienced, along with "Matrix underworlds," she chided to bedevil with. None of it made sense to those who knew her. Her worried family finally filed a missing

'Our world for Hannah's safety has not lessened'
— LARIE PIDGEON

person report on the evening of Nov. 11. But by then, unbeknownst to them, she had returned to LAX to retrieve her suitcase, inexplicably stopped using her cell phone and made her way to LA's Union Station, with a homeless man she'd befriended. There she purchased a bus ticket to the border.

The story of her disappearance quickly exploded on social media, with the Facebook group "Help Us Find Hannah" attracting 25,000 members. As the weeks passed, that story slowly became more convoluted. *Los Angeles* magazine published a report with unnamed sources that suggested Hannah, as previously involved in a green-card marriage scam with a man from Argentina. (The family has since

DESPERATE SEARCH
Volunteers put up fliers in L.A. on Nov. 21 before police discovered she went to Mexico. Her family "is in shock and so concerned," says their lawyer.

said they have "not confirmed ... the accuracy" of the claim.) Donors to a GoFundMe page began questioning where their money was going if Hannah wasn't in danger. And the LAPD's investigation seemed to confirm that perhaps Hannah's disappearance wasn't quite so mysterious after all. "We heard from friends that what has happened before," says Lt. Douglas Oldfield of the LAPD's Missing Persons Unit. "And she did write a text that she wasn't coming back [to Maui] and that someone would have to take care of her stuff." Police tracked down the homeless man, who said she didn't seem scared during her final night in L.A. Hannah had multiple opportunities to notify individuals if she had been under duress," says LAPD deputy chief Alan Hanilton.

While thankful for the LAPD's help, the family refused to accept their plan that Hannah walked away from her life voluntarily. "They're absolutely convinced that there is nothing voluntary about Hannah doing this," says the family's attorney and spokeswoman Sara Azari. "What would she plan a trip, text her uncle about it and say, 'I'm on my way,' then just go off the grid?"

Hannah's worried friends and family hold out hope that she is safe and are getting to work jump-starting search efforts in Mexico. The group plans to drum up coverage for her in the Mexican media and get a volunteer team together to comb the region, says Azari. "It's not over." They have their work cut out for them—the LAPD is no longer looking for her, and local authorities have yet

HER FATHER'S SUICIDE

Thirteen days after Hannah's father, Ryan Kobayashi, arrived in L.A. to help search for Hannah, he died by suicide. "I wasn't too close with her growing up... I'm just trying to make up," Ryan (above right, on Nov. 21) told CNN before his death. "I'm trying to get her back. That's my main focus." Larie Pidgeon, his former sister-in-law, believes that the case took a toll on his mental health. "He died of a broken heart," says Pidgeon.

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988, text "STRENGTH" to the Crisis Text Line at 741741, or go to 988lifeline.org.

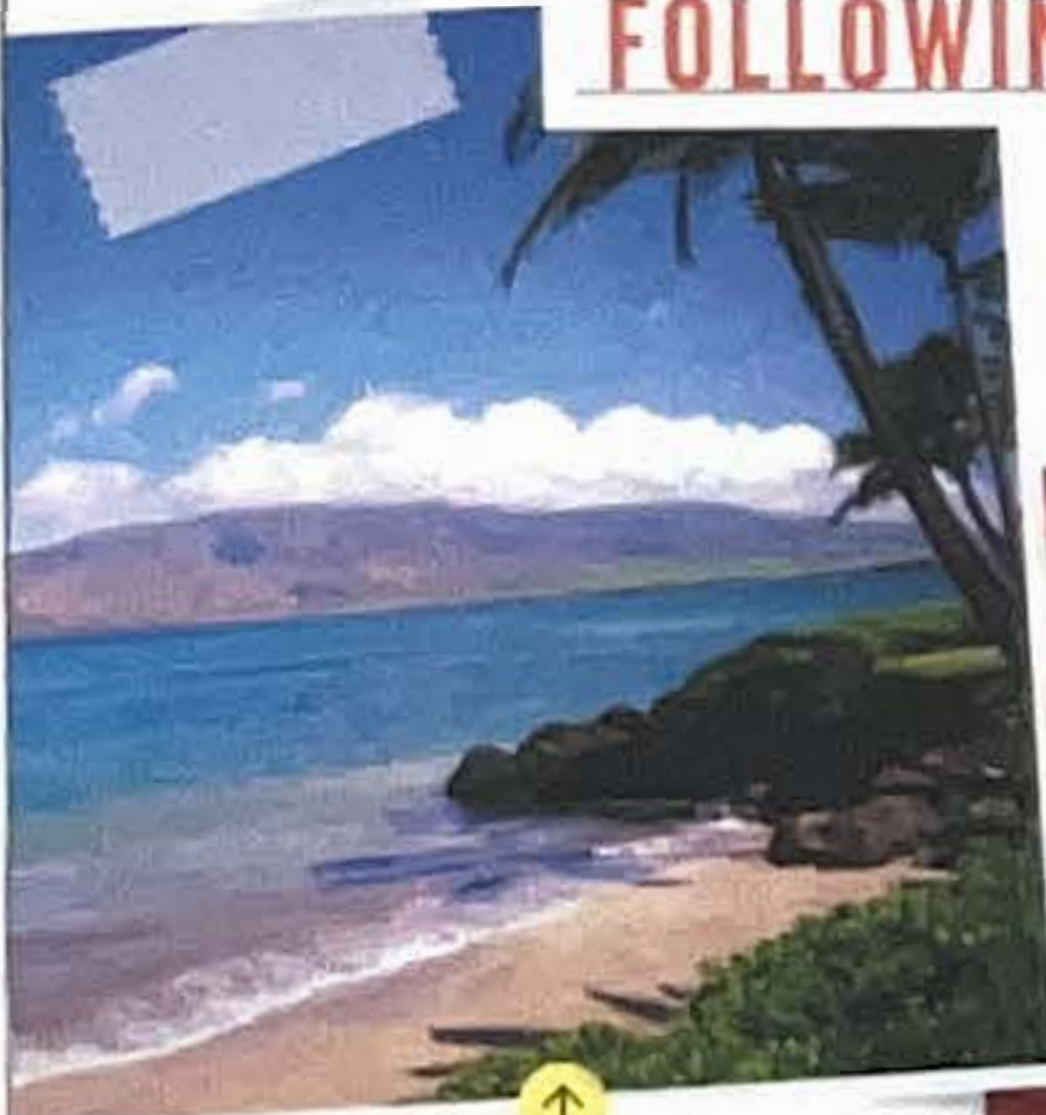
to get involved. "This is the first I've heard about her," Guillermo Manjarrez, commander of the State Police Binational Unit in Tijuana, told *People* on Dec. 5. "No one is looking for her here."

With reporting by HELEN I. HWAHG, WENDY GROSSMAN KANTOR and CHRISTINE PELISEK

FOLLOWING HER TRAIL

VANISHING IN L.A.

Hannah was seen outside the Nike store at the Grove on Nov. 10, two days after missing her connecting flight.



HER ISLAND HOME

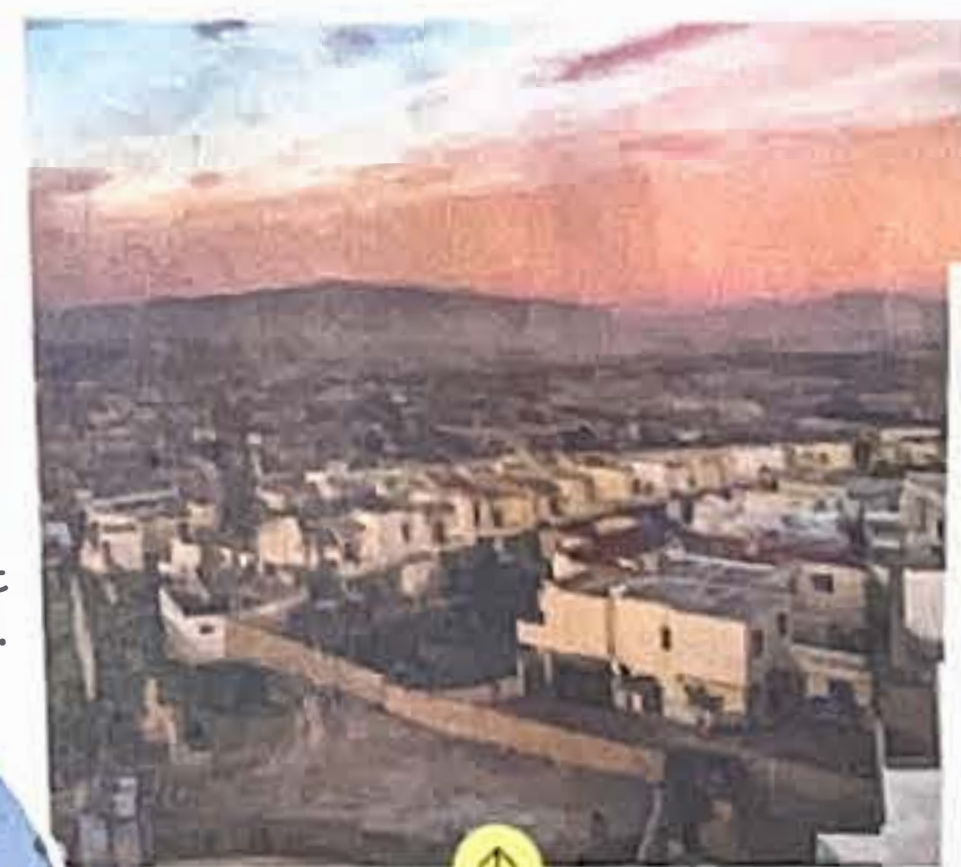
Friends in Maui said Hannah described her planned trip to N.Y.C. on Nov. 8 as a "bucket list" vacation.



SPOTTED BACK AT LAX

A security camera showed Hannah on Nov. 11 when she returned to Los Angeles International Airport to retrieve her suitcase.

IF IT'S THE U.S.
She purchased a Sedex bus ticket at L.A.'s Union Station at 6:10 a.m. on Nov. 12 after spending the night at the facility. Roughly four hours later she arrived at the border.



VANISHED IN TIJUANA

Video footage revealed that Hannah walked over the border into Tijuana at 12:13 p.m. on Nov. 12.

LAPD PRESS CONFERENCE

"We urge Ms. Kobayashi to contact her family," LAPD chief Jim McDonnell said on Dec. 2.

