

14 Jonas Slonaker

FRIEND. I know what really happened, I've talked with people, I know what really happened. It was drugs.

JIM OSBORNE. And I looked at her and I said, "You were eight when Matt was killed. How in the hell do you know what really happened. You were eight and not living in this town. But somehow you know?"

REGGIE FLUTY. Yeah, I've heard about people who say it wasn't a hate crime.

NARRATOR. Reggie Fluty.

REGGIE FLUTY. Nobody says that to me. And if they do, it gets shut down so fast. I won't discuss it. It's not an option, it's bullshit and I'm not wasting my time or theirs.

MOMENT: *BOOMERANG* #3 — THE STORY WE'VE TOLD OURSELVES

JONAS SLONAKER. I waited all week for the *Laramie Boomerang* to print my letter. And it finally got to the next Sunday and it never appeared. And there was a letter from a guy lamenting the fact that not enough people are coming to the football games and I was like, "Well jeez there's plenty of room for my letter" (*Fighting tears.*) they just didn't do it. And I said to my partner Bill, we're in this little world where everything's OK, like in our neighborhood and in our jobs, but there's all these people around us that are thinkin' this shit. And, I had to go out to the prairie, I drove out and screamed until my throat hurt. I just had to get it out of me. It really broke my spirit when they refused to print my letter. What am I gonna do with this? You know, what AM I gonna do with this?

JEFFREY LOCKWOOD. Laramie had this moment.

NARRATOR. Jeffrey Lockwood.

JEFFREY LOCKWOOD. There was a moment of self-reflection, but it was just too frightening. The Matthew Shepard murder flies in the face of who we are, the story we've told ourselves, and so you've either got to radically adjust your story or you've got to throw out the data. And so far what we've done is throw out the data.

REGGIE FLUTY. Shame is a funny thing. It makes you really