

Interview #1: Jenn

Emily: Hello guys, it's Emily here for Legends of the Superstitions in an additional segment for the podcast that's something like some fieldwork. I've reached out to several people who knew Rose Chavez well and organized professional interviews with them to give you an idea of who this girl was, and what clues we may have missed.

Today's first interview features Jenn

(pause)

Jenn: Oh. Hi. Yeah. Sorry.

Emily: For reasons of personal privacy Jenn has requested her last name be retracted but what she is willing to share is that she was a fellow counselor alongside Rose at Canyon Lake Summer Camp.

Jenn: Yep.

Emily: For how long?

Jenn: I've been there for three season now, this would have been Rose's fifth.

Emily: Jenn has some personal anecdotes and accounts she's consented to sharing with us and possibly some answers to questions I've compiled. Ready to get to it?

Jenn: Yeah, fire away.

Emily: What exactly was your professional and personal relationship with Rose? Respectively.

Jenn: Well professionally I guess she was technically my boss? We had the same title but she'd been there longer and kind of took charge. She was very good at giving orders. Personally? We weren't close friends or anything but we hung out once or twice outside camp stuff.

Emily: How many hikes had you been on with her?

Jenn: Way too many to count. She was kind of like my mentor I guess—that's a better way of putting it. She definitely taught me some stuff about the wilderness.

Emily: Like?

Jenn: Well, the biggest thing about hiking is that skill isn't really a part of it. How well you can climb over a rock is pointless if you don't know which rock to climb over and which one to stay

away from. Hiking is all about wisdom, she gave me a lot of that. She was really into being everyone's outdoors guru. The kids at the camp loved it.

Emily: A lot of people said she had a very specific joy about hiking.

Jenn: Oh yeah, that girl could get a runner's high off of just like a mile on a trail. She wanted to go to school for it.

Emily: She was going to be pre-med though?

Jenn: Well yeah. I guess that's where things kind of got weird? Like, our Easter hike she was a crazy different person.

Emily: What do you mean?

Jenn: She was quiet, not popping off fun facts every five minutes. I knew school was a big annoyance for her so I think that might have been it. And I know she was feeling some serious pressure to do pre-med but was crazy about going up to Boulder, Colorado for an environmental science program.

Emily: Really?

Jenn: Yeah. She was hyped on it but—well, it's kind of hard to phrase it without sounding mean or disrespectful.

Emily: Try your best, we can edit it out.

Jenn: Well, I know her parents were the ones making her do pre-med. She didn't really confide in me or anything, but it came up off hand once or twice. I didn't think it was bumming her out so much until I saw how different she was during our last big hike.

Emily: Quiet?

Jenn: Yeah. She even got ahead of us sometimes and we had to get her to wait up. She never chugs ahead of anyone, she doesn't like when people feel rushed.

Emily: And that's the last time you saw her?

Jenn: Yeah, and then I saw all this stuff on the news. It sucks.

Emily: One last question before I let you go Jenn: do you know anything about the Lost Dutchman's gold mine?

Jenn: Well duh, we all do.

Emily: Any specific interest in it, as a hiker?

Jenn: I mean, yeah, who doesn't like the idea of lost treasure right? But if I'm hiking in the Superstitions it's because I want to hit the trails, not go treasure hunting. I don't even think it exists.

Emily: Did Rose show any interest in it?

Jenn: Not really, for a long time I knew her. She did have some books though that might have been about that.

Emily: What do you mean?

Jenn: Well she did a lot of reading on the last hike in our rest time. Like I said, usually she's super involved and active and last time she was just kind of bummed and quiet, so she was reading a lot. One was about like folklore or something, one was some cheap novel about the mountains, and I think one was a history book. I thought she might have been studying for a new trail or something.

Emily: Kind of a roundabout way to study.

Jenn: Yeah, it's all weird and crappy.

Emily: I agree, thanks for your time, Jenn.

Jenn: No problem, I hope I helped.

Emily: Once again guys, I'm Emily with Legends of the Superstitions and this has been Jenn. Thanks for listening.