

Murder Games

The Life and Death of Breck Bednar

Clip 1. Grooming: spotting the signs

Background

The BBC Three docudrama **Murder Games** tells the true story of Breck Bednar, a 14-year-old schoolboy from Surrey who was lured to his death after being groomed online.

Breck was befriended by an older teenager, Lewis Daynes, while playing online video games. Over the course of nine months Lewis became gradually more manipulative towards Breck, eventually persuading Breck to travel alone to Daynes's flat in Essex where he murdered him.

In January 2015, Lewis Daynes, 19, was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 25 years.

Clip 1. Grooming: spotting the signs

In this clip actors play Breck Bednar and Lewis Daynes. The two boys are introduced by other friends on a gaming server. At the time Breck was fourteen and Lewis was seventeen.

At first, Lewis appears charming and helpful. He is older than Breck and knowledgeable about computing. He offers to give Breck technical help and praises Breck for his ability.

Lewis Daynes creates an enticing persona online. He tells Breck he is in New York working for the US government. He says he runs a successful computer technology company and has become a millionaire after trading bitcoins (a virtual currency). He tells Breck he can get him a high paying job at Microsoft without finishing school. None of this is true.

Gradually, some of the older members of the gaming group become suspicious, questioning whether Lewis is really who he says he is, and wondering why he is not more open about his appearance. Daynes retaliates by banning the questioners from the gaming server.

Lewis begins to change the way Breck is thinking, and tries to isolate Breck from his friends and family. He invites Breck to chat in a private channel to keep their communications a secret.

Eventually, Lewis persuades Breck to come and meet him by telling another lie: because of his own ill health he has chosen Breck to take over the running of his computer technology company. He has managed to gain Breck's trust to such an extent that Breck travels to meet him alone, and without telling anyone of his plans.

Sources of help and advice

CEOP - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre is the UK's national law enforcement agency that focuses on tackling the sexual abuse of children. They have a facility for reporting abuse directly via the CLICK CEOP button on their website.

ceop.police.uk

CEOP Thinkuknow

Thinkuknow is an education initiative by CEOP providing a wide range of resources for young people and those who work with them.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

ChildLine

Free helpline and website for young people who are worried about anything, including grooming and exploitation.

www.childline.org.uk

Call 0800 1111 (this number will not show up on a phone bill)

The Breck Foundation

Raises awareness about playing safe whilst using the internet. A resource for parents and children to "Play Virtual / Live Real."

www.breckbednar.com