**Col. Russell Williams**

*Appearance vs. Reality – By: Paul B. and Nicole S.*

**Brief Description:** Russell Williams is a Colonel in the Canadian Forces at the CFB Trenton military base. He has two accounts of first degree murder on two young women. He has sexually assaulted these two women before killing them. Also he has multiple accounts of breaking and entering into homes, trying on and stealing young girl’s underwear and invading their private material. He documented all of his crimes uses pictures and videos that he kept in hidden in his house in Tweed, Ontario. Throughout his whole process of misdoings he continued to work as your average, friendly military officer keeping his secret on a low profile.

**Analysis of Choice:** We perceive Colonel Russell Williams as a kind, loyal and trustworthy man yet the reality is, he has many faults and strange habits that show our perception of him is inaccurate.

**Perception:**  Russell Williams is a high ranked military officer, Colonel in the Canadian Forces, spending 23 years in this career service. If any crime were to be committed Col. Russell Williams shouldn’t be a major suspect or suspicious with the conflict due to his high ranking. As a loyal officer, it is expected to have integrity and always do the right actions no matter what the circumstance.

**Reality:** He was charged with 88 different charges, including first degree murder, sexual assault, and several breaking/entering among other crimes. Russell Williams was also stripped from his military status as a Colonel and sent to prison for life leaving his wife and family alone and disgusted.

**Perception:** Looking at Russell Williams you would see a normal guy. A man who loves photography fishing in his past time, running to stay fit and golfing with his neighbour. You would also think of him as trustworthy and protective since that’s what he aimed to do for this nation.

**Reality:** Really, Russell Williams wasn’t protective or trustworthy at all. He had strange fetishes for taking and wearing young girl’s underwear and women’s lingerie. Also he had a collection hidden in his ceiling on computer hard-drives of thousands of photo of himself wearing the underwear and performing sexual activities. Included in these horrific crimes, Williams would document the lives of his victims by photographing their private life.

**Perception:** CorporalMari-France Comeau was a worker at CFB Trenton and was leading a good life. When working at military bases the assumption is that there would be nothing to worry about. You should be able to feel proud of your career, feel safe in the environment you’re in and lucky to be able to work with the other officers in Canada.

**Reality:** An innocent woman was murdered by her co-worker for no reason at all, solely because she was Williams’ random pick. Williams videotaped the sexual assaulting murder which took place in Comeau’s very own basement. It showed Comeau being beaten, abused, suffocated and pleading for her life before Williams fatally ended the deed.

**Perception:** The house where Russell Williams lived was a small, white bungalow on Cosy Cove Lane in Tweed Ontario. It’s a nice home that seems happy, well-maintained and welcoming. Walking by a home like this, it wouldn’t strike your mind to think that an evil menace lived there and a vile felony was performed.

**Reality**: Russell Williams abducted the young and innocent Jessica Lloyd and took her to his home in Tweed. There, the videotape showed Lloyd tied up on Williams’ bed, convulsing. After striking Lloyd in the head with a flashlight and strangling her to death with a rope, Williams left Lloyd’s body in his home for several days as he continued in his work business. Later he quickly dumped Lloyd’s body in a nearby field in Tweed.

**Connection to Macbeth:** The story of Colonel Russell Williams relates to the friendship in which Banquo and Macbeth initially had, but lost. Banquo saw Macbeth as his loyal, brave and trustworthy friend who tried to fulfill his duties as the new king, except the reality was that underneath Macbeth’s royal persona he was actually a trader, murderer and backstabbing friend. Colonel Russell Williams was trusted by many in the Canadian military but was suddenly discovered as a murderer, just like Macbeth, and instantly lost his honourable reputation.

**Media**: Online news article **Source:** CBC

**Resources**: "Williams's Murder Victims Pleaded for Their Lives." *CBCnews*. CBC/Radio Canada, 19 Oct. 2010. Web. 14 Nov. 2013.

 "Williams Admitted to Killing Comeau, Lloyd." *CBCnews*. CBC/Radio Canada, 20 Oct. 2010. Web. 14 Nov. 2013.