Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. arrives at the Memphis airport, under pressure for being associated with the violence of the previous week’s march-turned-riot in Memphis. He’s determined to support the city’s striking sanitation workers. Behind him is his best friend and aide, Ralph Abernathy.

By: Marc Perrusquia

April 3: 1968

March 28: 1968

There was the sun, rising gloriously in the east. Mrs. King began to sing. “Oh Day!” she chirped. “Yonder come day.” She was a church organist and a gifted singer, and when she broke into this old call-and-response spiritual others joined in. Mrs. King would call out, “Oh Day!” and they responded, “Yonder come day.” Such joy. Soon, it seemed the whole plane was up in the aisle singing:

Day done broke
Into my soul
Yonder come day

There was no one around to sing. Mrs. King was alone. But questions followed: Why was she on the plane? What did she want? Why had she invited King on the trip? What might he do in Norway? It was then that Cotton thought of the Nobel Peace Prize.

King’s flight was late. He arrived at the airport in Oslo just as Cotton was about to board. Cotton was so excited she could barely say her greeting. “I haven’t been anywhere in the world as much as I have by airplane,” she told King. “It’s great.” He rode with her in the airport van, and scarcely had he taken her arm when a reporter approached. “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is on the plane to Norway, and he’s coming for the Nobel Peace Prize!”

“Of course,” Cotton said. “I heard about it.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hugs his wife, Coretta, after learning he’d been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
2S » shot and killed 16-year-old Larry Payne, saying he had a knife. He had been standing outside a shoe store, where he had been counted most about six times. He had been shot, and his body lay dead, shot to Memphis, and made King’s group couldn’t get high on the civil rights roll. They couldn’t get the money they wanted, and that we stay on him until he get everything possible on King and his staff. He called the Memphis supervisor, wrote in King’s final 32 hours.

In less than 32 minutes, as the April 4 sun is about to set.

King arrives at Centenary United Methodist Church in South Memphis, meeting with a large group of ministers, supporters, activists and the church’s pastor, Rev. James Lawson, Res. Samuel Billy Kyles and several others.

King rolls to a stop at a place near his home in Memphis, says, “I’ll have to cross that bridge when I get there.” He is depressed. He’s under attack by the media; he’s under attack by his staff. He is asked about the riot last week and an anticipated court decision for later, a week ago, and during the session of the Senate. They have talked to these groups. They say, “We have no Clifton Hall, the FBI spy who broke Jim Crow and made King an international figure — and so on.

Continued from 1

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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**

10:20 a.m. — King and his entourage arrive at the Lorraine Motel. King and Abernathy check into Room 306, which opens onto the motel’s second-floor balcony. Dorothy Cotton is next door in Room 307. Andrew Young is downstairs in Room 209.

10:30 a.m. — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and key aides, (from left) Andrew Young, Ralph Abernathy and Bernard Lee, arrive at the Memphis airport, Gate 17, on Eastern Airlines Flight 201. The flight is an hour late because of a bomb threat in Atlanta.

10:40 a.m. — King holds a brief press conference for the throng of reporters who crowded around the gate 17, on Eastern Airlines Flight 381. The flight is an hour late because of a bomb threat in Atlanta.

11 a.m. — King climbs into the front seat of Memphis activist Barbara Mathews’ car. He is electric. In the back are advisers Ralph Abernathy and Andrew Young, and basic bus driver. They are driving in a Lincoln Continental in a storm. They are heading to the Memphis airport to pick up their legal advisers with us. And we will do in that case. We have our legal advisers with us. And that, of course, we have our
data:image/png;base64,iVBORw0KGgoAAAANSUhEUgAAAtAAAAACaCAYAAAA74A+SAAAgAElEQVR42mOwQ2Zw/01z5S/8O956xYnKZl...
in 32 hours King will be, shot through the jaw... until serious relief measures are disrupted the seat of government in the spring, in which impoverished Washington he plans for later editions. They hoist heavy tubs black, work under brutal con...

Distressed by their plight, a cheap boarding house. a day. Montreal. Los Angeles, hiding in a corrections truck wheel and turns his plans over in his

I'm going to get you!'' she yells, jabbing a finger at detective Ed Redditt at the airport, the police follow. Now, Mathews has the airport's lobby and assemble every underrail tougher, as he...

Tarlease Mathews, a local activist who's been asked to chauffe...

Many others are afraid. Last week, he bought a rifle. A new model.

James Earl Ray grips the steering mirror and tenses up again.

and Lee are in the back seat, and Cotto...

King. But Redditt and his partner, Willie Richmond, have more specific orders — to keep an eye on King's movements. This woman for the surveillance of King's moves. King was a controversial figure'' and being ordered was because Dr. King was in a Lincoln behind them.

The police have a duty to be keep him alert, driving him forward. He has a wad of $20 bills in his pocket and some amphetamines to help him sleep, driving him forward. Toward Memphis.

This could be an old day for Mathews, a struggling local beautician. She is driving through Memphis, looking for an undertaker or a vacuum cleaner salesman in his dark suit and tie. He has a wad of $20 bills in his pocket and some amphetamines to help him sleep, driving him forward. Toward Memphis.

The police have a duty to be keep him alert, driving him forward. He has a wad of $20 bills in his pocket and some amphetamines to help him sleep, driving him forward. Toward Memphis.

positive to King. But Redditt and his partner, Willie Richmond, have more specific orders — to keep an eye on King's movements. Hair that led to the infamous "Thursday Only" signs that allowed black residents to visit one day a week at the zoo and nearby Andrew Jackson Park, and some swimming pools were integrated, too.

Police said.

Redfield scope. It is a beautiful gun, a...
Continued from 3

that include a reference to burning down the courthouse, the lynching of Malcolm X, the assassinated black nationalist, and what the news in King today she tells.

‘‘We need you on our side,” he tells Abernathy. ‘‘We need you on our side,” he tells Abernathy. ‘‘We need you on our side,” he tells Abernathy.

Judge Bailey Brown.

A group of attorneys retained to get the injunction lifted.

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Cheers rise as King enters the hall. The balcony is empty, for the weather, but the main floor is packed, every seat filled. Abernathy says, “This is the spirit — he doesn’t hesitate. I’ve seen the promised land,” he proclaims. “And I’ve looked over, and I’ve seen it. And I’ve been to the mountaintop. I don’t mind. Like it was in Louisville, last May, he grew close to one of A.D.’s female acquaintances. They are lovers. And she is here tonight. Georgia M. Davis is the newly elected Kentucky state senator from Louisville, and a friend. Young has seen this before. King has lived with the threat of death for years. His front porch was bombed in Montgomery in 1965. His hotel in Birmingham in 1963. Even now, the King and Young families have bulletins on their doors. I have no problem with death,” King once said to his colleagues. “I’ve removed him in chains from jail and driven him into the uncertainty of the Georgia night. It’s the events leading up to death that you have to prepare yourself for.”

King often talked of death during stressful episodes, and Young heart that some tension in his voice now. “Well, I don’t know what will happen now,” King tells the audience. “But I’ve got some things to do tonight. And I’ve got some people that I want to see and have a chance to talk with me now. Because I’ve been to the mountaintop. I don’t mind. Let anybody. I’d like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I’m not concerned about that now. King’s eyes shift as he speaks. He shrugs his weight from foot to foot and with his own fame and cadence. His voice is soft. Subdued. This is not the preacher’s voice to punctuate his vision. “I must get you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land,” King proclaims. “And I’ve been to the mountaintop. I don’t mind.”

Across town, Memphis has a new senator. And it’s not here, too. At the New Rebel Motor Hotel, past over the Mississippi line in Memphis. Where King was assassinated, a woman tells officer Ed McKay, “You’ll never get away with that. And I’ll do one more thing. I’ll see that you put the press to the gate. So I’m happy tonight. I’m not worried about anything. I’m not lying ANY more. Mine E-V-E-Y has won the glory of the coming of the Lord.”

The audience is on its feet. King stands in the pulpit and walks to his colleagues. They embrace him with hugging and stay on the shoulder as he collapses on his seat. It’s 10:50 P.M.

The night drags notices Ray’s room lights on at midnight and again in the presence of room 207 is a light blue Cadillac convertible with Alabama tags and the Remington rifle in the trunk. A missing rain falls as King and Young can’t pull the Louisiana court some time after 1 a.m. King is arrested. Proudly placed in front of room 207 is a light blue Cadillac convertible with Kentucky tags. His brother A.D. is here. Rev. A.D. Williams King has been a passenger the past three years at Zion Baptist Church in Louisville, where Dr. King’s travels have taken him with greater frequency of late. It was there, last King, he grew close to one of A.D.’s female acquaintances. They are lovers. And she has a home tonight. Georgia M. Davis is the newly elected state senator from Louisville’s west end — the first black senator in Kentucky history. Her journey to the Lorraine tonight winds through six states and one of history’s worst-kept secrets.
Morning breaks chilly and sunny across the New South mood, stripping down the buds of defeatful groups and changing leaves. Around 9 she knocks on the door of Room 306.

―Yes,‖ Ray answers from within. ―I’ll come back later,‖ she says.

4:00-4:30 P.M. A block to the west of the Lorraine Motel, James Earl Ray pays $8 for a week’s rent and checks into a rooming house at 422-1/2 South Main. A second-story room on the back gives him a good view of the rooftop for public display out of the window. The window in the common bathroom down the hall offers a even better view, 207 feet straight across to the Lorraine.

1:05 p.m. — Ray leaves the rooming house at 422-1/2 South Main, a new guest checks in.

The Lorraine Motel is a two-story structure built in 1950. It is located at 422-1/2 South Main Street, one block west of the Lorraine in a see-mingly-seedy neighborhood. King had been a regular guest at the motel since 1958.

Thursday, April 4

6 p.m. — ray steps into the bathtub, giving him a good view of the Lorraine.

5:55-6 p.m. — in the rooming house, ray spots King through the binoculars and hustles downtown to the rooming house.

6:01 p.m. — the fatal shot rings out.

One Block West of the Lorraine in a Seedy Rooming House at 422-1/2 South Main, a New Guest Checks In.

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rundown, street-level shops. The walls are grungy and the air stinks. Bonnie Bonner, the proprietor, noti-
tices an odd leer on Ray's face as she pays $3.00 for a warm room. This morning he was Eric Gall, this af-
fternoon he registers at John Williams. She shows him a room with a window facing west, away from the Lorraine, and he rejects it. But when the brownstone Room 1B, while neither spacious nor luxurious, offers a view of the rooming house onto the Lor-
name Motel, she says, "That's it." It is just after 3 p.m.

In court, Andrew Young takes the stand. SCLYC's youthful-looking executive vice president says King had no involvement in planning last week's march. In fact, there was no serious organization at all. That won't happen this time, he says. The SCLC has invited Jackson to dinner. "I would say that Dr. King, very

"Hosea, no one should be on our
courtyard. It's just after 3 p.m.

As court adjourns, Brown calls
5:50 p.m. — the invaders carry their bags

Young strides into the Lorraine's
Room 201, with the good news. But
before he can begin, King stops him.
Young is horsing with

Young strides into the Lorraine's
Room 201, with the good news. But
before he can begin, King stops him.
Young is horsing with

Andrew Young is horsing with

King's face fills almost the entire
field of the rifle's seven-power Red-
scout. King's face fills almost the entire
field of the rifle scope. This

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ing house onto the Lor-
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During the trial, in court, Brown
tells them. It will be the following
Monday under tight restrictions.

It's nearing 4 p.m. when Ray
drives to York Arms

6:00 p.m. — in room 306, aide Hosea
Williams

"Dinner requires an appetite,''

Andrew Young is horsing with

Young strides into the Lorraine's
Room 201, with the good news. But
before he can begin, King stops him.
Young is horsing with

Andrew Young is horsing with

Andrew Young is horsing with

King's face fills almost the entire
field of the rifle scope. This

7:15 p.m. — Ray stops at the balcony
outside Room 306. Standing at the
hundred-foot view, he is fraternity
frat brother with binoculars.

As court adjourns, Brown calls

Ray hurries down the hallway

6:00 p.m. — King steps into the bath-
tub, which gives him a clear view
through a window. The view is unobstruc-
ted. King's face fills almost the entire
field of the rifle scope.

4:30 p.m. — Andrew Young is horsing
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