

**ACTING PATRIOTIC COLLECTION
SEPTEMBER 11 DIGITAL ARCHIVE**

**INTERVIEW WITH ADRIENNE GARCIA
CONDUCTED BY JAMES RIDGEWAY
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Q. Just tell us your name ...

A.G. My name is Adrienne Garcia and I am Ali's mother-in-law, Delilah's mother, and I know him about--I don't know--ten .. about ten years or so, give or take,--you know--more .. Yeah, maybe eleven or twelve. I don't pay attention to time. But my daughter had first started seeing him .. She had a son who was about five, six years old and she had started seeing him when she was working at his company. And, okay. she.. she used to say to me I wonder if--you know--he's out to see me or if he really wants to see my son 'cause from . almost instantaneously he felt a very close bond with Carlos, a paternal bond, almost instantly. And they .. they were seeing each other for quite--well, for maybe a year or two, for a while, he would com to my house always ... A great guy,--you know,--no problems. My husband was alive at the time; he liked him,--my husband passed away since,--and .. and I knew he was a Muslim. You know? I ... We went from ... On Thanksgiving I used to change my recipe from a pork stuffing or I would put pork in the dressing and we tried different things 'cause I didn't know what else to substitute,--and the I would make lamb or whatever. And there was a mutual respect for each other. Right? And like my daughter had said, he never ... She was a Christian at the time and he never--you know--forced her. He just explained his religion and--you know--eventually she believed, well, this is what she believed in his beliefs made sense to her. They were logical to her so she embraced her. But it was never a forced thing. This was over a period of time, listening to what he believes Islam to be. And .. and then this thing happened after the got married they had a couple of kids and I saw that, even though he had his children, Carlos was always .. He was never a stepchild in the house, ever. this was his son. There were three children. This may ... and I have to say that I knew nothing about Islam or Muslims. You know? They were, like, the strange ones just like orthodox Jews. I'm a committed born again Christian so I'm strange to a lot of people. You know? You ... you .. It's distant. Okay? You know? You live your life, I'll live mine,--you know?-fine. But I was always the

type of person .. I married a Spanish guy and I was always the type of person,-and this is truly a blessing,-that no matter where you come from, what you are, you have a blank slate and what you put on the slate has nothing to do with where you come from, what nationality you are. that's what I will see you as. And I have seen from this man, and I must add which has not been brought up, all the other Muslims that he's brought through the years into the house, nothing but kindness, caring, good, fine, decent people. I have never seen anything that coughs up--you know--terrorism or not that that doesn't exist. I won't negate that. There were the Crusades of people who called themselves Christian but were not living Christ-like lives. these are not Christians. The terrorists are not the Islamics of the peaceful ... most of them It's always a small group of them,-it's always a small group that create any havoc in society. And in this case it's the same thing. When ... But this may have been a role model for my grandson like .. and I'll tell you something else. I look at American men and I look at this man who, to me, is one of the most intelligent men I have ever met, one of the most giving men I ever met, and the most faithful. He is so faithful to his family and friends and he's given. And I have--you know .. He's often said,--you know,---now remember, I'm a committed Christian,--my pastor needs a computer. Well,--you know--Mom, does he need this--you know?--you need ...--you know? I'll get ... I said: Okay. No, no. it's fine. We're doing okay. But always ready to offer ... ready to be there to help, always. I've never seen where he wasn't. And he had a busy schedule. I mean, he worked constantly. He was the work ethic. And I remember him saying that his ... his bosses,--you know--they've always been good to me. I'd never screw them. You now? I always heard these kinds of words from his mouth. He would ... And .. and I saw it! There was always this .. this faithfulness, this caring, this kindness and--you know--that I don't even see in American men. I don't see it. I have crippling rheumatoid arthritis. Four years ago I couldn't walk, I couldn't open a can. I worked nineteen years for Transit and I had to go out on disability. Now,--you know--when you have a civil service job you never want to go out. You work until you're finished. I couldn't. I couldn't take care of myself. I couldn't do anything. I moved ... That's how I moved in with my children. I moved in with them and he took care of me .. that we used to have arguments because I would say ... 'cause I would have to go to Brooklyn to see my doctors and he would give--want to give me money for whatever. And I would say: No. I can handle it now. But he,--and Delilah explained this to me,--he thought of me as being a mother, he ...he embraced me as he would his own mother. And that doesn't mean he puts me in a nursing home. That means he takes care of me. But the responsibility is that of the responsibility of

a child. He took care of me as if I were his child. He wanted me to need for nothing. Now, I'm an American woman. Okay? Look, Ali, it's okay. If I need you ,fine. You know?--no problem. I don't have any problem if I need it. I did. I lived with them. They took care of me. And then I got a new medication. I'm able to move now, thank the Lord, I'm able to move. But we're still there for teach other. I am, like, so glad my girls did not marry American men because I'll tell you something: when they came for him and when they arrested him,-when he went in, actually, and then they didn't let him out; that was actually what happened; that was like .. and then this terrorism charge which was, like .. I couldn't believe it. It was, like, surreal. It was like living a movie, like I said, like living a true to life movie. It, like, how could this happen? But what got me most was my five years old grandson who is Monkey Boy,- -I affectionately call him Monkey Boy 'cause he's always jumping off walls and watching all these super-heroes and stuff and in his own little world,--he's used to Dad taking business trips. Now Daniela, who is eight, was always sensitive so to see the sensitivity of her father not being home was expected. But Brandon, after ... in a week or two he was okay 'cause Dad had gone on business trips so he was used to this. But after a while he would hear a man's voice come in .. in the house and he would go: Is that Daddy? And his face would light up. and: Oh, Daddy's here! And he's run for the door and it wasn't Daddy and that would break my heart. Then what's even worse was after two months or so he stopped looking for Daddy and he would say: You know, I miss Daddy but he stopped looking. It's almost like he .. he didn't expect to ever see him again. And he talked to him every night on the phone but he figured Daddy was never going to come walking in that door again and that killed me to see that. And my daughter had told me at the time: You know, Mom, I'm kind of used to that right now. But when she told me this she said: But when I go out in the car and I see fathers wit their children it kills me, and that was breaking her heart when she would go out. So all this stuff ... and I knew that this was an extremely intelligent man and a righteous man. I knew also that most American men, most American people, ... When I was a child everybody was basically honest. Today that's not the case. You know? Never tell the truth when a lie will do is kind of the .. kind of the ... Oh, cover your own butt. It's kind of our society. And, well, my whole family knows I do not lie. Don't ask me to lie. I'm not going to lie. I'm very, very strong with the truth but I don't just talk it, I live it and I raised my kids with an example that .. An I tell people all the time, here people are hitting their lids for cursing and they're cursing while they're hitting them. this is the American way, saying, Oh, I can stand anything but a liar. Then the boss calls someone calls up they don't want to

talk to and they go: Say I'm not home. You know? We live in constant contradictions to what we talk about what we believe. But in Ali's case that's not so. He is an honest man where his bosses were not. And he knew things that they did that were not honest and they were more reacting in fear, I'm sure, because they didn't have on him what he had on them.