

The Murder of Gaby Petito

(169 words per minute)	Text	Photo / Video	Audio
<p>EP 1</p>	<p>Gabrielle Petito was a dreamer, and she shared every part of it with the world: today, Gabby's Instagram has more than 1 million followers. But even before tragedy struck, people already loved watching how she built her van life from the ground up, and how she made her dreams come true.</p> <p>Gabby was having adventures in the wild, living the perfect relationship with the love of her life... Her fiancée, Brian, wasn't just any man. He was what every young girl wants: quiet, mysterious, deep, creative... He was the "I can fix him" kind of guy.</p> <p>But social media always hides the ugly truth that lives right below the perfect pictures, the smiles and the vlogs...Are women ever safe?</p>	<p>(Collage of videos and photos from Gabby's life)</p>	<p>(offscreen audio over the collage of her mother talking about her, especially about her relationship and Brian)</p> <p>(Audio clip from her stepmother and father)</p> <p><i>She was a person, she was an artist, she loved life, she loved adventure.</i></p> <p><i>Gabby was a really, really good person, she really tried to get the best or see the best in people.</i></p> <p>(Gabby's stepfather talking about her)</p> <p><i>She was beautiful, creative, artistic, and talented. A genuine person, and we all loved her so much.</i></p> <p>(Gabby's parents talking about Brian)</p> <p><i>I liked Brian. I thought he was... interesting. He was very soft-spoken.</i></p>

Comentado [1]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=211BKyWE59M>
1:20 - 1:35

Comentado [2]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyniRTHUfS8>
1:10 - 1:21

Comentado [3]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJMg8Db9eD0>
6:43 - 7:09

			<p><i>He would sit and do art with Gabby's younger sisters. He got along with TJ, her brother. He just seemed like a nice person — respectful, always came in, shook your hand. He was nice... just quiet. Very quiet.</i></p>
<p>EP 2</p>	<p>Gabby wanted to be part of the Van Life community. It's the perfect lifestyle for those who love the great outdoors, and Gabby was fit for the job. Covid hit hard, and like everyone else, Gabby was trapped home, but living with her in-laws wasn't exactly the life she envisioned for herself. So, Gabby decided to finance her own dreams: she worked as a pharmacy technician and even at Taco Bell. Sometimes, she worked around 50 hours a week, and Brian didn't like that.</p> <p>But eventually Gabby managed to buy a Ford Transit Connect in her own name. This was in December 2020.</p> <p>But even before the whole Van Life stuff, in 2019, Gabby was already documenting her trips online. Gabby drove - with Brian - from Long Island all the way to California in a tiny old Nissan. All of the pics showed Gabby having fun... Alone. No sign of Brian.</p> <p>Eventually, Gabby decided to share a picture with Brian... After a whole year of dating.</p> <p>And that's when things started to smell rotten.</p> <p>When the two got engaged, she never told her family.</p>	<p><i>(Comments in her pictures)</i></p> <p><i>"So they've been together a whole year when she posted this but never posted any other pics with/of him??? Weird..."</i></p> <p><i>"yep and he's not even tagged in this one. Very stark contrast to his posts which revolve almost entirely around her. I wonder if it infuriated him that she never posted him.."</i></p> <p><i>(Brian rolling his eyes)</i></p> <p><i>A big, open floor for you to keep your dirty feet, hahaha!</i></p>	<p><i>(mom talking about engagement)</i></p> <p><i>I thought it was weird that she didn't want to tell us right away... We found out on Facebook.</i></p> <p><i>(Dad talking about engagement)</i></p> <p><i>I'm an old-school person, and as an old-school person the one thing you do is you go up to the father of the person you wanna marry and you ask him for their hand in marriage, or parent, ask 'em for their hand in marriage... That didn't happen. We found out on Facebook. All of us did.</i></p>

Comentado [4]: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B92jd6XInCO/>

Comentado [6]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJMg8Db9eD0&t=5s>

8:23 - 8:28

Comentado [7]: <https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/news/story/new-interview-gabby-petitos-parents-reveals-disturbing-details-118933322#:~:text=%22I%27m%20an%20old,of%20us%20did.%22>

Comentado [5]: <https://time.com/7252972/american-murder-gabby-petito-true-story-netflix/>

0:29 - 0:34

	Why was Gabby “hiding” her boyfriend from the world?		
EP 3	<p>Gabby drew attention wherever she went.</p> <p>Once, in Utah, a guy that worked for REI - a company that sells outdoor adventure gear - noticed not just her hiking shoes (which were obviously REI), but also Gabby herself, climbing the rocks and smiling. He wanted to talk to her right away.</p> <p>At the age of 14, Gabby was invited to be in a low-budget music video.</p> <p>After graduation, during her short period in Cape Fear, Gabby quickly went from waitress to front-of-house hostess of a restaurant, all because of her smile and personality.</p> <p>The little boy she used to babysit defined Gabby as a girl who was “living with rainbows”.</p> <p>But, even though some people saw Gabby as the life of the party, most girls from her high school found her annoying. It was a sort of envy: they wanted to be Gabby, but they also made fun of her. Her best friend, Rose Davis, said the two got closer because neither had friends.</p> <p>And then, there was Brian: With him, Gabby could be this living-walking-talking rainbow: they had picnics on the beach, read books by the river, slept in hammocks under the shade of a tree.</p> <p>Brian made her feel at home. But Brian wasn’t always a safe haven.</p>	<p>https://www.instagram.com/gabspetito/p/CCJ8SVMFceV/</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/gabspetito/p/CBxzcRxlXkD/?img_index=1</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/gabspetito/p/B87sYlYFOil/</p> <p>(Can we stage a dramatization here? Maybe with AI or something, showing Gabby leaving the house crying - we can do that and then insert her friend’s audio over it)</p>	<p><i>(Rose Davis talking about Brian and Gabby’s fights)</i></p> <p><i>Of course, like any relationship there was arguments, and, she, come stay at my house when there’s arguments... Just to get away from it, ya know.</i></p> <p><i>(Second quote)</i></p> <p><i>She came over, and cried and just talked to me about what happened...</i></p>

Comentado [11]: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-2505379/Gabby-Petitos-best-friend-says-Laundrie-control-issues.html>
1:45 - 1:55

Comentado [12]: 2:48 - 2:55

Comentado [8]: <https://www.instagram.com/gabspetito/p/CCJ8SVMFceV/>

Comentado [9]: https://www.instagram.com/gabspetito/p/CBxzcRxlXkD/?img_index=1

Comentado [10]: <https://www.instagram.com/gabspetito/p/B87sYlYFOil/>

	<p>With him, Gabby found herself going to sleep at her best friend's house every now and then, just to get away from the fights.</p> <p>(Maybe finish with a hook of Brian loading the van alone, a flashforward to the part where he returned to Florida alone in the van. Looking suspicious, looking over his shoulder etc).</p>		
<p>EP 4</p>	<p>Gabby planned the trip obsessively, curating maps, budgeting for gas, selecting scenic routes through America's most breathtaking national parks. She worked really hard to save as much money as possible.</p> <p>She wasn't just chasing landscapes, she was chasing a feeling. That rush of being young, in love, and on the open road.</p> <p>The White Ford Transit van, which Gabby managed to buy thanks to her own efforts, was transformed into a cozy little home on wheels. Ok, cozy is definitely a stretch, but Gabby was happy. She saw plenty of people doing just that online. Of course, their version of the Van Life was smaller and cheaper, with no kitchen and no bathroom, but it could do the trick.</p> <p>They hit the road in the summer of 2021. Their Instagram feeds were filled with vibrant photos of the desert skies, crazy mountaintops and barefoot hikes. They were the envy of every boho traveler - and the envy of those high school girls too: the perfect life, the perfect boyfriend.</p>		

	<p>Despite the fights, they looked just... Right.</p> <p>But as the days passed, Gabby's family sensed something... odd. Gabby was texting them nonstop, sending videos, photos, and doing Facetime. But at some point, her texts started to feel off. One read: "<i>Can you help Stan? I keep getting his voicemails.</i>" Stan was her grandfather. But Gabby never called him that. Her calls sounded strained... Her usual bubbly voice was replaced by something slower... colder. Then, silence began to stretch longer between each message.</p> <p>Her mother tried not to worry. Gabby was an adult, and they couldn't really stop her from going on this trip. On the day Gabby left, her mother told Ryan: "You keep her safe, ok?". Nichole was afraid of strangers, of course, but, with Brian, her daughter was safe.</p> <p>And yet, a gnawing feeling crept in. Something wasn't right. Why did Gabby stop texting?</p> <p>The van kept moving. But behind the perfect photos, something was beginning to unravel. The silence online grew louder... Until her digital footprints came to a halt.</p>		
EP 5	<p>Gabby was part of that generation that grew online. She was also trying really hard to become a lifestyle influencer. So you can bet she had the Instagram feed of a storyteller: her followers could always expect barefoot pics by canyons, beautiful waterfalls and huge smiles beside Brian.</p> <p>The captions were light and whimsical: "<i>Collecting memories, not things.</i>" Her YouTube vlog, <i>Nomadic Statik</i>, featured peaceful music, scenic drone shots, candid clips of</p>		

	<p>cooking in the van and brushing her teeth by a river. Viewers saw a carefree girl living a millennial fantasy.</p> <p>But then... suddenly... it all stopped.</p> <p>After August 25, Gabby's online activity came to a stop. No more Instagram posts. No new YouTube uploads. No messages to friends. To strangers, it might've seemed like a pause, an online detox perhaps. But her family knew better. Gabby never went silent, especially while on the road.</p> <p>Her mother, Nichole Schmidt, tried calling, but the phone rang... then went straight to voicemail. The "Can you help Stan?" text was bothering her. It was so uncharacteristic of her, Gabby never talked about her grandpa like that... It sent chills down Nichole's spine.</p> <p>Gabby's digital timeline, one that once brimmed with life, froze. No one could say where she was. No one could reach her. Brian, the one person who should've been with her, was quiet too. His family knew nothing. Better yet, they said nothing.</p> <p>For an influencer living her life online, a digital silence this complete felt like a scream.</p>		
--	---	--	--