michigan which is where our story today bigens. Stephen mcafee was a local resident in the area and he was born on the 26th of december 1996 to his mother suzanne and father mike stephen grew up in macomb township a civil township located within metro detroit michigan mackham township is located 15 miles northeast of detroit but despite its close proximity to motor city it boasts a much lower violent crime rate of only one per 100 000 residents per year this is much different to detroit which is over twenty mackham township known for its rural farmland and range of golf courses is a safe community with an outstore vibe nestled right by the edge of lake michigan and this was one of many reasons that made mackham township a great place for stephen to grow up along with his older brother jonathan and older sister kate steven attended ebeling elementary school as a kid it was shortly into his attendance at leveling elementary that signs of asperger's syndrome started to show and while stephen was eventually and formally diagnosed with aspergers he wouldn't let it define him he stayed in his education as he grew older and in 2014 started attending arts academy in the woods a school intended to accelerate students that are creatively gifted for stephen he went into this school because it offered a curriculum that pursued his interests he was an innovative artist loved playing the drums and he had dreams to become a musician stephen was also a remarkably docile young man while loved in the community he was known to not stir up any fuss or cause any drama with another person he was described as kind-hearted non-violent and simply existed to spend time with his friends the date was the 9th of march 2016. it was a wednesday and for stephen it was like every other he had no special events planned later in that day he sent his ex-girlfriend tara a snapchat message with an image of him goofing around with the shopping carts at his local grocery store shortly after he went home for dinner before he relaxed on the sofa watching tv and scrolling through his phone late into the night his mother susan had been at work all day and so at around midnight she decided to head to bed it was around 2 30 in the morning that his father michael also decided to call it quits and so michael said good night stephen stephen said goodnight back but he was planning on staying up longer and this was quite a normal thing for steven to do as well with nothing out of the ordinary michael headed to bed the next morning though as susan woke up for the day and walked past her youngest son's bedroom stephen was nowhere to be seen she was sure that stephen had no plans this early in the day he'd left all of the gear that i'd usually take with him at home too his phone charge is still in the bedroom in fact he already had plans with susan later that day stephen couldn't yet drive and so that afternoon he and suzanne were planning on going out and practicing his driving around the local streets this means that if he had left the property that night he would have had to do it by foot and unlike usual he hadn't left any messages behind either which was odd and when she tried to call his mobile phone nothing it's as if in the dead of night without warning or reason stephen just simply vanished over a dozen phone calls were made to steven's mobile that day as before they would go straight to voicemail no fresh sets of clothes were missing from steven's wardrobe either suggesting he'd intended to be home relatively soon friends and family of stephen started checking the local neighborhoods and parks too places that he often frequently visited but still no dice no additional information came out from his friends or family either the last time that's even had been seen on social media was from that snapchat message the day before and the last reliable sighting of stephen was from his own father michael at 2 30 back at his property on the 13th of march 2016 three days later a missing person's report was filed and while this officially spurred law enforcement into searching for the young man nothing would come to light local crime stoppers eventually offered a reward of several thousand dollars to anyone who could provide information that led to finding stephen and several billboards around the surrounding area were erected friends close to stephen also scourged the wooded area around steven's home for any clues or signs but just like the rest the unprompted search revealed nothing whatsoever and when the family hired a private investigator that too came back fruitless it was around this time that several theories around stephen's disappearance started to crop up one of the leading theories was that stephen could have found himself in an abandoned drug house also known as a bando and consequently he could have been murdered there his still body in one of the many abandoned houses around detroit although detroit was once a manufacturing powerhouse in the early to mid 1900s technology over the decades started to evolve leading to changes in the way cars amongst other mechanical objects were created and with the coming of the global recession in the late 2000s the number of people buying cars in the us plummeted this had a profound impact on detroit tens of thousands of workers were laid off in the following years and as a result many people moved away relocating across country or around the state of michigan in consequence detroit now has an unbelievable amount of abandoned buildings and burned out homes a lot of these which often serve as an ad hoc safe house for criminals the theory that stephen fell victim inside one of these bandos though was considered extremely unlikely by close friends and family not only was stephen apprehensive to any sort of criminal behaviour but he also couldn't drive and therefore couldn't get very far it was however the best leads that anyone not close to stephen had to put it simply his disappearance was originally considered a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time and this theory is where the case would stand for quite a while because despite the unrelenting torment that his family would have to suffer for over the next year the case went cold that would be until april 2017 it was on april the 26th that a young woman along with her father walked into malcolm county's sheriff's office there she told investigators that a friend of hers had shared a very dark secret with her one that hadn't been spoken about with anyone else the secret came from yvette mcdonald and what she had shared with her friend only one month prior is that she had helped her ex-boyfriend move and dispose of a body about a year ago stephen was a friendly and forgiving man and with that he forged a lot of positive encounters with people making a lot of friends too we're stopping on this one though yvette confided to a friend that one morning in april 2016 her ex-boyfriend asked her how she'd feel if stephen mcafee was dead she responded with saying that she'd miss him and that's when he replied with he already is he took her down to the local woods later that morning the woods were located somewhere along 34 mile road and van dyke avenue located within bruce township yvette's boyfriend was called andrew fiacco andrew fiacco was the same age as stephen and he lived close by in rey township in fact he was one of steven's best friends the two had met in kindergarten at the age of five back in eberlin elementary in mackham township the two both had special needs andrew lived with high functioning autism while steven had emotional issues together the two had a lot of fun and boys being boys also got into a lot of mischief as kids when andrew and yvette arrived at the wooded destination andrew then told her that this was the area that he had shot and killed stephen a month prior and the reason that he wanted to tell her is because he required assistance to move the body and surprisingly she complied no questions asked no attempt to inform the police no hesitation the two left that area and returned one month later to properly dispose of stephen mackham county police were extremely alarmed to hear of the news from a vet's friend and they didn't hold around either it was late that afternoon that a vet was arrested and only few hours after that that andrew was arrested too police took andrew into custody and almost straight away he confessed to murdering stephen mcafee i picked him up at his house okay so we got out of the car i gave him the buck they gave him the bag but he wasn't doing the money so i was kind of like wait what's going on and so then he attacked me and then we started wrestling it out he grabbed my he grabbed the gun pointed at me so i ran you know i'm distracted and ran until i took it and we were resting according to andrew killing stephen was through self-defense early in the morning of march the 10th after stephen's father had headed to bed he was picked up by andrew where they then headed to a remote area this was so stephen could buy marijuana off andrew but apparently after they arrived and andrew handed him the bag steven supposedly attacked him the two wrestled on the floor and as they did andrew managed to pull his gun out of his pocket before accidentally shooting steven in the stomach in a panic andrew finished him off before taking stephen's mobile phone and fleeing the area he then drove 18 miles to 34 mile and choner road before dumping steven's mobile phone in a local dumpster later that day the sheriff's investigators searched two locations of interest one was the vacant plot of land in bruce township and the other was fiacco's home in ray township evidence and remains were located at both locations and stephen would then eventually lead investigators to the exact spot himself steven's lower jaw and clothing were eventually found this included his jacket and a baseball hat it was from stephen's lower jaw bone that positive identification was made it was around this time that through andrew's and the vet's confessions and through the multiple crime scenes that investigators were slowly piecing the rest of the story together andrew and yvette arrived to stephen's location with an axe one that had come from andrew's house when they got there they removed steven's lower legs and his head the legs were placed in a duffel bag and buried away in a separate location from stephen's head and sadly the rest of steven's body would never be found both burials were two feet deep andrew and yvette had placed cement above the bones to prevent them from being dug up the duffel bag was then later burned as more details emerged on the case the charges listed against android effect would grow actually it was noted that in 2016 andrew had been interviewed twice by investigators on his friend's disappearance both times though he denied any participation or knowledge you know it was quite alarming for investigators and now for us to learn how deceptive ander actually was on the day that stephen disappeared he had told his family that he had no idea where stephen had gone to he even planted messages on facebook telling everyone how much he missed stephen in one of those posts he said i wish i knew where he was i would have told authorities already he had a problem with checking in with his parents or anyone including me he was very quiet and kept to himself a lot actually i'd give him fatherly lectures about how he needs to check in with his parents before he goes somewhere or does something or if he went from one place to the next that he needed to let them know when he was going and when he arrived never did he do any of those things though i miss him so much please come home brother we all miss you very much following all this andrew fiacco who is 19 years at the time was finally charged he was charged with first degree murder disinterment and mutilation of a dead body lying to a police officer and felony firearms violations yvette mcdonald who was then 18 was also charged with accessory after the fact to a felony to sentiment and mutilation of a dead body and lying to a police officer andrew was denied bail where a vet's bail was set at twenty thousand dollars this was so she could continue her senior year at macomb community college the two eventually stood trial in 2019 but throughout the process several twists to the story would come undone the first piece of evidence that came to light was from the medical examiner although andrew claimed that he had shot stephen in self-defense medical reports would say otherwise first they indicated that stephen had been shot twice in the head one in the front one in the back and the third shot was in the stomach but due to the angles in which steven had been shot it was very unlikely that it had happened during a scrappy fight on the ground thus revoking andrew's claims the claim was also very far from how stephen was perceived by others it didn't fit his genital behavior at all the prosecution also contended that andrew had taken stephen's earbuds cellphone and watch as trophies after killing him which proved to be meditation and also suggested a motive and the trial often heated up at times throughout the weeks too with accusations mounting not only at steven's mental health but andrew's it was also here that allegations of andrew growing jealous of stephen talking to his girlfriend also cropped up and it was even alleged that andrew had previously sexually assaulted stephen yvette even shared to police that she was told by a boyfriend that he was part of the mafia and this was the reason that he had to kill stephen the trial even at one point forced the prosecutor and the defense lead into a full-on shouting match i'll be playing this is like amateurs but eventually the jury had made a conclusion they deliberated for 11 hours over two days but on february 7th 2019 had come back with a verdict they found andrew fiacco guilty of second-degree murder believing that he had intentionally killed stephen and that the murder was not justified but they also believed that it was not premeditated following the verdict he was sentenced to 50 to 70 years in prison yvette macdonald was sentenced to one year in prison and three is a probation after pleading guilty to mutilation of a body as well as being an accessory despite the short sentence in charlotte was stated that she was frightened of andrew and that there were past violent issues between the two as the sentence was passed judge jennifer thornton said to andrew in front of a packed courtroom you destroyed not only stephen's life his family and friends you destroyed your family's life as well as your own and then for 13 months you let everyone wallow in fear and distress with hope in there as well which i almost think is the worst part you continued to lie you continued to the crimes you continued to hide continued to leave everyone distraught you brought a vet mcdonald into it and you destroyed another family in the process although the sentence was a very long one for second-degree murder stephen mcafee's family were both disappointed and distraught they are happy that andrew is going to be behind bars for a very long period of time but they believed that the first degree murder charges were more appropriate and i don't blame them to me at least this case looks nothing short of first degree it looks clear-cut that on the fateful morning of the 10th of march 2016 andrew called stephen to set up a meeting time drove out fully armed took stephen to a remote location and when the time was right took his life and a potential motive was there in fact several were so why second degree before a sentencing andrew told the court that he missed stephen someone he said he considered to be a friend and one that he looked up to in many ways he shared i have nightmares i take full responsibility steven was i miss him so much i'm so sorry and now the rest of the community misses steven ii stephen was a bright light in the community of macomb township a young man that never had a bad thing to say about anyone he was docile friendly nurturing and caring a talented artist a musician and more importantly a good friend taken away too soon by one of his someone he placed his trust and security in time and time again stephen's mother father brother and sister are a testament to a good family by the way it was very clear through trial footage and of the media how much support love and care they gave stephen not just after he passed away but