

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dana Canedy

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Canedy, Dana
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy,
Dates:	November 12, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:25:51).
Abstract:	Newspaper editor and author Dana Canedy (1965 -) was a senior editor at The New York Times. She was part of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize for "How Race Is Lived in America." She was also the author of The New York Times bestseller <i>A Journal for Jordan: A Story of Love and Honor</i> . Canedy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 12, 2013, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_298
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Writer and journalist Dana Canedy was born and raised near Fort Knox, Kentucky. Although she was the daughter of a military family, Canedy knew from a young age that she wanted to be a writer. After being the first in her family to graduate from high school, Canedy went on to receive her B.A. degree in journalism from the University of Kentucky. While at the University of Kentucky, she volunteered for internships and phoned publications in order to see if she could work for free. In her junior year of college, Canedy received an internship from the *Wall Street Journal*.

Upon graduation, Canedy was hired as a police beat reporter at the *West Palm Beach Post*, where she worked for one year. Not happy with her position, she left the *West Palm Beach Post* and went to work for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, where she was a reporter from 1988 until 1996. Then, in 1996, Canedy was hired as a reporter for the *New York Times*, where she covered stories ranging from race relations to spending time with a murderer in order to learn how and why he killed. Canedy also worked as a national correspondent and as bureau chief for Florida. In 2001, she was part of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize for national reporting for "How Race Is Lived in America," a series on race relations in the United States. In 2006, Canedy was promoted to senior editor at the *New York Times* in charge of newsroom recruiting and hiring, newsroom staff training, and career development.

Canedy authored the *New York Times* best-selling memoir *A Journal for Jordan: A Story of Love and Honor*, which was published in 2008. It tells the story of Canedy's fiancé, First Sergeant Charles Monroe King, who died as the result of the detonation of an improvised explosive device (I.E.D.) during the war in Iraq. Canedy now lives with her son Jordan in New York City.

Dana Canedy was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 12, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dana Canedy was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on November 12, 2013, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Newspaper editor and author Dana Canedy (1965 -) was a senior editor at The New York Times. She was part of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize for "How Race Is Lived in America." She was also the author of The New York Times bestseller A Journal for Jordan: A Story of Love and Honor.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Canedy, Dana

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Canedy, Dana--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Newspaper Editor

Author

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy, November 12, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy, Section A2013_298_001_001, TRT: 1:28:23 ?

Dana Canedy was born on June 8, 1965 in Fort Knox, Kentucky to Penny Canedy and T.J. Canedy, Sr. Her paternal grandmother, Everlener Canedy, grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana. When she was in the fifth grade, her parents died and she stopped attending school. She went on to open a soul food restaurant,

and raised Canedy's father as a single parent. Canedy's mother also grew up in Indianapolis. She was raised by adoptive parents, and was sexually abused from a young age. After Canedy's parents met and married, they moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where her father served as a drill sergeant in the U.S. Army. Canedy was the oldest of her parents' five children. She grew up in an integrated community on the base, and began her education at Fort Knox's Mudge Elementary School. Her parents often fought with one another, and she began writing poetry and short stories as a way to escape her home life.

Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy, Section A2013_298_001_002, TRT: 2:28:19 ?

Dana Canedy grew up on a U.S. military base in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Her parents, Penny Canedy and T.J. Canedy, Sr., emphasized the importance of education, and encouraged her to participate in extracurricular activities. Although her family did not attend church, Canedy felt a sense of spirituality from an early age. Upon reaching the sixth grade, she moved with her family to Radcliff, Kentucky, which was a suburb of Fort Knox. She transferred to Radcliff Elementary School, and went on to attend North Hardin High School. There, she joined Coach Barbara Underwood's track team, and continued to develop her writing skills with support from her English teacher. After class, she worked as a babysitter and as a server at the Ponderosa Steakhouse. In 1984, Canedy enrolled in the journalism program at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky, where she helped found a minority student newspaper. She also completed five internships at publications like the Lexington Herald-Leader and The Wall Street Journal.

Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy, Section A2013_298_001_003, TRT: 3:37:25 ?

Dana Canedy joined the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) while she was a student at the University of Kentucky. After graduating in 1987, she joined The Palm Beach Post as a police beat reporter. She enjoyed reporting and improved her journalistic skills, but received little encouragement from her supervisors. In 1988, Canedy became a police reporter at The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, Ohio. There, she received support from Thomas H. Greer and Maxine Lynch, and covered suburban government and business news. After completing an editing program at the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, she was promoted to editor on the city desk. While attending a NABJ program in Baltimore, Maryland, Canedy met several journalists from The New York Times. With their help, she secured a position in the newspaper's apprenticeship program in 1996. Nine months later, she turned down an offer from The Wall Street Journal, and was promoted out of the training program at The New York Times.

Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy, Section A2013_298_001_004, TRT: 4:31:22 ?

Dana Canedy found strong support in the National Association of Black Journalists from the start of her career. Through the organization, she met journalists like Acel Moore, Maxine Lynch and her longtime friend Gregory L. Moore, who was her boyfriend and colleague at The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1996, Canedy was recruited to join The New York Times' intermediate reporting program, and was hired as a business and finance reporter after nine months. In 1998, while visiting her parents for Father's Day, Canedy was introduced to Charles M. King, who was an artist and a first sergeant in the U.S. Army. The couple dated for eight years, and then decided to marry and raise a child together. In 2005, King was assigned to active duty in Iraq. The couple became pregnant before he left, and planned to marry after his return to the United States. Their son, Jordan King, was born in 2006, while King was stationed in Iraq.

Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy, Section A2013_298_001_005, TRT: 5:33:54 ?

Dana Canedy's partner, Charles M. King, was deployed to the Iraq War in 2005. Before his departure, she gave him a journal to record his experiences for their son, Jordan King. During the final month of his tour, King was killed by an improvised explosive device. Canedy was devastated by his death, and took a one-year leave of absence from The New York Times. During this time, she used King's journal and interviews with his fellow soldiers to reconstruct the final day of King's life. Based on her research, she wrote the memoir 'A Journal For Jordan: A Story of Love and Honor,' which preserved King and Canedy's voices for their son. The book became a best seller. Following its release, Canedy went on a book tour to twelve cities, starting in her home town of Fort Knox, Kentucky. At this point in the interview, Canedy reflects upon her relationship with King and her experiences of mourning through writing. She also describes her son, Jordan King.

Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy, Section A2013_298_001_006, TRT: 6:29:01 ?

Dana Canedy joined The New York Times in 1996 as a business reporter. She went on to edit the series 'How Race Is Lived in America: Pulling Together, Pulling Apart,' which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2001. Canedy also wrote an article in the series that addressed race relations at the Akron Beacon Journal, which had received a Pulitzer Prize for its own reporting on race. The piece caught the attention of executive editor Joseph Lelyveld, who offered Canedy a number of promotions within the organization. She chose to become the chief of The New York Times bureau in Florida, and moved there at the height of the presidential election recount in 2000. While in Florida, Canedy also covered the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Columbia Space Shuttle explosion and the controversy around Cuban immigrant Elian Gonzalez. In 2003, Canedy returned to New York City as the assignment editor for the national desk of The New York Times. She went on to become a senior editor, and was responsible for recruiting young journalists.

Video Oral History Interview with Dana Canedy, Section A2013_298_001_007, TRT: 7:17:27 ?

Dana Canedy was a senior editor at The New York Times at the time of the interview. At this point, she talks about the effects of digital technology on the newspaper industry, and the changes in the training of young journalists. Canedy also shares her plans for the future of her career. She reflects upon her legacy and her hopes and concerns for the African American community, and concludes the interview by describing how she would like to be remembered.