



MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

DETECTIVES lead Erica Colon from stationhouse after arrest.

Slay suspect ensnared in a web of lies

By BARBARA ROSS

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The older half of a deadly female Bloods duo — accused in the brutal slaying of a Senegalese cabby in Harlem — has claimed that she was forced into taking part in the Nov. 14 shooting by her 13-year-old partner.

But a review of court records reveals that Erica Colon, 22, is no stranger to crime or telling baldfaced lies.

“Cash” — the leader of a Bloods gang in East Harlem — when they made a crack about her month-old pregnancy.

He said Colon told him the fight escalated when Nelson and Cash forced her at gunpoint to a rooftop, where they slashed her face as part of a Bloods ritual. Schwartz said Nelson then forced Colon — with a gun at her pregnant stomach — to participate in the robbery.

In 1993, Colon, then known as Melanie Colson, was convicted of kidnapping a 2-year-old girl, hiding her in her boyfriend's apartment. Police found the child there the next day.

Colon was sentenced by Supreme Court Justice Edward McLaughlin to a minimum of 2½ years in jail.

In 1992, Colon was convicted in Family Court for absconding with her 5-year-old stepsister for three days to punish their mother.

Law enforcement sources said that Colon's criminal and Family Court records undermine the credibility of her account of the cabby slaying.

Colon's lawyer, Jeffrey Schwartz, said Colon claimed that she got into a fight with Marta Nelson and

“She was as much a victim as Mr. [Elhadji] Gaye,” Schwartz told a judge this week, referring to the slain driver. He said Colon, sitting in the front seat, tried to warn Gaye that Nelson, sitting in back with a gun, was going to rob him.

But Colon reportedly has a history of telling lies.

A counselor at a residential youth facility in James-town, N.Y., said in a 1992 report that Colon has “difficulty telling the truth.”

“She fabricates for no apparent reason,” counselor Harriet Webster wrote. She said Colon also “spent a great deal of time trying to be accepted by her peers... [and] seeking attention.”

Other professionals said Colon lied by insisting she was pregnant at times that she was not, by saying that her alcoholic mother had died and that she shot her stepfather when he sexually abused her.

She claimed to have attended a junior high school for gifted children — but, in fact, at age 16, was reading only on a second-grade level.

Assistant District Attorney Kerry O'Connell said in court last week that Schwartz' explanation of how Colon's face was slashed clashes with an account Colon gave to police.



ERICA COLON as Melanie Colson: often in trouble.

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