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A Dead Man's Ransom

by **Dave Racher, Daily News Staff Writer**

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Kenneth Jardon decided to be sleuth, judge, jury and executioner last

December after he was the subject of a false kidnapping plot which caused his mother to give away some of his drugs and cash, the prosecutor said.

Assistant District Attorney Linda Perkins said Jardon, 29, arrived at his Wynnefield home on Dec. 29 and found his mother hysterical.

"She was crying," said Jardon in a statement to police. "She said someone had called her and said I had been kidnapped, and they were going to kill me."

Perkins said Jardon and his cousin, Eric "Ease" Ponder, 22, went out to find the man responsible for the scam. They took Anthony "Omar" Waddell, 29, for his last ride, Perkins said.

Perkins said Waddell, of Montgomery Avenue near 57th Street, denied having anything to do with the call to Jardon's mother, but Jardon forced him into an

alley near 52nd Street and Lebanon Avenue and shot him several times, killing him.

Jardon and Ponder, both of Lebanon Avenue near 56th Street, were ordered yesterday to stand trial on murder and related charges by Municipal Judge Ronald B. Merriweather.

Homicide Detective William Schol testified that Jardon told him Waddell was killed while tussling over a gun during a fight.

"He tried to hit me," Jardon told Schol. "Then he went for the gun and I just shot."

Ponder, waiting in a nearby car, drove off when he heard the first shot. He told Detective William Egenlauf that he was merely driving his cousin around and didn't know anyone was going to be killed.

His lawyer, Frank Spina, asked for Ponder's discharge because "he had nothing to do with it."

Jardon's lawyer, A. Charles Peruto Jr., said his client "just wanted to find the man who was responsible, not kill him."

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