

The Case for Darlie Lynn Routier

“Mother murders her young children; celebrates with silly string.” This is what I remember about the Darlie Lynn Routier case from June 6th, 1996. The murders of Darlie Lynn’s two sons, Damon, age 5 and Devon age 6, happened in Rowlett, Texas soon after the widely publicized case of Susan Smith who murdered her children by drowning them. “We are inundated by mothers who murder their children!” Headlines spoke of murderous women that took the lives of their children without remorse. People were eager to classify Darlie Lynn Routier in the same category of uncaring and violent women.

In 1996, I barely gave Darlie Lynn Routier a second thought. I didn’t have an opinion of her guilt or innocence. That changed this year after I met Darlie Lynn Routier’s mother, Darlie Kee, through a mutual car club affiliation.

As I became interested in her daughter’s case, I began to form my own conclusions. In my search for the truth, I discovered many discrepancies in her case; and I wondered how she could have been found guilty. Was it the silly string video that clenched the guilty verdict for Darlie Lynn? This video, of the Routier family gathered at the children’s gravesides, showed Darlie Lynn spraying silly string and laughing. It would have been Devon’s 7th birthday a few days after his death. The family had joined together for a prayer service and to remember Devon’s birthday. The jury was NOT shown the scenes in this video of Darlie Lynn broken down and overcome with grief at the loss of two of her sons. No...the jury was not allowed to see the entire video nor was it shown the casual and unprofessional treatment of the crime scene; for example, blood stained articles stuffed into paper bags which compromised the integrity of this significant evidence.

I could describe how the crime scene was botched, vital information was left out of court proceedings, key witnesses

were not called to the stand and facts pertinent to the case were not presented to the jury. The jury was not sequestered during the trial but continued to return home to watch TV and read newspapers filled with predictions of Darlie Lynn's guilty verdict. But this letter is more to ascertain the turning point for me when I became absolutely convinced of Darlie Lynn's innocence. That turning point came long before I met face to face with Darlie Lynn Routier. Any person who studies this case carefully and listens to the complete 911 tape will doubt her guilt. When I learned of the vital role that Darlie Lynn's husband, Darin Routier, played in this case, I was confident of her innocence. The jury never knew of Darin's role in the horrific murders of his sons.

I drove to the Texas correction facility a few months ago to meet Darlie Lynn. The drab walls were weathered and rough just as I imagined Darlie Lynn's treatment had been during the last fourteen years of her confinement here on death row. I sat on the edge of my chair as she entered the room straining my neck to get a clear view of her hazel eyes through the screens that separated us. Her warm smile put me at ease. Her mother, Darlie Kee, had accompanied me on this visit and we made small talk at first; catching up on the family news at home, especially about Drake, Darlie Lynn's youngest son, now 15 years old.

I was comfortable with Darlie Lynn. I wanted to reach out and hold her hand to reassure her I was there to help. We spoke of my writing background and the fact that her family and I are writing a new book for her. This book sets out the truth in a concise way including the family's perspectives and experiences. We present new evidence that has been gathered over the years including physical evidence approved and in line for DNA testing. At least 9 key pieces of evidence are to be tested. Evidence that is tangible, real and ready to prove her innocence beyond a doubt; blood, hair and fingerprints will

tell the story hidden behind bold corruption of the justice system
–unknown until now.

There is other key evidence and testimonies that still remain to be presented to a new and unbiased jury; it was withheld at her trial. The jury was never informed of crucial photos, critical documents and witnesses were never allowed to testify at the trial. The jury never heard the 911 tape in its entirety. The jury never knew about the other families in Darlie Lynn's neighborhood whose homes were also violated by masked intruders the same week Damon and Devon were murdered.

This case begs for a new trial. Darlie Lynn was convicted of murder and sentenced to die with no motive and no evidence connecting her to the murders of her two sons. Police department inefficiency and their attempt to force the facts to fit their ideas of what happened on June 6th, 1996 were woven together like a spider web poised to catch its prey. The outcome? An innocent woman is on death row waiting for DNA testing that was granted, but to this day has not been completed.

Darlie Lynn Routier's faith and belief in God are unshakable. She stands tall and straight, always anxious to help other women that need encouragement and hope. She has added another dimension to my life and the lives of those around her.

As for Darlie Lynn's mother, Darlie Kee, she remains steadfast in her faith that justice will prevail.

Carol Factor

Jeremiah 29:11 "for I know the plans I have for YOU, declares the LORD, plans to give you HOPE AND A FUTURE!!!