

Testimony of Dana Routier

DIRECT EXAMINATION

12

13 BY MR. DOUGLAS MULDER:

14 Q. Dana, will you tell the jury where you
15 were born and raised?

16 A. I was born in Nashville, Tennessee.

17 And I was raised in Denver, Colorado until I was 15, and
18 then I moved to Lubbock, Texas, when I was 15.

19 Q. Okay. And, you have been called here
20 to testify, Dana, in regards to Darlie Routier. Do you
21 know her?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. Do you see her here on my immediate
24 left?

25 A. Yes, I do.

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1 Q. Okay. How did you first meet her?

2 A. We met in high school. When my sister
3 and I first moved to Lubbock, we went to school at
4 Monterey High School in Lubbock, Texas. And Darlie, I
5 believe, she was -- had already been attending Monterey
6 at that time. And her and I just got to be friends.

7 Q. Okay. And you had moved from out of
8 state and so had she?

9 A. Um-hum. (Witness nodding head
10 affirmatively.) Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. And had a close relationship,
12 got to know her well, did you?

13 A. Um-hum. (Witness nodding head
14 affirmatively.)

15 Q. And then, subsequently, y'all married
16 brothers, did you not?

17 A. Right. Well, we had kind of lost
18 track of each other because she had graduated from a
19 different high school. But when I started dating Deon,
20 my husband -- it was kind of a joke, or not a joke but it
21 was funny, because he had told me, "Well, guess who my
22 brother married," and I came over to the house and they
23 wouldn't tell me who she was and then they said Darlie,
24 and it seemed like we picked up where we left off, you
25 know, just immediately. It was good to be back in touch
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1 with her. I don't know.

2 Q. Okay. When did you and Deon marry?

3 A. October 9th of 1993.
4 Q. Okay. And, did you live there in
5 Lubbock?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Would you see Darlie and Darin
8 frequently?
9 A. Um-hum. (Witness nodding head
10 affirmatively.)
11 Q. How often would you see them?
12 A. Well, about every third week of the
13 month, about -- we would go at least once a month to
14 Dallas from Lubbock.
15 Q. When you did, would you stay with
16 them?
17 A. Um-hum. (Witness nodding head
18 affirmatively.)
19 Q. In Rowlett?
20 A. Um-hum. (Witness nodding head
21 affirmatively.)
22 Q. Be there for several days?
23 A. Well, we usually could just stay the
24 weekend because we were both in school and working.
25 Q. You were both attending Texas Tech?
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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. I guess you got to know their children
3 well?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Would you say that you were close to
6 Darlie and Darin and their three boys?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Did you have occasion to see Darlie in
9 the company of her boys?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. And see how she treated her boys?
12 A. Yes, I did.
13 Q. On many occasions?
14 A. Um-hum. (Witness nodding head
15 affirmatively.)
16
17 THE COURT: Ma'am, could you say yes
18 or no?
19 THE WITNESS: Okay. Okay.
20
21 BY MR. DOUGLAS MULDER:
22 Q. Can you tell the jury how she treated
23 those youngsters?
24 A. She was -- when Deon and I first were

25 married, I didn't have any children. And -- but Darlie
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1 had her two boys, and she was just such an example for
2 me.

3 I mean, it's the kind of mother that I
4 wanted to -- how I wanted to raise my children. She was
5 very giving and very loving and very kind with her time
6 and herself, and the things that she wanted to instill in
7 those children were very important to me.

8 Q. Did you ever see her have a violent
9 moment toward them?

10 A. Never, never.

11 Q. Did you ever see her do anything that
12 you thought was strange or unusual?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Would you talk with her frequently by
15 telephone?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And when was your child born?

18 A. April 8th, 1994.

19 Q. A little boy or a little girl?

20 A. A little boy.

21 Q. Okay. Did you call on Darlie from
22 time to time as your first child was growing?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 Q. And, why would you do that?

25 A. Well, because I was a first-time
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1 mother, and Darlie had been, you know, had gone through
2 this twice with Devon and Damon, and because I felt so
3 comfortable talking with Darlie, and she was so
4 supportive with everything else.

5 And I knew, you know, I could go to
6 her about the things that I was panicked about as far as
7 being a first-time mother, like teething and bottles, and
8 you know, I panicked about everything being a first-time
9 mom, and Darlie was always real supportive.

10 And, you know, I admired her advice on
11 how she -- you know, the example. She was a very good
12 example for me and how -- what I wanted to instill with
13 my children.

14 Q. Did the boys ever visit you and Deon
15 in Lubbock?

16 A. Um-hum. (Witness nodding head
17 affirmatively.) They did.

18 Q. How long would they visit?

19 A. Well, they would go and stay with
20 grandmother and granddaddy which is Lenny and Sarilda
21 Routier. And they would come and stay with us, me and
22 uncle Deon, for a night, maybe a night at a time.

23 Q. Dana, did you ever see her strike her
24 children?

25 A. I did not, no.

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1 Q. Or punish them in anger or anything
2 like that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. When the children would visit you,
5 would she call and check on the children?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did she supervise the children when
8 they played out of the home in your presence?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. Was there anything that went on that
11 you thought was improper or inappropriate?

12 A. Never, no.

13 Q. Did she and Darin seem to be getting
14 along as husband and wife?

15 A. Well, sure, yes.

16 Q. Did you feel her relationship with her
17 children was in all ways normal, as far as you could see?

18 A. Yes, very normal.

19 Q. You felt like she loved her three
20 sons?

21 A. Absolutely.

22

23 MR. DOUGLAS MULDER: We will pass the
24 witness.

25

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1 CROSS EXAMINATION

2

3 BY MR. GREG DAVIS:

4 Q. Mrs. Routier, do you know why the
5 defendant went to another school in Lubbock?

6 A. I believe it was a half-a-day work
7 program where it was work and school, but, no, I'm not
8 sure.

9 Q. Okay. Were you still talking with the
10 defendant in April and May of 1996?

11 A. Um-hum. (Witness nodding head
12 affirmatively.)

13 Q. Okay. In your discussions with her,
14 did you ever become aware that she was having problems
15 there in her home?

16 A. No.

17

18 MR. GREG DAVIS: No further questions.

19 THE COURT: You may step --

20 MR. DOUGLAS MULDER: Wait just a

21 moment, if I might.

22 THE COURT: Sure.

23

24

25

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1 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

2

3 BY MR. DOUGLAS MULDER:

4 Q. When is the last time you had seen

5 Darlie before June the 6th, before this tragedy?

6 A. It was about a week and a half before.

7 Q. Tell the jury what happened.

8 A. We had gone, Deon and I took --

9 brought Dillon to Dallas and we stayed with them, which

10 was regular, I mean, we would do that quite often, we'd

11 come up and stay for the weekend. But that weekend we

12 had made plans to go to the Scarborough Fair because I

13 had never been.

14 And, Deon and Darlie and Darin wanted

15 to take me because I had never been, and they took me to

16 the State Fair for my first time so they wanted to take

17 me to the Scarborough Fair for my first time.

18 I mean, we just had the best time. We

19 had taken Dillon for that time that we had gone and we

20 were there for about half a day, and we were just, I mean

21 it was the best weekend, it was one of the best weekends

22 we got to spend with them, and you know, we had a

23 terrific time. And we really enjoyed ourselves and we --

24 it was the last weekend that we were there before this

25 happened.

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1 Q. Did they all appear to be getting

2 along normally?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4

5 MR. DOUGLAS MULDER: We will pass the

6 witness.

7 MR. GREG DAVIS: No questions.

8 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. Now,

9 ma'am, you must remain outside the Courtroom when you are

10 not testifying. Don't talk about your testimony with

11 anybody who has testified. In other words, don't compare

12 it.

13 You may talk to the attorneys for

14 either side. If someone tries to talk to you about your

15 testimony, tell the attorney for the side who called you.

16 Okay?

17 THE WITNESS: Okay. Can I take this

18 with me?

19 THE COURT: Yes, by all means. Watch

20 your step now going down.

21 THE WITNESS: All right.