

Testimony of Darin Routier

DIRECT EXAMINATION

16

17 BY MR. DOUGLAS MULDER:

18 Q. Yes, Darin, let me direct your

19 attention back to June the 17th of 1996. And I'll ask

20 you if that is the day that your house was released back

21 to you and Darlie?

22 A. Yes, sir, it was.

23 Q. Okay. And from the 6th of June until

24 the 17th of June, you had not been permitted to go into

25 your house, had you?

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1 A. No, sir, we had not.

2 Q. Okay. And, I'll ask you if you and

3 Darlie had occasion to go to 5801 Eagle Drive, your

4 residence there, in the company of Detective Patterson

5 and Detective Frosch?

6 A. Yes, sir, we did.

7 Q. Okay. And did you also have a psychic

8 with you at that time?

9 A. Yes, sir, we did.

10 Q. About how much -- did you all do a

11 walk-through of the house and Darlie explained to

12 Patterson and Frosch in person as to what happened and

13 where it was and this and that?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. And, I'll ask you if the

16 psychic was there as well?

17 A. Yes, sir, she was.

18 Q. Okay. About how long were you in the

19 house?

20 A. Couple of hours.

21 Q. Okay. And, from what time to what

22 time, as best you recall?

23 A. It seemed like it was dark, probably

24 7:30 or eight-ish. Frosch and Patterson didn't stick

25 around very long.

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1 Q. Okay. And when you left, I guess you

2 were staying at that time out in Plano?

3 A. Yes, sir. We never went back to the

4 residence to stay

5 Q. Pardon?

6 A. We never went back to the residence to

7 stay.

8 Q. Okay. Did Darlie ever go back to the
9 residence, period, after the 17th?

10 A. No, sir, she didn't.

11 Q. She was arrested the 18th?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. You have a neighbor across the street,
14 a Ms. Nelda Watts?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. About how long have the Watts lived
17 there?

18 A. I don't know, seemed like it was a
19 couple of -- two summers ago.

20 Q. Okay. Have you ever met her?

21 A. No, sir, I haven't.

22 Q. Have you met him?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. Do you know if Darlie has met them?

25 A. I don't believe she has. They weren't
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1 very social.

2 Q. All right. Stayed to themselves, did
3 they?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. In the house primarily?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. All right. Did you have an occasion
8 to return to your residence on the 18th?

9 A. Yes, sir, we did.

10 Q. And who was there and what was your
11 purpose in returning?

12 A. Dana Stahl went with me. We met
13 the -- an insurance agent at the house around 10 or 10:30
14 in the morning.

15 Q. Okay. Dana Stahl would be Darlie's
16 younger sister?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And she is 16 or 17 years old now,
19 something like that?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. About the same size as Darlie?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Okay. Did you wait out in the front
24 yard for the insurance adjustor?

25 A. Yes, sir, we did.

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1 Q. Okay. And while you were there, did
2 you have occasion to do any cleaning up or picking up?
3 A. Yes, sir. There was just, oh, I guess
4 there was probably 40 or 50 flowers that were around the
5 fountain.

6 Q. You are talking about wreaths, and
7 bouquets, and things like that?
8 A. Wreaths and bouquets and great, big,
9 huge things of -- and we decided to just go ahead and
10 just go ahead and clean up all the ones that were all
11 dried up and dead. And so I went around the back and I
12 got one of the little pull-cart dumpsters and we brought
13 it around. We were picking all the little stuff off of
14 them, all the little signs and stuffed animals and things
15 like that.

16 Q. And you saved those?

17 A. Yes, sir. I still have them.

18 Q. All right. And, the remainder of the
19 things were hauled around in back?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. For trash removal?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Approximately how much damage was done
24 to your residence?

25 A. Between 15 to 18 thousand.

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1 Q. You have not been reimbursed for that,
2 have you?

3 A. No, sir, I lost the house.

4 Q. Now, Darin, have you met a young lady,
5 approximately 31 or 30 or 31 years of age, named Kay Lynn
6 Norris who works at American Pawn?

7 A. No, I don't recall her.

8 Q. Is she here? A dark-haired, young
9 lady with long hair, worked in the jewelry department of
10 American Pawn?

11 A. If I saw her, I would probably know
12 her.

13 Q. Okay. What is American Pawn? Is this
14 your typical pawn shop?

15 A. No, sir. This pawn shop is probably
16 the size of the HEB over there. I mean, it's a monster.
17 They sell airplanes and everything in there, boats. It's
18 a great big, huge pawn shop. They said it's one of the
19 largest in the nation.

20 Q. Okay. Have you had occasion to go up
21 there from time to time?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. About how many times have you and --
24 how many times have you been there?
25 A. Oh, I have probably been there 15 or
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1 20 times.
2 Q. How many times have you and Darlie
3 been there?
4 A. Probably about the same.
5 Q. Was she usually with you when you
6 would --
7 A. Yes, sometimes we would go for lunch
8 or something, and just, you know, kind of go by there and
9 see what they have got. I mean, it's kind of interesting
10 because they have always got new stuff in there.
11 Q. Who would you deal with there?
12 A. A man named Dan. Actually Dan would
13 call us at the office and have us come up there if they
14 had something that was just spectacular, a really good
15 deal.
16 Q. This was used jewelry, I assume?
17 A. Yes, sir.
18 Q. Okay. And if he thought he had
19 something that y'all liked or would like, he would call
20 you and you would come over?
21 A. Yes, sir.
22 Q. These are not really expensive pieces,
23 are they?
24 A. No, just, you know, a couple hundred
25 dollars.
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1 Q. Okay. So --
2 A. Just kind of an investment. We just,
3 you know, always liked jewelry so we'd just, you know,
4 pick up something here and there.
5 Q. Okay. Do you remember any occasion
6 when Darlie would snatch the jewelry out of the
7 saleswoman's hand and look at it and if she didn't like
8 it, throw it back at her?
9 A. No, sir.
10 Q. I mean is that --
11 A. That is not even in Darlie's
12 character.
13 Q. It doesn't sound like anything she
14 would do?
15 A. No, sir. I was there every time, I
16 think I would have remembered that.

17 Q. I mean, there would be no reason in
18 doing something like that, would there?

19 A. Not with a place full of guns like
20 that.

21 Q. Do you ever recall being in there with
22 the children?

23 A. We did take them I think once, yeah.

24 Q. Okay. Was there any fuss with them or
25 any problems with the children?

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1 A. I just remember one time we were in
2 there, and there was all kinds of big stuff for them to
3 play with in there.

4 Q. Airplanes?

5 A. Well, they had like this kind of,
6 looks like an airplane, boat-type of thing that floats on
7 the air, and they have great big, huge toys, you know, in
8 there to play on, and I had to kind of get on to them a
9 little bit and tell them to get off of it because they
10 had signs written all over them saying, "Do not climb on
11 them. Do not get on them."

12 Q. Did you ever hear Darlie yell at the
13 boys, "Get your asses over there"?

14 A. No, sir, she doesn't use that kind of
15 language.

16 Q. Darin, do you know a lady by the name
17 of Eileen Schirmer?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And, how do you know her?

20 A. She lives a couple of blocks away from
21 us and she also has -- they have a business that is right
22 around the corner from ours.

23 Q. Okay. Is it related to yours, same
24 type of business?

25 A. They are the beginning process. They
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1 are designers. And then actually, they are the beginning
2 and we're the end.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So there's a lot of -- there's
5 manufacturing in between the two of us.

6 Q. So y'all are friends and visited in
7 each other's homes?

8 A. They have only been over to our house
9 one time and I think we have been to their house one
10 time. They have kids about the same age as ours.

11 Q. Okay. They are not close friends?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Have -- they have a boy about the

14 same -- right in between Damon and Devon?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Do you know if your boys would

17 ride their bicycles over in the Schirmer neighborhood?

18 A. I don't think they would ride their

19 bikes that far, no.

20 Q. Okay. Did the Schirmer boy ever ride

21 his bicycle over in y'all's neighborhood?

22 A. I don't know. He seemed like a lot

23 littler. He didn't have a lot of the older boys and

24 stuff in the neighborhood to play around with. So I

25 don't really know. I think I have seen them around, but

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1 just a couple times, usually with their mom or their dad.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. They are very protective of their

4 kids.

5 Q. Did you -- were y'all protective of

6 yours?

7 A. Yes, very much so.

8 Q. Would you allow your boys to ride

9 their bicycles in the street?

10 A. No, never.

11 Q. Of course, you don't know whether they

12 did or not, do you?

13 A. Not exactly, no, sir.

14 Q. Well, I mean you weren't with them all

15 the time when they were riding their bicycles?

16 A. Well, right. But from the time they

17 were really little, they knew for a fact that they were

18 not going to ride in the street. They had to stay up on

19 the sidewalk.

20 Q. Did you -- were you trying to put in

21 speed bumps on that street?

22 A. Yes, sir, I was. And I was also

23 responsible for having the Children At Play signs put up

24 in the neighborhood.

25 Q. Okay. And what did you do with

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1 respect to where you parked your Pathfinder or Darlie's

2 car out in front?

3 A. That would keep people from going

4 around that corner going too fast. It would kind of slow

5 them down so they would have to be careful when they went
6 around that corner.

7 Q. How was that?

8 A. Well, just the way the corner is
9 designed, going around the outside. Sometimes people
10 would go 35 or 40 miles an hour going around that corner.
11 So with my truck there, it would make them slow down
12 because they knew that they couldn't see from one side of
13 the road to the other.

14 Q. Where did the insurance people come
15 from that were going to see your house on the 18th?

16 A. They came from Houston.

17 Q. Okay. Were they coming in specially
18 to make their inspection and make their estimate?

19 A. Yes, sir. I don't know exactly --
20 there was three of them. I don't know why they came from
21 Houston to do it, but they did. They sent some special
22 people in.

23 Q. Okay. Darin, directing your attention
24 to June the 5th of 1996 when you were -- you had
25 testified to this sometime back, days ago. When you were
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1 working in the garage, did you all keep the door locked
2 from the garage to the utility room and from the utility
3 room to the garage?

4 A. No, I never locked that door.

5 Q. Okay. Perimeter, exterior doors were
6 locked?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. But not the door that led from the
9 utility room to the garage?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. As you know, the jury has found
12 Darlie guilty. And as part of our system, you have to
13 accept that. Do you understand that?

14 A. No, sir, I don't.

15 Q. Well, that is -- what I want to ask
16 you is simply this: Does this change your faith in your
17 wife? You have lost more than anyone in this situation,
18 haven't you?

19 A. Yes, sir, I have. I have lost
20 everything.

21 Q. Well, you have lost two sons and you
22 have lost a wife, haven't you?

23 A. Yes, sir, I have.

24 Q. Are you still as confident now as you
25 were back days ago, with respect to your faith in Darlie

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1 and her inability to do anything like this?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. It hasn't shaken your faith?

4 A. No, sir, it has not changed one bit.

5

6 MR. DOUGLAS MULDER: We will pass the

7 witness.

8 MR. GREG DAVIS: No questions.

9 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You may

10 step down.