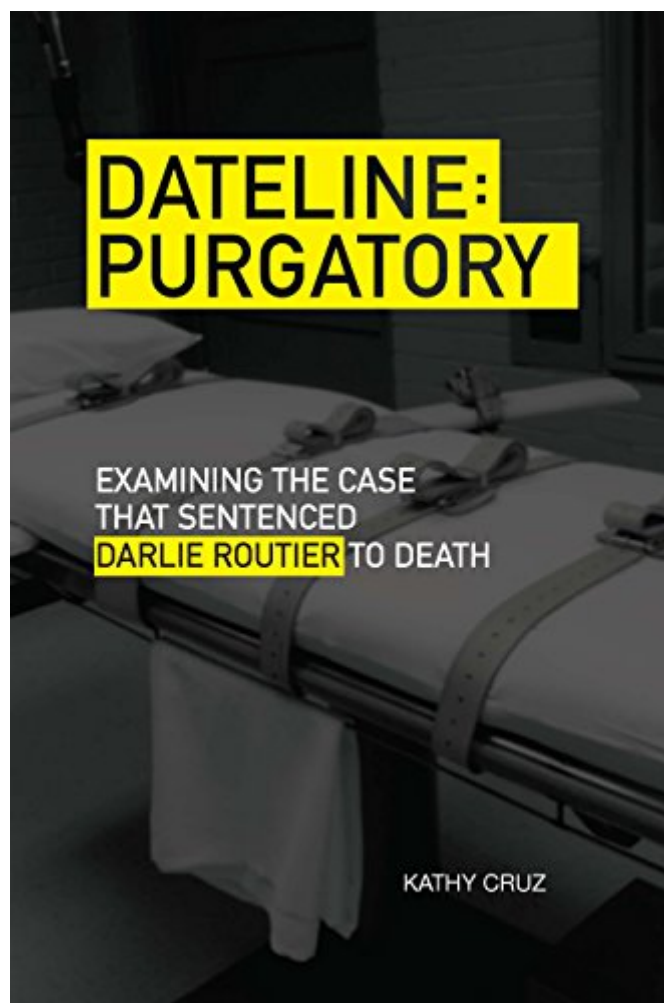


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Dateline Purgatory: Examining The Case That Sentenced Darlie Routier To Death



Synopsis

The brutal murders of young Devon and Damon Routier in the early morning hours of June 6, 1996, put their motherâDarlie Routierâat the heart of one of the most notorious murder cases in modern Texas historyâdespite her own throat having been slashed to within two millimeters of her carotid artery. The actions of a small-town police department and those within Dallas County's ruthless justice system created a perfect storm that swept up the young mother and landed her on death row. There she has remained, in a nine-feet-by-six-feet cell, despite claims of her innocence by those who know her, findings about the alarming fallibility of bloodstain analysis, and her husband's admission that at the time of the murders he was soliciting help to stage a home burglary to commit insurance fraud. In *Dateline Purgatory*, award-winning journalist Kathy Cruz enlists current-day legal experts to weigh in on the shocking transgressions that resulted in one of the country's most controversial death penalty convictions. With the help of the infamous death row inmate and a former FBI Special Agent known as "Crimefighter," Cruz would find that her journey through Purgatory was as much about herself as it was about the woman dubbed "Dallas's Susan Smith."

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Customer Reviews

I remember well June 1996 when Darlie Routier was accused of stabbing two of her three young boys to death. I was the mother of a two-year-old, living just an hour away from where the crime had happened, and I followed the story. I was mesmerized and horrified that any mother could so brutally kill her own children; I was disgusted when I saw the damning "Silly String video;" I mourned those two little boys and all who were missing them. What Dateline: Purgatory feels like more than anything is an investigative reporter's journey to find rational explanations where none seem to exist. This book is as the title indicates: an EXAMINATION into the case of death row inmate Darlie Routier. Readers will be introduced to information that the jury didn't have for consideration as well as the possibility of new information that could soon be available due to advances in technology. But is it enough to save Routier -- or should she be saved at all? "How do they put a person to death with no motive, no confession, no eyewitnesses, and no solid evidence? Only in Texas." -- Darlie Routier, in a letter to her aunt

Author Kathy Cruz is an excellent writer and makes use of figurative language to really illustrate her points and observations. For readers from Texas, the inclusion of specific details of the places Cruz went for interviews was interesting and puts readers right into the scenes. The writing is very contemplative in nature, and Cruz is clearly driven to keep asking questions. Though she doesn't know why, Cruz can't shake that she's being called to do this investigation.

Arguably this book is nothing more than a propaganda tool purely designed to line pockets....and Darlie's commissary account. Listen to the 911 tapes found on Cruz's site (<http://datelinepurgatory.com/911-call/>). The first words out of Darlie's mouth..."somebody came in, they just broke in, they just stabbed me and my children." Here's the irony folks...on that same page Cruz attempts a deceitful maneuver to woo Darlie supporters in claiming "A recent analysis of the 911 call using current day technology may substantiate Darlie Routier's claim that she only became aware that her throat had been slashed when she caught a glimpse of herself in a mirror while on the phone with a 911 dispatcher. Is this the point in the 911 call when Darlie makes this exclamation? The state claims she was saying "There's nothing touched." The duplicitous suggestion is that Darlie only realized she had been 'slashed' at the 05:23:05 and 05:25:13 mark in an effort to debunk the state's claim of "there's nothing touched."....which IS precisely what Darlie said. Reminds me of an old Walter Scott quote..."Oh, what a tangled web we weave...when first we practice to deceive." If you want unbiased facts, read Darlie's and Darin's testimony in the actual court transcripts, In fact, read the entire transcript....more insightful and factual than any author. Ironically, in the opening statements, BOTH the Prosecution and the Defense acknowledge Darlie is

a very light sleeper. Per Prosecution."...defendant was a very light sleeper, and she had complained to her husband that the baby would keep her awake simply by turning in his crib. And for that reason, she said, "I'll stay down here with the two boys tonight..." Per Defense...."she was a light sleeper.

â œDateline: Purgatory (Examining the Case that Sentenced Darlie Routier to Death)â • by Kathy Cruz, I would classify as a true crime/look into our justice system. A few years back, this would of been an easy read for me, and a top pick for me. As of recently though, I have gotten away from the true crime genre, but wanted to read something different. As of yet, I am not completely done reading it, and it is mostly because I am struggling with it for a few reasons. Reason 1:I went into reading â œDateline: Purgatoryâ • hoping to really learn about the case involving Darlie Routier for â œmurderingâ • her two young sons the night of June 6, 1996. With my being 22 almost 23, I really wasnâ™t watching the news much when this was being covered on it, and when I did watch the news my parents would have me leave the room when stories like this were being covered. As I was saying, I was hoping to learn more about the case, but I felt like I have been learning more about Kathy Cruzâ™s research in the case as she tries to get the case against Darlie Routier which sentenced her to death reopened. As much as I enjoy Cruzâ™s research and is presented in strong and educated manor, it is just missing something to keep me interested at times. Reason 2:My other issue with this book is, that Iâ™m confused if Cruz is being paid to mention the places in which she meets people to find out more information. These places include Walmart, Arbyâ™s and McDonaldâ™s and places of the like. Now this issue is just a small one, but bugs me when I see it throughout the book.Overall, I am giving â œDateline: Purgatory (Examining the Case that Sentenced Darlie Routier to Death)â • by Kathy Cruz 2/5 stars based on where I am at in the book (page 181/217).

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