

Dateline Purgatory: Examining the Case that Sentenced Darlie Routier to Death

By Kathy Cruz

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Justice Denied published an article about the Texas death row case of Darlie Routier in its [first issue](#) in February 1999 -- "Darlie Routier: On Death Row Innocent of Murder" -- and has published a number of articles related to her case since then.

Dateline Purgatory: Examining the Case that Sentenced Darlie Routier to Death, is a new book about Darlie Routier's case written by journalist Kathy Cruz. *Dateline Purgatory* is being published in April 2015 by the Texas Christian University Press.

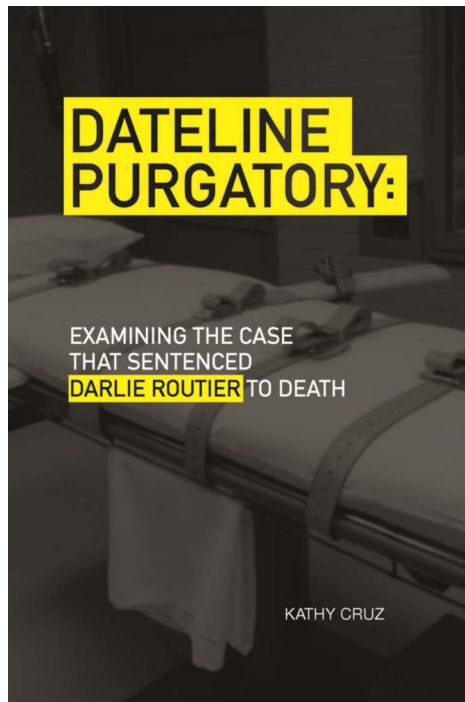
The brutal murders of young Devon and Damon Routier in the early morning hours of June 6, 1996, put their mother Darlie Routier at the heart of one of the most notorious murder cases in modern Texas history—despite her own throat having been slashed to within two millimeters of her carotid artery.

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-foot-by-six-foot 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* Cruz enlists current-day legal experts to weigh in on the shock-



Darlie Lynn Routier in hospital after the attack on June 6, 1996



ing transgressions that resulted in one of the U.S.'s most controversial death penalty convictions.

[Click here to order *Dateline Purgatory* in paperback from Amazon.com.](#)

Comments about *Dateline: Purgatory*

Michael Morton, exonerated of murder in Texas and author, *Getting Life: An Innocent Man's 25-Year Journey from Prison to Peace*:

"*Dateline: Purgatory* will make you feel. Then, it will make you think. And hopefully, after that, you will want to act. I did, because once an execution is carried out, there's no correcting it."

Jeff Blackburn, founder and chief counsel, Innocence Project of Texas:

"Everybody knows the Texas criminal justice system doesn't work, but few know why and how. Kathy Cruz does, and *Dateline: Purgatory* proves it. This richly detailed and well-narrated book affords a view of the Texas system rarely seen by the outside world. It shows how ambitious prosecutors, compliant judges, and naïve jurors can make for a lethal combination. It also shows the terrible human cost involved when justice becomes what it is in Texas: a team sport in a rigged game. Anyone who wants to understand the true nature of Texas injustice should read this book. Ms. Cruz has done the world a favor by writing it."

Skip Hollandsworth, executive editor, *Texas Monthly*:

"I thought I knew all that there was to know about Darlie Routier – the woman at the center of the most talked about murder case in modern Texas history. Then I started reading *Dateline: Purgatory*. Kathy Cruz's book is not only a masterful piece of investigative reporting, it's a beautifully written narrative, filled with characters that seem to come straight out of fiction. Almost twenty years after Darlie's two sons were murdered, the twists and turns in this saga still remain utterly riveting. I promise you that after reading *Dateline: Purgatory*, you will not be able to stop wondering what really happened to Darlie and her family."

Mike Cochran, author, *Texas vs. Davis: The Only Complete Account of the Bizarre Thomas Cullen Davis Murder Case*:

"With relentless research that rivals her provocative writing, veteran journalist Kathy Cruz makes a powerful argument for reopening the case of the Texas homemaker at the heart of one of the nation's most unsettling death penalty convictions. The reasons why we all should be suspicious of how this conviction was won, along with details of how Cruz's destiny crossed with that of Darlie Routier, make for a riveting read."



Darlie Lynn Routier in prison

[Click here to go to *Dateline Purgatory's* webpage on the TCU Press website.](#)

Kathy Cruz is a former reporter for *The Dallas Morning News*, now working as a staff writer at the *Hood County News* in Granbury, Texas. She has won numerous Journalist of the Year honors from Texas press associations, as well as many other awards from regional, state and national press associations. She is the co-author of *You Might Want to Carry a Gun: Community Newspapers Expose Big Problems in Small Towns*. Cruz is the recipient of five awards for excellence in legal reporting, including a Texas Gavel Award and four Stephen Philbin Awards from the Dallas Bar Association – two of which were grand prizes.

Extensive information about Darlie Routier's case is on the website www.fordarlieroutier.org.

