

Transcript Pauline Matthews

Pauline Matthews - Mother of exonerated death row inmate, Ryan Matthews



Mike: Was there ever a point that you thought – my god, they're gonna kill my boy? Did you ever get to that point where you thought it might really happen?

Pauline: You know, I thought it and I had hope, hope was what kept me alive. 'cause, you know, I felt like when Clive and them came in, you know, Clive told me in the beginning that if Ryan had to go to death row, and he did, that was the best place. If he had to go to prison, death row was the best place for him, because he wasn't with the population, being so young. And so he told me, he said, 'but believe me, nobody's gonna die'. You know, and I believed him. He said nobody, you know, you don't have to worry about that, he told me that about a week after the trial he met with me at his house. And he said, 'nobody's gonna die'. And, you know, I believed that, you know, you even though Ryan wasn't that old and went through a lot of changes and stuff, you know, and had hope and I had faith.

Mike: So how did you feel when you saw Clive and his colleagues turning up in court?

Pauline: Like, the heavens opened up and these people came to save us. I'm serious because everything changed. When they came in the court room... you know, like it was a lot of... you could feel the prejudice, you could feel that they were playing, they were... they were doing all kind of things. You know, it was like...all these people against you, you know, the detectives, the police, everybody, even your own attorneys, you know, it felt like... you had nothing. And when these people came up in there it was like the heavens opened up, and everything changed. We wasn't able to talk to Ryan - they were able to go up there and talk to Ryan. You know the whole scene in the courtroom changed. It's like, you know, they had, you know, like they were just... they had respect for these people. They knew, like they were on their p's and q's cause, you know, and I guess they were... I, I guess they know who they were. You know, because I almost didn't know, I didn't know who they were until, you know, they got there, I didn't know they were coming. But, it was a whole different scene, it's like, you had people behind you, you had support. They came and they stayed... they were with us, from that time till then end.

Claire: How long then did it take...from the time they came in 'til the time they got Ryan out?

Pauline: It took...Ryan was convicted in...he stayed on death row...five years.

Claire: So it took another five years – wow, seven years of his life.