

Amanda Knox



Lucy Beauchamp - Wrongfully Convicted

Background

Amanda Knox



Meredith Kercher



Patrick Lumumba



Raffaele Sollecito



The Crime

Murder of Meredith Kercher - “A Drug Fueled Sex Game”

November 2nd, 2007

- Traces of male DNA from rape
- little nicks in her chin
- Covered with a blanket
- Staged break in
 - Nothing was stolen and the wall was not climbed



Giuliano Mignini - lead prosecutor

Evidence

Guilty:

- Covered with a blanket
- Staged break in
- Response to knife drawer
- Knox's confession to being present
- Sollecito's confession and blaming
- Found a matching knife in Sollecito's apartment
 - Knox's DNA on the handle
 - Kercher's DNA on the blade
- Sollecito's DNA on bra clasps

Innocent:

- At Raffaele's apartment the night of the murder
- Lumumba proved an alibi
- Guede's DNA
 - Admitted to being present and said Amanda had no involvement
 - Changes the story that Amanda was present
- Knox's recantation
- Sollecito's recantation

The Verdict

- Guede found guilty and sentenced to 30 years, reduced to 16 years
- Amanda found guilty and sentenced to 26 years in prison
- Sollecito found guilty and sentenced to 25 years in prison



Rudy Hermann Guede

The Appeal

- 3 years after the murder
- Reexamine knife and bra DNA
 - Contamination through investigation and laboratory
- Prosecution did not reveal two other sets of DNA on bra clasp
- Prosecutor's closing argument was finished about keeping honor of Italy
- Acquitted on charges to both Amanda and Sollecito

Appeal to Italy's Supreme Court

- 6 years after the murder
- Italian court throws out Knox and Sollecito's acquittal
 - Guilty verdict focuses on circumstantial evidence - "Knox's behavior and relationships."
- Both acquitted for a second time
 - Court's reasoning for acquittal is "stunning flaws" and media attention leading to a "frantic search"
- Guede still considered guilty

The Psychology

“All proof has aspects of uncertainty”

~~Confirmation Bias:~~

- ~~Knox's reaction to the knife drawer~~ covering her ears like a memory of a sound: Kereher's screams

~~Political/System Structure:~~

— ~~Pressure of solving high profile case~~

— ~~“They just wanted to prove they were capable of dealing with something on this scale.” Nick Pisa~~

~~Implicit Bias:~~

— ~~Body covered with a blanket means murderer must be a woman~~

— ~~“A man would never think to do this.”~~

~~Tunnel Vision:~~

— ~~“They were comforting each other with an affection appropriate for the moment.”—Prosecutor Mignini~~

— ~~Mignini stated he did not feel bad about the trial because he had no question about their guilt~~

~~Understanding false Confession:~~

- Aggravated interrogation of Knox and Sollecito
 - Confesses that he was lying and Knox did not come to his apartment until 1:00 am
 - Twisting the translation and the language of the message
 - Knox implicated Lumumba from a false memory/bad eyewitness identification