

Polly klaas kidnapping essay



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Losing someone we loved because of death is the saddest and the hardest experience for humans. Strong response to death is a universal phenomenon and it does not take into account people's age in grieving. The most awful kind of loss any person could probably go through is losing a child. The pain of losing a child is a searing and unspeakable pain and the depth of this pain alleviates knowing that you see how your child suffers. The abyss of sorrow where parents usually fell off describes how it feels to lose a child.

It is said that home is the safest place of all but it didn't work for a little girl who lives in Petaluma, California (Burke, 2008). Her parents would have helped her during the time that a man was about to abduct her but the story of her parents' life is nothing. Her parents' have been separated and the little girl was with her mother's custody when the incident happened. Things run in my head while doing this report. What if her parents are present at home when this thing happened? Perhaps, things will turn out differently. We may be able to see this little girl today.

She might have grown into a very fine young lady and she probably has her own family right now or maybe she would be a Hollywood actress for she was very fond of acting. The case of Polly Hannah Klass hasn't ended up to now. Her abductor and killer is still alive and he has a long way to go before he reaches the realization of his verdict. The case of Polly Hannah Klass opened the eyes of the public that child abduction is very rampant and it counts off the age of the child. Similar cases like what happened to Polly Hannah Klass is quite alarming that even in our own house we can still be harmed.

As I continue with this paper, the life of a young girl with a beautiful smile like sunshine in the morning is gone forever but her memories will remain in the hearts of many citizens who have grieve with her family and who have supported her search for justice. Polly Hannah Klass: A Symbol of Love and Lost Innocence On the day of “ January 3, 1981 in Fairfax, California, Marc and Eve Klaas (Burke, 2008),” were blessed with beautiful baby girl and they named her Polly Hannah Klass. At the age of two-and-a-half years, her parents divorced and her custody was granted with her mother.

Her father faithfully visited her and that would be easy for Marc, her father, because he was remained friends with her mom, Eve. Her mother later on gets married and Polly didn't have any certain amount of conflict getting along with her mom's new family. Polly like any other little girls had crushes to the opposite gender. She was very fond of the football player Joe Montana with a photograph tacked on her bedroom wall and actor Mel Gibson. Among her favourite things are popcorn, hot fudge sundaes, Archie comics and Judy Blume books. Polly grew as a very pretty girl with a big brown eyes, fair skin, dark wavy hair and she also had dimples.

Even before Polly enjoyed being part of the school plays and she is an active member of the school band. She's dreaming of becoming a professional actress someday and she had a major interest with music. As a young girl, she is very fascinated in making people laugh with her funny antics and she had a good sense of humor (Podger, 2003). Polly was a daddy's girl ever since moreover she spent weekends and most holidays with her dad. Marc's a very supportive father and never let her daughter felt being left alone although she stayed with her mom's new family.

Polly was also close to her grandparents on her father's side and they took her on trips with them. Similar to any kid, Polly had a lifelong fright of the dark because she was scared of a mysterious bogeyman and the chance that somebody would kidnap her. She often conversed her phobia with her parents and her father would often recollect that he's always assuring Polly that everything will be fine and he'll be always there to protect her. " Her mother separated from her second husband and the woman lived with her two daughters, Polly and Annie, in Petaluma, California (Burke, 2008).

Their new neighbourhood was a suburb with a low crime rate. Their pale-blue house was located close to downtown of Petaluma. " Polly hosted a slumber party on October 1, 1993 with her two best friends, Kate McLean and Gillian Pelham. The three girls attended Petaluma Junior High and they are all members of the school's band, playing the same instrument, the clarinet. During that time, the three girls are having so much fun posing with Mickey Mouse hat and an antler hat.

The three began goofing around by putting make-up and Polly painted her face with white powder and black lipstick to look like a ghoul (Knaupp, 2007). After so much exuberance, Polly washed off her face and during that time, her abductor was already loitering outside their house. Polly's bedroom was full of guffaws and little laughs while they're playing a board game called Perfect Match. It was then when Polly decided to obtain her friend's sleeping bags from their living room. As she opened the door, a middle-aged man with a huge physique and armed with a knife blocked her way while ordering them not to scream or else they will be dead in no time. All the three young girls remained silent and scared to death by the threat of Polly's abductor.

Katie and Gillian thought that it was just a joke considering that Halloween is in time. Richard Allen Davis, told the little girls that he mean no harm and he was just doing things for the sake of money. " Polly then offered her box with \$50 cash in it but Davis refused and instead he ordered the three girls to lie down on the floor. He tied them up with their hands at the back and placed hoods over their heads. He assured them that he won't hurt them. Polly begged to Davis with so much terror in her voice to spare her mother and her sister.

Davis then ordered the two other girls to count to 1, 000 before they did anything and then he snatched Polly carrying her out of her home (Knaupp, 2007). " The two girls didn't mind to count but instead struggle to free themselves from their straps and finally thrived. Gillian and Kate woke Polly's mother and told her everything in a frantic voice. Eve Nichol dialled 911 and the long search for Polly Hannah Klaas set off (Whisler, 2001). The police force of Petaluma was soon around the area and broadcast the description of Polly's abductor to police radios throughout Sonoma County.

An incident happened that night which may lead to Davis arrest when his Pinto was stuck in a ditch and he can't do anything to pull it out. Two police officers appeared after receiving a call from a lady reporting a suspicious man stuck with his car on the roadside. With some twigs in his thick hair and sweat all over his face, the two deputies approach Davis who was kept on wiping perspiration off on his brow with his shirt. Without any sign of agitation or nervousness, Davis and the two officers had a very light conversation.

In fact the officers helped Davis to pull off his Pinto stuck in a ditch by borrowing a chain from a nearby homeowner. The next day, forensic experts identified a palm print of Richard Allen Davis in Polly's bedroom but this information was held in reserve from the media and the same thing with his encounter with the deputies (Gross, 1993). The community of Petaluma was really horrified when they learned about the incident. Soon there were people who have volunteered in looking for Polly Klass. Thousands of circulars with Polly's photograph together with her description and police number to call if in case someone has seen her.

Even television show has run a segment to flash pictures of Polly and the sketch of her abductor. Police force with K-9 rake through all possible areas to look for signs of the missing girl. Purple ribbons were scattered all over the town of Petaluma knowing that it's the favourite color of Polly. Winona Ryder, the thin elfin brunette actress who hailed from the same place offer a reward amounting to \$200, 000 because she felt that there is something in common between her and Polly knowing that they both studied at Petaluma High School. All she wants was for Polly to come home safely and alive.

Ryder's hope and all the concerned people's hope vanished when things that may linked with Polly's abduction were found by two hikers. These include knotted red tights, dark sweatshirt, strips of binding tape white cloth that was made into a hood and wrapper of unrolled condom. Prayers of million people were heard and Davis was arrested two days later but he kept on being silent not until December 4 of the same year he confessed everything he did and it led investigators to the body of Polly Klaas (Gleick, 1994). The

lifeless body of Polly was found 30 miles away from Petaluma. The formal process of court hearings held thereafter.

The defense team of Davis planned to show that the defendant hasn't sexually assaulted Polly in any way. His team was hoping to reduce his chance of receiving death penalty. Under California law, sexual assault and kidnapping is punishable by death penalty. Although Polly's body was terribly disintegrating to yield physical evidence of an assault, by the recommendation of the jury to the judge, Davis still received the verdict of death penalty by lethal injection. At the sentence hearing, Davis pointed the finger at Marc Klaas and bravely said that Polly's father sexually abused her.

Davis claimed that Polly told him that her father was molesting and making pass on her. Mark Klaas as a strong advocate for improving child safety rose from his seat and lunged at Davis furiously. California became very vigilant since then. Police force came up with new techniques in tracking missing or abducted children. Polly's case also allows the judicial system to strengthen the law against felony. Richard Allen Davis hasn't served his sentence and he's still a long way to go. His conviction will always be remembered for the jurors were never moved by his bluff accusations on Polly's father.

The conviction of Polly Hannah Klass made the jurors to be the real heroes and heroines of modern times with their tireless adherence to serve justice. At the End of the Line: Polly Hannah Klass and Her Memories The case of Polly Hanna Klass made a big difference in many people's outlook in life especially those who are living in the same community. People from all walks of life became aware of protecting children from child offenders. The

KlaasKids Foundation was founded by Marc Klaas in loving memory of his daughter. It aims to protect children in any way from any one (Knaupp, 2007).

It promotes the rights of every child and gives them a better world to live in. It widens people's knowledge in protecting children in their community to avoid any offenders and abductors. The foundation also called the attention of the government to strongly amend and modify laws to denounce guilty offenders. KlaasKids Foundation also facilitate in finding missing and kidnap children together with the victim's family by promoting partnerships among concerned citizens, organizations, law enforcement, private sectors and legislators.

Polly Hannah Klaas will be forever gone but her memories will remain forever in every heart of American. Losing a loving child of her parents, a great sister of her siblings, a smart student of her Alma Mater, a sweet grandchild of her grandparents, a best friend of Gillian and Kate is the saddest part of Petaluma's history. Protect the children for they are the future, our future. If they will be gone just like Polly Hannah Klaas, what would be our future then?