

James Rabe (00:02):

Patty price. It is the anniversary of the Brom murders. And you actually have a connection to the family.

Patti Price (00:13):

Yes. Um, I grew up with the Brom family. My parents were super good friends with the Brrom parents and my dad works with their dad and I was best friends from probably age two with Diane. Um, and the murders happened when we were both in eighth grade at CPS.

James Rabe (00:32):

What, what as an eighth grader, what were you experiencing?

Patti Price (00:38):

Oh boy. I mean, it I'll tell ya. I'll tell you kind of how it unfolded. I was actually at their house for a sleepover the Saturday before, um, and Diane Diane's desk was in our, we had four desks in our, in our homeroom pushed together on Thursday of that week. She did not show up for school. Um, and there was some concern, um, that, you know, the parents didn't call in. Um, Rick, her fifth grade brother was not, not at school either. And that was just kind of unusual for, um, for kids to be missing with other parents calling in Mrs. Brown was a stay-at-home mom. Um, and, uh, didn't think much of it. Um, but then when we went about our day as usual and, um, my mom was, uh, our eighth grade math teacher. So, um, I remember laying in our living room at night and I was my dad and I were with laying in our stomachs doing my algebra together because my mom refused to help me with my math homework.

Patti Price (01:46):

And, uh, a phone call came in and it was after eight and back then in 88, that was not normal to get, to have the phone ring after eight o'clock at night. And my mom got on the phone and just my mom never cried and she just started wailing. Um, like it was really unusual. And I remember just my body stiffening because that was so unusual. And, and she hung up the phone and came in and she just couldn't get words out at first. And she said, you're petty, you're gonna die. You're gonna, I don't know how to tell you this. Um, but, but Diane's dead. And my body went from being stiff to being stiffer. Um, and my dad's body completely stiffened around me as well. Um, and from that moment forward, it was like a dark cloud had surrounded me and I couldn't move.

Patti Price (02:48):

Um, and I did move. I got up, um, my oldest sister, my only sister at home at the time was a senior in high school. And so, um, and my grandma lived with us at the time too. So I, all I remember about the rest of that night is we had, we found out the whole family was found murdered. Um, David was missing. David was like an older brother to me. And, uh, you know, he had just been cross country skiing with Diane and I in their backyard the Sunday before and, um, super nice kid. And we ended up sitting around and saying the rosary, and then we woke up the next morning and went to school and walking into St. Pius was just like, it was so surreal. It was like ghost town. Everyone was quiet. Everyone was there. I walked by Ricky's fifth grade classroom first and just, I remember seeing people but not hearing anything.

Patti Price (03:49):

And, um, walked down the hall to the eighth grade classrooms. Of course, walked in Diane's chair was still up from the cleaners, putting it up on top of her desk. Um, and it's, so it, it it'll sound crazy, but, but another friend of mine, Patty, another Patty and I cleaned her desk out. We're the ones to clean her desk out. Um, and there was very little said everyone was just kinda trying to go about their day. And it's so different from now how you see tragedies unfold. Um, in this day and age, like there were no mental health providers, the cops didn't show up at our school. They were at lured, but they were not at our school. And we still didn't know at that time what happened to David? I was convinced that he was, um, he was either kidnapped or he was, he had come in during the murders and fled and was on the run.

Patti Price ([04:53](#)):

There was no thought in my mind that he had done anything wrong. I felt really nervous for him. Um, and then the, you know, there were no cell phones back then, so no one really knew what was going on. And, and then we found out he had turned himself in at like four o'clock in the afternoon from the post office, the Northwest post office he's in days and weeks and weeks after that, I was positive. He had, he had been set up, he was too nice of a kid to have done that. Um, and to this day I've kept in contact with him through letters. Um, he continues, you know, my heart goes out to, to his grandparents who are the only survivors and his oldest brother. Um, Joel was a really good friend of my brother John's and same grade, same thing. They grew up together. And, uh, we're both out of high school by then. And just recently, um, Joe, Joe actually went on to become a college professor, a PhD. Um, but just, just recently he died of cancer. Yeah. I think that was two years ago. And so, you know, I ended up sending his obituary, the jolt to David and David didn't even know his brother had died. So it's just, I mean, the whole thing is just beyond Trey.

Speaker 3 ([06:18](#)):

Does, uh, does David stay in touch with you? When did he write back?

Patti Price ([06:21](#)):

You're right back. Yeah, he's right back as soon as I, right. Um,

Speaker 3 ([06:26](#)):

Do you expect to see him, have you ever thought about going to visit him?

Patti Price ([06:30](#)):

I definitely have thought about visiting him. Um, and I definitely feel like my life will not be complete until I do. Uh, he's not supposed to get out on parole until his late seventies. Um, but yeah, he, I, you know, I write to him with my maiden name and I don't give him my, um, actual address. Right. Um, email, I have a mail things to appeal box. So there's a little anxiety about going to Sam because he's been in prison since he was 16 years old. Right. And who knows what that can do to you

Speaker 3 ([07:07](#)):

As a psychologist? You have a pretty good idea. Is that, is that part of what made you want to become a psychologist that you experienced that trauma?

Patti Price ([07:14](#)):

For sure. For sure. I had a lot of psychological problems after that. Um, really my parents weren't ones to be savvy about. It was 1988. No one had a therapist.

Speaker 3 ([07:28](#)):

Yeah. It's not your parents' fault. It's just people there, those, those services were available, but no one really, I had a friend in high school that went to see a therapist and everyone thought that was so weird. So it didn't mean it was just, wasn't something that everyone did

Patti Price ([07:42](#)):

Very much, very much so. And you know, my parents were really good with good friends with their parents too. You know, my dad, my dad and their dad were, were coworkers. And so I think they were going through a lot themselves, you know, as, I don't know if were you in town then, like every accident everybody's garage is missing. Parents were freaked out of their own children, right. Because this was such a regular family. And if it could happen in their family, could it happen in everybody's family? And so, um, you know, the mental health of kids was really, uh, afterthought. And I ended up having, going into kind of a tailspin of depression and, um, stopped eating. And my parents had no idea anything about mental health. And I ended up, I ended up by sophomore year of high school needing to be hospitalized for like four months for an eating disorder.

Speaker 3 ([08:41](#)):

Well, the only way most kids can, can control anything is by saying, no. Right. You were trying to do your very best.

Patti Price ([08:51](#)):

Yeah. Doing do. Everyone was trying to do their best, but there were a lot of kids were just spinning their wheels. So there were a couple of suicides after that happened and in the next couple of years, um, and it was just a tough time. So yeah, they definitely drove 100% is though, is the reason I specialize in eating disorders today.

Speaker 3 ([09:12](#)):

So if, if, uh, someone seeing this, that either has a child that experienced trauma recently is a, is, is, has experienced it maybe 10 years ago. What do you recommend?

Patti Price ([09:25](#)):

Um, yeah, for sure. Uh, if there's a significant trauma, don't ignore, um, the need for mental health. Even if you think they're doing well, get them assessed, bring them in there. Shouldn't be stigma about getting help. Um, there still is.

Speaker 3 ([09:43](#)):

[inaudible] giving your kid tools to deal with whatever they're dealing with.

Patti Price ([09:46](#)):

Right, right, right. Even if they're doing well, um, and they're coping very well if there's, you know, a friend that committed suicide or there's some other significant trauma, um, get them, get them into a therapist just to verify that they're doing okay before bigger issues develop. Um, and thankfully there's a

lot more resources nowadays. Um, COVID is kind of putting a hampering on that rate at this very moment, but, uh, mental health is still really stigmatized and it's frustrating that, uh, kids still are hesitant to get help when they need it. Um, but man, early intervention can save years and years and years of trouble.

Speaker 3 ([10:28](#)):

I talk about my mental health issues all the time, because I want to de-stigmatize it, but it's easy for me. I'm James Rabia. I'm a radio guy been around forever, but it's not so easy for everyone else. So, um, if you need help and you don't know what else to do, and don't want to talk to anyone, there's a fantastic tech service. You can use just text seven, four one seven four one and say, Hey, I'm having trouble seven, four one seven 41. Um, and you can use that or just go to Korosi news.com and or use the KFC news app. And all the information is right there. We had just searched mental health resources, and we have a whole page of it. Do you still have trouble when you, when you think about David Brown?

Patti Price ([11:12](#)):

Uh, you know, yeah, actually, I mean, honest to God, 33 years later, this is, this is a tough time today is, um, you know, February 17th, February 18th. And this happens to be a year where those two dates fall on a Wednesday and Thursday, just like they didn't ADA. Um, and yeah. Do I think about it and does it make me sad every year? Yes, it does. Um, I'm, you know, beyond the point I went through many, many stages where I, I, you know, sadly I burned everything I had about it. Um, you know, um, for, for years and years and years there, they would show, they would show on the anniversary. They would show the body bags being taken out of the house. And, um, for the first year, I bet I saw the body bags being taken out of the house all the way from the today show down to the local news, hundreds of times, because it was such a big story at the time.

Patti Price ([12:11](#)):

And that was the only footage they had where the body bags being taken into the ambulance. Um, and that was stuff I had nightmares about for years and years. And I actually was treated for PTSD, um, because of that secondary trauma of seeing that. Um, but thankfully that's died down. I think what's come out of this is that, um, you know, when, when they first did all the reporting, they asked the sheriff and he gave extremely gruesome, specific details of exactly where the bodies lay exactly what they looked like. And I knew that house so well that I could replay that over and over and over in my head. And, you know, the star Tribune even did like a central section, like a book about it. And so, um, so I have seen progress in terms of like, not giving those specific details of crimes, um, on the TV that can cause secondary trauma. Um, so I think that,

Speaker 3 ([13:16](#)):

And most of us, most of us don't need those. The law enforcement people need them. Family might need them for whatever reason, but no one else needs them, honestly,

Patti Price ([13:27](#)):

Except for, uh, sensationalizing it, which, you know, that that was a hard time. That was a hard part of, it was the how sad sensationalized it was and how, how people, um, made out David to be a monster. When I knew I knew he wasn't. So that was really hard to watch too.

Speaker 3 ([13:46](#)):

Do you, and I know that you said to you, you know, you don't have his mail go to your regular address, so there's still a little fear there.

Patti Price ([13:55](#)):

Yeah. I mean, there is a little fear of, of, uh, you know, what, what drives a kid to do that? And like, what help has he gotten since then? You know, he he's been in prison. I don't know if he's ever gotten the help he needs, if his, you know, whatever caused him to do that has gotten worse or improved. I do know that he, he currently works, um, in one of the units where he teaches, uh, construction skills to guys that are going to get out and he finds a lot of pleasure in that. Um, and he has a lot of remorse for what he did. He misses his family. Um, he's still, he used to be a distance runner. He still runs. And in fact was, uh, allowed to be out in the guard long enough to, to run 24 miles of a marathon and had to be brought in before he finished. I mean, so yeah, you know, he's still at some level, the same kid, but you know, 33 years in a, in a, um, in a lockdown high security prison, um, he's continued to be at Stillwater, um, who knows what that can do to you.

Speaker 3 ([15:09](#)):

And he doesn't give you a hint of, of that during letters, I assume. Not that I want you to betray your confidence.

Patti Price ([15:15](#)):

No, no, no. He, you know, he writes, he writes, he has the most perfect handwriting, perfect handwriting, and he writes pages upon pages. Perfect, perfect English skills. Um, and I mean, he seems like a good guy. He seems like if I went to visit him, he would be a good guy. Um, and I do think that I eventually will. It's just because I don't think I'll be, my life will be complete until I see him. That sounds really funny. But that circuit, yeah. It's like a, it's like a bucket list thing for me, so,

Speaker 3 ([15:56](#)):

Well, I appreciate you talking to me today. Do you have any thoughts you'd like to express before we, uh, we finish up here Patty price?

Patti Price ([16:03](#)):

Hmm. I don't, I don't think so. I mean, I'm, I'm so pleased to be able to speak about it because for so long it was a topic you could not speak about and no one wanted to hear you speak about it. Um, so I really enjoy being able to speak about it. It was, um, you know, that six months after we, that the murders happened, we went on to lured with, uh, the two other grade schools at the time. And, um, boy, we were from the, the, the school that had the Brown murder kids and that was taboo. We didn't want to S we didn't want to talk about it. And you know, other kids didn't want to hear it. They were freaked out to even hear about it, let alone, um, ha have it happened, um, directly to them. So a lot of us were completely shut down and a lot of our parents and teachers just, you know, the attitude at that time was we don't talk about it. It didn't happen. You know, like just, it happened just let's go on. Which, you know, you can't do in a big situation like that.

Speaker 3 ([17:09](#)):

No, but I'm glad that you're talking about it because I know there are people that have dealt with trauma or have not dealt with trauma and either way they need to hear it's okay to talk about it. They need to hear it. There are, there are ways to help handle it. And I think it's really important for parents

to hear that, Hey, sometimes when you're a kid, something horrible happens and it can, it can last with you for a long time until you finally really, truly dig down deep and do the hard work.

Patti Price ([17:38](#)):

Totally. I say that all the time, you have to talk about something and cry about it until you're done talking and crying about it. And until then, you know, you're not

James Rabe ([17:50](#)):

Gonna be able to let it go.

Speaker 3 ([17:52](#)):

Hi, it's Patty price. Talking to us about the, about her experience as David Braum's sister's friend from, from, from grade school. We appreciate your time, Patty. Thank you so much.

James Rabe ([18:03](#)):

Thank you.