

## **Bibliography details**

**Name of the Serial/Publication:** Veritas

**Volume No.:** 1

**Issue No.:** 2

**Month & Year of publication:** February 2022

**Page numbers:** Case studies (45-47)

**Title of Article:** Murder of Cherish Periwinkle

### **CONTRIBUTOR (s)**

1. Ms. Hennah Jennifer

# MURDER OF CHERISH PERIWINKLE



Ms. Hennah Jennifer

## **“STRANGER=DANGER”**

Cherish is an eight-year-old girl from Jacksonville, Florida. She was born on December 24, 2004, to Rayne Perrywinkle (mother) and Billy Jarreau (father), who were never married.

On 21st June 2013, it was not a normal day for Cherish Perrywinkle. She was so happy because the next day she needed to fly to California to spend her summer with her father. Cherish was living with her mother Rayne, Rayne's boyfriend and Cherish's two younger sisters in Florida.

On 21st June, Rayne made Cherish ready for the trip by packing things, like dresses. She wanted to buy some new clothes for Cherish, so she decided to go to the shop. She didn't have a car, so she decided to walk to the Dollar General Store on Edgewood Avenue with her three daughters.

She only had \$100, with which she needed to buy household items, some clothes and travel to the airport. Furthermore, she didn't have any more money to buy new clothes for Cherish's trip. At this time, Cherish took a little white dress with red hearts on it. She realized that she couldn't afford it, so she put back the selected dress.



A man was watching every move of Rayne and her daughters. The man was waiting outside the store and struck up a conversation with Rayne when she came out. He said that he was waiting for his wife and claimed that they had a gift card for Walmart and that it would be helpful for Rayne to buy new clothes for her children. The man who was named Don introduced himself to Rayne. After some time, he said, "You can meet my wife at Walmart." At that time, it started to rain, so Rayne thought about whether she could walk in the rain or take a lift from Don to get to Walmart and buy some clothes using the gift card.

Rayne was a little hesitant, but later she agreed to the lift. Rayne and her three daughters got into a white van, and they arrived at Walmart. Rayne went into Walmart with her three children, and she started shopping for the clothes for Cherish, meanwhile Don, the old man was waiting outside. Later, he joined her, and he added a bundle of rope to the cart. He had a different intention for Cherish. Don told Rayne that he would get some cheeseburgers from McDonald's. While going, Cherish also went with him. Rayne thought that McDonald's was inside Walmart, so she was fine with that. After 20 minutes, Rayne began to worry and Walmart announced that they were going to close the store soon. There was no sign of Don, his wife, or Cherish. She searched the whole store and car parking. At 11:20 PM, she called 911, as she didn't know much about Don. She described to the police whatever she knew about him. Then the police came to know he was a familiar criminal. Don, a.k.a Donald Smith, was 61 years old and a sex offender with offences from the 70s. He had been released from jail three weeks before. The police didn't search for

him that night. At 9 A.M, 911 got a call. A suspicious van was standing near the bushes, and the police were searching for him. He drove past in the van, and he was arrested. The van was empty, and Cherish wasn't in the van. Police came to know that he was wearing the same clothes - jeans and a black t-shirt, and his lower body was wet.

Police went to the woods, and they looked for water with the help of a police dog where Cherish's body was found in the water.

### **Autopsy Report:**

- Brutal injuries all over the body
- Raped many times
- Traumatic injuries on her genitalia
- Blunt force trauma on her head
- Ligation marks around her neck
- Strangulation marks which lead her blood vessels to burst in eyes, face, throat, and her eyeball bled

This shows that Cherish had undergone such a terrible incident. The injuries revealed that she fought for her life with the kidnapper.

### **Evidence:**

- CCTV (Closed circuit television) footage of Donald leaving Walmart with Cherish
- He was wet when arrested
- A witness who saw his van parked near bushes
- DNA evidence - his DNA was found in Cherish's body, and Cherish's DNA was found on his penis

### **Trial:**

Donald Smith was convicted of murder and has been on death row since 2018.

Smith is guilty of kidnapping, sexual battery of a person under twelve years old, and first-degree murder.

### **REFERENCES:**

- ("Cherish Perrywinkle", 2019). Chilling Crimes. Retrieved from <https://www.chillingcrimes.com/blogs/news/cherish-perrywinkle>
- Frazier, F. (2018, February 4). Cherish Perrywinkle: The case that shocked Jacksonville. WJXT. Retrieved from <https://www.news4jax.com/news/2018/02/04/cherish-perrywinkle-the-case-that-shocked-jacksonville/>