

**Name: Darrell Ron Tuffs**

**Title:** You Don't Know Me

**Log Line:** Over nothing more than a domestic argument, a young and inexperienced college student becomes the prime suspect in a nationally recognized murder case amidst negative media attention.

**Genre:** Crime/Social Drama

01.30am, FAYE HARDY sits crying on the floor of her college dorm room. Her nose is broken and is bleeding. The room door is open.

From the corridor, CASEY LYNDIA (unknown at this point) passes Faye's door, spotting her on the floor. Casey rushes into the room. Crouching down, he asks Faye if she is 'OK', before asking if she needs any help. Faye quickly explains that she just had a fight with her roommate, before angrily asking Casey to leave her alone. Casey stands up and begins to walk towards the door, but he stops, looks back to Faye, before quickly closing the door with him still inside the room. Casey walks over to Faye, asking her to let him help; while doing this, he places his hand on Faye's leg.

Faye nervously looks up to Casey, before again ordering him to leave the room. Casey grabs Faye's arms, telling her not to struggle, before placing his hand over her mouth.

Casey and Faye begin to tussle. Faye frantically struggles to remove Casey

from her, while Casey attempts to pin Faye to the ground. During this battle, Casey unsuccessfully attempts to pull Fay's clothes off, instead tearing them in the process.

Faye pushes Casey backwards, sending him tripping over a pile of books, before hitting his head on a bedpost. Faye runs for the door, but Casey grabs her leg, pulling her down to the floor.

Delirious, Casey towers over Faye while attempting to stop her screaming. Becoming desperate, Casey quickly reaches for a small penknife found beneath one of the room's beds. He drives the knife into Faye's chest, before removing the knife and quickly running out of the room with it.

Faye is left in the room helplessly bleeding out; who will be blamed for this violent crime?

LILY FAIRCHILD leaves home to start college. Lily is attractive and socially confident, yet intellectually unfocused, argumentative, and manipulative. She is seen talking about people behind their backs, gossiping, stealing, and flirting with the boys in her new class. Lily stays in a room alone for the first few nights of classes, she is told that her roommate will be moving in shortly.

Lily eventually meets her roommate, who turns out to be Faye Hardy, Lily's best friend in junior high school. Lily and Faye were best friends for several

years at school before Faye's family had moved away due to her father's construction job.

Lily and Faye are, at first, elated to see each other, but increasingly, Faye becomes frustrated with Lily for her distracting behavior. Lily spends most of her time being overbearing, disrupting Faye's work, and taking part in student parties/drinking. This keeps Faye awake at night, and begins to effect her concentration.

Lily often drinks alcohol in the room she shares with Faye; opening the bottle with a penknife she keeps under the bed. Faye is uncomfortable with the penknife being in the room, but Lily claims the item was a gift from her late father.

This frustrated relationship intensifies as Faye introduces Lily to her fiancé, MAX COOKE. Lily and Max slowly develop a deep attraction for each other, casually flirting whenever possible.

Faye becomes increasingly aware of this developing relationship, so angrily confronts Lily in their room one evening. This confrontation results in the pair engaging in a physical fight in which Lily punches and breaks Faye's nose, before grabbing a bottle of vodka, storming out of their dorm room, and leaving the door open behind her.

Extremely angry and increasingly drunk, Lily travels to a party hosted by her

friend PAIGE PALMER, on her way, Lily texts Max, asking him to meet her there.

At the party, Lily goes wild in an attempt to forget about Faye. Deeply concerned for her, classmate JOHN ROACH asks Lily if she would like to be taken back to her dorm room. Lily dismisses John's offer, before ignoring his advice for her to "leave the party" before making a "fool" of herself.

When Max arrives, he asks Lily about Faye; Lily lies to Max, telling him that Faye could not attend the party due to illness. Lily then flirts with Max, eventually seducing and convincing him to spend the night with her in a hotel. Lily and Max are seen kissing, before leaving the party at 01:00am.

Lily and Max find a cheap local hotel; they steal the keys of an empty room and, unnoticed, enter the room, before having sex and spending the night together. Lily's life would never be the same again.

The next morning, Lily greatly regrets the night before, she explains to Max that sleeping with him was a mistake, and that she is going to apologize and confess the act to Faye. Max attempts to convince Lily not to tell Faye, but Lily leaves regardless.

On the way back to her room, Lily runs into a huge police presence outside her college dorm room; she soon catches the news that a college student had been stabbed and killed late last night. Lily soon learns that this student is

Faye. Lily becomes extremely distressed, filled with the anxiety that this could be the beginning of a string of unpleasant events.

Lily learns from the police that Faye was stabbed in the chest while staying in their shared dorm room. The room door was found open, some of the clothes on Faye's body had been torn, the room was found messy, and Faye's nose had been broken before her death.

Knowing that she could be a suspect, and still feeling guilty about sleeping with Max, Lily lies to the police, stating that she left Faye peacefully the night before to attend Paige's house party. When asked by police where Lily spent the night, she lies that she went to stay with friend John Roach after he had convinced her to leave the party. Police investigator DAVID HORN releases Lily, but remains highly suspicious.

Lily seeks out John, asking him to tell the police she had stayed with him last night if asked. John refuses, instead becoming suspicious of Lily.

Frustrated, Lily finds Max for comfort. The pair agrees not to mention their night together to the police in fear it may look suspicious.

Suspicion for Max and Lily increases over the next few days after rumors of their secret relationship begin to circulate on social media.

Paige, who was also a friend of Faye, confronts Lily during a class. Paige publicly accuses Lily of killing Faye, suggesting that Max and Lily are 'secret lovers' who planned to kill off an ever-suspicious Faye. Lily proclaims her innocence, before breaking down in tears.

A video emerges on social media of Lily and Max kissing at Paige's party while drunk. Reports also emerge that Lily and Max left the party soon before the time of Faye's death. Rumors and suspicion spreads like wildfire around the college. Complications and conflicts continue to increase Lily's anxiety.

Scared and overwhelmed by their escalating lies, Lily and Max decide to run away. They pack some clothes and drive off in Max's car, hoping that the rumors will eventually die down.

Journalist BLAKE WATERMAN begins to interview classmates of Lily and Max, including a neighbor of Lily and Faye who tells Blake she heard the pair arguing and fighting the night that Faye was murdered. Blake becomes convinced that Lily is guilty of the crime; he begins writing editorials suggesting that Lily and Max are jealous lovers who plotted to kill Faye.

Blake begins to coin the term 'Looney Lily' in his articles, which soon spreads to other media outlets. Other journalists begin to research Lily's many social media pages, finding photos of her in clubs on nights out. The media uses these images to frame Lily as an alcoholic, party animal, and drug addict.

Meanwhile, Lily begins to receive phone calls from her mum, MELISSA FAIRCHILD. Ashamed of her bad decisions, Lily does not answer the calls.

Lily's penknife is found in a public bin a few miles away from the murder scene. The knife contains traces of Faye's blood, Lily's DNA, and the DNA of an unknown individual.

John Roach gives an interview to the media in which he reveals that Lily tried to convince him to lie to the police about her whereabouts.

Lily's left behind clothes are searched by the police; including the jumper Lily was wearing the night of Faye's murder. The jumper is found to contain traces of Faye's blood (from broken nose).

A police search begins for Lily and Max.

Lily and Max spend the night in a hotel using fake names. On the room TV, they hear news of the police search. Lily panics, she becomes hysterical, crying to Max that she does not want to be found by the police. Max suggests they give themselves over to the police and explain the situation, but Lily refuses, stating that she is too scared to go to prison. This creates an escalating crisis between the pair.

Meanwhile, comical memes and jokes about the couple begin appearing on

social media. Lily and Max are riddled with guilt and shame by the media.

Desperate, Lily calls Melissa. Lily explains the situation to her mother, and to her surprise, is believed and supported. Melissa promises Lily that she will hire a private investigator, but advises Lily to give herself over to the police before she is caught.

The next morning, Lily and Max give themselves over to the police; they are both arrested on suspicion of Faye's murder.

Lily and Max are presented with the evidence against them, before being placed in confinement while awaiting their murder trial.

Lily confesses to sleeping with Max in a hotel the night of Faye's murder.

Mellissa makes a passionate plea for Lily's innocence to the media, but is met with questions about why she is covering up for her daughter's dangerous and immature behavior.

Blake learns of Mellissa's emotional pleas and begins accusing her of 'protecting her murderer daughter' in his articles. Mellissa sees these articles, making her extremely angry.

The media interviews old school friends of Lily; they suggest that Lily had



always flirted with boys and been jealous of other girls from a young age. Blake uses this to gossip about Lily's past in a newspaper article.

Private investigator SETH ROBERTS is hired by Melissa to look into Lily's case. Seth becomes immediately concerned about the unknown third person's DNA found on the penknife.

Blake writes an article about Lily's late father, who was banned from contacting Lily from a young age due to his abusive behavior. Blake suggests that this may have contributed to Lily's 'jealous possessiveness of men'.

Angered by his articles, Melissa arrives uninvited to Blake's offices. Eventually, Blake agrees to see Melissa. Melissa accuses Blake of a 'trial by media' reporting style towards her daughter. Blake sinisterly explains to Melissa that people love reading his articles and the gossip that comes with them. Blake attacks the type of people who question his work, suggesting that they are the same people who turn to journalists for the latest news 'scoops'. Melissa leaves declaring to defend her daughter from the 'piranha media'.

Interviewing more students, Seth starts to hear stories of a mysterious unknown man wondering around the college campus on the night Faye was murdered. Some students tell Seth this unknown man seemed nervous as he wondered around the campus buildings.

Seth begins to look into similar cases around the local area, and is particularly

interested by a case surrounding Casey Lynda, who had already served a prison sentence for the rape of a college student in the past.

With the trial of Lily and Max quickly approaching, Lily becomes extremely depressed in confinement.

Seth notices that photos of Casey Lynda closely match the descriptions of the unknown man seen the night of Faye's murder.

Melissa appears at a press conference to proclaim Lily's innocence. After answering questions from the press, Melissa claims that they are to blame for tarnishing Lily's public image for the purposes of light entertainment.

Outside the conference, angry protesters stand in the street; some hold placards stating, "Lock Her Up!" and "Looney Lily: The Jealous Secret Lover". These people do not know Lily, yet have been negatively influenced by the media's many wild accusations.

While exiting the conference, Melissa is booed by the crowds. One protester tries to confront Melissa, shouting "Shame on you". Melissa shouts back, "Were you there that night? You don't know my daughter".

Seth orders lap tests on Casey Lynda's profiled DNA in an attempt to match the unknown person's DNA on the penknife; the results are inconclusive.

The murder trial of Lily and Max begins, in which huge amounts of evidence against Lily and Max is presented to the court.

When asked by the prosecutor where she was the night of Fay's murder, Lily confesses to hitting Faye before leaving for the party, and to later sleeping with Max; she strongly denies killing Faye.

Tensions mount outside the court as protesters chant "guilty".

As the trial progresses, Seth obtains police video footage of Faye's murder scene. Seth notices from the clip that police sanitation procedures had lacked in quality while the murder scene investigation took place, This included unauthorized officers entering the murder scene, and reports of incorrect handling and sanitation of the murder weapon upon it's discovery. Seth concludes that these circumstances may have contributed to the inconclusive match of Casey's DNA.

Police investigator David Horn defends police actions in court.

As the trial draws to a close, the jury gives its verdict. Despite police failings, the court finds Lily guilty of 2nd degree murder with 20-year imprisonment. The court finds Max guilty of aiding and abetting the murder of Faye, sentencing him to a 12-year imprisonment. Emotions drive to their peak as the court and police seem to be influenced more by negative media attention than hard evidence.

In tears, Mellissa promises the media that she will make an appeal against the sentence as soon as possible.

Two years later

A news presenter talks on a national TV network; she explains to the viewing audience that after two years, Faye's murder case has finally been reopened after an appeal of Lily's sentence from her family.

Faye's family speaks to the press, suggesting that Lily and Max had been given a hard time by the media, and that they believe there to be a lack of evidence against them.

A range of journalists including Blake, quickly begin calling fail on the case reopening in newspaper articles.

In handcuffs, Lily and Max appear in court surrounded by police officers. Lily looks extremely depressed, thin, and miserable. The pair exchange glances across the courtroom. Crowds of angry protesters wait outside the court.

Seth, who reports that police failings in the investigation had been more damning than first thought, gives new evidence. This evidence, given to Seth by lab assistances working with the police at the time, suggests that the

organization of both the murder weapon and murder scene had been poorly handled during the investigation, thus possibly removing key pieces of evidence.

Over the two-year period, key witnesses have also emerged stating that they saw Max and Lily on their way to the hotel during the suspected time of Faye's murder.

Seth states to the court that Lily and Max had been sentenced by negative public opinion and news articles rather than hard evidence.

Meanwhile, suspect Casey Lynda is arrested and taken to custody after reports emerge that he was seen on campus by several students the night of Faye's murder, despite never attending the university.

In court, tensions run high as Lily and Max await their verdict. An emotional Mellissa sits anxiously waiting in the court gallery.

Two years after being found guilty, Lily and Max's new verdicts are read out. The court finds the pair not guilty of Faye's murder, overturning the sentence due to 'police incompetence on an epidemic scale' and 'a frenzy of negative media attention'.

Upon hearing the verdict, Lily drops to the floor, overwhelmed with emotions. She sits hands over her face, crying with joy. Finally, a resolution has been

found to free Lily from her accusations.

As the court rise from their seats, Melissa quickly joins Lily at the front of the court; they hug and cry as a crowd of journalists gather around them. The occasion seems to be bittersweet, Lily and Max are now free, but have been wrongly punished by the mistakes of other people.

One year later

Lily, now living back with her family, is on the phone to Max. Lily smiles and laughs, telling Max that she is “glad to be free” before hanging up.

Melissa asks Lily about the call. Lily states that Max is struggling to start his life over again, but is coping, and has recently found a new job and girlfriend.

Melissa asks Lily how she has been feeling recently. Lily states that she is trying to get her life back on track, but is feeling excluded from society after receiving such bad press. Melissa hugs Lily; she tells her how proud she is of her, before promising Lily that, “Things will be back to normal soon enough.”

On the TV, the news begins to show a report of Casey Lynda in court awaiting his verdict. Melissa begins to watch the report, but Lily promptly switches off the TV. Lily explains that she does not want to be reminded of the case, before leaving the house to pick up some shopping.

At the store, Lily spots a newspaper headline about Casey Lynda written by Blake. The header reads, “Exposed! Lynda’s Lonely Childhood Responsible for Wicked Ways”. Lily gently shakes her head before walking past the stand.

At the line to pay, an older woman in the line behind her taps Lily on the shoulder. The woman states, “I know you, you’re that girl! I read all about you in the newspapers”. Lily replies, “Yes, you read about me. But no, you don’t know me, you don’t know me at all”.