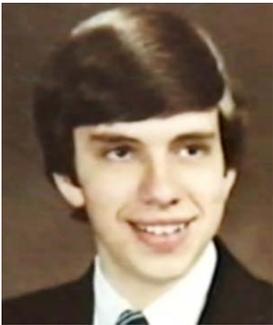


# SUMMARY OF THE SOERING CASE

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## 1984 - 1986

In the fall of 1984, Jens Soering, a German diplomat's son and academic scholarship winner, entered the University of Virginia and soon fell in love with Elizabeth Roxanne Haysom, the troubled scion of a branch of the Astor family. The two were an unlikely pair: He was a nerd and virgin, she a teenage runaway and heroin addict. Yet to all appearances these two foreign honors students had found true love at an elite American college.



Four months after Elizabeth and Jens became a couple, in the spring of 1985, Elizabeth's parents, Derek and Nancy Haysom, were found brutally murdered in their retirement cottage in Lynchburg, Virginia. When suspicion fell on their daughter and her boyfriend in the fall of 1985, Elizabeth and Jens fled to Europe, then on to Asia, and finally back to England, where they were arrested for check fraud in the spring of 1986.

Initially both Elizabeth and Jens confessed to committing the murders alone, without the other. However, police allowed Elizabeth to withdraw her confession and accepted Jens's as the truth.

## 1990

After a four-year extradition battle that changed international law, Jens was finally brought to court in Bedford County, Virginia, in 1990. His was the first high-profile trial to be televised live, in its entirety, on the East Coast. Until then, the only comparable TV spectacular was the trial of Lyle and Eric Menendez a few weeks earlier on the West Coast

When he took the stand, Jens testified that Elizabeth was the real killer -- along with at least one accomplice, possibly her college drug-dealer, the son of a local judge. Elizabeth hated her parents because they had sexually abused her, Jens claimed.

He said that his confession four years earlier had been a deliberate lie to protect the woman he loved from execution in the electric chair. Because his father was a German consular diplomat, Jens thought he enjoyed a limited form of diplomatic immunity -- a terrible mistake.



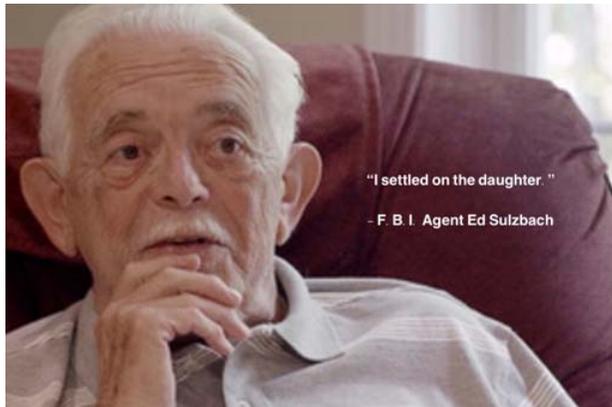
The only reliable corroboration of Jens's confession was type O blood found at the crime scene. That was Jens's type, whereas Derek Haysom had type A and Nancy Haysom type AB. In his closing arguments, the prosecutor reminded the jury twenty-six times that the type O blood could only have been Jens's.

## 2016

Twenty-six years later, in 2016, the documentary film "Killing for Love" premiered in Germany and at the Virginia Film Festival.



It contained an interview with renowned F.B.I. profiler Ed Sulzbach, one of the co-founders of the Behavioral Analysis Unit (see "Criminal Minds," CBS). He said that, shortly after the discovery of the crime in the spring of 1985, he had produced a profile of the perpetrator, and "I settled on the daughter," Elizabeth Haysom.



The police and prosecution had suppressed the existence of this F.B.I. profile from 1985 until 2016. It suggests that, when Jens gave his confession in 1986, the police knew that he was very probably not telling the truth.

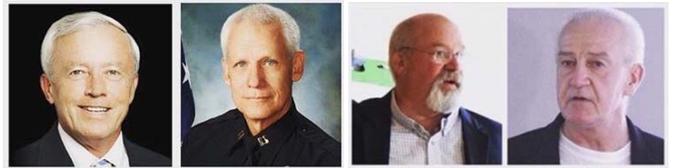
Also in 2016, a comparison of serology and DNA test results showed that the type O blood at the crime scene had a different genetic profile than Jens's -- which meant that it had been left by another man who happened to have the same blood type as Jens.

Further analysis revealed that some of the type AB blood at the crime scene had XY chromosomes -- which meant that this blood could not belong to Nancy Haysom (XX chromosomes), but must have been left by a second male perpetrator.

Shortly after this revelation, Elizabeth Haysom gave a newspaper interview in which, for the first time, she acknowledged that her parents had sexually abused her. She also admitted that she had perjured herself both at her own trial and at Jens's.

## 2017

In the course of 2017, several current and retired police officers re-investigated the case and gave public statements to the effect that Jens was almost certainly innocent.



Also, two nationally known geneticists gave public statements confirming the DNA evidence as stated above: None of the blood at the scene belonged to Jens, and some of it belonged to two unknown males.



## 2018 - 2019

After Governor Ralph Northam succeeded Terry McAuliffe in January 2018, his staff launched an "investigation" of the pardon petition. This "investigation" experienced numerous delays but is now expected to be completed in July 2019.