

# Darlene Ellison

Motivational speaker and author had to overcome intense public trauma.

## Q|A

### Questions & Answers



**"I love what I do and know I am on the right path."**

Darlene Ellison came to a rude awakening three years ago when her husband was arrested in an undercover FBI child pornography sting.

He was known as the singing dentist in Lakewood. Darlene, in shock, had to help her two children deal with the aftermath, and even appeared on Oprah's program about pedophiles.

Darlene currently has two books ready for release... "Predator Next Door" and "High Touch Woman".

Darlene's personal journey has led her to become an expert and consultant in overcoming obstacles and building alliances. She is the Founder of Women in Business for Lakewood and Park Cities, plus Director of Business and Communications Development for Professional Bank. She is an engaging speaker who "walks the talk".

The bright side to her story is that she remarried a year ago and her children are thriving.

**Where were you born and where did you grow up?**

I am a born and raised "Dallas girl"...actually have spent my entire life in Lakewood and 'went away to college' when I drove down to street to Park Cities to attend SMU.

**What is something interesting about your birthplace or hometown?**

It is one of those neighborhoods that has a "small town feel" in a really big city!

**What were some fun times you recall with your parents?**

My parents are both musically talented (even though they were a banker and teacher by profession), so we all spent a lot of time singing along to the guitar or learning all their favorite dances from the 1950s.

**What are some memorable things about your teenage years?**

I remember that we were all "neighborhood friends" but collectively we attended four different schools!

**Tell a vivid memory of college life?**

My sophomore year at SMU, our football program received the "death penalty"...my friends and I spent many a long weekends trying to figure out

how we could create the "college football experience" we had all dreamed of!

**If you gave a commencement address to a senior class, what would the theme be?**

When life throws you lemons, make lemonade!

**Tell us about your family today.**

Married to Scott Ellison (we just celebrated our One Year Anniversary) and I have two children, aged 12 and 14.

**First job? Worst job?**

Babysitting at the tender age of 13. Worst job? No such thing... some were tougher and less kind than others, but all were GREAT stepping stones to the business-woman I am today!

**What is the most difficult thing about your job?**

Successfully juggling my "Mom first" hat, along with my Business Development hat, along with my motivational speaker and author hat. Maybe I should just go into the "hat business..."

**What has been a real struggle for you?**

Becoming a single-parent "overnight" three years ago amidst a lot of public trauma for me and my children.

**What has been your proudest moment?**

Seeing my kids through that "punch in the stomach" and

helping them make their lemons into lemonade.

**What do you know for sure?**

That I LOVE what I do and I am on the right path!

**What are ten things you are crazy about?**

Chocolate mint ice cream, walks at the lake with my husband, my children, the feel of cool grass on my bare feet, hot chocolate on a cold day, the people I work with, college football, my book, my Mom's spiced tea, White Rock Lake

**Do you have a favorite sport, as player or fan? What is your favorite sports team?**

College football—I better say Nebraska Cornhuskers, since my husband is a HUGE Huskers fan! Of course, when Nebraska is NOT playing University of Texas, I am a pretty big Longhorn fan as well!

**What is your wildest dream?**

Positively affecting others with my motivational speaking and being an author. Wait a minute—I am living my dream!

**What was your favorite concert so far?**

Def Leppard (of course, I was 16 years old)

**What books have been "unputdownable"?**

Eat, Pray, Love is a favorite!

**What are some movies you**

**could watch over and over?**

Singing in the Rain and West Side Story...I'm a sap for old musicals.

**What was the last movie you saw? What did you think of it?**

Scott and I just watched "Tears in the Sun"—very powerful movie about the human struggle/conflict between what we are told to do/what is demanded of us and what is the right thing to do based on our own belief system when it comes to human rights and the treatment of fellow humans.

**What is the most miraculous thing about the human body?**

Childbirth.

**What is something that you wish you knew how to do?**

Play guitar.

**What have you seen that was breathtaking or makes you say "Wow"?**

Rainbows; a full moon at nightfall over White Rock Lake.

**What house keeping chore do you most dislike to perform?**

Picking up dog hair after three dogs!

**What is unfathomable to you?**

After having a few "shocks" in my own life, very little is "unfathomable"

**What is the best thing about being a woman?**

Women are "natural connectors"—I love that all my business-women friends want to promote each other, mentor each other and support each other's endeavors.

**If cost were not an object, what would you buy tomorrow?**

A vacation for my family, then I'd pay off any debt I have.

**What made you say, "I'll never do that again!"?**

Nothing...if I wouldn't have done it, I would never have had the life lesson that came with it. Every "never do that again" is a blessing in disguise.

**You are granted one "do-over". What will it be?**

I wouldn't change a thing...and that will definitely come as a shock to some of my friends.

**Dallas is...**

home...can't imagine living anywhere else.

**Life is...**

a series of adventures and opportunities. Sometimes it is uncomfortable, but that discomfort is the catalyst to change and growth!

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