

Fear Me Out Podcast

Episode 40

Hosted by Clinical Psychologist - Dana P. Saperstein PhD.

Guest Speakers

Roger & Marrie Reaves - True Love

Kim Fauskee 00:01

Boy, folks, do we have an episode for you today? We welcome into the podcast studio. Roger and Mari Reeves, that have a story that's unlike any other. I don't I don't think anybody can top this story. They've been married some 58 years, but technically together only 25 of those 58 years. And you'll have to listen to the entire podcast to find out why that is. But for some reason the universe transpired to put them together. And this is one of those great American love stories, right?

Dr. Dana 00:41

Well, yes, Kim. And it was probably one of the most inspiring relationship interviews that we've done so far, because so much of the relationship is based on true love and faith and respect, and dealing with an incredible amount of trauma and in fear, because of the lifestyle that they've lived. And again, I don't want to give anything away. But truly one of the most amazing stories you will ever hear, including how they got together.

Kim Fauskee 01:12

I'll get I'll give a little tidbit away that Roger was on the America's 10 most wanted list at one point, and was a business partner Pablo Escobar. So that should give you enough to want to listen to the next hour and 15 minutes of this episode. And again, the reason we did have them on is how a relationship including a marriage and a marriage with children endured through this type of lifestyle in through three decades of imprisonment. So we hope you enjoy the episode. In fact, I know you'll enjoy the episode with Roger and Mari Reaves

Dr. Dana 02:02

There are two basic motivating forces fear and love. When we're afraid we pull back from life. When we're in love, we open up to all that life has to offer with passion, excitement, and acceptance.

Fear Me Out 02:21

Coming to you from our studio in Santa Barbara, California. This is the fear me out podcast. We're not your typical Self Help Program. Our show takes a deep dive into those psychological issues that affect us on a daily basis. We hope to shift your perspective and have you experiencing emotions differently. Now here are your hosts Kim Fauskee and Dr. Dana Saperstein.

Kim Fauskee 02:43

Well, Roger and Mari Welcome to the fear me out podcast, I want to make sure that our listeners get comfortable. Because this is a conversation that they're going to want to listen to for the next hour. Because I think you have a story that probably can't be told by anybody else. Not only the life that you guys have led for the last 4050 plus years, but how you stayed together, through all of that and, and we'll get to that in a moment. But I'm gonna have Roger start a little bit about who he is and a little bit of the backstory, because then it will start making sense for our listeners.

Roger Reaves 03:28

Thank you. Thank you who you're honored to be here today. I'll tell you about where I come from. I come from a three mu farm in Georgia. We we grew tobacco and cotton corn, anything else?

Kim Fauskee 03:40

I didn't figure that was a California accent that you have.

Roger Reaves 03:43

anywhere else in the place we came from was called Work mower, and it was rightly named. So anyway, he was raised from my mother and father and grandmother in the house. I own a farm and my daddy died when we was young. I was 17 and my baby sister was just six weeks old. He died in one day just had an aneurysm. And so I stayed on that farm with my mother for 25 years and worked. So I got married and Marie and I did when I was 21. No, we moved down from Canada and moved her down from Canada. And we put in 36,000 chickens.

Kim Fauskee 04:20

So so I'm going to stop you just for a second and ask Mari How did a girl from Canada meet a guy from Georgia?

Marrie Reaves 04:29

Well, I was sitting on the pier one day at Lake Erie The place was called Turkey point. And all of the I looked in the distance and coming up on the pier. There is a guy walking up. We were all dressed in beach wear. And here he comes dark trousers, a light shirt and a Panama hat. And I thought ooh, that's interesting. And I don't mean to offend anyone but I thought well, you're the Mormon preacher. And so I observed him and I found out later that Roger was there to crop tobacco for the season.

Kim Fauskee 05:09

There you go. Okay.

Roger Reaves 05:12

So, after we were married, I was married when I just turned 21. She was 20. And it's almost 60 years ago. And so we moved on to the farm. And it was, it was wonderful. We just had a romantic time. But we put in 36,000 Lee and chickens. Wow. And the Purina company, they promoted a chicken business. And pretty soon there was 20 million laying hands within 20 miles of my house. 20 million. And of course, the price the eggs kept going down and their price to feed kept going up. And until every time we picked up a dozen eggs, we lost a nickel, you lose enough nickels, you're about \$78,000 in debt to

the Purina company. So maybe I'm just using this as an excuse. So I went and got some welding torches, and I made four great big vats, and I started making 1000 gallons of moonshine Whiskey a week.

Dr. Dana 06:14

I'm sorry to laugh. Solution.

Roger Reaves 06:16

I remember telling Marie about it. And we had a little daughter and Marie was ironing her dress and I told her what I was going to do. And I remember the tears falling on the little red. She didn't want me to do that. But at that time, in Florida, it was legal. That's about less than 100 miles away and in Georgia, it shoot and kill you. So kinda like the marijuana is here for one state and another state. Anyway, I made that bigger now that I remember. I was paying it off about \$3,000 a week. And after 11 months, we were doing real well. And one of the gas bottles got too close to the flames and knocked over. And it was 200 big gas bottles, those big 200 pounders. And it looked like World War Two down there for those things God and each other. And the law showed up. They may shot at us and around a crowd swim across the creek to get away from the bloodhounds. And what year was this? Up in 1967? Okay, so when I quit running, we were in California.

Dr. Dana 07:20

So you ran as far west as you could get.

Roger Reaves 07:23

The Pacific Ocean stop being. I got a job driving nails and then I hired a counterfeit electrician. They never knew I wasn't a journeyman electrician. I told him I've literally stripped from Georgia. I just pulled him and told the other electrician you hook them. So that worked real well. And then I got own Redondo Beach Fire Department. I run rescue for a while and then I drove the backup 108 foot hook and ladder for two years. And I was making too much money I was contracting on the side and I was hauling antiques from Missouri, right across them on this side of the Mississippi River. I'll tell you why that was when the settlers came in to California and Oregon. They came with the trains and they brought their pianos and sideboards and tables and chairs, but they had no way they could get all that on those cover wagons. Those wagons were Studebakers, by the way, and so they left them, they left the furniture there by the millions of pieces. And I was buying every month and coming out to have an auction. Well, I made so much money till I bought myself an airplane. I've learned to fly back to Georgia. And so we go down to our and I we go down Mexico fishing. We'd like to Moulay somebody's Why don't you bring some that marijuana back? That's what it is. We're talking about, I'd heard about kids smoking it. And hope man, that's the hardest thing you've ever seen. So I said, What you pay. And he said, Let me tell you let me introduce you to somebody, they introduced us and I fell in, say give you \$10,000. And I said well throw some of that hay in there. So I came back. And \$10,000 was was a lot of money in 1973. And I shook it on the bed. And Marie put her hand over her mouth and just laughed out loud. And they grabbed Bill and crawled around with it. And we just had fun. We didn't need the money. I had two houses, a new car and airplane. What in the world? I did it for it were just stupid. Absolutely. We just it was hardly anything wrong with it in 1973. So I went to see a criminal lawyer. And I put a \$100 bill on his desk. I said I got a two minute question for you, Mr. Lawyer. What would happen to me

if I got caught bringing marijuana quote from Mexico? He said what's your criminal history? I say I've never had a speeding ticket. And he said you work on the fire department. Yes, sir. He said you will get probation for sure. At the very very worst. You get one year and you're just been full much raking leaves and some military base. That's it Not very bad. today. Yes. All right. So I bought me a little bigger airplane. I bought a Cessna 207.

Kim Fauskee 10:06

So you have the ROI was okay on that. That was

Roger Reaves 10:09

alright. It was okay for much raking leaves \$10,000 A day I'll, I'll take that chance. So I got a bigger airplane and I can make \$40,000 a day I didn't buy sell or nothing, just throw it in there and upload it out on a dry lake up here. And that was it. So I had my mama come out. This time now I'm really shooting out I got me a new Cadillac. So I took her my baby sister to Disneyland. She said what you do and boy. I said I'm holding pot Ma. And she said how much you making us? I'm making \$40,000 Every day I want to go down there she anytime you said what do they do if they catch you? And I told her what that lawyer said. And I said what you think more? She said, Do you need a copilot son? So that's the way it was. And that's how I started.

Dr. Dana 10:59

And what about you? Or did you were you uncomfortable with his decision to start being a, you know, a pot sort of transporter?

Marrie Reaves 11:08

Well, I the first experience, you know, with the moonshine was just devastating for me. I mean, how could you and I come from a different background than Roger did. My parents, we were immigrants from the Netherlands, we emigrated to Canada. And my parents were very religious. And I was raised in a situation like that. So breaking the law of any type was very looked down upon, you know, you just don't do that. So I thought, Well, how could How could Roger the guy that I love so much, and he loves me? How could he break the law? I mean, I was, you know, very young. And it just devastated me. Yes, it did. But then every Monday morning, there was a couple \$100 bills underneath the doormat. And it changed things a little bit because, you know, we were we were poor. We were rich, but we were poor. We had no no cash. Yeah. And so then Rogers started, presented it to me that he was going to Hall Hall, the marijuana and he told me all about it. And I asked him, Well, how much danger are you going to be in and, and you know, it is illegal again. But then I for some reason, he just Mari I can do it. I won't get caught. Okay. And I believed in him. I really did. I mean, if the boats going down, I'm jumping in the lifeboat with him. He

Dr. Dana 12:39

was charming man, how about you not believe them.

Marrie Reaves 12:43

But even in our experience in our you know, in our early marriage, you know, and he always got us out of a situation. And I believed in my trusted in him. So there it was. And then the first time he came back

that morning, he left, so to speak, we had zero in the bank, and you came home with \$10,000. I mean, it was just unbelievable. I just couldn't believe it. And so I kind of got kind of, you know, kind of swayed into it. I saw that and it was so nice to pay off the bills. And we went to the restaurant and he says let's celebrate. And don't you dare look at the right side of the menu, just order anything you want. And it was just like, we were just two kids. He you know, we were just, it was just kind of a jubilant time. And I never really thought so much of it being the wrong thing to do. Because it was so easy. Right? You know, he just left in the morning and came home that night with a bag full of money.

Kim Fauskee 13:47

And you had a child at that time as well, right? Yes, we did.

Roger Reaves 13:51

I want to add that at that time. I will end the Bohemian circle of Redondo in Manhattan Beach. And I was a hero if Roger can bring it across to anybody. Yeah. And so we were just honored guest and laughter and just sparkling eyes. And so so people will leave.

Kim Fauskee 14:07

So people knew what you were doing

Marrie Reaves 14:10

in that community. And then there's the other community because we went to church and we were involved. And that community did not know.

Kim Fauskee 14:18

So it is a fireman, the community events.

Roger Reaves 14:20

Were we the guy that hooked us up for the marijuana and to sell it. There was a little group there and they thought we were just the cat's meow.

Dr. Dana 14:27

Teacher and mom become your co pilot or was she just joking around? Pardon? Did your mother become your co pilot? Or was she just joking? Joking around? Yeah, that's what I just want to make sure though, because that would be interesting. I'd make

Kim Fauskee 14:38

good. Make good TV.

Dr. Dana 14:41

Look, here's my mom

Roger Reaves 14:43

and my sister to do it. Yeah, it got when I got bigger airplanes. You had to have two pilots. Oh, right. And so I had one sister and she put her up. I'd go down and she'd fly back commercially and I come back by myself in DC threes. Big ones.

Kim Fauskee 14:58

So so how long On did the marijuana transporting last for you know, eight

Roger Reaves 15:04

years and then I got into the cocaine business. Okay.

Kim Fauskee 15:07

And so how did that happen so you were doing really well transporting marijuana from Mexico back to the United States?

Dr. Dana 15:14

That's right. And who is your sponsor? Who is your contact there? Was it just like a cartel person? Or was Oh,

Roger Reaves 15:21

they've no such thing as a cartel. You've met a, I met somebody out in Palm Springs, it had a little contact, and I had to pay him \$5,000 And a load and we went down there. And that's where I got I got shot up, shot down twice. Wow. So

Dr. Dana 15:37

So wasn't quite as safe as you claimed it to

Roger Reaves 15:39

be. It wasn't at all harder, particularly when you think about how much you made an hour for 33 years in prison. Right? And you say, No, it wasn't at all.

Kim Fauskee 15:49

So So eventually, you met a gentleman named Pablo Escobar.

Roger Reaves 15:53

Yes, after the marijuana just kind of played out in Mexico. And also they had a lot of radar along the border, and I was having to go way out in the Pacific and come around, come in behind these islands here and try to get away from it. And then I got in some trouble down in Mexico when I got away from the federal prison, I found out that there was a special task force from Mexico City that was in cahoots with the DEA. And they took me out and tortured me and I got away from the mountain to a place where they pushed dead animals from the roots. So I got my hands loose and the document head would rock and run all the bullets that flew around me and I got away in the jungle. So I decided not to go back to Mexico for that much after me. So I got to load up to a marijuana out of out of Colombia. And a man had sold me airplanes came up here and he says the for \$65,000 He had a ship that was coming up with so many tons of pot on it and what if I don't know if I can download it here? I said sure.

He said Well, you gotta give us this money for the fuel because if you don't go up for somebody that want to risk more net every time in an airplane. So I gave him the money and of course it was a real golf. So I went down there looking for the money and he said well we don't have your money that this debt, but let me introduce you to somebody. Okay, so I was taken in and out of place in the regatta went up the mountain and the turnpike opened and they they let let us in and fellow shooters right into an old old house. They must have been 3040 Min. Wait, not in a yard and stoned place that would it was Oh like Hacienda and windy and I remember there was a hole in the floor and it was uneven, but it was polished beautifully. A real pretty woman offered us tea or coffee. And then she took her sand to meet Jorge Ochoa.

Kim Fauskee 18:00

And Marie and Marie Wasn't she wasn't okay. I was

Roger Reaves 18:04

down there trying to get that money from the gotcha, though from me. So I met Jorge Oh, Cho when he asked me what kind of aeroplanes I had. And I told him I had a turbojet aero commander, a DC three and a beach 18. And that I'd done over 100 loads across the border. Well, they had plenty of work hauling cocaine, and they paid \$5,000 a kilo.

Kim Fauskee 18:25

So I want to ask you a question. Having those three types of planes never put you on the radar with the DEA or anybody in terms of like

Roger Reaves 18:35

the guy was on the radar, red hot, okay. And they just, I thought at the time, they had to catch you, and they never did. But when 11 of your friends tell on you, then you get a continuing criminal enterprise that cares life in prison. Gotcha. That's what happened to me. So I went down there. So he, I remember he had 12 telephones on his desk, and he has all different colors. And he said, each one of these different color and this is New York and this is Denver, and this is wherever he said when they ring I know who's who's calling. He says I said how much you put on and he said well we put 300 kilos on it. Well, that's a million and a half dollars for one eight hour flight. Wow, that ain't bad. It's hard to say no to that. Ash. Right. So why he was caught he called set the pretty lady next door and she came in with Pablo Escobar and man with a plaid shirt by eight gentlemen. Just nice and you could be shook and dreary. Well, like a gentleman who looked me in the eye. He was a good guy. He was a good guy to you. I don't know what you're terrible guy later only. Yeah, went crazy. Luckily, Hitler did but at that time, he would just like, prove to people a business thing. He didn't have fangs or orange like you would say. So he said the same thing. And so I went to work. And so I flew up. Give me one and a half million dollars and I thought, wow, I have hit the jackpot says, When do you want me to come back? We're waiting on use and newer so I could go and make 101 and a half million dollars any day I wanted to

Kim Fauskee 20:05

wow. So Mara, you you've gone now for moonshine, to marijuana to cocaine. Yeah. So what do you what are you thinking as Roger's wife and the mother of his children at this time?

Marrie Reaves 20:18

Well, you know, it was I was riding the fence. And I always struggled with it. I thought, you know, I you need to make up your mind. Mari. You know? What are you going to? Do? You know what he's doing? You just my heart said, No, not my heart. My mind said no, that's not right. But my heart. I loved him. He was a he's a great husband. He was a wonderful daddy, we traveled and yet just the way he made the money. I had a problem with that. It's just like, you know, he's bringing in the cocaine in the back door, and they're knocking on the front door for donations. For people, for addicts. You know, I thought, I'm just living a lie here. I you know, I have to make up my mind, what am I going to do? And so I always struggled with that. But I never really made a decision to leave, I stayed. And I was always thinking, well, Roger is going to stop one day, he's going to have enough money. I always felt we already had enough money. But Roger was a very generous and benevolent human being and he provided for his mother and his five sisters. You know, with homes and cars and education's we got three PhDs in our family. So whatever they wanted, and we, you know, it just kept going on and on and on. And finally, it came to a halt.

Kim Fauskee 21:52

So So Roger's family knew somewhat of what he was doing, obviously, how about your family? No. kept them in the dark? No.

Marrie Reaves 22:00

My family? Yeah. My family lived in Canada. My parents did. And we didn't see each other that okay, you know, and when we did see each other, you know, we had a wonderful time and we treated them royally. So they

Kim Fauskee 22:12

never asked. I mean, obviously, probably at some point, you're living a really good lifestyle. At this point. Lots of lots of money, lots of cash around. So there was no questioning about, wait a minute, what's Roger doing now? And you guys seem to be doing really well?

Marrie Reaves 22:28

Well, when they would come to visit, we just spend all of our time with them. They just I didn't know I had

Roger Reaves 22:34

a really good front. Okay, I was part owner of land development. Okay. And the biggest deal we did was Moreno Valley. We've heard of the town owned every foot of that land. Wow. And so then we had like 17 architects, designers in the office and, and I was supporting

Kim Fauskee 22:54

all that. So you had a legitimate business owner,

Roger Reaves 22:57

okay, which pay and favorite thing and everything was in there, the company name so but I might jump ahead of time here. We had to leave the United States that berry cod or Tom Cruise played the movie, an American made, Oh, I did two years for pot. And when I got out there he was Reagan's.

Kim Fauskee 23:19

So you did two years here in the United States. I did two years

Roger Reaves 23:22

here from marijuana, and with 30 years of parole. So when I got out, I had hired Barry seal to fly for me after I quit flying to cocaine. I said okay, when I got \$7 million, I thought I gotta move the fog up one night and couldn't get down. So I started. I'm gonna die that night. So I'll add it to New Orleans International Airport down the glide slope and bounce down the runway and stay there all night long until the next morning sunshine. And that was enough for me.

Kim Fauskee 23:52

So with a plane full of drugs,

Roger Reaves 23:55

yeah. Sit down on the runway. Oh, and the fog was so thick. You couldn't see across the runway. So I the Colombians, was bringing the boys that was working. Oh please, please do you know anybody what I knew Barry seal. And so I hired him. And they'd put 500 kilos on him. So it's two and a half million and I paid him a million so I'm still making the same thing. They were just superstitious after my first load was 300. They wouldn't increase it. So

Kim Fauskee 24:28

there's an interest Well, there's an interesting fact that you and I've talked about you know exactly how much a million dollars in cash weighs.

Roger Reaves 24:35

Exactly. It weighs 22 pounds and \$100 bills and it weighs 2200 pounds and \$1 bills goes each each bill in the United States of America money is one gram and

Kim Fauskee 24:48

so when you got paid what denomination did the cash come in?

Roger Reaves 24:53

It come in all and we didn't take any tins or five okay, which is what I took 20s and then I had to whole I had to charge After a plane a jet to fly the money to Grand Cayman Island and I would lay on top of the money in this two pilots was inside of it they couldn't even get out after we put it on in there we come to Grand Cayman it'd be to two vans back up on the plane and go sage steal as much as they

Marrie Reaves 25:17

know that was sometimes a problem. What are we going to do with the money some money to hide it out of money

Roger Reaves 25:23
more than I could count

Kim Fauskee 25:25
the fed back in those times even in the grand Caymans. The wasn't it was easy to deposit cash there without the United States or some other government tracing it back

Roger Reaves 25:36
all tourists walking around every day a little bag for they're bringing their money down right offshore bank

Kim Fauskee 25:41
accounts and the Americans had with a legit or legit

Roger Reaves 25:45
that I was getting to about March parents. And so when I got out of prison, I buried him and he came out here to Santa Barbara. And of course she came with a whole bunch of DEA agents and the deal was that I had to testify against Pablo Escobar and manage the cartel or go to prison for the rest of my life. But uh, so I took my own family and we fled to Brazil and he put me on the 10 most wanted list. Oh no, no, then we went down to Brazil and we stayed there a year and I was looking at buying some land up for soybean. Murray cried and said if I die in this godforsaken country, please don't leave my bones here. So I said alright, you don't like it that good. Just go back to Holland. So by that time, we had good Brazilian passports. And we would only call her parents. What once a month and we try to do it a long way from where we live. They weren't in the church cleaning the church. So they had atrophied there. Well, Mari came back to the airplane after we landed in Rio. And she was white as a sheet. And she was just devastated. The Mounties had come to her mother and father told them that I was the most vicious outlaw on the face of the earth. This is going to shoot me down like a dog when they saw me and that she and the children were in danger. So they were really, really upset. And it took her a week to get over it.

Marrie Reaves 27:04
Me, Roger. And then what do you tell parents wanted arches, and we want the children?

Dr. Dana 27:09
Oh my god. Oh, how does this trip

Marrie Reaves 27:12
this first class ticket trip from autoglide. to Amsterdam. You were just, which is wonderful. We just had a layover, I think in Rio de Janerio. On our own. And then boy that just ruined that when that's when my parents found out.

Roger Reaves 27:28
They never did. Nobody except me or except that afterwards.

Dr. Dana 27:32

Wow. Yeah, I mean, I could see that that would be a really difficult sell to super conservative people who want to protect their daughter for sure.

Roger Reaves 27:41

I'd given them a car. They wanted to give it back. They wouldn't drive it no more.

Dr. Dana 27:45

Wow. Ouch. So you ended up in Holland for

Roger Reaves 27:49

a little while. And then we went on down to France. And we had some stuff shipped to France and it was followed by the DEA. So we then we moved to Spain to my Orca, and that's where we slept for a good number of years. Then I was captured there in my Orca, by which the government by the Spain had an extradition warrant for Germany and the United States.

Dr. Dana 28:10

So So Germany, United States want to want to

Roger Reaves 28:13

do they want to be yes for the I was in I was indicted with the same indictment with Pablo Escobar in that group. And I had hired a German captain on the ship. And he had told his so they had me in Germany, I had never been there, made a phone call, but call using a German citizen international crime, and they steal him fuel. Tell us who gave you this money. It was \$400,000. You'll be home by Christmas. But they just forgot to tell him which Christmas. Seven years, there was nothing, absolutely nothing. The hashish was unloaded in England. People smoked it. It was all right. He went home and bragged and bought him a new car and a long cigar and went straight to prison.

Kim Fauskee 28:52

So So Mari, I want to ask you, now your wife is on the run. Yes. With with children through multiple countries with your husband being one of the 10 most wanted men in the United States. Yes. So describe how wife was like that, for that period of time.

Marrie Reaves 29:12

Life was still adventurous only when you had to go through customs. That's when it became a little

Kim Fauskee 29:17

trying to figure out which passport to use in which remember, don't call me Roger, please.

Marrie Reaves 29:21

That's right. And and just always hoping, hopefully we'll get through. And we had an incident one time I think we were arriving in Cape Town, South Africa. And we had Brazilian passports. And so we're coming through, you know, in those big Dutch bores, I thought oh, I felt right at home my own people

there Whoo. Anyway, Roger presented his passport to the customs and he started talking to him in Portuguese. And we like to know a word of Portuguese. But our daughter who had picked up Portuguese while we were living in Brazil, Bill? Oh, he's you know, that's my father. He doesn't hear very well let me answer the question.

Dr. Dana 30:08

Smart kid. Good job. I

Marrie Reaves 30:09

know. And she just

Kim Fauskee 30:10

kicked it was that Miriam? Yeah. Yeah.

Roger Reaves 30:14

Wow, say he's deaf. You know,

Dr. Dana 30:18

it's what you guys are talking about that is so fascinating to me because I was born in Canada. And when I was four years old, my father was going to go to jail. So we fled to Europe to get away from him going to jail. So it's really interesting. I mean, he was a very minor sort of flare compared to, you know, the stuff that you're doing. But this is all so reminiscent to me, because I remember sitting on an airplane when I'm four. And they come and they say to us, my last name is Saperstein. They say, you know, Saperstein my parents and use that name when we're in Canada. And I didn't even know what my real NAS last name was. When I was sitting on the airplane.

Marrie Reaves 30:55

You know, this triggers something in our family, our little boy, our son thought he had his last name. I can say the name. His last name was Odom. And that's all he knew. Yeah, it read Odom. And one day we tell him no, it's Reeves. And he looked. Yeah, after he was arrested. And I remember. Yes. And then I then probably thought, Well, what else? Have you been lying about mom and dad. But fortunately, he's turned out to be a wonderful young man. We just had him with us. And we both just said, what a wonderful guy. Yeah.

Kim Fauskee 31:34

So how old were the kids when you guys were were on the run through the multiple European states. At the

Marrie Reaves 31:42

our oldest daughter stayed behind in the United States. She was already 17? Six? School. Then adherium was seven years younger. So she was about 12 or 13. And read was just a little baby. He was about three. And so they traveled with us. And we made our middle daughter, Miriam. Read a book she just read. And you know, they just learned they just learned the ways of the world, our son. While we were living in Brazil, we would go to it, we were invited to a party. And the ladies just loved him

because he was blond and blue eyed long hair. But the one thing that tickled them the most was that he spoke like a little girl, though, like a little street child.

Dr. Dana 32:29

Okay, you know, because he learned how to speak Portuguese

Marrie Reaves 32:32

did because he had a little friend named Victoria.

Dr. Dana 32:35

You know, I lived in Brazil during that period of time. That's when my father finally fled. And I learned Portuguese, but I don't remember any

Roger Reaves 32:41

of it. He did do. Yeah, you put his foot up on the fountain. And he's just answering those ladies and mascaras running down your face.

Marrie Reaves 32:50

They were enchanted with him. Very interesting. I love your story. Hold on to him tight because he's so beautiful. Precious. Yeah. Because someone would love to grab them from you.

Kim Fauskee 33:01

So I want to go back to the Spaniards grabbed you in mind when you were in Majorca or Yes,

Roger Reaves 33:06

yes, I got arrested three times. And I'd like to tell you about that. The two times i i got away from or knocked the police over and run through the crowd and got away. But a third time, I was at school for a little play. And they come with machine guns all around. And I just put up my hands and they took me and took me to court. And it was hot. And I was in my orca and I found out I was in the United States and Germany. So at the extradition proceedings, I had four policemen on me. And two of them went to smoke and I said I'm gonna get out of here. There's a big plate glass window and I was up on the third floor and it has really high ceilings on each one of those floors, because it's actually buildings. I ran across and jumped on top of the student ographers desk, which was expecting a baby pretty soon said She almost had it. window out. And I looked down and it was a long way from the bottom of that window to the street. It was 31 feet. And there was a car down there. And I jumped out to the top of that car that was parked and it just exploded. The roof went all the way to the drive shaft. Marie had to pay \$4,000 for that car.

Kim Fauskee 34:16

It's gonna say Tom Cruise has nothing on you.

Roger Reaves 34:20

So I still got a dead spot on my back. Did he choose from that window? in the newspapers the next day said spider man escapes. So you gotta wait. I gotta wait. They caught me. Oh, later on.

Dr. Dana 34:31

How long did you get

Kim Fauskee 34:34

What's the kids reaction when their fathers are surrounded by police with machine guns?

Marrie Reaves 34:39

Well, you know, we're all just looking and your heart's pounding in your throat and you think, oh, no, but that day when Roger jumped out of the window, Rhett and I that's our son. We were waiting downstairs and I had been interrogated by the American DEA and And these, all these men came running down the stairs and they were just in a frenzy, you know, just running and frantic and they said, You, your husband, he's crazy. And then when I heard that, I thought, we're out here, I've got to leave. You know, I was worried that they may arrest me. Yeah. And so I said, Come on rent, let's go got into a taxi, and I kept looking in the bag, but nobody was following us. And that night I spent the night in a friend's condo, but I didn't have the key. And it did have a balcony. And so there was a walkway and a balcony, but there was a space. So I laid across it, so I could make a bridge for my son to crawl over me and get into the house. Wow. Yeah, good job, what

Roger Reaves 35:56

your school did.

Marrie Reaves 35:57

And then the school they attended, it was an international school. And they asked, well, they told me the children could no longer attend. Right.

Dr. Dana 36:08

So So did you end up in prison then as a result of being captured in the USA.

Roger Reaves 36:12

I stayed in prison there for 17 months fighting extradition to both Germany and the United States. And I lost both of them. And they extradited me up to Germany with my hands to the right hand over my shoulder and other hand up my back. So I couldn't even get to the end all my paperwork, use maximum restraints. Wow. So he sent me up to Germany. He gave me eight years and Lubeck penitentiary prison. And after one year, I escaped from that prison. You escaped and I'm the only one I ever know of escape from that place yet to

Dr. Dana 36:44

find giving a sort of a brief description of how you got out of this prison.

Roger Reaves 36:49

Yeah, there was towards the end of my lag. And I after about one year up there, it was really good because they gave me three days for each day that I spent in Spain, jail time days, okay. And after I was jumped out that winter in Spain, I got beat up pretty bad by the policeman. I mean, they got some

beaten up. We went at it in a little sail. So I looked terrible. So anyhow, the ambassador or whatever it was, came and saw me and I wouldn't even take the shirt off. It was all just covered in blood and dried. So they gave me three days for each day that I was so savagely beaten in Spain, so I got a eight or nine year sentence, and towards the end of it, I could work in New York officers, the prisoners visiting room and then it had some windows. It was outside of the main where we were just locked down. And I managed to, there was bars on the window, but they were like piano notes. They were supposed to be pretty because it was only just looking out into the prison guards. But I got a rope in a small panel and I put it on lose and I twisted the rope and it bores apart. Oh, wow. And I went out in head first but it took all the skin off my chest. I thought I was gonna die. I got caught between. Then I lost my clothes. But then I had to climb up and there was scaffolding up the side of the building. There was guard towers everywhere. His guard covers over 100 feet. And I got above the guard towers laying up there. I did have my pants. But that was it. And I had my shoes and Mari had slipped me \$200 And then come to the end of it and I jumped right down on top of the machine gun nest it was just sticking out halfway out of the prison on the third floor. And then I could go over the wall from there on a real leap. And there was a big pile of sand where they're digging up to make a drink share. And I landed on that sand and I waited until a guard was coming with his wife and a little boy and they had it was raining hard. And he had a double umbrella and I went Rach torture so they couldn't shoot me. Okay, then I got on the sidewalk going down the hill, and I'd hurt behind me and she's not she's on the sidewalk knocking off all over the parking meters. She's trying to run me over and I jumped over a fence and it had cut glass bedded into it and I got Oh, I jumped over into it was plowed it a foot deep in milk. And my shoes came off and I lost the \$200 and I'm running my feet flat. Socks are flapping and it's cold and I'm raining. So I got away and got to Holland. Wow.

Kim Fauskee 39:28

And Mari that's where you were living at a time in Holland.

Marrie Reaves 39:31

No, I was living in Majorca. Okay, but I met Roger there in Holland. After he made it there.

Roger Reaves 39:37

She had buried \$100,000 And she said go to the haystack in turn right. And you'll see that linden tree and then go to the linden tree and go 10 steps to the right. Well, that was great. Except it was 20 linden trees. Oh

Kim Fauskee 39:54

it'd be it'd be digging for a while.

Roger Reaves 39:56

We took an iron rod and just looked at it. We're pretty quick. Yeah.

Dr. Dana 40:00

So how long did you remain free at that point about a year? Okay. So Maria, if you don't mind, how in the world did you handle how scary and sad it must have been to not know how much longer you would be able to live with your husband?

Marrie Reaves 40:16

It was very sad and scary. I could not scary. It was just sad. Yeah.

Dr. Dana 40:21

Because I mean, I can tell how much love there is. It's so clear. Yeah. That it's hard for me to imagine how you know how, how you can cope with the possibility of your husband being taken away from you?

Marrie Reaves 40:31

Well, he was my husband and I, and also my close friend, and I would not abandon my close friend. Yeah. And there, Roger and I have this love, you know, we just in this together, so I wasn't going to abandon him when he needed help the most. Whatever help I could give him Yeah, and I wasn't always the easiest one. You know, I really didn't like all this either, though. She

Roger Reaves 40:53

gave me he'll sometimes I can imagine. It wasn't,

Kim Fauskee 40:58

I can't imagine.

Marrie Reaves 41:00

That's alright, darlin. You know, just don't do it again. No, I really? Yeah. No voice my opinion on that. Okay. But it was sad. You know, it hurt, it hurts really deep,

Dr. Dana 41:11

but not so much so that you would ever consider abandoning, you know,

Marrie Reaves 41:15

I could not do that. Because he did all that, you know, I mean, Roger did it for himself, you know, the adventure and all of that for himself. But he also shared that with us so royally and richly and with others. And I just liked him. I didn't like what he did. So, you know, we all have that. But it was just that was our life. And that's why I lived with him.

Dr. Dana 41:39

How would you explain it to your children? They must have been curious about what was happening with dad.

Marrie Reaves 41:44

They knew they did. They knew. And I know each one of them carried a hurt that we really never talked about, you know how much each one of us were hurting. But it was. Let's protect Dad. Let's get him home. Take care of him. Yep. You know, and we were a unit together I in the children. Yep. To get him home. We wanted him at the helm of our ship.

Dr. Dana 42:09

Oh, of course. Yeah. That makes complete sense. Right. So after you're free for a bit how they find you again?

Roger Reaves 42:18

Well, Mark didn't tell you. But whenever I escaped from that German prison, I knew because now my my posters are all over Europe, and on television, too. So I had to go disguised and stay out on the farm for about four months till all that died down. But I really wanted to go behind the Iron Curtain at that time, and just leave there the rest of my life had enough money so that we wouldn't go to prison. And Mari absolutely refused. I'm not going to take my children to Russia. Oh, whatever. That was, we had some serious. Yeah, just social agreement.

Kim Fauskee 42:52

What year are we in now? When I do 9090 90? Okay.

Roger Reaves 42:56

When I escaped from the German prison, yes.

Marrie Reaves 42:58

Okay. You know, I thought I could take the life that we have with Roger, but I didn't want to do that to my children. For some reason I, you know, I wanted to give them the education and the beauty of life instead of living behind the Iron Curtain. I couldn't imagine it, you know, but I did not want my children to be living there. And I was strong about that.

Dr. Dana 43:21

I can appreciate that. I mean, again, when I lived in Brazil, my mom hated it. And she didn't want that life for my brother and sister and I. So she insisted we come to California, despite the fact that he could have, you know, been caught or gone to jail. But you know, at a certain point, yeah, I think the mom instinct kind of takes over. And it's tough. I think you and my dad would have had really interesting conversations with each other.

Kim Fauskee 43:47

Did you? I mean, the story. I mean, the story sounds so fascinating, right? But was there ever a point now, where Mar you felt that you were looking for some stability? Let's calm down, find a place to live and just have a normal life? Was there ever any of that?

Marrie Reaves 44:06

Oh, yes. They were plenty of time. Can we just stay here? We've got enough money. We don't need any more money. You know, let's just live a nice life and enjoy.

Kim Fauskee 44:17

But I can't see Roger doing that. Well, I call

Marrie Reaves 44:21

him my homing pigeon. I have to let him go. I can tether.

Kim Fauskee 44:25

He's tethered tether now.

Marrie Reaves 44:29

But you know, he's a bird. You know, I can't say no, I wouldn't want to put him in a cage. I would that would ruin him.

Dr. Dana 44:37

So where did you end up after that? Then? I did get extradited to the United States.

Roger Reaves 44:42

You know, I came back here to the United States and was arrested. Oh, okay. So from Australia. No, no, whenever I went out of the German prison. I was. I was arrested here for the rule violation. And they took me up to Lompoc penitentiary, and they made me do 11 years for violation. So longest in the world history nobody else in the world has ever served. Terrell, they should give me six months for leaving the district. Yeah, but they call it a silent

Dr. Dana 45:09

and which level of that because they have three levels in Lompoc. They have.

Roger Reaves 45:13

I was the worst in the maximum but who killed me every month? I just tell them about Blake Bob kill, killed him and cut him open and eat his heart. And after they cleaned the seal that they moved me in there. Oh, he's 17. It was bad.

Dr. Dana 45:28

And Escobar didn't do a 10 Remember when he died but he didn't do anything to try to heal.

Roger Reaves 45:33

He died I believe in about 90 but at last I saw him was 1982 Oh what it was I was on the lam. So he didn't really do anything to try to do it. Very seal kept on working for him about what to prison.

Dr. Dana 45:47

And how long did he last before

Roger Reaves 45:49

he died in

Kim Fauskee 45:50

86? I

Roger Reaves 45:51

think six years. Okay, but

Kim Fauskee 45:53

he I think Roger correct me. I think he named names and that's what got him killed though, right?

Roger Reaves 45:58

Oh, absolutely. He was a berry. I'll just tell you about that. But I like Barry. I love Barry. He was my friend. He's a I did call it as good as anyone. Bob Hoover, that world champion. He was that kind of a man. He was smart. And I just never thought about him telling me. So he came out after Ronald Reagan realized there was his airplane, the one that I had owned before. He paid Murray for the airplanes when I got arrested. And so there it was on a runway in Nicaragua where he had pulled it with a DEA agent and one and a half tons and you can see on the book kings of cocaine were Escobar has got the striped shirt and they are taking that the cocaine from that plane to another. So he came out and he was at a little French restaurant down. Yeah, I don't know which. And you're sitting in the back and I walked in at nine o'clock. And I just walked up to him. I said, "Are you wired Berry? And he said no, I'm not. And I said Well, I'm not gonna say anything you just tell me. So back up here I was paying. Every time his wheels touch the ground in MENA Arkansas wishes at least once a week. I was paying \$50,000 To the head honcho there. Him to land okay. And that's that was bought. In Roger, Clint was arrested and Bill pardoned him. And so Barry just just said, Dude, I got I gotta pay off big enough. The governor. So just so you gotta hold that sold in internet. I never met Bill Clinton to want to, but I think would have what he did and then raise a penalty 100 times. What it was while he was there. I just think that just absolutely demonic. Yeah. So. So when Barry was arrested, and he went to work for him, and then they still charged him. He he got out on bail and flew his own jet up to Washington. And when she Edwin meese was attorney general, and they run him out, and he went back the next day and said, Listen, they bring in tungee. And don't be fooled. So they put this DEA agent Jake Jacobson with him and I liked him. He was there. And so bear told me that he just put his fingers over his face, and he just cried and tears run down and she said, Roger, I just couldn't do a life sentence. I've told him everything. I told him, you're part of it and all but you're under my umbrella. I told him I would not tell unless they protected you too, right? So you're protected. But you got to come to Miami and testify before a grand jury. So I did. I went down. I said, that agent says you can come down tomorrow and Mari in first class or you can come down and change. You come and change. The only place you're going to ever see your family again is at the Federal Penitentiary visting room, I guarantee you. So I knew that was the truth. So I went down with Mark and we went in to see a big shot lawyer. And he said, I'll represent you for \$600,000 But I don't talk to snitches. So I'm not a snitch man. I mean, I just got he said, that's what you're talking about. And I said no, but I've got to say something. He said, Yeah, you say something. You're, you're in it. They'll convict you of everything you didn't say. So he said it was just like being pregnant. You either are or you're not. Right. So I thought well, so I took marine and I had dinner that night in the festival restaurant there in Coral Gables. And Barry knew that's where I like to eat. So he came up there with his wife, Debbie, and we had dessert together. And when we finished I just hooked him. I think I kissed him on the cheek and I said Barry, they are going to kill you my friend. He just said no, no, he started hitting the ground. And so I took Mari and the children we fled to Brazil, and then they killed him

Kim Fauskee 49:49

and you're talking about the DEA but the cartel

Dr. Dana 49:53
because he devolved

Roger Reaves 49:54
to their horse and I knew he's gonna get killed. It was just like,

Dr. Dana 49:58
and how did you resist? sort of, you know, like you said being a snitch How did you resist?

Roger Reaves 50:04
It's just something in you either or not. You're just somebody I just got. So no matter when me I'm just not gonna do it. Okay, so no matter what you do I used to do something and we do it together and no way can I put you in prison back. It's just like

Dr. Dana 50:17
so despite all of this you are a man of integrity for certain certainly did or you don't and you have principles and all of that stuff.

Kim Fauskee 50:24
Was there a period of time already that you guys feel fear for your life?

Marrie Reaves 50:28
I never feared for my life. Neither did I

Kim Fauskee 50:31
know not from the US government or the media and drug cartel? Not not.

Roger Reaves 50:37
I was a hero to them. They like me. I mean, how we treated royally.

Dr. Dana 50:40
And what about when you're in prison in Mexico? That sounds horrible.

Roger Reaves 50:43
Yeah, that was bad and the United States was shooting at me. I've been shut out by American policemen, GBI and FBI and I'll call him the back of I've been 100 times. I mean, they shoot to kill to I mean. And so that's actually what I'm scared of.

Dr. Dana 51:00
So you're always a miracle. You're alive acts. Absolutely.

Roger Reaves 51:02

I've been shot three times stabbed. Through blink, shot down twice. I've never been hurt really on. They just dig me when they get me. So they bounce off.

Dr. Dana 51:12

And are you saying this with a sense of humor?

Roger Reaves 51:15

Yeah. I laugh right. On Tuesdays. I got away I had a smile on my mouth. I was laughing so big.

Kim Fauskee 51:23

So. So you spent 11 years at Lompoc? Yes. Okay. And then when did Australia come into the picture?

Roger Reaves 51:32

Okay, after Lompoc. They frog marched me for about a mile down there. We shot guns all over me. And extradite me back to Germany or at escape from okay, then you blame me years before. So after Germany I got over there. It took me six months to prove that I they got me for I believe it's one and a half tonnes of how she should I put it three and a half tonnes Asheesh that I transported. And so they charged me for that over here. And they gave me two years from the scape in Spain, and two years from escape in Germany. And they cut out of the Metropolitan detention center from the 26th floor or is split level so and it got down to the basement and I couldn't get out

Dr. Dana 52:16

and all because of a marijuana product. Yes.

Marrie Reaves 52:19

It was that special parole that he sees I had just actually from the very beginning.

Roger Reaves 52:24

So they gave me six years for the escapes. And five years for the hasheesh in Germany. Wow. So it made me 11 year. So when I got back, it took me six months to prove through the court that I'd been in 11 years for what they give me, right and so they let me out on the streets and then I went down to Colombia. They owe me three and a half million dollars and go down to see if I could get it and they wouldn't pay me but give me a job. I'll pay you \$20 million to take this fuel. Go up and buy all supply vessel and take a load of cocaine to Australia.

Dr. Dana 52:58

Oh no supply this part. Oh, did you say oils or

Roger Reaves 53:01

supply vessel like those guys. They're big boats. 130 feet. And they can fight these. These were made for the North Sea.

Dr. Dana 53:11

So they're very hardy.

Roger Reaves 53:12

Yeah and hearty and they got all the firefighting equipment on them. So the fire so they got these oil rigs. It was a

Kim Fauskee 53:19

way to me I just want to make sure though, that was a \$20 million payday.

Roger Reaves 53:23

Payday. They pay me 20 million to do this. So yes, I'll do it. So

Dr. Dana 53:28

from Colombia to Australia, when I

Roger Reaves 53:30

left Louisiana, and I'm looking, I was young, I loaded up in Ghana close to the equator up, you know, the middle of the Atlantic, and I took it around to keep a good home, went down there close to Antarctica and came up under Australia and unloaded. Wow. So in the unloader, the owner's brother had had his buddy coming over that was really smart. He had just got out of a five ton deal in California. So of course he's working with him and has been arrested got a life sentence. Unbelievable. And

Dr. Dana 53:59

even though you're out in the ocean, or in Australian waters at the time,

Roger Reaves 54:03

I stopped the ship. Offshore, he came ashore in two big rubber boats. And so

Kim Fauskee 54:11

you had 4000 kilos of cocaine and one 1000 1000 kilos

Roger Reaves 54:15

time it's worth \$400 million down there.

Dr. Dana 54:18

Wow. So did they find the cocaine in the ship when they went down?

Roger Reaves 54:22

I took it ashore and buried it. I didn't even tell them where I was going to come to I didn't trust those guys. But anyhow, they were waiting and the police was waiting and watching them and they were sending out these sub chasers every day and they caught me 244 miles out. I see my book pitching in waves. And so I brought it to show on rubber boats I had I believe I had 220 foot rubber boats come in I slice those and soak them in under surf and got to go Cana board and took it up and buried it. And then they came and knocked me into here and arrested me and they put me in prison give me a life sentence. Did they find the cocaine? Yeah, they Don't make it for read the whole thing.

Dr. Dana 55:03

So how much I'm sorry for 20 years

Roger Reaves 55:05

did you say I got life? Oh no, I had to serve a minimum of 18 years before I could apply for parole.

Dr. Dana 55:11

And this is in like in Sydney or somewhere like our first person

Roger Reaves 55:15

Then my neighbor Jimmy Carter wrote a letter to the attorney general and asked him to consider me for parole, and things started happening. Usually they tell you to come back five years later, when you got life. So I was fortunate because I was born here in the United States do

Dr. Dana 55:33

so. So you spent more time in prison then in Australia? 18 years? Wow. So you lost him for another 18 years? And you're living? I was living in California. Okay. Did you get where you're able to go least visit them every once in a while?

Marrie Reaves 55:49

Yes, I did. I visited him three times. Okay. And now

Roger Reaves 55:53

she's a felon in Australia. For visiting you there. She can't visit me anymore.

Marrie Reaves 55:58

What? I was carrying too much cash.

Dr. Dana 56:01

Oh, my God, that's not.

Roger Reaves 56:03

And she said they said, You didn't declare it. It says I shed 11,000 US dollars. And she said I brought it for my husband's defense. And he said you didn't declare it. She said I don't have to, it says do you have over 5000 in US funds, or they took her money. handcuffed her. Now everyday she has to report to the police. Now then she's a felon, so she can't come in to see me. So she leaves. Since she's on one side, the defense grind. And I'm on the other side. And I'm not only crying

Dr. Dana 56:36

about it. Yeah, no kidding. Yeah.

Roger Reaves 56:38

That was rough. I was just horrible about that.

Dr. Dana 56:41

Is that when you started writing your book when you were in Australia. When I

Roger Reaves 56:45

was in Australia for 25 years. And then there was a man on the ship that that it was in his name because I couldn't put it in my name. And he was a queen, a ballplayer and a friend of mine. So I testified that he didn't know anything about it that I tricked him. I told him we can sell the boat in Australia. And he got off. And when he got off the crown, we call the prosecution to appeal to my Senate and they raised me to life. And they put me in a place they already had me in a place when they found out I escaped from five prisons. They put me in a place called a shoe. This special handling I know with hands, it was just like the silence of the lambs. And I was in a cage back there. Yeah. And so they had a computer and a little glass in room one way mirrors looking at me. And they had a computer in there, but it didn't have a program on it. It just had a paintbrush. And so I thought, you know, I may never get out of here. And I believe I'll write some of these things to my children and grandchildren, great grandchildren I don't ever know. So I told about when my grandma bought me the little Pinto. And the next day I'd write another little story. And then I got to writing and just wrote one line. And some tears just fold on my face as I was writing. So I wrote over a million words before I got stopped. Wow. Then I got out after a year. They put me in the general population and later on I got to self care. And they allowed me to buy a little computer. And it took me much to figure out where my paragraph started? And then how they wouldn't let me cool she wouldn't see 1000 pages. So there was a filler in there that was a world champion, skydiver and he had a telephone. You could buy a telephone there for \$1,500 but boy, they put you back in if they found it. Right. And yeah, he had a little wire and he put it back on my computer and Murray had it in one second. Wow. So she published it for me.

Dr. Dana 58:40

Oh, that's very cool. So you finally get out of prison in Australia. Were you allowed to come back to United States Oh,

Roger Reaves 58:47

I came back they had three US Australian marshals don't they? And we laughed and talked and had a good time and when we landed in Australia, United States , they might arrest me for the parole stuff. It was 43 years old for pot. I'd already done like 15 years on it, shoddy so okay, and I don't I don't 18 down and when I got off they had five little short Mexican American border patrol guys. They slam me into the wire kick my feet apart and here's one woman face forward face forward. What year was this? It was two years ago just to say support and I said if I had a bulldog looked like you would shave it rotation backwards

Kim Fauskee 59:39

that's a good I'm sure that in Deer deserve more

Roger Reaves 59:41

they put me into choking. I stayed there for nine months in isolation here in the United States. I nine months yeah nine months it was after about a week i What in the world am I in isolation down in

metropolitan center. So one day the little winter slides up nice looking man was suit and tie come no he's in mind. Name is short. I'm a system Warden here, and we saw your National Geographic documentary. And he said it does make pleasure to keep you in isolation. And I couldn't get how I got one phone call a month,

Dr. Dana 1:00:15

even with the way the laws are now, wouldn't it be out with a

Roger Reaves 1:00:19

marijuana lead after some people just sent me to Oklahoma City for a parole hearing and I got there, about three o'clock and the lady says, you know, there was a man from Washington here. He was waiting on you all day. And he said, Daddy, he'd be back next year. So I thought, wow. And they spoke to give you a pro here for 9090 days, but they didn't. So anyway, after I was there in, in Oklahoma for a couple of weeks, that nice lady said, would you like for me to ask for parole on the record? Is there such a thing? She said, Yes, I can do it. And the next day, I got my parole.

Dr. Dana 1:00:53

Oh, okay. NetSuite and when was the what date was?

Roger Reaves 1:00:57

That was two years ago? Just 2626 to see you guys have

Dr. Dana 1:01:01

been back together six years. Yes. Wow, that must have been an incredible reunions. Yes.

Kim Fauskee 1:01:07

So I've been newlyweds again. I mean, you have it? I mean, you've been without him for significant periods of time. I don't know how many years you've been actually married.

Roger Reaves 1:01:17

Oh down 33 years completely, but I was out several times on escape status. You know,

Marrie Reaves 1:01:22

we were married in 64. So what are we

Kim Fauskee 1:01:25

5858 and a half years, but how out of the 58 and a half years so you take 3033 total years of prison in their 43 feet with 25 years together? Okay, so is it feel like being newlyweds again, knowing that in the last couple of years?

Marrie Reaves 1:01:42

It does, but it's a different type of relationship. It's just I don't know it seems

Kim Fauskee 1:01:47

well you're not on the lam and you're not in the lamb anymore. You're

Marrie Reaves 1:01:49

not someone knocks on the door we just open it come on.

Roger Reaves 1:01:55

Like it will always was to me it's no different because I was stuck in my I know it's like the people from Holland that come over here and they stay live some years and they go back to Holland Holland is done gone all miniskirts and whatever. And these people are still wearing the clothes that they come over here 50 years ago. So I was stuck. I was kind of under a rock. Yeah. So I'm just I didn't I don't feel any difference.

Kim Fauskee 1:02:15

The United States took away all your assets, because I know that you were living nicely here and in California with a nice home and money and other possessions and they took it all right,

Roger Reaves 1:02:28

a jet drug that beautifully be at across that floor and straighten my waist. So who knows. You said it ain't George No more woman, like took the ring off of her finger.

Kim Fauskee 1:02:38

I am so sorry. But by this time, though, we

Marrie Reaves 1:02:41

learned a lot through all that. I really did. I learned a lot about having things possessions and what it's really important

Dr. Dana 1:02:49

on the lack of integrity and law enforcement and all that. It's just It's just I mean, I knew somebody that was in limbo for a short period of time, because he was involved in an investment scam. One of my clients and he told me when he was there, he found \$10,000 In a gardening shed, and he knew not to touch it because it was money that the guards had made from stealing. They would steal food that was delivered to the prison and they have their own catering company. And so they would cater weddings and all this stuff with the food they stole from the jail. Yes. And these are the guards. Yes. And he knew not to go anywhere near it because they would have said it was his and and the next thing you know, he'd be in jail for longer than six months because they were so corrupt. And and he was in the minimum security part. I can't even imagine being in the, you know, with all the completely insane.

Kim Fauskee 1:03:39

So Mario, where did you find your support and your hope during the times that Roger was imprisoned for a significant length of time and not escaping?

Marrie Reaves 1:03:50

Well, I would say that my faith. My faith in God sustained me. I had about three friends who loved me unconditionally. They supported me. I had the children, you know, I was concerned about them. It was just and then of course, my love for Roger. We communicated daily. We wrote letters. old fashioned way. Yes, we've got trunks full of letters. And I just lived my life. That was my life at the time. And I had hope that one day he would come home and we would continue on with our lives. Right. In the meantime, you know, I was responsible for the children. And I had a job and I just live my life.

Dr. Dana 1:04:41

Are you kids? Okay? Do you feel like they've sort of survived all of this. You

Marrie Reaves 1:04:45

Were we just together? I think they are don't Roger children, they're successful. They're, they're Upright Citizens. Yes, we had a really nice connection this past week with our son he really came out and he says, you know, Dad,

Dr. Dana 1:05:03

I really love you. Oh, that's so sweet. Yeah.

Marrie Reaves 1:05:07

That was nice for me. I'd like to hear that.

Dr. Dana 1:05:09

Yes, of course. Yeah,

Kim Fauskee 1:05:11

I can't. I can't imagine YouTube being with anybody else. I mean, it just it just the universe conspired to put you two together because Roger you and I've had a lot of discussions about how unique of a person you are and talking about your adventures and stuff like that, that I don't think there's you have to be made to do what you did right and have special type of mentality and that thing and and then Mari I think the same thing goes about to you to be in love with a man like this and to live that life. It's just it's not nor it's not normal in that type of a relationship. Right?

Roger Reaves 1:05:51

Well, it was magic. I don't have made in heaven or not. Must have been well, let me tell you

Marrie Reaves 1:05:55

about it. One thing I wanted adventure and I got

Kim Fauskee 1:06:00

that and then some. Oh, yes. That's talking about Mr. Toads. Wild Ride. Yeah.

Roger Reaves 1:06:05

I was I was on the farm and we, you know, make \$5 a day down there working. But then they was advertising for young men that could crop the backup picked back up. \$20 a day room and board? Well,

it lasted six weeks. That's about six or \$700 Did you come home with? Well, that was a lot of money back in 1960-61. So I stuck my thumb out with my cardboard suitcase and I went to Canada, and I got a job coughing tobacco. And so Oh, a little while later, some boy says you want to go to the carnival. So went to the carnival in Tillsonburg. And it was huge. I mean, huge. And we went to the hoochie coochie show and went all that and went on down the road and there was a big man with a flowing beard and five brand new \$100 bills or wrestle my bear get all four feet off the ground and, you know, \$10 Anybody got guts enough to give it a try? And what's your name? Your Roger Reed. How much you weigh, Roger. Oh, we are 145 pounds. 145 pound man against 600 pound beast. We threw me in that cage with that old bear. That bear didn't look very big when he leaves. But when he started getting up, he got up all he had big mats on his poles and big over over his head. Yeah, as I ran into him slamming nothing hit me just above my knees and left me laid out about six foot high. And he did that two or three times. And I grabbed the top of the cage and kicked that bear and he just came in saying he took all my clothes off and beat me up and the guy quit the chain only may run over. Like what a mess. And they had been yelling for me to be sick on Monday. I was tearing off that tent that was yelling sick them to the way anyway, I couldn't work for two days. So then when I couldn't work, I got a ride down to go down Sunday and go down to the beach. So I went down to the beach and I asked why I had got some more clothes. And I'm limping down the pier and there's Mario and she's sitting on a towel and you know with two other girls and I'm a little shot I will come by and tip my hat and I turn around the end I come back and I speak and she says is that a university ring? That's it? No, that's high school. I just graduated high school. Let me see it. I said you're from Holland, aren't you? She said, "Would you sit down here and tell me how Georgia boy knows about Dutch accents?" And I said international accents are just one of my hobbies. I knew one I'd met a girl in Washington DC on the way up this boat with the same accent so anyway, times to its deal.

Dr. Dana 1:08:41

And now tell me which the what's the name of the beach town that you're the what? What's the name of the turkey point

Marrie Reaves 1:08:47

Turkey Ponterio. Canada,

Roger Reaves 1:08:50

your Simcoe

Dr. Dana 1:08:52

is anywhere near crystal beach.

Marrie Reaves 1:08:54

I know crystal B

Dr. Dana 1:08:56

because that's where I used to go as a kid. Yes. Yes. That's very interesting

Marrie Reaves 1:09:00

in the northern part of Ontario. Yeah, yes.

Dr. Dana 1:09:03

Anyway, please go in

Roger Reaves 1:09:04

and we spent the afternoon just talking to her dad anyhow, she gave me an address on a little piece of paper. And I put it in my shirt pocket and I went back home and I got a job on the railroad ride to RAILS Atlantic Coast route rail route. I was a fireman. And my mother said you have a girlfriend. I said no mother but I met a girl up in Canada if I ever get married. I want to marry a girl. Love at first sight happened to us. I don't know if I can eat it. I lost her address. Oh no. Oh, so I had a 58 Impala Chifley and I was going to work one night and it was raining. I got down to Waycross Georgia and had a flat tire and had a flashlight that had hardly any batteries and a little yellow light. And I got out to get wet and I roll that tire out of the wheel wheel and stuck on the bottom of it was a rusted almost threw was at address.

Dr. Dana 1:09:56

Oh that is such a Miracle.

Roger Reaves 1:10:00

I got into a state at the YMCA and I got me a pencil and a piece of that YMCA and I wrote a crooked line and I mailed it off. So later,

Dr. Dana 1:10:10

I do not know that it's ordained for the two of you to Vita yet.

Roger Reaves 1:10:15

So I quit the railroad to go see her. That is such a sweet story in three days later, we told her folks was getting married three days later

Kim Fauskee 1:10:22

days later, when you know, you know,

Roger Reaves 1:10:25

you've been drinking so

Marrie Reaves 1:10:29

that was not my scenario because I wanted to see the world first. Yeah, then maybe you know, get married and definitely no children. You know

Kim Fauskee 1:10:37

why? We're Careful what you want wish for right? Seeing the world.

Marrie Reaves 1:10:42

I want just I got to see the world.

Dr. Dana 1:10:45

And what was the town that you lived in? Was it a very small town,

Marrie Reaves 1:10:48

Galt, which is now Cambridge. It's in the vicinity of Kitchener. Hamilton. Okay, spoiler. Does that ring a bell?

Dr. Dana 1:10:56

Well, my mom was from Hamilton. Okay. 25 miles,

Marrie Reaves 1:10:59

25 miles from

Dr. Dana 1:11:00

go. That's where she was born. Yes. Yeah.

Kim Fauskee 1:11:03

So So now that you've two similarities?

Dr. Dana 1:11:07

Yeah, I was in Toronto till I was four. I was born in Toronto. Okay. Yeah. Tirana. Yeah, until my dad needed to get away quickly. So anyway, I'm sorry, can go I

Kim Fauskee 1:11:20

was gonna say now that you two have your lives ahead of you now together. What do you want to do? I mean, you've lived such a rich, interesting life. But are there other things that you guys want to do as as a couple that you haven't got to experience yet?

Roger Reaves 1:11:39

This is the first time in my life that I've been comfortable, comfortable right where I am.

Dr. Dana 1:11:44

So you get to relax and you're just knocking at the door. And

Roger Reaves 1:11:48

I'm a by little airplane, we fly to the tip of Chile and back up to the north of Alaska. But I don't care if I do or not. It's just one of the bucket list. I can do it or not. And I've been looking at the sailboats down here in the harbor. And maybe we've done it, we live no one opened over 10 years, and it's fun. But do I really want to do it? Just 80 years old on my birthday. When is your birthday, January 26. And I still do 100 Pushups. Stopping.

Dr. Dana 1:12:16

So I want to make sure that everybody knows that you have a really beautiful, really interesting book that has been published. What's the name of it again,

Kim Fauskee 1:12:27

it's called it's called smuggler. And we'll put it in the show notes. And we'll put it up in some of the promos we do for this episode. And so people that are that are interested in kind of filling in a lot more of Roger and mores of Life and Adventures. They need to read the book because I've read it. And it's one of those books that you just can't put down.

Dr. Dana 1:12:50

You know, when I told some of the people I know that we were going to interview the two of you, they said that I should write a book. He already has

Kim Fauskee 1:12:59

I'm gonna probably tell you a little bit that they have an option for a movie Correct?

Roger Reaves 1:13:04

Is that true? Yes. Four series. I talked to the guys there today. And they said that they got a deck laid out for 30 episodes.

Kim Fauskee 1:13:12

Oh, wow. They're gonna. It's gonna be the new Narcos. But what he was asking

Roger Reaves 1:13:17

about my children what they think about me Yeah, yeah, whatever. I and this is a couple of pages. Would you like me to read?

Dr. Dana 1:13:24

Yes, yeah.

Roger Reaves 1:13:26

This is daddy's poem by Miriam. Okay. She was about 17 years old. Okay, I'd got back. That's when I'd got arrested out back in Lompoc.

Kim Fauskee 1:13:34

And you and I think you were asking how their children found out Marion's a physician. You're local

Dr. Dana 1:13:39

here in town. Yes. Oh, that's how you know

Kim Fauskee 1:13:43

that's how I know them know how cool please, if I gotta

Roger Reaves 1:13:47

wrote like her, I'd have been a better book. But anyhow. Daddy's poem a year ago, I became a poet when I wrote your birthday prose. And here I am today ready to give it another go. First, I would like to wish you a very happy birthday and to thank you very much for without you I would not be me. Secondly, I want to say that your support has been immense. It's been true, honest, loving and free of all pretence. 30. It goes without saying, Your love has surpassed all my wrongs. And you always made me smile with one of your old country songs. I can remember CrEvo daddy with you holding me in your arms. As you're saying Jim Reeve songs and talked about the farm. I can see you walking through the door. From what of your travels far and wide. And the thought of you coming home daddy kept a twinkle in our eyes. I can smell you as I did. When I used to climb into your bed, and you would talk to me again about one of the adventures that you led. I can see me and Mario asleep and one of the airplanes or extraordinaire. And remember wondering to myself, why there wasn't an available chair. I remember having to meet you. I'm worrying that you wouldn't be there with You would pop from behind some counter and give us all a Happy scare. You gave us presence in Key Biscayne and hotels pleasures go lower, and three dozen roses you gave us as we came through the airport door. When I saw your face and Amsterdam at the luggage carousel, you look like a boy with a secret that you are really dying to tell. You taught me mathematics and the sands of faraway places. And you taught me how to sail and we left sometimes without any traces. We climb glaciers in Argentina and so the blue of their blue beautiful caves and witness the majestic beauty of such jagged crystal and mazes. I learned how to change gears on the dirt roads of Brazil. We ate hot dogs in Paraguay, a memory we still smile over. We talked about lions, elephants and bears on a Hacienda in Uruguay, but decided it was better to do Europe. We did fly over the O world and oldest luxury. What a good time it was from South America to Krosno Polsky. I think we fell in love with the European jaunt well is to be considered a book in itself. But it's a story about beauty, knowledge, suspense and worldly wealth. We went from Holland to Sweden, a woman from France to Spain. And I promise you that I have no regrets. I would definitely do it all again. I would see the world with you anytime, sir. There's not a doubt in my mind. Because being by your side, daddy always ensures a good time. So I'll pass took a turn and we're back in the US but life here isn't so bad. And I'm plumped content to stay. I'm happy to be near you. Although I'm not as close as I was before. But because of your love and encouragement. I've been able to open your doors. I'm grateful to be in school. And I'm generally happy where I am. And I even like it when you call to tell me to study for the next exam. What a life you've given me, daddy. It's a tremendous and a magical gift. We already have so many stories to tell. There are far too many to list. But I want to thank you again this day with a very big Happy birthday to you and tell you just a few more things that I know in my heart to be true that I love you, Daddy with all of your wrongs and your rights, that you are the head of our family and you've kept us all bound tight. That you have another honest love in your heart for God and all mankind. And you truly do believe in yourself. When you say that it was all be fine. I know you will be there to catch me if ever I waver or slip. And I know that I want you as Captain owning a sinking ship. Also a new new a new chapter is written it's almost time to move on. It's time to stay on another see and witness a brand new don't. It'd be good to see you at the helm again, as you point out our destination. As we laugh and dance on the upper deck while the boat glide shrew it'd be good to see you on the go was a no you'd like to be and to know you can open any door without requiring a key. But while we revenant our days together, we will know better than to hurry. Because if you told me many times, life is an incredible journey.

Dr. Dana 1:18:09

How do you not cry when you read that

Roger Reaves 1:18:12

thing through the slot? You cried a little girl write that to you. Let's

Kim Fauskee 1:18:17

say get marry him to write a book. That was incredible.

Roger Reaves 1:18:20

She had right mind rewrite it very

Kim Fauskee 1:18:26

well, you too. Thank you so much for telling us the great American love story of Roger and Mari it is one of those love stories for all times.

Dr. Dana 1:18:36

Absolutely. And that the notion of faith is so important, again that you bring up because one of the things that Kim and I try to help everybody to consider is that how important that is in our lives and during the even the best and the worst of times. It's something that keeps us moving along. And it sounds like it played a huge role in your life did and doesn't

Marrie Reaves 1:18:54

it does Yeah, to this day.

Kim Fauskee 1:18:58

Well again, thanks for both of you for being here. Thank you for having us.

Dr. Dana 1:19:01

And I'm really glad you don't have to worry anymore.

Kim Fauskee 1:19:06

He's comfortable to yeah, yes.

Fear Me Out 1:19:10

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