

From: <http://www.verbicidemagazine.com/2012/12/11/peter-jackson-damien-echols-west-memphis-3-interview/>

*I'm curious as to all the other films that have been made — I was talking to Amy [Berg, director West of Memphis] earlier and she said you hadn't even watched them, is that still true?*

*ECHOLS: I tried once. Whenever the second documentary had come out my attorneys asked for a court order that I be allowed to watch them in the prison, just because they said it had a bearing on my case, so they thought I should be familiar with them. I made it through about 15 minutes of the first one and I couldn't take it, I couldn't do it. I can understand why they had such a huge impact on people and why they motivated people, because whenever I tried to watch it the only thing I could compare it to is when Vietnam vets talk about flashbacks — it felt like being in the courtroom again. You feel something so huge that you can't even put a name on it. You don't know if you should be laughing or crying, it's just like there's some huge thing caught in your chest. So after about 15 minutes of it, I said "I'm ready to go back to my cell."*

*So why agree to do this film [West Memphis Three]?*

*ECHOLS: Because this was the first time that Lorri and I had any say in the way our story was told. This was finally our project. Nothing else that had been done before — other documentaries, other books, other TV shows — we had any say in. We were always really protective about parts of our lives because of that. We would have never done the things with anyone else that we did with Amy. Like listening in on our phone calls, and letting her read our letters, because we were really afraid that other people might have made it sensational or like some sort of freak show or train wreck. We didn't have that fear this time.*