

September 7, 2016

Emotions are raw right now in Minnesota, as we do our best to grapple with the heart-breaking conclusion to a 27-year mystery. In a matter of just a few days, the story of Jacob Wetterling's abduction has evolved from a maddening puzzle into a fully-formed picture of what happened the night of October 22, 1989. As a nonfiction storyteller, I am always searching for life's riddles, changes, turns, twists... but today I can't seem to come to terms with this twist, this suddenly-solved riddle. Tears come much too easy this week, even as I write this. I have always felt connected to this story, from afar, as many in my generation have. But having gotten to know Patty and Jerry Wetterling, and those close to them, in the eleven months I have been working on this project, I feel even more connected and more devastated by this week's revelations. And yet I will never be able to truly understand their profound pain right now. I wish to thank the Wetterlings and the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center for allowing me and my talented team to bear witness to this incredible journey, and I trust they know that the millions of people grieving for Jacob around the world are drawing strength from the Wetterlings' deep and unending commitment to hope.

Chris Newberry

Director

Jacob Wetterling documentary film