

Emily's Song

Sarah Collins tells the story of her daughter Kelsey Emily who was caught in the brutal world of sex trafficking before she went missing in May 2009

Excerpt written by Kelsey when she was in Rehab

“We was on are way to go sell and he started talking bout making money other way.. I was 16 1/2 still 6 months until I was 17 ... well I was confused then he was asking me to be his hoe and everything. I was insulted! I said Hell naw... he left it like that...One night we was on the way to my house & were joking about that day and we made a bet he couldn't get me to do that shit..Then I was doing it...prostitution.. couldn't believe all I seen the money and the happiness it made both us.. OMG he swept me off my feet I was gave him whatever he wanted... I didn't know I would go for him, but I was bound to find out. Till about after 3 months on the first time hit me in my eye because he was talking to female on my phone... I still had to go out there like a crackhead... I thought that was the last but I would talk to him wrong or do something he thought was disrespectful I would get hit or punch or beat up all around ...he gave me things I wanted so I kept going back”



2011/04/03 19:37

I want to be a prostitute

from 'Renting Lacy' by Linda Smith

When I grow up, I want to be a prostitute.

I want to be used by men however they wish.

And I'll say, "Oh baby, yes, I love it. I love everything about you."

And I'll hold back my vomit and keep on my smiles to convince them, so they'll stop slapping me. But because I love it, because I love the taste of everything about them, they'll say I'm a slut, a dirty little girl who needs to be punished. They'll burn cigarettes into my skin, jab me anyplace they like, bloody my nose, blacken my eyes, laugh at my tears, hold a gun to my head, cut me, tattoo me, as their eyes grow large and excited. I'll scream and cry and beg because I can't act anymore.





Our History

- Survivor of severe DV
- He is now serving a 20 yr sentence
- Escaped with 4 children age 2 ½ - almost 16
- Lived in shelters cross country & transitional housing almost a year
- Took 10 months to change names & social security numbers
- Each child had completely different issues
- Binge drinker who broke her neck falling from a third story window
- Isolator who didn't leave apartment for almost 4 yrs & smoked pot
- Son with separation anxiety/anger outbursts and was preverbal during most of the violence
- We've had Individual counseling, family counseling, probation social workers, hospitalizations & pharmaceuticals.

Kelsey's History

- Kelsey was born with Hirschsprungs Disease
- Hospitalized 7 times in first 13 months.
- 2 surgeries-with near fatal rx to anesthetic
- Divorced her alcoholic father when she was about 2 ½
- Married the “Maniac Man” when she had just turned 4.
- Witnessed both her sister's being sexually molested
- Witnessed her mother being brutally beaten
- Had night seizures between ages 6 -7(stopped when we finally left)
- New Identity when she was 7
- Intermittent hearing loss of 30-40%
-Special Ed & Speech Therapy
- At 11, reported being molested by a teen age boy -seen by HSAU but prosecutor decided not to press charges.
- Started running away at 12
- First in Juvenile system for stealing a truck at 13. Spent 2 years bucking the system.
- At 14 - I got Breast Cancer & bought a condo in S. Everett
- She had placement test in the tenth grade & had a 3rd grade math level & 5th grade reading level.

The Prostitution Arrests begin

- She went about a year without getting into any real trouble. Then from Oct -Dec of 2007 she was picked up several times for prostitution, solicitation & obstruction of justice
- No clue how to deal with this
- I was angry at her
- I totally missed the fact that she was being coerced, manipulated & forced.
- Social stigma was so great I missed the similarity between DV & DMST
- Jan 2008 PPD called me to pick her up.
- They treated her as a victim instead of a criminal
- Because she had been taken across state lines the case was prosecuted at Federal Level
- Took 16 months before she testified at Grand Jury-in mean time she was still on probation & court ordered to rehab.
- I thought the testimony might help heal her. I was proud of her. She disappeared 3 weeks later



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This publication was made possible in part through Grant Number 90XR0012/02 from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, or HHS.

- On average it takes Adult Women with fully formed brains 4 attempts before successfully leaving a DV situation
- Teens brains are not fully formed, especially in the decision making regions. Yet they are expected to make adult decisions without regression or mistakes in a situation that is often referred to as DV on Steroids.
- I suspect that like DV, the most dangerous time is when they decide to leave.

Excerpt 2 – written in Rehab

- After about a year & a half, I said no, I can't do it no more ...lying to my family about where I was.. what I was doing where my scars coming from...I was back on probation and because I was loaded from being depressed and other thins...and I kept getting dirty UA's ...I ended up in the recovery center.



18th Birthday

Candlelight Vigil 2010/2011

19th & 20th Birthday





Final Note

- Effects on family since her disappearance
- I had to add another anti-depressant, I don't sleep without anti anxiety & sleeping pills
- My son has been in truancy court continually & started smoking pot
- One Daughter became addicted to Oxycontin & tried to commit suicide
- Oldest daughter has recurrence of depression & anxiety
- Denied Victims Assistance by both Oregon & Washington because "there is no evidence of a crime".
- Letters: 1) Kelsey was not offered protection – Other victim was 2) Case Delayed 16 months before Grand Jury 3) 6 month lag before case was OPENED after she went missing. Response: 1) forward to other departments 2) “In as much as your correspondence contained no specific evidence of misconduct, ___ will take no further action”.
- Kelsey Emily's gift was song. And my dream is that a shelter's will be named Emily's Song in her honor
- Remember these girls were someone's baby....someone's little girl & they are deeply loved.



2011/04/04 23:02



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