

It Could Have Been You

It is a Monday morning like any other Monday morning. You get out of bed at the same time that you always do. It is a routine that you have become comfortable with over the years. The alarm clock goes off, and you poke your loved one and tell him that it is time to get the day started, and you walk into the bathroom and start the shower. Thoughts come to you as you wait for the water to heat up. Thoughts about what you have to do that day at work. Thoughts drift back to last night and the nice quality time you had with your mate. Then the thoughts come back to the present, and you wonder what you are going to wear and that you dread washing your hair because you know you are going to have to style it afterwards. The steam rising from the shower basin snaps you out of your trance and you step into the shower. You have a nice relaxing shower where you feel all cozy, safe, and comfortable in your nice suburban home. You get out and begin the daily routine of makeup, ironing, dressing, hair drying, all of the daily activities that make up our day-to-day “just like any other day” routine. You realize your hubby gets to sleep in that morning because he does not have to go into work until later, and you think to yourself how nice that must be. You have yourself almost ready at this point, and you go wake up your child from his cozy and safe bed, and you start the routine of getting him bathed, dressed, and fed. You are now ready to leave the house like every other morning, so you tell your drowsy spouse bye and that you love him and that you will see him later on that morning-just like you have all of the other times.

You and your child share a nice ride to his school where you are able to sing a favorite song from the radio with him. He loves it when you sing with him and snap your fingers and use your arms to dance while you are sitting, and he is in good spirits. You get out and go around and get him out of his booster seat and get his backpack and kiss him on the forehead. He tells you that he loves you and you tell him that you love him also so much and that you will see him that afternoon as soon as he gets off of the bus, just like all of the other times. He disappears into the safe school building and, as you drive away, you are thinking about how much you love your kids and how much they love you.

You are now back on the road headed to work. It is a beautiful morning with the sun shining and the pretty blue sky seems so clear this morning. Nothing is different than any other morning you have pulled out of your friendly neighborhood. The radio is playing, and your thoughts turn to your little toddler who you left at home this morning instead of taking her to school because she has a bad cold. You worry about her some as you head down the road, but you know that her father is with her and that he will take good care of her until you are able to relieve him later that morning after you are able to get some work done at the office. It is in the fall, so you feel a little chill in the air, and your thoughts look ahead to winter and Christmas, and you cannot wait to start shopping for your kids, and you already know exactly what you are getting your husband because you have been shopping online. You saw it while you were shopping online for party favors for your little girl’s birthday party that is coming up in a week or two. Work has been more productive than usual, so as you sit at the light waiting for your turn to go, your thoughts now drift from birthday and Christmas shopping to the business at hand this morning. You have a couple pick ups, but those will not take long and then you will

be able to get back home and relieve your husband and let him get to work as you spend some quality time with your little girl. As you continue to travel and you get closer to work, you can't help but to think how nice this Christmas is going to be because your kids are all old enough to really get into it, and you just told your husband last night how appreciative you are of him and how hard he works. You have the warm fuzzies all inside thinking of how fortunate you are to live in a nice safe neighborhood, and to have the love that you and your husband share for each other. You smile as you think about telling him last night how lucky you are to have him and the kids and that you love him so much. You wanted to hear him say it as well, so you asked him if he felt the same way. He giggled a little figuring it was a rhetorical question considering he tells you three or four times a day how much he loves you, but he could tell you wanted a special confirmation last night. He reads you so well, and he looked deep into your big brown eyes and told you that you are the love of his life, and he is blessed to have you as his wife. You think about how you snuggled after that, feeling blissful and content, and then you thought about how you went downstairs and watched a movie, holding each other the whole time. Your thoughts wonder from last night's scene to how extremely fortunate and loved you feel now since your sister has moved back to town. She not only moved back to town, but into your neighborhood. All of the holiday events and plans you have for her are running through your mind as you look forward to sharing so much time with her and your niece and nephew. It seems to you now that you have all of the pieces of the puzzle back together now. Your mother also lives in the same neighborhood, and you are so looking forward to having your kids see their aunt and grandmother on a daily basis. Not only that, but your father will be retiring soon, and you cannot wait to be able to spend more time with him as well. Someone stops in front of you on the road and the sudden action jolts you out of your thoughts.

You are only a mile or two from work now, and your thoughts drift to what you could fix for supper that evening and what you needed to get from the store. It is such a peaceful morning and so much like any other morning when you are alone with your thoughts and confident in the life you have built. The kind of security that comes from being on the right track romantically, spiritually, domestically, and financially and is a result of committing whole-heartedly to making life that way.

You turn into work and find a parking place. It is early in the morning and there are only a few cars in the parking lot and a few businesses are already going about their morning routines as well. You think about how everyone in society has a role to play and how everyone just goes about making their way in life. They are either busy just making a living to provide for themselves or busy working to provide for their love ones, so that they can get the material things they desire out of life, and they hope this success will lead to peace in other areas of their lives as well. Again lost in thought, as you exit the confines of your safe vehicle, your peaceful thoughts and life are suddenly SHATTERED, as you sense a quick movement coming from behind. You do not have time to flinch or protect yourself as you feel a broad, hard arm grab you around your neck and a hard steely blunt object stab you in the back. Your heart is racing from panic and confusion. You have no idea what could be happening or why someone would suddenly want to harm you for no reason. All you were doing was just coming to work like you always do and you had not offended or hurt anyone. The demon that has just shattered your safe suburbia world is demanding you to get back into your vehicle and take him to

the nearest ATM machine. He throws you into the front seat as he climbs into the back, holding the gun on you and threatening to shoot you if you do not do as he says. He tells you that all he wants is some money and that if you do as he says, you will not be harmed.

He has a tough time settling into the backseat because of the two car seats on each side of the back seat. He has to slide into the floor behind the driver's seat, and you can still feel the gun in your ribs. You are crying on the inside at your predicament. You are afraid for your life and at the same time very angry that this low-life is putting your life at risk over a hundred dollars. You are also outraged at the fact that this poor excuse of a human has chosen this role in life. A role that is cowardly and cheap and lazy. A role that is the antithesis of all you stand for. A role comprised of deceit and treachery. Of all the honest and good earning roles a person can choose in life for himself, this infidel has chosen to steal money from hard working honest people and to put these same people's lives at risk and the lives of their families. You are outraged that this is happening to you after you have worked so hard with your husband to make a good home and to have beautiful children. You know all of the sacrifice and commitment that it has taken to get to this point in life and here this animal is blatantly and brazenly disregarding all of that for a hundred dollars. You are fuming at all of this, and you are also extremely frightened at what may happen to you and that this demon might want more from you than just money. He continues to tell you to just do as he says and everything will be alright. He is saying this behind his mask. No mask made can hide who and what this animal really is.

You compose yourself and your survival instinct kicks in, and you begin to drive the same stretch of road that one minute earlier was filled with warm, loving and peaceful thoughts. What a difference a minute can make in someone's life. Now journeying down this same road in broad daylight on an otherwise peaceful Monday morning, everyone else on the road seems to be oblivious to your plight. The same thoughts that you had just a few minutes earlier of all your loved ones are again running through your head as you drive, but this time there is a longing in your heart, a longing to be in the middle of them being held in their arms. A panicked thought runs through your mind that all of those earlier pleasant thoughts may just become memories now with no chance for you to add to them. You are thinking to yourself that this must be what they mean when they say, "My life flashed before my eyes." You were thinking about all of the things you will miss if this demon carelessly decides to harm you. You have so much to lose. All of the love that you have for your family and the love they have for you. The good times you have shared and are yet to share. There are so many milestones in your own life and in your children's, husband's, and the rest of your family's lives yet to be played out. All of these thoughts are racing through your mind as you get closer to the ATM machine that this amoral human needs cash from to feed his drug addiction.

You are poised as you make the transaction so as to keep him from harming you and to ensure that he lets you go once he has the money. You are looking for a way to alert someone in the bank that you are being held at gun point and that you are being made to rob your own account from the bank. You are shocked and dismayed as you realize there is no way to call for help. Again, panic fills your whole being as you realize driving an extra distance to a nationwide used bank has done you no good. This major bank chain has no safe-guards available to a victim being made to take out money. Your only chance now is you hope somehow someone will see the demon in your back

floorboard as you roll by the tellers' window less than three feet away. They take no notice of you, or if they do, they do not let on that they even see you, let alone a large, masked carjacker in your back seat. You feel sick to your stomach with fear and dread now knowing that no one in the bank or on the street has taken notice of your dangerous predicament.

It takes you a good two to three minutes to get back onto the main road headed back toward your work. The demon has now made it clear to you that he does not plan on letting you go yet. You now can tell from his demeanor and words that he has no intentions on letting you go and that he has other evil intentions with you. You are now weak with fear. Your thoughts racing now down the once peaceful stretch of road are of your husband. You are screaming in your mind for him to come and save you from this demon. You are so scared and now so angry that this demon wants to carelessly end what you have spent a lifetime building! Your flight or fight instinct kicks in and all you can think about is how many other people this animal has done this to and how many others he can potentially inflict the same evil upon. Even while you are driving, you are now lashing out at the diseased dog in the back seat. You are trying to dislodge the gun from his hand. You come to a screeching halt in the middle of the road, and you fling the door open and make it half way out. He dives into the front and pulls you back into the vehicle before you can make your escape. He yells his venom and bile at you that he will kill you if you try that again, and he points the gun to your head. This large man needs a gun to subdue you. You continue to drive, but you are blinded with rage and fear all at the same time. You are yelling back at the mangy dog that he is a coward, and he is a pitiful excuse for a human and that you would rather die first before letting him get back to your family or someone else's family unscathed. You begin to lash out at him again over and over as you continue to drive. All the while, even after stopping in the middle of the road and even after careening off guard rails on the road, no one has stopped or come to your aid. Finally, in an attempt to dislodge his gun, you make a wild swing at him which throws your vehicle straight into the guard rail. It is a hard impact, and he shoots you in the side. The bullet enters in front of your right rib cage and up near the surface of your chest and exits through your other side glancing off of your left arm. He pulls you into back seat now and takes over driving the vehicle. You know that you have been shot, but you do not feel any pain. You can see some blood, but you strangely feel no pain. You are now almost frozen with fear after being shot and slumping in the back seat. You are so angry at what he has done. He is trying to take you from your beloved children, a beloved husband, a beloved sister, a beloved brother, a beloved mother and father. From a life that you have fought hard to sustain and have earned the right to live and experience! You realize this demon must be stopped before he can do any further harm to you or someone else, so you garner more strength and courage and you begin to strike and claw the demon from behind now, hoping to cause him to stop, so you can escape out of the back door and run to get help. The demon continues to drive though, and he ignores a red light at an intersection and attempts to make a left-hand turn in front of an oncoming cement truck.

There were no more thoughts from you on this earth once you decided to fight the demon to the death. God sent an angel down to take over your body. He knew how this battle was going to end, and He rewarded your God-filled spirit by sparing you the impact of the accident. He also saw to it that your battle was finished by another good

soul. You physically did not finish the battle, but your fighting spirit and courage was too strong to be ignored by everyone that day. These attributes carried through strong enough to see to the deserved ending. Of all of the lives you touched and influenced while here blessing us with your physical light and presence, will be multiplied many times over and over now that you continue to touch and influence us as the blessed angel that you are.

Your priorities are still with your beloved family, but now your role is one of a guardian angel over them. Your thoughts are still of your family just like they were before, but now you have a commitment to not only protect them from such horrible random acts of violence, but to also protect other families and love ones who can fall victim to the same evil. You only found out after the fact that this diseased dog was let out of his cage erroneously. You found out, after it was too late, that this dog had attacked another innocent and unsuspecting mom six days earlier right behind your place of business. You did not know about this attack because the police did not bother questioning the local businesses about whether they had seen a suspicious character hanging around their businesses or in the huge parking lot in front of them. Even though these stores have women coming and going at all hours of day and night, they did not see the urgency in informing these unaware women of the potential danger around them with a rabid dog on the loose. If it had been an actual rabid dog, an animal not capable of plotting behavior or reasoned thought processes, the surrounding area would have been alerted of the impending danger by an Animal Control Unit. Unfortunately, the police do not see the same urgency in alerting the public when an escaped attempted murderer and rapist, an animal capable of plotting behavior and reasoned thoughts, is on the loose. The Department of Transportation did not see the urgency in alerting the public either at that point because the assaulted and raped victim was only a mother of children and not actually a child. With this kind of ignorant logic, the diseased animal was able to flee and escape with impunity. Not only did he flee and escape, but he did so with such confidence and lack of fear that he felt comfortable in attacking again less than a mile from where he attacked six days earlier. And this is where you had the bad fortune to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Of course, you also found out that the animal was not even supposed to be in any place at any time other than his cell block. You also learn that the Georgia DOC was supposed to follow a more thorough releasing procedure than the one executed the week prior to this animal's release. Someone in this department mistook this criminal as a common forger because that was the last crime he was serving time for, and they did not bother running a routine background check (one that is common place when you get pulled over for a traffic violation) or they would have seen that this animal was a previously convicted sex offender, and had a warrant for his arrest in the system from Cobb County for violating probation, and was to stand trial September 19, 2005 for failing to register as a sex offender. You now realize it is September 12, 2005 and no one in any law enforcement agency responsible for knowing where this animal resides even knows that he is out of his cage. The next bit of information, you now get since you are a spirit now and able to see things you were not able to see before when you were in the physical world, was some information that you already knew because you had experienced it first hand. This information was that the banking industry knew already that if you were to be held at gun point at one of their ATM machines, you would have absolutely no way of asking someone to help save your life. The banks know this, and according to all of the leading researchers and leading advocates for ATM

safety, the banks just arrogantly choose not to implement safety codes and 911 buttons because they do not want to be told what to do.

So, you did become quite omnipotent after your passing. You find out that a dangerous sex offender was erroneously released from prison instead of being turned over to law enforcement in either Cobb County or Cherokee County. You find out that even after this blunder, they release him because a background check was not done on him, so the proper release procedure is not carried out, and this means that they did not know they were releasing a convicted sex offender, so they did not do what it takes to inform the one department responsible for tracking him-the Cherokee Sex Crimes Division. Because of this, the animal was free to roam for three months untracked and on no one's radar screen, virtually invisible. This allowed him to attack twice in a span of a week in the exact same area because he knew he was invisible. That and the fact that we need to come out of the fog as a society and understand the mother's of children need the same kind of protection rights as children and that if enough information is available to sound a "Levis Call," then it should not matter the age of the victim. All of these issues are now what you are fighting for. You went from worrying about paying bills and your family's next meal, to fighting for the rights of mothers and fighting to instill logic and foresightedness into penal and law enforcement agencies that are illogical and backward. You are still as loved and thought of everyday by your family and friends, but they are grief stricken that it had to be you that was chosen to champion so many causes. Then they realize that it had to be someone so beloved, and someone who was so spiritual and influenced so many people positively with love for life and people, to be able to pull it off from the spiritual side of our existence. This somebody is you. You, who fought so bravely and passionately to preserve and protect what you held dear in life here, are now doing the same thing on a grand scale with other angels and God by your side.

With the flaws in the penal and banking institutions that are present today, unfortunately, the "You" in this story could have been any of us. A day that started as any other day, ended as the worst day of our lives. Kimberly Boyd paid with her life a debt of negligence, incompetence, and a total disregard of life by banking and penal institutions.