

One Family's Scars

She rode bikes with her friends and bought Charlotte Bronte and Victoria Holt novels at the school's book fair.

He established himself as the neighborhood uncle and lived in his sister's garage.

She spied a seat in the living room and watched as the adults danced at a family party.

He flashed a calculated smile at her young personage and recognized her inadvertent response.

She pitched the softball over the plate and her school's team won another game

He parked his current wife in the new house in Utah and tethered his airplane at Van Nuys airport.

She marveled at the view from 10,000 feet of the Christmas lights in the L.A. basin.

He took the neighborhood kids flying and especially her, saying, "You're a she-devil."

She took classes like German and Accounting.

He worked in construction and offered the kids work wielding a wheelbarrow.

She liked a boy on the football team and crushed on him from the shadows of her shyness.

She listened to her dad say, from under their family car's engine, "What the hell's the matter with you?" and she looked harder inside the toolbox for a screwdriver that wasn't there.

From Carl Jung's studies: "The archetype of the father is associated with gods, kingship, and other images of authority and order. As the image of a "personified affect" fueled by an archetypal core, the father complex is powerful. In its negative aspect it may arise from a father who was experienced as absent, emotionally unavailable, passive, critical or abusive." --- *This Jungian Life*



She fought with her older sister and listened to albums and was known for her honesty which only just now would crack a crack that could crumble Hoover Dam.

He drove her in his construction truck to Four and Twenty Pies and parked nearby under leafy branches and in front of closed blinds, and their breathing was faster and the windows fogged.

She was 16 years old and had kissed one boy for three seconds at spin-the-bottle at a family pool party.

He was 41 and the father of two sons and was overheard talking about little girls' underwear with his like-minded friend and he was not against statutory rape.

She in her youthful ignorance gave in one night in the co-pilot's seat and put her fists against his shoulders, pushing him backward to protect herself from the knife-like stabbing of pain.

He proposed a new plan and chose the place and led her to lie and beg a ride from her older sister.

She walked into the Thunderbird Motel on an industrial road in the middle of the day some minutes after he had walked in and the knife finished its work leaving the sheets spotted with blood.

He dated her, followed her, screwed her, controlled her, and his crippling yoke around her neck stole her serenity for six years leaving long irremovable splinters.

She, on the ski trips, would stash a Snickers bar and a Coke in her down jacket pockets before they got on the lift and enjoyed the steak dinners in town and laid out a sleeping bag on the floor of the rented cabin in case her parents might drive up from their home five hours away.

He ordered her to serve him ten Oreo cookies and milk in the nude when he got back from work and yelled at her to never lock the bathroom door. She was overcome with excitement when Steve slipped a note inside her locker and dumbstruck and heartbroken when she realized that she would never be able to reply.

She braved his wrath and asked his permission again like she had often done to break up with him and this time he acquiesced, "Go. Now." He sat on her



couch in her apartment and watched her leave and got in his car and followed her walking down the street to her parents' house and shouted every name he could think of.

It would be learned, a decade later, that he had also inflicted crimes on the lovely jewel who was her ten-year-old sister. His depravity had killed her innocence and introduced her to fear and subsequently darkened her horizons.

Definition of Pedophile: "Pedophilia, also spelled paedophilia, also called pedophilic disorder or pedophilia disorder, in conventional usage, a psychosexual disorder, generally affecting adults, characterized by sexual interest in prepubescent children or attempts to engage in sexual acts with prepubescent children." --- *Britannica*

In memory of all sexual abuse victims, known and unknown.

On sunny tree-lined streets, in childhoods not that long ago, they played card games and climbed trees, and spent their allowances on Matchbox cars and comic books, secure and happy.

