



DWE Newsline

April 2, 2015

WE DO IT ALL WRITING SERVICES

IN THIS ISSUE

From a Dream to a Reality

by Jessie Snyder

Our CEO, Jessie Snyder, first had the dream of becoming a writer and owning her own company when she was a young girl around seven-years-old. It was after she witnessed her stepfather's murder during a home invasion. She used writing as a way to cope with the tragedy that had perspired on that sad morning in the middle of summer. She found that by writing she was able to deal with her feelings of fear and grief more effectively than just taking to someone. She knew at that moment that she had a story of survival that was worth telling, and that might even be able to help others going through similar situations to deal with their own feelings and get through the devastation that incidents like this can cause for individuals.

THE DREAM

The Dream started to become a reality shortly after the death of her daughter in 2000. That is when our CEO, Jessie Snyder decided she wanted to start her

own company writing for others. She began under the name "True Inspirations" and along the way as she learned new techniques and what worked and what didn't work, she evolved into the company she owns now, DeLuxe Writing Experts.

THE VISION

Jessie created and launched her first website "True Inspirations Writing Professionals" in 2012. After two years of not getting the results that she had hoped for, Jessie decided it was time to take a leap of faith. She changed her idea of what she expected and changed the name of the company to, "Deluxe Writing Experts." This time she put forth more effort using all her knowledge and experience, using resources and investing time into this company. In the few months that this company has been opened for business, Jessie is finally beginning to see the fruits of her hard work and determination.

Continued on Page 2

SORRY...NOT SORRY (UNAPOLOGETIC)



This is an original piece by one of our members of our Pay It Forward Writer's Support Program. Mr. Terrell K. Mercer, is an incredible writer. Very inspirational and beautifully written. [Page 2](#)

MY PASSION IN LIFE



This is an original piece by Jessie Snyder, our CEO. It talks about what her passion in life is and what motivates her in her writing career. A very inspirational and motivational story. A must read. [Page 3](#)

THE GOAL

The goal of this company to create meaningful relationships with our clients, we use our team's knowledge and experiences to create an innovative strategy to assist our clients in their success. We strive to deliver excellent services, by working closely with our clients to create the best possible services to them, letting our clients know we work for them in hopes of making their dreams come true. Above all, we believe in paying attention to detail, making full use of our interactions and collaboration with our clients, gaining experience through extermination and exploration, so that we are able to deliver the most competitive and innovative services with the exceptional quality our clients deserve.

THE REALITY

We here at DeLuxe Writing Experts, not only support her, we admire her ambition and determination to become one of the most successful companies in the United States. We are a new kind of writing company, offering our clients the highest quality services and very affordable prices. We work together as a team, make sure our clients feel welcomed and comfortable with us, treating them as humans not as numbers or statistics.

OUR PROMISE

So, if you are ready for a new kind of professional business experience, take a chance and give us a try, where your satisfaction is guaranteed. We promise to offer a genuine experience with our company that if you are not 100% guaranteed with the outcome of our experience together, we will give you a full refund-without any hassles.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jessie Snyder, is the CEO of DeLuxe Writing Experts. She has over 20 years' experience as a writer, holding two Associates degrees and currently working on her Bachelor's Degree.

Jessie was born and raised in Nashville, TN where she grew up in one of the poorest neighborhoods. Yet, that didn't stop her from wanting to pursue her dream of becoming a successful business owner. She is now on her way to achieving that dream.

You can follow Jessie on her Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/snyderj39>

On LinkedIn at:

https://www.linkedin.com/profile/public-profile-settings?trk=prof-edit-edit-public_profile

And Twitter at:

<https://twitter.com/Snyderj73>

Also on About. Me at:

<https://about.me/jessiesnyder>

And view her portfolio at:

<http://jessie-snyder.branded.me/>

This Quarter's GALA Feature

Terrell K. Mercer, Author



Sorry...Not Sorry (Unapologetic)



by Terrell K. Mercer

Long ago she accepted she wasn't built like your stick figure celebrities

So she never preached a message of acceptance for modern day Pharisees

Your image of beauty was yours and hers was of hers

While society embraced THIN IS IN she embraced her curves

They tried to feed her the lie because of her size she had to be promiscuous and easy

Yet because of certainty in who she was she knew this mentality was deceiving

They told her she'd never fit the mold of a model and tried to laugh

Her only reply, "THOSE WHO SET THEIR FOOT FIRST IN THE SNOW CREATE THEIR OWN PATH"

She understands her extra as a blessing built into her frame

She sees her values not in her waistline regardless if you don't feel the same

It's been said an average woman will turn a head but a thick chic will snap a neck

She may not be your cup of tea but she will demand your respect

No need to try and tear her down for upon her glamorous legs she stands tall

Looking how her clothes accent her curves in the mirror thanking God for each one and all

She is the embodiment of confidence, self-assured and certain (Continued on Pg. 3)

She knows that not even Let's Make A Deal could have a better prize behind the curtain

She is proud to say she never missed a meal as she's grown

Light cast a silhouette that's unmistakably her own

She didn't set out to be a movement but she carries herself like one just because

There's a little girl watching who may be one day built like her watching all she does

So for herself and those like her she seeks not your approval

Self-love and self-acceptance to her is far more crucial

She gives no apologies for walking in the greatness in which she was created

God blessed her with her UMPH so your words of disapproval won't leave her devastated

So she's sorry... not sorry you've got caught up in your feelings and Webster definition

She is thick, bold and BEAUTIFUL and knows this without your permission.

About the Author

Terrell K. Mercer, is a native of Bergen op Zoom, Netherlands and currently resides in Christmas Hills, Tasmania, Australia. He is one of the newest members of the "Pay It Forward" Writer's Support Program here at DeLuxe Writing Experts.

You can follow Mr. Mercer on his Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Terrell-K-Mercer/147411241957763>

Or on Soundcloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/terrell-merc-1>

MY PASSION IN LIFE



by: Jessie Snyder

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

-Dr. Maya Angelou-

I was once asked to write about my passion in life. Yet, what does passion really mean? Passion is a distinct characteristic that anyone should have the opportunity to embrace and experience. Passion is the driven force inside you that makes you want to continually learn. It challenges you to grow. It makes you want to help others to grow. It forces you to keep on living and working to make a difference in this world. It allows you to overcome life's obstacles more easily giving your life fulfillment, peace, and happiness.

Brian Norris, author of "Escape Life Sucks Syndrome," said it best. He said, "Passion is most evident when the mind, body and spirit work together to create, develop and articulate or manifest our feelings, ideas, and most sacred values." Therefore, according to that meaning, I would have to declare that my passion in life is writing. So, when I say I have a passion for writing, I mean I am driven to share the stories about my life's adversities with absolute enthusiasm. I enjoy knowing that by sharing my stories of the struggles, obstacles, and even tragedies that I have overcome, that it may help others to succeed in life. Thus, I feel it is my destiny to write about and share the misfortune, impediments, and even tragedies that I have overcome to give others the courage, strength and determination to strive for success.

My passion or destiny in life is writing. Through the words I share on paper I am able to reveal my innermost feelings and desires in order to assist others to obtain their dreams, goals and aspirations in life. I hope that by revealing the adversities that I have overcome that will instill in others the inspiration, and even motivation to achieve their life's goals through the words I have written on paper.

Throughout my life, I have had many, many hardships, yet despite all the bad and negative things that I have gone through, I have always maintained a positive attitude and optimistic outlook on life. Even though Life has thrown me a curve ball or many other ways to make me fail, instead of letting those things break my spirit, I used those things to make me stronger. I used each bad situation as a stepping stone on life's journey to ultimate happiness. I do not write to become rich or famous or even to win the Nobel Peace Prize, I write because I was born to write. It is my life, my love, my purpose and my passion in life. I am truly satisfied with encouraging others and assisting in their success.

I began writing after the horrible death of my stepfather when I was seven years old. He was murdered right in front of my eyes during a home invasion. I found that the only way I was able to cope with this horrific tragedy was to get my feelings out by writing them down. By going through this process, it helped me to be able to endure the unspeakable ordeal that I had seen From that moment on I nurtured my talent and gift of writing and have strived to become the best at all I do.

Since then I have won several awards for my writing capabilities, including but not limited to: The Metro's School's Regional Competition when I was nine. My first poem published in the Nashville Tech's Tetrahedra in 1998 followed by Nashville State Community College's Literary Magazine THINK: A Journal of Essays in 2012. Later that same year I won two World Poetry Competitions, and was named the International Who's Who in Poetry of 2012. I started my own Writing Company, DeLuxe Writing Experts in July 2014 and self-published my first book, The Curse of Princess Deondra a Fairytale, in July of 2014.

In the words of my mentor, the late and great Dr. Maya Angelou, "We may encounter defeats, but we must not be defeated." I am a born survivor, and no matter what life throws in my path I will overcome it and become a stronger and wiser person through every situation that I endure. It is my desire to understand and empathize with others, while at the same time giving them the motivation and courage to face all of life's trial and tribulations. My final words to you is this: If writing is your passion in life, follow your heart and continue to strive towards your goals, even if the WORLD tells you cannot achieve them. Because as long as you

are doing what makes you truly happy, then you will prove them all wrong.

THE STORY BEHIND OUR COMPANY LOGO

"THE LOTUS"



The reason I chose the LOTUS as our company LOGO is because what it symbolizes. The LOTUS flower has eight petals, which represents the Eightfold Path of Good Law. It is one of the most common symbols of Buddhism and represents the stages of enlightenment. The lotus flower rises from the depths of a muddy river, blooms and thrives. This symbolizes the human who rises from the darkness of the world into a new way of thinking and living. It is a symbol of rebirth, growth and purification of spirit. The lotus flower also represents faith.

According to the Chinese Buddhist Encyclopedia the meaning of the different stages and colors means different things. The different colors of the lotus flower in Buddhism hold significant meaning:

White: This color symbolizes being pure in body, mind and spirit. It symbolizes the heart of the Buddhist, and also represents overcoming obstacles of the human nature.

Red: This color symbolizes emotional attachments of the heart. It represents love, compassion, passion and other heart-centered emotions. It is usually depicted with its petals open to represent the heart being open and filled with love.

Blue: As a representation of wisdom and common sense, the blue lotus flower is often seen as only partially open. It symbolizes knowledge, learning and intelligence. The blue lotus flower is never fully opened, and its center is not seen. This represents the continual need to gain wisdom, learn and expand the mind in order to reach enlightenment.

Pink: A representation of the Buddha himself, the pink lotus represents the history and legends of the Buddha.

Purple: This is the color that represents mysticism and spirituality. It is shown in several ways such as one stem or three stems. Its petals are shown both opened and closed. It is sometimes a bud and sometimes fully bloomed. All of these differences represent the different mystical and spiritual journeys taken on the path to enlightenment.

Gold: A symbol of complete and total enlightenment, the gold lotus often represents the Buddha. It represents having reached full enlightenment and having achieved all that can be achieved.

The meanings of the different colors of the lotus flower in Buddhism play an important role in the understanding and implementation of the Buddhist teachings. They are meant to be used as a reminder along the journey to personal enlightenment. [buddhists.org](http://www.buddhists.org)

http://www.chinabuddhismencyclopedia.com/en/index.php?title=The_meanings_of_the_different_colors_of_the_lotus_flower_in_Buddhism

"PAY IT FORWARD" Writer's Support Program



The "Pay It Forward" Program is designed to assist other writers, authors and poets in the process of getting their work seen by others.

We believe that by paying it forward, it will not only help others achieve their dreams, but will also truly identify, "Who we are!" and "What we stand for!" and that is helping others in their success!

We want to start a new craze in the world of business. We believe that true success should

be shared. After all, "What good is success if you cannot share it with others?"

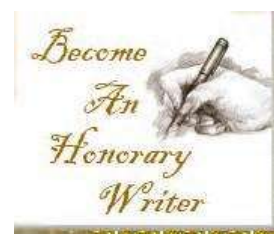
Together, we can make the world a better place...one person, one company and one life at a time!

To find out more information, call us at 615-414-5245 or email us deluxe.writing.inc@gmail.com

You can also check out our website at

www.deluxewritingexperts.com

We are always looking for new talent to be discovered! What are you waiting for, allow your dreams to become a reality today!!!



BREAKING THE BARRIERS:

THE RISE OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS



by: Jessie Snyder

Are you a woman owned company? Do you find it difficult to break the barriers of women entrepreneurship to become successful? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you may find this article helpful. In this article I am going to discuss challenges of being an entrepreneur, provide suggestions for woman entrepreneurs on how women can break the barriers of entrepreneurship and become successful.

Let's start with some general statistics about entrepreneurs. According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projection Program, projects that the number of self-employed workers will grow 3.6 percent between 2012 and 2022, this is much slower than the average for all occupations.

Entrepreneurship is still dominated by the male population. However, more and more women are becoming Entrepreneurs and are quite successful at it. But for many of the women, they feel in order to compensate, they feel they must adopt a male's attitude when it comes to business. They feel that they must be aggressive and competitive, sometimes even be excessively harsh. Though, according to Hilary Genga, founder and CEO of women's swimwear company, Trunkettes, says, "Many times with female owners, men think they can be dishonest or give her a bad deal because she's a woman—something they probably wouldn't try with another man." However, Genga says this is the wrong approach to take. "Be yourself, and have confidence in who you are," she advised. "Don't try to be a man. You made it to where you are through hard work and perseverance, but most importantly, you're there. Don't conform yourself to a man's idea of what a leader should look like." Says Genga.

One of the main challenges for female entrepreneurs is that there aren't enough of us and we do are not supporting one another. I feel that the only way we as women are going to break the barriers, is to encourage each other and be there for one another. Let's face the facts, for instance, say your fellow woman was in a bad relationship, you would be trying to give her advice on how to end it or make it through it. So treat women entrepreneurship like you would any other relationship. Be supportive, give advice on how she could do better or succeed in what she is doing. Women are nurturers not aggressors. That is how we were born. Be proud of that. That does not mean that you cannot be successful, it just means that we have a different approach to becoming successful. I'm not saying let the male entrepreneur run over us, I am just saying be more supportive of your fellow entrepreneur. Be there to listen, encourage her or even give advice when it appropriate. Be a woman, not a pretender.

The main challenge for women entrepreneurs is the fear of failure. Again, that is why we should encourage and support each other, rather than tearing her down and taking away her confidence. According to Babson College's 2012 Global Entrepreneur Monitor, "the 'Fear of Failure', is the top concern of women who launch start-ups."

Again, I say believe in what you do, educate yourself on the kind of industry that you are wanting to start in, see from statistics—what works and what doesn't work—then build on

that. Don't be afraid to ask for advice, there are many mentoring agencies out there for women in business. Be confident in yourself, there is always going to be a "NO" with anything you do, but with hard work, ambition and determination, you will find that "YES", that will make it all worth your while. Nothing good happens overnight. Most of all I say, "Don't try to be something or someone you are not, just be yourself and take the bad and turn it into something GREAT!"

©Jessie Snyder, Jan. 26, 2015



DeLuxe Writing Experts Services

Are you tired of needing to hire and pay several different individuals and/or companies for your business needs?

For example:

1. You may need to pay one company to create a business plan or upgrade your current business plan.
2. Then you may need to pay another company to supply you with business cards, flyers, brochures or other marketing needs
3. Then another to create annual/quarterly reports
4. And yet another to build your company's

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APRIL 30, 2015

website and/or blog.

Well look no further. Here at DeLuxe Writing Experts we offer you the best value for ALL your business needs—big or small. We are committed to making you and/or your company succeed. We value our clients by making them feel like human beings and not just statistics or dollar signs. We offer a large range of professional services from A-Z, such as:

- **Advertising, Copywriting & PR Services:** Create Adverts, Brochures, Business Card Designs, Even Publicity, Flyers, Sales Letters, and Speech Writing, as well as, Copyediting & Copywriting services.
- **Business Writing Services:** Annual/Quarterly Reports, Business Letters, Case Studies, Corporate Histories, Corporate Profiles, Newsletters, Social Media Profiles & Postings, Acquisition Letters and Corporate Bio's.
- **Book Publishing Services:** Write Book Proposals, Synopsis & Query Letters, Do Research, Indexing, Content Editing, Copy Editing, Proofreading, Offer Manuscript Typing and Rewriting, as well as, Ghost Writing.
- **Computer, Technical & Writing Services:** Blog Design & Writing, Email Copywriting, Online Editing, Webpage Design, Editing & Writing.
- **Magazine & Trade Journal Writing:** Column Writing, Event Column Writing, Fact Checking, Feature Article Writing, Proof Reading, and Trade Journal Article Writing.
- **Newspaper & Miscellaneous:** Announcements, Custom Greeting Cards, Family Histories & Biographies, Newspaper Feature Articles & Local Columns, Obituaries, Write Poems, Power Point Writing, Report & Term Paper Typing.
- **Forms, Contracts & Handbooks:** General & Detailed Job Descriptions, Employee Absence Warning Letter, Disciplinary Letters, Performance Review Letters, Employee Handbooks, General Bylaws, Create Job Application Forms, Invoice Forms, Sales & Service Forms, Patient/Client Sign In Forms, Standard Website Terms & Conditions...

Here at DeLuxe Writing Experts, we are committed to providing other companies-big or small- as well as individuals with quality services at affordable prices. Knowing in today's economic market, the less you have to pay for quality service, the more profit you will earn!

That's why we chose to combine over 25 years of experience in writing and graphic design to use all our abilities and incorporate them into one company that provides you with all your professional needs!

Creating a new and innovative company that is not only dedicated to assisting others in their success, but also incorporating a positive and inspirational message to our clients. Working together to build and create a strong trusting relationship with our clients, while at the same time assisting them in their company's growth and success.



Expanding in Company Growth

Contact us today for a free quote!

Jessie Snyder, Owner

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SKYPE: Jessie.snyder6

The Essential of Color in Business



Understanding color meanings in business is essential when you are establishing a business profile. Color is the most direct and immediate non-verbal communication method of conveying messages and meanings... Often called the 'silent salesperson', color will immediately attract the holder's eye, convey the message of what the business is about, create a brand identity, and most importantly help make the sale...

Much of human reaction to color is subliminal—customers are generally unaware of the persuasive effects of color... According to Meghan Casserly; Google is one of many major corporations researching the power of color in the working world, assessing everything from work spaces to marketing, branding... it's still early in the research but it has already found a clear link between color and satisfaction with a person's work area, the simple element of color can boost employee creativity, productivity...

According to Elyria Kemp; typically it takes a customer less than 90 seconds to decide if they want to engage your business, messaging... and more than half of their assessment is based on color alone... many companies are researching their color choices to the tune of millions of dollars...

Understanding the meaning of color in business is essential—the psychology of color effects people's lives in so many ways, and yet you often don't realize the impact of color choices in business branding, image, e.g., website colors, stationary and packaging, office space, in fact, ALL areas of business activities.

Color has a powerful subconscious effect without even saying a word. According to Emil Hagopian; color tends to excite people and makes them feel like they are in a better place—color adds to the total feeling of security, comfort... However, the challenge for business is picking the right color, as well as, understanding the meaning of the colors

you've chosen... A mismatch between colors and meanings in website content is counterproductive, and potentially ruin the business objectives. There are many things that go into a successful business and the meaning of color is among one of the most important ones.

What does your company's colors stand for and what message are they giving your clients? Find out what statistics say about the importance of color in business. In a recent survey here is what was found:

Power of Color: According to research, color communicates more effectively than non-colors, such as; black and white... Here's what the research says:

Color visuals increase willingness to read by up to 80%...

Using color can increase motivation and participation by up to 80%...

Color enhances learning and improves retention by more than 75%...

Color accounts for 60% of the acceptance or rejection of an object and is a critical factor in the success of any visual experience...

Using color in advertising outsells black and white by a whopping 88%...

Then in a customer survey, 3M asked users to share their attitudes and perceptions about color, and the results of their survey is as follows:

50% felt that using color made the presenter appear more professional...

77% agreed that—presentations that use color are able to communicate better than those that use black and white...

72% agreed that—presentations that use color are remembered longer than those that use black and white...

Therefore, what it all means is that Color is a necessity of a successful business. Next you will find a guide to the meanings of color:

Meaning of Red in Business:

Red is a physical color which calls for action to be taken. Its high energy and strength draws attention to itself and demands to be noticed.

Meaning of Orange in Business:

Orange is a color of adventure which inspires and creates enthusiasm. It is optimistic and sociable and suggests affordability.

Meaning of Yellow in Business:

Yellow is an illuminating and uplifting color which stimulates our analytical processes and assists with mental clarity.

Meaning of Green in Business:

Green is associated with nature, health and healing. It balances the emotions and inspires compassion.

Meaning of Turquoise in Business:

Turquoise balances and recharges the emotions and inspires good communication skills and self-expression.

Meaning of Blue in Business:

Blue is the safest color to use in most applications, implying honesty, trust and dependability

Meaning of Indigo in Business:

Indigo is a powerful and strong color which conveys integrity and sincerity. It is associated with structure and rituals.

Meaning of Purple in Business:

Purple implies wealth, quality, fantasy and creativity. It worked well with many other colors

Meaning of Magenta in Business:

Magenta is a practical yet spiritual color. Compassionate and kind, it encourages a balanced outlook based on common sense.

Meaning of Pink in Business:

Pink inspires compassion and nurturing. It is a non-threatening color used most often in feminine businesses.

Meaning of Gold in Business:

Gold is associated with value, luxury and prestige. It reflects wisdom, beauty and generosity.

Meaning of Silver in Business:

Silver is a modern sophisticated color, calming yet uplifting, with a degree of mystery about it.

Meaning of Black in Business:

Black is the color of power and authority and in excess it can be intimidating and unfriendly.

Meaning of White in Business:

White is a blank canvas waiting for creative stimulation. It implies efficiency and simplicity, fairness and order.

Meaning of Gray in Business:

Gray is neutral and conservative but does imply security and reliability. It creates a great background for other colors.

Meaning of Brown in Business:

Brown is a strong, reassuring color that is comforting and reliable. It relates well to businesses that promote down-to-earth and outdoor products and activities.

In conclusion, you will see how essential the colors you choose for your business really matters. Hope this was helpful.

<http://www.empower-yourself-with-color-psychology.com/color-meanings-in-business.html>

<http://bizshifts-trends.com/2015/03/01/power-of-color-know-understand-the-meanings-of-color-color-matters-in-business-branding-but-cultures-see-it-different/>

This Quarter's GALA Feature

"Amanda's Wish Mobile Foods"



Mr. Wendell & Amanda Perry, Sr.

First let me explain a little about the Community Share & Support Program which is featured on our GALA Page.

The 'Community Share & Support Program' is another branch of the "Pay It Forward" Program. We believe in helping the whole community to achieve the success they want by offering them a place to post samples of their services and/or links to their company for free!

The "Community Share & Support Program" is geared towards all businesses- big or small, new or already established to obtain ultimate and true success!

How we do achieve this? By using social networking, email newsletters, self-serve advertising and word-of-mouth to advertise their company for free.

By posting links to your website in the hopes of generating more customers and/or clients for YOU! Which in the long-run will support your company growth! We help others to obtain the ultimate success they dream of. In turn, all we ask is that the company tell who gave them the chance to advertise for free. This is our way of helping the community at large.



Community Share & Support Program GALA

Now the company feature story:

"Amanda's Wish Mobile Foods"



Owner, Clark Perry

Mr. Clark Perry, owner of "Amanda's Wish Mobile Foods", was born and raised in New York. He is the sibling of a large family of 13 children. Mr. Perry, has been a licensed bar tender for 25 years and also works at TPAC here in Nashville, TN

Mr. Perry, started this company in loving memory of his mother's dream. She had always wanted to open a restaurant to serve her community. Unfortunately, his mother, Mrs. Amanda Perry was unable to achieve her dream while she was living due to being busy raising her family.

Therefore, her son Clark, decided to open this company to bring the flavor of the New York hot dogs to Nashville as well as honoring his mother's dream. "Amanda's Wish Mobile Foods", serves the greater Nashville area. You can stop by at 5th and Deaderick Monday –Friday form 11am – 2pm. Saturdays at Maplewood High School during game season starting at 11Am till games are over. Or you can call Mr. Clark Perry to cater office parties or special events at 615-517-7568.

MENU ITEMS:

All Beef Hot Dogs

- Polish Sausage
- Chips
- Peanuts
- Soft Drinks

TOPPINGS:

- * Grilled Onions & Peppers
- * Jalapenos
- * Relish
- * Raw Onion
- * Mustard
- * Ketsup
- * Mayo

<On Special Occasions>

HOT CHILI

Also, Don't Forget the
Homemade Sauerkraut
(Family Recipe!!!)

Clark at your Service!

Stop by or call for the great taste of New
York Style Hot Dogs TODAY!!!

A Strong Will To Survive



When I was but only seven-years-old, something very terrible happened to me on one hot summer morning that changed my life forever. Now, if you can think back to when you were seven-years-old. This is the age when a child should be having fun without a care in the world, a time of purity and innocence. But, what happened that sweltering summer morning of July 11, 1981 changed my life. I learned all about how violent some people could be. I also learned what I had to do in order to survive and cope with the unfortunate events that transpired on that morning and how great the impact would be from the experience that our family endured that horrendous heartbreaking morning in the middle of summer. That was the night our family faced a home invasion that would change the rest of my life. I witnessed the brutal rape of my mother and the senseless murder of my stepfather—the only father that I had ever known.

It all started out so innocent. I woke up my mother around 4:00 AM and asked for a drink of water. My mother being the caring person she was decided to go downstairs and get me a glass of ice cold water from the fridge; instead of just getting me tap water from our upstairs bathroom. I thought nothing of it as I sat in the bed waiting for my mommy to return with the glass of cold water that I would drink to quench my dry mouth. I sat there waiting and after she did not return in about ten minutes or so, I began to wonder what was taking so long. I started to get out of the bed when this strange man I had never seen before came into the room and said my mother wanted me downstairs. I was afraid but I followed the man to see why my mother had not returned, not knowing the horror I was about to see. As I got to the bottom of the stairs I saw my mom sitting in her rocking chair. Her gown had been ripped open, her arms tied to the arms of the chair and a towel thrown across her face. Then, in a trembling voice she told me to give the man her purse that was in her closet in the upstairs bedroom. The man followed me back up and I gave him the purse. I watched as the man went back down the stairs and disappeared. Then, I ran into my room where my stepfather was asleep. I woke him up and told him that some man was hurting mommy and she needed his help. My stepfather had come home drunk the night before and so my mother made him sleep in my bed and I slept with my mother that night.

My stepfather proceeded to stumble out of the bed, wearing only a pair of Fruit of the Loom briefs, headed to the stairs to find out what was happening with my mother. I stood at the top of the stairs and was watching him in anticipation as he went to help my mom. When all of a sudden another man that I did not recognize had started heading upstairs. My stepfather must have startled him, because the man pulled out a shiny silver gun. The man proceeded to aim the gun towards my stepfather and with loud bang, a single shot was fired. The bullet pierced my stepfather's heart and he then fell lifeless onto the stairs. With his dying breath, he yelled, "Fredia, call the police, I've been shot!"

I ran into my mother's bedroom and hid under the bed. Meanwhile, the two men fled from our home. The next person I saw was the detective, who persuaded me to come out from under the bed. He then carried me down the stairs, passing my stepfather's lifeless body as blood was still spewing from his heart. A horrible sight for a little girl to see. The detective took me to the back of the ambulance where the paramedics had my mother, so that I could see that she was alive. Then a neighbor took me into their house and the paramedics took my mother to the hospital. I was so shook up that I could not sleep, but the nice neighbors did their best to comfort me until my mother came home to get me.

The events that had transpired that horrifying and traumatizing morning would leave a mark on my life forever. I will never forget the sight of seeing my mother being raped or my stepfather being murdered. Yet, I learned to be strong enough to rise above the trauma that had unfolded that sad summer morning. From that moment on, I knew that I would be able to overcome anything that life placed in my path. All because of what I had endured, as a young warrior child of God. I have been able to keep a positive attitude and an optimistic outlook on life, despite the horrifying things I had witnessed that morning in the middle of the summer of 1981. The most important thing I learned about myself is that I had and will always have a strong will to survive and continue to strive to keep on growing, learning and healing throughout my life's journey.

by Jessie Snyder. September 14, 2014