HELL ON EARTH

It was September 24th,2006, I was up a little earlier than everyone else and decided to get on the computer. At the time I was grounded from the internet, so I played games until everyone woke up. About thirty minutes had passed and Danny (My dad) came up the stairs. He began yelling about me being on the internet and dragged my down stairs to my mom for punishment. Even though I wasn’t on the internet, which we both knew, I let him yell and scream because I had been through this many times before and knew what he was doing. This only meant he wanted me to be home for the day. While my mom was trying to figure out my punishment, Danny began yelling in my face asking if I knew where liars went, what happen to them after death, and all the other things your parents tell you when you’re caught in a lie. What he didn’t realize was I knew about all his lies. I knew he didn’t have a job like he said he did. I knew he was cheating on my mom and hiding a lot from her. In that moment, listening as he yelled, knowing why he wanted me home, that is when I decided I couldn’t keep his secret any longer

That morning I walked into church, scared, shaking, and horrified of what I was about to do. I knew this was not going to be easy, but it was time. Service was amazing and went longer than usual, but the longer it went the more I could feel Gods strength inside me. When it began to die down I walked up to the sound booth and asked Anna if I could speak to her about something. Anna and her husband had been going to our church for as long as I could remember, she and I had become very close within the last few years and I knew she would believe me. Leading her to the upstairs bathroom I had my doubts about what I was doing, but my feet kept walking and as soon as the bathroom door shut I let everything out. I then asked her if she would go to my uncle Tim’s office with me to tell him. She instantly grabbed my hand and we made our way downstairs.

As we sat in my uncle’s office my heart started beating faster and I began to think I wasn’t going to get the words out. Then I just said it “My dad is touching me.” At first it seemed easy, I truly believe my uncle knew in his heart it was true from the moment I said it. After answering a few questions he told me I had to tell my grandpa. Walking into my grandpa’s office I got ready to turn and run but Anna got a firm hold on my hand, I knew she was saying I needed to do this. So with tears streaming down my face I sat down and told God I wouldn’t quit. My grandpa realized me and Anna were crying and got very nervous. As I proceeded to tell him exactly what I told my uncle his eyes grew big and his worried face turned into shock. After asking me a few questions of his own him and my uncle asked Anna to take me upstairs to a classroom where her husband Eli joined us. As I paced the room they tried to reassure me that everything was going to be alright, and that I was doing the right thing. But I knew what they were saying wasn’t true.

After what seemed like forever, my grandpa came upstairs and asked me to come with him back to his office. Walking down the hallway my grandpa stopped me and asked me if I was sure I wanted to do this. I said “Yes”, and asked who was in the room. When he said my “parents” my heart dropped. I was about to walk into a room full of people who didn’t believe me, and the one who hurt me.. in another words Hell On Earth. As I walked into the office I looked to each person, setting my eyes on my uncle I walked towards him hoping for some kind of comfort and safety. But then with an angry voice my grandma instructed me to sit in the chair facing Danny. So with heavy feet I walked to what felt like my own personal interrogation.

With everyone staring at me my grandma told me I needed to say to “My dad’s” face exactly what I was accusing him of. Before I could even get the whole sentence out the yelling began. I don’t remember what anyone was saying because I was tuning everyone out. All I could hear was Danny repeating “Why are you doing this?” Getting fed up with his ridiculous question I pointed my finger in his face and as everyone got silent I said as clear as day “You cannot sit there and say you haven’t been touching me!”then the yelling continued. My uncle became very angry and told everyone they weren’t going to get anything out of me by yelling and left. At that point it felt hopeless, the only person who I thought remotely believed me left, I was never going to get out of this hell hole. I was losing hope and a part of me wished I had never said anything.

The yelling fest went on for hours, some of it I was there for, some I wasn’t. It all became a blur of hateful words. At one point I was outside of the office while they were talking, Danny grabbed my arm and pulled me aside. I remember thinking “They are going to let him be alone with me..really?”He looked down at me and in a stern voice said “What are you doing? Look what you are doing to your mother, your sister, your family, do you really want to tear us apart!?” I didn’t say anything but cry and waited for him to walk away. After a little while I went back into the office. They began to do their best to convince me it was a “vivid” dream. I remember thinking “are they serious?” But of course I played along because what was the point in fighting this, all my strength was gone. So after we established it was a “vivid dream” It was finally time to go home, my grandparents ended up taking me with them. Just when I thought the yelling was over, it had just begun. The next two weeks consisted of interrogation and very little sleep. I remember feeling so alone, no one to stand up for me, no one to be by my side, it was me against the world, and I was losing.

A lot of the yelling and talking was a blur, but I remember my grandma telling me that if I didn’t tell the truth (Which meant to her I was lying) that she was going to send me away. Although it seemed very tempting, there was no way I was leaving my sister and brothers with people that weren’t going to believe or protect them. So I did what any fifteen year old would do, I lied and said that I made up everything. My aunt and uncle sat across from me explaining how much trouble I caused and how sick they were the night before. I remember screaming inside just wishing they could hear me. After talking with me about it for a while they sent me upstairs. I stayed close so I could hear what they were saying. After a while my aunt said “What if she is just saying this so she doesn’t get sent away?”I quickly covered my mouth because I almost screamed “YES!”.

This by far was one of the most stressful points in my life. I was fifteen, so you could only imagine how hard it was to have my entire family turn their back on me. Two weeks after that date my family found forged checks and realized Danny had been stealing, lying, and doing all sorts of things they had no clue about. At this point they realized I was telling the truth and took me to the police where I made a report. I then immediately began counseling where I started talking about my feelings and what I had been going through. My family apologized many times and slowly began to earn my trust back.