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Tahiera Monique Brown

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Tahiera Monique Brown is a survivor of domestic violence, but she doesn't allow her past to define her. She is the author of the book, *Annihilator of Innocence*, she is a public speaker, and she is the owner of Tavine'ra Publishing, LLC.

Tavine'ra Publishing was incorporated in 2006 with its first release, **Annihilator of Innocence**, written by Tahiera Monique Brown. With much anticipation, Tavine'ra Publishing will be releasing the book, **Hunger Pains in Our Heads**, by Mansel Philip McCleave in stores now, and the Audio book, **Layla Presents, Molly Prowler's Nightmares**, by Layla Clark to be released soon. Tavine'ra Publishing allows extraordinary people to tell extraordinary stories.

"The eyes of the Lord watch over those who love him

He is their powerful protection and their strong support, their screen from the desert wind, their shelter from the midday sun, a guard against stumbling, and assurance against a fall.

He revives the spirit, and brightens the eyes, he gives healing, life, and blessing."

**Ecclesiasticus 34:
19-20
JERUSALEM BIBLE**

Sightings

Exchange Club



Tahiera speaking at the Exchange Club Beary Fashionable Event.



Tahiera answering questions at the Exchange Club Beary Fashionable Event.

Hello my Friends,

In this month's newsletter I will include excerpts from my last two engagements.

Who Will Speak for the Child?

I spoke for The Exchange Club of Alabama, but earlier in the year I watched as balloons were released into the sky for the ones who died because of domestic violence. My speech was called, ***A Little Voice is Lost: Who Will Speak For the Child?***

Here is an excerpt of that speech:

A Little Voice is Lost: Who Will Speak For the Child?

*On this journey I have heard mothers who are weeping.
I have heard father's who are weeping.
I have heard grandparents who are weeping.
But, many children's tears are sitting in a deep well
And they are hoping someone will let them weep sometime.
Little arms are empty where they once held a mother.
Little arms are empty where they once held a father.
Ears are silenced where they once heard the sounds of laughter and music.
Ears are silenced where they once heard the sounds of giggles and; "I love you".
Where they once heard ... I am here ... come to me ... I AM HERE.
Many little hearts have stopped beating like the drums ... Silenced forever.
Little Heartbeats ... stopped because of violence
Little Heartbeats ... stopped because of hopelessness.*

*Little heartbeats ... stopped because of unforgiving pains.
I saw the balloons go into the sun representing those who lost the fight.
But, they still lie in darkness
Where their little hearts are silenced
And their little voices are silenced ... forever.
Today I am the voice of when I was five years old and I hope and pray that the sound of my little voice will be joined with the voices of others like mine.
I am speaking for the child.
I was once the Little Voice Lost.*

Dancer in the Shadows

October was the domestic violence awareness month in the state of Alabama. This is the month that I became acutely aware of how so many organizations come together to raise funds to supply the needed resources for domestic violence victims. I met Sgt. James Jackson when I was in Washington, DC for the National Coalition against Domestic Violence Conference in Washington, DC. He was a man with extremely high energy and he was on fire to help stop domestic violence. One day he called me and asked me if I would speak for the policeman's annual Domestic Violence Prayer Breakfast. I told him that I prefer to speak, but he must come and see the evidence of my case. After he met with me and reviewed my case, he believed that I could bring the message. The name of my speech was, **Domestic Violence Roam Among Us As Dancers In The Shadows.**

Here is an excerpt of that speech:

**"In the twilight hours in many households
Domestic violence roams among the innocent.
I call it Dancers in the Shadows.
It is where danger lives.
Many abusers show an air of belonging
By acting as pillars of society,
But in their twilight times they are dancers in the dark.
Making shadows of terror and strife for their families.
Their love ones, who should feel loved
Are terrified of the shadows that dance
around them behind the privacy of closed doors."**

...
To the State of Alabama and your fight against domestic violence
I salute you!

To the detectives, the judges, the FBI, and the many others in law enforcement that handles cases of abuse.
I salute you!

To the doctors, nurses, therapists and caretakers of the many victims, who are injured, because of domestic violence.
I salute you!

To the police officers who put their lives on the line everyday.
I salute you!

To the businesses that are working diligently to bring domestic violence awareness in the workplace.
I salute you!

To the many organizations that help victims of abuse and educate the public, ...
I salute you!

To the survivors of abuse, ...
I salute you!

(cont.)

To the many who did not survive,...
I salute you!
We must all be held accountable!
It is time that we all work together so that our voices can
be heard as one!
We all must speak out to stop the violence!

Erwin High



Allison Dearing of CCR speaking to students at Erwin High School.



Tahiera with the 7/8th grade counselor Carolyn Liggins at Erwin High School.

UA @ Tuscaloosa



Tahiera at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa Candlelight Vigil.



Tahiera speaking at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa Candlelight Vigil.

Birmingham, AL



A representative of Verizon Wireless providing the Welcome for the 2008 Annual Domestic Violence Prayer Breakfast.



Tahiera Monique Brown is being introduced as the keynote speaker at the 2008 Annual Domestic Violence Prayer Breakfast.

Jealousy Can Lead to Domestic Violence

I am writing about one of the sins of the heart: jealousy. Jealousy begins to stir deep in the soul and it festers there. Some of us are born with a tendency towards jealousy and some develop the unfamiliar feelings with our first love; especially if our advances are rejected. Some see what others have materialistically and it seems unattainable for them. The jealousy rises to the surface and hatred follows. There are so many ways that jealousy makes itself known to us, but we would prefer that the word jealousy is never used.

I thought that jealousy would be an appropriate emotion to tackle this new year; especially since all we have to do now is read the paper or listen to the news and we will learn of many who have lost their lives because of domestic violence and the main culprit would be jealousy.

Jealousy is one of the greatest evils that leads to domestic violence.

Jealousy is an evil that starts as early as birth itself. Many children watch jealousy unfold from the moment of birth when a father or a mother does not want to compete with a child. So many women lose their lives when they tell a very controlling and possessive partner that she is pregnant. He starts to tell himself that her body will change or she will be giving too much attention to the baby. Many babies are murdered soon after birth by a parent or a very possessive sibling. No one wants to talk about children killing children, but it does happen. Keeping this kind of violence quiet leads to a child going into the world as an adult without the help he or she needs. Society fools itself into believing that a child does not know right from wrong. That a child can not do premeditated murder. I read in the paper just recently of an eight year old boy murdering his father and a family friend. Many children have parents that prepare them to deal with their emotions, but so many parents tell their children to just deal with their emotions and they will get over it. Most children do deal with their emotions, but many have misdiagnosed mental conditions and they can not deal with what is going on in their heads. Some begin to do drugs and hang with the wrong crowd. Some escape in a world of fantasies that lead them to act out in horrendous ways.

Jealousy is one of the words that tear most people apart.

Even if you try to give the slightest hint of a suggestion that jealousy is what they are feeling. It causes emotions to erupt to the surface. Some people do not consider jealousy as an emotion that can be manipulated as it is caused by a partner or sibling using other people or things to cause another to feel jealous. Innocent people get caught up in this deceitful web. The person with the jealousy refer to it as a thing by saying; "Don't call me that!" It is a thing that they do not want to have related to them in any way. It is the thing that conjures up the feelings of a rapid heartbeat, or repetitious thoughts that are not warranted. It is the thing that has a need to be like or to be liked by someone else in a desperate way.

Jealousy causes some people to see it as a weapon.

Some people do demeaning and unpleasant things to other people that they want to control. To them causing the feeling of jealousy give a feeling of superiority. There is a difference between anger and jealousy, when in fact the one that is trying to make someone else jealous is actually the one with the jealous heart. Making someone angry by trying to make them jealous creates a dark sad environment. When you get to close to the truth it can be heartbreaking for the person that is being used and for the person to whom the darts of jealousy is aimed at. The perpetrator can become vicious and deadly.

Jealousy is the most revealing symptom of a domestic violence crisis.

In the beginning of most relationships it is very obvious immediately. One or both people are accusers that throw insults at anyone who comes into the space that a victimizer holds dear ... a significant other. This jealousy starts early and a life of threats and intimidation are the first weapons, that are used to keep a victim submissive or afraid or they alienate them from their friends and family.

Jealousy is called many things before it is ever called what it actually is.

When a person feels jealous they want the victim to explain why they made them angry. The victim is always in a state of protective mode. They have to be aware of everything around them and everyone. Many times a victim has no clue what sets the victimizer off. The victim senses the change in the victimizer's personality and they try to stave off insults and brutality.

Letter From the Editor

In constructing this newsletter, I realized that jealousy is only the beginning symptom a victimizer displays of controlling emotions which lead to domestic violence. There is a natural progression of emotions that is shown in an effort to control the victim. The first emotion is jealousy, a tricky one of which Tahiera has already described. The next emotion, possessiveness, provides a subtle action to the emotion and to some may also be forgivable. The last emotion, obsession, once shown it is usually determined that it may be hard for the victim to get away.

Possessiveness puts jealousy into action through controlling behaviors such as harassing telephone calls and emails where the victimizer demands to know the whereabouts of his or her victim. It may also include the victimizer criticizing the appearance of the victim or the associations of the victim in such a way as to alienate them. Like a craftily tangled web of the spider, the victim has dismissed the behaviors of the victimizer until they find themselves hopelessly trapped in the convoluted emotions of the victimizer.

Before long, the victim feels trapped and may think of fleeing, but the victimizer shows the most ominous characteristic: obsession. The victimizer will expend all of their energy, in the name of "love," to try and control the victim in any way that they can. This "game," of "love at all cost" may lead to the victim's injury or death.

At the first sign of jealousy, it is important for the victim to address it and then decide if such behavior is worth sticking around for. By the time the emotions transcend to possessiveness, it would be imperative for the victim to find a way to leave. By the time obsession takes hold, the victim must be prepared to leave everything behind in order to secure their freedom.

Nekita Clark
Editor in Chief
Tavine'ra Publishing, LLC

Special Thanks

Caran Smith
with
Verizon Wireless

A special thanks to Caran Smith of Verizon Wireless and Holly Lollar and Miranda Yow of O2 ideas for giving me the opportunity to speak in Tuscaloosa at UA for their domestic violence Take Back The Night.

Sgt. James Jackson
with
The Birmingham Police Department

Sgt. James Jackson for his dedication to the cause to stop domestic violence. Thank you so much for considering me as a speaker for The Annual Domestic Violence Prayer Breakfast.

Genesis Player
With
The Birmingham Exchange Club

Genesis Player of the Exchange Club for asking me to speak at the annual Bear-y Fashionable event. I appreciate having the opportunity to speak to parents and children together in one place about a very necessary cause ... to stop child abuse.

Allison Dearing of
CCR

Allison Dearing for having me speak at CCR and the young girls of Erwin High School. I was very honored and I want to give you a very sincere thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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