

Prologue

This story is told as if legal counsel is presenting Julie's case to a jury. There never was a trial because Julie pled guilty. In this way, the reader is given the opportunity to examine the facts and reach their own conclusions.

Whenever “filicide” occurs—the taking of a child’s life by a parent—the question of why is always asked. As human beings, we believe there should always be answers to our questions, but we never seem to leave this particular arena with a clear understanding. Although there are clinical psychiatric papers on the subject, the nonprofessional remains largely in the dark. The news media provides the gruesome details then quickly moves on to blind-side us by the next tragedy.

This book will describe the chronology of events that led up to the murder of a small child by his mother. While walking in her shoes, you will also gain insight into how our legal system works from arrest through incarceration. By examining Julie’s life, you will be better able to recognize the warning signs.

If you are in fear of domestic violence from your spouse, former spouse, a family member, or someone you know please go to *Solutions* to find help and legal remedies. There are alternatives available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

I am not a psychiatrist, social worker, law enforcement officer, politician, lawyer, or judge. I’m a writer. The story told inside these pages is true, told without prejudice. I will not taint, color, or influence the story in any way and I followed my obligation to be accurate, methodical, and objective. Julie, in her own words, will tell you why she chose to do what she did. The story is compelling, overpowering, and riveting.

Since there was never a trial, in this case you will be a jury member of sorts. You will not be deciding guilt or innocence. Julie accepted responsibility when she confessed and pled guilty. Instead, as you read these pages, I want you to decide if the events in Julie’s life were *reasonable* catalysts for her fatal action. By reasonable I do not mean *justifiable*. I mean that you can understand what motivated her to murder her son.

It is imperative for you to know that I was not solicited by Julie to write her story. She is a quiet, reserved, conservative woman who shuns all publicity. She reluctantly agreed to talk with me and tell her story. I knew Julie as a casual acquaintance and we had occasional conversations before the murder. It is also important for you to understand that Julie, because of the publication of this book, will not receive any form of financial compensation or consideration for an early release. Julie will only receive the personal satisfaction of knowing that through the complete exposition and examination of her life she may prevent another tragedy.

Additionally, it is important to understand that this book is not intended in any way to seek sympathy for Julie. What she did was unequivocally, legally and morally wrong. Julie has never contested that and fully accepts her punishment. She is also punished by the nightmare she lives with every second.

Julie’s contribution to this examination of filicide is not only crucial, but invaluable. It is a rare, uncompromised, first person discussion. I can assure you, as I listened and watched Julie struggle to retell the heart-wrenching story, I observed an amazing, even extraordinary level of courage that I had never witnessed before.

I believe we need to examine ourselves. We need to understand how things can go so

very wrong in our lives and how many things influence our decision-making. We need to notice trends in our lives that have the potential of taking us in the wrong direction.

I strongly believe that knowledge is invaluable and can make the difference in decision-making. Perhaps what you learn from Julie's story will make you better able to help someone who feels trapped.

This book will be difficult to read. By the time you reach the last chapter, you will feel different. This book will cause you to look at your own fears and beliefs. *Through a Mother's Eye's*, Julie's story, is as much a reevaluation of us, as it is about Julie.

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The following chronology will take you from Julie's birth until the day before the murder. These few pages represent years of time. It is impossible to capture growth, moods, and changes in personalities here. It is intended to provide a timeline and a background staging point for the remainder of the chapters.

Donald married for the first time while in the Army. After ten years of marriage, she left him. In the divorce, he was given partial custody of Donald, Jr. His wife then left the state with their only child and he never saw them again. He then met and dated Marseille. She became pregnant. The pregnancy "pushed them a little quicker" into marriage. Although Marseille had a difficult labor, they became parents when Julie was born on March 15, 1963.

A brief time later, they relocated from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Winter Park, Florida where they lived in a middle-class neighborhood. Marseille was a homemaker and Donald a white-collar defense industry worker. The family found their religious strength in the Presbyterian Church, but while Julie believes in God, she remained largely outside of any church affiliation.

They decided they wanted another child, but Donald was unable because after Julie's birth he had a vasectomy. They decided to adopt. When Julie was four, Donald and Marseille brought home two-year-old John from an orphanage. Although not born of the same parents, Julie would later reflect that she and John could have been paternal twins because they looked so much alike. John, abandoned by his natural parents, had already been in several foster homes. In all likelihood, his abandonment was the reason that he suffered physical and emotional problems. He did not speak, and experienced projectile vomiting for years.

Neither Donald nor Marseille were prepared to deal with the extreme difficulties that came with John's arrival. There was no educational assistance, training, or support system in place to help them. Donald began to drink excessively to cope with the pain and stress. He withdrew from his responsibilities at home and the problems with John. He left the burden of child rearing solely to Marseille.

In addition, his position at Martin-Marietta required extensive travel during the weekdays. According to Julie, her father was a very intelligent man with a very good job. Unfortunately, that job left him with little time at home with most of the time spent there inebriated. Because of Donald's non-involvement in the family, Marseille, normally a loving and caring woman took out her frustration and anger on John through painful verbal and physical abuse. She would beat him until black and blue because he was a "difficult" child and threw up all of the time.

She was described by Julie as someone often living in denial and unable to handle any pressure. Consequently, John suffered severely at the hands of his adopted mother. Marseille, Julie later said, preferred little girls instead and all of the things that they represented.

Julie later would recall that the predominant thinking in the household was "whatever happens in the family, stays in the family." The police were never notified of the abuse toward John. For the most part that just wasn't done until the last decade of the

millennium. That philosophy would prove to be a fatal way of thinking throughout Julie's life. The level of communication between the family members also continued to be tragically poor at best.

Years later, Donald and Marseille would look back and lament that the discipline exacted on John was excessive and unnecessary. But at the time, they sincerely believed that what they were doing was right.

One of the sad by-products of John's abuse was the devastating effect it had on a young girl, his stepsister Julie. Daily, she observed the trauma inflicted on him and it frightened her. It caused her to reconsider her own standing in her mother's eyes. Julie was too young to understand all of the intricacies and to take an active part in stopping the abuse. When she looked to her father to prevent the abuse, she found a man unable to intervene. She then became angry with him for his inability to stop it. Julie could only watch in horror. It scarred her emotionally.

But while John was living a life of torment, Julie enjoyed by her own admission a comfortable, warm, and wonderful childhood. She suffered absolutely no physical or verbal abuse of any kind in spite of the intense fears she had about her mother's actions. The difference in the parental treatment of the children, however, would eventually cause significant ill feelings and resentment between Julie and John. Julie did have to contend with her mother's excessive domineering. Marseille's was not a normal mother-daughter protective kind of dominance but rather it was of an unnatural, interfering, or controlling nature. The fact that Julie continuously backed down and gave in to her mother's dominance caused her consequential problems throughout the rest of her life.

Born with an introverted nature, Julie became even more so while watching John's suffering. Her personality along with the predominant philosophy in the household of dismissing family difficulties led her to withdraw and never discuss with her parents problems that she was having. She kept everything inside from a very young age and dealt with them on her own terms.

The turbulent relationship between Marseille and John finally settled down and eventually both developed a close relationship around the time John reached his mid-teens. The underlying reasons that Marseille specifically had for perpetrating the abuse would remain unclear, undefined, and mere speculation within the walls of the family unit.

John left home with his father's permission at the age of seventeen and joined the Marines. He went on to a successful, distinguished, and honorable military career. While overseas, he married and fathered two children. He continues to reside in Europe.

Around the age of twelve, Julie met a neighborhood boy named David and the two became steadfast friends. Both were able to find refuge and comfort in one another in their preteen years. They liked each other. But as so often happens with children the two went their separate ways for a time.

During 1977, Marseille's nephew Mike, of whom she was very fond, came to live with the family. At the age of thirteen Julie's live-in cousin perpetrated a violent sexual assault against her. Julie was traumatized but again the family walls went up. A year later, the assault and her inner feelings about the abuse of John finally took its toll. At age fourteen, Julie took an overdose of Vivian. She was found unconscious, was revived, and hospitalized for a brief time. Quietly, she returned to the family with no attempt made to diagnose or treat her. She received no psychiatric counseling. The family would, at no

time, ever participate in therapy or family counseling of any kind.

While attending Winter Park High School, Julie was an average student, quiet, and well liked. She enjoyed the company of a few close friends. In 1980, at sixteen years of age, Julie tried marijuana for the first time. She was involved in a car accident because of it and never tried it again.

She and David once again rekindled their special relationship although by this time David had a girlfriend and Julie a boyfriend. They decided it would be fun to double date. But again, they were separated. This time her father's employment required that they relocate to Arizona. His position there lasted only a short time, however, and once again the family moved. Soon they were back in the familiar territory of Winter Park.

After high school, David attended the University of Florida. Julie studied to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and began to work in the health care field for several Orlando doctors.

One night, while walking along Park Avenue in Winter Park, Julie ran into her old and dear friend David. Both were not seeing anyone at the time and they decided to begin dating. They continued to date until David asked for her hand in marriage. Just twenty years old, Julie accepted. Her parents were disappointed when she impulsively and secretly eloped with David and they married at the courthouse April 4, 1983. A formal wedding had been originally planned for December. Marseille and Donald insisted that the planned wedding take place and it did on December 17.

But then Julie realized that, "I loved him. He was a very, very dear friend. But, I wasn't in-love with him." She approached her mother and told her that she didn't think the marriage should continue. "I just couldn't. It wasn't going to work. It wasn't going to last. Something was missing." The time she and David spent together was pleasant enough. But Julie felt that David was too young for marriage and often found him to be irresponsible. Marseille was stunned and greatly disappointed. She aggressively insisted that Julie continue with the relationship and that the union was a good one. Marseille's answer to Julie's concerns about the strength of the relationship was to have a child.

Julie felt bullied and tormented by her. She equated her mother's reaction to her mother's behavior toward John years earlier. Marseille insisted and Julie, long used to giving in to her dominant parent, relented and backed down. At the same time, Julie's new in-laws offered cash reward to the first in their family to have a child. There had not been a daughter in their family for generations. Ashley was born on November 26, 1984.

Marseille was overjoyed. She locked on to the newborn from birth refusing to let go. She behaved as if the baby was her child having already prepared a room in her house for Ashley's arrival. The newborn, Julie believed, was what her mother really did want more than anything. Ashley would be her mother's "third child." In Julie's eyes, while an exceptional grandmother, Marseille's consumption of Ashley had effectively removed the necessary contact and bonding needed between the new mother and the newborn. Julie deeply resented her mother's interference and the problems that it brought. It caused problems for her and David, more so, she believed, than they had before. As had always been true in the past, Julie was unable to control her mother and the domination continued.

Julie, in spite of Ashley's arrival, remained at odds in her relationship with David. She felt that he deserved better. She knew what was missing and what wasn't right about the marriage. She cared a great deal for David but not in a way that a spouse should. They

were friends. And in Julie's mind that's all they would ever be. The subsequent divorce from David was finalized on August 11, 1986. The divorce according to Julie was amicable and both remained friends. They shared custody of Ashley for years although Julie was given primary custody. David paid child support. That arrangement continued without incident until David later remarried.

Shortly after the end of her marriage to David, her father tried to help his daughter move on. He introduced her in September of 1986 to a young man and co-worker named Chuck. They began dating. Chuck was the son of a brigadier general, whose marriage, according to Julie, was less than civil and they went through an ugly divorce. The general was an alcoholic. His wife ended her life by an apparent suicide.

Their son Chuck followed his father's example and enlisted in the Army. He served in Vietnam as a Special Forces Army Ranger. There he saw combat and received several battlefield commendations. During the time he spent with Julie, he would rarely if at all talk about his days in Vietnam. He attained the rank of captain there. He received an appointment to West Point Military Academy. Progressing in his military career, Chuck decided to resign from the Army in order to find another life in the civilian sector. He found employment at Martin-Marietta where he advanced to Manager Product Operations—Air Defense. It was there he came to know Donald. He would later confess to Julie that he deeply regretted leaving the Army.

Julie's first impression of Chuck, then 36, was that he was extremely intelligent and had an air of military bearing about him. At age twenty-three, Julie found herself "blindly in-love" with Chuck. This was in drastic contrast to more laid back, passive David who Julie felt was somewhat a "momma's boy." To her, Chuck was a good-looking man who was very muscular and in great shape. He was a strong and decisive man. She loved him so much she said that she "would do anything for him." Chuck stated later that he fell in love with her and believed that "she worshipped me." In time, he would become another person who would overpower and dominate Julie.

Julie accidentally broke her elbow while at Chuck's house. It would be the beginning of one of Julie's worst traveled roads ultimately leading to a severe Substance Abuse Disorder. The emergency room doctor prescribed Vicodin, a derivative of Hydrocodone, for her injury. Hydrocodone is one of the most potent pain relievers ever manufactured.

Hydrocodone tartrate is an opioid analgesic with multiple actions qualitatively similar to those of codeine. It is subject to the Federal Controlled Substance Act. It can be habit-forming. When combined with alcohol, Hydrocodone can produce further brain impairment and confusion—Physicians Desk Reference

Julie stumbled into "Hydrocodone Hell" the day she broke her elbow. Her genetic makeup, which included dependencies of tobacco, alcohol, and narcotics, overpowered her. She fed her addiction tablet after tablet and was hooked. And even though she made many attempts over the years to fend off the addiction, she would remain, because of various unfortunate, random medical circumstances, clutched within its grasp.

In January of 1987, Julie began to obtain Vicodin illegally. Recently divorced from David, she was living alone for the first time and depressed. She began taking the Vicodin to help make her problems go away. As a trained health care professional, she knew how to forge the prescriptions with DEA numbers. She called the prescriptions into

the pharmacies misrepresenting herself as a nurse from a doctor's office. Various aliases were used for the patient names. Afterwards, she would simply pick up the prescription as if she were the actual patient.

Chuck's employment required extensive travel and he was gone weeks at a time. The separation in their courtship meant that there was no time to see warning signs that even remotely suggested to Julie that there were serious problems ahead.

In early 1988, a little over a year into their relationship, Julie became pregnant. Chuck was adamant against Julie having the child and demanded she have an abortion. Julie, twenty-five years old, refused. But Chuck insisted to the point of forcing her physically to go to the clinic. The emotional distress of the abortion overwhelmed Julie. She was distraught over the pressures from Chuck and her family. And, she felt the guilt of the act itself. She made a second attempt at suicide by taking an overdose of Valium and consuming a fifth of Vodka on April 24, 1988.

By chance, her father found her unconscious and rushed her to the emergency room at Florida Hospital. She remained there overnight and recovered. Again, and unfortunately, there was no ongoing evaluation or treatment provided although she was diagnosed as suffering from Major Depression with suicidal tendencies and Mixed Personality Disorder. Her relationship with Chuck continued.

It was in the summer of 1988 that Julie would experience her first encounter with the law. A pharmacist realized what she was doing and notified her physician-employer who explained the problem to Julie. Consequently, Julie turned herself in to the police in Seminole County and was charged with prescription fraud. She was placed into a treatment program along with one year of aftercare. She remained drug-free until 1989.

Later, in October of 1988, her new employer, South Lake Memorial, advised Julie that she was going to be arrested for prescription fraud. Again, she turned herself in to the police in Clermont and she is arrested on four counts of "Forgery of a Prescription" (Case Number 89-1735-CFA). The charges were later dropped.

Chuck proposed marriage to Julie and they were engaged in the spring of 1989. He talked with Julie about raising a family with "lots of kids." According to Julie, they started trying to have children. He suggested she find work near the new house. At the time, Chuck was building a home in an affluent section of Clermont, Florida. The house was being built on a street called Harder Road. The name of that street would soon come to best describe and summarize the road that Julie was on.

Julie was admitted to Sand Lake Hospital for pneumothorax (a collapsed lung which caused severe painful breathing) in June of 1989. Despite knowledge of her conviction for prescription fraud and that she was in a watch-prevention program, the attending physician prescribed Valium along with Vicodin to relieve her pain. Any remission became silent while her addiction re-ignited.

Chuck originally wanted to see a sex specific specialist and family planner before they started a family. Before that happened Julie became pregnant again just months before the marriage. Chuck, wanting a boy and not knowing the gender of the child, again demanded an abortion. Also, insisting on an abortion so as not to jeopardize her impending marriage to Chuck was Julie's parents. They did not want her to be a single parent of two children and without a home. They also didn't want to endure the added expense of helping Julie raise still another child. Ashley was in her preteen years and still "Grandma's girl."

Julie refused to have the abortion saying that she would not allow Chuck, or her parents, to dominate her decision to keep the child. She was determined to not repeat the same thing that had happened with Ashley. This child was hers and she was going to keep him no matter what. It was Julie's first declaration of independence. But it would be a costly one. Chuck became furious and ordered both Julie and Ashley out of the house. Forced out, Julie marched on determined to have the child.

In August, Donald suffered a heart attack due in part to his distress and anger at Julie. He believed that she exercised poor judgment and was making a serious mistake by continuing the pregnancy.

During September of 1989 while working at South Lake Memorial, Julie found a friend in paramedic Jim. He knew about her situation and was interested in Julie. He offered to marry her so that the child would have a name and so Julie, Ashley, and the newborn would have a home. Julie accepted his proposal. The marriage took place on October 21 and they found a small apartment in Clermont. When Chuck found out about Julie's relationship and marriage to Jim he tried to win her back. He sent flowers to the hospital and called regularly. He put up a sign on a billboard along Highway 50 that runs through the center of the small town of Clermont. On it was written, "Chuck loves Julie, Ashley, and February 23!" February 23 was the anticipated day of the birth.

According to Julie, he threatened suicide if she stayed with Jim. Chuck was Baker-Acted into Florida Hospital due to depression and suicidal ideation. The Baker Act is imposed against an individual when that individual becomes harmful to him or herself, or others. The individual is then admitted legally, although "involuntarily," to treatment. Chuck told the attending physician that he is too "agitated" and refuses to answer admissions questions. He is admitted, sedated, and discharged three days later.

When Chuck failed to win her back, he parked outside the new couple's apartment in what Julie described as a menacing fashion, and stalked her. He sued for custody of the not yet born child. Julie believes Chuck somehow contacted Jim and forced the issue. On New Year's Eve 1990, arrangements were made between Jim and Julie for her to meet a girlfriend for dinner. When she returned home later that evening the apartment was dark, deserted, and empty. Jim was gone.

She doesn't know why she did it except that she believed Chuck always got his way and that night would be no exception. With that in mind, Julie picked up the telephone and called Chuck. "It was as if he knew I would call when he answered the telephone." He invited her to his New Year's Eve party that evening and Julie relented. After a rapid dissolution of the marriage to Jim on January 9, 1990, Chuck and Julie married on January 19. On January 30, her nursing license was revoked because of the prescription fraud charges. Less than a month later, on February 23, she gave birth to Charley.

During this time, Julie's addiction progressed. She routinely continued to forge prescriptions for Vicodin. Her white-collar addiction did, however, remain clear of hard-core street narcotics of any sort. She asked for drug dependence treatment but Chuck refused not wanting public knowledge of a family problem. Later, he agreed to sign the insurance forms for treatment. She attended a detoxification treatment program at The Pavillion in Winter Park but lost faith in the program later stating that her counselor was incapable of helping her. She called in fraudulent prescriptions from the facility.

Soon after the birth, Chuck threw Julie and newborn Charley out of the house. They returned to live with her parents. He refused to support Julie and Charley financially

while living with her parents and Julie filed her first petition for the dissolution of their brief marriage. Included with the petition is a request for a court ordered restraining order to prevent Chuck from molesting, harassing, physically hurting or abusing Julie.

Domestic violence” means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family member or household member by another who is or was residing in the same single dwelling unit.

Julie ended the divorce proceedings, however, and the highly unstable marriage continued. The police were called to the residence regularly. During the same period, there was a constant, stressful, vindictive court battle over custody of Ashley with David. Throughout 1990, Julie repeatedly sought shelter in her parents’ home.

April 15, she was diagnosed with acute pleurisy, a recurring lung disorder, and was prescribed Tylenol #3 for the pain. On May 10, 1990, Julie is again arrested in Seminole County and charged with “Attempting to Obtain Prescription Drugs by Fraud.” The case is transferred to Orange County. Several days later Chuck is court ordered to pay \$500.00 per month in child support.

In early June, Julie complains of chest pains and is prescribed Tylenol with codeine. Later in the same day while in attendance at an addiction group therapy meeting Julie passes out and loses consciousness. She is diagnosed as suffering from an overdose. Julie believes that she had an allergic reaction to the codeine. She is Baker Acted and the emergency room physician performs gastric lavage on her. Two days later, she is evaluated and assessed by Dr. Jeffrey Danzinger who then lifts the Baker Act and prescribes Prozac for her depression. Medical records indicate she is abusing forty to sixty tablets of Vicodin per day, an unusually high amount for an adult.

In mid-June, she is arrested in Orange County for “Forgery To Obtain A Controlled Substance” (Case number CR90-6419). She receives a sentence of five years of probation and is required to attend treatment at the Orlando Methadone Treatment Center. There, she reports her troubled youth and her addiction to Vicodin. The structure and counseling she received during her Methadone treatment appeared to help her maintain a somewhat more stable lifestyle. She was determined to see the entire program through.

Clinical records indicate that throughout 1991 with little or no money and while finding it increasingly difficult to live with her parents any longer, combined with the tremendous dependency she had on Chuck, Julie entertained reconciling again with him.

In February of 1991, Julie was arrested for petty theft by the Orlando Police (Case number M091-2897) and required to attend an Impulse Control Seminar.

Between late 1974 and on through 1993, Chuck dealt with a severe alcohol dependency. December 30, 1974, he is arrested for DUI in Arlington, Virginia, but he pled guilty to reckless driving. He is ordered to complete an eight-week alcohol awareness program. Another arrest for the same offense occurs on September 19, 1984 in Orange County, Florida. This time he is found not guilty of the charges. Again, on August 28, 1990, he is arrested for another DUI. He is fined for “failure to use designated lane.”

Julie, Ashley, and Charley returned to live with Chuck. He assured them that things

would change. By May, she completed cosmetology school paid for by David.

Julie once again became pregnant and in spite of her desire to continue with the pregnancy, a second abortion was demanded and achieved by Chuck in February of 1992, two days before Charley's birthday. She begged on her knees to keep the baby. He again literally forced her into the car and drove her to a clinic he had located in Tampa that would perform a late-term abortion. Julie was sixteen weeks pregnant. Chuck reported that following the abortion, "she was almost a zombie emotionally."

Julie also described the atmosphere within the home they shared. Chuck would arrive home every night from work and hold a military-like house inspection. She and the two children would hold their collective breath until he was finished. Her car tires had to be straight, lights not being used were to be turned off, toys in their specified place, and so on. If the inspection didn't go well as was often the case with two small children, the rest of the night, according to Julie, would be "pure hell."

Julie recalled a time when Chuck had found a prescription in her car. He was leaving for work and placed the prescription bottle on top of the television with the warning that he had counted the pills and that they, and she, had better be there when he got home. I inquired if he was trying to help her fight her addiction. She explained that he knew you couldn't put drugs in front of an addict any more than you could put a drink in front of an alcoholic and expect compliance. She insisted that Chuck was being controlling and punitive.

A large portion of the domestic violence revolved around discussions Chuck and Julie had over his behavior outside of the home. Chuck frequented a major highway that runs through Orlando named Orange Blossom Trail where strip clubs line the street and "women for hire" roam late at night. He also registered with several dating services in the area. When asked years later during police interviews if there had been any sexual abuse toward her by Chuck, Julie would emphatically state never. She added that their lovemaking was the only strand left that bound them in their stressed marriage for as long as they were together.

Chuck, while in Fountainview, California on business was arrested for DWI. His driving privileges were suspended for 90 days and he received three years of probation. He was ordered into an alcohol rehabilitation program. His employer, a major defense contractor, however, enforced stringent rules regarding the abuse of alcohol and an investigation by the Department of Defense was conducted. The result was a threatened loss of his security clearance and possible termination. He was given a choice to attend an alcohol rehabilitation program.

In his deposition Chuck stated, "Lockheed-Martin is fairly progressive in terms of their EAP programs and stuff. But there was a message there that 'Hey, you have got a choice, you can hit the street or you can do this.' And I did." In June of 1993, he completed a two-week rehabilitation program in West Palm Beach, Florida. Before that, he attended an outpatient rehabilitation program for alcohol abuse from March through July of 1992 at the Metropolitan Clinic of Counseling.

In December of 1993, Julie's parents, along with son John who was there on a rare visit, did witness an occasion when Chuck battered Julie while at their home. John intervened and prevented Chuck from any further physical abuse of Julie. Between May of 1993 and August of 1994, Chuck attended an after-care program because of a substance abuse hospitalization. His position is once again in jeopardy with his employer

and his security clearance is revoked. He experiences alcoholic blackouts. On June 1, 1993, he entered in-patient treatment and recognizes that his anger triggers his relapses.

During most of 1994, he forces Julie to dance at an adult lounge. Chuck later wrote that, "she was forced by me to work as a topless dancer...This totally humiliated her as a human being...I was unfaithful, alcoholic, physically and emotionally abusive. He continued with, "I was very physically, emotionally, and financially abusive...I beat her once so badly from head to toe she couldn't walk for a month." Photographs were available to confirm the violence.

Ashley admitted to a psychologist in 1994 that she was frightened of Chuck because she witnessed his violence but she never suffered any physical or sexual abuse. Charley as reported by Julie, although intimidated and verbally abused, relied on his mother to protect him. Julie reported that Chuck screamed at Charley and belittled him. She later stated, "If he wasn't being spanked, he was being threatened." Her parents stated years later to psychiatrist Dr. Michael S. Maher, "that Chuck had threatened to spank Charley in a way which was uncalled for in the context of reasonable discipline."

One night that threat became reality. Chuck stated in his deposition, "One time I spanked Charley very hard when he was about three or four, and it bruised his butt I think to the point where he was black and blue for a week or so." Upset after the spanking, Julie had several drinks. Chuck called the police for domestic violence claiming Julie had battered him. According to the police report of the incident, they arrived at 2:27 AM and found Julie distraught, intoxicated, and naked on the front lawn. Because of the alcohol on her breath, Chuck was ordered to remove Charley from the residence and to take him to the grandparent's. Julie, fearful that night she would lose Charley to HRS, decided to never drink again.

On a summer July day in 1994, Chuck operated his boat in a dangerous and reckless manner. It terrified Julie and son Charley so much that she leapt from the boat with Charley in her arms while it was in motion. Ashley cried hysterically and screamed from the pier. After swimming to the safety of shore with her son, Julie called 911.

Julie is served with a Protection against Domestic Violence petition in October of 1994. She, Ashley, and Charley are forced from the Clermont home. Chuck charges that Julie attacked him with a knife. In December, Chuck petitions the court to invalidate the injunction against Julie. In January, the Judge dissolves the injunction for protection.

In February of 1995, Julie's Methadone dosage is down to 25 milligrams a day. Although she has made substantial progress, she falters and is convicted of a DUI offense. Her driving privileges are suspended for six months. She is placed on probation for twelve months and given fifty hours of community service.

In March, Chuck is hospitalized with second-degree burns over 35-40% of his body including his face. He set himself ablaze twice in gasoline fires while burning trash in his backyard. He repeatedly placed garbage inside the fireplace and burned it without a safety screen causing him to start fires inside the house that brought fear and concern to Julie, Ashley, and Charley.

Chuck was arrested by the Clermont Police on March 7, 1995, and charged with Battery/Domestic Violence. "I just took her and threw her as hard as I could into the bay of the gas station. And I mean, she went flying, literally like sprawled out on the floor." He provided proof that he attended a Domestic Violence Prevention Program and the case was not prosecuted. He later stated in his deposition that he never attended the

program. Six days after the arrest, he filed once again for a divorce. In April, he filed for temporary custody of Charley. In May, Julie completed her Methadone program. The custody battle over Ashley intensified.

On another occasion, again from his deposition, he said, "I beat the hell out of her so bad she couldn't walk for about two weeks. It's amazing that she didn't have any broken bones." Toward the end of 1995 and early 1996, school and witness records reflect Charley was having serious problems at school and that the problems can be tracked to his family life. Charley complained to his teacher that Chuck locked him out of the house and wouldn't let him back in until he stopped crying. He also told her that Chuck had killed his pet Iguana. Julie later tells the same teacher that she is deathly afraid of Chuck and what might happen to Charley during visitations. The teacher noted Julie's excessive weight loss and that she was withdrawn. And that she is using heavy make-up to cover bruises. Julie becomes more protective of Charley.

On September 15, 1996, Charley was sent home from school for fighting. He cries in the classroom but won't say why. He tries to be a normal young boy and enjoy rollerblading, baseball, and reading about dinosaurs.

Julie obsesses with Charley's safety and well being to the point of being excessively overprotective. She wouldn't allow him to wear necklaces or chains around his neck like the other kids while at school or playing because she was afraid for his safety. Whenever his teacher requests a conference over misbehavior Julie defended Charley vigorously.

Charley became Julie's only and best friend. The mother who loved him so became Charley's only and best friend. Slowly, over time, the two became inseparable. Julie withdrew further and further from the other members of her family and friends. She felt isolated. The world that they lived in shrank down to a cave, then into a cavern, to a tunnel, and finally into a hole. Charley would often encourage his mom to leave so that the two could live on the beach.

In October of 1995, Julie worked as an administrative assistant at a health club. She excelled there as an employee.

1996 was the "meltdown year" for Julie. All of her problems grew exponentially and raged out of control. She left Chuck again and moved back home with her parents. Now up in years, Donald and Marseille tried to provide a home for her and the children but the stress was taking its toll. They were struggling financially due to high medical bills. Donald, near seventy years old, had just been through a quadruple bypass operation, had his arteries repaired in his legs, and suffered from emphysema. Marseille was diabetic. With all of the additional expense from Julie's problems, they became saturated, overwhelmed, and angry. Watching their retirement dwindle, Donald demanded that Julie repay over \$80,000 that he spent caring for her and the children over the years. She of course had no money, but took on the added stress. They finally encouraged Julie to leave Chuck and move from their home.

Chuck's untruthful statements made earlier to a judge while seeking the restraining order against Julie for an alleged attack on him with a knife fueled the custody battle for Ashley. Julie's addiction had also come to the attention of David.

During the summer of 1996, Julie required dental work involving the extraction of a number of teeth due to a gum disease caused by the Methadone treatments. Her dentist prescribed Vicodin for her pain and sent her spiraling back into Hydrocodone Hell.

By August, Julie's log tells the story: "Still calling in Rx....dose up 30

daily...working hours up drastically/zero staff/things bad with Chuck/bad with parents. Stressed/depressed/ severe weight loss 20lbs.” She begins to forge prescriptions at an alarming rate and she realizes that her addiction is out of control. September 12th, Julie calls in a prescription to a pharmacy for Lora 7.5 milligram, #30 and Doxycycline 100 milligram, and #20. On September 24, another call is made for a refill of Lora 7.5, #30. The same prescription is called in on October 4.

Her log continues for early October: “Vicodin dose up to 45/day... [more] depression...[more] stress/twice as busy at work and new staff (training) /parents angry over [more] work hours/Chuck filed for divorce, custody of Charley. Didn’t tell parents about custody suit/couldn’t handle more stress. Throwing up each a.m. repeatedly.”

Then in late October: ”Lost 10 more lbs. From original wt. of 121 lbs. down to 92 lbs., preparing for response to divorce and custody suit. Vicodin habit 45-60 tabs/day. No concentration suddenly/forgetfulness/frustrated and angry [at] myself. Wanted to stop using now before I got caught and lost everything. Needed treatment. If I went into treatment/would not hold my job—would lose Ashley to David immediately Losing my job and Ashley meant losing my family—mom would go crazy if I lost Ashley. Chuck would come and take Charley to Troy, Alabama. I wouldn’t be able to stay in treatment knowing what Charley would be going through and what Chuck would tell him. I’d never have the [money] to get him back.”

On November 6, she and Charley arrive at another pharmacy on East Colonial Drive having called in the prescription this time as Nurse Carol. She approaches the druggist and asks for the prescription. One pharmacy finally called her dentist to verify the validity of the prescriptions. He realizes who and what is going on and advised the pharmacy to call Julie’s home telephone number to frighten her that they are going to call the police. Julie took the call and became fearful that she would be arrested, charged, and sent to prison for a minimum of ten years as a habitual offender. She is terrified that she will have to surrender custody of Charley to Chuck who she fears will torment and torture him.

As her life melted down, Julie, while at her parent’s home, took a phone call from Chuck in October of 1996. He explains to her that he has been offered a position in Troy, Alabama and that he is selling the house in Clermont. He tells her that he wants to start over with her and the children in Troy. To his surprise, Julie agrees. They make plans to meet. Julie is convinced that the geographical change will be the cure that she desperately needs for all of her problems. When Chuck calls, he suggests that they meet and drive around Orlando so that they can look for a new house. He says that he decided against taking the position in Troy. Julie sees it as one more reconciliation ploy by Chuck and rejects him for the last time. “All the red flags went up.”

Chuck, furious, called his attorney and ordered him to, “draw up the nastiest divorce that you [he] possibly can!” The papers were filed on October 23, 1996. Five days later, on the 28, he filed for primary custody of Charley. Julie has no financial resources to fight him. Now over-stressed, overwhelmed, and deeply in tunnel vision, Julie believes that the only way for she and Charley to escape from Chuck...is for both of them to die. She can see no other alternatives or any other way out.

It was in the early days of November 1996 when Julie and I had our last conversation. She looked somewhat distant, stressed and I was determined to inquire why and offer whatever assistance I could...when I got back two days later from a trip. That

proved to be one of the biggest regrets of my life. Two days later was too late.