

Chapter 6: A Day of Remembrance

Things will be a bit different in this chapter. There will be no humor and no comic in this chapter. For if there is one subject I hope people take to heart seriously it's the very one I dedicate this chapter to. The issue is a hard one yet is something as any trans-person or their family, fear the most, Transgender violence. While I personally at this point have been fortunate and not faced transgender violence in my own life, many each year aren't so lucky. In this chapter I will cover 4 well known cases of Transgender violence. Explain ways that can help protect one-self better. And lastly discuss the importance of the day November 20th each year. This chapter will get very graphic in the description of Transgender violence. But I urge you to read on. You will get disturbed at it but I want you remember that each of these cases are real life people, each with a different issue than others, each being a member of someone's family. I want you to learn from each case and take from this chapter what it takes to bring about a greater sense of acceptance and protection.



Brandon Teena

Lets start with a case made famous by Hollywood, the case based on the murder of Brandon Teena, as depicted in the Academy Award Winning film *Boys Don't Cry* – 1999. Brandon was found dead in Humboldt, Nebraska on December 30 1993, along with two other victims, Brandon was recently raped by the very individuals that would later shoot him and the other victims. But lets start at the beginning.

Brandon Teena was born, Teena Renae Brandon in Lincoln Nebraska on December 12 1972. Where he was raised by his mother, Brandon's Family didn't see Brandon as male and to her death called him by his given name and felt he was nothing more than a tomboy. Brandon at 18 tried to join the military but was denied when he put male instead of female on his entrance exam. In 1990 Teena began taking steps to better pass as male and began dating younger girls, his actions though led causing issue with his high school and ultimately Brandon was expelled 3 days from graduation. In 1992 During a Psychological test Brandon was confirmed as having Sexual Identity disorder and it was revealed to Brandon's mother that a relative had raped Brandon as a young child. From this a family therapy was sought to occur 4 times a week. Two weeks in the sessions ended. After legal issues Brandon moved to the home of Lisa Lambert Falls Church, Nebraska, where he met and began dating, Lana Tisdel, only to get into greater trouble on December 19, 1993 when Forging checks landed him in female prison. Tisdel paid for Brandon's Bail and according to the movie this point Tisdel learns about Brandon (Though a lawsuit brought forth by Tisdel to the Movie producers states otherwise).

Christmas Eve, 1993, Brandon is approached by friends of Tisdel, John L. Lotter and Marvin Thomas "Tom" Nissen. Apparently the days earlier the two heard about the fact that Brandon was female and in act of rage confronted Brandon, forcing him to remove his pants to reveal his gender to them. While Tisdel, was forced to look on. They forced Brandon into a car and drove him to a nearby meat packing plant where they continued to assault and rape Brandon. They returned to Nissen's Home where Brandon in an attempt to survive broke out of the bathroom. He fled to Tisdel's home where, he was convinced by Lana to report the rape, even after being threaten by Nissen and Lotter earlier. In the emergency room Brandon went through the actions of the rape test (this would later prove to be missing) and reported to Sherriff Charles B. Laux. Laux questioned Brandon on the rape and focused heavily on her being transgender, causing Brandon to be frustrated with the questions and refusing to answer. Nissen and Lotter are notified by the police and began searching for Brandon in the coming days. Police have to dismiss the rape case due to lack of evidence.

When Nissen and Lotter discovered Brandon was possibly at the house of Lambert and proceeded to break in. They first found Lisa Lambert sleeping on the bed and confronted her on where Brandon was. She refused to tell them. They then found Brandon hiding under the bed. Confronting Lambert again they asked if anyone else was in the house. She admitted to Philip DeVine (a boyfriend of Tisdel's sister) The two shot all three in front of Lambert's toddler, the two left and later were charged for the murder. Nissen would later claim Lotter was the murderer and would testify for the lesser sentence of Life in prison. Lotter currently sits on Death row his last appeal in 2009 failed.

It's always easy to sit here and look with hind sight and place blame. In this case there is plenty to go around. First Brandon is to blame with reckless actions along with illegal actions that placed him in a much higher risk situation. Second is the actions of Sheriff Laux, and the Hospital for losing evidence and not keeping a watchful eye on Nissen and Lotter who showed clear evidence towards taking violent actions towards Brandon. Lastly the fault of the true criminals Nissen and Lotter. Their pure hate for not understanding about Brandon led their actions of rape and murder. What do we learn from this case. There are people who harbor hate and instead of being rational will act out in fits of violence and death. How to avoid it. Do not put yourself in that situation as best as possible. The case did have two things go right. Tisdel did urge Brandon to report the rape to authorities (even though they screwed it up later), Too many rape incidents of trans-gender's go unreported and criminals wander free to do it or worse again in the future. The Second was the actions of Lambert, Finding friends often is a good tool of support. Unfortunately this wasn't the case for Lambert or DeVine and they too fell victim to the Hate Lotter and Nissen had. In the end three people died, two sit in jail for their crime and will remain there as they should thanks to the criminal justice system, and Hollywood made a powerful movie with Hillary Swank winning an Oscar for her portrayal of Brandon Teena.

Gwen Araujo

Our Second case for me brings far more rage in my mind. When I learned of this case, In the TV Documentary, *Trained in the Ways of Men*. I witness my own worst nightmare since coming out, played out in the tragic murder of Gwen. Born on February 24 1985 as, Edward Araujo Jr., in Newark, California. Gwen was raised by her very understanding Mother and family. Gwen came out early to her family and started to transition while a teenager. She went to school as Gwen and lived her life as a teenage girl. In the Summer of 2002 Gwen met Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, Jaron Nabors, and Jason Cazares. Like many Teenager Gwen engaged in sex with Of oral with Magidson and Anal with Merel, in order to hide her birth gender she informed them she was menstruating and would push the two hands from her genitalia. On October 3 she was invited to a party at a house rented by Merel and his brother. Several other individuals attended the party as well.



As the party commenced issue was brought up about Gwen's gender by party attendees, Nicole Brown was forced to inspect Gwen by the attendees. Once the evidence was revealed that Gwen was born male, Magidson and Merel became enraged with violent anger. Magidson placed Gwen in a choke hold and proceeded in beating her while choking her. Others pull Magidson off and a few including Brown and Merel's Brother left the party, while Gwen continue to recover. During this time Jose Merel struck the recovering Gwen in the head with a can of food and a frying pan. Nabors and Cazares left in Magidson's truck to get shovels and a pick ax. When they returned they found Gwen was still conscious and was sitting on a couch, when the assault continued. Magidson kned Gwen into the living room wall knocking her unconscious. Cazares followed up by kicking Gwen, They then dragged her to the garage, Where according to Nabors Magidson strangled her with a rope while Cazares bashed her in with a shovel. Magidson reported that it was Nabors who strangled her and hit her with the shovel, and Cazares claimed

he not only did not strike Gwen but did not witness the final moments. Meanwhile Merel was attempting to clean up evidence of the blood on the carpeting. Gwen's body was then hogtied and wrapped in a blanket, and driven out to a location in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Her murder and disappearance did not go reported for days.

Ultimately it was Nabors guilt getting the better of him and he reported the crime and led the Police to the body.

While the crime was gruesome, what makes this case far more disturbing was the events to unfold in not one but two court trails for the four men. Nabors plea and aid to the police would give him 11 years manslaughter, in exchange for his testimony.

The first case Magidson argued he should not get charged for Murder, but for Manslaughter at worst, under California's laws. Which at the time did not recognize transgender people as a hate crime, and the Lawyers for Magidson placed the blame of Gwen's murder on Gwen being deceitful on not being a natural female. This action would lead to letting Magidson have a lesser charge.

The second case would be a difficult one that would get national attention and would bring forth the call for Equal justice for transgender victims. The trail would not be a pretty one, between the arguments and differing stories of the four men charged in the crime and the continued Muckraking of Gwen's gender issues. But in the end the verdict came down. Magidson and Merel where each given the charge of second degree manslaughter, but face no other charges (including Hate crimes [to see my opinion on Hate crimes read chapter 5]) The jury was deadlocked on Cazares and so he remains free from this crime. Nabors is serving his agreed upon time for aiding the police in his plea bargain. After her death Gwen's mother had ask a judge to legally change Gwen's name to Gwen so she can have a bit of peace. On the first anniversary of her death, Horizons Foundation created The Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund for Transgender Education, as well as the documentary of her life and the trail of her murder. The events around the trail helped push the passing of making violence against Transgenders a hate crime in the state of California.

It's never easy to hear of the passing of a child and worse when it's a brutal murder, where the documentary covers her in full innocent light, I must unfortunately tarnish at bit as I cover the issues that went wrong in hopes this doesn't happen again. For that I apologize ahead of time to Gwen's mother and remaining family. The biggest mistake is Gwen's in trusting a friendship with people that merely saw her as a sex doll and not a person. Too often people both trans and normal feel sex = love and often that mistake takes lives like Gwen's. While Love can equal a good sexual relationship, a relationship solely built on sex often is doomed to fail. Another huge fault is on the other party attendees, No one had courage to stop this, no had courage to speak out or call the authorities, and with that in at least this one person's mind I feel there are far more then one person guilty of her murder that got away with it. As I said in the last chapter all crimes are done in an act of hate. Some just show it better then others as this case and the next one will show.



Barry Winchell

Sometimes the victim of a crime of hate towards transgender people, aren't the transgender people but those that love them in return. Such is the case of Private First Class Barry Winchell. A man with strong goals to serve his country Barry enlisted in the army and was transferred to Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1998. He was assigned to 2/502 Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division. In the early weeks of this new assignment he kept up with letters with a high school sweetheart. When one night his bunkmate Spc. John Fisher, and a few fellow officers took him out to a Nashville night club, The Connection, which featured Transgender

performers. It was here he met Calpernia Adams, the two felt a strong connection and soon began to date one another in their free time. Fisher began to spread rumors about the camp about the two, which naturally cause hostilities and harassment towards Barry on camp. It even resulted in fist fights between the two bunk mates. Though the actions did reach his superiors they took no action to halt it.

Soon a new Private arrived by the name of Calvin Glover. Calvin was already sought by many as a loose cannon and braggart. Barry and Calvin were at odds not too long after they met and by July 4 weekend of 1999 the heated harassment became worse resulting in a fist fight between the two which Barry solidly won. This caused a drunk, Fisher to rag on Calvin about quote "Being beaten up by a Fucking Faggot". Barry returned to his room only to be forced to sleep outside the room as he was set to tend to the Superiors dogs. Meanwhile Glover and Fisher continued to drink with Fisher constantly goading Glover about the days earlier events. Glover took a bat from Fishers Locker and headed out into the hall where he proceeded to beat Barry to death with repeated blows to the head. Glover returned to Fisher in a proud drunken. It is unknown if as the movie portrays and Fisher states that the alarm was sounded with enough time for rescue services to arrive. But it is known that by the time they arrived, Barry was dead.

At the time of the incident Calpernia was performing and won a Transgender Beauty pageant. She received the news when the report came through on the morning news. Even though she help as a consultant, on the TV movie, Calpernia to this day does not like to discuss the events other than that she did care deeply for Barry. Even in her newly released book on her own life, explaining her struggles in a heavily religious family and time served in the Navy before being discharged for being transgender, only a brief mention of the events are placed in the final chapters. After the events she moved out to California and became a nurse for sometime, then after the release of the film started acting and writing. She currently returned to the stage performance, stands as a well noted transgender figure in the public eye and as a supporter of fellow transgender individuals.

Clavin Glover was found guilty in a military tribunal and sentenced to Life. Fisher made a plea deal and was given 12.5 years but was released on parole in 2006. The events have been a key point in the removal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on the idea that if the superiors had acted this murder could have been prevented. The current General Overseeing the base at the time Major General Robert Clark, refused to take responsibility for the purported anti-gay climate at the base and because of this he was promoted to Lieutenant General, years later he would resign do to press form the public on this subject and his promotion. Barry's story would go on and be told in a made for TV movie from Showtime called *Soldiers Girl* 2003 winning several Golden Globes and Emmys (also launched the career of *Pushing Daisies* lead Lee Pace playing the role of Calpernia Adams)

In this incident neither, Barry nor Calpernia are at any fault, Calpernia even stated that in times she would ask Barry to not put himself at risk and leave the military. Yet Barry's love for his country and the military kept him there. Sadly this case proves no matter what you do. Things can still go wrong on you. The actions on the superiors, and the proof that any stupid, drunk can result in the death of any person. I can't help but agree with people in this case about Don't ask, Don't tell. I stand with Barry's parents in the repeal of this law. As I've said before sometimes hiding secrets is far worse than tell a painful truth. The actions of the superiors showed that if they paid more attention could have prevented the death of Privet First Class Barry Winchell. On a personal note I respected Calpernia before I read more into this case and after learning more I can say I never wish to go through the pain she had to suffer. Call if your reading this and ever want a shoulder to cry on you have one more sitting right here.

And now the final case

Chrissy Lee Polis beating April 2011

The final case is not as tragic as the first three but is by far a more disturbing and despicable act caused by two individuals (trust me it takes a lot of energy for me to call them that) and one scumbag that filmed the whole thing as well as aided the criminals. This was more recent and the only case I am presenting that I personally have spoken out about in public and on blogs before hand.



On Monday April 17 2011, In Baltimore Maryland, two large African Americans assaulted a white female in a McDonalds restaurant. The act was caught on film and posted over the net by a employee (Now Former). Not too much longer after the public news got this information that more info came to light. Most noted was two elements one that the Victim was a Transgender individual named, Christine Polis, and second that the actions of the staff of the restaurant not only did not help her as the two thugs Teonna Monae Brown, and a younger unidentified female brutally beat Chrissy into a seizure. More would come to light like how the only person willing to come to the girls aid of Chissy was Vicky L. Thoms, a customer at the restaurant at the time. Once the national media had this info the web went hot and blame was placed strongly on Chrissy for using a womens bathroom as the claimed cause of this mess. But more evidence would come to light proving that this issue not only was wrong but a hugely over run issue blinding the public from the truth. While the three real criminals (the two assailants and the Employee filming it Vernon Hackett) were taken as a light hearted issue. On top of the transgender issue there was the calls of this being a reverse racism and how it was a hate crime.

Here was a big Ironic bulls eye though on the target of the Maryland Government, cause while this very event took place the legislation branch in the Annapolis had just voted down the issue of hate crime laws protecting transgender people, I kid you not. This issue led to protests and calls for changes in the laws. But eventually with the police report the whole story is shown.

Basically it went down with Chrissy going to use the bathroom while Brown, her friend and a boyfriend were eating. The boyfriend apparently was caught by one of the girls to be checking out Chrissy. Chrissy was confronted by the two about the boyfriend. Chrissy denying any part of this tried to be defensive in her words, upsetting the two girls who then went into physically attacking Chrissy. At no point did Chrissy fight back while the two attacked her. The fight continued till at one point the girls left briefly, suddenly they return and continue their attack, when Vicky Thoms steps in to try and stop them as Chissy is starting to have a seizure, The girls attack Vicky and get her out of the way and continue their assault with kicking Chrissy and even trying to drag her by her hair out the door. Police sirens sound as they are on their way and the girls get told by the employee filming along with another employee that the cops are on the way they better get going. By this time Chrissy is very much in a seizure and ends up needing medical attention. Its at this point that some of the employees at the store go to her aid.

The two girls were arrested, and charged, with 2nd degree assault and Brown was given 5 years on the hate crime law, the Juvenal is being held at Juvenal hall possibility till they reach the age of 21. Chrissy has recovered and spoken to the press and even thanked Vicky Thoms for her effort to try and stop the action done to her. But sadly most people ignore these facts and focus on hate filled issues of things they don't want to accept as the reason behind the incident. The mistakes here on this case are in the public eye and new reporting. As well as the cowardly actions of Vernon Hackett who film and tried gain fame from this video.



The problems with people's arguments stand as follows

1. Chrissy never actually got to use any bathroom so this being over which bathroom she used is false and besides the case as the two girls assaulted not in the bathroom but in the public area of the store.
2. It later came to light that these girls have done this before on another natural born female this is their second Assault charge in the past year.
3. While Store employees acted stupidly, by standing by and laughing, the organization McDonalds came out and seriously is looking into terminations and other disciplinary actions on this location. McDonalds is one of the few companies that promotes it divers staff and proudly accepts Transgender employees to join their staff. They do not deserve a boycott for the action of employees some of which (Vernon Hackett) have been terminated for this matter.
4. While some could say this is a hate crime, since nether of the girls knew Chrissy was transgender at the time and they are of African American decent they don't get charged with it as such. I say Bull crap. This is a Hate crime. It was reverse racism. This is why HATE CRIME BILLS DO NOT WORK! They protect one set side and not the other in any crime. Too often these are used to lessen sentence on horrible crimes of some and strengthen on lesser crimes of others. This was a crime. It is Assault with intent to kill. That is clearly seen in the video. If they just left and didn't return then it would just be assault. Thus by the laws of the land they should be punished on the charges given. Do not add more because of who the victim is. It's a crime see too it they get the full punishment. The only reason they DID get charged it was do to public outcry of the violent act as it was shown before a international public. If this incident wasn't widely displayed there would have been no hate crime charge, just the assault charge. Do to the fact that Maryland does not have transgender on the list of victims hate crimes.

Sadly I know many people will disagree with me on the last one. I've been in heated debates with others on message boards over such a thing. Being called a traitor to the GLBT community and worse. So what could Chrissy done to not have this happen to her. Sadly nothing, she did the best thing I can suggest in dealing with Trans violence, taking a peaceful stand and the punches along with it. As final words on the cases, I want to thank all those that like Vicky Thoms take a stand with us to stand against what is easily seen as wrong. As it was once said, I am a person much like any other if you prick me do I not bleed. With this we move on to the more generalized part of the subject this chapter comes to offer.

I'd like to say that those four cases were a fluke. They stand alone in a long history of transgender lives. I'd like to say that but I would be lying. Recently I along with many sources on Transgender, News and government institutions received a report we have been waiting for. That report based on a survey of the transgender community in a study that took place over years. The report comes from the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. The survey gathered data from several transgender individuals (yes I was part of the survey) Showing the areas in states, age groups, race groups and income levels of where discrimination arrives in our lives. Sadly the survey proved what we all feared. That transgender discrimination is wide spread but is stronger in areas that were thought to be safe or poorly educated. And worse many of the crimes committed against transgender people go unreported since the victims feel they cannot trust authorities on helping with the crime without discrimination. This is the next issue I need to talk about. It's an issue I find both sides have been acting in the wrong. That issue Discrimination.

Discrimination is a Dirty word

Discrimination is possibly the dirtiest word in this day and age. This word only can collapse companies, destroy families and move the opinion of governments. It is used to try and sway opinions. All for the purpose of gaining power over others. Now here is my question is it right? Recently I just lost my job of the last three and ¼ years and now I seek employment as Brittany for the first time in my life. My not getting jobs are they because I'm transgender, or is it something more common, such as they aren't looking for help, I don't meet the skills they are looking for, or perhaps someone is better skilled than me also applied. These are all more reasonable and likely reasons but far too often these days the idea of me not getting the job is due to my being transgender. I hate to admit my own family feels I am forcing myself into this situation and before I ramble into the stuff I will cover in a future chapter. I can say yes there is a chance of discrimination but far too often in these days it's in my favor to choose me. What I mean in this is the idea of Equal employment these days means you need to hire an equal amount of different people over a collection the national majority. Now if everyone who had employment did this then the majority of unemployed should be solely White males. Yet this is not the case why because the idea of Equal employment is a farce. The Idea of equal employment was established to say "Look we don't discriminate against people" when they are forcing companies to do just that. They force companies to hire people based on race, sex, orientation, religion and gender identity, before skills and work experience is looked at. Reversing the popular creed of, "the measure of a man, is not in the color of their skin, but the content of the character." It is for this reason far too often we find poor employee standards and customer service. In place of the world where the reverse is practiced shows us that having discrimination laws in the way of employment hurts the success of companies and making a better employee. As I stated before about hate crimes, building laws on discrimination in a time that according to almost everyone states we should be bringing an end to discrimination. So why do we punish people on a subject we all want brought to an end?

Mind you I'm not saying discrimination does not exist. Cause, it does and yes I have felt the sting of it from time to time. But it's not something we can eliminate by outlawing or forcing others to eliminate by force. Instead we need to take a different action. When facing the act of discrimination, like Gandhi, Martin Luther King and many before us. We must stand unflinching in a peaceful way, asking others that believe the same as we do to stand side by side in peace. When they get violent take it, If your life is in danger, RUN. But if its words or actions similar to that of a school yard Bully stand tall and accept the hate with no remorse and show them what kind of person you are versus the kind of person they are. Threatening people back, forcing our ways upon unwilling people through violent acts or words such as "Haters need to Fucking Die" (yeah I've seen this used on blogs, and in pride parades.) Cause only more, hate to be built and used against our kind. Acting with brains and standing peacefully will bring the plight to view of others and will have people stand with you. No one likes a bully.

Now not every situation is one in discrimination or hate. Some times it's a situation of bad, place and time. For these I ask my fellow kind to follow the rules that all women and men should in dangerous situation. If someone wants your money, I don't care if you know Kung Fu or own a gun, GIVE THEM YOUR MONEY. The criminals often want your money not your life, don't risk your life over something as replaceable as money. If they want to commit a crime of rape, know how to take a defensive roll. Scream at all time, use your elbow and aim for vital spots, carry items like Mace, Tasers, or even if your skilled and have good feeling in using it a gun. Learn defensive moves, I personally don't suggest martial arts as far too often the actual moves that can be used to defend one-self are far less complex then performing a fancy upper round house kick. It is well said a victim willing to fight is less likely to be made a target of rape. Finally there is the worse case scenario of people wanting to do harm or kill you.

The advice here is simple, DON'T GET STUCK IN THIS SITUATION. Avoid quote dark alleyways or areas where lights do not shine, travel in a group when even possible, carry a fully charged cell phone, Seek large groups if you feel danger, always note multiple ways to exit a place, be aware of strange behavior around you, and lastly be ready to run if you need to. Your voice is always a key tool in aiding you in avoiding this situation. Screaming for help more often will draw attention of people to you and at least will bring forth witnesses to the crime in action. Lastly REPORT THE CRIME. Far too often the transgender community, fear the police feeling they won't act to help them because of discrimination. Yet the reason far to often police discriminate us is because we tend to not be willing to confront people in court or even answer difficult questions about ourselves that could be brought up. Like the case of Brandon Teena, if we are not willing to help the police it could end with us not getting protection from the criminals in the end. If you are used or abused Report the crime, If you are threatened REPORT THE CRIME, If you are raped REPORT the Crime. If you don't you allow the criminals the chance to get away and commit the crime again to you or others.

Bringing an end by standing up against Violence

The basis of this chapter is written to make aware of just such a peaceful action. On every November 20th is the International Day of Remembrance, it is a day to reflect on those that fell to transgender violence each and every year. The event was created originally to Honor the death of Rita Hester in Allston, MA, back on November 28 1998, the day was created by Gwendolyn Ann Smith and the following year she with the help of the web set up a day of remembrance in San Francisco with a candlelight vigil which built up over the years to a international event occurring at over 185 cities and 20 countries world wide. The events include a reading of the names to a candlelight vigil, shared food, sometimes movies, stories of survivors and marches in respect and honor of those that have fallen in that year.





Last year I joined in on my own cities events, we in Richmond VA, did something different adding a Tree planting ceremony and was given a decree from the Mayor of Richmond VA that the city would now on recognize November 20th as a day of Remembrance for those that have fallen victim to transgender violence. As the day became nigh we re-gathered to hold the candlelight vigil along with those that wished to join from the community of Richmond and we all took turns reading the 20+ names of the victim's world wide of Transgender Violence. People brought food and swap stories to one another. In all that time not one word of vengeance or hate towards those that wish us harm was brought up or even talked about in whispers, there were no words of force to people needed to follow our ways. Just kind hands and faces standing together in words of peace, reflecting on the sad loss of ones like us. Oh yeah that's my fat butt in the purple on the right.(okay one joke and its towards myself) And so its said neither of the two women I held hands with where transgender they stood with us in support.

In my closing words of this chapter I ask that many of you aid in spreading the message of this chapter. If there is one chapter I am writing in this guide to spread, this is the one. Let's help bring a end of the hate, through actions of peace and honor the lives of those that have fallen before us. Join your local community in Day of Remembrance, if there isn't one near you, start one or if you don't feel comfortable in those actions I ask you at least do the actions listed in part 2 of the exercise and take a silent action. Please stand against trans-violence or more voices like my own will come to a deadly end. Let not the voices of the victims fall silent. Thank you.

References for this chapter are:

Movies:

Boys Don't Cry – 1999 – the Oscar winning Performance of Hillary Swank to portray the last days and murder of Female to Male transgender, Brandon Teena.

The Brandon Teena Story – 1998 – A documentary on the life and death of Brandon Teena.

Soldiers Girl – 2003 – The Emmy nominated film about the love of Barry Winchell and Calpernia Adams that led to the Brutal Murder of Barry, by his fellow members in his own squad.

A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story - 2006 – A lifetime movie about the life and murder of Gwen Araujo.

Trained in the Ways of Men - 2007 – A documentary that covered the Murder trial of Gwen and followed the hurt it brought upon Gwen's Family to have her treated that way by both the court and the murders.

Books:

Mark 947 (the autobiography of Calpernia Adams)

<http://bookstore.iuniverse.com/Products/SKU-000017405/Mark-947.aspx>

Websites

Transrespect vs Transphobia

http://www.transrespect-transphobia.org/en_US/tvt-project/tmm-results.htm/idahot-2011

Remembering Our Dead

<http://www.rememberingourdead.org/index.html#>

Transgender Law

<http://www.transgenderlaw.org/>

Calpernia Adams Dairy (linked to the section on Barry Winchell)

<http://www.calpernia.com/soldiers-girl/soldiers-girl-movie/>

This is a subject I wish had more to provide yet it is far too often a silenced thing not to be discussed.

This Chapters Exercise:

Normally I give one exercise this time I give two, one to my Transgender readers and one to All the readers of this guide.

The first is for the Transgender readers. I ask you read this email my mom sent me and follow it in your day to day lives simply to better protect yourself from some dangerous possibilities. It wont stop all issue but what little it does offer is rewarded in better protection of your safety.

1. Tip from Tae Kwon Do :

The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do!

2. Learned this from a tourist guide.

If a robber asks for your wallet and/or purse, DO NOT HAND IT TO HIM. Toss it away from you.... Chances are that he is more interested in your wallet and/or purse than you, and he will go for the wallet/purse. RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!

3. If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car,

kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy..

The driver won't see you, but everybody else will. This has saved lives.

4. Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc. DON'T DO THIS!) The predator will be watching you, and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go. AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR , LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE.

If someone is in the car with a gun to your head DO NOT DRIVE OFF.

Repeat:

DO NOT DRIVE OFF!

Instead gun the engine and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your Air Bag will save you. If the person is in the back seat they will get the worst of it.

As soon as the car crashes bail out and run.

It is better than having them find your body in a remote location.

5. A few notes about getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage:

A.) Be aware: look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor , and in the back seat.

B.) If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door.

Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars.

C.) Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger side.. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, you may want to walk back into the mall, or work, and get a guard/policeman to walk you back out.

IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.

(And better paranoid than dead.)

6. ALWAYS take the elevator instead of the stairs.

Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot.

This is especially true at NIGHT!

7. If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, ALWAYS RUN!

The predator will only hit you (a running target) 4 in 100 times; and even then, it most likely WILL NOT be a vital organ. RUN, Preferably in a zig -zag pattern!

8. As women are always trying to be sympathetic:
STOP

It may get you raped, or killed.

Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well educated man, who ALWAYS played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked 'for help' into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he abducted his next victim.

9. Another Safety Point:

Someone just told me that her friend heard a crying baby on her porch the night before last, and she called the police because it was late and she thought it was weird.. The police told her 'Whatever you do, DO NOT open the door..'

The lady then said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window, and she was worried that it would crawl to the street and get run over.

The policeman said, 'We already have a unit on the way, whatever you do, DO NOT open the door.'

He told her that they think a serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone dropped off a baby.. He said they have not verified it, but have had several calls by women saying that they hear baby's cries outside their doors when they're home alone at night.

10. Water scam!

If you wake up in the middle of the night to hear all your taps outside running or what you think is a burst pipe, DO NOT GO OUT TO INVESTIGATE! These people turn on all your outside taps full blast so that you will go out to investigate and then attack.

Stay alert, keep safe, and look out for your neighbors!

Second and the more important one I ask of all my readers.

Please take part of Day Of Remembrance November 20 and stand with others against Transgender Violence, If you don't want to go and stand along side others at a local gathering, I ask you light a solitary candle Wrapped in a Pink, Blue and Purple (colors representing Transgender) or Rainbow (colors representing GLBT) bow and light it in a window.

Say a prayer if you wish and be willing to stand against the hate when you may be confronted with this issue in your life.

Thank you.

