

## **Made for TV Movie – My Life**

### **Journal Entry – September 29, 2011**

I receive a call from a young woman from my husband's past which drastically changes my life as I know it. This phone call has me Caught in the Middle, leading to my decision to become a police informant. I'm a mandated reporter who took an oath to report any type of abuse or neglect so I had no choice.

I think back to the exchange I had with Michelle as I lay in bed the next evening. I talked to a former female client from Gerard's past. I try to absorb all the details I heard about her past abuse at the hands of Gerard Pepin. Her sexual and emotional battery started seven years before I met him! That is least thirteen years of abuse and probably more victims!

I relive the same sensation as the night before as my body is shaking from the inside out and the familiar sick feeling return. *How many women has he abused for at least thirteen years I know of? This really could become a Made for TV Movie.* Now more of Michelle's and my conversation bombard my head.

We both repeatedly said, "It doesn't seem real that we are even talking to each other."

Both of us are in utter shock as we learn about his other secret lives in Maine and Florida. We kid about whether we really would help the authorities gather evidence against Gerard? Is this really happening? We joked about how all the pain and injustice sounded like a "Lifetime Movie".

Using more humor to calm myself down, I asked her, "Who would you like to play you?"

Michelle said with a giggle. "I don't know and how about you?"

I paused to think and said, "The actress has to be talented and pretty." We nervously laughed, not knowing what else to say. There was a pause, Michelle inquired, "What are you really going to do with all this information?"

I sighed and searched deep for the ethical decision as I digest the magnitude of what I was thinking of doing. I responded, “Because of my profession and the oath I took twenty years ago, ‘I am caught in the middle’. I needed to contact the police to tell them of Gerard’s thirteen years of sexual and emotional abuse for all those years.”

I suggested ending our awkward call so I could call the authorities. I promised to keep her updated after I talk with someone. More memories flood my mind, producing a paralysis as my body goes numb. I feel myself sink into the bed, unable to move as I remember everything Detective Chris Vahey told me and my offer to become a police informant.

The detective said, “Three Drug Court Judges want his head on a platter. What we have learned while investigating is that he was sabotaging his past female client’s recovery by hunting them up to exchange drugs for sex. He also paid rent and utilities with a credit card for another past female resident at the Salvation Army”.

To clarify, these details were not confirmed by the Daytona Beach Sex Crime Unit. From the information they shared answered questions about some of his behaviors I observed.

Detective Vahey continues, “This is going to be high profile because of his position and the felony crimes he is accused of. Compare this to the Casey Anthony trial”.

I struggle hard to block these thoughts so I can sleep but I am unsuccessful for hours. I wonder when my brain will shut down giving much needed rest. I awake later to see I only slept a couple of hours. A bombardment of memories inundates my mind causing sheer panic. Michelle was right. This is a Made for TV Movie. An incredible idea and or epiphany enters my already filled head. *Why don't I turn my journaling into a book? I have all my feelings on paper about hearing his confession, the breakdown of our marriage and the decision to leave. And now the story evolves to the behind the scene of my responsibility as a mandated reporter, my involvement as a police informant and the emotional and financial hardships I will endure.*

I would **never** watch a movie about Gerard Pepin, Clinical Therapist who commits two counts of felony sexual battery during a counseling session. But, I would watch how his ex-wife works with law enforcement as an informant to put a stop to his sexual and emotional crimes. I decide to come up with a description, for the fun of it. Again, trying to make light of how this is my life

unfolding. This is as it might appear in a TV Guide. That is, if it ever becomes a “Lifetime Movie”.

**Caught in the Middle, a Wife Turns Informant** airs on, (date to be determined), at 9:00-11:00 pm. rated R, docudrama (2018): Gerard Pepin, a clinical supervisor with the Salvation Army in Daytona Beach, Florida is arrested and sentenced for two counts of felony sexually battery. He is a rehabilitated drug and alcohol therapist who is abusing drugs and alcohol, while leading a double life. A twenty-four years old female client is blackmailed for a sex favor during a counseling session.. His wife, who divorces him after learning of his alleged crime, works with Daytona Beach Police and the State Attorney’s Office in Florida gathering crucial evidence, a taped confession, leading to his arrest. CC

Usually when looking for a movie to watch, I look at the guide and . . .

1. I decide to not watch the movie because it is too disturbing.
2. I watch part of it and turn it off because it is too offensive to see sexual battery by a professional using his position to sexually abuse them. What the victims go through will break my heart.
3. Or I watch it all, having it make an impact on me. It will stir up feeling sadness for all his victims and hatred for the perpetrator.

Then there is me! I don’t have the options others have. I’m living this nightmarish movie I wish I could turn it off. This is not possible because I’m the ex-wife trying to get my ex-husband to confess on tape. The further the investigation goes on the more disturbing the news of further sexual and emotional abuse. The desire to stop the abuse has pushed me to write Caught in the Middle, A Wife Turns Informant.

*Content subject to change during editing.*