

Synopsis

"The Spider's Web" is based on the true story of an internet predator's abduction of a child from a small tight knit Arkansas community in the fall of 2001. It began in the fall of 2000, when 12 year old Danielle met her "Prince Charming" in an internet chat room. The spider began meticulously spinning his web, grooming, seducing, enticing, promising, and patiently waiting for the right time. One year later, 4 days after the 9/11 terrorist attack, she was abducted and taken on a journey of unspeakable terror.

"The Spider's Web" is a story of sexual perversion. It tells of a family's agonizing emotions during a period of uncertainties and painful loss of a child. It is a story depicting the frustrations felt by law enforcement because of the predator's ability to evade capture. Who is this man? Where is this man? Where is Danielle?

Yet, it is also a story of a community's unselfish desire to help a neighbor in need. It tells of the determination of a child that refused to be controlled and destroyed by the sexual perversions and twisted mentality of her captor.

As the story unfolds, we realize that this could quite possibly be our child, our sister, our neighbors, our friends. Finally, we realize that we MUST end this madness that will, unless it is stopped, adversely affect the future leaders of our planet for many generations to come.

Profile of a Predator

A spider is a predator and a very dangerous one at that. He has no need to pursue his victims; his victims come to him. When his victims have worn themselves out trying to break free, he then comes out of hiding and silently destroys them.

Sexual predators work on the same principle.

They create webs around us that go unnoticed until we become enlightened by truth. They will patiently groom the child; to groom means to prepare for a specific purpose. Like the spider, unless they are there in our faces we don't see them. We see them only when they are caught and then it is too late because the child locked in their web is left with a legacy of sifting through all the confusion and betrayal of trust by someone they look up to and thought they could trust. A spider lurks at the edge of the web until it sees its victim struggling for its freedom then it pounces on it and encases it with a much tighter thread

until it is powerless and stops struggling.

The most important thread a spider uses is the first. They start building their web by sending out a strand and it floats until it catches a branch or leaf. Once they have secured their position, they are free to start grooming the child. Then they start the grooming process building a web around the child's needs and weaknesses. They use "naughty" pictures and films to get the child used to receiving pornographic stuff after they have learned not to respond to the lighter stuff. It is little by little the child is enticed into the adult world of sordid sexual behavior.

Sexual abuse is not only measured by figures and cold statistics; it is measured in the warm tears of a child, the betrayal of trust and the long-term effects they live with. It is measured by the prostitutes, and drug addicts and street kids and suicide victims. It is measured in the pain and confusion in the eyes of a child as they look into the eyes of the person who should be helping them grow up with love and dignity but instead are using their little bodies for their own deviant gratification.

What happens to the victims of a spider?

The first thing many spiders do is to numb the victim by injecting or spitting enzymes and other digestive juices into their body. The soft tissue is then broken down by these juices and the insides are sucked out by the spider. The interesting thing is that the body of the victim is left in tact but its insides are totally destroyed.

Survivors of sexual abuse may look intact and carry on with their lives but on the inside they are numb and hurt.

Sometimes the only option open to us is to teach the children how to recognize webs, and as parent's we need to be diligent in keeping our homes free from the most cunning, most devious the most clever perpetrators who are on the prowl for victims. We have the knowledge, we have the power to destroy the webs and it is up to us to make our communities safe so that our children can grow up unhindered by sexual predators.

The Story

Four days after 9-11, I received a call from my mother, Sarah, telling me through her tears, that my niece, Danielle, was gone. Gone? What did she mean, gone? First of all, the fear..... Was she dead? Dear God, NO! My brief denial slipped away as my stomach

dropped to my feet. I knew something terrible had happened because things had been building up for awhile. Hadn't this child already suffered enough?

Danielle's mother, Valerie -my sister, was only sixteen when she married Danielle's father. After he abandoned her with three small children to raise, our mother moved in to help her raise the children. Money was short, but love was in abundance; especially the love of God! Prayer and faith were the main substance of coping and believing. As Danielle's father slipped into many years of drug addiction and subsequent abandonment of his parental responsibilities, Valerie and Sarah clung to the belief God would provide Valerie with a man that loved her and would be a good father to the children.

When Danielle was ten years old, Valerie met Rick. Soon Rick and Valerie were in love and married. The family thanked God and rejoiced for the prayers they believed to be answered. Soon, we realized this answered prayer brought on many, many more prayers of need. Rick suffered from bi-polar, with schizophrenic tendencies. He replaced the needed medication with alcohol, which then led to abusing Danielle and her siblings. Valerie struggled seeing this abuse through her own emotional needs and justified his radical behavior by his mental illness, then placing the responsibility onto the children. However, no matter what they did, he still became abusive, then lied to Valerie to hide his behavior. Danielle continually turned to me-her aunt- and her grandmother, but stopped reaching out to her mother. Little did we know, she had also met a new friend on the Internet; someone she believed she could trust and confide her troubles to. The Spider had searched a long time to find the prey he could seduce into his web, one that wouldn't recognize the predatory game as he slowly encircled her with the first thread, then the next, next, next...

The Spider began weaving his web around Danielle when she was just 12 years old. The Spider listened to her trouble(s), reassured her he was there for her -as all her teenaged friends were. The next thread was his reassurance that he had the answers to her problems, all the time tightening the threads in the web. He confided he was "older"-in his 30's- and would provide her with her independence-away from the trouble at home. All she had to do was trust his love for her. Danielle-the prey-moved closer and the threads became more dense and tighter. As she believed his love, then yearned for his protection from her current pain, The Spider knew she was almost ready for the web to be finished and he could begin doing what he had dreamed of.

One year later, the spider's web was finally ready. His prey was trapped and he could begin his feast..

September 15, 2001

It was a beautiful September afternoon in a small, rural, southern town. Life was going on as normal when the predator came to our world and wove the final thread around his prey. As the spider lurked away with his prey, searching for the perfect spot to finish devouring his prize, the family and community banded together with prayer and faith as the police

began a frantic, yet coordinated, search.

After the local Police Chief validated the abduction, he called the state police and FBI for help to find The Spider. Many officers didn't sleep for days, as they desperately searched, hoping to find the web and spider before it was too late to free the prey.

As the massive police hunt continued, our fear increased. Who was this Spider, where had he come from, and where was he taking his prey...our Danielle? The police discovered this Spider had many identities and easily camouflaged himself, making it very difficult to track him and free his trapped prey.

Three then four days passed. No Danielle and no clue to where she was at, or even if she was still alive. Many clues had been followed up, but nothing that lead them to her. Dear God, was she still alive or had The Spider already finished with her, already?

On the fifth day, the FBI received a good lead and set up a sting operation to identify the Spider and rescue his prey from his trap.

On the Sixth day, the sting operation was successful and the FBI freed Danielle from the web. Although she looked to be physically OK, her eyes were blank and emotionless...the only display of emotion was her chewing her fingernails. No emotion to her voice, body language, or expressions. The Spider had succeeded in devouring himself on her innocence-sucking the life on the inside of her out-leaving only an outer shell of our Danielle..

Two Years later....

On her fifteenth birthday, a brave –yet still emotionless-Danielle sat in a court room and testified against The Spider. A monotone Danielle avoided The Spider's eyes as she recanted the horrific things The Spider had done to her. The FBI had discovered evidence that indicated Danielle's predator was involved with an organized pedophile ring. The after effect of 9-11, with limited public transportation and increased security, may in fact have kept The Spider from weaving his web outside of the USA. At 60 years old, The Spider was found guilty of crimes against Danielle and was sentenced to serve NO LESS than 68 years with no possibility for parole. The family and prosecution prayed he would not live past 128 years old and be free enough to ever weave another web that would entrap young prey then feast on their innocence, again. The family then built a new web around Danielle, engulfing her in love and prayers of healing and thanking God we still had a shell left for Him to heal, recognizing that many prey are still trapped by these Spiders, trapping them in their web of lies and seduction, until they've gorged themselves on innocence, leaving nothing but an empty shell of what was before The Spider came along.

Please help us build a safer world for children.

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