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And I think the reason I've wanted to do this and wanted to, you know, let people know that they don't have to put up with this that it's not normal for someone who says they love you, to hurt you and hurt you over and over and over again.

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Okay, and so was it was a kind of a repeat performance each time getting mad and abusing you and verbally or physically then coming back later Oh, baby, I'm so sorry.

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It always it was always it was always about abuse and apology abuse and apology.

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And so where was your mind set? Right then what were what were you thinking? And I was

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like I was I was buying into his problem so much, that it was okay, that he was apologizing for now. And I could, and I could live with that for now. Because I was buying into his problems. I was buying into what other people had done to him. And making that as if that was a reason why he was doing this to me. And, you know, feeling sorry for him, you know, because of this. And I realized, you know, it wasn't until later that I realized that this is not the way it's supposed to be that it wasn't till it was all over that I finally said, you know, no, okay, this isn't how it's supposed to have. So

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for four years go by with this kind of behavior pattern. And what what was it that finally

snapped with you or made you say, No,



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I fear of my life. It was absolute fear of my life. He one day, I came home from a therapist of our appointment, and he had he had destroyed our apartment. While I was gone. He had a somebody had told him something. And he had apparently gone ballistic furniture was broken dishes were broken. Everything in the apartment was on our carpets on the walls on this. There were knives. During the course of that relationship, I had to break knives that he pointed at me kitchen carving knives, with my bare hands. I snapped one or two with my bare hands over the course of four years. Because he had them pointed at me you ready to you know, use them on me. And it was just so insane. And he and he what happened that day. He saw me he started screaming some nonsense at me about somebody had told him his some family member was dead. And that sent him into a rage. And he came after me when I got home. And he he chased me down our stairs. The staircase outside of our apartment threw me down the staircase, which was made of cement and down the street out into the street. He



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well I was I don't know, I've seen your you don't run?



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No, no. And I wasn't on my cane when I didn't have time to grab my walkingstick when he did this. And he chased me out into the street and he would grab him he would charge at me like some kind of crazy rhinoceros and grabbed me by the hair and was pounding my head into the pavement on Richmond. I mean over and over and over again. He did this. And the only thing that I got that I managed that I managed to get away with he started to jump out into the street and dare cars to hit him. And I took that opportunity to take off as fast as my legs. these happy little legs could carry me. Where did you go? I went. I went to a club nearby a bar pub actually. And I made a phone call to it was a Thursday afternoon, evening when all this as this happened. And I called some friends who I knew would be at their apartment at that hour. And I said, come get I was crying. I was freaking out. And he said and they said Come get I said come get me. I Need your help come get me. And they did. And I never went and the only time I went back was later that night. I had stayed I had stayed long enough to see that cops I could see my apartment from where I was and cops had come and all kinds of heck was breaking loose there. Because he because he had gone ballistic. The front window of our apartment was shattered, okay. works. So he had to face the destroyed do Cartman I went. Later that night, my friends brought me back to the apartment because they had hauled him off somewhere. But what and I was getting my stuff out. And while I was getting my stuff out, he came back. And somebody apparently while he was going ballistic again had called the cops again. And I want and the cops came as he was freaking out. And I watched a cop point a gun five inches from his face. And I've never wanted to wish any harm on any human being. But at that moment, at that moment, for a split second, I almost wish he had pulled the trigger. Because it was absolutely insane. It was like that for four years. I never met anybody who managed to make mad every human being he came in contact with at least once. He was just like that.



06:45

When did you fall out of love with this man?



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The day he broke my nose, okay. And you know, the rest was pretty much staying because I didn't feel like I had any other place to go. We were living together financially, because we both lived on fixed income. And we managed to survive on that. You know? Sure. And that was another thing that fit into that financial situations can lead people to stay in situations that they just that other otherwise, you know, other people would go. Are you crazy?



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So how did you survive some financially?



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Some friends, let me stay with them for a while. Okay, and then I moved out and got a roommate. And I've been living with that person for a while now.



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Where do you need a roommate?



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At the moment? Yeah, I mean, I live on a fixed income. Right. And I know and you know, that's, that's not I would love to live back in this neighborhood regardless of the fact that he's still here. But I can't financially at the moment. You know, I it's just the way it is. My friends got here helped me get myself together to do this tonight. And I love him for it. It's



08:17

I seen your emotions going up and down as as we've talked and I think that conveyed it in your voice also,



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I



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What would you say to someone out there who is in this type of relationship? Who says, Oh, he hit me. But he he was it was because of this other reason. And he really loves me and he came back and he apologized and blah, blah, blah,



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to put it in a one word answer. Bull. Okay. If you are being hurt by someone who says they love you, it's not love. If you are, if they are hitting you if they are treating you as if you are less than a human being and not just physical abuse, but if they are taking control of your life, you know, telling you that you can't go somewhere, you can't, you can't hang out with your friends, or you can't dress a certain way because I just won't have it or they and they get angry at you because of it. You know because of the way you dress because of who you hang out with. And if unreasonably so if you're if you leave the house and you're gone for more than a certain amount of time, and you come back and they're accusing you of having slept with somebody, you know for with no justification for that. This is an abusive situation. These are people these are people who need to be gotten away from. I mean, you can't I can't stress that enough. You can't let somebody do that to you



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and speaking of getting away from one of the biggest issues in getting out of these relationships is knowing where to go.



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That's a big that's that's it, you know, because, like you said, you even felt like I financially I can't survive on my own. What do I do I have to stay here to. That's what I felt like,



10:21

well in insofar as resources, I've got a few here to give to the listening audience. There's a group called gay men, survivors of domestic abuse. And their hotline for information in screening is 713-526-1017. Extension 211. And that's gay men, survivors of domestic abuse. 713-526-1017, extension 211. You can call the Montrose Counseling Center. They were



11:01

wonderful to me when this really Yeah, they were absolutely wonderful to me. They were amazing.



11:08

THE END OF CALL 713-526-0027 - AUTHOR: BETH MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER 713-526-0027 - VEN

Their number is 713-529-0037. Again, that's Montrose Counseling Center 713-529-0037. You can call the Houston area Women's Center at 713-528-6798. That's 713-528-6798 for the Houston area Women's Center. And one of the what I think one of the best places is the Texas Council on Family Violence, I used to do a lot of work for the Boy Scouts and we always had to go through a child protection training and Texas Council on Family Violence puts out a lot of information. They're an excellent, excellent place to go. You can write them at 8017 MacPac. That's MC PAC expressway, suite 450. Austin, Texas 78759. Or you can phone them at 512-794-1133. That's 512-794-1133 for the phone, or you can fax them at 512-794-1199. That's a fax 512-794-1199.



12:35

We got a call from Jonathan. And he was making a comment. It sounds like your partner suffered from psychotic rage. Yes. And unfortunately, it is no longer classified by DSM as a mental disease. But sounds like it should be



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you know, I was just I have brought with me a bit of information on these situations. And one of the primary a lot of the things that are the myths that go on about these situations is that it doesn't happen. You know, if if two men get into a fight, who happened to be together, it's just a brawl. Right? It's that's bull know, one of the if one of them is hurting the other one? You know, it's it's abuse? Well, and it's just,



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and as far as you know, the whole myth about it's just two men getting into a fight. Domestic Abuse doesn't always want to run in one direction. I've known couples who were very mutually abusive physically and verbally to each other.



14:01

Yeah, that's true. I think. I think you can that all stems from homophobia, internalized homophobia, in these a lot of these cases. What kind of help did you get? Bobby? Well, okay, your friends gave you a place.



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My friends gave me a place to stay. Yes. And that



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was probably a number one of importance.



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I found a great deal of support at one of the groups that was that Scott mentioned on that sheet of information.



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The Counseling Center. Yeah.



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I also happen to be HIV positive. And somebody in one of the things that I go to said, there's this other group happening too, and I think, you know, Have, you could be a part of that. And it happened to be the survivors of domestic abuse. And I started doing that, and I have heard. And it's been a great way to be able to get out the, the, the anger, the rage of my own, because I realized that I could just as easily at this point, take all of the pain that he put me through all of the anger. And if somebody were to make me mad, if somebody were to push my, like, if I was out on the streets one night, hanging out with friends, and somebody tried to bash me, I've always I could almost feel it inside me that I would take out all of that on somebody else. And situations, like, you know, places where I can talk about these things, and, you know, let them out, vent that feeling. You know, it's a horrible feeling to know that a person having been a person who's never harmed another human being physically harmed another human being that I know of, could do that to somebody simply because of the hurt that that was inside of me.



16:32

Let's take a little break right now. And go to a piece of music and we'll be back and talk more about about your about your case and what happened and and how these groups helped you. What what did they do, and you're listening to after hours on KPFT Houston and ke o s College Station, Dudley, Dudley Saunders is going to be in Houston at the guava lamp on September the 16th then so we want to play some of his music. We've played a little last week and we want to play it this week to in here



17:16

Dudley Saunders from his new CD restore that was breath. And before that he did take me back home again. Dudley is going to be here on September the 16th at the guava lamp, so you can see him live and in person. Right now live and in person. We've got Scott and and Bobby, and we're talking about domestic abuse. And Bobby has been talking about his experience of of having sexual abuse. And now I want to ask you, you're talking about a group that you attended, what was the name of the group?



18:00

It's same. Gay men are survivors of domestic abuse.



18:07

Okay, and why did they help you so much? What, what, what happens in that? What did they do? What's the meeting?



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First they the processes to, you know, talk to you in advance and see if your situation is abuse? Because sometimes people who are the abusers try to get into these. Oh, and and that is very dangerous to the people who have been hurt. Sure. When there's a screening process, a screening process, once you're in the group you meet, you get to meet other people who, who and who have stories that are similar, and I won't say better or worse, because everybody's abuses, what they went through, there's no more or less, you know, as far as I'm concerned, everybody's abuse was their own and it's their, it was their own personal hell to go through. And the first thing you realize when you listen to the stories is that you're not alone. That just because you happen to be a man doesn't mean that you cannot be abused, that you're so strong, you know, this whole idea that men are masculine and, and you know, can't be hurt by other you know, if another man is hurting you it's a brawl. It's it's a, you know, a mutual fight. Now, it's not always that way. A man can abuse another man and a man can rape another man. And it happens and people don't talk about it. And in this group, you meet people who have gone through those situations I have met some amazing human beings who have been through some horrible situations. I had people who's who even my, my own story. I've listened to theirs and it makes and they make me cringe and they make me shudder. Because they tell stories of the things that another human being who says they love them hurt them in ways that are unspeakable. I mean, absolutely do brutal with so



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do you get a lot of support? Because you're among people who have gone through the same thing? Yeah. And it's like these people understand and I went through is that is they understand, and



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they get to share, but we get to share back and forth about that situation, and how it made us feel as human beings to realize that some that somebody hurt us, that that we and we, for all our being male, and you know, supposedly the dominant Oh, yeah. And all macho stuff, macho, crap. Excuse me? No, it is.



21:20

It is yes. It's,



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we, we can be hurt by the men we love. And we are so often and people don't talk about it. They don't open their mouths and say that they're doing this to me. It's always if you see a black guy, Oh, I hit the corner of a table or, you know, I fell on the staircase if a broken arm, you know. And they and people believe these stories, you know, and even when it happens over and over again, people believe these stories.



21:58

Wow. Well, some of the advantages of you know, having people like Bobby and other members of support groups who come out as you can begin talking about it and gathering information. I have some here that would be useful that was put up by the Houston area Women's Center. That is right group.



22:16

They send me information all the time.



22:18

Yes. Warning signs of a batterer, okay. You know, someone who is abusive. Things to look out for or excessive jealousy, possessiveness, unrealistic expectations of self and others. Anger is a typical response when limits are put upon them. They don't want the victim to go out with friends or don't allow the victim to come and go as they please. That was a famous one with my isolation and restraint. Isolation is like a really big one. controlling behavior, calls on the phone all the time, are spies on wherever you're going. dictates who what can and can't be worn. blames everyone else for their problems or actions. Sudden mood swings, threats of violence or suicide,



23:14

my ex will go from perfectly normal to ballistically angry in a split second, he would be as happy as a clam one second, and the next minute, somebody would say just the wrong thing. And he could go into a rage that would destroy everything in a room.



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Cruelty to Animals or children or the elderly. Quick involvement, you know, they jump into any problem adopting it as their own, even if it has nothing to do with them. Something Bobby was just talking about the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality. Yes. Rigid sex roles. I know that there are a lot of gay men who like to say they're only a top or only a bottom but when rigid sex roles are imposed and not mutually agreed upon. You know, the shirt that could definitely be a sign of abuse when they say this is what you will do.



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Sex is always neutral or there's something wrong.



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hypersensitivity, you know, easily irritated verbal abuse attacks or accusations or belittling and humiliating the victim. Emotional abuse threats or extreme lack of



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think that before he's the one to belittle, belittling thing, that controlling and belittle the little Lane Well, it's very important you feel that you are you are your dirt.



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That's a very important part of controlling a victim though is, you know, making them feel as if there is nowhere else to go that they are providing the best possible for you and if there's anything better out there you don't deserve it.



25:00

My ex always knew what buttons to push there. He knew he could push the disability button. He knew he could push the financial button and it would make me stay. Wow.



25:12

You know what he? Did he ever disability also? Yes, he



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did. He had he was an epileptic and he had a mild case of cerebral palsy he walked slightly better than I do. And, and as every, as anybody who's ever seen me knows, I walk like a metronome, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick. Yes, I've noticed I walked like a drunken sailor, this is why I don't drink so toxic, I'm drunk.



25:39

Blame any of his physical problems on you.



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He never He didn't blame his physical problems on me because all of his physical problems were his before. But he met, he gave me one of his physical problems. I wasn't positive when we met. Oh, a year later. I was. And I truly and I understand that that was a mutual thing. But, you know, but one night, he did something and that in a roll, you know, that whole thing of a rigid roll thing? Yes. I, you know, I was always the top, he was always the bottom. Well, one night, he was a top and the condom broke? And, you know, yeah, here I am for you, you know, 40 years later. Okay.



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And that some more of those stopped? Yeah,



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no, there's like, just a couple of like, really good ones, to use. History of past battering is something to look at, if they have exes who claim to have been battered. Now whether they're true or not. Because there are people out there who lie about being in domestic abuse situations, you know, it's a great attention getter. But, you know, if you hear that they have a history of battery, then that's definitely something to look at. Let's see. Economical abuse, when they, you know, begin to tether your resources, financially when they start, you know, saying when you can and can't use so much money or draw money out of the bank. Playful use of force during sex are forces you to perform degradable sexual acts, when sex no longer is, when sex no longer is natural mutual activity, when all of a sudden it becomes you must do this. Yeah, and, yeah,



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I just wanted to say there's a few things that are on my mind. One is in a situation where you, you're being abused, and you want to get out that you have to make a plan of action to get out. So part of that plan can be packing a bag and putting it in a hiding place. So and when they're gone, you go, you don't tell them you're going you don't you don't say you're going, you leave. When they're not. There you go, and you don't look back.



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Well, and especially important is when they go through one of their abusive attacks, look at their pattern of behavior, and which parts of you know the living space they go to, to plan out where you're gonna hide it, because you don't want it to be something they're gonna find when they're coming down. That's right,



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the other. One of the other things I know, we're almost out of time here. I wanted to say that

one or the other reasons I did this is because this has become a part of my healing process. That it's, I felt that it was time for me to help other people who have been in this situation. And that this happens more than anybody realizes. I mean, there are no statistics on this because gay men



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don't talk about right. We don't report it. We don't talk about it. You



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know, we don't talk about it. And I have gotten to the stage you know, at first I was a victim of this. Now I consider myself a survivor of this. I'm and I will not let this happen twice in a lifetime. And nobody else should have to either verbally or else should have to let this happen to them.



29:45

Thank you, Bobby for coming and sharing your story. And you want to give a couple of those numbers again. Yeah. Especially the Montrose Yeah, playing center. I know that 7135290 Three seven. Great group.



30:03

Yeah. The Houston area Women's Center 713-528-6798 The gay men survivors of domestic abuse. This is their hotline and think for screening half 7135 to 61017 and that's extension 211 And then the phone and fax for the Texas cancel on family violence. The phone number is 512-794-1133 and their fax line is 512-794-1199. Great.



30:42

Thank you for being here. Thank you. And coming up at the top of the hour we'll be Big Daddy j with the Red Eye special the beginning of our fabulous blue Sunday. I'm Jimmy Carper. You've been listening to after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston and K E O S College Station goodbye