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Wed, Mar 22, 2023 2:13PM 42:49

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, drinking, drugs, quit, alcoholism, day, stop, friends, sober, home, night, problem, aaa, alcohol, addiction, thought, bandana, real, purse, talk

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00:02

Were one night he was doing a song on stage and his nose began to bleed. And he didn't know where he was. And so I'm in serious trouble here. And so it seems like this is not so much a generational thing. It's more personal one, what does it say about us? What where are we running from that? Is that what the question is? Yeah.



00:21

It's true. It was interesting. When I was I worked at Barnes and Noble on how come for a while, during this past year, and have a lot of access to different books. And I started really getting into gay fiction that's actually written to be fiction and just sort of cheap entertainment, because there is a lot of that out there. But I read a book called like, people in history by Phyllis Bikaner, which was an excellent, excellent book. I mean, he's a fantastic author. But you read about this culture where people would, you know, they start getting ready to go to the clubs. They'd do their initial drugs for the evening. And they'd space out what they were taking in, when based on how far down they were coming off of the previous drug, how far up they wanted to get, and it was like they were running on us on a schedule for their drugs so that they wouldn't just completely crash and burn at any one point of the evening. And I knew several people like that, who were, you know, sophomores in high school when they were doing that.



01:32

Now their eyes, I saw that look on your face. And I can tell the, I can see the scared. Look, I was shocked. And we what he's saying, Why do it is so true. I know when I was doing amphetamines back in the 60s, we wish to walk into work and they'd take a gallon jug out of the desk drawer in the morning, put on table and say who needs help? Take a handful of them. I mean, when I finally quit taking them, I was taken probably on an average of 50 pills a day. I was wiped pill 24 hours a day, seven days a week of what what are you taking, I'm taking white crossing black Mollies, Christmas trees, you name it.



02:16

Then you take your downers.



02:19

And I was running 24 hours a day, seven days a week I never stopped



02:24

ever. The only time you sleep is when you take your sleeping



02:28

to six weeks and never went to bed to sleep there.



02:31

God,



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that is so true. Because for me in high school, I would get drunk that night and not do it again. But I wake up and I have to take like seven hits a pink card. So White Frost is just to make it through the day and I go home and feel downside drink a couple beers and rum and coke and I fell, okay. And the thing is I lived at home but the disease taught me how to be sneaky. On three floors. My parents had three floor house and I had a bottle on each floor. So my 1617 years old. So it's so true. You cannot once too many 1000s Not enough for me.



03:07

See, I live I lived at home when I was really big into it. And I spent you know if I wasn't at school or out partying, I was at home. And I did spend a good deal of time at home and I spent most of my time in my bedroom, you know, you know, working on schoolwork or sitting out in the den just sort of keeping to myself. Because it was the only way that you could interact and not show what you were doing.



03:35

Okay, so what did it take each of you to stop?



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Yeah, good question. Oh, Katrina, you need to get close to the mic. They were telling me they

couldn't hear you out there. Oh, okay. There you go. That's bad. Okay. Yeah, that's better. Okay.



03:54

It was the summer of 93. I was in the midst of a failed relationship. And I don't actually know if I was drinking more than that I had been, but it was affecting me worse. I was having heart palpitations, just cold sweats at night, and for the first time, woke up in the middle of the night and had the I don't want to use the word revelation, but that might be it that finally I realized, I gotta stop that or it's gonna stop me stop or die. Yeah. And it was maybe two years later, two to three years later, when the movie Leaving Las Vegas came out and watched some of the gyrations that Nicolas Cage's character was going through and



04:49

that was a scary movie. He wouldn't know what alcohol alcoholism looks like watch Leaving Las Vegas with Nicolas Cage.



04:56

And I realized I was doing some of that stuff. have even though I was only only doing beer, it was affecting me like that



05:04

drank himself to death.



05:06

If I had not stopped, I probably would have ended up like that.



05:12

But what what made you stop? Was it was it? Was it coming to terms with being transgendered? Was it just the fear of I don't stop, it's going to kill me.



05:23

At that point it was if, if I don't stop, it'll kill me. It took me about a year year and a half to, for the transgender to finally kick in and realize, you know, I've don't ever want to say I've beat it. But I've, I've gotten better. And I'm seeing things clearly. And life is gonna go on. And there's something I want to do. And the folks here are looking at her.



05:52

I think Jim has a question here.



05:54

The caller had a problem. His problem with alcohol started from taking Ritalin, actually. And it was the alcohol lesson, the crash from coming down off the riddle and



06:09

show my ignorance here. What's Ritalin? Ritalin is



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a drug that they give children who are real hyperactive. Oh, and it overloads of their systems so that they actually calm down? Well,



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yeah, what it is, is it's a watered, it's a watered down and slightly chemically different version of speed. And it's done from a more clinical standpoint so that it's not addictive. But what it is it's given to, especially children with attention deficit disorder. And then there's ADHD, which has hyperactivity mixed in there. And it cuts down the hyperactivity by allowing the brain to produce chemicals that allow the child to focus. And I was diagnosed with ADHD and I have taken Ritalin I haven't had any nasty crash problems, but I know people who have



06:57

but that was this guy. So problem is the alcohol made those not as bad. So it's, it's really kind of



07:08

just a fishing. Yeah, yeah. Edward, what made you stop? You sounded like you had just a hell of a problem.



07:17

I still do believe it or not, sometimes because I alcoholism. Alcohol Drinking is as far as problem living is a different problem. 1988 January, I hit what they call emotional bottom. I hate it myself. It was either committing suicide or getting myself into treatment. My father being into

recovery helped me a lot get into treatment, but my inner cell died. I hate it myself. I did not want to talk to no one. I spent 48 hours in isolation, and 56 days in treatment. While I was so bad in my alcoholism, towards the end, I was peeing on myself. Couldn't go to the bathroom because I was totally intoxicated, and it over controlled me. I was only 23 I was having dry the shakes, withdraws. I have cirrhosis of the liver because of my drinking. And today I know if I choose to go back I would die.



08:27

So you have not you've been you've been sober and free since nine half years now. Yes. God bless you. God has wonderful, thank you. It really is we need to take a station break for a second. This is 90.1 KPFT in Houston, and 89.1 ke O 's College Station. I am Sarah dipalma. And with with me in the studio running round is Jimmy Carper. This is after hours and you are listening to a panel discussion talking about addiction in substance abuse. And a little while we are going to start the first part of our tribute to Dean McKellar. Okay said that back into the studio we go Roy Yes. What about you? What about you will



09:12

not you and I never I've never had I've never I've myself never been addicted to drugs or, or alcohol. But it seems all my relationships all my all the people that I've mattered to me were and I just sort of wonder, what is it about me? Do I have like some sort of unknown sonar inside of me that seeks out an alcoholic or



09:47

Well, I don't know do you?



09:50

I certainly don't intend for because, you know, it's not as difficult as it is to belittle anyone but you know, I you know, Well I can do to, you know, to handle my own. So what's less? Someone who's got alcoholism or drug addiction? I mean, I have no training and how to handle that. Sarah? Yeah,



10:12

the the funny part about that question is the answer to that question is yes, he does. Yeah. Oh



10:16

my god.



10:19

You want to laugh about it. But we're, it's all part of how we're raised and how we're going up in our particular family system, that we learned to be attracted to people that are similar to what we grew up with, even if they're not good people that were important to us. And we may not even ever realized that and never know what but those are the same exact same people were attracted to



10:42

alcoholism in my family, and someplace



10:44

there was probably a friend, somebody that was important to you, when you grew up. There was alcoholism involved, or that same type of dysfunctional setup that you keep getting attracted to,



10:58

I think there's probably some legitimacy in that because I've talked to many abused women. And they've been in more than one abusive relationship. And one of the things they've had to come to terms with is that in somehow or another, they were attracting the wrong kind of people. And they had to learn as much about themselves, as they did about the abuser to find out what was going wrong.



11:19

Now that makes sense, to my head,



11:21

sir, I had a client one time tell me that she was she, she was a sex addict. And she was always attracted to men who are heroin users are abusive, and they were abusive. And she couldn't understand why. She said, tell me why this all happened. So I just looked at her after several hours one day, and I said, How many years was your father on heroin? And how long did he abuse you as a child? She's How do you know he did that? She just described her life to me.



11:53

Well, wouldn't you think though, that that's the case that they would want to like run for, like 1000 miles away,



11:58

they want to



11:59

they want to, but it becomes such a pattern in your life, because with drug abuse and alcoholism, I mean, the addiction is not the only part of it. There's a dysfunction that goes along with both of those that you can have without the addiction,



12:13

familiar territory, you know what to expect? Exactly. Yeah. JACKIE, what



12:17

do you expect?



12:18

Yeah, because the real difficulty with alcoholism outside the addiction is the communication. It's the same thing with drug addiction. It's the dysfunction between the addicted and the people they interact with.



12:30

Jennifer, how do you kick it? How do you get rid of it?



12:34

Oh, well, I got tired of basically being an A drunk and a drug abuser, one, it's expensive. And after a while, you know, it's work, it becomes work, to get enough drugs and enough alcohol to continue going through one more day. One, you know, and it's not like it was an overnight revelation. But I got tired of waking up in strange places with strange people, and not knowing how I got there, to wake up in the morning and look around and make sure I'm at home in my own bed, and then wonder where the car may be, or how I got home. In what I did, you know, I'll say, Well, I can remember about 11 o'clock. But that's all I can remember. And it became very scary. And, you know, I've told the story where I went to New Orleans on a Friday night. And the last thing I remember was 11 o'clock on a Friday night, and I woke up Sunday morning, in the attic, of a of a tenement house. Oh, and I have no idea what happened for two days. And, you know, I've been, you know, blessed in the fact that I'm not dead. And one day, I just got tired. And, and it was more painful to continue than it was to stop. Is that was that what it takes it at some point and get that low? And someone said, you know, you can stop if you want to?

And that moment, not that people hadn't told me that in the past. But at that moment, I believed it. And I tried to stop and you know, for me, I was blessed and I did for nine and a half years and



14:29

watching Edward here he's shaking his head seen I don't think so.



14:33

It wasn't like that for me because I tried to stop and I tried to start drinking. I got as far as I locked myself are still into my room and said I'm not going to drink. But I hit my stage was the late stages. I talked about in a book where the alcoholism the alcohol just took over my system. It done my thinking done obsession. It was so compulsive that I just could not say no, I was Having the shakes,



15:01

I think you got to a place that none of the others did.



15:05

To me really no better price of workspace, it's pure hell, it



15:09

sounds like they had a stopping point. And somehow you just ran right through it.



15:13

Well, I went to treatment twice. And then the third time is when I hit my bottom is called hitting a bottom.



15:20

I was gonna say that for everyone. It's different. And it has to do with, with what it takes to make you stop doing something. And I know that I've talked to a sponsor a number of people, and you know, it has to do when it finally the pain is so much that you actually want to stop doing it. If I keep sticking my hand in the flame, you know, and it hurts eventually, I'm gonna stop doing it. And that's what had to happen. It just had to be bad enough to stop



15:54

the other. Are there any resources available? In the gay community? I mean, you got a great people and what do they know about gay person? Are they



16:05

not? They are available to younger people. There's, there's lambda Nam, which is, I know several people who go to lamda, who explained what lambda



16:14

is you I didn't have any say.



16:18

From what I gather, I'd say gay, Alcoholics Anonymous, but they don't just deal with alcohol addiction. There are people I know there who are also dealing with drug addiction, and are recovering the recovering addicts and alcoholics but it's centered towards the gay community.



16:37

Well, I won't, you know, to differ with you without being disagreeable is the fact that it was a they and in a treatment center that got me sober and clean. And that's what's kept me that way. And, you know, I've been transgendered the whole time. Now, it's not something I broadcast, but that wasn't the reason I go there. I didn't go there to cure my transgender. I went there to stop drinking and drugging. And I was going to use the comparison of differences. It's like an elevator, you know, you can get off on any floor. It's just the one you decide. And sometimes some of us go all the way to the basement. Before we stop.



17:17

Yeah. And there's



17:18

one thing about quitting is a person's gotta want to quit. I mean, for themselves, okay. Yeah, you can say 100 times, so I'm gonna go quit because my wife wants me to quit. I'm gonna go quit because my daughter wants me to quit. I'm gonna go quit because my dad wants me to quit. Hang on to work, girl. Yeah, it's not gonna work until you quit for you. When you quit for yourself, and you say to yourself, I've had enough of this bleep dinner to work.



17:46

I actually did try to quit once before. About three years before I finally did. I was in a relationship with someone who is still a dear friend of mine. It was one of the first people I'd ever met, who was clean and sober and was not a major bible thumper. explained very clearly, in that. My my family situation growing up, and the folks I interacted with everybody, I knew that you could almost divide it right down the middle either they were heavy drinkers, or Southern Baptists types who just knew if he even looked like you had even had a beer in your hand at any time in your life, you were center and go into hell. So that this, this dear friend of mine, we dated dated for a little while, and but it remained dear friends. I knew she had a problem with the fact that I was drinking as much as I was. And I tried to quit for her. And that didn't work. was about it was about three years later, though, that I just, I did it for myself. Not only because I figured I really thought it was going to kill me. But I want to touch on something Jennifer said as far as doing the drinking and drugging is actually work. At one point, I realize that this is cutting into all of my free time. I mean, taking all of it up. I'm someone who, I never lost a job. Because of my drinking. I had one good job for many years. I've lost it because of NAFTA and not because of drinking. And I, I would do anything it took to show up, competent to work. But the minute I got home, I hit the refrigerator and started popping those tops. And I would do so until either went to bed voluntarily or just fell on the floor.



19:51

Now I wanted to ask you, I'm listening to what they're saying. And that all took a certain degree of maturity and I'm so impressed with you that it's such a young age that you developed the maturity, no, something



20:04

was wrong? Well, I had I guess the moment that I became aware that I had a real serious problem was also the luckiest break I've had in my life. Mine took an HIV scare to get me off of that'll do it and alcohol. Yeah, that'll do it. Yeah, what it was, is I had been to I had been to a couple, you know, free parties, which starts somewhere around six, seven in the evening, you know, people get together, they start drinking, you start doing, you know, the real light drugs before you get into the heavier stuff later on in the evening. Or at least, that's why it was in our circle. And we went to a dance at school. And I ended up having sex on the roof of my high school building, oh, good with, with a girl that I later found out was HIV positive. Oh, and I, about a month after that, I had finally, you know, I cut back severely during that month, just because I was such in shock from the event itself. And then I got up enough courage to ask a few friends of mine who had gone to middle school with who I was very, I was still in good contact with them. And I said, you know, I know you people, I trust you people. And I need to quit, you know, all these drugs, I want to quit them. And you know, I'm gonna need your help. Because I don't necessarily, I didn't want to go into any programs, because, you know, that would, I thought that would require the involvement of my parents. And that was something I didn't want to involve them in. So with the help of a few friends, I quit on my own, which was very difficult, you must be friends, they were anytime I wanted to go out and party or go out, you know, clubbing with some of the other club kids, I would instead go and spend the evening with them, I spent the night over their homes, lots, and they would basically just keep me from going outside, keep me from being around the atmosphere in which I would want to do those drugs for about six months. And then finally, you know, I started accepting you know, as, as

much as I would love to not be around all this, I'm not going to be able to avoid it my entire life. But event, eventually, I got to the point, you know, where I could go anywhere I wanted to, and I don't have to worry about it. And I've been sober for five years. Almost five years,



22:55

since we were going to need you to work in some of the things with D, we're gonna have to cut this a little bit short tonight. But I do want to ask everybody, before we go, there are bound to be people in the audience tonight who are struggling with this. And they're going to want to know, how do they stop? What do they have to do? And I'd like to get some advice as we go around the table here. You're talking to an audience. Now, some of these people probably driving home from the bars tonight. And they may not be sober behind this wheel. So let me ask you, what do we say to them as they're going home tonight from the bars? What can we tell them that you've learned? What do you have they can use? When are we on any any just anyone who wants to concert with



23:36

let me let me throw this in real quick because and this may hit home as he hit on the subject that is an athlete, I think most people overlook it. You cannot talk about substance abuse it whether it be alcohol or drugs or any kind of substance abuse, and not talk about an HIV issue because they go hand in hand they do. You can't talk about HIV without talking about substance abuse to to go hand in hand. And maybe just maybe somebody driving home tonight will think you know, one more group beer, one more drug, whatever it is, and next time you do it, think about who you wake up next to the next morning. And that's a scary thought.



24:18

Yeah, the interesting thing about the connection between drugs and HIV is you don't need drugs that require shooting up that drive and mix the two because, you know, when you're speeding on code, you know, you're thinking, Oh, the sex is gonna be so incredible because I'm on code, you know, I'm up at a real high level. And you don't care. You know, if you if you really want sex, and you're, you know, and you're especially doped up on Coke, you will do anything you can to get it and it doesn't matter if it's clean, doesn't matter who it's with.



24:59

That sounds Pretty good message to me.



25:01

The one thing you said, and the first thing for me or for anyone else was, I had to realize one day that I really did have a problem. And denial is one of the things that runs hand in hand with all this, you know, is, is a six pack really too much? Or do you need a half a gallon of whiskey a day and still say you don't have a problem. It's recognized, and he was talking about maturity,

maturity at any age, the realization that I have a problem. And then the second thing is, is that I want to do something about it. And then what to do about it. There's different resources. In his case, his friends, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, cocaine anonymous, there's enough support programs out there for every addiction. It's just we have to decide we want to do something about our addiction. And that's what I had to do.



26:04

That's the key, you have to want it.



26:05

Yeah. That, for me, I was always like, that, just because I go to an AAA meeting, or in a meeting that I had to quit. You could go to any meeting. And if you just had a desire to quit, they don't have they don't not say you had to quit to come here. If you had the desire to quit drinking, come, and there's cup lamda. And there's also parenting minutes through. Now I was, I'm gay. I went to straight meetings. That's how bad I hurt. No matter what the hand of a is there. But it's up to the individual that people get confused why I don't know if I want to quit our drink or not. If you had desire to quit drinking. That's what it takes. It's there. Okay.



26:57

With me, kind of goes hand in hand with what Jennifer said. But I took things in kind of a roundabout order. When I finally hit, hit that bottom point and realize I finally admitted myself, yeah, I had a problem. I was leery about going to AAA, I just had I guess the the folks I grew up with AAA, they just badmouth it. And I was even even though I knew I needed to quit, and that will probably help. I still didn't want to go. I talked with a friend. And she recommended a therapist, just one on one. And the first thing he recommended was, Well, you probably need to quit drinking. And that's a start. And just in that one on one situation, kind of unthreatening. I thought, Okay, I'll give it a shot. And through some interesting series of events that I really don't have time to go into here. Over the next couple of weeks, I was able to quit. On my own. I eventually did go to some AAA meetings. The particular group I went to, I really ended up not liking all that much happened to be a straight group. There are plenty of gay oriented AAA groups. I've never been to NA, but I know plenty of people who do go to them. So there are they are out there. But eventually, I've really just been doing it on my own the last four years most of it. That's, I realized that's unusual, usually does take some some sort of group help.



28:30

But but you've got a support network around you to have friends. Yes, that's important. You can do it on your own. But you got it. The support group for you is important. Whether it is an AAA support group, whether it's personal friends support group of what you got to have that support around you.



28:48

And that goes in a circle because a lot of the friends I do have now I have because I think ranking right. I would not have met anybody in this room and not quit doing

29:01

it. You get the last word.

29:03

Okay, well one of the interesting things that I've noticed is I guess lately it's this is really starting to come up in my life as far as being sober and I guess there's a friend of mine who I'm working to try and get him off coke because you know, he's he's starting to develop a problem even though he's not necessarily aware of it. Although I have convinced him that he he is needed to cut back and he has been cutting back but at one point, you know, in my life I was where I didn't think it was a big deal that I had half an eight ball in a night and which which is a nasty problem, especially when you're going 50 bucks a pop just for your drugs but I I am I've recently met quite a bit of people who are in lamda. And I've met a few people who have been sober for several years, and some people who've been sober only for several months. And I guess it's really interesting talking to people who have gone through lamda or AAA. And having just done it on my own, because it was just oh, it was a completely different experience, doing it on your own, without, without the, you know, Al Anon or, you know, without a support group program, but I still had my network of friends, some of which had already been through the same thing that I had. But for me, it's just been a really invaluable experience, as much as I wish that I hadn't gone through it. It's something that, oddly enough, you know, I'm thankful that I survived enough to be able to talk to other people about it.

31:11

I want to thank all of you for coming in. This is no easy subject, I'm sorry that we don't have enough time to keep going with this. But we really do need to get the stuff for Dion. And then we have another guest out, it's still sitting out there yet. When

31:24

I say one, one last thing, and that is we've talked about the addiction. We've talked about what you can do to get clean and sober. The other thing is that I like to say that who's ever out there that you can't you will be able to live without drugs and alcohol. And that life is better. And I can assure you of that we're living proof. That that's that's the secret and the promise you live in you live better.

31:53

You're doing what you did. You'll



31:56

remember where you are every night.



31:57

You remember how much fun last night really was? Yeah,



32:00

well, it's it's also really interesting, because when you really enjoy some part of your life, and you're enjoying it sober, it makes it so much better that you didn't have to have a chemical to be able to enjoy it.



32:12

Edward, yeah, like to make something real quick. In recovery. I have got so much more emotionally, not financially, emotionally, self esteem. And I have the opportunity at this time to tell my poohbear I'm truly sorry. And I do want to marry you. And I wouldn't be able to do that without recovery. And that goes out to you. And a couple of months. I do want to marry you. I believe



32:36

we've just hit our first offer proposal and this



32:43

weekend couldn't do better than that.



32:51

And the qualifications have begun. Oh, no,



32:55

not half years. It took Thank you.



32:57

I want to I just want to thank you for being gracious enough to devote some of your time here to you about And because this is something that was really important to me and the basis on

on your show. And because this is something that was really important to me, and I'm here on the phones every Saturday night for all your listeners. And I'll have the numbers, the phone numbers of lamda and these other groups. I always make sure I have a list of these numbers if you ever need it. Just give me a call.



33:28

Okay, and yeah, and I'm sorry that we can't keep going unusual circumstances. I'd like to have this going on a lot longer, but we just don't have the time and the show tonight. Thank you all very much Jimmy. What do we have queued up here?



33:39

We've got deireadh man. I think Jennifer hit it right on the head. Things can only get better. You can



33:56

it That's right. It can only get better. Yeah, that's that was an absolutely perfect piece of news and considering the discussion that we had great stuff. Good



34:05

old D rave.



34:07

Is that the name of this person?



34:08

Yes. It's a group but I am a bit this D regime and looked at this as a Hakuna is that lead singer and he's he's a bisexual



34:21

I looked at this it's D colon rrim on something one and I thought what the hell is and he was D re D re walking once they learn something new. Okay, and he started the show we had said that we are going to do a tribute today. Yes. And I have spent the better part of two days going through some of the tapes. Ah, and I was trying to find the first time that we had D on the show. And we've D was here a lot. But usually out in the back office. We



34:56

right. She was I was saying I know D is long as I've known you, yeah, actually.



35:01

And so I was trying to find the first time we had her on the show, and the first time that I could find was in June of 95. Uh huh. And she was talking about her being a victim of a hate crime.



35:13

That's right, that and that's what she wanted to be on. Prior to that, you couldn't drag her to a microphone. That's right.



35:19

And it's funny, because when you listen to this piece, you'll hear say, Do you really want me to talk about this? Yes, we do. Yeah. And so we're gonna go to that first piece right now this is, I guess, about oh, three, four minutes. This is D talking about her being a victim of the hate crime. And I want you to listen to Jimmy's reaction to some of what he said that I thought this was just priceless. D if you'd like to talk about it, but I want to, let's talk about this now. You folks have heard me talk about hate crime. And you've heard me talk about how transgender people are not included in hate crimes. And maybe some people don't understand my passion about that. And I think D is going to help explain what the where the passion is coming from?



36:03

Well, about three weeks ago, I got home late one Tuesday night, actually the 16th of May if anybody's keeping count, got home late. And as is my habit. I was sitting on the couch, I had the apartment door open a few inches. Because my cat has been cooped up all day. She likes to go out there. And then she likes to come right back in again. And then she goes out again. And it's it's a luxury for her to have the door open for a few minutes. Sitting, I was sitting there going over the mail, and all of a sudden, the cat runs in, not in a playful mood at all. She was crouched down and clearly scared. And I thought, oh, what's happening? Just then the door got pushed open all the way. There were two men standing at the door. One was pretty much out of sight. The one who was inside had a bandana over his face. And they basically said, give us your purse. Some of the other words they used I don't think belong on the year. But they said Give us your purse. I said, Well, I said to myself, Oh, shucks, what do I do now? My purse is in the other room? Am I really going to go in there and get it? No, I don't think that's a good idea. So I said, Sorry, guys, I don't have it. I don't have my purse here to throw to you. And they repeated their request. And this time. The guy with the bandana who was doing all the talking motion to his partner and said he's got a gun. Well, his partner leaned forward and showed what they claimed was with a gun when I looked at it, it might have been a machine pistol. I don't know why, but I wasn't going to question what it was. And I thought, oh shocks. And I was thinking, gee, if they're going to shoot me in order to get the purse, what do we do if they get the purse? They'll probably shoot me anyway. So well, I just hope it doesn't hurt too much. And

we talked a little bit longer. And basically I convinced them that they weren't going to get a purse from me without shooting. So they went away. Well, that was that was pretty scary. But then again, I kind of asked for it sitting there at 11 o'clock at night with the door open. It's not a particularly high class neighborhood. So I said, Okay, well, I've learned something. I'll be smarter. Two days later, Thursday night, I got home about 1030 After some activities down in this part of town. And lo and behold, they were waiting outside for me. As I got close to the apartment, they jumped out around the corner of the building. One of them held a knife to my neck. The other one, the one with the bandana, waved the gun around in front of me. They wanted my purse. And we talked about it a little bit. And basically I finally said, Hey, what you guys really want is my money, right? Because I had a whole bunch of other stuff. You know, I'm like any other woman I carry more junk in my purse than any reasonable person should. And I certainly didn't want to part with it and wasn't going to do them any good. So they said yeah, we'll take the money. So I got my wallet out and didn't have much money in it. They only had a \$20 bill. transsexuals report folks. Well, and it was him several days after payday. So that was getting low. Well, that wasn't quite enough. We argued a little bit, give us the rest of it, where they thought I would have any more money, I don't know. And in the course of that discussion, the guy said something about bleeping man wearing a dress, which told me that in the earlier encounter, they had detected from my voice, that I was a former man. Well, I wasn't going to straighten them out on the details. And partly by then they'd grabbed the person grabbed the wallet anyway and took off.



40:56

You're probably lucky you were not raised.



41:00

I'm lucky in a whole lot of ways. You're lucky to be alive. I lost my driver's license, my social security card and \$20. And not a whole lot else. Now. How



41:11

did the police handle this? You



41:12

report this place? Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. Both times I called the police out. I want to thank HPD the officers in both calls were extremely courteous, extremely helpful. No trace of discrimination against me. They figured, hey, here's somebody who has suffered a loss. And let's investigate it and see what we can find out. And now they address me as ma'am all the way through. Up until after the second encounter when I after I had finished telling the officer everything that happened. I said, Oh, one more thing. I would like this listed as a hate crime. And he said, Okay, ma'am, on what grounds we can do that. And I said, Well, that's because I'm a transsexual. The guys had talked about a man wearing a dress, and I'm convinced that's why they came back here. First time where it was was a chance thing that was, let's face it, partly

my fault. Second time, they came back for me, because they perceived me as a man wearing a dress. And then the cop was funny. He said, Okay, sir, we'll write it up. Which gave me a great opportunity. I said