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CONTINUED FROM OCTOBER 1994 —

So, AFTER MY FATHERS DEATH, WE AS THE BLACKSTONE FAMILY STUCK TOGETHER AND MADE IT THROUGH THE ROUGH SPOTS. THE DEATH OF MY FATHER WAS REAL DEVASTATING TO MY GRANDMOTHER (NANA, HIS MOTHER), AS IT WAS EVEN HARD ON HER TO COME AND VISIT ME; BECAUSE HE WASN'T THERE. BUT AS A STRONG WOMAN SHE WAS, SHE PULLED THROUGH IT ALL AND WAS BACK TO HERSELF. MY MOM IS THE STRONGEST WOMAN I KNOW, BECAUSE OF ALL SHE'S GONE THROUGH IN JUST THE 8' YRS SO FAR SHE IS A REAL TROOPER.

IN 1995, I GOT A JOB IN THE VISITING ROOM AND IT WAS THE BEST JOB I'VE EVER HAD IN PRISON. I ENJOYED VERY MUCH EVERY WEEKEND TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND BE AROUND FAMILYS, BECAUSE IT TOOK ME AWAY FROM THE YARD FOR 3 DAYS OUT OF THE WEEK AND ACTUALLY MADE ME FEEL AS A HUMAN. WAS A REAL JOY TO GET OUTSIDE AND PLAY WITH THE CHILDREN. THE ONLY THING THAT HURT ME TO WORK THERE, WAS WHEN INMATES WOULD GET A VISIT AND WHEN THEIR FAMILY WOULD WALK IN, THE CHILDREN WOULD BY-PASS THEM & COME GREET US WORKERS FIRST. THEY KNEW WHERE TO COME, TO GET THE ATTENTION THEY WERE MISSING... SO — ALWAYS HUG & GIVE YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN THE UTMOST LOVE, SUPPORT AND ATTENTION THEY DESERVE. BECAUSE HOPEFULLY ONE DAY YOU'LL BE HOME TO A LOVING FAMILY.

IT'S NOW 1996 AND I MUST SAY THE BEST YEAR OF MY SO-CALLED LIFE SO FAR. IN APRIL 96, I SEEN THIS ONE LADY AT VISIT, WHO REALLY CAUGHT MY EYE. I DON'T GO FOR WOMEN WITH SHORT HAIR, BUT HERS WAS (OVER HER EARS). I NOTICED SHE CAME WITH A FRIEND OF HERS TO VISIT HER GUY. WELL, I HAPPEN TO KNOW THIS GUY, AND INQUIRED TO WHO SHE WAS AT END OF VISIT. HE TOLD ME HER NAME WAS KATHY, 23 YRS OLD & WAS SINGLE WITH 2 CHILDREN. SO LATER

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THAT NIGHT AT THE UNIT WE LIVED ON, HE SAID HE WAS CALLING HIS GIRL AND WOULD MENTION ME. HE CAME TO MY CELL AND TOLD ME THAT HE JUST TALKED TO HIS GIRL & KATHY WAS STILL THERE AT HER HOUSE AND IT CAME TO LIGHT THAT SHE WAS ASKING ABOUT ME AS WELL. SO HE CALLED HER BACK & WE GOT TO TALK FOR ABOUT 10 MINS. IT WAS LIKE WE HAD KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR YEARS. I ASKED IF SHE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT ME AND SHE SAID YES, TO MY SURPRISE. SAID SHE WAS COMING DOWN NEXT WEEKEND AND WE WOULD TALK THEN.

SEEMED LIKE THE NEXT WEEKEND WOULDN'T GET HERE QUICK ENOUGH. THE DAY CAME AND I FELT LIKE A STIDDY SCHOOL KID. WE HUGGED RIGHT OFF THE BAT AND WAS VERY MUCH AT EASE. WE FLIRTED BACK & FORTH ALL DAY, AND THE LAST HOUR OF VISIT, WE LEANED IN TOGETHER AND SHARED OUR FIRST KISS. WAS LIKE WE WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER. SHE GOT ON MY VISITING LIST & WAS COMING UP 2 TIMES A WEEK FOR ABOUT 30 HRS.

CAME TO FIND OUT, SHE WAS GOING THROUGH A DIVORCE. PLUS SHE WAS SUPPOSE TO GO INTO THE AIR FORCE IN ABOUT 3 MONTHS. I MET HER CHILDREN (KYLE 5 YRS OLD & BRITNY 2 YRS OLD) AFTER ABOUT A MONTH AND THEY ATTACHED THEMSELVES TO ME REAL QUICK AND IT WAS A JOY TO BE AROUND THEM. I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD FIND SOMEONE I REALLY CARED ABOUT, MUCH LESS SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO BE AROUND ME AS WELL BEING LOCKED UP. I MUST SAY, I FELT IN LOVE WITH HER REAL QUICK.

SHE BECAME ILL ONE DAY & FOUND OUT THAT SHE HAD TO HAVE HER GALBLADDER REMOVED. ONCE YOUVE HAD MAJOR SURGERY, YOU CANT GO INTO ANY ARMED FORCES AND I KNEW SHE WAS VERY DEVASTATED TO HEAR THAT.

ITS NOW SEPT. 1997 AND WE ARE STILL TOGETHER AND HER CHILDREN LOVE ME TO DEATH AND HAVE STARTED CALLING ME DADDY, WHICH MADE ME FEEL SO PROUD, I WANTED TO MAKE THEM VERY PROUD OF ME & TO ALSO NOT FAIL THEM AS I DID MY DAUGHTER. WE WERE MADLY IN LOVE AND COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF EACH OTHER, MY GRANDMOTHER & MOM REALLY LOVED KATHY AND

THE KIDS AND MY GRANDMOTHER WHISPERED TO ME ONE DAY THAT I SHOULD MARRY HER. IN OCTOBER '97, MY GRANDMOTHER PASSED AWAY. WAS QUITE A BLOW TO ME, AS SHE WAS LIKE A SECOND MOM TO ME. LIKE MY MOM, MY GRANDMOTHER NEVER RAISED HER VOICE & NEVER HAD A BAD WORD TO SAY ABOUT ANYONE. EVERYONE THAT CAME INTO CONTACT WITH HER, HAD NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR HER. I THINK OF HER OFTEN & IT ALWAYS PUTS A SMILE ON MY FACE, 😊 SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER CALLED ME "RICHIE".

I ASKED KATHY TO MARRY ME NOVEMBER '97. TO MY SURPRISE, SHE ACCEPTED. I ASKED HER TO REALLY THINK ON THIS, AS I COULD BE HOME TOMORROW OR NEVER, AND I REALLY PUSHED IT ON HER ABOUT THE NEVER PART. SHE WAS YOUNG AND HAD HER WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF HER AND HAD HER CHILDREN TO LOOK AFTER BEFORE ANYONE. I JUST WANTED HER TO BE 100% SURE. IN MARCH OF '98 KATHY TOLD ME SHE WAS SURE AND WE WERE MARRIED ON MAY 29th 1998. WAS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE, (BESIDES DAUGHTER BEING BORN). WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND I HAD MY MOM THERE & SHE HAD HER FAMILY THERE. KYLE AND BRITNY WERE RING BARRER & FLOWER GIRL.

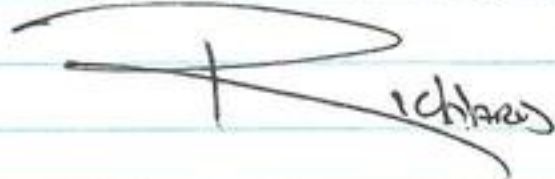
TO MAKE MINE & HER LIFE STORY SHORT, SHE CHEATED ON ME IN SEPT '99 & I ACCEPTED HER BACK, THEN AGAIN IN JULY 2000, SHE DONE IT AGAIN. I KNEW THAT WHEN WE GOT MARRIED, THAT THIS COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN, BUT DIDNT WANT TO ACCEPT IT. FOR SOME REASON, I REALLY WANTED HER BACK IN MY LIFE. WHY, I SUPOSE THAT I FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE I TRULY LOVED. I'VE NEVER CHEATED ON ANY GIRL I WAS WITH AND THAT'S WHY IT HURT SO BAD. MY SHORTEST RELATIONSHIP WAS 2WKS (JUST BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE WITH ME, BEFORE MOVING TO CALIFORNIA) AND THE LONGEST WAS 5YRS. MY MOM TAUGHT ME TO BE A GENTLEMAN AND ONLY BE WITH ONE WOMAN. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I'M AT A LOSS WITHOUT HER & THE KIDS. BUT CAME TO GRIPS THAT SHE HAS TO LIVE HER LIFE THE WAY SHE SEES FIT FOR HER AND HER CHILDREN. I MISS KYLE & BRITNY EVERY DAY.

JANUARY 2003, I WAS SITTING IN MY CELL AND 4 COPS CAME AND TOLD ME TO PACK MY STUFF, THAT I

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WAS BEING TRANSFERRED. I ASKED WHY? BUT THEY DIDN'T
KNOW OR WOULDN'T SAY. I'VE BEEN AT THIS MEDIUM
FACILITY FOR 11 YRS AND WAS VERY COMFORTABLE THERE.
DOWN IN TRANSPORT HALLWAY, I HAD A LIEUTENANT,
2 SERGEANTS, 1 CO AND A CASE MANAGER COME TO SEE
ME OFF & WISH ME WELL. I HAD KNOWN ALL OF THEM
SINCE THEY STARTED IN CORRECTIONS. I WAS TRANSPORTED
TO THE PLACE I'M AT NOW.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Richard