

HONORABLE MENTION

Kimberly Rozeboom

Plymouth Christian High School

12th Grade

Sara peered into the room looking around frantically, the moonlight from the window seeped inside and the rest of the gloomy room was pitch black. It was a relief to Sara that the room was empty. Every step Sara made was soundless. She proceeded to shut the door tightly and crawl into bed. She pulled the covers up to her chin; her gorgeous face appeared to be terrified. Just as she expected, he followed her. She listened carefully to every creak he made as he climbed the old stairs. Fear overwhelmed her with every step he made. Her single father opened the door. Sara closed her eyes tightly; she was petrified. Her father crept into the bed with Sara who was only fourteen years old. Night after night Sara was abused.

In society today so many children are abused, and they don't have the courage to tell someone about their situation. Sara was different. For several nights she was abused, but finally she did find the courage to tell her mom about her several sleepless nights. Some people believe that if they were being abused, they would tell someone immediately, but it's not always that easy. So many emotions and fears are involved, and the victim is often manipulated. Sara experienced all of these emotions personally. It was the farthest thing from easy for Sara to tell her mom about her situation.

Sara's family was already broken. Sara's parents divorced when she was eleven. Sara didn't want to cause any more trouble in her family. Sara's younger brothers looked up to their father; they didn't know what was going on. Sara thought that it was her fault that her father came into her room every night. She thought that being abused was something she deserved. Sara's father continued to manipulate her. Every night she was convinced that nobody needed to know what was happening. She was threatened that if she told anyone about what was happening, she would be severely punished and even worse things would happen to her. However, Sara knew deep down inside that something wasn't quite right.

Sara's father was a very nice man, and he appeared to be a great dad. This also made it a challenge for Sara to tell someone what was happening. Sara wasn't sure if anyone would believe her. Sara also loved her dad, so it was very difficult to disobey him, but Sara couldn't live her life in fear anymore. Trembling, with tears rolling down her face, Sara told her mother everything. Sara's mother was shocked, and she told Sara that none of the things that happened were her fault. She had to convince Sara that the best thing to do was to call the police. That day Sara's dad was arrested.

Courage is the ability to do something that frightens one. Sara had courage to tell her mom everything even though it frightened her. Today, Sara's father is a changed man after receiving a lot of help from ministers and others. He learned a hard lesson while he was in prison. Sara's life has also changed. After a few years of counseling Sara has almost fully recovered. Sara no longer has to live her life in fear because of the courage she had that day.