

Personal Narrative

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“When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11, NLT, 2011).

Although five years ago I was 27 and not a child, my behaviors at the time were not very mature or responsible. Erik Erikson may suggest that I was living in the Identity versus role confusion stage of life, I questioned and feared how I could continue to provide for my children while also questioning how I fit into the world around me (Axia College, Week Seven, Reading 2. p., 374).

I felt desperate and out of touch with the world. I was a single mother of three children and I received no financial support from my ex husband. It was because of this that I felt I needed to take drastic measures to ensure (or so I thought) financial stability for myself and my children. My external influences had gotten the best of me and I decided to enter the adult industry as a pornographic actress.

I did not know at the time that pornography was socially constructed to the detriment of women. I was aware that pornography was having sex for money on film, but I did not know the truth about the rampant spread of sexually transmitted diseases, the abuses and addictions that go on behind the scenes of a pornographic film, nor did I know that according to Cal-Osha the majority of pornographic films are actually filmed illegally. My common sense and self-regard gave way to my desperation for temporary monetary reward. My motivation became entirely self-pleasing, selfish and extrinsically based.

The more involved I became with the pornographic film industry, the more I lost touch with reality. I became the character I was on film and lost track of who I really was. I started using marijuana, alcohol and pain medications just to get through scenes and after a while started

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getting high or wasted just because the drugs and alcohol were present. I became distant, withdrawn and depressed. Anxiety began to plague my life as perverse demands from pornographic producers grew and the pressure from fans to see more lewd acts heightened.

Initially my sole purpose for entering the pornographic film industry was to provide for my children. I had the right kind of drive and determinism, I had good intentions, but my morals were conflicted and this caused me a great deal of anxiety (Axia College, Week Five, Reading 2, p., 250). Sigmund Freud might say I was lost in my Id, living out uncontrollable sexual desires while justifying my behavior because of the need for financial gain, but I do not believe this to be true (Axia College, Week Five, Reading 2, p., 261).

Out of control and headed for destruction, I needed to make a drastic change in my life or else I knew I was going to die, I needed to change my behavioral disposition. On the verge of suicide I got on my knees and started to pray. God had always been a focal point in my life, but I had slipped away from my entire childhood Biblical teachings and needed clarity. After crying out to God for hours I began an online search for help. I found a woman named Shelley Lubben who had been helping women in my same situation since 1999. I immediately reached out to her and she immediately reached back out to me.

After a year and a half of being a pornographic actress I left the porn industry for good in October of 2007 and I have been working with Shelley Lubben and her nonprofit foundation The Pink Cross ever since. Together we have managed to help change obscenity laws, enforce current laws, educate thousands of pornographic film fans about the truth behind the fantasy of pornographic movies and have rescued many women and men out of the pornographic film industry.

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Seemingly overnight I found new purpose for my life. The abuses and addictions I suffered through during my time in the pornographic film industry led me to rearrange my hierarchy of self-actualization and get my priorities in place. My goal orientated motivation is no longer extrinsic, but intrinsic. The pornographic film industry sought to shape and mold me into a glorified prostitute with no hope for any kind of a real future, God and Shelley Lubben have helped to change all of that.

Through speaking engagements and numerous pornographic conventions and outreaches, I have become quite the extrovert and extremely conscientious. I have a very full plate taking care of my children while attending school full time, a husband in the Army and part time ministerial work, but I stay focused and determined to finish what I start.

I love knowing that I have made a positive difference in someone's life and becoming a psychologist is a big part of my personalities' and professional continuity. As an ex pornographic actress who left the pornographic industry and chose to return as a chaplain and missionary of the truth behind the preconceived fantasies of that industry, I have been investing my time and energy into forms of life and work that will outlive my existence (Axia College, Week Seven, Reading 2. p., 361).

If I could go back in time and change this scenario I do not believe that I would. I have come to the realization that people learn the most through personal experiences and because of my personal experiences in the pornographic film industry, I am affecting positive change in other people's lives. I believe I am now in Erik Erikson's seventh stage of life, Generativity versus stagnation and I have learned how to fashion my gift (Axia College, Week Seven, Reading 2. p., 348).

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References

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