

One of my earliest memories as a child was being electrocuted after touching a plug in my room. This happened prior to the flood that destroyed our home so I was at least 3 years old. The reason this happened was because I was unsupervised, my mother being somewhere else.

Most of my childhood was spent being alone unsupervised. My parents were absent psychologically and emotionally most all of my life. They made efforts early on to be parents but eventually became disinterested stand-ins having given up on any hope for me and my future when I was very young. They seemed to believe my being an illegitimate child born out of wedlock was a curse that lowered my status and potential in the world that also shamed them.

I meet many families and children in my line of work and note the amount of love and time the parents put into their children's lives. I also note how much patience parents have with their children. My parents were largely AWOL after the age of 6 when my sister was born. They invested very little time and money in me and later complained of the expense of my braces as if it was a burden to them.

I look back on my childhood and consider myself an orphan having lived with strangers who were using me for their own purposes. They wanted to destroy me and my future because they knew I could grow up and testify as to them one day.