

“Who was I?”

First I would like to ask, how did she walk into a building knowing what she would find? Maybe she was the only family he had, or maybe he was the only family she had? I just wonder, how was their relationship?

They probably had the best relationship possible, but a part of me hopes that she hated him. ***But who was I?*** I wonder, did they talk often, or did they talk at all? Maybe they didn't talk in years. Did he walk her down the aisle, or was he even invited to the wedding? Maybe she wasn't ready or just waiting for his approval. ***But who was I?*** What if her parents were happily married and together her whole life? Maybe she only saw him when she needed school clothes or sneakers and on her birthdays. ***But still who was I?*** When she was in fear, who did she think would protect her? I hope she has a tough brother or a great husband. ***But who was I?*** I wonder if they went for walks, or did he take her to amusement parks? Maybe he never had the time. What if he was in and out of jail like us? ***But who was I? Who was I?*** Who was I to take this lady's father? Who was I to kill the moments they could've had? Who was I to take those minimal hugs and kisses she probably got once a year? Who was I to take the relationship they had to work on? Who was I to take her protection? Who was I to take her #1 fan? Who was I to take her best friend, her peanut-butter & jelly sandwich? maker, her toy repairman, her bedtime-story reader, her problem solver, her joke-teller, her sidekick, her role model, her father! See, I never felt for my victim. I always felt dumb for doing something so random, but I didn't realize what I had done until I took my first optional program in 2014. “Long Term Offenders.” That's where I met my first group of Lifers and started to learn about the ripple effects of my crime. So looking through my own case, which included a death certificate, I realized what I had done to this little girl's life. No matter what her age is. And there's nothing I can do to give her the many moments she should've had. I don't even know how to say sorry.

At the very moment I took what this young lady had, I took what my daughter should or could've had. So I ask all the men here today, please don't make the same mistake I did and tear 2 families' lives apart.

Please, Brothers, Please. Please!