

## Excerpts from How Hollywood Got Sex and Life All Wrong

### Canoe Trip

On another trip Clare and I decided to take was a canoe trip down a creek near the Mohican State Park in Ohio. It was a great weather day for canoeing and our plan was to canoe down this creek for about 12 miles and be picked up by a bus and returned to our car. It all started out fine until we got to some rapids on a bend in the creek. Several canoes got stuck because of the current and other canoes were blocking the way. I tried to guide the canoe to the far side, but it was no use and we drifted into the other canoes in the bend. Everybody was trying to get out of the entanglement without getting sunk. I was having a great time! I looked back at Clare, and she appeared in shock. I asked her what was wrong and somehow, she grabbed a sagging tree branch and started crying. I jumped out of the canoe into chest deep water with a strong current and told her to let go of the tree branch and I would push her and the canoe to the opposite shore. She did not believe me, or she was just too scared. It took me several minutes to convince Clare to let go so I could take her to shore. After I got her to shore, I fished out our canoe and we finished our trip as planned. I had an exciting time and Clare apologized. I loved Clare very much and at times like these I loved her even more for being Clare.

### A Passionate Affair

It was late in 1975 when I met a new woman in my life by the name of Helen. My marriage with Clare was over but legally lasted for another 6 years. Clare was not ready for our separation and thought that I should stay around until she was ready to move on with her life. I had already made up my mind. We separated several times in the last 6 years. I am sure another woman in my life did not help, but it was something that just happened. I did not have to look far because Helen Strahl was my boss's secretary. I was 29 and she was a cute 5'1 blonde that was 19 at the time. Several of the office people went out for a drink after work one day. As we were sitting around talking, Helen and I realized we both were looking for the same thing. I traveled between 3 warehouses, so I got to see Helen every day because she worked at the home office. Our home office was where I finished my days' work and filed my reports. At first, we just talked and then we made a stop for a drink again just by ourselves. There were many times I really was hoping Clare, and I could turn this thing around. One thing led to another before long we would stop at her apartment which led us making out and then making love. Helen and I had lots of fun together. I will never forget the time we went canoeing on a warm May day. The water was high, and the rapids were fast. She had never canoed before, and I had little experience. We were attempting to turn a curve in the waterway when a tree branch struck the canoe and tipped us over. In we went! Boy was that water COLD, and the warm May day became a cold, wet and bone chilling day and we had just started. We swam to the shore, and I lost my wallet and Helen's camera. We recovered our canoe and finished our trip down the river without incident. We still had fun and kept each other warm.

Another time we played basketball in a light drizzle, but most of our time was spent at her apartment. Helen knew that I was a great big Elvis Presley fan, and she was too. Helen bought tickets for two (2) to see Elvis in Concert at the OSU French Field House and we both went to see the greatest entertainer in my life. It was without a doubt the best concert I have ever witnessed. We had an exciting time, and it will be something that I will never forget. One time while we are resting in her bed after just making love, we heard a sound like someone was trying to get in the apartment door. I said, "what's that?" and Helen said, "it's probably the paper boy," when suddenly, a man was entering her apartment, so I jumped up naked and hid behind the bedroom door. Helen yelled to the man that she was with a friend, but it was too late he already headed to the room suggesting that it was nice finding Helen sitting up in her bed naked with the sheet pulled up to her neck. She gave someone a key to her apartment. Well,

not hearing, Helen probably because after seeing Helen in her state of undress; he came into the room and sat down on her bed begging her to see him again. Helen said, "Bob I've got someone here," when she pointed across the room to me standing halfway behind the bedroom door naked!!! I just smiled and said, "Hi Bob." To my surprise Bob said, "he was sorry" and left the apartment faster than when he came in. After he left, we just laughed, and Helen explained Bob to me and how they broke up, but he kept bothering her. We took a shower together and went to the movies. Helen never heard from Bob again. We continued to see each other until June of 1976 when Clare and I took a vacation. I did not tell Helen that Clare and I were going on vacation.

### New Family

While I was still living in West Jefferson and Robin was still at Bill's place, she was court ordered to go to ex-husband's mother's place and pick up the kids, but she did not have a vehicle to go. I knew how much she wanted to see her kids because I knew she had not seen them in a year. I told her to take my old beat-up Volkswagen. I was afraid she might not make it there and back. I tried to get her a rental but that did not work. So off she went in my beat-up old Volkswagen that barely ran with only one door that worked. I prayed that she would make it up there and back, but she did not care. She was on her way up the pickup her kids. I was so glad I could help, that tears came from feeling so happy for her. They made it back and I was introduced to Chasity and Chad. Chasity was 5 and Chad was 2 and we hit it off immediately especially with Chad. Chasity, being a little bit older, was not sure who I was or what I was doing with her mommy. She kept asking when mommy and daddy were getting back together again and who was this guy named Jim. The kids were neat but the clothes they were wearing needed to be cleaned so badly that I decided at once that I was going to go buy them some new clothes to wear. I left without telling anybody and returned with some new clothes for them to wear. Now it was Robin's turn to cry, and I was glad to help. Robin gave them a bath and put on their new clothes. It was then that I knew this was going to be my new family. Robin took them back to their grandmothers and upon her return we planned our new life together. We got married in October of 1982 at the Franklin County Courthouse in the judge's office along with a little 3-year-old by the name of Chad. The whole time Chad hugged his new dad's leg which the judge got a kick out of. After we were married, he wished us well and told me to take loving care of that little guy. Robin got permanent custody of the kids and we settled down to raise a family. When I met Chas and Chad, they were 5 and 2 respectively and when Robin and I got married they had just turned were 6 and 3. I always wanted a family, and I thought I would be a good dad. Clare and I never had any children. My new family was what my life was missing. I loved being a dad and there was no greater feeling than bringing smiles and laughter to their little faces. I treated the kids just as if they were mine. One of the greatest moments I will ever cherish was when these two kids called me DAD. We all had a great life together.

### Life is Short.

My girlfriend of 17 years, Vicki, started having problems remembering what she was supposed to do at Walmart where she worked part-time. I came home one day and found Vicki at home trying to talk on the phone to one of her friends. I could tell by the conversation that she was having a challenging time expressing herself and remembering to whom she was talking. It was then that she told me that her manager at Walmart sent her home because she forgot what to do. I told her I thought we should make a trip to Riverside Hospital to have things checked out. The doctors and nurses could tell things were not right. They told us that she needed an x-ray of the brain to see if anything could be causing her problems. The results were scary, they found a large tumor that covered her entire upper brain plus 4 more on the lower half. Vicki's condition was considered terminal. In the month of June, I went to visit

Vicki at the nursing home where she was staying because of brain cancer, a stroke and now diabetes has affected her body at the age of 69. But this was a special visit because she was happy, awake and eating some sherbet she obviously was enjoying and asked me "what was this stuff"? It made me laugh and she chuckled too. I had come into the room unexpectedly but with a smile enjoying her presence as I have for over 17 years. Some visits were uneventful, she slept a lot; we would hold hands at times and occasionally talk to each other, mostly me doing the talking. She says things at times that do not make sense but that does not matter. It is her smile or a little laugh that matters now. She still recognizes me at times as she did this time. I said Hi, she said "What are you doing here"? Now she had me confused, but I carried on as if she did not. I noticed she was eating what looked like sherbet and really enjoying it much more than me being there. But that is ok, I still love her. I started this little conversation about how she felt, and she said OK. I told her about the visit I had with her yesterday and if she remembered me being there and she said, "a little bit." As I was enjoying our little visit and she, her sherbet, I told her how much I missed her, loved her, and wished everything were as it was before they found that tumor in her brain. Vicki was enjoying her sherbet. Some days were better than others. I got up, reached over, and gave her a gentle kiss on the lips, and she smiled as if that was a pleasant surprise not knowing if she knew who I was. I told her that I loved her and would be seeing her tomorrow. She told me "I'm sleepy." Vicki passed away Saturday July 22.