

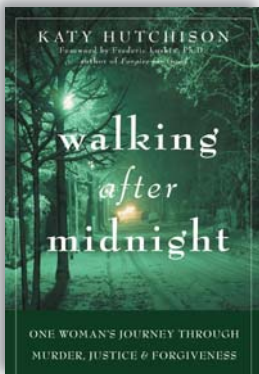
A powerful story of murder, forgiveness, and restorative justice, now the inspiration for a made for TV movie on Lifetime.

"[This] story is also about forgiveness. I decided very early on that I was not going to define myself, my family, or the person who caused the harm by the act that connected us.

Using the principles of restorative justice, we sat face to face and explored what led up to, caused and ultimately followed the event. The courage it took to face the situation head-on was rewarded with a renewed sense of safety, community and hope. ... I never would have imagined that such profound tragedy would take me on a journey laden with life-altering gifts. But it did.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my story."

—**KATY HUTCHISON**, from ***Walking After Midnight***



Katy's Story

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE IN 1997 Katy's husband, Bob McIntosh, went across the street to quiet a teen-aged house

party gone bad. He never came back. The victim of a brutal attack that remained unsolved for four years, his death threatened to destroy his family.

For four years Katy endured the "code of silence" that kept the identity of her husband's killer a mystery, but she refused to let Bob's death be a devastating focal point of her life or their children's. Instead she chose to create something positive from their loss by starting an outreach program (called "The Story of Bob") in which she speaks to students, their parents, and teachers about the danger of drugs, alcohol, and peer pressure, and the affect it has had on her family.

When after four years the police arrested a young man named Ryan Aldridge for Bob's murder Katy insisted on meeting with him. That meeting proved to be the beginning of a new journey — one of forgiveness and, ultimately, a compelling and heart-searching campaign for restorative justice that has resulted in a positive bond with the man that killed her husband as they both work to prevent tragedies like Bob's death from happening to other families.

Now the inspiration for the upcoming Lifetime movie *Bond of Silence*, Katy Hutchison's amazing story of strength and forgiveness continues to inspire her audiences and readers alike.

"As Katy Hutchison reveals here, to forgive and seek reconciliation not only requires even more strength than a resort to force or retaliation, but also ensures deeper, more far-reaching beneficial consequences for all concerned."

—**The Dalai Lama**

NEXT: About the Author & Suggested Interview Questions

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WALKING AFTER MIDNIGHT

One Woman's Journey Through Murder, Justice, & Forgiveness,
Katy Hutchison
October 2006 / ISBN-13: 9781572245037 / Hardcover / \$24.95
6 x 9 / 256 pp., 16 bw illus



About **Katy Hutchison**, author of
***Walking After Midnight: One Woman's Journey
Through Murder, Justice, and Forgiveness***

Katy Hutchison, a passionate advocate for restorative justice, is a professional speaker working with young people on topics in social responsibility. Her program, inspired by the events surrounding the murder of her husband, has reached more than 400,000 people across Canada and the United States. She was nominated for the Courage to Come Back Award in 2003, the Woman of Distinction Award in 2004, and was the recipient of the Canadian Living From Me to We Award for

Social Action in 2005.

Remarried, Katy Hutchison lives in Victoria, BC, Canada with her husband and children. Visit her online at **WWW.KATYHUTCHISONPRESENTS.COM**.

"This is the heart of the matter. I believe that when something happens to us in this life—whether it is something that is put upon us or something we bring on ourselves— we all have a responsibility to roll up our sleeves and clean up the mess. Sometimes this means we find ourselves working alongside the very person or people who caused the harm. But what of it? Why do we back away and say, "I do not have to do anything with or near this person," when the potential for such profound change and healing exists? What more powerful alliance could there be than those responsible for and those most affected by harm?" —**Katy Hutchison**

**Suggested
Interview
Questions**

1. Tell us what your life was like before New Year's Eve of 1997.
2. What happened that night?
3. How did you and the police manage to piece together what happened that night at the house party? How long did it take the authorities to make an arrest in the case?
4. In the book you mention a "code of silence" that kept many young people from speaking up. Were the people who had some idea what had happened threatened to keep silent, or did they simply not want to get involved?
5. Was the host of the party, your friends' son, ever a suspect in Bob's murder? Why?
6. At one point you had decided to file a civil suit in response to your husband's murder. Whom had you decided to sue?
7. What affect did your decision to sue have on your friendships in Squamish?
8. Why did you ultimately drop the suit?
9. Have you had any contact with your former friends, the Cudmores, since your lawsuit was dropped? Have you ever received an apology from Jamie Cudmore?

Continued on next page

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Suggested Interview Questions

10. Do you know where Ryan McMillan [the man who threw the punch that knocked Bob down] is today? Do you believe that he has truly taken responsibility for his role in what happened that night?

11. How did you (or do you) feel about the sentences McMillan and Ryan Aldridge were given? Do you feel that they got off easily for what they did to your family?

12. At what point did you decide that you wanted to meet with Ryan Aldridge? What was his reaction to meeting you? What is your relationship with him now?

13. Can you say a little bit about the concept of "restorative justice?"

14. There has been a lot more discussion about discussion about restorative justice in the U.S. since your book was released in 2006. What type of feedback to you get from Americans who attend your programs?

15. You remarried less than a year after Bob's death. What was the reaction of your family and friends to this?

15a. You say in your book that you were "grieving and loving at the same time." Did your family and friends have a hard time understanding this?

16. At what point did you decide that you wanted to share Bob's story with students?

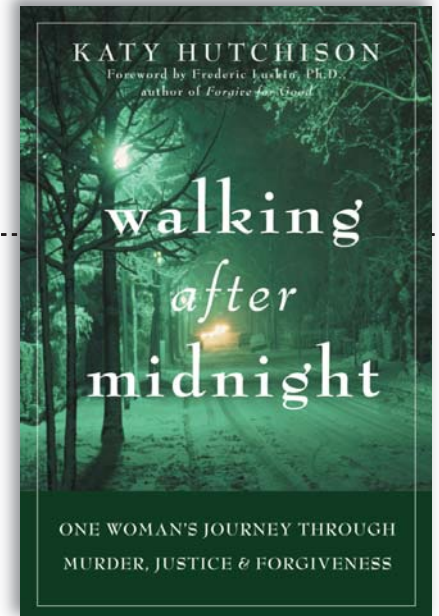
16a. How have young people responded to your presentation? Have you ever been surprise by something that they've said or asked?

17. What is your life like today?

18. What were your first thoughts when you found out Lifetime wanted to make a movie inspired by your story?

19. How do you feel about the movie that they made, *Bond of Silence*?

20. What do you hope readers of your book and viewers of the movie learn from your story?



NEXT: Excerpt from *Walking After Midnight*

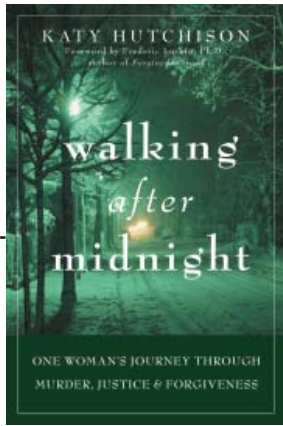
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"Bob has been hurt, you need to come."

Excerpt

My first thought is that since I have been drinking wine throughout the evening, I cannot drive. Clearly that is not even a consideration, as Brenda, the reluctant officer, appears to be our driver. This is not looking good.

I feel like I'm in slow motion and fast forward all at the same time. I agonize over what shoes to put on. I'm wearing the new red-and-black-plaid wool skirt I bought when Bob and the twins and I were shopping in Vancouver on Boxing Day. But the elegant black high heels I have chosen for our dinner party are not the right shoes to wear out the door with the police. Bob gave me some red suede hiking boots for Christmas. They'll work with the skirt, I decide. They'll be safe, too, and that seems important just now. I sense I'm going to need my feet firmly planted to face what is coming.

Shauna and Shelley sit in stunned silence in the kitchen. They assure me they will watch over the twins, who are fast asleep upstairs with Delaney. As I leave them, I look for something safe to think about. I wonder if they will soak the pots from dinner. The bouillabaisse kettle will be messy to deal with later. As the police car winds through the maze of streets that leads out rushing in my temples and my mind is jumping back and forth between drastically different scenarios. I imagine first that Bob has slipped on the ice, breaking an arm. Then I leap to the awful possibility that he has dropped dead of a heart attack. Either is entirely possible. I want to throw up. ...

Pushing through the double swinging doors into the trauma room, I recognize the doctor on call. Ken is one of Bob's running companions. Most Sunday mornings he will join the men for their weekly trek through the network of trails around Alice Lake, often ending up back at our house for coffee. But now he is holding the defibrillator paddles in his hands, preparing to jump-start Bob's heart. Our eyes lock for a second. The blood drains from Ken's face when he sees me. Only now does he realize the trauma patient he is working on is Bob. Up to this point his focus has been on continuing the chest compressions that began in the ambulance. The gurney is positioned in such a way that Ken has not been able to recognize Bob's face.

The two paramedics who were in the ambulance with Bob watch for a moment and then gently push me out through the doors toward the nurses' station...

Ken appears through the swinging doors of the trauma room. The sound of his voice yanks me out of my suspended state. His face is ashen and his movements awkward. The words jerk out of him like a child's sobs. "I don't know what happened. Bob is dead." Ken's crying fades beneath another noise. It takes a second before

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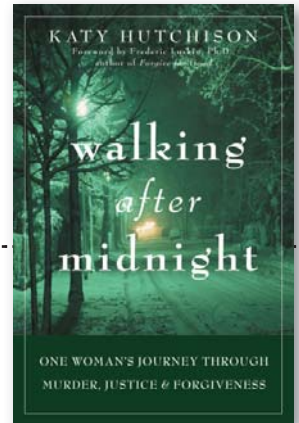
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I realize it is coming from me. It is not a sound I have heard before, or one I knew any human was capable of making. My knees give way. I am doubled over on the floor and the noise keeps coming. I don't want it to be like this. ...

Standing in the hall, I can see into both Emma's and Sam's bedrooms as they sleep through the end of dawn. When they wake up their innocence will be gone. They will come down the stairs and ask where Daddy is. Why is Aunty Jenny here? I want to stop the clock while I figure out how I am going to tell them. My legs begin to shake and I return to the safety of the couch.

Emma is the first to appear. Sleepily, she nuzzles into me on the couch, pleased to see the fire. Her damp, curly hair smells of peaceful slumber. Lily, our dachshund, leaps up to snuggle her. When Emma notices Jenny, she straightens up and realizes that things are not as they should be. I search for the simplest words to say.

"Emma Bear, I have something hard to tell you. Something bad happened last night to Daddy." Inhale. Pause.

"He is dead." Done. All I know. How could there ever be the right words to say this?

She is quiet for a time, trembling under my arm. I want to be sick. "Mummy, you have a big problem. You need to find a new husband because I will need a new daddy," are the words she finds. And so it is with Emma, the first of many words of wisdom. Unabashed honesty, reality and innocence all packaged together in one four-year-old

girl. She willingly goes to Jenny and is soothed by her cuddles and whispered assurances.

Minutes later, Sam comes down the stairs. He is quicker to detect the tension in the air. Immediately asking where his daddy is, I can feel the anticipation and dread. I hold him by the shoulders and stare into the brilliant blue eyes his father gave him. "Sammy Bob, you have to listen carefully while I tell you this. Something bad happened to your daddy last night and he is dead." It is no easier to find the words a second time. I brace myself for his reaction, knowing it will not be like Emma's.

The shouts and the tears rip through the protective cocoon of tea, firelight and suspended time Jenny and I have created. He pulls away from me angrily and dives into a ball behind a chair. "I don't want Daddy to be dead," he screams. The questions to which I have no answers tumble out. "Where was Daddy? What was he doing? Who called the ambulance?" Desperately trying to make real the unreal, Sam, the four-year-old man of the house.

NEXT: The Facts About Restorative Justice

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The Facts About Restorative Justice

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

The principle of restorative justice—which is based upon the premise that a crime is an action against an individual or a community, as opposed to one against the state—is to attempt, through victim-offender cooperation, to address the harm caused by criminal behavior. Restorative justice programs can include victim-offender mediation, victim assistance programs, ex-offender rehabilitation programs, and restitution agreements. This increasingly popular theory of criminal justice is built around three basic principles:

1. that the criminal justice system works to restore the victims of crime
2. that community members have the opportunity to take part in the response to crime if they wish
3. that it is the responsibility of society as a whole to promote a just peace.

Practically, restorative justice-based systems emphasize direct encounters between perpetrators and victims of crime, direct action on the parts of perpetrators to repair the harm they have caused, and the reintegration of perpetrators and victim into fully functioning roles in society.

According to **Restorative Justice.org**, restorative programs are comprised of four key values:

Encounter. Create opportunities for victims, offenders and community members who want to do so to meet to discuss the crime and its aftermath

Amends. Expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused

Reintegration. Seek to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of society

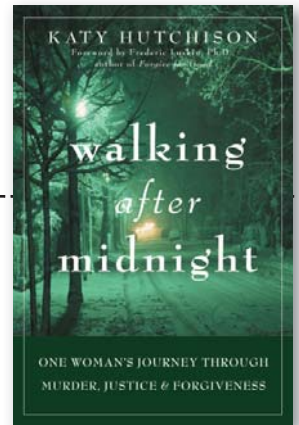
Inclusion. Allows parties affected by a specific crime to participate in its resolution

IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA?

No. If the offender denies responsibility for the crime, or has not expressed remorse, restorative justice is not a possibility. These cases are handled exclusively in a courtroom.

If the victim does not wish to participate restorative justice activities are less effective, since they are based heavily on the offender making some sort of restitution to the victim. Likewise, victim-less crimes are not good candidates for restorative justice.

*Sources include Wikipedia.org and Restorative Justice.org



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