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Statement of Elizabeth

I was a flight attendant for American Airlines and based in New York. It was the summer of 1976. I was barely 20 years old. It was my dream. Being a flight attendant in the 70's was actually somewhat glamorous and prestigious, or at least I thought it was.

I hadn't been flying but a few months. I was on call every other month. I received a call for flight # 1. It was the most senior flight AA flew out of NYC. It left LaGuardia around 7:00am and was a non-stop to LAX. I seem to remember it getting in LA around 10:00am.

The ticket agent said there was a celebrity on board. It was their policy to always notify the crew. I was from a small town in Illinois of 7,000, so the thought of meeting a celebrity was extremely exciting. We were informed it was Mr. Bill Cosby. He was very popular at that time with his humorous Jello ads.

I was working coach and he was in first class. I was so thrilled to get his autograph because I knew no one would believe that I met a celebrity after only flying a few months. I asked the 1st class flight attendant if she could get it for me. She said he flew that flight a lot and slept most of the trip but she would let me know when he awoke. When she rang me, I went to introduce myself. He was receptive to the autograph and said he would come back to coach to chat. He was very funny and spent about an hour talking with the three of us (coach flight attendants).

I thanked him for the autograph. He wanted to know what I was doing while in LA. I told him I had plans. He insisted I take his number. He invited me to the Playboy mansion to lay out in the sun while he played tennis with James Brown. I thanked him but declined. He asked where I was staying because his driver could drop me off but I chose to ride the airline van to the hotel.

When he returned to first class, the other flight attendants said I was stupid not to go. They all said they would have accepted in a heartbeat. I said I was too scared to and they told me I was just being silly and it was Bill Cosby, what could happen?

My plans actually fell through and Bill called the hotel and rang my room. I told him I was reluctant but he assured me his driver would pick me up and take me back when I wanted to go. It seemed harmless, so I agreed.

His driver in a black Rolls Royce arrived promptly at 11:00 am, it was around 11:30 when I got to the mansion. Everyone was still sleeping. It was the era when Hugh Hefner was dating Barbie Benton. The door man showed me the bathing room dressing area. It was a cave like dressing area. There were bikinis and robes of every color and style. The yard was like the Garden of Eden. I had never seen anything so beautiful. No one was at the pool until a gentleman took the lounge next to me. He introduced himself as Peter Lawford and asked if I would like him to order lunch. In 1976, the thought of a phone by the pool and ordering a steak lunch was something I knew my friends would never believe. I was right, they didn't.

After Coz (as he asked me to call him) was finished playing tennis, he came to the pool and asked me to dinner. He said his driver will take me back to my

hotel to freshen up and pick me up around 6-7 pm. I agreed. So far the day had been a fabulous experience and Mr. Cosby had been a gentleman.

I was an attractive young woman but I never thought for a minute that this was anything but a nice gesture. I knew he was married and I just assumed he enjoyed the company. Yes, I was naive.

We went to a restaurant that was called Tokyo KaiKan. Coz had told me he was staying at the Beverly Hilton. He arrived at the restaurant before I did.

I did not drink or use drugs. But he insisted I try the sake. It was already poured. I sipped it but it was too sweet for me. He insisted I drink it and loosen up. He ordered a few of their special appetizers. He was getting a lot of attention from the owner and chef, therefore I could tell that he had frequented the restaurant. There was a couple that wanted his autograph, but he told the owner he did not want to be bothered.

He ordered a house specialty which was lambs eyeballs. I will never forget it. A whole platter of eyes looking at me. I was feeling light headed from the sake so I didn't want to eat them for fear I would get sick but. I remember eating some of the lamb's eyes. After that I was completely in a trancelike state, like I was dreaming. It was like being under anesthesia when you start to wear off. I don't remember how we got to his hotel room. He went to the bathroom and undressed and came out in a robe. I told him I needed to go back to the hotel. I could barely stand up I felt like I was going to pass out or get very sick. He made me kneel down I don't want to repeat what happened next. All I know is that it was the most horrifying thing that could happen to an innocent young woman.

The next thing I remember is that I was in the Rolls Royce profusely vomiting. I apologized and the driver said I wasn't the first. I remember seeing a

tube of Afro Sheen in the back window. I was so drugged up and sick that the driver had to escort me to my room.

I woke up the next morning fully clothed like I hadn't moved all night. I was sicker than I had ever been in my life. I got dressed and made it to the airport but I told the crew that I had a terrible case of the flu. The captain made me take oxygen in the cockpit for 7 flight legs back to NY because I was so terribly ill.

The next day Bill called. He wanted to fly me to Monaco to meet him. He told me he wanted to get a place for me in NY where he could see me. I told him it wasn't the wine that made me sick and he knew it. He sent me 3 dozen roses.

I told him no and to never call me again. He tried several more times. He finally stopped after my repeated refusals.

Here I am, 38 years later finally telling my story. No one would have ever believed me in 1976. I would have been told that I put myself in a vulnerable situation and it was my fault. I lived with the shame and guilt of thinking it was somehow my fault. It wasn't, and if I hadn't been drugged I would have never ended up in a hotel room with him, ever. And he knew that.

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