

Epilogues

From Spencer

When I first met my mother, I was very young. I was actually a baby. She was and still is my mother.

I was born March 2, 1953. I was the second son of Albert and Charlotte Kass. My father had changed his last name from Kuritsky to Kass before I was born. My mother had changed her name by marriage to Kuritsky and then to Kass.

I grew up with my mother Charlotte being the mother. She would do all the mother things such as making breakfast, getting us off to school, providing for lunch, making sure we were warm enough even if it meant sweating all day. I do not know what a mother does during the day while children are in school. After school we would do different things like going to dentist, or buying close at Alexander's on Route 4, or any of the normal and predictable routines.

My mother often played different games with other mothers like Canasta and Marjone. Now that I am writing this tale I start to wonder what she did all day. She was friendly with Blanche, Helen, Marilyn, Flow, Ruth, and many mothers in the neighborhood we grew up in.

I lived with my mother, father, two brothers (Bennett and Rick) on Garwood Road in Fair Lawn, NJ, in a house I think we all loved; really nothing special but my mother had done so much with the house and by herself. Our house was the best house to grow up in. There was always something good in refrigerator.

My mother was a very good cook. She made a great dinner every night except Thursday when we traditionally went out for McDonalds'. Sunday night was typically

Chinese food from Bamboo East, or Italian food from Steve's or Pizza from Sunny Honey.

The family use to go to the Concord Hotel in the Catskill Mountains for a winter vacation. Marvin White, a close family friend, had a brother who managed the hotel and lived on the property. We went a few times and always had a great time. My mother would do stuff with us like ice skating, swimming, skiing lessons, tobogganing, or taking us to arts and crafts. I think she had as great a time at the hotel as any of us. On one trip to the Concord my mother got a little French poodle. She said the dog was for Rick, but the dog loved my mother and did not notice much of the rest of us. If you got close to my mother the dog, named Candy, would bite you. We had Candy for many years. Candy was hated thru the neighborhood for her aggressive, protective behavior but my mother had a way with her.

Skipping ahead my father was diagnosed with Cancer while I was in high school. She took such great care of him for the three years while we all suffered. He died when he was only 41 years young. Mother, not to mention a women's age, was a bit younger. I know how I felt about his passing, but I cannot imagine how she must have felt.

It was very difficult for a woman to take over as head of household in the days. My mother took on the position and raised three fine children. She should be very proud of herself. Losing a spouse is very difficult for a woman with three children depending on her. A short time after my father died my mother was introduced to Gilbert Brooks. I think it was love at first sight as their relationship progressed very quickly. They were married within a year of their first meeting. Gil was a character and we all got along very well. I think this was the happiest time of my mother's life. They found something most never do; true love.

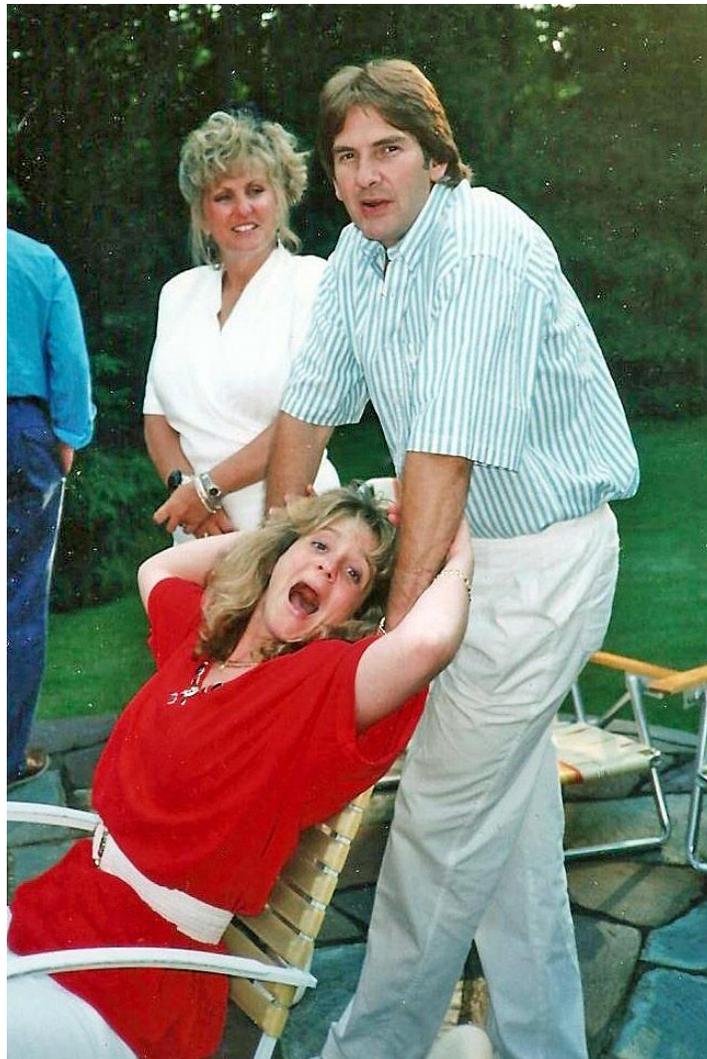
They retired to Florida and many wonderful years together. Unfortunately, Gil died of a sudden heart attack. I always thought Gil worried himself to death. But he did die happy on his way to the golf course.

After that my mother continued to live in Florida and had a nice life. Charlotte is the type of person who always needs a man in her life and continued to look for spouse number three. To make a long story short she met and married Sid Hyman. I think Sid has been her most interesting character of all. Sid and Charlotte compliment each

other which make for a happy life. There are many interesting stories from this marriage.

On January 23, 2011 her grand daughter Alexis Kass had her Bat Mitzvah. This was a very proud and significant moment in my mother's life, and ours. It was a very special weekend for the entire family. My mother was so proud and touched and she could not stop crying from joy. It is this very quality which I love most about my mother.

Spencer Kass



Spencer and Kim with my niece and dear friend Stephanie.

From Richard

On a beautiful St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1950, a first son was born to Albert and Charlotte Kass just in time for breakfast. That was me; Richard (Rick) Lewis Kass.

I was always considered to be a hand full. If I were born today they would use the term hyperactive or ADHD, but they did not have a name for it in those days. I had a lot of trouble in school paying attention and concentrating. I was the class clown as well as a real "banger", drumming on my desk and generally being a nuisance and disrupting the class.

I do remember my mother's attempts to fix this problem in me. She took me for music lessons with hopes of me actually learning to play the drums. She added singing and dance lessons all in effort to help me calm down. The lessons did help but did not solve the problem.

Next, they looked for doctors who specialized in helping young kids like me. We finally found a doctor I could relate to and it seemed to help. For a few years, I can remember coming home from school on Mondays and taking the long trip into the Bronx, about an hour each way, every week. This entire process gave me a very strong connection with my mother as a result of all the time and effort that was given to me to help me find my way. This could not have been easy with two other children at home for her to care for.

I know my parents suffered a hardship dealing with the expense of lessons, doctors, and sending me to private school from fifth grade through high school; however, I was able to get the attention and training I desperately needed at that time.

My Mother has really been there for me with so many of my problems and always helping me to grow into a "normal" person. I do believe this close relationship with her has helped to make me the loving and compassionate person I am today. I doubt this would have occurred if it were not for my parents, especially my mother.

In late 1960's my father was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer which took his life way too early. I believe that if he were here today he would have been able to see just how far I have come and realize that I developed into a good person. My father and I had many differences in those days, but I believe he would be proud of me today.

Many years after my father passed away, I realized that all of my mother's children, while being very different in so many ways, had some very important common qualities. We are all good people with caring hearts and will always have a special bond with our mother.

When my father died our mother was left with two boys in high school and one in college. I will always be amazed at how this inexperienced young woman, not only survived this ordeal, but flourished and became so self-sufficient and wise.

My wife has always noticed and commented that my brothers and I have held my mother on a pedestal and worshiped her. If she only knew the half of it! My mother put so much love and effort into developing the Kass boys into the best we could be. If I were to live to be 200 years old I would never be able to express all the love and gratitude my mother deserves.

Richard



Most of my side of the family at Rick and Raina's wedding.

Family and Friends

First Generation

Louis and Bessie Jolkover, author's parents.

Ida and Charles Kuritsky, first husband Al's parents.

Second Generation

Fanny Sherman, author's maternal aunt.

Herbie and Beatrice (Bea) Kass, Al's uncle and his wife.

Lou Kass, author's uncle.

Lottie and Ernest, friends of the author's parents in Phillipsport, New York.

Third Generation

Charlotte Hyman, the author.

Al Kass, author's first husband.

Lillian (Lill) and Ben, author's oldest sister and her husband.

William (Bill) and Beatrice (Bea) Jolkover, author's older brother and his wife.

Sylvia and Phil Kagan, author's older sister and her husband.

Murray and Flora Kuritsky, Al's brother and his wife.

Ralph and Annie Kimball, Al's sister and her husband.

Friends from Fair Lawn, New Jersey

Blanche and Marvin White

Helen and Henny Weil

Roz and Lenny Rosen

Ruth and Norman Rockwell

Jan and Eddy Silverman

Mimi and Will Marks

Flo and Dave Webber

Mickey and Paul Letterman

Marilyn and Shelly Gross

Miriam and Mitchell Spitz.

Gil Brooks, author's second husband.

Sidney Hymen, author's third husband.

Fourth Generation

Richard Lewis Kass and Raina, author's oldest son and daughter-in-law.

Spencer and Kim Kass, author's second son and daughter-in-law.

Bennett and Josie Kass, author's youngest son and former wife.

Debbie Cutter, Bennett's fiancée.

Fifth generation

Alan Charles Kass, Bennett and Josie Kass's older son.

Ryan Kass, Bennett and Josie Kass's younger son.

Alexis Kass, Spencer and Kim Kass's daughter.