

Marlene's Story

- When I was attending elementary school I was always excited to go to school, because it was a way out of the horror. I used to dread going home after school because I would have to become a different person.

School was a place where I felt somewhat free to be myself even though I was still timid and not very outgoing I knew I could at least be happy for a little while.

- I had to get up and go to school and act like I was okay. That was the hardest part for me I just wanted to scream out loud and tell everyone what I was going through, but I didn't want to get anyone in trouble, and that is why I kept my mouth shut.
- I was always worrying about what was going to happen next, so I didn't make an effort to do my homework. I just wanted to forget for a little while and the way I accomplished that was by fooling around with my friends most of the time. It was an escape for me.

- [writing about high school]

The teachers never made a huge difference in my life. To me all grown ups/adults were the enemy.

- The only positive thing was that it was a way out of my household every day, other than that it was really pointless to me. To this day I think that high school is a huge waste of time.
- I am happy that I experienced the things I did because it has made me a stronger person. I am really grateful because now knowing what I know I can help someone else deal with or prevent abuse. I have also learned how to enjoy life and not allow my past to consume me with all the hate I used to live with.