

Years ago I was living in Zürich, Switzerland with my family. While shopping at the market ^{about} to wrap up the purchase of groceries and accompanied by my daughter; I noticed as I finished getting my change that my ^{then} 3 year old had slipped outside; I walked outside ^{the doors} quickly, expecting to see her enjoying the playground that was just outside of the Migros Market. I looked right and she was not in sight. I called, she did not answer. I called again, no answer. I put down my bags hurriedly and began to call with a note of panic in my voice; ^{pretty} soon I was shouting with reckless abandon. This ^{piercing} moment of terrorized panic went on ~~the~~ several minutes as I ran to and fro. My heart sank, as I began to entertain the unthinkable idea that my daughter had been abducted. Five minutes later she reappeared, having hidden around the corner in one of the larger playground structures.... It was the greatest relief of my life, following the

worst five minutes of my life: ^{and a few very serious minutes of conversation w/ my 3 yr. old!}

Every parent's worst nightmare is the thought that some monstrous person (they usually are men) would abduct and mistreat one of their children. This night mare has been relived all too many times in our nation, and world: most recently the escape of Amanda Berry and her friends from their abductor, has the nation riveted; fortunately this ~~recent~~ story provides a happier ending than most ~~child~~ abductions. It took a great deal of gumption and courage for Amanda to cry out for help. And I think we all would like to thank Charles Ramsey for not ignoring her plaintive cries for help. Thank you Charles Ramsey for being a good neighbor, good Samaritan and hero.

High profile

Abductions are not all that rare ^{in Nor Cal.} ~~any more it seems~~. Karen Mitchell was last seen on the streets of Eureka almost 16 years ago. Her case is still unsolved. ^{quickly comes to mind!} Polly Klaas was abducted from her mother's home at knife point in 1993, her body was later found months later as it was pointed out by her murderer, Richard Allen, who is now on death row. And the list goes on about young ~~ladies~~ ^{girls} who were abducted by sadistic, evil men.

You would think that a child abduction would be a least likely subject for a Christian novel, and you would be right—most of the time. Many novels in the modern Christian bookstore tend to be rather saccharine—compared to the more gritty pieces of literature ^{on secular bookshelves} in the Church long ago. But there is one novel that was written by a Christian author named William Paul Young, first published in 2007 (after he received rejections from all potential publishers), that has gone on the sell over 16 million copies. The name of the novel is *The Shack*. It is a story of an unspeakable cruelty, an abduction and murder of a girl named Missy. The Shack provides the venue for tragedy, but later, it becomes something like a Holy of Holies, where God shows up and begins to heal the wounds of an angry father, whose lovely young daughter was snatched from life by the jaws of a faceless and remorseless predator. ^{the shack at that} Believe it or not, the novel has a surprising and satisfying ^{conclusion} ~~happy ending~~ ^{proposing in the end that there is no wound on earth that heaven can not heal.}

This has been Dan Price for Community Commit