

(Start here:)

Your Honor,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address this court and the defendant.

It is extremely difficult for me to stand here, ten years later, as the effects of this rape are still raw, and difficult to discuss. I have been carrying this weight, this trauma, this irrational belief that it was my fault for years.

Today the defendant is being sentenced because it was -- *not my fault*.

That what he did was *illegal*.

That it was – *in fact - rape*.

Your Honor,

My rapist *probably never thought about me since the night that it happened*

But I thought about him every single day

His selfish, disgusting actions have greatly impacted me and my life. What he did to me was horrible.

Before that night, I was a very *happy, confident woman*.

I valued myself, and the strong relationship I had with GOD. I was in control of my life and my career. I was a loving mother and wife, a good friend. I was excited for my future.

Everything changed after the defendant brutally assaulted me, I lost all of this.

I was very scared and ashamed to report my sexual assault. *To the outside world*, I showed a fake and happy life as I tried to block out the memory of what happened.

Inside, I had fallen apart.... I was punishing myself for what he did to me. I felt worthless, humiliated. *I thought that -- I did something wrong* because he chose me that night – that I must be a bad person if something this awful could happen to me.

I didn't want to touch my children over how dirty I felt.

I no longer felt safe.

I distanced myself from the industry I loved.

I soon became invisible to myself and to the world. I lost my identity.

I thought that no one could or should love me. I was heartbroken, empty, and alone.

He had broken me into a million pieces.

My kids were often frustrated and cried because they didn't recognize me anymore.

My rapist did that to me.

And just when I thought I may be healing, something would trigger me and bring me back to that hotel room like was yesterday.

Just imagining seeing my rapist in the court was making me sick . I have to remind my self that he won't be able to hurt me there.

I wanted to believe that some part of him would feel remorse. During my testimony I saw his eyes - how he stared at me smirking and smiling – and I understood at that moment he was the exact same man that raped me all those years ago.

The man - who ripped out my soul and has no regrets.

Your Honor, I hope you can understand the depth of my suffering. There is no prison sentence long enough to erase the damage. I'm still learning everyday how to live with this.

I will live with this for the rest of my life. So should he.

I hope that you give him the maximum sentence allowed.

(Look at Defendant:)

He deserves to experience the same shame, isolation, fear and depression that I did.

It took me plenty of dark moments to finally realize that I will not allow a monster like him to decide my worth.

Today, he will be sentenced. He cannot hurt anyone anymore.

I have been silent for a long time. It is no small feat to agree to come forward.

I will be forever grateful to the jury who found the defendant guilty of rape.

I wouldn't be here today, without the most wonderful people, many of who are here today.

I would like to thank this court and the Los Angeles District Attorneys, especially Paul Thompson, for believing and advocating for me. I would also like to thank my lawyer David Ring, and the LAPD detectives, who worked so hard on this case. I want to thank everyone who stood by me this entire time and supported me.

I want to thank my incredible kids for holding me up, for your unconditional love and making me feel as whole as possible.

I Learned through this process that many women chose to live with this pain, rather than pursue justice. Given what all the victims were put through in this trial, that is understandable.

Now I stand here with as much confidence as I can and say that none of us should carry this kind of pain. Victim shaming and victim blaming must be stopped.

By coming forward I raise my voice for all survivors, immigrants, citizens – whether you are powerful, poor, successful, or from any walk of life – for all those people who feel ashamed, who blame themselves, who stay silent, for those who don't feel strong -- for those who are afraid

I hope my story of justice provides some comfort by reminding you that you are not alone.

I truly believe that This verdict, and the maximum sentence will restore the faith in the justice system for many survivors out there. It worked for me.

Your honor - My life matters. I matter. I won't hide myself anymore. I have been heard. I am seen. I am no longer invisible.

Please sentence the defendant to the maximum amount of prison time.

Thank you.