

Bright Tomorrows

Reflecting the Compassion of Jesus Christ to Those with Mental Health Concerns

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: A Screenplay *By Marshal Myers*

Introduction: Marshal Myers is a talented young writer with three published epic adventure fantasies of good versus evil books to his credit: "Sword Dreamer;" "Lady of Naofatir;" and his recent release, "Light Bringer." Marshal Myers was born with cerebral palsy and was homeschooled from age 8 to 16. At age 16 he was placed back in public school to afford him with better accommodations for his disability. After only about a month in the public high school system, he began to exhibit symptoms of obsessive compulsive disorder. The following is written as a short screenplay requiring the reader to imagine a theatrical presentation. Following this imaginative presentation, the reader will find on page four of this newsletter an article on the anxiety disorder known as obsessive-compulsive disorder.

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Fade into exasperated Marshal with his Dad in kitchen.

Marshal: If I can't get Mrs. Seeming Agitation to understand what I'm saying, I'm gonna fail math. And if I fail math in high school, there's no chance that I'm going to get into college. She's so dumb.... Now I'm just not being understanding of her.
GROAN!

Dad: Marshal, you've got a 91 in the class. Even if you failed everything between now and the end of course test, you'd still pass.

Marshal: But then I wouldn't be doing my best. The Bible says to do your best in everything. At night I get angry at Mrs. Seeming Agitation, but it's wrong to get angry at people for stupid reasons and she's a Christian. Not only am I sinning against God and sinning against her without treating her with brotherly love, but also if I don't repent of this sin in the right words, it'll cling to me until the Day of Judgment and I'll have to give account of it before Jesus and the whole world.

Title screen reading: "Three Hours Later"

Marshal loudly and incoherently: I'm gonna FAIL. You don't know how that school works. I'm gonna fail!

Dad: Marshal, you've said that at least three dozen times in the past half hour. You can't get it out of your head. You keep coming back again to the same old thing. Thinking about it again and again. I think it's time Dr. Understanding changed you to a different medication.

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Bright Tomorrows is committed to equipping churches to better serve those with mental health concerns. Our daily mission is to reflect the compassion of Jesus Christ by assisting those struggling with mental illness and promoting mental health.

JEREMIAH 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

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Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: A Screenplay

Marshal: You guys are treating me like a psycho. You don't see how spiritual this is. The fate of my soul hangs in balance. I have you all duped. You don't see that I've spiritually backslidden!

Title screen reading: “Later at Church”

Marshal is sitting in congregation. Guest speaker is speaking on stage.

Missionary Smileman: The epistle of John to the widow says of the Gnostics that they went out from us but are not of us.

Marshal, thinking: That's just like me. I'm not following God anymore. Not following God anymore. Not following God anymore. Lord Jesus I'm sorry. Forgive me. Forgive me. Did I really mean it this time? Did I say it right? No. I need to do it again.

Cut to Dr. Understanding's Office. Marshal appears restless.

Dr. Understanding: Marshal, I really can help you. I think these medications are just the right chemical balance for you.

Marshal, looking down with a moping visage: I don't know. It's all my fault, really. But I'll try it.

Fade to black. Fade into calm, smiling Marshal sitting at kitchen table with his Mom. Mom is holding grade reports.

Mom: Marshal, you got the highest grade in the class on your literature paper. Dr. English says you're the best student he's ever had. Mrs. Seeming Agitation says you're happier now. A totally different person.

Marshal: God has really taken me to a whole new place. Once I stopped trying to do it on my own and tried transforming my mind with help from my medications, I realized there is a physical side to it as well as a spiritual, and I'm much happier. Thank you for believing in me and not writing me off as a textbook case failure.

Marshal hugs Mom.

NOTE: Marshal graduated from high school with honors and is now working as a full-time novelist. He still struggles with OCD, and occasionally needs to re-evaluate his medications, dosage, and other courses of action. But he knows he has a loving family, loving friends and a loving God. He knows he's not on this journey alone. For more information about Marshal, visit his website: www.marshalmyers.com.

A Note from Marshal: I send a special thank you to Tim Reside of Bright Tomorrows Ministries, without whose encouraging e-mails and prayers I may not have stopped my destructive patterns of thinking. I love Rev. Tim “Coach Tim” Reside very much, and pray that this screenplay glimpse into my past will help the reader on their emotional journey.