

My Nightmares

I had another nightmare early this morning. Is December 11, 2018.

I was thinking about how you asked, Carrie, why I brought up the topic again and again. The reason was that you had wondered if I was “thinking clearly” about that other matter that happened in about 2002 when I was attacked. It might have seemed like a political matter that was happening in the news recently. But for me I was wondering if you thought I was not thinking clearly when I was attacked back in 2002 by a woman. So that's what bothered me so much. I was very uncomfortable because I wasn't sure what you were thinking about me all these years and surrounding certain events.

I remembered having asked Elnaz to tell you that I didn't hit her as she said when she called you many years ago. I made that request of her several times. My wife had said that she told you at the time certain things in my defense. However, I was asking her “did you say I didn't hit you, though?” What happened back in 2002 was somewhat like what my wife had told you happened years ago in that there was a suggestion of violence. So, I found it very disturbing to think that you might have a doubt about my innocence. In fact, when mom was asking me to explain the motivation was for why the landlord's wife did what she did, I thought I had to defend myself, explain, or make sense of what happened.

I didn't want to have to defend myself in front of my mother or my sister about how I treat women. It's a very disturbing thought to me that my family knows so little about me as I think I would hurt a woman. It was likely not intentional, but I felt like I was on trial with my own family. I was needing to hear about how unjust and unfair it was and here are mad you were about what happened... How mad you were about what happened to me. This is what has scarred me all these years. I was somehow blaming myself for being attacked and harmed, as if I, the victim, was not totally a victim. It was like some part of this was in some way my fault? Logically, I know that it is no one's fault when they are assaulted. I mean it's never the victim's fault.

I never had a chance to process all this because I was embarrassed that people might think I did something bad. Very, very rarely is a man a victim of a woman in a violent situation. There is such stigma and shame for a man. It's made worse when the male victim is accused of being the victimizer who might have sexually assaulted a woman. You don't even want to talk about it because of the doubts people will have.