



Melissa has two children, ages 2 & 4, that were kidnapped by her ex-husband and taken to a middle eastern country where they are still kept against her will. She has been trying for over nine years to get them back, and in this process has gone to anyone might be of assistance-- even so far as the White House. No one could answer her desperate cry for help, and she soon learned that this specific middle-eastern county never signed the Hauge Conference Agreement.

During this time, Melissa was staying with her mother in New York, trying desperately to get through to her children each hour of the day. She was allowed to go visit the children briefly on three occasions, but it was never enough. She felt as though her children barely knew her and could no longer speak English. She knew that they were slipping away from me but could do nothing to change it.

Melissa tried so hard to live with the emptiness but found it impossible to live with this kind of loss. Her family was understandably worried about her because she would wander the streets at night looking for answers to her prayers. It didn't matter to her the hour, the place or the danger-- all she could see were my sweet children's faces alone in the dark. Eating, sleeping and living were no longer important. She no longer cared about life because she felt as though she had nothing left to live for.

During her time at Lee's Place, Melissa worked very hard at trying to find some peace in her life. She has been doing all she can to keep the lines of communication open with her children who are now 11 & 13 years old. She talks to or text messages them each and every day. She has started her own business, is taking control of her life as best she can and now is able to enjoy parts of her life.

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