

#### Authors:

Cheryl Cuccio, Robert Cuccio,

Morgan St. James

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# Author Bios

CHERYL A. CUCCIO, wife, mother, incest and abuse survivor and aspiring author, has been married to her soul mate Robert Cuccio for twenty-seven years. Unlike her own childhood horror, Cheryl is a mother who dedicates herself to being a role model for their two extremely intelligent, well-educated daughters. She takes great pride in the women they have become. Despite her early years, Cheryl is a strong, confident woman who aspires to be a best-selling author and motivational speaker. Throughout her life's journey she has experienced many far-from-normal trials and tribulations, and intends to use her lifetime knowledge to help as many people as she can. She became a survivor through strength and perseverance.

ROBERT C. CUCCIO husband, father and registered nurse specializing in oncology, has been married to Cheryl for twenty-seven years. After a massive heart attack, Robert was pronounced dead in 2012, and after 43 minutes without pulse or oxygen was brought back to life because of Cheryl's insistence that the doctors keep trying. Now when working with patients with cancer, he has "seen the other side" and strives to inspire them while motivating them to accept their diagnosis and follow their treatment plan with confidence. Robert has been interviewed numerous times by the media, and feels comfortable in that setting. He hopes to help many people by sharing his past experiences. He was awarded "Nurse of the Year for New York 2015" by the International Nurses Association.

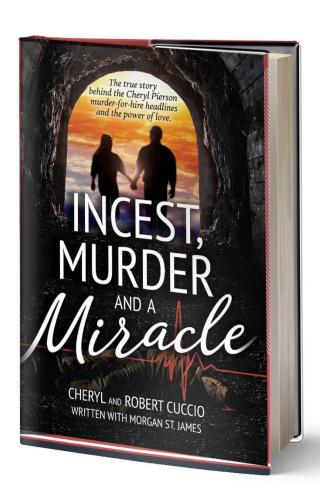
MORGAN ST. JAMES is the author of 16 books and has become an abuse-awareness advocate through helping abuse victims tell their stories. She is honored to have helped the Cuccios tell their story.



Cheryl and Robert Cuccio



Morgan St. James



Authors: Cheryl Cuccio, Robert Cuccio,

Morgan St. James

Category: True Crime, Memoir Print ISBN: 978-1539660439 eBook ISBN: 978-1370145744 Publisher: CRM Publishing

## Synopsis

In 1986, sixteen-year-old Cheryl Pierson hired a classmate to kill her father for \$1,000. During the time the case was in the media, Cheryl gave only one interview. Now she and Rob tell their true story after 30 years of silence.

James Pierson began abusing Cheryl from the time she was only eleven. Her invalid mother died when Cheryl was fifteen, and even though she was a child herself, she assumed responsibility for keeping house for the family, cooking, cleaning and doing laundry, and became a mother to her young sister. She was made to satisfy her father's enormous sexual appetite, but snapped when he threatened to go after her 8-vear-old sister.

From the time she was 15, Rob had been there to help her though the horror of her life before and after her father was murdered, during her time in jail and all the trauma she suffered afterwards. He was always her rock until in 2012 when 44-year-old Rob suffered a massive heart attack on her forty-third birthday. The doctor pronounced him dead after 30 minutes of trying to get a pulse or brain activity. Cheryl begged the doctor to keep trying to save him and prayed to her dead mother and everyone she could think of. With no hope at all, the doctor finally gave in and said, "We'll try for ten minutes more, then you have to let him go."

They say love and prayer are powerful. Eight of the 10 minutes had passed when Rob came back to life. He is now back at work as an award-winning oncology nurse.

A Story Of True Courage And A Miracle.

## Media



DISCOVERY ID, I, WITNESS SERIES
TWO EPISODES: LAST DANCE AND
SAVE THE LAST DANCE



CBS CHANNEL 12 NEW YORK
WOMAN ONCE KNOWN AS CHERYL
PIERSON SPEAKS OUT ABOUT INCEST,
MURDER-FOR-HIRE



UK - THE SUN, BELLA MAGAZINE, NEW! MAGAZINE



NEWSDAY



More Than 30 Years After Teen Couple Plotted to Kill Her Abusive Dad, They're Still Together

#### INSIDE EDITION

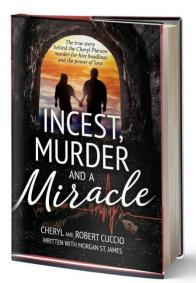


People Magazine - Exclusive People Magazine Investigates TV

### Reviews

INCEST, MURDER AND A MIRACLE is an autobiography told with extraordinary courage and integrity. I laud Cheryl Pierson Cuccio and Rob Cuccio for blazoning their traumatic pasts and valiant love story so that others who suffer in silence might be emboldened to seek help. Like so many, I was first drawn to their story for its spectacle, but have come through it deeply humbled and indebted.

~Lee Beckett, Executive Producer, Investigation Discovery's *I, Witness* 



A COMEBACK IN ALL ITS FORMS, from victim to survivor, from defeat to triumph, from life to death, and back again! Recovering from grief, losses, and overcoming injustice, all while rebuilding her life. This intense riveting story will have you on the edge of your seat as you turn every page. St. James helps Cheryl Pierson Cuccio and Rob Cuccio bring luminous intelligence to the impact that incest, child abuse, rape, and family violence have on a person's overall bio-psychosocial well-being.

~ Victoria Marion, founder and Executive Director of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Research Institute

INCEST, MURDER AND A MIRACLE, Cheryl and Robert Cuccio's true story that goes back to a 1986 murder-for-hire that grabbed national headlines, is written superbly in great detail with the help of Morgan St. James, who has produced sixteen published books.

~ GrumpyEditor.com

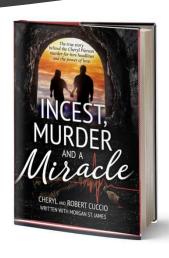
INCEST, MURDER AND A MIRACLE is the gripping story of Cheryl and Rob Cuccio. It is the heartbreaking account of a high school student named Cheryl Pierson, who suffered years of sexual abuse by her own father. Finally, to end her torment and protect her younger sister from becoming his next victim, she arranged with one of her classmates to have her father killed. Together with her boyfriend and future husband, Rob, they overcame the obstacles, including one that appears to have been resolved with the help of Divine intervention. It's an amazing story.

~Dennis N. Griffin, author of The Battle for Las Vegas, Surviving The Mob and CULLOTTA

A captivating and emotional autobiography... Ultimately a true love story.

~Alycia Powers Producer, Inside Edition

## Target Audience





### WHO SHOULD READ

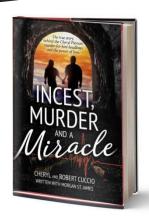
- Rape and abuse survivors
- Women or men in crisis
- Fans of true crime books and shows
- Social workers
- Teachers
- Fans of spiritual and inspirational books
- General population

# BOOK BENEFITS Takes the reader inside the real life of an abuse victim without "sugar coating."

- Heightens why abuse awareness is so important
- Learn the true story behind the Cheryl Pierson case
- Realize the power of love and faith
- Emphasizes the need for medical second opinions



## Book Excerpt



#### CHAPTER 2

### CHERYL IN MY FATHER'S CLUTCHES

I'd never noticed Rob until I met him in gym class at Newfield High when I was fifteen years old. At the time, I really liked a boy named Glenn, although I wasn't allowed to have boyfriends or date. People thought it was because my father was strict. I never dared tell them the truth. How could I let anyone know his being strict was the least of my problems? James Pierson was viewed as a successful man with a bit of bad temper by everyone who knew him. Nobody would have believed he was also a very possessive, jealous, sick person who wanted my feelings and love only for himself and used his teenage daughter for his sexual pleasure whenever he felt the urge.

I had to work hard for my grades, but was a decent student and kind of quiet. School was very important to me. It was the only place I could be myself. When I was there I could try to forget about my mother being deathly ill, about taking over the role of mother to my younger sister, and all the wifely chores I had to do, including the worst of them—the constant sex with my father.

I was popular in school, and it was the only place I felt I was like everyone else—just a kid with lots of friends.

My father was a big man. Some would describe him as burly. With his bushy red eyebrows and freckled face, his hair short and brushed to one side, some people even thought he looked boyish. When he was young he was an athlete and had hoped to pitch for the Yankees someday. That never happened. Now, out of shape, he carried a large belly. His hands, like his six-foot frame, were massive and rough. But it was his mind that was so warped.

When he wanted to scare me, he'd say, "Don't think you're not being watched when you're at school. You know your principal is my good friend and he lets me know everything you do. So, you'd better watch your step. If you do something wrong, I'll know before you get home, and you know what that means." You bet. It probably meant I'd get a beating. I knew they had gone to school together and were still friends. As an adult, I am not sure the principal really did report back to him, but it was definitely strange that some days my father knew exactly what I had done at school. He was able to tell me all about my day,

## Interview Questions

- Looking at the murder as an adult, would you have done anything different?
- How did you feel when you learned so many people suspected what was happening?
- What tactics did your father use to control you?
- Do you think most young incest and abuse victims feel just as desperate?
- Are there now more places for help or has it hardly changed?
- Before, during and after, the awful events of 1986, what was your greatest fear?
- How do you think going to jail changed you?
- What challenges did you face after your release?
- Do a majority of abuse victims suffer lifelong PTSD and what can they do to help manage it?
- When did you know that Rob was your soulmate and protector?

- What inspired you and Rob to finally break your silence?
- Did you ever think you would be strong enough to challenge the doctors and save Rob's life?
- How did you manage the dark hours when Rob was in a coma between life and death?
- You had a lot of tough decisions to make. Did your past experiences give you the strength?
- You wanted to write this book for many years. How do you feel now that it is published?
- How difficult was it for you to share your story on the Discovery ID TV channel?
- When your malpractice suit was lost, how did you and Rob manage the anger and hurt?
- Life goes on. What is next for Cheryl and Rob?
- What advice can you give to abuse victims or those who suspect abuse?
- Where can people get in touch with you or Rob?

### **STORY IDEAS FOR REPORTERS:**



The true story
behind the Cheryl Pierson
murder-for-hire headlines
and the power of love.

INCEST,
MURDER
AND A
AND A
CHERYL AND ROBERT CUCCIO
WRITTEN WITH MORGAN ST. JAMES

- **1. Cheryl's early life:** The trauma a young incest and abuse victim experiences
- 2. When no one pays attention to the signs: It was revealed that as many as 20 people suspected incest and/or abuse and no one did a thing to help or report it. How does Cheryl feel about that today and how can she help heighten awareness?
- **3. Trying to be normal in a horror situation**: What Cheryl went through trying to keep her family's dirty secret, protect her little sister and put up a normal appearance in school. What it was like to be a teenager in jail and consequences after spending jail time.
- **4. What drove Cheryl to hire someone to kill her father:** Did she consider other ways to get help, what was available at the time and what has changed? In what way was her reasoning different as a teenager than an adult.
- 5. Considering the past, why does she face challenges that most people don't: Simple things like changing jobs and fearing that her past will surface, dealing with PTSD, overcoming feelings of inadequacy, etc.
- 6. Why has she finally chosen to speak out after 30 years of silence: When stories constantly appeared in the media purporting to know her inner thoughts that she was too young and too traumatized. Her daughters are now grown and in order to help others, it is time to tell her story and show that you must become a victor, not a victim.
- **7. Rob's death experience:** Why didn't he get a second opinion? Was fear of what the reality could be one of the factors? What was it like to die?
- **8. Rob's message:** From the aspect of why it is so important to get second opinions. How determination made him prevail despite all of the challenges he faced.

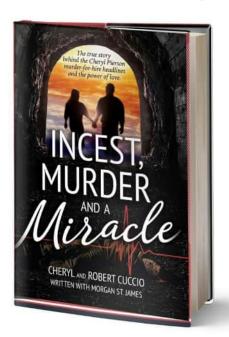
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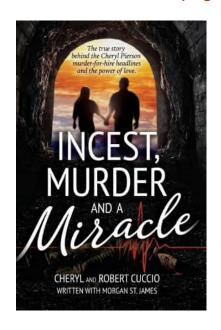
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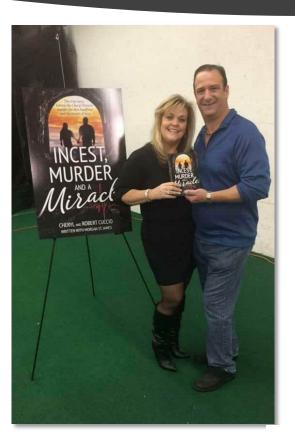
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