

Harpo Productions, Inc.
P.O.Box 909715
Chicago, IL 60690



Amazing Survival Stories

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Box 7 • Livingston, New Jersey 07039

WINFREY: Thank you. Thanks. Thank you. Today you're going to hear stories of people who were in the most terrifying circumstances you can imagine. Some of them are women who were just going about their day doing what they normally do. If you're watching right now, sit down. If you're in the audience right now, sit down 'cause you—'cause you're going—you're going to really want to hear these stories. They're so amazing. They will make you think of what you would do in a situation like this, and they are a testimony to the power of the human spirit.

When they were suddenly attacked, these women, and forced to live nightmares, they managed to pull on some part of themselves to escape, not because of the strength of their bodies but because of the strength of their mind and their—literally the will to survive. You're going to learn today that you, too, are probably stronger than you think and that you can do the impossible.

WINFREY: Well, like some of the other women whose stories you've heard today, Jeanette Fenel took the terrible incident and turned it around, determined to do what everyone else here has said, is to not let a terrible thing ruin the rest of your life. It all began when she and her husband were kidnapped and stuffed into the trunk of their car and left for dead. But that horrible experience inspired a personal crusade. Take a look at this.

Ms. JEANETTE FENEL: I never thought that we would be abducted at gunpoint and be separated from our child. We were robbed. We were assaulted. And we were left locked in a dark trunk of a car. The car was not running. We were in the middle of nowhere. And there was nothing to be seen except for I looked forward and there was a light. And it makes no sense that there could be a light on but angels had always played, you know, an incredible role in my life. And I know with an absolute certainty that that the light in that trunk came from a guardian angel to show us the way out. I way it and it was illuminating a little piece of silver medal. And I said, 'I think I found the trunk release.'

The police said that our family probably really should not have survived. I never want anyone else to have to go through what my family and I did. But last summer in less than 30 days 11 little angels died. They were baked alive in the trunk of a car.

The mission of our organization is to make sure that any children or adults who are locked inside are able to escape easily and quickly. And if you're a manufacturer and you build a product such that people can get locked in, I feel that they a—a very strong obligation to build it in such a way that people can get out. By the end of the year there will be vehicles on the road that have an inside trunk release.

I have two sons now. And to know that they're still here and me and my husband are still here to enjoy that for the rest of our life is—is extremely, extremely fulfilling.

WINFREY: I want to thank all of my guests today for sharing your stories. We are glad you escaped and survived and remain a lesson for all of our daily triumphs or attempts to triumph. Thank you so much. You make us all want to be Ironwoman. Maybe not iron, may be stronger—maybe wood. Maybe. Amazing though. Thank you so much. Thank you so much. Wow.