

# Woman Accidentally Shot And Killed Her Mother During A Suicide Attempt

A woman has revealed how she accidentally shot and killed her own mother during a suicide attempt when she was 12 years old - after she spent years being molested by her cousins.

Tammy 'Jojo' Johnson, now 44, who is originally from Columbus, Ohio, but grew up in Akron, tried to take her own life after she endured years of abuse.

As a child, she was molested by her cousins and severely bullied by her classmates at school, so Tammy, who believed in reincarnation, tried to kill herself in an attempt to 'start over' - but instead, she tragically shot her mom.

Now, the mom-of-three, who works at Google, is sharing her story. She spoke out about the horrifying incident during mini-doc with Real Women/Real Stories (which was created by Lauren Santucci) recently, in an attempt to let other abuse victims know that they are not alone.

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Heartbreaking: Tammy 'Jojo' Johnson, now 44, who is originally from Columbus, Ohio, but grew up in Akron, tried to take her own life after she endured years of abuse

As a child, she was molested by her cousins, so Tammy - who believed in reincarnation - tried to kill herself in an attempt to 'start over.' But instead, she tragically shot her mom

'It was just me and my mom; my dad died when I was three so she pretty much raised me as a single mom,' she recalled.

'I would say that my mom and I were pretty close. There were of course mother-daughter disagreements but we were really close.'

Tammy revealed that she was being sexually assaulted by three different family members for years, but her mom had no idea.

She told Essence in a 2020 interview that she decided not to tell her mother about the abuse because she wanted to protect her.

'I had a rough time dealing with it all and I didn't tell my mom. Welcome to my blog was trying to protect her because my brothers were locked up and I didn't want her to have to worry about me too,' she explained. 'She loved me. She did everything for me.'

'I didn't know anything about being the victim. I didn't know that what was happening was wrong, though it felt wrong.'

'My abusers told me if I said something I would get taken away from my mom. And I didn't want to do that because I knew that if I left the things that were happening to me would happen to my nephew.'

Due to the abuse, Tammy began acting out, and was diagnosed with night terror disorder, disassociation disorder, and PTSD.

She said she was plagued with horrible nightmares, and the 'only way she could get away in her dream was to kill herself.'

'I didn't understand what suicide was at the time, that's not what I called it when I was 12,' she added to Real Women/Real Stories.

'It was more like a reincarnation. If I could just take myself out and start over, then I wouldn't have to worry about some of the things that were happening to me.'

Tammy said she knew there was a gun in the house but after she 'messed with it' once, her mom decided to hide it - which made her even more determined to find it.

'When I went to go find the gun where I last saw it, it wasn't there. My guess is, as an adult, I think that my mom probably saw that I messed with it so she moved it,' she said.

'That's my guess. What happened in that moment was, it made me determined to find it.

'When I found it, I remember feeling so relieved. I took the gun to bed with me that night and I put it under my pillow.

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Now, the mom-of-three spoke out about the horrifying incident during an interview with Real Women/Real Stories in an attempt to let other abuse victims know that they are not alone

'I didn't understand what suicide was,' she said. 'It was more like a reincarnation. If I could just take myself out then I wouldn't have to worry about the things that were happening to me'

Tammy fired the gun multiple times, but instead of hitting herself, she accidentally shot her mom, who was asleep on the couch

'The goal was, if something were to try to mess with me I would shoot it and then I would

take my life so I could start over. This was the idea.'

Tammy fired the gun multiple times, but instead of hitting herself, she accidentally shot her mom, who was asleep on the couch.

Afterwards, she was convicted of murder and sent to a juvenile correctional facility in Delaware, where she stayed until she was 21.

'People were already saying I'm not gonna make it, I'm not gonna function. I was scared,' she admitted.

'Some of that stuff was spoken into me but I had another part that was spoken into me from church organizations that came into the institution that said, "Hey. You are forgiven, you are loved, you are chosen."

'I had these opposing sides and I had to choose which identity I was going to take. Eventually, obviously since I'm here now, I chose the better one but the struggle inside was still really hard.'

For years she didn't speak of the abuse that she had previously endured. But at age 15, she decided to finally open up about it after other women at the institution inspired her.

'The reason I started opening up because the girls there were opening up,' she explained to Essence.

'I took a leadership position in that institution and I got to hear the stories behind the crimes that took place.

'These young girls didn't get to tell their story. The courts told their story. These young girls who had been molested by their mother's boyfriends or were bullied or tortured at school because of their race or their sexual orientation, they didn't get to tell their story the way that I get to tell you mine, but they survived and it was because of them I knew what it was to be a leader.'

After leaving the facility, she recalled struggling to do normal things like pay bills or drive a car.

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'I didn't know how to live independently as a woman ... but I left that institution with so much support and so much love from other women,' she said.

Now, Tammy, who has a 22-year-old daughter, a 17-year-old son, and a 10-year-old son, has learned to accept herself and her past.

She said to Real Women/Real Stories: 'I learned how to go above what people say or think about who I am and what I can become.'

'There's always a time when the smoke clears. There's always a different season that you can walk into but it's going to start with who you are, accepting what you've done, and not choosing to be the victim or not choosing to be what other people call you.'

'I just want to be the example and I don't want people to just hear it, I want them to see it in my life.'

'I was sexually molested, I was bullied, I committed murder, the victim was my mom. I was in an institution from 12 to 21, I was in a dark place, I tried to kill myself. ... But here I am today.'

'I'm 44, I have a great job, I'm about to be married to an amazing person. I have a group of wonderful friends and I have advocates and people who know me from that time until now that can say the same thing, that's important.'

She also told Essence that she 'thinks about her mom all the time,' especially when she is parenting.

'I think about my mom all the time and I see her everywhere. I see myself as her when I'm dealing with my girl,' she gushed.

'I see myself in her when I'm trying to get my son to put down Minecraft or when I'm trying to talk to my [younger son]. They are good kids.'

She concluded: 'I want to tell every woman I don't care what happen to you, you have a right to move forward.'

'You have a right to live your life. You have a right to redefine your journey.'

For confidential support call the National Suicide Prevention Line at 1-800-273-8255."  
(TRIGGER WARNING) - YouTube

Mom Killed By Accident - Essence