

## **Name Redacted 4**

Submitted 10/14/2020

I am 63 years old and now live in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am married to a wonderful man.

Today I noticed the internet article from June 2020 about allegations against David Haas. After discussing it with my husband, I decided it was time I come forward to tell my story.

I met David Haas at the National Pastoral Musicians (NPM) conference held in Toledo, Ohio (my hometown) in the late 1990's. I was asked to create the art and environment for this conference and was very active in my local Catholic parish as a musician. I was also a member of NPM. I attended one of David's workshops at the conference and he singled me out - making eye contact throughout the workshop and then approaching me afterwards, claiming I was one of the most beautiful women he had ever seen and saying he had to get to know me. He asked me to dinner, breakfast and a dance/social function during conference. We spent many hours together during the time of the conference, talking and getting to know one another.

I was very vulnerable at that time in my life and suffering from low self-esteem. David and I talked about a lot of issues, including my recent break-up of a long-term relationship, plus my Catholic beliefs and love of music. In retrospect, I believe David was masterfully drawing me out with his questions and by feigning interest in me and my life. He was trying to see if I fit the bill to become another one of his conquests and if I was malleable.

David made his first sexual advances towards me the last evening of the conference. I must admit I was infatuated with him and it was a thrilling experience to be singled out by someone with who, it seemed, I shared interests and beliefs. Although I did not want to have sex and made it clear it was too soon to get physically involved, he pushed and cooed and cajoled until I went to his room with him under the guise of listening to some of his new, soon to be released recordings. Of course he was all over me as soon as the room door shut. He wanted kissing, petting and manual stimulation and when I initially resisted he told me that he has many opportunities with other women and that I could just leave if I was such a prude. I gave in and afterwards he made an excuse to get me out room ASAP.

He called me at home later and apologized and asked me to breakfast the next morning. He said he was on anti-depressants and anti-anxiety meds which, along with his crazy traveling schedule, sometimes made him cranky. After breakfast we said goodbye and he made promises to call me soon. He said he wanted to see me again.

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Within a few days I became very ill with mononucleosis and I contacted him by calling his office to find out if he was also ill, as he was my only contact and I thought he was likely a vector. (David returned my call and denied being sick. I advised him to be tested as a precaution.)

David and I continued to see one another occasionally for almost 12 months. He would tell me he cared deeply for me and talk like we would one day be sharing a life together full-time. Even though he promised to come see me in Toledo many times, those visits never materialized. Although David would ask me to come see him at different Catholic conferences around the Midwest, which I sometimes did. But when I would get there he would always be busy. If we did happen to get some alone time he always made an excuse to get me out of the room ASAP afterwards. It was during this time David told me that he had some "good news". He said he was getting married in Hawaii that following weekend. He said he was marrying his housekeeper, Helen, and that he could never marry another woman who had her own career, like I did. He blamed competing careers for destroying his first marriage to Jeanne Cotter. He got angry when I finally told him that this relationship was not working for me and he became very verbally abusive. I asked him not to contact me anymore.

So David had been carrying on with me while courting and becoming engaged to another woman. A short time after his marriage David began calling me again. I realized early on there was an ulterior motive to those calls. The conversation would begin on a nice enough note but quickly turn sexual. He clearly was calling me for phone sex. When I resisted or refused, he became verbally abusive. If I would hang up he would sometimes call back while he was on the other end of the phone masturbating. I finally had to change my phone number.

I already felt foolish and played for the fool because I believed David when he talked like we were soulmates. I questioned my own moral compass and even thought I was to blame for the whole thing. I got really down on myself. I felt stupid and unworthy of a good life and even of God's love. I became depressed and developed a full blown panic disorder, for which I had to be hospitalized and placed on medication. Ultimately, my relationship with David Haas broke me.

Through a year of therapy and medication I was able to regain my power and pull myself back up. But during that time I quit going to church and quit singing in my church choir. What happened to me caused great spiritual distress. And it was just too painful to have to sing David's songs. I was also having trouble reconciling how someone like David could be allowed to represent God and Church when his motives and morals were so un-Godlike. He was a hypocrite.

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I wrote David a 3-page letter telling him exactly what I thought of him. I never had contact with David again after that.

Although there was nothing criminal about David's behavior towards me, I believe he was very harmful to any woman he targeted. He manipulated, lied, and used his religion and position in the religious community as a portal to gain access to trusting and spiritual women. He is a monster.