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"Corruption is only as effective as the corrupt
-Diederik van der Veen

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Diederik van Nderveen



Trophy Husband

My time observing the 1% feeding on the 99%

Nedra Roney

Nu Skin's Co Founder in Action

Just to give you a little insight into the Nu Skin world of surprises, the following is an excerpt from my book describing the actual founding “mother” of the company reaching out for love a little too close to home.

Tarah Jeane is Nedra’s adopted daughter and it all started out good; Nedra was young, successful, smart, funny, driven and charming. She really wanted to do right by helping Tarah’s birth mother find her way in life at an age and under circumstances that were less than perfect.

Soon, however, idealism and reality did not blend in and Nedra’s desires and ambitions didn’t include motherhood the way it was promised to be. Nu Skin’s growth enabled her to satisfy urges and spasm-spending spree’s, which enhanced by prescription drugs, did little but undermine mental faculties that could otherwise perhaps have saved her and her dependents from a roller coaster of extremes to which I too, (be it temporarily) have been a jaw-dropping witness.

Her way of showing love through external means of obsessive materialism was indicative of a woman who sees people as “opportunities” of personal gain.

Tarah made Nedra look good and grew to become an ideal nannie to her plural, colorful-bunch of adopted siblings until she wanted her independence.

Missing out on school and basic levels of healthy emotional development most of her life, circumstances only got less fortunate when she decided to marry her boy friend Dannon and wrangle herself free from Nedra’s control.

Initially Nedra went along with it, generously enjoying the part of buying the love birds a home in Las Vegas... but the reality to see her beautiful, young daughter have the life she herself couldn’t create became too much to bare.

It did more than amplify the disturbing reality of at least 13 failed marriages, it ruined her last, frail memory of hope when the merciless reflection in the mirror screamed out to her that midlife crisis was chewing up the last remnant of self esteem. What ever was left of it had already been soured by being forced off Nu Skin’s board of directors, another major setback in her life caused by her drug-enhanced behavior, amplified by Tarah’s desire for independence.

What follows is an excerpt from my chapter on the matter:

...After Tarah left Nedra’s home, to pursue her own dreams without Nedra’s influence and control. This gave Nedra enough time to brood over how she was going to handle her “obstinate” adopted daughter.

Tarah asked me what I thought of her dream of an income of her own by taking up modeling, and realizing her independence. I could not predict that the same pretty young woman in front of me, smiling at the forecast of finding success of her own, would call me up not too long after and tell me, “Nedra is having an affair with my hubby, Danon.”

I didn't need to wait long to learn that my advice to "stay calm" and meet up with her friends didn't have the desired impact. The moment I learned that Tarah had shot herself through her broken heart in her Malibu beachfront condo, possibly in the presence of one of her husband's friends, I realized there is little anyone can do to change the fate of the lives of others when no solutions seem to be available to them.

Nedra must have been convinced that one way to break Tarah's spirit of independence was to have sex with her daughter's freshly married hubby, far away on the Cayman Islands, next door to Michael Crichton's spread whose prolific writings may have drawn from the same inspirational beach setting that drove Nedra to write her own accord, a "Killer Rendezvous."

After the incident, Nedra proved that her concern was not focused on mending her ways for the sake of others, but rather her concern was for herself; how else was I to interpret, "Do you think this affair will affect my relationship with God?"

Fear of the wrath of "her maker" was of greater worry to her than finding help to heal her sickness.

It would be my last conversation with both women; with one I can no longer speak, and for the latter neither words nor desire remain.

If anyone could ever do anything to help Tarah, it is too late now; and for Nedra there seems to be little chance of redemption.

I do imagine this to be hard for Nedra too, unless the results of a few sessions of Mormon inspired "turbo-repenting" offered her some relief.

When I flew on her private jet in 1999 after she yelled and screamed at Tarah trying to break her will by threatening her with financial sanctions, Nedra and her ex-husband, Tom Wentland, didn't hesitate to use illegal drugs right in front of the children, bopping in and out of semi-consciousness, until I physically removed the drugs from Tom's hands.

Her attorney at the time, Tom Branch, was waiting on the tarmac when the plane landed and was informed of the situation. He can confirm this story is true. I hate to think what would have happened to me had she been arrested again for inter-state drug trafficking if it wasn't Tom, but police officers waiting. Nedra seemed to be dealing with it as business as usual.

Tarah's birth mother, Kimberly, hopes that the tragic death of a child she loved, but had to let go of, can inspire others to seek serious help before they too fall for the illusions of a "way out" when better answers are available, even during the darkest moments.

For Kimberly the road of obstacles didn't end when she passed her beautiful eight month old baby on to Nedra. The man Kimberly married showed to be less of a man

than an animal when he burned the few physical memories of Tarah in a bout of blind rage. The fact that he ended up in prison shows how he too made choices that can simply not be tolerated.

The sigh of relief his imprisonment drew from Kimberly was quickly silenced and replaced by ever more tears when Nedra forbade her to attend the funeral of her own daughter.

For some people the many challenges in life may seem unbearable and hopeless. I sincerely wish that by giving a voice to Tarah, as well as Kimberly, someone may be enlightened and be spared from unnecessary suffering.

Tarah Jeane was born on September 11, 1981 and passed away on August 1st, 2002 in Malibu, CA. She is laid to rest in Valley Oaks, Memorial Park, Westlake Village, CA.

On July 13/02 I spoke to Cory Draper who searched 15 cemeteries to find Tarah's grav and noticed that Nedra mistakenly posted the wrong birth date. It will be corrected soon.

Update (07/04/12) I just heard that Nedra moved Tarah's body to an undisclosed grave site and I am waiting to hear back from a investigator. Nedra has thus far refused to disclose the location.



BJean Apr 18th, 2012 @ 09:08 AM

Tarah was a victim, no doubt about it, and she needs this voice. I'm happy that you've posted this, I'm also disturbed that Utah Valley Magazine published a spread on her in 2003 after she'd slept with her son-in-law causing her daughter to end her life.


I wonder how long you'll be 'up' before they have you shut down. The Rip Off Report bowed down to these guys, I don't think it will take long to get your site pulled as well. In the meantime, I'm passing it along to as many people as I can so at least the awareness can be raised. I have several contacts in several Occupy movements who are also spreading the word. Keep up the fight!

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