

CINTRON

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Story Sources

Name: William Cintron

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Joseph,

You've done a nice job with this story. It is a good lesson in that sometimes when people say no it's not necessarily the final answer.

The time element is a little fuzzy in this story. Something else I wonder about is this: Does he still work as a doorman or does he have to spend a lot of time dealing with paperwork, etc., related to his wife's death?

I'm glad to see you followed through on this story. It shows initiative that you did it as an extra story, and I suspect you learned a lot in speaking with Cintron.

Good work!

Carla

William Cintron, walked briskly, chin up, softly cradling a framed picture of his wife, Edna.

Sept. 12, 2002, marked the one-year anniversary of her death, [IT WASN'T EXACTLY THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH. IT WAS ONE YEAR AND ONE DAY. YOU NEED TO REPHRASE SO THE READER WILL KNOW THAT SHE DIED ON SEPT. 11, 2001. OR DID YOU MEAN TO WRITE SEPT. 11?] but his stride in the procession up Third Avenue to St. Paul's church in East Harlem was confident, familiar to him.

"Today was not so different for me," said the 45-year-old Cintron [DON'T MAKE THE READER GUESS THAT THE 45-YEAR-OLD IS THE SAME PERSON YOU MENTIONED IN THE LEDE.] while standing next to a memorial for Edna in front of his flower shop, Sweet William's, on East 116th Street. "I've been very active this past year attending as many memorial services as possible. I feel closer to her that way."

Cintron's day began as usual: he lighted a candle in a shrine he built in the flower shop a week after the attacks. Then he headed down to Ground Zero, a trip he's he has made quite often this past year, and was there by 7:15 a.m., he said.

"I see that as place as her grave site," Cintron said, unconsciously turning to look south toward downtown. "I visit it a lot."

He gathered with others “in the pit,” he said referring to the World Trade Center tower’s footprints, which were blocked off the day before [ACTUALLY I’M CONFUSED ABOUT THE TIME ELEMENT. WERE YOU WITH HIM ON SEPT. 11 OR SEPT. 12?] for families who lost loved ones during in [SAVE DURING TO MEAN FOR THE DURATION OF.] the terrorist attacks. ~~last year.~~ They were able to pay respects and leave flowers, he said.

“Seeing them there was comforting,” Cintron said. “I could see my wife in the pain on their faces.”

They stayed at Ground Zero until 2 p.m., he said, but that length of time did not bother him.

“Last year I was down there digging for her within 15 minutes of the towers’ collapse,” Cintron said. He noted that his doorman uniform looks like a policeman’s so he was able to gain access to the restricted areas with the firemen.

“I spent days there,” he said. “But nothing.”

Today, though, he was not overwhelmed with horrible flashback visions of his impossible search. Earlier in his life, he spent years living on the street and it hardened him, he said, made him strong enough to endure this year.

“We had a tough life but we always pulled through,” Cintron said proudly.

He pointed out that Edna’s “Portrait of Grief,” which ran in the New York Times, was included as one out of 27 profiles featured in a documentary for The Discovery Channel.

“They picked hers as their number one,” he said and continued marching toward the church. [I’M NOT SURE WHAT HE MEANS BY THIS. HER PORTRAIT IS NOT THE FIRST ONE IN THE PROGRAM. BUT PERHAPS HERS WAS THE FIRST SELECTED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM.]

Tomorrow, like today, will not be that different, he said. He will wake up and do as he always does: light a candle in the shrine and make his way through the day finding ways to remember Edna.

“She’s a wonderful woman,” he said and disappeared into St. Paul’s for another service.

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Story Ideas:

SEPT. 11 YEAR 2: While in the area today, I noticed that all the vigils and memorial activities were sponsored by the churches. I would like to talk to some priests and

preachers and find out their outlook on next year. Will we keep the memory of Sept. 11 going on? Will it fade away?

MURALIST: In Spanish Harlem there is a large mural of the Zapatista struggle, beside being a Mexican mural in a predominantly Puerto Rican area, it's untouched by any other "tags." I would like to find the man who painted it for a possible profile.

LUCY'S: Lucy's are cigarettes sold in bodegas by the single. They are illegal to sell because the government can't track the taxes, I was told and people didn't sell them much because cops were busting them. However, since the price hike in cigarettes this past year, Lucy's have had a resurgence, but they even now cost \$0.50 a pop. I would like to find out if cops still bust for this? How prevalent is it? Why would people rather pay by the single if it still costs that much.