

The title should be clear, concise, and unambiguous.

Reaction to Suicide Attempts Indicative of Emotional Sterility in Sibling

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Abstract

The abstract indicates what was found, not what was done. The abstract should be a single paragraph which clearly states new and significant information in the paper. It should elaborate upon the title and condense the article. Abstracts should be terse, clear, and explicit.

An older sibling, male, attempted suicide for the third time. In a repeat of the behavior noted in the two previous suicide attempts, no tears were shed by the younger sibling, female, in this third instance of attempted suicide. An extensive analysis of the reaction by the female sibling to the third suicide attempt based on accepted norms of human behavior in cases of suicide attempts and successes revealed the absence of any emotional response to the older sibling. The younger female sibling was found to be emotionally sterile, as determined by analysis of reaction to older sibling's attempted suicide.

Introduction

The introduction should explain why it is necessary to perform the experiment, and include some historical background. The introduction should make the subject of the paper clear, include a definition of the problem, a brief synopsis of the previous studies related to the problem, and the rationale for the author undertaking the present study. A statement of purpose should also be included.

The younger female sibling, Avery, shortened to Ava to meet accepted norms for female forenames, aged seventeen, was close to her older male sibling, Jonathan, forename not shortened, aged nineteen. They'd been close for as long as she could remember, him taking the lead, her following, in the usual tradition of older brother and younger sister. They were friends. She'd been there when he'd broken his leg at the age of twelve, leading her on an exploration of how to get the attention of inattentive parents. They had left their house, Ava and Jonathan, while their father was yelling at their mother, "you don't love me anymore, you never touch me," mother and father's accepted roles reversed. Their father was the emotional one. He needed to be told and shown. Their mother did not. She slept in the spare bedroom when they didn't have company. Jonathan had led the way to the old and battered furniture factory, the words Hoffman's Furniture Factory in faded yellow paint stenciled on the brick. There was a window in the back of the factory two feet from the ground that had no glass in it where the children and animals entered. Ava had watched as Jonathan climbed up to the floor above and jumped through the hole in the rotting floor. He had landed folded in on himself. He'd yelled at her then, "Run and get mom and dad. I think I broke my leg." She'd cried as she ran.

Ava was thirteen when Jonathan made his first attempt at suicide. And she hadn't cried. She'd only been angry. She was spending the afternoon at one of her friend's house, a girl she wasn't particularly close to, when she'd been called to the phone. It was her mother, "Ava, you need to come home. Jonathan's had an accident." He'd accidentally swallowed half of the bottle of their mother's sleeping pills. It was 5:15 p.m. Their father would usually get home from work by 5:28 p.m. He'd been on time and he'd found Jonathan lying on his bed beneath the quilt his paternal or maternal grandfather had sewn. It'd been so long ago they'd all forgotten which. Jonathan had written a teenager's will. To his sister he left his CD collection and his clothes. To their parents he left something more valuable, guilt.

The second attempt had come when Ava was sixteen years old. His mother's sleeping pills again, this time the entire bottle. It was Ava who'd found him that night at 10:37 p.m. Their parents were gone, their mother with her friend, their father alone. Ava and Jonathan had made their own dinner, washed the dishes afterwards, and watched a movie. "I'm going to bed," he'd said after the movie, "love you." She'd found him when she went upstairs to tell him goodnight. The empty bottle was sitting on the desk near his bed. He'd looked like he was sleeping. Jonathan had to stay at the Golden Harbor Psychiatric Hospital for seventeen days after that. They'd only made him stay a week the first time. He looked the same as he always had when Ava went with her parents to visit him one weekend. He was smiling and unapologetic. Their father had cried. Their mother had cried in the bathroom the night Ava found Jonathan, where she thought no one had heard her. Ava hadn't cried at all.

Accepted norms of human behavior in cases of suicide attempts and successes dictate the shedding of tears, most commonly in the presence of the person who has attempted or succeeded in committing suicide. The younger female sibling's lack of tears in both previous cases indicates the absence of any emotional response to her older male sibling. An analysis of a third case of attempted suicide will identify the continued absence of feeling and establish the cause of the female sibling's emotional sterility.

Materials and Methods

This section should provide the reader with sufficient information to enable him to duplicate the author's methods and assess their accuracy. If previously published methods are used, they should be referenced, and any special adaptations by the author should be provided. The methods should cover how the experiment was done, what equipment and animals were used, and comments about how the animal was kept.

Ava is seventeen and Jonathan attempts suicide for the third time. More sleeping pills, these ones his own, and a pint of whiskey and a beer. No one is home when Jonathan writes his three suicide notes that they never get to read—one for Ava, one for their father, and one for their mother. Ava's is the longest. Jonathan is alone when he drinks his alcohol and swallows his pills. It's 4:31 p.m. Ava is at her part-time job at the coffee shop where she busses tables for minimum wage. The location of their parents is unknown. What is known is that they are not together. Jonathan lays on the couch after he's taken his pills and waits for the room to tilt slightly off its axis and the nausea to settle heavily in the pit of his stomach. Jonathan is not aware of how much time has passed. But he is aware of the quiet and the absolute solitude. No one will find him today.

The nausea in Jonathan's stomach sharpens into something urgent. He rolls his body off of the couch and onto the floor. He can't walk. He crawls on his hands and knees out of the living room, down the

hall, and into the kitchen. The phone is sitting on the counter. He's on his knees now and he can reach the phone. Jonathan dials 911. "I've taken some pills," he says, "I'm trying to kill myself." He tells the operator where they live and then crawls the five feet to the back door to unlock it. Jonathan passes out then. He's stopped breathing by the time the ambulance arrives at their house.

Results

Data and observations should be presented in the results and should be sufficiently new and original to merit publication. Data presented as tables and figures should not duplicate information already outlined in detail in the text.

The laryngoscope the EMT shoved down his throat when they intubated him chipped his front tooth. Jonathan bares his teeth in something like a smile to show Ava the damage. Their parents are there too, each of them retreating into their own corners of the hospital room. Ava came to the hospital as soon as their mother called her. "Jonathan's in the hospital," she said. "He tried to kill himself again." Ava's stomach had fallen in on itself when she'd been called to the telephone at work. Only her parents called her there, and only when something was wrong. She was angry, *what had Jonathan done now?*

The anger is still there. But the tears haven't come. Ava is sitting by Jonathan's bed and watching his television. She doesn't want to talk. She wishes he'd really done it this time, that he'd succeeded in killing himself. There wouldn't be the fights, the yelling and the crying, their parents blaming each other and absolving themselves. "You want my jello?" he asks. His speech is slow and slurred. She doesn't want any jello. She wants to show Jonathan how suicide is really done, how not to fail. She wants some peace.

Discussion

The discussion should cover the validity of observations and techniques used. Internal consistency of observations should be remarked upon, and results should also be compared to external reports. It is acceptable to speculate and suggest implications for the results.

It's believed that there are degrees of suicide. The very act itself indicating degree of intent; a scale from one to ten of how much a person really wants to die. The taking of pills is on the lower end of the scale. You'll have time to think; you'll have time to change your mind. The higher end of the scale houses attempts that are unlikely to be repeated, attempts that don't let you call for help once they're begun, attempts like hanging by the neck until you are dead. The male sibling's repeated attempts of suicide and the method chosen suggest the objective of notice. Not the objective of permanent bodily harm. The lack of emotional response to repeated attempts of suicide by the male sibling indicates emotional sterility in the younger female sibling. There is evidence of bodily harm. Harm done to Ava, the one person Jonathan doesn't want to harm.

Definite cause and onset of female sibling's sterility is unknown. Ava can't remember when she stopped caring. Estimations site Jonathan's leap through the hole in the rotting floor of the faded old furniture factory as the onset of her sterility. Their parents had said they'd stop arguing. But the relative peace had lasted about as long as it had taken Ava and Jonathan and their parents to drive home from the hospital. Jonathan couldn't climb stairs. Their mother didn't want to move from the spare bedroom on

the first floor; there were too many people upstairs. Ava wasn't like her father. He'd cared too much and she stopped caring at all.

Emotional sterility has not been determined to be a permanent condition. It has not been determined to indicate irrevocable loss of a person's humanity. Ava wants to believe this is true; wants to believe that her brother will stop taking bottles of pills and that their parents will stop pretending they're strangers, that she will cry if he doesn't and care if they don't.

References

1. Wheeler, G. (2007). *Writing a Science Report*. Retrieved October 13, 2008, from <http://www.owled.com/science.html>