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Statement of La Rivers

Last June, all I wanted to do was celebrate with my father and friends at an upscale and private location. It was a big and important night for me as we attended my Film Festival Premiere. My father was visiting from out of town and Father's Day was the next day. I had planned the perfect weekend- having him join me to celebrate my success, and being able to celebrate him on Sunday.

I went to Beautique thinking that it was the perfect place to end our fantastic evening, showing my father a nice time at a luxurious and chic place surrounded by the beauty of midtown Manhattan.

Instead, it turned out to be a living nightmare.

I was assaulted, knocked unconscious, and bloodied. Worse than that, I had my sense of safety and security taken away from me.

Before that night, I had not ever been struck by a man. As I learned that night, violent men like my attacker exist in even the most posh and seemingly safe venues and neighborhoods.

Since this happened, I find myself feeling doubtful. I don't trust that I will be protected in social settings where I don't know people, so I avoid them. For me, this is a new feeling; I was fearless before last June. Now, I'm constantly worrying and suspicious of my surroundings. I hate feeling this way. I haven't slept one full night since last June. The feeling of danger possibly being nearby hasn't ever left my mind.

I have had many trips to doctors to address my head pain and nasal pain, but there is also the heartache, and stress that comes with this as I'm unable to erase this from memory. For months, I tried to wear heavy makeup to cover the scars, and although I tried to disguise my blemishes/marks/disfigurement, I couldn't hide my hurt/trauma, both emotionally and physically, from the lens. I look forward to re-establishing myself in Film & Television and having the career that I have worked so hard for, and was on the path to achieving before this attack.

June 1, 2016