

## Bio: Kristin Collins

**Kristin Collins** is a 45-year old mother of three who lives with her (second) husband in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She has leukemia. He has Parkinson's. The family lives on the \$1,700 per month they receive in disability insurance, which is supposed to support the family of five, including Kristin's oldest child, Abraham Davis, and his younger brothers Noah Davis and Gabriel Collins. It is impossible for the family to make ends meet. They owe several thousand dollars in back rent and their minivan needs repairs they can't afford, so Kristin sometimes relies on church foodbanks at the end of the month to be able to feed her family.

Kristin has always known her two older sons to be different: Noah, the middle one, was shy and sensitive and a hard worker. Abraham would escape into comic books and cartoons. Yet despite their differences, the two brothers were extremely close. Abraham was also very protective of Noah, who was a frequent target for bullies. He stood up for his brother from an early age, fighting kids who made fun of Noah. His elementary school principal described him as having "a big heart and a short fuse."

Abraham saw himself as "one of the outcasts" but he seemed okay with that. He could be himself with a small, tight group of friends, one of whom was Craig Wigginton, a tall intense teenager, who lived in a small apartment across town. Craig had no easy life either, and the two boys bonded over that and helped each other out. Abraham thought Craig was extremely smart. Craig, moreover, made Abraham feel good about himself.

But Craig also had a racist streak. He said things that made Kristin nervous. On the evening of October 19, 2016, Abraham asked to use the minivan to go hang out with Craig. Kristin was reluctant to let him take the car because she knew it had problems she couldn't afford to fix, but she let him anyway. It would be four months before she found out what he'd done when he left with the minivan that night.

On the night of February 17, 2017, the police came to the house with a warrant for Abraham's arrest. Abraham wasn't home, so Noah went to pick him up in the same white minivan with which it all started. Noah initially thought it was a case of mistaken identity. He asked his brother what he'd done – what required a \$15,000 bond?

Noah drove his brother to the police station to turn himself in. They first stopped by the family's house so Abraham could say goodbye. Kristin was devastated and sobbing.

The family couldn't afford the \$1,580 for the bail bond so Abraham stayed in jail till the case went to court. It took a month for Kristin to arrange her first visit with Abraham in jail. They cried when they finally saw each other. Kristin and Noah visited every Saturday after that. Abraham had focused his whole life on being strong enough to protect his family, but in the end he realized that he was the one who had inflicted the most hurt. He felt a powerful urge to make things right.

Discuss the following questions:

- What are your thoughts and feelings about Kristin's experiences?
- How do you think Kristin felt about what happened to the mosque?
- If you were to describe Kristin using a word or two, what would they be?