

**Epilog**  
**Take Away One**  
**The Story I Wish I Did Not Have to Write**

In the [Introduction – Credibility](#) section that begins this book, you were informed that Mary is no longer with us. In that same introduction, reference is made to the tribute I wrote for and about Mary.

If you are reading this after having read all or many of the other IF chapters in this book, then you have already learned a great deal more about Mary than is contained in my tribute.

**The Need**

The need for the Take Away One story that I wish I did not have to write is because Google exists. A simple Google search for Mary Baratta-Lorton leads the searcher to a film about Mary's life called Take Away One.



Tale Away One is a documentary film produced by Mary's and my nephew Bill. I was a willing contributor to the making of the film. However, when Bill asked me for information about a particular person that Mary and I both knew, I declined. My reason for declining was that using this person as an information source for the film without Mary's being able to rebut his statements had the potential of damaging Mary's reputation. Bill said he understood, but if he didn't ask me, it would be assumed it was only because he was my relative.

I knew that this person's view of his and Mary's relationship was not at all what Mary's view had been. Since Mary would not be able to refute his nonsense, including this person's statements about Mary in the film

would be really unfair to Mary. I agreed to talk to Bill about this person, but only if Bill promised not to reference him in his film. Bill promised he would not.

Bill made his film and submitted it to various film festivals. It was selected as an official entry for the Austin, Texas Film Festival. Festival dates: October 24<sup>th</sup> through October 31, 2013. I was definitely going to be in Austin for every showing of Bill's film.

The Center website posted an ad for the Film Festival on its Home page and a link to the film's preview. Once the film was actually available, we were planning a promotional mailing to the Center's database of more than 300,000 teachers. Our more than 300 workshop instructors were also looking into ways to promote the film locally in their areas.

I attended Take Away One's first showing in Austin. That first attendance was my last. The first hour of the film was excellent. It was all about Mary and the curriculum she had created. After that hour, the person Bill had promised not to reference at all was the film's star. Because Bill knew I did not want this person in the film, he had not let me know of any of the absurd things this guy had to say, so there was no counter-narrative disputing his absurdities included in the film. This one person's nonsense was not the only nonsense in the film.

When I would later tell people of my frustration with Bill's Take Away One film, they would wonder why Mary's and my own nephew would make a film like that. Their wondering would cease when I would add that Bill is (or now was) the main editor for the Dr. Phil TV show. They would then say, "Oh, that's why!"

I have never watched an episode of Dr. Phil's show. However, I do know that for TV, ratings are the measure of success. Apparently, a simple story about a teacher creating a different way of teaching mathematics to children would not be an attention-grabber. Adding a non-existent drama to the mix might do the trick. It would seem that Bill's Doctor Phil background prompted him to choose ratings over facts. I left the film festival before any second showings. I, of course, told Bill how upset I was, but I added that he was still my nephew in good standing. It was his film, not mine. I asked him why he broke his promise. He said he didn't remember making one.

The ad for the film was removed from the Center's website. The plan for a 300,000-teacher mailing was abandoned. I conveyed to the Center's instructors my disappointment with the film. Instructors cancelled efforts to promote the film locally. The film is still available online, but

Bill's opportunity to have the Center promote his film for him nationwide disappeared just like his promise had.

The story of Mary's death, the effects it had on me, on the Center, and on those who knew her are not included in this book. Also not included is why the actual facts related to her death were so deliberately distorted over time. However, because Google does exist, and since the Take Away One film is right at the top of Mary Baratta-Lorton's search results, I did end up writing that story I never wanted to write. Rather than include it in this book, however, I made it downloadable from the Center's website.

**The Need - 1978 – Brother Joseph – Four Back Stories – The Movie**

**[www.center.edu/TakeAwayOne.shtml](http://www.center.edu/TakeAwayOne.shtml)**