

# PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

## Miranda tells Christi about her past

Miranda continued her conversation with Christi about growing up in a wildly dysfunctional alcoholic home.

“Dad would come home at 5 o’clock after work, and start drinking,” she said. “At least on the days when he didn’t go down to Whiskey Gulch.”

“Where was he working?” asked Christi.

“That’s when he still had a good job,” said Miranda. “He was a manager at the Crocker Bank, and a Stanford grad himself. He was a smart guy; but he felt he had gotten a raw deal in life, that he should have been more successful; and he was resentful about that the whole time I knew him.”

“How old were you and Tom,” Christi asked.

“Tom—your father—and I were at

This is part 70 of a 72-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.

Addison and Jordan when it got bad. We never knew what to expect at home. Would the evening be happy; or would it be angry and violent. It was like walking on eggshells.”

“Tom said they fought,” said Christi.

“Sometimes mom and dad would stand in the front yard of our Southgate house and yell at each other about who was drunker,” said Miranda. “‘You’re drunker than I am!’ she would shout. ‘No, you’re drunker than I am,’ he would shout back. It was a nightmare.”

“What did you do?” asked Christi.

“We stayed away as much as possible,”

said Miranda. “I often slept over at Valerie’s. Her parents were nice to me, and things were calmer.”

“What about dad?” asked Christi.

“Tom sometimes stayed at Eddie’s house,” said Miranda. “And later when he and Eddie discovered drugs, it was on.”

“When did the dealing start?” asked Christi.

“When Tom realized he had entrepreneurial skills, his life took off,” said Miranda. “He had money. Dealing drugs he felt he could live his own life, and be free. And he felt he was carrying a counter-culture message. In the early days, at least, before the gangster mentality took over.”

“What did you do?” asked Christi.

“Pot and acid were big in Palo Alto in those days,” said Miranda, “And I tried them all. But I liked school—it was a safe

place for me. Somehow, I was able to get into Stanford.”

“You’re a smart woman,” said Christi.

“Stanford was a different school in those days,” said Miranda. “Not as hard to get into as now. Today, I don’t know if I could get in. At some point the school got rich and rebranded itself.”

“So how did you climb out of your downward spiral?” asked Christi.

“I changed my behavior,” said Miranda.

“What does that mean?” asked Christi.

“I asked for help,” said Miranda, “I was willing, and I listened.”

“What does that mean?” asked Christi.

“I’ll explain it to you,” said Miranda.

**More on Monday.**