

No matter what, whether it's when we're young or old, we hope that when our time comes to die we hope that people take notice. We don't show up for work, we don't return a phone call or miss plans that we have made with friends, or we don't see family on holidays. One way or another, someone would wonder where we were, right? We all hope so but there have cases where people seem to have been forgotten in time and when they got lost no one came to find them. When someone finally did, it was too late. That is what we're talking about today. Someone who was forgotten and by the time she was remembered and located, it was too late. This is what happened in the case of Joyce Carol Vincent.

Joyce Carol Vincent was born October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1965 in Hammersmith, a district of west London, England. Her mother was of Indian origins while her father was African and both transplanted to London from Grenada. She was the youngest of five children, all girls. During an operation, her mother passed leaving her father to take care of all the children. It is said that Joyce had a strained and distance relationship with her father. Joyce was smart, charming with a beautiful and would surely go far in life and she seemed to. Over the years she would rub shoulders with many well-known celebrities but her life wasn't as charmed as it might have seemed on the outside.

Joyce moved from job to job for a time until she landed a job Ernst & Young; an accounting firm in London where she worked in the treasury department for four years until she left for unknown reasons. It was after this that Carol spent some time in a shelter for women suffering from abuse and she then was said to have worked as a house clean at a hotel. It was at this time in her life where she apparently became distant from everyone including and most importantly her family. It is unsure whether or not she stopped coming around because she didn't want to be near to them any longer or if perhaps she was protecting them from the abusive person she had been seeing.

Dying of unknown causing in December 2003, the suggested possible cause of death was either complication with a peptic ulcer, something she got as a result of the abuse, or an asthma attack, as Joyce was asthmatic. Her body was found while lying on her back while surrounded by Christmas presents that had been wrapped yet not delivered. Next to her was a shopping bag. Nothing seems odd other than the woman that was now deceased. What was strange was the fact that no one knew that her life was lost for three years. In January 2006, the remains were found of Joyce, being described as "skeletal" which would be the main reason why her actual cause of death has never fully been confirmed as her body was too badly decomposed; having to be officially identified by dental records. Over the years others believed the London flat to be empty and the ill smell was simply from the trash cans that were nearby. The area was known to have a drug problem, so hearing the non-stop television didn't alarm anyone either. Having been a victim of an abusive relationship, Joyce's housing was provided by the Metropolitan Housing Trust and paid for by agencies that helped with the program. Over the course of two years, the rent hadn't been paid for some reason, racking up a cost of £2,400 and the housing official went to the flat in order to repossess it. Due to automatic debt payments, the heat and the electric were still on so nothing seemed out of place when they forced their way into the flat on the January day in 2006 and found the body of what would be discovered of 38-year-old Joyce Carol Vincent.

Again the death was ruled as a death by natural causes without signs of foul play but with Joyce's history of domestic abuse, people have wondered if something from her past could have had something to do with it although the door was double locked from the inside and there were no signs of forced entry. At the time of her death, Joyce had a boyfriend but the police were unable to locate him. According to her family, they had written letters to Joyce but when she didn't return, they assumed that she didn't want anything to do with them.

With the decomposition being so extreme, authorities weren't able to make an identification other than so was there some kind of foul play at hand that wasn't seen? Did someone actually do something to this young woman that caused her death? After being left for alone for three years, without anyone bothering to search for her at that time or from the fact that she isolated herself; she lived alone and in the end, she died alone. For those of you who know this case, do you have any theories? Did she die of natural causes or did something else happen? The fact that she had previously been in an abusive relationship had come up but without anything pointing towards foul play we are left with the natural way. Either way she went Joyce was alone.

Overall the lesson to be learned is to make sure to check in on the ones you love, the ones you hold near and dear to you. If people are forgotten by people, then they become lost in time and one day you're only going to be able to wish you had tried harder to be there for them, to have told them that you love them more. This is a case that will hopefully implant that into your mind.

As always, thank you for reading and I have added pictures below. Nothing graphic; just pictures of a beautiful and lost soul.

Until next time –

Ali



The most known picture of Joyce Carol Vincent; this is someone that everyone forgot.



Did her eyes hide sadness, loneliness or a deeper secret?