

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Speaker 1:

Do you like rainy days?

Denise:

Oh, no. They so dreary. Nothing happens. That's like listening to music. My name's Denise [Tisdale 00:00:17]. It's called Beauty of a Woman Salon, 204 West Saratoga Street. Some women sometimes feel down and depressed. So once you get your hair done, you just feel good about yourself. At one point in my life, I didn't feel that good about myself. Where I came from it was something. My baby is 25 now. At five years old, that's when I left his dad. I didn't even have a place to stay.

Speaker 1:

What made you decide to leave his dad?

Denise:

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Oh, he was really abusive. That day I decided it was done. Oh, it was done. That day, me and my sister had a plan. I said, "You come with the truck and I'm going to go home, fix dinner, and act like everything was fine." So he was home with the baby and I just went home, fixed dinner, and act like everything was fine. So when he left, my sister is backing the truck up and I took everything out, and I left. Then it was on. Oh, it was on for months and months. Yes. Oh, that lifestyle was a mess. We went to court. We was fighting. He stole my car. He wanted to kill me, but the Lord protected me, kept that shield over me. And I say, "Look where I'm at now." I'm a business woman, knowing that I don't have to answer to nobody.