

October 31, 2011

*The Who Tragedy*, by Ashley Brown

I have known about the awful tragedy and read about it, but never listened to people who were there talk about what they had encountered. As I was listening to this program, I got chills. How descriptive everyone was and how much detail they still remember was very sad. You could hear it in their voices that day still haunts many of them. In a way, I could picture what the scene looked like based on the accounts of the night. Many of the words used to describe that night made me very upset and disturbed. These are what caught my attention, "Compacted, Out of control chaos, piles of shows, bodies stacked on top of each other, feet not even touching the ground because you were squashed in between people, most terrifying moments because you were not in control, face in a coat not being able to breath, that girl was dead man". This was the scariest description, "If you fell you would have been crushed to death." I have claustrophobia and am not really good with huge crowds. I know for a fact that I would have had a break down if I were stuck in that nightmare. I can't imagine how everyone dealt with such compaction.

I think it was very brave of the guests that had gone through that night to talk about their experiences so openly. It just shows how much this disaster brought the fans and workers closer together. I know that it must have been very difficult for some of them to talk about what they went through, especially the ones whose family members and friends never made it home that night. The part of the program that really got to me was when Michael Ladd, the husband of Teva Ladd, talked about getting separated from his wife. You could just hear it in his voice that he was deeply upset about not being able to leave the concert with his wife and how this experience is still haunting him today. As he states, "I always considered myself to be damn near number twelve". I couldn't help but feel immense sympathy for him. It's crazy how simple words can affect you.

One thing that I am surprised about is how after 30 years have passed, there is no type of plaque or memorial at U.S Bank arena for the 11 fans killed. I at least never noticed one. I think it would be disrespectful to not have any kind of remembrance for them. They weren't asking to be killed that night. All they were wanting was to experience a fun concert, but it ended more like nightmare.