

Teen Says Angels Saved Her From Shooting That Killed Her Family

A 15-year-old girl who survived a shooting rampage that took the lives of her parents and all four of her siblings, spoke to a crowd Saturday, saying happiness can be found in the darkest of times. Her grandfather said she recalled feeling "as though angels were with her, putting her hands over her mouth and whispering her to be quiet."

"We have wondered whether those angels might have been her brothers and sisters," Roger Lyons told the crowd.

Reuters reported that the teenage survivor, Cassidy Stay, of the shooting attack in suburban Houston told a memorial event on Saturday her family was "in a much better place" and that she was making a full recovery from her injuries.

Stay spoke to a large gathering outside an elementary school three days after the shootings at her home. Police said Ronald Lee Haskell, 33, entered the house posing as a delivery man and searching for his former wife, the sister of Cassidy's mother. He then shot members of the family, authorities said.

Haskell is charged with capital murder.

Cassidy Stay wiped away tears but smiled as she spoke of her parents, Stephen Stay, 39, and Katie, 33, and her two brothers and two sisters, aged 4 to 14.

"I know that my mom, dad, Bryan, Emily, Becca and Zach are in a much better place and that I'll be able to see them again one day," Cassidy said in remarks televised by local media. "Thank you all for coming and for showing support for me and my family. Stay strong."

“I’m feeling a lot better,” she added, “and I’m on a straightforward path to a full recovery.”

Cassidy, released from a hospital on Friday after treatment for a head wound, was credited by authorities with saving lives by calling the 911 emergency line and warning police the gunman was on his way to another house where relatives lived.

Police captured Haskell on Wednesday night after a four-hour standoff.

Doug Durham, Haskell’s public defender, said his client had been in and out of hospitals in Utah and California with a history of mental illness and was not taking prescribed medication at the time of the killings.

Haskell collapsed in a Houston courtroom on Friday as details of the killings were read aloud. Harris County prosecutor Tammy Thomas told the judge that Haskell methodically executed the family, tying them up and then firing two bullets into each of them, starting with the mother.