

Samantha Paes

### Scammed Blind

Holding my dogs' leash, he stands in front of me alerting me to stop. Navigating through the subway has become routine. Walk down 15 stair steps and turn right, listen to the subway audio conductor, get off in six stops at Court Square. My house, grocery store, physician, bank, brother's house directions are memorized. The few slip ups I have are because of road construction, and difficult weather to travel with, making it hard for my dog, Scruffy to travel in. Scruffy has become my companion, however I have learned to travel without him. Blindly traveling has heightened my sense of touch and hearing, walking through the streets you aren't aware I'm blind.

I went from holding my dogs leash to screaming, "HOLD YOURR HANDS IN THE AIR", and stuck a post it note, with 10K written in bold letters, alerting the teller to put the money in the bag. I can hear her fill the bag and she put it on the table. I take my bag back and tell her get on the floor. I immediately count 18 steps towards the door and walk down my block. The wanted sign and in the news shows a warrant arrest for man who stole 10K. However, my coverup isn't hard, when going outside I wear my glasses and have my blind guard dog. Nobody questions me, I even go to deposit 1K into the same bank a week later. Being blind has made my life difficult, thinking back to my early twenties, I was coming home from grocery shopping, and I made it apparent that I was blind. He stole my wallet, and phone; felt helpless in this situation.

