

Harrison Fights for His Life

By Jane Eden

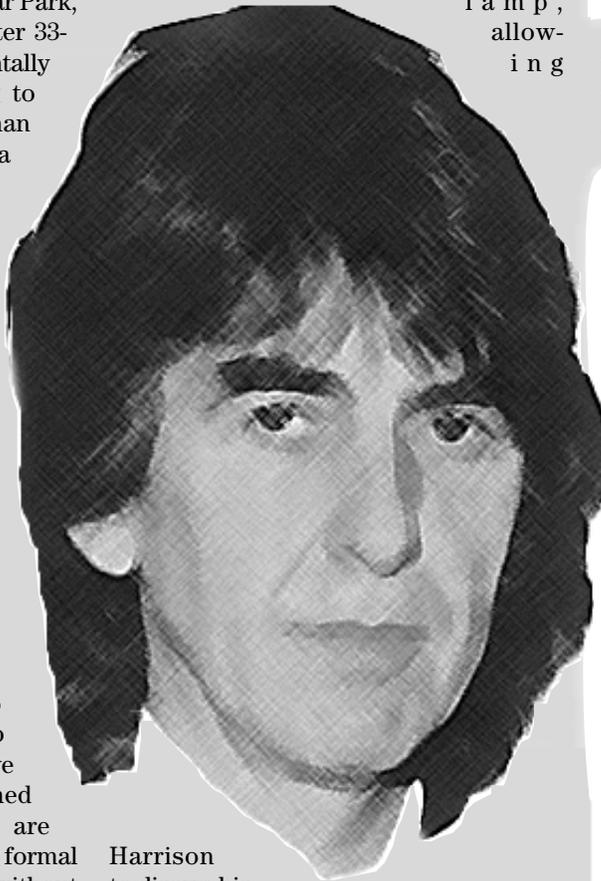
When former Beatle George Harrison prepared to retire for the evening Dec. 29, 1999 he had no idea that before morning, he would fight for his life, unarmed against a knife attacker in his own home. He thought his home was well protected. He had an elaborate security system that included a 10-foot-high fence topped with barbed wire, dogs, security system, lights and video cameras. Yet in the end, the security system at Friar Park, likened to Fort Knox, did not deter 33-year-old Michael Abrams, a mentally disturbed loner, from attempting to take Harrison's life. Rather than accessing the property through a network of subterranean caverns that reportedly surround the former Nunnery, Abrams apparently managed to penetrate the elaborate security system and enter the house by smashing a kitchen window. With a six-or seven-inch knife, he attacked Harrison who, having heard the noise, had thrown on a dressing gown and gone to investigate.

Like Harrison, most of us don't go to bed at night expecting to have to fight for our life before we wake up the next morning. However, it can happen to anyone—and frequently does. The first and most important step to surviving such an attack is to grasp the fact that you CAN survive an attack from an armed assailant—even if you are unarmed—even if you have no formal combat training. If you surrender without a fight, you have lost any chance of survival if murder becomes your assailant's objective. You CAN fight and survive. You have a chance. In the chaos of a fight, anything can happen. However, to survive, you must maintain hope, and you must keep a cool head.

Harrison received significant chest

wounds as well as a punctured lung and Olivia, his wife, sustained a head injury as the couple fought off the intruder at their Oxfordshire estate. The knife blade narrowly missed Harrison's major organs. Despite significant wounds, he managed to hold off his attacker. According to sources, Harrison fought off the intruder through several bedrooms for approximately 15 minutes as he struggled to hang on to Abrams's knife hand. Eventually, Olivia managed to club Abrams with a

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Harrison to disarm his attacker. Afterward, Harrison and Olivia tied Abrams up, reportedly with a lamp cord, to subdue him until the police arrived. Quick thinking and utilizing their environment wisely—the lamp as a club—the cord as a restraining device—saved Harrison's life as well as Olivia's. **THEY SURVIVED!**

Editor's Note: Most home invasions take place late at night. Usually the intruder has more on his mind than robbery. It could be rape? It could be murder? Statistics are in your favor that this won't happen to you. And, nothing can take the place of training to disarm an attacker. However, it is also important to prepare your home so you can better fend off such an intrusion, if necessary. While it didn't help Harrison, security systems are still a good idea. Also, keep side arms close at hand. Have multiple arms available for easy access for yourself and your spouse (if applicable.) Weapons can include, sticks, knives, baseball bats or a gun. If attacked in your home use everything at your disposal to fend off the attack. Fight for your life.

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- Grasp the fact that you can survive.**
 - Keep a cool head.**
 - Make use of elements in your environment.**
 - Call for help whenever possible.**
 - Fight for your life!**
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