The Empathy Thief

Ben Heins

The Journalist’s Diary, October 9:

Dear Jill:
I ruined your morning today, perhaps your life. The viper’s crescent rope descends. Who to cut, who to cut –

Summary of First Interview:

Northwestern journalist interviews trailer-bound PA hillbilly, Jill, stays past sunset. Jill tells life’s story, affairs, every family member dead. Jill begs

Please, God, don’t write about this.