

X-Tra 1 Image 1 Minute

Image of Sylmar fire, Glen Koenig, *Los Angeles Times*, 2008

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By Marcus Civin

I say to myself: I'm not going out. I'm not going out 'til
I'm sure it's safe.

I came in from dinner just before 6 o'clock,

I closed the door,

the room shook.

Out the window, I saw people rush in the other direction,
away from me.

I barricaded the door with the dresser and the mattress.

Without the mattress, the exposed bed frame, still, a bed
frame.

I have my Blackberry. I have my Blackberry.

No one will respond to my calls.

I can hear gunshots, smell smoke. I'm not going out.

All I've got is local news:

SECURITY FORCES ARE INSIDE THE HOTEL... THE

CHIEF OF SECURITY FORCES HAS BEEN SHOT. 3

ATTACKERS... 5 ATTACKERS... 10... NECKLACE

BEADS LAND ON THE FLOOR... SMASHED

LAPTOP... 5 DEAD...

If they come in, I'll grab the lamp, go at them with the
lamp.