

## **YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT UNTIL ITS GONE**

As teenagers we all believe we are invincible until we are proven wrong. We take our loved ones and the influences they try to brand us with for granted. There are few of us who have disrespected our parents and felt guilty about it. Is it because we don't realize what it could be like if they were gone?

When I was ten or eleven I was very proud to have never attended a funeral, little knowing my first would be for one of the closest people to me, my mother. She was diagnosed with cancer, a terrifying disease but with slim death chances. I took this hard, but felt nothing could happen to her. She's my mother, I've never heard of a young girl losing a mother at this age. Everyone has a mother, and anyway parents only die when they're old. Well, this fictional bubble I imagined life in, was suddenly burst when the doctors said this case was fatal. It was after this I started growing further away from her. It seems like the opposite of what most people would do and I realize that too. I was scared of what was happening to her and thought it might change her into a different person than I knew. I was still in a fantasy thinking she would make a miraculous recovery, proving all the doctors wrong. Then we could have our normal little family, like everyone else. I just kept getting so distant when I should have been treasuring these last few weeks with her. I almost couldn't accept what my mother was going through, therefore could not help her very much.

It was hard having a parent with cancer, not wanting anyone to know because of the fear of what people might think. I feel guilty for this act of selfishness and can't help thinking if maybe I had been more supportive, I could have helped. I didn't realize what I had until it was gone. I was confused and felt as if I was stuck in an ocean grasping out at anything possible, but everything just slipped from my fingers.

So I live with a feeling of loss, but in a way it may have taught me the hardest lesson of my life, a lesson I will never forget. I learned that you have to realize and appreciate everything and everyone around you, because when they're gone they're not coming back. Something similar may come along but never the same. So think every day through and cherish every moment you live. Respect everyone you meet and show equality to the world around you. Don't forget you never know what you've got until it's gone.