

“I Love You More than You Know”
by Tina G.

1

When I was 14, I interviewed my mom while she was cooking chicken in the oven. I asked her about her childhood and how it was moving to the U.S at such a young age. She had just come home from work when I asked to interview her while helping her with dinner. After we talked I compared her teenage years to mine and saw that they didn't have too many differences.

2

My mom is the youngest of 3 siblings, she had an older brother and sister. She spent her childhood in Beirut, Lebanon and moved to Pasadena California when she was 11 years old. When she was younger she was more introverted but opened up when talking to her family, whom she loved so much.

In Lebanon the schools required you to learn 2-3 languages so my mom knew basic English before coming to America. When my mom first came to America she lived with her aunt and cousins who had an established life in the U.S. My mom quickly adapted to the lifestyle in Pasadena and became very extroverted and made many friends.

3

Right around the time my second brother was born my mom had to get major jaw surgery. During the surgery they placed metal in her jaw and kept her in the hospital for a few days.

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During the weekends me and my mom have a habit of going to a coffee shop every Saturday morning. We occasionally invite one of my brothers or one of my cousins to come with us. While in the car the mix of my favorite music and scent of vanilla air freshener gives me such a cheery feeling that always brightens my day. On the rare occasion we don't have time to sit at a coffee shop my mom takes us to the 7-11

on Washington in Pasadena. Our orders from 7-11 never change; my mom always gets a large vanilla coffee with classic lays chips and I get peach Arizona iced tea with Hi-Chew candy. The smell of coffee shops and coconut body spray remind me of my mom.

5

When I think of my mom I see her on a Friday night in the TV room on the couch with lays chips and a diet coke. She's usually watching Dateline on NBC or House Hunters International with the volume turned up so loud I can hear it from my room across the house. My dad always says I got being a night owl from my mom which is contrary to my dad that wakes up before the sun comes up.

6

A couple years before I was born in 2004 my mom's only sister was diagnosed with breast cancer. My mom recalls the day like it wasn't that long ago, she said it was a sunny but cold Wednesday in the end of March. My mom still to this day says no matter who she is friends with she will never be closer to anyone than she was with her sister. Her sister's name was Tina Sevajian, she had 2 loving sons and a husband. When my family recalls memories with her they say I'm just like her, she was loving, caring, and loved spending time in her beautiful garden. When I used to go to her house, the design of all the rooms made you feel like you were in the most beautiful home decor magazine. Her cancer went away but ultimately ended up coming back and she passed away on June 19, 2006. My mom has lost both her parents and her sister but she never let any of it affect her effort in being a mom.

7

I've never really talked with my mom about dying, I think it's a topic that always scared me to talk about. Me and my siblings always joke about who's going to inherit our childhood home after my parents pass away. I always get teary eyed thinking about a life without my parents and it pains me that my mom has to deal with not having a mom that she can rely on to help her.

8

My mom's favorite movie is Under the Tuscan Sun. I remember watching it with her for the first time, we baked cookies and popped popcorn. I remember thinking that Raoul Bova was really good looking when watching the movie the first time. My mom made sure to pause the movie every time it showed a tourist spot that she's been to, recalling and telling me stories from her first trip to Tuscany.

9

There aren't many Armenian people that have made it really big as actors, the first ones I think of are the Kardashians. I always remember staying up late on the weekends and watching The Kardashians on the E! channel. My mom always told me that the Kardashians were living a bad example of how I should perceive life but that wouldn't stop us from watching all the episodes

10

My mom went to nursing school but soon after her father died she discovered that hospitals overwhelmed her. My mom got into banking right after and now she works as a Vice President Service Manager at the bank. My mom started at Citizens Business Bank in La Canada in November 1st 1994 then shortly after moved to the location in Monrovia. My mom has been working at the same branch since I was born, I remember going with my dad in the summers when I was younger to visit her.

11

A stuffed Animal is a cloth toy animal filled with fluffy stuffing. Stuffed animals are given for many occasions to people at any age but one thing about them is that they always have the same cuddly effect. A couple years before my aunt died she bought my mom a stuffed animal sheep that wears a plaid blue dress with blue bows on the ears. My mom named the sheep Lulu because that's the nickname my dad calls my mom. On Christmas last year I bought my mom a stuffed sheep from the Hallmark store in the mall and now both stuffed animals are on my moms bed right next to each other.

12

My mom was always hard working, she started working at 14 at a nursing home. She always had good grades in school and finished highschool while being top of her class. She greatly advanced in her career and is constantly improving. More importantly she's the best mom to me and my brothers.

13

When I think of my mom I picture her in her work attire, which consists of a black colored dress with a baby pink floral design, black sheer tights, and black heels. My mom always has her hair brushed and always has makeup on, she's a very put together person and I hope to always follow in her footsteps. She has naturally curly hair but she gets a blowout so I always see her hair straight. Since I can remember she had blond highlights and always kept her hair down.

My mom has very good hygiene and always picks out the best smelling perfume.

14

One thing me and my mom have in common is that we love Christmas. Christmas day is always celebrated at my house, we have around 30 people come over and we cook all the food ourselves. I'm usually in charge of baking dessert and my mom cooks the food. One of my favorite memories is staying up late with my mom decorating our house with

colorful Christmas decorations. Me and my mom put up 2 Christmas trees in the house, the one in the living room is decorated by my mom with white and silver ornaments and bows while the one in the tv room is decorated by me and has red and green ornaments and a bright star at the top.

15

If I can describe my mom in one word it's loving. My mom reminds me 100 times a day that she loves me more than anyone can. Her love language is acts of service. She always makes my bed when I forget and buys my favorite ice cream and flowers. Since I was little I would see her pray every morning and she would always pray for me and my siblings by name. My mom saw the beauty in the most imperfect things, she kept all my artwork from school and even put all the things I made for her on her desk at work.

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This story is the story of the most courageous and loving mother that has endless perfections. No one is perfect but my mom is the closest thing to perfect in my eyes. My mom reminds me of the color yellow, the type of yellow that you

see on the prettiest flowers. My mom always has a smile that brightens the room like the sun brightens the sky after a cloudy day. I'm so proud to be her daughter. I think that interviewing my mom got me closer to her and made me realize how much of a hard worker she is. I think that I should put more time aside to hang out with her everyday and get to know her better. As a result I learnt so many new things about my mom and am interested in learning more.

