

The Brightest Star

We all tend to look up into the sky and wish upon that “Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight.” But don’t we all wish for the same things? For things to happen on their own, so that we have to do no work, but yet still have magic bless us with miracles? I truly think we’re kidding ourselves. Stars don’t do that, we do. We are that magic wonder that pursues our dreams and our strongest desires. That’s why the person who has most positively influenced my life is not my mother, father, teacher or a celebrity you see on television. This person is eighteen years old and has found all the secrets of life. Now, that may seem ridiculous, and some may argue there are no secrets to life while others are dying to know if they have it figured out. However, it’s something you’ll come across yourself before time wears thin and flashes by like a children’s picture book. My role model has taught me what his own secrets to life are, and is now waiting for me to discover mine.

Jason was eighteen years old when he left me a few months ago. He was battling leukemia for what seemed like forever, and he eventually lost the war. We were friends for not even a year, with conversations sparse. Online chatting was our only means of communication. However, we made the most of it and talked about everything and anything. Common topics such as books, fears and greatest ambitions were often brought up in conversation. He hadn’t told me about his illness for several months after we had started talking. He feared that I would treat him differently and pity him. To our surprise it only brought us together to be closer than ever. We had even concluded that we were two people that could get married without even thinking twice. It seems pretty

far-fetched for a sixteen-year-old girl to be saying such a thing, but sometimes we just know things. It doesn't matter how wise, aged or mature one may be. You can get that feeling anytime that your heart is where it should be.

Earlier this year in January, Jason passed away. He had been happy with the life he lived and knew it was time to visit the people of higher grounds. This eighteen year old boy had a heart of gold and suffered through his pain to talk with me one last time. Our MSN conversation was full of pleading and demanding for answers by only me. Which is strange, I should have been doing the opposite and he should have been the one looking for comfort. It wasn't the situation for one simple reason; Jason already had the answers. He was passing everything he could on to those he loved and cared for as if he was already an angel.

His knowledge and secrets to life are this: Life is for living, not dwelling. Live for the best times, and through the worst. Don't judge someone; they want the best of life, just like you. He taught me that if you want to, you can shine brighter than the stars. He always told me to believe it, and I took his word. So, every time I look up to the stars, I don't wish. I give thanks for the life I've been given and my ability to shine. I smile because I know he's shining back at me. He's the person that has most positively affected my life because he's taught me more than my mother could ever have time for, or a teacher was ever hired to do. He has changed my life and has helped me shine more than I thought was possible. He is Jason, he is the stars, and he's my galaxy.