

Name

Teacher's name

English

29 August 2022

My Childhood Guardian Angel

I sprinted as fast as my tiny five-year-old legs could carry me across the living room, amidst the cataclysmic hurling of heavy utensils and exchange of words that was going on. I was so afraid, so scared for my life and so drenched in my own tears. I was wailing loudly but the two of them did not seem to know of my existence at that point in time. They were preoccupied with killing each other. I remember wishing that I could disappear, that the ground where I sat could open up under me to swallow me and take me to a much better place; like a place where there are ponies, ice cream, and rainbows but most importantly, where no fighting and violence occur. I wailed and shrieked but no one seemed to hear me. All of a sudden, a vase came crashing towards me and in one swift swoop, my aunt Jackie carried me out from under the table where I had huddled myself up in an attempt to take shelter from the heavy objects that were flying about in the air.

My aunt Jackie lived with us. She was my guardian angel. She is the one who taught me that I am strong and that I can become whatever I want to be in my life if I work towards it. She is the one who takes me to school, and brings me back. She raised me, and it's because of her that I did not turn out to be a victim of the government foster care system or of the life I was born into. She was my saving grace. My parents had a very volatile relationship and seemed not to

notice that I was their child as they were usually too preoccupied with the things they had going on, but my aunt Jackie was always there.

This was many years ago. Two months ago she died of breast cancer, but instead of being consumed with the sorrow of her death, I was filled with gratitude. She gave me the reason I needed to live. She taught me to always be a rock to the people that need it and to never lose myself in any situation. She taught me faith and strength and courage. Most importantly, she taught me that even though life can be full of unpredictable circumstances, I have the strength needed to get through anything. She taught me never to be a victim of my circumstance or let any negative situation define my life.

I tell this story filled with gratitude; gratitude to have had the privilege of being impacted by her. Today, I graduated high school top of my class, and I already have a long list of scholarship offers from some of the most prestigious colleges. I owe it all to her. I would never have been the person I am today were it not for her. In the sincerest spirit of gratitude, I pray that every child would have an “Aunt Jackie” in their lives. We all need that one person who would never bail on us no matter what; that one person who will always be there for us and who will teach us the important things in life. We also need to be that person to the people around us who needs it. Life can pose to be a difficult challenge at times, but together, being the rock for one another, we can handle the challenges that life throws at us, and do it victoriously too.