

Personal Statement

When mum first started having persistent health problems, I never really considered it. It was not until she went for further investigations that I really started to become concerned. I was living in Newcastle at the time and I think out of sight was probably out of mind.

Prior to the investigations I had feared that mum had cancer. I was actually quite relieved when she was diagnosed with Hepatitis C. When I found out more about this condition it came as a huge blow. To be told that your mum has a terminal illness is devastating. I felt quite guilty because I had not listened to her need for help. I thought maybe if I had of really listened I would have known that there was something seriously wrong and that they may have been able to cure her. I felt selfish, sad, angry and helpless.

We have always been a very close family and despite living in Newcastle, we visited home every other weekend. The thought of my mum dying was devastating but confusing, somehow it seemed so unreal. She was given a prognosis of about ten years; this seemed such a long time away. My husband was very supportive and was there when I needed a shoulder to cry on. I did not want to burden my mum and dad with my fears and anxieties; they had enough worries of their own. This was also very difficult to accept, because we are so close, I have always been able to depend on them. The roles were now reversing.

The reality of the situation became apparent as mums illness progressed. We decided to move back to GRO-C from Newcastle, so that we could offer more support. This was a very difficult time. GRO-C. It was a time that I needed mums support more than ever. I know she would have supported me if she could have, but her physical and emotional reserves were empty. I felt angry and bitter about this. Angry at the system for which I worked within and bitter that it had changed our lives so much. These emotions instilled feelings of guilt. I should have been happy and relieved that mum was not under an immediate death penalty.

Mum and dad have always had a good strong marriage based on love and friendship. They have had their problems like any other married couple but there love and friendship has prevailed. They have now been married thirty-five years. It has been, and still is difficult to watch two people whom I love very much be pulled apart by something that they have no control over. There have been times and still are times that I wonder if their marriage can survive such changes. They have both become very different people in such a short space of time. This is hard for me to accept, let alone them. The only way I can help to be there when they need me and assist with any chores that need doing. The situation is helpless and I live with the feelings of inadequacy this causes.

Mrs.S.J.Watson

28 January 2000
Page 1 of 2

Personal Statement

When I was a teenager like most mums and daughters, we had our fair share of arguments. As I grew, and developed as a person, so did our friendship. I used to enjoy mum's company very much and we did many things together. As her illness progressed we were able to do less and less together. I still enjoy mum's company and she is a good friend but she is a different person to the one I knew and loved before. Mum is now very intolerant and irritable. She used to have a very relaxed attitude towards life and a very bubbly nature. I feel cheated out of this special relationship.

I would say the most traumatic time was leading up to and during the organ transplant. This situation was very real and I had to face the thought of my mum dying. It was very emotionally draining and painful. I had to tell my children to prepare them for the operation, they also found it difficult to both accept and cope with.

The role of Mother and daughter has been reversed to some extent. I have been cheated of good times, of a special friendship, of an active grandma and of my mum. We live our lives with uncertainty hanging over us. I love my mum dearly and nothing can replace what we have all lost.