

## Never Got the Chance

Hey. My name is Juliette. I'm 17. Life is great. I've hit some pretty rough patches but I'm getting along just fine.

I grew up in a small apartment with my wonderful mother. I never met my dad. My mom used to tell me that he died in an accident but now I know he left us before I was born. Despite this, the two of us survived, even without him. We had each other and that was enough.

But let me bring you back to before I was born. My mom was 18 and my dad was 19. When she told him that she was pregnant, he completely freaked out. He told her that they weren't ready for a baby and she would have to get an abortion. When my mom refused, he abandoned her. Her parents thankfully supported her choice to keep me and they showed her nothing but love and kindness.

Only a few months after she had given birth to me, however, she received the heartbreaking news that her parents had been severely injured in a car crash and soon after, died. She was completely devastated. She believed the only person she had to live for now was me. She didn't know what to do with herself. She had no partner, no parents, and nowhere to go. She eventually made arrangements so that a family friend would watch me while she worked at her new job. Not too long after, she was able to afford a small, cheap apartment and that became our home.

Money was always a problem throughout my childhood and it still is, even now. I know it was hard on my mom to have to balance spending time with her kid, keeping our apartment

in order, and working, but she somehow managed to do it. She sacrificed so much for me and I couldn't be more thankful. She tells me all the time that I make her happier than anyone she's ever known, which always puts a smile on my face.

Enough about my family life though. Let's move on. My best friend is this amazing human being named Jasmine. We have been friends for years and we're so close that she seems more like my sister than anything. That's why it was so hard for me to watch her go through so much pain during our freshman year. At this time, she was being bullied nonstop and was suffering from severe depression. She was suicidal and when I found out just how bad the situation was, I was terrified. I made sure that she knew how much I loved and cared about her. Thank God she never ended up hurting herself. To this day, she still tells me how close she was from taking her own life and how lucky she was that I was there to stop her.

Next I want to talk about my friend Kyle. He was also bullied a lot in school. He always sat alone and one day I decided that I would befriend him. No one deserves to be lonely after all. So, that's what I did. It turned out he was really nice once I got to know him. The bullying still went on and it drove him crazy. I know at one point he even thought about shooting up the school. But those terrible thoughts subsided once he made a friend. He just had to realize that not everyone was terrible. He just needed to find the light in the dark.

I care about these three people more than anything in the world. I'm so thankful for them and I know they're thankful for me. They all have told me numerous times that they would be in so much trouble if it wasn't for me. So I'm very happy I could save them all from going down the wrong paths.

Except that I couldn't. I never got the chance to save them because seventeen years ago, my mother aborted me. She didn't want to cause problems between her and my dad so she decided to listen to him. And because of that decision, I never had the chance to make such a positive impact on these three people's lives. I couldn't be there for them because my shot at life was ripped from me. I could've improved their lives. I could've saved them. But I wasn't even given a choice.

Every single life is important. Every single person could make an incredible impact on someone else's life. You just have to give them a chance.