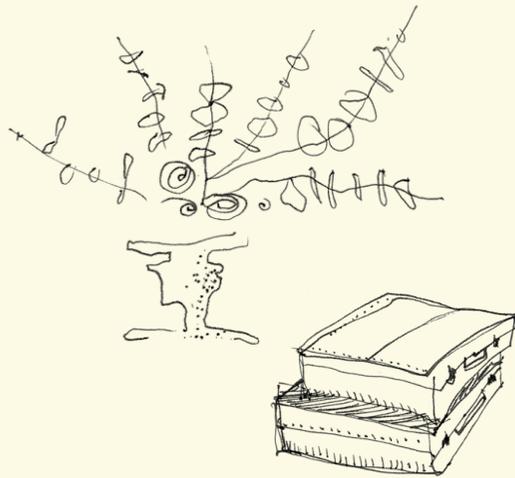


my
Emotional
WILL

my
emotional
WILL



for my dearest

from

my mother's VOICE

I grew up hearing my mother's voice.
Giving advice, being encouraging,
scolding, reminding, soothing and laughing.
And, of course, nagging.
About the length of my hair, my clothes,
about coming home late,
about not doing my homework,
about the girls I dated, about the unhealthy food
I ate, about not going to Auntie Su's
grandson's wedding, about settling down myself,
about having kids, just about everything.

Over the years I grew to love the sound
of her voice, especially the nagging
because I knew it came from her care
and concern for me.

Then, all too soon, my mother died.
She was only 72.
And I stopped hearing her voice.

Months after her passing,
I was going through her things when I found
a small package wrapped in newspaper.
My name was written on it.
Inside there was a cassette tape.

I found mother's old tape player,
popped in the tape and pressed PLAY.

And crackling through the speakers
was my mother's voice again.
Her familiar voice told me things
she had never shared before –
like what Life had taught her –
and what she had tried to teach her own children.
She shared the experiences she had
that made her who she was.
And the values she had lived by.
She gave advice, shared her favorite recipes
(for her daughters-in-law),
sang a verse of her favorite song
(beautifully out-of-tune!) and, yes, she nagged.
She ended with a short message
of love... and hope... for each of us.

These were not things she had spoken of before.
I could hear the warmth in her voice
as she told us why each of us was special to her.
And how we brought her great joy.
I must admit as I sat in her room, on her bed,
with the scent of the jasmine perfume she wore
still lingering... I cried as I did when she died.
But this time they were tears of healing.
And I once again felt Mother's comforting presence.

Later that day, I played the tape again
for the rest of the family.
We cried, we laughed and we listened.

Next week it will be 10 years
since Mother passed away.
And I can still hear her voice.

emotional
Will

The words we say to our loved ones
can be a profound gift.
These words that describe our values,
thoughts and memories are priceless.

Whether you leave them as a personal message,
memento or anything else you'd like to give
the people you love,
it will undoubtedly be something
they cherish forever.

This song/food perks me up every time...

The happiest moment in my Life has been...

I wouldn't have gotten through
the lowest points of my life if not for...

Did you know this?
The most important thing in the world to me is...

This is something I learnt,
and I want to share it with you...

My wish for your future is...

My fondest memories of us is...

Finally, I think it is time I said some things to you
I may not have said before.
Better late than never, right? So here goes...

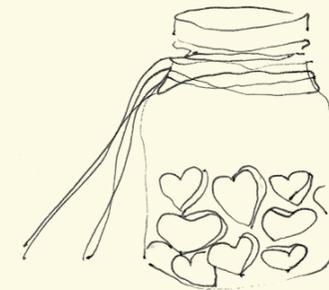
What I love most about you/Father/Mother...

I don't know if I have told you before,
but I'm sorry for...

Grieve not,
nor speak of me with tears,

but laugh and talk of me
as if I were beside you there.

isla paschal richardson



*To request a copy of an emotional will,
write to talk@lifebeforedeath.com
or download it at www.lifebeforedeath.com*

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