

The Day Everything Changed

My life had been somewhat normal for the past 18 years. We lived a life that was comfortable to a certain degree. Both my parents went to work; my father was the Chief Inspector at the local Police Station and my mother worked at the local bank. I had an older brother who worked with my mother at the bank. I was not spoiled but my father loved to treat me every now and then, I was literally daddy's little girl and I loved it.

I recall a time when I was in Grade Seven and my mom had travelled to see her parents. My older brother was in boarding school at the time and my dad had travelled with work. I had a school trip coming up and the norm was to have at least one parent be present at the school before the bus rolled away. My dad knew all about this trip and he had promised to be there on time. The day finally arrived and my dad was nowhere in sight. Our nanny packed my bags and my tuck and arrived together with all the other parents. All those going on the school trip were called out and we made our way to the bus and to where all the parents were. The other children ran to their parents and I made my way to where the nanny was. I began to cry as I boarded the bus and before I even made it to my seat, I heard a car screeching as it made its way into our school premises. My dad had arrived with tyres screeching, just as he promised. The joy and relief I felt is indescribable.

This was the kind of relationship I had with my father. Then he fell ill and I was devastated. He was sick for a very long time and didn't seem to recover even though he got the best medical help he could. Eventually he passed away and I was only eighteen. The day he passed was the day everything changed.