

Chapter 23

My Fathers Picture

A few months after Stevens death. That Christmas I asked myself what I wanted for Christmas I decided that I would like another picture of my natural father. I realized that I would never see him because he was dead, but it would be nice to at least have a picture of him. So I sent out a letter to every Mateljan in Long beach California. And I decided to call every Mateljan in California. To my surprise I got the answer I never expected.

Jay: Hello this is Jay Mateljan I heard you were asking about me , what do you want?

Me: I almost dropped the phone. Oh you must be his son.

Jay: No this is Jay Mateljan. What do you want from me? I am not rich, I'm not a doctor I am just a laborer.

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I didn't even know that he was alive. What is this a bad dream? How could he have been alive this entire time?

Why did I have to go through everything I went through. Why did he leave me? How could he be alive?

Me: I didn't even know that you were alive. Why do you think that I want something from you? I heard you died.

Jay: You don't even know if I am your father. What is your mothers name?

Me: Adrienne Wand

Jay: Yes that's her. Your mother used to run around on me, for all you know your someone else's kid.

Me: I don't know what to say. This is a lot for me to digest. I called your brothers wife and she told me you had died in prison.

Jay: My brother has never been married and has never lived with a girl friend. You were talking to my mother, she has always been protective of us boys.

Me: Over protective. How could you say that? I practically had to have sex to eat. I had to run away because Adrienne's husband wouldn't keep his hands off of me. I was your daughter didn't anyone care about what happened to me? I've got to go.

We hung up but he called me back a few days later asking:

Jay: What all did your mother say about me?

Me: That you were a drug addict. And a thief. She also told me that you died in prison.

Jay: Why did you come looking for me in the first place?

Me: I wasn't looking for you, I was looking for a picture of my7 dead father. I never expected for you to be alive. I lost the picture I had of my father. I always thought that had my father been alive he would saved me, it kills me to know that you were alive all this time and did nothing to save me.

Jay: I didn't even know where you were. I didn't even know if you were my child. I couldn't have raised you anyway I was too strung out On drugs.

Jay: What is your mothers phone number? She probably wouldn't be interested in me after all this time.

Me: Are you crazy she killed my brother, she let her, husband put his hands all over me and you want to talk to her?

I gave him the number. And then hung up I was so angry, how could both of my parents not care about me? How is it possible to have a child and not care what happens to them? it just discussed me to the pit of my soul. My Mother doesn't care that she let her husband put his hands on me sexually. And my father just up and left me because I was an inconvenience. He left me to fend for myself. And now after all of these years all he cared about is whether or not she would still be interested in him after all these years. Of course I have resentment. So much that it's stifling at times.

~O~

About six months went by and Jay decided to come to Florida to find out if I really was his daughter. We went and took the blood test to see if he was my father, but I pretty much knew the answer to that as soon as I saw him. And in watching his mannerisms. his mannerisms, there is just some things that are biological. His son told me that I needed to give Jay a chance and that I should let go of all resentments.

Me: You do not know what I went through, you had your parents and you had the entire family. I didn't I got beaten and abused, things you'll never have to go through.

I had a lump in my throat this is the life I could have had... a family.

Time had passed and Jay told me that he would make sure I would be okay, he went on to say that he was going to put down money for a home for me so I would have some sort of security. I got so excited believing that he was actually going to help me. He kept telling me this every conversation we had but then...

Jay: Your mother said that you would just piss away the money.

Me: So your not going to help me?

Jay: What happened to all the money you have made in your life?

Me: Where were the both of you?

Jay: She also told me that I was your security.

Me: Security? You haven't ever been there for me.

I can't believe my mother still infests my life.

~O~

I though it would be nice to spend a Christmas with my father since I had never had a father figure in my life. Little did I know that all hell would break loose. It was cold in San Diego he showed me around town introducing me to his brother. His brother was such a interesting man with a zesty personality, he was friendly and funny. I liked him a lot, it would have been nice to have grown up with an uncle like that, what pained me is that he was my uncle the uncle I will never get a chance to know.

My father announced to me that he had been seeing my mother, and that he loved her. I just couldn't stomach what he was saying to me. I had to except the fact that I had no parents, in spite of the dreams I had of a Cinderella family reunion. I had to go on with reality. And the reality was that I am better off letting them all go. And to enjoy whatever life I have left.

Friends are the family we choose.

~O~

I forgive everyone in the family I just have to move on, If I don't forgive and keep trying to let go, I myself will get sick over what could have been. Life is not lived in the could have been. Life is what ever reality is before us, the only thing that we can change is the choices we make, and how we deal with what is ahead of us.