

①

MARCH 31ST, 2011

YOU GAVE ME THE STRENGTH

YOU HAVE BEEN THERE FROM THE VERY START
YOU ARE PERFECT, YOU HAVE PLAYED YOUR PART
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME
YOU FILLED ME WITH A HAPPINESS, I ONLY NOW CAN SEE
YOU HELPED SAVE MY LIFE BY JUST BEING THERE
YOU LET ME KNOW THAT YOU DO CARE
YOU STAYED BY MY SIDE WHEN TIMES GOT ROUGH
YOU GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO STAND AND STAY TOUGH
I NOW ONLY ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE TO PLAY YOUR PART
AND STILL LOVE ME LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE FROM THE VERY START.

ON JUNE 7TH, 2001 MY LIFE CAME TO AN
END. THATS THE DAY I GOT MY CRIMINAL RECORD.
I WAS 20 YEARS OLD FACING PRISON. I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO, WHAT COULD I DO.
I WAS AFRAID OF WHAT MY FAMILY WAS GOING
TO DO, I WAS AFRAID THAT THEY WOULDN'T BE THERE.

THIS POEM IS FOR TWO PEOPLE. MY AUNT
KELLY AND MY UNCLE RICKI.

THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR ME.
THEY ARE TWO OF THE COOLEST PEOPLE AND I AM
PROUD TO CALL THE AUNT AND UNCLE. WHILE IN COUNTY,
MY AUNT VISITED ME EVERY WEEK. AND I ~~CALL~~ CALLED
EVERY WEEK. BY HAVING THAT CONNECTION, THEY'VE
HELPED ME TO SURVIVE.

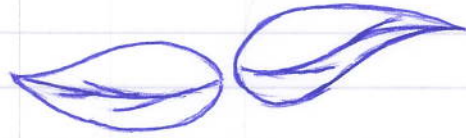
NEARLY 10 YEARS LATER, I STILL CALL
EVERY WEEK OR NEARLY AND THEY ARE STILL
GIVING ME STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT. I LOVE
THEM SO MUCH AND IF I COULD MAKE SURE

②

THAT LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY, I WOULD.
BECAUSE THESE ARE TWO PEOPLE EVERYONE
SHOULD HAVE IN THEIR LIVES.

YOU GAVE ME THE STRENGTH
AND I LOVE YOU! 😊

I'VE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE FOR I ~~HAVE~~
HAVE MANY MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY STILL BY MY
SIDE. THAT IS SOMETHING I BELIEVE HELPS ME TO
REMAIN WHO I AM. I MEAN, I'M 10 YEARS OLDER
BUT I AM STILL RAYMOND.



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

I'M READING THE GOLDEN COMPASS AND I
MUST SAY THAT THIS BOOK IS SO MUCH BETTER
ABOUT HOW YOU LEARN ABOUT WHAT AN ALETHIOMETER
IS AND HOW DUST PLAYS A MAJOR PART IN THIS
WORLD. THE MOVIE WAS OK BUT COME ON, AT
LEAST TELL THE STORY MORE ACCURATELY TO WHAT
THE AUTHOR CREATED.

I ~~AM~~ ALWAYS FEEL WORSE WHEN I SEE A
MOVIE AND THEN READ A BOOK FROM THE MOVIE.
THEY NEVER GET IT RIGHT.

PLEASE DIRECTOR'S, READ THE BOOK AND
THEN MAKE THE MOVIE, IT WOULD HELP.

④

KNOW WHO THEY ARE. I CAN REMEMBER THAT WHEN I WAS A KID IN SALEM BACK IN THE 80'S & 90'S, YOU KNEW THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

I THINK THIS HAS HURT OUR COUNTRY IN A WAY THAT PUTS US BEHIND MANY OTHER COUNTRY'S.

WE NEED TO PUT DOWN OUR CELL PHONES, SMART PHONES, TURN OFF THE IPADS, COMPUTERS, AND ANY OTHER INTERNET DEVICE AND GO NEXT DOOR AND KNOCK. IF SOME ONE ANSWERS, SAY "HI, I'M (YOUR NAME). I'M YOUR NEIGHBORE."

IS THIS REALLY HARD OR SCARY FOR US TO DO. LET'S GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AGAIN.

BLOCK PARTIES ARE
GREAT!!!

③

How CAN IT BE

How CAN IT BE
ITS NOT POSSIBLE IS IT
TO KNOW SOMEONE SO LONG
YET, NOT EVEN KNOW
WHO THEY REALLY ARE
IT HURTS SO MUCH
WHEN YOU REALIZE IT
THAT ALL THEY ARE
IS A TOTAL STRANGER
HOW HARD IS IT
TO GET TO KNOW SOMEONE
IT ALL STARTS
WITH A SIMPLE "HELLO, I'm..."
IT REALLY IS EASY
GIVE IT A TRY
THEN ASK THE QUESTION
HOW CAN IT BE?

THIS WAS WRITTEN BECAUSE I FIND IT VERY SAD THAT IN ONLY 60 YEARS, OUR GREAT COUNTRY HAS GONE FROM KNOWING AND CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORES TO BEING SUPER SUSPICIOUS OF WHO IS LIVING NEXT DOOR.

TOWNS USED TO BE FILLED WITH FOLK WHO KNEW EACH OTHER AND ACTUALLY CARED ABOUT EACH OTHER.

NOW A DAYS, PEOPLE LIVE NEXT DOOR TO EACH OTHER FOR YEARS AND NEVER GET TO