

My Best Friend's Father

by Amanda Nicole Suter



Alcohol can be a very violent and addicting substance. I am aware of this because of personal experience. I am not proud to say that I experienced these encounters with this controlling drug, however, I am proud to say that I have overcome and made it through the worst of times.

When I was eleven years old, I was offered alcohol for the first time. This was offered by my best friend's father. We were alone in his truck on our way to pick up my friend, his daughter. I did not know it was alcohol. It was a hot summer day and I was very thirsty. I started to drink the wine cooler and realized that it tasted funny. I had never tried alcohol before so I was oblivious to the fact of what the true substance was that I was consuming. I believe I drank one or two before I said I did not like it anymore and stopped drinking it, despite the father's persuasions. At the time, I was unaware of the true intentions this man had. I was clueless and did not understand why he was acting so strangely when he drank more and more of this beverage.

Needless to say, I was offered alcohol more and more and began spending a countless amount of time with my best friend and her father due to complications at home. I was trapped. I could not feel comfortable in my own house because of the fighting, and

I could not feel comfortable in my friend's house because of my friend's father's sick intentions. I had no one to turn to except for the escape alcohol offered. I began to slowly become addicted, and looking back I realize that I became intoxicated at least once every weekend. This is not something that I am proud to claim.

The unawareness, the sickness, and the troubles alcohol casts on a person is not worth the so-called 'good times' a person receives from the experience. Almost every time I was intoxicated, a new traumatic experience found its way into my already screwed up life. I had to somehow pull the plug-either on my own life or on my situation. I was desperate for answers and would do anything to find them. I was in a very confused state and did not understand why all this was happening to me.

To be honest, I did not attempt to correct the situation initially. I endeavored to take my life, but after comprehending all the good things that I still had ahead of me, I decided to become strong and pull myself through. This was the deciding factor on how I was going to take control of my own life once more. I handled the situation by getting myself away from the alcohol and the father, despite his pursuits to keep me around for his so-called 'entertainment'. Furthermore, I did not touch alcohol in order to be strong and overcome my situation. This was not an easy task. My body became sick and could not function correctly for a very long time due to the withdrawals I was experiencing. In addition, I sought others advice and support and decided to work on my relationship with my family instead of just running away from my problems. All of these resolutions seemed to help, but were by no means a quick fix for the problem at hand.

I believe I handled the situation to the best of my ability. I do not regret that this experience happened, because without it I would not be the strong individual that I am today. I am very happy that it is over and taken care of. The resolution to the problem was very hard to cope with, but this made me realize that God puts the people that will help a person in their life and removes the ones that are a bad influence. To this day, I still find times when I need to just stop and cope with my past. Throughout this I look to God, my family, friends, and hobbies to keep me busy. My hobbies that have helped me realize how worthy of a person I really am include: quad and dirt bike racing, snowboarding, skateboarding, wake boarding, soccer, and basketball. Keeping my mind and body busy and striving for little goals assists me in being able to comprehend that I am a great person and deserve to be happy.

In conclusion, although I was influenced and overcome by a toxic substance at such a young age, I have accomplished many things and have dealt with the situation to the best of my ability. I become ecstatic when I think of the fact that I am now 18 years old and have not become addicted to any harmful substance. My biggest fear was that since I became addicted to a drug at such a young age that I would continue to become addicted to even worse substances as life went on. If I could give advice to anyone with a drug addiction I would tell them that it is possible to make it through what seems like is a never-ending situation despite whatever the odds may be.

The editors and staff of Alert Magazine wish to congratulate Amanda on winning the essay contest and encourage her in pursuing her academic goals. We would also like to encourage future seniors to participate in our scholarship program.

*Sincerely,
Alert Magazine, LLC*