

Rebecca Williams

Ms. Kim

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### I Believe in Being a Leech

When we see people with a smile on their face we may think they have it all together. However, we never truly know. They can easily just disguise how they feel. Everyday people can just walk out the door and throw on a smile. However, on the inside feel as if the weight of the world is on their shoulders. Although, to us their just an average everyday person, dealing with the hassles of life like we all do. We would never know if they were on their last straw; or even if they just needed a friend to pat them on the back and say great job or simply just to offer a hand. Everybody has the responsibility to lend a hand to others even when they seem there okay, no matter the age.

Just about a year ago, my second cousin Alexis's, parents were pronounced dead. While Alexis was staying with some friends. Her father called up his wife and told her to come over to his house. Later when she arrived he convinced her to go to a hotel with him. Once they arrived there off of misleading terms. He continued with his plan for the night. The next morning Alexis' mom and dad were found dead in the hotel room. Her dad had killed his wife and next killed himself. Nobody was quite sure of why he decided to do this. There were no indications, no clues, no hints, no nothing. Just a little seven year old girl left alone without her parents all on account of her dad's stupid and harsh decision. The way I

look at it; why take someone else's life just on account that something's wrong enough with the life one lives to the point of them deciding to take their own life and even worse someone else's that they loved and had no reason to die so early.

Everytime my little cousin sees me she clings to me like a leech, but that is okay. She still sucks her thumb at seven, but that is okay. She does not let her past affect her outlook on everyday life. Which is most definitely okay! Every little chance you get to cheer someone up is always worth it. Even the tiniest gestures such as a touch, a hug, a few kind words, or even just being around them could change their whole outlook on the way they see life. I may not know how she feels or what runs through her head everyday, but I will still be around her when she needs a friend. I know she will be asking plenty of questions in the future and that I might be the best person to answer them. However, I will still be around. I may not always be the person she will want to talk to, but I will always be around in case she needs to. No matter what kind of mood she is in I will still be around to offer a hand. This occurrence happening to her has showed me that everybody needs to cherish everything they have been given, because they never know when it could be taken away. Plus they need to be there for others because you never know if your one single kind gesture could be enough to make them change their mind from making a harsh decision, such as ending their life, or even worse somebody else's that does not deserve to have their life stolen from them, like Alexis's mom's life. Alexis may still be alive but I still feel as if her dad has stolen a part of her life away from her. She's still not quite sure what happened yet, on account of her young age. But she still knows that she does not have her parents. Luckily she has a loving grandmother that was generous enough to adopt her as

her own daughter. Somedays I feel like that is what truly keeps Alexis afloat, her loving family. As long as she has a family that loves and supports her. She will always be okay. Because although Alexis is left without her parents she still has me and the rest of her family to fall back on, and I feel thats the reason she still smiles everyday. I believe in being a leech.