

## Crystal Dawn

The sun was shining through the stained glass windows. As the dust wandered in the musty building, we continued our Sunday morning routines. We have family dinner every Sunday at 2:00 after church. We left church and headed to my Grandma's house for our monthly spaghetti dinner. My aunt Crystal always worked out in the basement before dinner. When she finished working out, she said she didn't feel good and didn't want to eat dinner. We all encouraged her to go home and lay down since she wasn't feeling the best. We never realized that was it...

Several minutes later, we got a phone call that Crystal had collapsed and was unresponsive. My Grandma immediately called 911 and everybody ran out there, except my brother, my father, and me. Nobody gave me a choice to see her at the hospital, and I wanted to see her so badly. I was only five years old and I didn't really understand. Today, I'm glad that I wasn't allowed to see her so that I can remember her at her most beautiful. Crystal was always such a great person and saw the best in everything. The doctor came out and updated the family. Crystal was gone. I never thought my grandparents would make it through this tragedy. I honestly thought they would commit suicide. I never thought they would be able to pull through it.

Crystal had one child, Ariel. She was only sixteen when this happened. I will never understand how she can live without her mother, because I could never imagine life without mine. Five years later, Ariel found out she was pregnant. We were all hoping that this baby

would be a mini Crystal, and that's all she is. She brings out every perfect part of Crystal. We love to watch her every day and realize how alike they are.

Our family will never be the same without her, because she played such a big role in it. She was such a great impact on everybody, and I think about her every single day. Our family will never be complete without her. She always tried her best at everything. She never gave up. She made our entire family always feel safe and secure. I miss you, Crystal Dawn. I can't wait to see you again.