

# Making a Difference

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"Mum," I whispered. We were in the hospital and I was at my mum's bedside, clutching her hand. Her gaunt eyes looked up at me, a small smile on her face as she breathed heavily.

"It's alright, Bella, I will be with your father soon and I am afraid I will have to leave you but you need to promise me something," she gasped. She drew in a shallow breath as she stared at me. She was pale as a sheet and was clinging onto her life as she had only mere minutes left. She was holding on to me.

"What?" I croaked, my voice cracking as I stood over her helplessly, desperately praying for a miracle, that she would pull through.

"Honey, I know that one day you will do great things and I want you to remember to believe in yourself and never let anyone put you down," Her pulse was racing and I could feel it on her cold wrist.

"No, Mum, you need to stay, I can't do it without you!" I shouted in a panicked voice.

"Goodbye," she whispered and her eyes slowly closed.

"No! Mum!" I shrieked. I shook her but it was too late. The heart monitor had gone silent and my grandmother was patting me on the back gently. Tears rolled down my face as I stared at my mother's lifeless body. I stroked her bald head then turned round and walked out the door searching for a place that would show me my mother once more...

"Next up, we have Bella Totten to talk to you about cancer and what we can do to stop it," The headmaster gave me a warm smile as he beckoned me forward to the podium. I stood up shakily and walked up, looking over the sea of children's faces who were all staring at me expectantly. It had been five years since my mother had passed away of cancer and here I was, doing what she told me to do. I was making a difference.

I opened my mouth and shared my story with the school. I told them how my mother had been diagnosed, how I had helped her around the house and... and how she had died in front of me. This was how I was going to do something for the world, how I was going to do great things. Soon, everyone will be aware of cancer and what it can do to a person, to a person's friends, to a person's family. As I gazed around the silent auditorium a caught sight of something that made my breath hitch. My mother and father were standing on the steps, hand in hand, loving smiles on their faces. A tear leaked from my eye and trickled down my cheek as I looked back towards the expectant students.

I was doing this for my parents. I was doing this to change the world...