

A Love Note by the Deathbed

On a cold winter evening, a man suffered a heart attack. After being admitted to the hospital, he asked the nurse to call his daughter.

He explained: "You see, I live alone, and she is the only family I have."

The nurse followed his request and telephoned the daughter.

The daughter was quite upset when she heard the news. She shouted over the phone, "You must not let him die! My Dad and I had a terrible argument almost a year ago. I haven't seen him since. All these months I've wanted to go to him for forgiveness. The last thing I said to him was 'I hate you.'"

Weeping and trying to gain her composure, and choking as she attempted to talk, she repeated, "Don't let him die. Please don't let him die. I'm coming. I'll be there in 30 minutes."

Meanwhile, the patient went into cardiac arrest, and code 99 was alerted. The nurse prayed, "O God, his daughter is coming. Don't let it end this way."

Efforts of the medical team to revive the patient were fruitless.

When the daughter arrived, she was met by one of the doctors in the hallway. The nurse could see the doctor delivering the bad news to the daughter. There was a pathetic hurt showing in her face.

The nurse went to the daughter's side, hugged her and said, "I'm sorry."

The daughter responded, "I never hated him, you know. I loved him. And now I want to go see him."

The nurse took her to the room. The daughter went to the bed and buried her face in the sheets as she said goodbye to her deceased father.

The nurse, as she tried not to look at this sad farewell, noticed a scrap of paper on the bedside table. She picked it up, glanced at it, and then handed it to the daughter.



(more)

Here's what the note said, scribbled in the father's handwriting:

*My dearest Jane, I forgive you. I pray you will also forgive me.
I know that you love me. I love you, too. ♡ Daddy.*

Does this story speak to you? Is there some disagreement or argument over something that seemed major at the time but is, in reality, insignificant and silly – a situation that caused hurt feelings and separation?

Because of the work we do in Life Care and Century Park, we see stories like the one above among our residents and their families. Let's not let it happen to us.

Forgiveness heals broken relationships, and can strengthen the bonds of love – and that's what *really* matters.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:32 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter