

# A Father's Love

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 to the nurse, "You see, I live alone, and she is the only family I have."

The nurse went to telephone the daughter. When the daughter heard the news, she became quite upset, and shouted: "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 have wanted to go to him for forgiveness. The last thing I said to him when we parted was 'I hate you.' Don't let him die, please."

The daughter wept, and then said, "I'm coming now. I'll be there in 30 minutes."

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

The efforts of the medical team to revive the patient were fruitless.

When the daughter arrived, the nurse observed one of the doctors talking to her outside the patient's room. She could see the hurt in the daughter's face.

The nurse took the daughter aside and said, "I'm so sorry." The daughter responded, in tears, "I never hated him, you know. I loved him. And now I want to go see him."

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

Trying not to look at this sad scene, the nurse noticed a scrap of paper on the bedside table. She picked it up, and the handwritten note read: "My dearest Janie, I forgive you. I pray you will also forgive me. I know that you love me. I love you, too. Daddy.



This story offers reminders ...

- That life can change quickly, and we can't count on a certain amount of time available for ourselves or others.
- That opportunities for forgiveness should be sought without delay.
- That love has amazing power, even when expressed in a handwritten note when the writer's life is gone.

– Beecher Hunter