

A Mother's Love

by Phyllis V. Du'Gas

"I'll always love my Mama - You only get one"

I've lived on this earth for 47 years and I've weathered many personal storms. I've lived the glamorous life and there were times when the ends just weren't there. I've stood at death's door and miraculously walked through it. I've loved and been loved in return by some of the most brilliant men that God ever created. I buried a child six months after his 18th birthday and before I could come to terms with it, I lost my father to cancer, just three months later. Throughout it all – I had God standing by, gently guiding me and encouraging me to get up and face the day.

I meet people and they tell me. "Phyllis, you are so strong." I'm really not that strong. I'm a descendant of many strong women before me. If I'm strong - I received it by default. It's in my DNA. I am fortunate – no – I am blessed to have been raised by a woman who never showed fear. She never backed down from anything or anyone and she gave her three children more than a hot cooked meal and sweet potato pie. She gave them identity, pride, and the ability to survive in a world that might not always be kind to them. She went without many times so we could have. Growing up, there were times when we bumped heads. It wasn't until I had a child of my own that I realized the true sacrifices she made, and like so many of you, I was the one who said, "I'm not going to raise my child the way I was raised." How quickly we eat our words. (LOL)



There is no greater love than the love of a Mother. There are times, even now, when I don't feel well and I pick up the phone and call my Mother. As soon as I hear her voice I revert to a child, "Mama, I don't feel good." And in her loving fashion, she makes everything alright for me with her love. She has been the stronghold of my life and in some strange way I just always expect her to be here. My mind knows that is not reality, but my heart doesn't want to accept it.

I realize that one day in the future she is going to go to sleep on this side and wake up in paradise. It is that reality that I struggle with these days. You see – I look in the mirror every morning and all I can see is her. I am her twin!

The Intruders said it best.....

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