

With Open Heart

I was facilitating a public meeting about Emergency Management when amidst formal introductions I heard a soft yet firm voice say “Hi, my name is Patti, I am a mother of two. One is an angel, my daughter Amber who died from cancer, the other is my son Toby, who is in the United States Navy...” I don’t recall any of the other introductions that day, but I remember vividly that moment, the moment Amber’s spirit entered my life and an amazing friendship with her mother Patti began.

Every year on the anniversary of Amber’s heaven day (passing) I feel ‘prompted’ to buy a particular birthday gift and card for her mother. I have jokingly told Patti, “I didn’t pick it, Amber did!”

Patti’s drive and determination to share the lessons learned from her daughter have helped strengthen my belief that there is indeed a heaven. Often on lazy summer days, a tiny purple butterfly has landed on my hand and stayed with me for some time. I have felt unexplainable warmth, as if Amber has stopped by to say hello.

It is my hope for you as you read this book, that you feel the same warmth and love. Open your heart as you turn the pages, be comforted by Amber’s strength and believe that you can hold the key to the gates of heaven, just like she did.

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