

March 15, 2004

Dear Kristin,

Well here we are at last! The struggle to get the site working properly has been a tumultuous one, but I somehow feel like you've been there with me through the hard work. I uploaded the George Winston song "Plains" because that is when I most feel your presence. It's a soothing piano melody.

It's kind of wired, huh; I mean we grew up together in school and harassed each other in our neighborhood, but we were never "Call you on a Tuesday Night" buddies.

We were both a bit awkward looking when we were in grade school and sometimes I would make fun of you and sometimes you and your friends would make fun of me. As we got older (middle school), we both blossomed into normal looking people, but we stopped making fun of each other because we both had an understanding about how deeply it hurt us when we ourselves were made fun of. After riding the bus with you for 8 or 9 years, that's one thing that I really noticed as we got older; you had a wonderfully sympathetic and compassionate apathy for all people and things. It was kindness and understanding at rudimentary levels, far beyond most people's emotional understanding.

I went to your funeral as did most everyone from our hometown. You had friends & family there from all over the place. It was pretty sad for a couple reasons really; One being that such a wonderful, smart, beautiful, and well rounded person shouldn't die young as you did, but also because your entire family possessed all the same wonderful qualities as you. I always kind of thought tragedy like that didn't really happen to a family like yours, a person like you.

A scene from one of my favorite movies "American Beauty" occurred to me when I was walking out of your parent's house to talk to them in support of your family during the horrible tragedy. Remember ... it was when the two kids (Jane & Ricky) were walking home together on a colorful & windy fall dusk? There were brilliant lines of aged Red Oak trees standing in straight lines down the sidewalk, from which their leaves gently released and fluttered. There were only three sentences spoken during that scene. Jane asks Rickie, "Do you know anyone that died?" Ricky - "No. Do you?" Jane - "Uh Uh."

The whole scene's purpose was to illustrate the innocence of youth and to accentuate the magnificent beauty of life. Youth defined by the absence of tragic experiences -truly nonsensical and repulsive tragedy. The beauty being the fragility of your magnificent life.

Your life was in a way tragic, but certainly your life was magnificent and utterly beautiful in its own and as a demonstration for our own life's beauty as well.

Sincerely,

Adam Crysler