

To Whom It May Concern:

There's really no good way to dive into this letter, and apart from the time I had to tell a friend about a particular "size denial" issue of hers over e-mail, this is one of the more awkward pieces of correspondence I've ever begun (even though I know that you'll never get a chance to read it).

I guess I'll start by saying that I'm sorry because I really, truly am. I'm sorry that your life was cut short. I'm sorry that you will never again go home to be with your family. And, I'm sorry for the pain and the loss that will follow those who loved you most for the rest of their lives.

But, I also have to thank you. I thank you for making a choice that isn't necessarily easy because it means that you had to consider your own mortality. Most of us prefer to look in the exact opposite direction of death. Most of us like living in the fantasy world of our own invincibility rather than acknowledging that terrifying truth of life – that no one yet has managed to live forever, so the odds aren't good that we will either. You didn't do that. You thought about a world without you in it, and you made a choice.

Thank you for that. Thank you for your unselfishness, and thank you for being an organ donor.

I love you for giving my friend Susan the opportunity to live. I wish with all that I have that you could do the same, but the odds of my understanding the universal plan and reasoning behind why some people have to die while others live are about as good as the odds that I'll be that one invincible mortal. I can only promise you that Susan is special enough to carry your heart within her.

And, I promise you that I will go on loving you – for the miraculous choice that you made and as the strong, beating, healing gift that lets my friend be here with me.

With eternal gratitude,
Laurel



LAUREL (LEFT)
AND SUSAN

coming in

MARCH

THE LIPSTICK BEACH GUIDE

Keeping your kids safe on Spring Break

The Perfectly- Packed Beach Tote

CONQUERING Cranky Co-Workers



HOW-TO TRAVEL WITH A PET