

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Her Century HerCentury 1 week ago



International Mother's Day falls on second Sunday of May every year. It seems that the pandemic have put many Mothers' day celebration at halt but couldn't stop people to show their gratitude toward their moms. On other hand the same pandemic has brought mothers closer to their children, young and adult alike; and yet left many far away from homes. Here are some of the stories that we found about loving, strong, caring moms.



Little Jaap Grolleman with his mother

FIRST STORY: I've been checking old places I went to on Google Street View, trying to remember names of classmates, looking up old cartoon movies we watched, and Lego sets we owned & other toys. I grew up in such wealth of love and space for creativity, even though we were just a working class family. I'm now 30 and living on the other side of the world, and it just hit me that all of this was due to my mom loving me and asking nothing back, not even now. I've always taken that for granted, but when other people tell me about their upbringing, it's clear to me how different it can also be.

(Jaap Grolleman, Writer).



Zhuang Shi Qi's strong mom

SECOND STORY: My mother failed to enter into university. From 1985 she worked in rural school, in grocery store, in restaurant and in factory. The farthest place to which she has been is Beijing, which is located only 500 km from her hometown. Nevertheless, she is satisfied with such a normal

life. She always works hard and accepts what she meets, no matter fortunate or unfortunate. I admire all of her good qualities!

(Zhuang Shi Qi, Historian)



Selena's mother with family

THIRD STORY: An Ode to my Mom

My Mom was brave.

I never appreciated how strong and courageous my Mom was until I moved to China in 2012. Me, with all the modern conveniences and technology, had a hard time adjusting. Yet, she lived in Africa in the mid 60's and China in the early 70's when there was none of the things, we now take for granted. When I first moved here and wanted to cry or throw in the towel and move home when I couldn't figure out WeChat, Taobao or Didi, I had that aha moment. I realized how truly tough and brave she was. Plus, she had three kids and a husband to take care of. I only had me, and had a hard time doing that. I can't remember how many times I would email her for a recipe or call her on skype, just on a whim. She had to write letters and post them; it took her two months just to say hello and get news from the family back home!

My Mom was a beast!

My Mom was my lifeline. When I fell down, she encouraged me to pick myself up. Every time I had a hardship, I thought unbearable, she was there for me to pour my heart out to, without judgement or censure. When I tri-

umphed she celebrated with me. When I won an accolade or received a promotion, she was the one I wanted to share with. She took delight in my travel adventures and I basked in her praise. Her approval was like warm sunshine.

My Mom was love personified.

My Mom was a traveler, an artist, a musician, a scholar, a wife, a mother and so much more. She was a stay at home mom until I started junior high and then she went back to school and got her BA, her teaching credential and her MA. She had a wonderful career, but family was always the center of her life and she was the sun that we orbited around.

My Mom was true renaissance woman.

My Mom passed away this year, her funeral was on April 1st. Her birthday was April 18th and this is the first Mother's Day I will celebrate without my Mother. But don't be sad for me, because my Mom is always with me. She is with me in my heart. She is with me in my memories. She is with me in the examples she set for me to live my best life.

My Mom was, but she still is.

(Selena LeCroix, traveller)

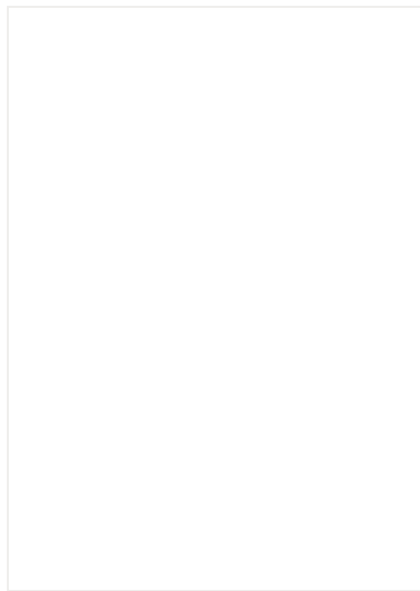


Rebecca's letter to her mom

FOURTH STORY: My mother is one of the most caring people I know. She connects with and brings joy to people every day. This doesn't happen

through a big project or social media campaign, but through talking to strangers in the store! Whether picking out oranges or a new pair of shoes, she finds creative ways to talk to people, and listen deeply to the problems in their lives. Her humor and unobtrusive curiosity disarm people. These strangers instantly become friends who share things they could not talk about with others, or transform them from being stuck in their troubles to smiling. I've watched this magic happen before my eyes many times, and heard incredible stories many more. She reminds me every time we speak that no one is a stranger, just a friend we haven't met yet.

(Rebecca, Teacher)



Little Arina with her mother

FIFTH STORY: All the best in me was instilled during childhood by my mother. She always supported me in everything. She taught me to be kind and to be a professional. She taught me to take care of those who you love and be generous for joy and love in your hearts. My mom has the most beautiful smile I've ever seen. When I was a child, my mother gave me the opportunity to try out various creative activities and find my own way. My mother gave me many lessons. One of them is that if you can't change the situation, change your attitude. And the second one is to follow my dreams. My strong optimism is definitely comes from my mother. A positive outlook helps me keep pursuing my goals even when it seems that I have no more energy for

