

January 21, 2002

I am not angry because she is gone, but I am sad because I am going to miss her. I loved her. And I loved her not because she was my grandmother, but because through the years she became my friend. Not because she did miraculous things with her time, but because the time she spent with me somehow *feels* miraculous now. Not because she was someone famous in this world, but because the love she gave me made **ME** feel like someone famous in this world.

All that has ever been glamorous in my life, I know I saw inside of her. All that has ever been feminine in my life, I found inside of her. All that has ever been *truly* beautiful in my life; I know I learned from her. She was so beautiful.

There is something to be said about three generations of women. In my life I have never had to search far for my support

system... because it was *always* right there. My mother. And then right behind her was Nana. They surrounded me like a force field. Blocking out anything negative and letting everything positive in. It is impossible for me to explain what it felt like to wake up from another surgery and the first thing I would always see was her and the first thing I would always feel was her hand reaching out for mine. She watched over me. She took care of me.

If she were here today I would like to tell her how much confidence she gave me. Knowing that she loved me made me feel strong; strong with a strength that **NO ONE** could take from me. If she were here now I would like to tell her that I am who I am today literally because of all the faith she had in me. Whether I was worried about boys, grades or medicine, she knew about it. I told her everything. It was an amazing feeling to always know that no matter what she was doing, she would rather listen to me. If she were here today I would like to put my arms around her, hold onto her and simply say thank you. I did not know it was going to hurt

this much to say goodbye. If she were here today, I would ask her to stay.

We celebrate her life now. I love you Nana; and I hope you knew that. I will miss you very much. Thank you.