

Life is a journey: Jill Caskey

Take more risks young girl and don't fret when things are not working out quite as you'd hoped. There is always another time when there may be a happy ending. Being a little shy is OK. Just believe in yourself, take a deep breath and smile.

Reach out and get to know people. It isn't important that everyone likes you; it's just exploring connections and accepting when there is little you have in common. There will always be those you gravitate towards and lasting friendships are precious. Do try to be a good listener and interested in different points of view. Be open to change when it seems right.

Remember how Dad would talk to you about books, poetry and his favourite, Shakespeare? Read more books my love, and be sure to listen well to your Dad. Spend more time with him and share his appreciation of life's wonders. He had such passion and loved the written word, along with a great love of music.

Remember how he would sit at the piano to play a favourite piece; he would put so much emotion into his simple performance. Maybe young Jill you could have worked a little harder with your piano practise; just a little more discipline in your life would not have gone astray. You were such a daydreamer.

With your ever kindly, sensitive Mum, be inspired by her strength and independence. Share in her creativity and remember, 'Do try to be a little more ladylike.'

Always be aware of your surroundings and take in small details. There is so much to be observed and so many small wonders to experience in life. You will remember one very special spectacle on a summer's eve. Over the Malabar Hills curtains of light, with tints of colour, made for a magical experience. You were so privileged to witness the Aurora Australis, or the Southern Lights, visible further north than they would normally be seen.

When you are old enough to travel you will enjoy the experience of lone travel when you can truly absorb your surroundings and take joy in meeting strangers. Spending time alone is rewarding in so many ways; it

suits some people and not others. You will grow to love solitude, alongside the joys of family gatherings and time spent with good friends. Keep on dreaming.