

Tribute To Sharon From Her Family - Read by Daniel

We are all here today to remember and celebrate the life of a remarkable woman, Sharon Slater... Mum
As we reflect on her journey, we find ourselves surrounded by bittersweet memories, a testament to her spirit with which she lived.

Mums story is one of unwavering love, fierce determination, and boundless dedication to her family, a story that will forever resonate in our hearts.

Mums life was one of love, demonstrated by her unwavering devotion to her family. She was a mother who embraced the challenges of life with remarkable courage and grace. At the tender age of seventeen, she faced a daunting reality but turned it into a mission - to ensure a good life for her children.

And oh, how she succeeded.

Tyrone and I stand here today as living proof of her dedication and sacrifice. Mum, the kids are alright!

Her love knew no bounds, and her determination laid the foundation for our future.

Her husband, Dad.

There through every twist and turn, stood steadfast by her side. He embodied the vows they exchanged decades ago - promising to weather life's storms together. "For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health." Dad kept that promise, you were her rock, her confidence, the unwavering presence that supported her through every challenge and celebrated every triumph.

I'm not sure I can fully convey my thanks for the selfless care you have given mum over the last few years and that will forever stay with me.

Dad had received some advice not long ago when he was asked a question. Have you had the conversation yet?

Upon hearing this he presumed it was the conversation that the inevitable was going to happen at some stage. Only to be corrected in that the conversation you should be having is one of thanks.

Where you thank Mum for all she's done and the wonderful memories we have shared.

I wanted to share this today as I think it's such a beautiful thing to say so whilst we are all here to pay our respects it's also right to say thanks and share the wonderful memories we have.

It is difficult to encapsulate in mere words the profound impact she had on our lives. She was a pillar of strength, a source of unwavering support, and a constant source of inspiration to her children and grandchildren. No obstacle was too great for her to overcome, no challenge insurmountable. With a heart full of love and determination, she faced the formidable adversary that is cancer, showing us the true essence of resilience and bravery.

Mum was not only a mother and wife; she was also a doting grandmother who showered her grandchildren with love and affection. She cherished Jacob, Eliza, Luke and Isaac and found immense joy in spoiling them. The way she would talk to the nurses about her children and grandchildren, eyes glowing with pride, became a source of inspiration for all who witnessed her unwavering devotion. This was further demonstrated during her short stay at St George's in July where the poor gentleman in the bed opposite seemed to know my life story better than I could tell it. And I think she had already quoted him for a new roof!

Mum's heart was filled with anticipation for the birth of her fifth grandchild. She longed to witness this new chapter of life, to share in the joy of another addition to the family. Fate, however, had other plans. Though she couldn't be physically present, her spirit hovers over the baby, a guardian angel watching from above. The love and wisdom she would have imparted will undoubtedly find its way to Tyrone and Natalie's baby as they grow and flourish.

Christmas of 2022 will forever remain etched in our memories. As we gathered at Battersea Power Station, the air was filled with laughter and joy. Mum's determination shone bright that day, as she braved the cold and all odds to watch her loved ones ice skate. I didn't fully appreciate that this would be her last Christmas with us. Her determined spirit got her through that day, a testament to her enduring love for family and her unparalleled zest of life.

In the workplace, Mum was more than a colleague; some would describe her as a force of nature. Her unrelenting determination, her never-give-up attitude, inspired those around her to push harder and strive for excellence. She faced challenges head-on, and her resilience in the face of adversity was a beacon of hope to all who had the privilege of working with her. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched through her professional journey. I know she would have been proud to see so many of her work colleagues here today. And it's been a pleasure to read so many of your messages.

Friendships were sacred to Mum. The bonds she cultivated with her friends were woven with threads of trust, laughter and shared memories. Holidays spent together became cherished traditions, each memory a testament to the vibrant spirit that she was. Everyone filled with her laughter, the warmth of her presence, will forever be in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to call her a friend.

None more so than Karen and Colin who are the epitome of best friends. Now I know Colin will be saying a few words shortly but it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the importance of your love and support to Mum and Dad not only through Mum's illness but since you came into our lives. You are an extension of our family and I know the girls thought of Mum as an Auntie although I think she preferred sister.

Thank you.

As we say goodbye to Mum today, let us remember the lessons she leaves behind. Let her love remind us that life is precious, that family is the cornerstone of our existence, and that moments we share are what truly matter. Let her courage inspire us to face challenges head-on, to embrace every day with gratitude and determination. Let her legacy remind us that our impact on others is immeasurable, that the ripples of our kindness and love continue long after we're gone.

Mum's journey on this earth might have come to an end, but her spirit lives on in the lives she touched, in the memories she created, and in the love she shared. May we find our own peace in knowing that she is at peace, watching over us with a smile, her presence forever etched into our lives. Sleep well Mum, you have left your mark on this world - a mark that will forever inspire, uplift and guide us.

I love you.

"Things I Will Miss About Sharon" - Read by Colin

I'd like to share a few things with you that I'm going to miss about Sharon.

Her standards, let's be diplomatic and say that she expected a certain level of quality and behaviour from people and anyone who spent time with her would know what I mean. Whether it be choosing candles or flowers, people watching or restaurant choice; her motto, "why spend £50 when you can spend £100."

Her over the top and amazing preparation and detail when entertaining with always enough food and beverages to feed a small army instead of four people.

Her ability to make a short uninteresting story so long and detailed that by the end you wondered what she was talking about in the first place.

I'll miss her discreetly saying "GARY" when she considered he had said something wrong or inappropriate.

Her amazing smile.

Proudly telling me about, Daniel, Tyrone and the grandchildren and what they are up to in their lives.

Her absolute love of gossip that I would often hear her and Karen keenly discussing whilst I was sitting on a sofa trying to relax.

The sound of my daughters chatting and laughing with her, as they tried to persuade her to say or do inappropriate things and drink too much.

I'm going to miss not being able to make more great memories to add to those amazing ones we already have.

Her vanity in claiming that rather than a mature adopted auntie to my girls, she considered herself more like a younger sister.

I'm going to miss not planning with her, for all the fun things in life like restaurants, holidays and barbecues.

I'll definitely miss seeing her breezing through an airport terminal just carrying a small handbag and passport, whilst Gary sweated and struggled behind, fighting with two huge suitcases.

Not seeing her walk through my front door for a coffee and chat about what's wrong in the world and how we are going to solve it.

I'm going to miss not receiving a WhatsApp message from her.

Complaining that my driveway at home was too steep and I should install a handrail immediately for her convenience.

My wife not having her best friend anymore, and of having no intention or interest in trying to find a replacement.

And lastly but most important of all, I'm just going to miss her. Sharon Slater. that brave girl from Battersea, who could not have fought any harder. Myself and Karen's best friend for 32 years.

One final thing to mention if I may;
A huge thank you to Gary and all the Slater family. I will never forget the kindness and trust in allowing myself and Karen to share the final few weeks so closely with Sharon.

Surprisingly amongst the many tears there were smiles that will always be remembered, beautiful moments and heartfelt words exchanged,
thank you.

Come With Me - Read by Tyrone

God saw you getting tired,
And a cure was not to be,
So he put his arms around you
And whispered, 'Come With Me'.

With tearful eyes
We watched you suffer,
And saw you fade away,
Although we loved you dearly
We could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove
He only takes the best.

It's lonesome here without you,
We miss you more each day,
Life doesn't seem the same
Since you've gone away.

When days are sad and lonely
And everything goes wrong.
We seem to hear you whisper
'Cheer up and carry on'.

Each time we see your picture,
You seem to smile and say
'Don't cry, I'm in God's keeping
We'll meet again some day'.

You never said 'I'm leaving',
You never said goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knew why.

A million times we needed you,
A million times we cried,
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.

In life we love you dearly,
In death we love you still,
In our hearts you hold a place,
That no one could ever fill.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.