

## **WORDS FROM THE YOUNGEST**

*by Ruby Thomas-Cox*

My mum was such a bright light in all of our lives and it hurts so much to see her go. My mum was not only a mother but a sister, a grandmother and a friend. She touched the lives of so many and impacted them greatly. My mum was kind, funny, generous and absolutely beautiful, she would talk to anyone and help everyone even when she had nothing. She was, and always will be, amazing.

So it is with a heavy heart that I write this speech as I will never be able to love anyone as much as I loved her - it will never compare. Although my mum is gone I will continue to make her proud every single day.

My mum had already given me 5 beautiful siblings but still took in everyone and anyone who needed a family, a home, a meal or even just a laugh. She helped even when she saw the bad in people, and even when they showed her the bad themselves. Everyone here got the pleasure of knowing my mum so you will understand this - our door was always open. Although my mum is gone she will forever live on in memory, not just through me, but through the people she touched and the beautiful children she brought into this world and the amazing grandchildren my sister gave her.

I am glad I got to hug my mum and tell her I love her before she went but unfortunately that won't ever be enough. Nobody could ever come close to half the person my mum was and I will never forget that. Thank you to everyone who has loved and cared for my mum over the years, she loved and cared for everyone like no other and will continue to do so in the sky.

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***EULOGY***  
*by Robbie Cox*

I'd just like to share a few memories of growing up with my sister Lorraine. As many of you know we were adopted from different families. However we grew to be as close as any biological siblings.

I was the big brother who looked out for my little sister. We both grew up here in Southmoor and had happy memories of John Blandy school. Summer holidays always seemed long and hot. We were lucky to have a swimming pool at the school and used to go swimming there during the six week break. Other days were spent cycling down country lanes and making camps in the trees and hedgerows.

We even had a roller skating club in the close. As you can imagine that being the chubby dumpling I was, it was not something I excelled at. Another memory of that era was of homemade go karts using scrap timber and pram wheels. Lorraine was constantly reminding me of the time she was pushing me and lost her footing. Apparently she got dragged along behind the go kart suffering a skinned stomach and bruises. According to her she was almost mortally wounded. I truly have no recollection but she was adamant it happened.

Another lasting memory was the annual weeks camping holiday to Swanage. We both remembered how dad bent the pegs trying to knock them into the rock hard ground. We laughed as he cursed and threw the mallet down in disgust.

We often reminisced about these things, even in her last days. Life wasn't always easy for Lorraine but she loved her family. We talked or messaged most days. We shared a unique sense of humour, enjoying much banter and name calling. Not to mention our political differences. Many hours were spent debating. Her finest hour was sending me a Jeremy Corbyn singing Christmas card.

I'm grateful for the time we spent together. I will really miss her.

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***PRAYER OF PENITENCE***  
*by Reverend Patricia Clamp*

## **WORDS OF A FRIEND**

*by Sean Ryan*

Friends and Family of Lorraine, my name is Sean, Lorraine's former boss and indeed friend, you're probably sitting here thinking who is Sean and why is he speaking, I asked myself the same question however Lorraine asked me June 30th, 2024, to say a few words for her, and of course, I am proud to of been asked, nervous but proud but equally honoured to be doing so. But I hope at the end you will see why she asked me.

So first of all, I met Lorraine well over 15 years ago, in she walks with a job application form for a hotel I worked at, We hit it off straight away and got on from day one, that's when our journey began together and over the years we have worked at restaurants, nightclubs & hotels.

Lorraine and I have always spoken, and I took on a new site in Leicester so I invited her down for a coffee & chat and of course, made a position to suit her needs in October 2023, her most recent role with me which is probably mine and Lorraine's favourite, St Martins Lodge.

Lorraine fell in love with this hotel from the day I showed her around, she kept looking in disgust at the state of the place but her vision for what it was to be once she got her hands on it was what made her smile and she did it all in less than two months and drove us to a standard that won us an award.

Now the part Lorraine asked me to focus on in fact I will quote word by word "Yeah all of that, that's lovely thank you but, not sure you should say \*a naughty word\* in a church though" So I won't....

I have never known anyone take so much pride and passion for a job which we all hate doing yet she did it so effortlessly and with sass! Lorraine's presence is well known at all my venues where I have had the honour of working with her, not by seeing her not by hearing her, but by smelling her, you can tell when Lorraine has been at work by the beautiful smell of the business, the shine of the glass, the weird shapes on the carpets from where she's vacuumed and the look she gives you if you walk on her wet floor!!!

You know the place has been 'Lorrained' as I called it when that smell of  
Flash & Febreze hits you as soon as you walk in the door!  
Lorraine brought warmth to work, her smile and laugh were infectious,  
and the team would be in stitches with the conversations we had, which  
I know I am definitely not allowed to repeat in a church.

Lorraine was not one to be messed with, her colleagues all knew this as  
did I, her fiery side had to be bought out at times but once you pass  
that with her, she is the best person to be around and once you are in  
that circle at work you know she has your back. Unless for fun she is  
telling my team I am a drug dealer and that is how I earn my money!  
This caused many a conversation.

I called on Lorraine for many things love and war, work and home, she  
was very to the point with her advice, she quickly became my work  
mom and in turn, I feel that I can say I was her work son, our  
relationship was amazing and one of which will truly be missed, but  
thought of a lot.

Lorraine, I think wanted me to speak today to let you all know from an  
outsider's point of view, she was a very proud hard-working mom and  
woman, who took pride in all she did, showed passion in her work,  
showed determination to succeed in all she did, and was an amazing  
role model for her beautiful children, she didn't back down, didn't care  
what was said, or who said it, she would just get to the bottom of it and  
clear it up straight away. What a Woman!

I for one will certainly miss Lorraine but the memories will of course live with me  
as they will with all of you.

From myself, Sinade & Carol here today, and of course your colleagues at St  
Martin's Hospitality, fly high Lorraine and thank you for being you.  
Thank you everyone for listening!

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