



Through highs and lows, across land and seas, you have been there for me. An impenetrable rock and a recurring stepping stone in all of my walks in life. You once told me, “never forget your roots,” in a time where our lives were uprooted. This is my way of remembering. Those words once rang in my ears and now they resonate with me and echo wherever I go, and whomever, I’m with. Thank you for being there, then; and thank you for being here, now. Let this be the watering of the soil for a new bond to grow and I hope, one day my roots can be strong enough to hold you up, like you once held me.



Dominic, your Younger Sister

## Louise

At the end of a beautiful family outing on a perfect blue sky day on January 2, 2005, Louise (13) and her sister, Dominic (9) were dropped off at their home in St. George, Utah, by their Greek-born parents Leo and Dena. Their parents continued into town to pick up dinner while the children washed up and prepared the dining room table. But dinner never came; a wrong-way drunk driver took their parents lives.

Because the sisters did not want to leave the US, their birthplace and home, they were permitted to live with family friends. However, because of cultural differences and never feeling a true part of this foster family, a US court ordered Louise and Dominic to go live with their distant and unfamiliar relatives in Athens, Greece.

Louise’s desire to further her education was encouraged at early age by her mother. Louise eventually attended Newcastle University in England and graduated last year with a degree in Business. “Although technically I am an orphan, I have never felt like one except during important life events like my graduation day. All other days are just stepping stones in my life.” Dominic is now attending University of Warwick. Both sisters currently reside in the UK.

Louise has struggled and fought through many battles of misunderstanding and acceptance all the while trying to be a teenager, a sister, a mother and a father for herself and for her sister. “Home is the feeling I have when I am comfortable and I’m comfortable with who I am. I see my sister at least once a year because being with her is like being at home.”



Louise - Teenager, Sister, Mother & Father