

Wishing Upon a Star



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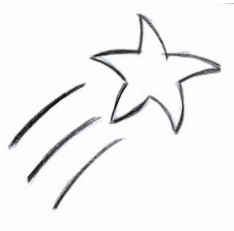
My name is Tashi Holiday. I am fifteen years old. Every night I wish upon a star, and I ask for one thing. I wish for a family that will love me and care for me. I will explain.

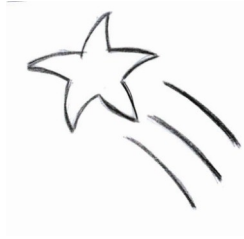
I live in an orphanage in the state of New Jersey. My life here is all structured. There is no freedom. The people in charge here tell us when to bathe, when to go to sleep, when to wash, and when to eat.

Just the other day, I was outside talking and laughing with friends. The head of the program told us to go to our rooms.

So now you see why I wish upon stars and ask for love from a family: a mother, a father, and maybe a sibling. This is the missing link in my life.

If only I had a family...





My favorite saying is, "Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there's love you can't go wrong." It tells the story of my life. Every night, I pray for a family to help me get out of this orphanage. I gaze at the stars and ask them to give me a home. I ask for a family to love me.

Today is "Family Day". I am nervous and excited. On Family Day, families come and spend time with the orphans in order to find someone to adopt.

Family Day is usually like this for me: I always expect to find a family that wants me, but it never happens. I cannot give up hope, though.

The headmistress, Ms. Jackson, said that I have an appointment today. On the outside, I am smiling, but on the inside I am anxious. I *need* a family.



I talk to my friend Darren about my appointment. I tell him how I feel. "I can't wait for today," I tell him.

"Why?" Darren replies. "It is always the same thing. You go to the meeting, but you never get adopted."

I tell him, "I know, but I cannot give up. I believe I will find someone to love me."

The headmistress takes me to my meeting. I follow her outside to a table. She introduces me to a young African-American lady. She is very nice. I hope she can be my mom.

She shakes my hand. She says, "Hello, Tashi. I am Shanice Brown. I would like to get to know you. Is that okay?"

I reply, "Sure." I feel really comfortable with her.

"Did you know I also lived in an orphanage when I was young?" ask Shanice.

"No, I didn't," I say.

"I know how it feels to live in an orphanage. It can feel very lonely. When I felt sad, I would say to myself 'Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do.'"

I know that saying!!!

"Where there's love, you can't go wrong," we say together.

Shanice smiles, and tears well in my eyes.
Shanice say, "I have finally found my daughter. I
see myself in you."

"I finally have someone to love me. I have
someone to call mom and a place to call home. I
have a family," I reply. We both smile. Happiness,
security, and love are in the air.

*The key is to not give up. Just do what you
want to do. Oh, and I can't forget to say, wishing
upon stars is also important.*

