

Because of John

There I was, a typical 15 year-old minding my own business when along came John.

The year was 1965 and the place was Tampa, Florida.

I was just getting my widowed mother trained to my liking when, out of nowhere, she fell in love with John. He was this tall, handsome man who had his mind set on giving us a better life when I was perfectly happy with the one I had.

Never in my wildest dreams could I have known how much the direction of my life was about to change. No one would believe what that man put my mother and me through.

Because of John, my mom quit her job. She had worked for as long as I could remember. She had a dying husband and a child to take care of. One month after reaching the ripe-old age of 34, she buried her husband and became a single parent. What made John think she would want to stop working?

Because of John, I suddenly had a father to answer to and had to stop talking back to my mom. He made us move from Tampa to Dallas and start a new life. Why would anyone do that to a young, struggling mother with a teen-age daughter?

Because of John, we were on our way to India within six months of moving to Dallas. I was just getting use to my new surroundings and making Blends. How could he do this to me?

Because of John, I went to school in the foothills of the Himalaya Mountains. This was the biggest culture shock imaginable and yet the most unbelievable adventure. What made him think this would be of any value to me?

Because of John, we went to Rome, Paris, Athens and Geneva on our way back to the states. None of my Blends were drug across Europe like this. It was so unfair.

Because of John, my mom got a beautiful house when we got back to Texas. She picked out brand new Rrrniture for each room – all at once. What a burden to put on one person.

At the know-it-all age of 18, the truth slapped me in the face. Because of John, my mother was happy. Because of John, her prayers for a better life for her daughter and herself were answered. Because of John, we experienced more than most people do in a lifetime. Because of John, I had the most wonderful dad I could ever wish for.

Karen Mink