

## Baby Sister

In 2013, I turned 17 years old and found out that my stepmother was pregnant. I remember the muffled commotion of voices around me in the restaurant and the heat of the hibachi flames hitting me as I stared at my father's mouth. I could see each word pouring out of him and his lips curl into a smile but I couldn't make myself react. I was in complete shock. How was I becoming an older sister at this point in my life? I was happy for them but scared that people would judge me and my family for the age gap between me and the new life growing in her. I finally felt myself breathe again and my grip loosened from the arm of the chair. I heard myself halfheartedly utter "congratulations" and took another deep breath.

As the months passed I became more comfortable with the idea of becoming a role model. My older sister is my best friend so why shouldn't I be my new baby sister's best friend. As my stepmother's stomach grew, so did my excitement. I started to buy everything involving pink, pearls and princess related. I was determined to shower this new baby with love, but nothing could have prepared me for meeting her the first time. Never in my life have I felt so much love for someone I didn't even know yet. In my arms for the first time, I looked down on her tiny closed eyes and listened to the softest of breaths as she slept. I was entranced by her every movement no matter how small. I inspected and counted every finger and every toe hundreds of times, just to make sure they were still there. I never have fallen in love so quickly and I knew she would be my little princess for life, but I was wrong.

My beautiful baby sister is now 5 years old, and while she still likes princesses sometimes, she tells people she wants to be a farmer when she grows up. She knows more about tractors than most grown men and she isn't afraid to tell people. Her other hobbies include playing with toy trucks, tumbling, telling people dinosaur facts and tea parties. Her interests are definitely diverse, but that's what makes her unique and makes me love her all the more. From the day my father told me she was coming into this world, I knew I was going to have to be a role model but what I didn't predict was that she would also become mine. Watching her light up a room with her tiny bright smile and demand attention through the confidence in her walk is something that inspires me daily. I couldn't be more proud of this little human I call my sister, and I look back and laugh at the fear I once felt about her arrival. She has changed my life for the better and I am so lucky that I have such an intelligent little girl to light up my life.