

**Kirby Brown – October 17, 2009**

Well Kirby, you did it again, didn't you? You just can't do anything quietly!

Before I begin, I need to ask you all a question. Can I please see a show of hands of all those present who at one time in their life considered Kirby Brown their best friend?

And I assure you, you were all her best friend too.

Downtown Kirby Brown, Derby-Dan, Hurricane Kirby, The Kirby, Action Figure cousin, Our Supernova... A free spirit, a woman of constant action, a force of energy, a truly passionate soul, the love of our life. You taught us so much about how to live life and how to love one another. Your spirit lives on in each of us... we will never forget you. You won't let us, by the way. I'm pretty sure in this past week you've already told Mom how to rearrange the kitchen twice and told Dad he needs to buy a new phone. (Jean, Kate, and I can probably help you out with that one). I think you've also told everyone in Cabo exactly how to plan the next party. And by the way, Cabo, the Brown family expects a HUGE one the next time we're in town. Kirby won't be there to plan it all, so it better be a rager.

I know I can stand here for days telling all of the beautiful and inspirational stories about how Kirby lived her life, and how she touched us all so deeply. How she literally saved a friend's life in Cabo when he was hit by a car, how she taught children to ride horses in such a special way, or how her love of music was so incredibly contagious. But the thing is, we all lived these stories with Kirby in our own special way, and my words just cannot give them justice.

Instead, today I will be Kirby's voice, I simply need to speak for Kirby to all of you...

To all my dear friends and family:

Do not cry for me. I am here with you today and I will always remain a special part of each and every one of you. You speak of the magic and me, but it is I who experienced the magic in all of you. I love you all for who you are, and I love you all for what you taught me and what you've all done for me... But today, there are a few things I need you to do for me.

LAUGH. I need you to laugh for me. Laugh with each other every day. Tell my story and laugh out loud. Take time from your busy life, think about me, and laugh. Sing out loud, dance with an unending joy and passion, and laugh as hard as you can for me... but do not cry for me.

LEARN. I need you to learn for me, and never stop. Learn about yourself, learn about one another; learn about everything you possibly can. Learn how to climb your mountain, and learn how to surf your wave. Open yourself up to new possibilities and learn for me... but do not cry for me.

LOVE. I need you to love for me. Continue to love me as I will always love you. Tell people you love them as I have told you. And show each other how to love as I have shown you. Live your life as an example of my love, and exude that love. Do this for me... but do not cry for me.

LIVE. I need you to live for me. Really and truly live your life each and every day. Take a moment, think about what it means to live... take this thought and make it a part of your every moment of every day. Live your life with a fierce energy that penetrates those around you. Focus on what it means for YOU to live... then think about me, and live some more. Live for me... but do not cry for me.

Now To my beautiful sister Kate,

Please stay true to yourself. Take care of yourself and your Mighty-mighty Angus first. Use the example that our Mom and Dad created for our family and make it your own. You have become such a beautiful, loving mother and wife. Please know that I will always be there for you to help and guide you along the way. We may have battled at times, but I am certain that these times only made our bond stronger. You are my beautiful friend, and I love you.

To my special little sister Jean,

Jean-the-Bean The Dancin' Machine! I give to you my joyous spirit and my boundless energy, so you can carry it on. Please continue to travel for me, and see as much as you can, meet new faces, and explore exciting new worlds. Every time I saw you, I was more impressed by the incredible woman you've become. My little sister - now a model of grace and beauty for us all. Your intelligence and your thirst for knowledge and what is right will lead people for years to come. Your future is an amazing place. I love you, my shining star.

And finally, to my beautiful Mom and Dad,

The two people I admire the most, and whose mere presence offers us all hope in this world. Please celebrate for me, celebrate all that is good, and celebrate together. Hold each other close, and feel my arms around you. Feel my spirit, my energy, and my passion within you. People talk about my strength, but the source of this strength was always the two of you. Your wisdom, love, loyalty, and strength are what guided me my whole life.

To my sweet Papa G,

Please focus on keeping our family together. Take my energy and focus it on one another, but take care of yourself first. You do so much for so many. Now, let me be a source of motivation for you, so you can take care of yourself. Do this, so you can keep us all together... and as you love to say, 'Be excellent to one another.'

To my inspirational Mom,

I know you will stay strong for me. I love you with all of my heart and soul. Please know that you did more for me than I ever could've imagined. You guided me through so many tough times, even when I wouldn't listen. But I always heard your voice... your tender, steady, loving and true voice. Thank you for teaching me how to see God in everything, everyone, and every beautiful place. I now just have one request of you...

Please speak for me.

My Kirby Brown... Our loving sister, daughter, cousin, aunt, best friend, our Supernova...

Your force will be missed, but it will live on in us all. Your radiant glow will shine bright through all of us for as long as we all shall live.

And now, we will stand up together and we will celebrate. We will sing and dance, and we will shout to the ends of the earth and we will celebrate! We will celebrate Kirby Brown!