

# What it feels like to live

My name is Dawn Moone and I'm 15 years old. 8 years, and 3 months I was diagnosed with a rare disease. If I went outside during the day the sunlight would cause fatal things, it would take about 45 minutes to develop but still fatal, if I went outside during the night it would be dangerous.

I was sitting on my bed when I noticed two people moving boxes in and out the house in front of mine. Of course, it wasn't through a window. I don't have any in my room because of the sun. I had asked my mom to place security cameras outside, so I could see what happened out in the world beyond my room. My best friend Julie was with me, I'd known Julie ever since I got diagnosed with my disease. I pointed at the camera. The two people were now standing outside my front door. I noticed one of them was a boy about my age. The bell rang, Jewel went to open the door. I couldn't because the sun might creep in through the door and kill me, worse than the typical death. 10 minutes later Jewel came into my room with the boy. She said "Hey Dawn, this is Pip. Pip and his mom just moved across the street." I nodded. The boy looked nervous. Then she left. I looked at the boy sideways. "Where'd you move from?" Turned out he was 15, and he'd moved 8 times in his life and had moved from California. "Do you miss your home?" I asked him. He seemed as if he was chewing on my words. I noticed he had green icy blue eyes. And he had dark blond hair just like me. He

finally answered, "I believe your home isn't a place, I believe it's a feeling, a feeling I haven't found yet." Then he stood up and left. Just like that I knew we were going to get along. Jewels came in a minute after Pip left and gave me his phone number I left it beside my bed and after Jewels left I decide to text him. I typed "Hi" and hit send "SWOOP" the sound of the message traveling through space just to get across the street. "Hi" he typed back. We started talking about what our favorite foods were, then one thing led to another and he said " Hey, I heard that there's a park nearby, I was going to check it out tomorrow if you want to come" My heart sank, what if I told him about my disease and he never talked to me again I would be back to my lonely world. Next thing you know I was sneaking out my window the next morning. I rang Pip's doorbell and he stepped outside. I tried not to act as surprised as I was, the pictures I'd seen online weren't anything like being outside, with all the bright colors and amazing smells. When we got to the park, Pip sat down under a brown trunk with sprouting green leaves, I knew it was a tree. I followed Pip there and sat down next to him. Just then a yellow flying thing swooped in my face. "EEK!" I screamed. Pip looked at me as if I had five eyes. "It's just a butterfly" He said. "I knew that" I lied. Just then I stood up I ran around the tree then as if someone had hit me from behind I fell like glass shattering on the floor. When I opened my eyes, I was at my house, in my bed. Then Jewels told me what the doctors had said. They said that because of my disease and me going outside, if I went out again I'd only have 48 hours to live

tops. I gasped and then Pip came in. He looked at me anger and pity both in his eyes. "Why didn't you tell me?" I explained how ever since I was a little girl I'd thought I was alone because I could only talk to two people, Jewels and my mother, and I explained how I thought if I cut him off then I'd go back to my lonely world. He said he understood, but I knew he didn't. Then he stood up and left. The next day I told Jewels "I needed to see the world before I have to leave it. I need to know what it feels like to actually live." A single tear crept down her face as she nodded and started to pack my bags, then she bought a plane ticket to Florida online for me, her and Pip. Then we snuck out my window and went to Pip's house who was already outside next to his truck. We drove to the airport and took our plane. When we got to Florida Jewels rented a car and Pip drove us to Disney World. We went on rides and stayed at the hotel at night. Then Pip said "Promise me that you won't.... that you won't die before I let you see the beach." I promised even though we both new that was something that I couldn't help. The next day we drove to the beach and I went right into the water, Pip taught me how to float in the water. Then Jewels bought us some ice cream and I ran to go back into the water but turned around and said to Jewels and Pip "You showed me what it feels like to live, to actually live. Thank you." And I went back into the water and floated as I rose like the lonely cloud that I'd always felt I was, except I wasn't alone I had Jewels who had given her having a life for me, and I had Pip, but most of all

my mother who had been the lonely cloud I could be alone with.

By.Claudia L.