

Zhafira P.

## Never Far From Home

My sister, Madi, was the valedictorian of her graduating class. She was a high achiever, and got accepted into her dream school. She didn't get rejected from any of the schools she applied to. Not only did she get accepted into her dream school, but she got a scholarship to another amazing school located in California known as California Bay University. Her dream school, Catherine Oaks University, is only an hour away from home, so if she were to attend her dream school, she'd still be able to come home every now and then.

Madi made her decision on her birthday, June 27. After we sang happy birthday, she cut her double layered cookie cake, with the words 'Happy 18th Madi!' frosted with yellow icing. My younger sister, Mara, devoured the cookie cake like it was nothing. I, on the other hand, simply decided to take a bite of the cake and let it digest like a normal human being. That's when Madi broke the news.

"I've made my choice," Madi says, with a look of fear. "I'm not sure if you'd be happy about it, but I'm going with California Bay University."

My parents started to celebrate. They were probably happy because they were able to save some of their money, since Madi chose the scholarship. I wasn't happy, and Mara definitely wasn't happy either.

"But what are we going to do without you?" Mara whined. "You're going to be so far away!"

"We'll be able to video chat, and I can come visit during Thanksgiving and spring break if possible," Madi said as she patted Mara's back. "I'm sorry, everyone."

The next week, Madi took Mara and I on a little shopping spree. We went to our favorite mall, just five minutes away from our house. We went to a home decor shop. "Why are we here?" I asked Madi.

"We're shopping for dorm decorations, remember?" Madi said. I just remembered that Madi would be away from home for a while. I wasn't in the mood to shop anymore, but Mara definitely was. She picked out a pink bean bag chair, a colorful assortment of throw pillows and a white blanket with tassels hanging from the side. I didn't look for anything because I could care less about Madi moving to college.

The day Madi would be moving to California Bay University finally came. Everyone loaded the car with Madi's belongings that she would be taking to college. Everyone but me. Someone knocked on my door.

"Can I come in?" It was Madi.

"Yeah, sure." I said.

"I wanted to say goodbye to my favorite sister," she said. "I don't want to leave without being polite."

"Okay, bye!"

"Bye." she stood up and gave me a big hug. I felt a lump in my throat. My hands were shaking. I couldn't stop her from going to college. It was the next step of her life, and I didn't want to ruin the opportunities that were waiting for her.

**I looked out the window. Madi's van was full of boxes. Dad closed the trunk of her car. Madi gave Mom and Dad a hug that lasted for at least five seconds. I quickly ran downstairs to see her car leaving after she said, " Goodbye, everyone!"**