



Reader's Choice Literary Reviews

Borrowed Time

In *Borrowed Time*, the latest novella from author MJ Daley-Prado, the dedication reads, "For families near and far...don't wait until it's too late." This is poignant advice from someone who has lost both her sister and mother to cancer in the past twelve years.

Daley-Prado describes her relationship with her mother through the teen years and into adulthood as changing to the point that Daley-Prado questioned whether her mother loved or even liked her. As for so many of us, only when Daley-Prado became a mother herself did she begin to understand how difficult parenting is. Lack of communication, remaining sadness, and resentment lingered and continued to strain mother/daughter relations.

It wasn't until the death of her sister that Daley-Prado and her mother found a commonality. The pair began to understand one another and became friends while helping each other overcome the devastating grief. Shopping, lunches, and even laughter became medicine for their shared pain.

Just as Daley-Prado and her mother began to get their lives on track, tragedy struck the family again when her mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. After the diagnosis, Daley-Prado brought her mother home for whatever time was left. During those last few weeks, mother and daughter were able to connect on a level beyond anything previously possible. Her mother's life was validated and there was a sense of closure.

This story had a profound meaning for me, having lost my mother to cancer only five months previous to reading *Borrowed Time*. Despite not being able to say goodbye or how much I loved her, reading about Daley-Prado's fortunate blessing of reconnection and closure helped me to understand the relationship I had with my Mother. The message in these three dozen or so pages is clear. Life is short—take the time necessary to mend relationship fences to find peacefulness in one's heart—before it is too late.

Borrowed Time is a must read for anyone who has recently lost a parent or has suffered the news of a terminally ill loved one. I also highly recommend it to those struggling with strained familial relationships. *5 Stars*

By WR Potter for Reader's Choice reviews.