Long Eulogy for a Dear Friend

First, I'd like to thank everyone for being here to help Josie's family and friends celebrate her life. I met Josie on a school field trip to the state aquarium. At the time, we attended different schools, but our two groups ended up on the same tour.

I immediately liked Josie's sense of humor. The tour guide named all the species and told a little about each one. When the tour guide asked if anyone in the group knew the name of the shark swimming in the tank behind him, Josie raised her hand and replied, 'Maneater.'

We kept in touch after the field trip and a year later Josie's dad, Frank, took a job here in town and Josie and I became inseparable. It was a dream come true that we were able to see each other every day.

We went on each other's family vacations. We shared everything from our first boy crushes to our first dates. We texted each other all the time, sent selfies and made plans about our future lives. Those plans won't come to pass now. She was taken from us by a drunk driver. In that one moment, her life ended. Everything we planned vanished.

But my memories remain. I still laugh whenever I think about us trying to sneak back into her bedroom one night while on vacation. We didn't realize the rental property had an automated sprinkler system. I can still hear her squealing and giggling as we tried to dodge the sprinklers, only to be blinded by floodlights triggered by a motion detector.

Her parents, Frank and Maude, weren't giggling when they opened the front door holding towels. They dried us off and fixed us a midnight snack and then promptly grounded both of us for a week.

I shall always miss my dear friend. She made me laugh, and she was always there to help me figure things out, listen to me when I was upset, and cheer me up when I was down.

Josie was fearless and forever curious about - everything. Her favorite quote was from an ancient history class we took together a few years ago. The ancient Greek philosopher Epictetus said, "There is only one way to happiness, and that is to cease worrying about things which are beyond the power of our will." Josie lived this quote and I'll try to live it. For certainly, her no longer being here is something well beyond the power of our will.