

Olivia Rotondo's Eulogy

There is never a dull moment with you – is there, Liv? I feel like you should be next to me right now because Sarah is on the other side of me. I like to think that you are.

This was never the plan, but our adventures never go as planned, do they?

We all met this girl named Olivia Noel at different times and in different places, but she oddly made us all feel the same. This brilliant, fascinating, talented, creative, original, easy going wild child made us all feel special. She knew how to keep a relationship exclusive between you and her, but never left anyone out.

Sarah Tessa Brienne Alyssa and I have been non-stop talking about Liv since that day that none of us will forget. She must love all the attention because it's proof that we are all obsessed with her.

I wish I could tell her this: I'm afraid to stop talking about you because this all feels like a nightmare and if we just keep talking about you, we'll wake up. I'm so afraid because I don't want to live without you and I worry about who is taking care of you up there. Who is filling in for me? Who is filling in for all of us?

Liv was the person I can honestly say lived her life in the moment and didn't take time for granted. This single characteristic made me a better person. The first thing I would say to her and Sarah when we were planning a trip was, "That is so expensive." Olivia would respond with, "Hann, everything costs money so let's just do it." The three of us went to Montreal one time and the first restaurant we went to was ironically called THE KEG. We ordered every appetizer on the menu. Then we got invited to have dinner with the Toronto Argonauts football team and tickets to their game the next day that we accidentally slept through. This was the most spontaneous weekend I've ever had.

On her birthday this year she ate seven hamburgers that Mike grilled for all of us. That girl could eat. God Bless her... Thanks Mike.

I would give anything to hear her laugh, see her throw her head back in the air and clap her hands. She was so dramatic and perfect. Tessa and Olivia were always so goofy and sarcastic. They could relate to each other in ways that not many people could. Liv was always smiling and it feels good to be a part of her happiness. The sarcasm continued when Nick was their target. I remember her and Maggie would call Nick Daddy because they thought it was so funny.

Brienne's friendship with Olivia began when they were supposed to do a school project with Alyssa. Alyssa blew them off because she had dance. It didn't matter that Brienne had never hung out with Olivia before because she was so relatable and normal. Alyssa met Liv at dance class where she was a huge part of Alyssa's life. They were the only ones from school who lived in this neck of the woods and we had to drive out here for them. One night when Alyssa decided to sit with Olivia's parents at the restaurant instead of us girls, Liv said, "Why is Alyssa so obsessed with my parents, it's kinda creepy." I don't know if Alyssa loved Olivia or her parents more

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Nick, Ben, Mags, Derek, Big Mike and Danny: I will never fully understand your exact relationship with Liv but I do know that you were her protection and she trusted you to be there for her and love her. It came so natural for you to be those brother figures in her life. I haven't spent much time with Noah, Maggie and Chloe, but just by the way Liv talked about each of you, makes it clear you are unforgettable parts of her life. Her dance and cheer friend were always her sisters. Kristina was her girlfriend and Donna and Freddie were her second set of parents.

Joos, remember when you lowered Olivia out the upstairs window in a laundry basket? You have no idea how you lived in Olivia or how your juice filled her sippy cup. You could do no wrong in her eyes. You were her rock, her cool big sister, and the only one who knew her inside and out. The unspoken connection between sisters never ends. But don't think you're getting off that easy. You still have the eight of us to be a role models for and I can't even count all the dancers who look up to you.

Dotty and Mr. R, from the first night I came to your house I felt like family. Like Olivia, you tease and make jokes, but every word and action is truly out of love. Dotty, your strength motivated Olivia. She wanted to be just like you and I think she was. To her knight in shining armor, or should I say her rock star with a guitar over his shoulder, you wrote a song about your three sassy princesses. To your little Olivia you wrote, "She floats like a feather on her toes in a cloud." I remember how special she felt when she shared this with me.

The other girls and I make a promise that we will devote our lives to Liv, to live in a way that our best friend and hero would be proud of, just like you are so proud of your amazing daughter.

So Olivia, please say hello to Sarah's dad and like in the Jimmy Eat World song, "May angels lead you in." Lastly, I will share what you said to me exactly a year before the worst day of my life. You gave me this advice, "I'm going to sleep but just remember to be you and have fun and do what you want."