

Forgotten?

Elle Crockett

Her swift blonde ponytail swayed as she prepared for the incoming serve from the other team. The white ball raced through the air right to her teammate, Mia, who bumped the ball perfectly to the setter. “Go line!” yelled her coach from the sideline. Alex waited for the perfect time to pound the ball down the left line. She jumped insanely high and made beautiful contact with the ball as it smashed on the other side of the floor. Right when Alex landed on the court, a big CRACK came from her left leg. Alex limped over to the sideline knowing that something atrocious had happened to her leg. After her coach’s brief recap of the match, she slowly dragged herself up the bleachers, barely making it to her best friend Joe’s arms before she collapsed.

When Alex finally woke up, she found herself lying in a hospital bed with a big charcoal black cast stretching up her left leg. It stretched all the way from the tip of her toes to the top of her knee. Frantically searching for someone to explain what had happened, she found Joe sitting at the side of her bed. “What happened?” Alex questioned. “You snapped your tibia in half. You’ll have to have that huge cast on for at *least* two months.” Panic ran through Alex’s head when she cried out, “What am I going to do this summer?” right before she gently fell back asleep.

Early the next morning, Alex traveled out of the hospital on crutches still dreading the fact that she might never play volleyball again. When she crutched out of the hospital doors, she saw a young woman with beautiful, curly, honey like, brown hair studying her every move. “What is she looking at?”, she thought to herself. Extremely confused, Alex followed her parents to their brand new, yellow Tesla. While the group was driving for a trip to the magical Rocky Mountains, Alex couldn’t stop thinking about the mysterious woman. When the family reached their destination of Grand Lake, they took an amazing Jeep tour through Rocky Mountain

National Forest. The group saw some prodigious animals like several big horn sheep, deer, and even a huge black bear! “That was the coolest thing I’ve *ever* seen!” Alex told her parents. While the group summited Trail Ridge Road something else caught Alex’s eye. In the distance, she could see a woman sketching a beautiful picture of an unforgettable Colorado sunset. As she looked closer it was not the drawing that caught her eye, but rather the person creating it. The sketch artist was the same lady that watched Alex exit the hospital doors.

When Alex woke up the next morning, she could almost taste the excitement in her crisp, cold bedroom. “It’s GAME DAY!” yelled Alex’s dad all the way from downstairs. After hastening to put on her CSU attire, Alex crutched her way down the stairs with just enough patience before she collapsed onto their dark brown hardwood floor. “You alright girlie?”, her dad asked. “Yeah, just super excited for the game.” The duo quickly rushed over to Joe’s house in order to make it to Fort Collins in time for the big game. Following the everlasting drive, Alex, her dad, and Joe all entered the breathtaking new home stadium of the Colorado State Rams, Sonny Lubick Field. Right as they found their seats, the group heard a big TWEET come from the referee’s whistle. “Let’s go Rams... let’s go!”, roared from a crowd of 41,000 eager fans. “It’s the big game you’ve all been expecting, CU vs CSU today!” came from the voice of Al Michaels. When Alex was staring at the 4,200 square foot Jumbotron, she caught a glare of the same exact person she didn’t want to see. Standing on the stairs to the right of the Jumbotron was the woman with brown hair and oceanic eyes. “Oh COME ON!” screamed Alex in frustration. “Honey the game hasn’t even started yet, what’s wrong?”, her dad voiced. “Nothing, excuse me.”, Alex said. Alex quickly crutched herself to the woman and reached out to grab her blue blouse, but when her hand clutched her body, she felt nothing but the emptiness of the stadium. That was when Alex realized that the lady wasn’t actually there. Puzzled beyond

thought, Alex went back to her seat with a disappointed face. “Hey Alex, I just saw this interesting article on the Columbine Shooting. Look at this girl named Lauren Dawn Townsend!” her dad exclaimed. Alex snatched the phone from her dad’s hands. Alex stared at the picture for a long time and finally saw it. A young woman with beautiful, curly, honey like, brown hair and ocean blue eyes.

NEVER FORGET

Lauren Dawn Townsend was an 18 year old girl at Columbine High School when her life was tragically cut short. She was captain of the varsity volleyball team and a talented sketch artist. She had plans to attend Colorado State University majoring in biology.