

It is with great sadness that I deliver this eulogy in respect of the life of Ruth. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Sabrina Maynard and I am Ruth's cousin.

Growing up Ruth and I shared a very close relationship. We lived next door to each other and it was therefore common for her to spend many days at my home or for me to similarly to be at her home. As a teenager, Ruth helped me through many difficult times. She always provided me with a shoulder to cry on. As you all know, teenage years can at times be difficult. I can honestly say that having Ruth in my life was truly a blessing.

As I reflected on Ruth's life, I asked myself "Who was Ruth"?

As you all know, Ruth was born on August 26, 1978, as the seventh child of Floria and Patrick Quintyne. She has ten surviving siblings (three sisters and seven brothers). Her older brother Joel having predeceased her some years ago.

Ruth was the proud mother of Destiny. What you may not have known is before Destiny, Ruth had all but legally adopted Alanna, who she proudly regarded as her child. When Alana's daughter Kyara came along, Ruth fondly regarded Kyara as her grandchild and treated her as such.

Ruth was blessed with a jovial and, in many ways, a carefree spirit. Ruth loved life, a good party, and knew how to enjoy herself. Growing up she would always be the source of many jokes for her siblings. Ruth would always be some kind of trouble. Her brothers Andrew and Ezra lovingly recall that to this day they do not know anyone who as a teenager was as forgetful as Ruth. As you all know, Ruth attended the St. James Secondary School (now the Frederick Smith Secondary School). Her brothers recall that somehow every morning Ruth would find it possible to misplace some item of her school uniform; whether it be her school belt, a shoe, or her epaulets. This meant that on many occasions Ruth would always be late and it was a common sight to see her running up the road behind the District D bus with the hope of catching it when it stopped at the Ally Corner.

Ruth the straight talker.

Despite her carefree teenage years, Ruth blossomed into a mature, responsible woman. Ruth's siblings fondly remember her as an adult who continued to love laughing and having a good time. Her easy-going personality was not to be mistaken, however, for weakness and, as many of you know, she had a very low tolerance level for foolishness.

Ruth was the type of person who you could take at her word. She was assertive but never aggressive. She was never afraid to stand up for herself no matter who she had to stand up to. She would let you know what was on her mind whether you liked it or not. If she had to chastise you or maybe speak to you a bit sternly, she had an incredible way of "loving you up" at the same time. It was therefore impossible, in my view, to hold a grudge against or stay angry with Ruth.

Ruth the Fashionista.

Ruth was the trendsetter and the fashionista of her family in every sense of the word. Her hair and outfits were always “on fleek”. Concerning her hair, I recall Ruth having the most gorgeous locks that I have seen and she maintained them impeccably.

Ruth was also the fashion consultant for her family and girlfriends. If you wanted a handbag or a purse, especially on short notice, Ruth was the person to check. Ruth had a handbag or purse for every outfit and every occasion.

Ruth the independent woman.

Ruth was an independent woman who was always willing to learn and try her hands at new things. From her first job at Brown Sugar Restaurant to Christie’s Restaurant at The Barbados Light & Power and more recently her jobs at the airport and then the hotel, Ruth ensured that she never remained stagnant or idle. She never allowed anyone to define who she was or what she could do.

Despite her illness and the fact that she could no longer work as she was accustomed to, Ruth continued to explore ways to provide for herself and her daughter. She always remained positive and never stopped making plans for Destiny and her future. For example, during the summer of 2020, Ruth and Destiny started a Buljol business. Destiny later raised the idea of doing pickled pork. As you all know, Ruth did not eat or deal with pork. She was, however, opened-minded to Destiny’s idea and the opportunities that it could create for Destiny. Therefore, while she encouraged Destiny to pursue the pickle pork venture, she made it clear that it was on the condition that they get new saucepans for the pork because there was no way that she was going to allow the cooking of pork of any sort in her pots.

More recently, Ruth was actively pursuing the prospects of making fragrance soaps. This new venture was at an advanced stage as Ruth was able to successfully source overseas all the fragrances and other materials she required to get the operation going. Unfortunately, this venture was thwarted by her sudden hospitalization in December and subsequent passing.

Ruth was never afraid to take a chance, to step outside the box, to try her hands at new things. Her ambitious attitude, even in the face of adversity, has truly been an inspiration to me.

Ruth was the devoted mother.

Ruth’s role as a mother was her most cherished accomplishment. The close bond she shared with Destiny and Alana meant everything to her. It broke her heart when during the early part of her illness she was temporarily separated from Destiny because she unable to take care of her and Destiny had to live with her father. It, therefore, brought her tremendous joy over the last couple of months when she and Destiny were able to again live together under the same roof.

Ruth loved Destiny with all her heart. She celebrated Destiny’s accomplishments while being a source of comfort and a steady hand of encouragement on those occasions when Destiny encountered disappointment or things just did not go the way Destiny may have expected. Nothing brought Ruth more joy than having the opportunity to see Destiny grow into the responsible, respectful young woman that she is today.

Ruth epitomized what it meant to have a positive attitude.

As many of you know, Ruth's life was not always easy. She endured many challenges during her short lifetime. If I recall correctly, on at least two prior occasions Ruth survived near-death experiences, which included a horrifying experience on a sinking catamaran. Despite, it all Ruth's positive attitude always persevered. She never allowed anything to hold her back or crush her spirit.

Ruth's positive attitude was un-mistakenly evident throughout her recent illness. Ruth remained hopeful and upbeat despite the ravages of cancer on her body and the unfavorable prognosis she received from her doctors from time to time regarding her situation

She never allowed the gravity of the situation to overwhelm her or get her down. Ruth was not one to complain about her situation or wallow in self-pity as to "why me?". Whenever one enquired of Ruth as to how she was doing, her mantra was always the same – "God got me, God, in control".

There is a saying -"Behind every dark cloud there is a silver lining". I believe that behind the dark cloud of Ruth's illness there is also a silver lining. I am told that in 2019 Ruth gave her life to Christ and accepted him as her savior on her 41st birthday.

Ruth's sisters, Mary and Thora, expressed to me the joy they both experienced as they watched Ruth's transformation as she embarked on her new journey with Christ. They expressed immense gratitude to God for allowing them to spend Christmas Day 2020 in fellowship with her. Their knowledge that she is finally at peace, protected in God's arms, is indeed a source of comfort to her family during this difficult time.

Conclusion

Ruth in a very understated and unassuming manner taught all of us many things. She certainly taught me the importance of family, friends, laughter, and love. She showed us the frailty of life and the essence of humility, kindness, courage, and strength, even in the face of adversity.

There is no doubt that Ruth's passing is heartbreaking. She was a young woman with so much potential and so much to offer. It is indeed difficult to look beyond the challenges she endured over the last two years and the aching pain in our hearts as we mourn her passing. I hope that we all can find some comfort as we reflect on the light that she was in all of our lives, her humility, her compassion, her love for God, and the lessons she taught us as to how we can each be a better person.

I am indeed thankful for the opportunity to have known Ruth, to be blessed to have her as a cousin and as a friend. The many special memories I have of her will never be forgotten.

Ruth, we love you and you will forever be missed. May you rest in eternal peace.

God bless.

Thank you.

Sabrina L. Maynard