

# A Mother's Advice

to Her 18 Year Old Daughter

(specifically to Maggie Marion)

February 6, 2002

Number One: You can always come home.

Number Two: You know a lot so be confident but, as there is always more to learn, remain teachable.

Number Three: You hardly know anything.

Number Four: You know a lot more than I did at 18 and I survived.

Number Five: Try to be kind.

Number Six: Avoid people who have a negative attitude—you already know his but just in case somebody else reads this I don't want them to think that this mother doesn't know about the danger of negative attitudes.

Number Seven: There's comfort in complaining but it's stultifying as a lifestyle.

Number Eight: You have great powers within you. It's good to study and develop them.

Number Nine: When you set out to do something, try your best, but don't make yourself crazy. Perfection isn't possible. Just do your best, that's good for you and good for those around you.

Number Ten: Someone should always have at least an inkling of where you are.

Number Eleven: Learn to hang up your clothes and put the tops back on things like tubes and bottles.

Number Twelve: Take care of other people's possessions, especially if you borrow them.

Number Thirteen: Pay attention to your money.

Number Fourteen: We live in a material world but basically we are spiritual beings. A balance must be kept. Don't be ruled by material concerns but don't ignore them either.

Number Fifteen: Pay attention to the natural world, the cosmos. You've been mostly a city girl so you might have to remind yourself to get out and walk barefoot in the grass every once in awhile.

Number Sixteen: Be proactive about your life. Up until now, someone, me, your father, school personnel, has helped to move you forward, has helped solve problems once they arise, or helped prevent them from arising. You're going to have to take care of yourself now, or at least very soon. You must protect yourself. Don't let yourself be the victim of someone else's incompetence. Yes, it's sort of comforting to have 'circumstances' or someone else to blame when something goes wrong but if the error could have been prevented by you stepping in, even if you weren't 'supposed to have to', then part of the responsibility is yours, too.

Number Seventeen: Buy new clothes every now and then.

Number Eighteen: Stay close to your family. We love you and always will.

Number Nineteen: Don't become a drug addict or walk down a dark alley alone at night.

Number Twenty: Always wash red items separately.

Please don't disregard this advice even though I may not always follow it myself. I need help and advice just like everybody else.