



In Loving Memory of

Ashley Nicole Strickland

(August 24, 1986 - May 4, 2007)



Understanding Life ~ If I could help the pain of someone else, Maybe I could relieve that pain within myself. I finally understand it is not the strength of a man, It is the wisdom and compassion that will make you stand. I live for everything that I choose to believe, And I strive to stay alive for every second I breathe... Ashley Nicole Strickland

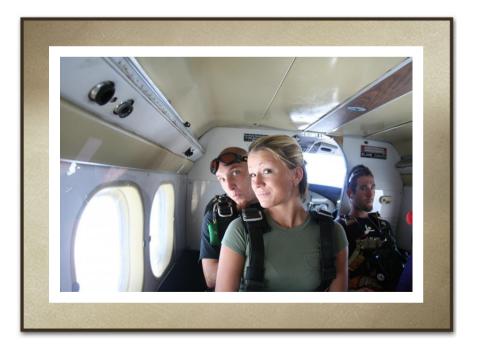
This memorial website was created to remember our dearest Ashley Nicole Strickland who was born in Jacksonville, FL on August 24, 1986 and passed away on May 4, 2007 in Nashville, TN. You will live forever in our memories and hearts.





















































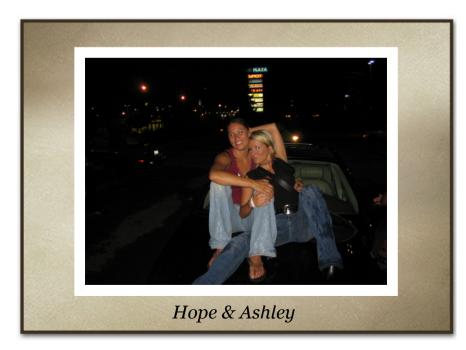


































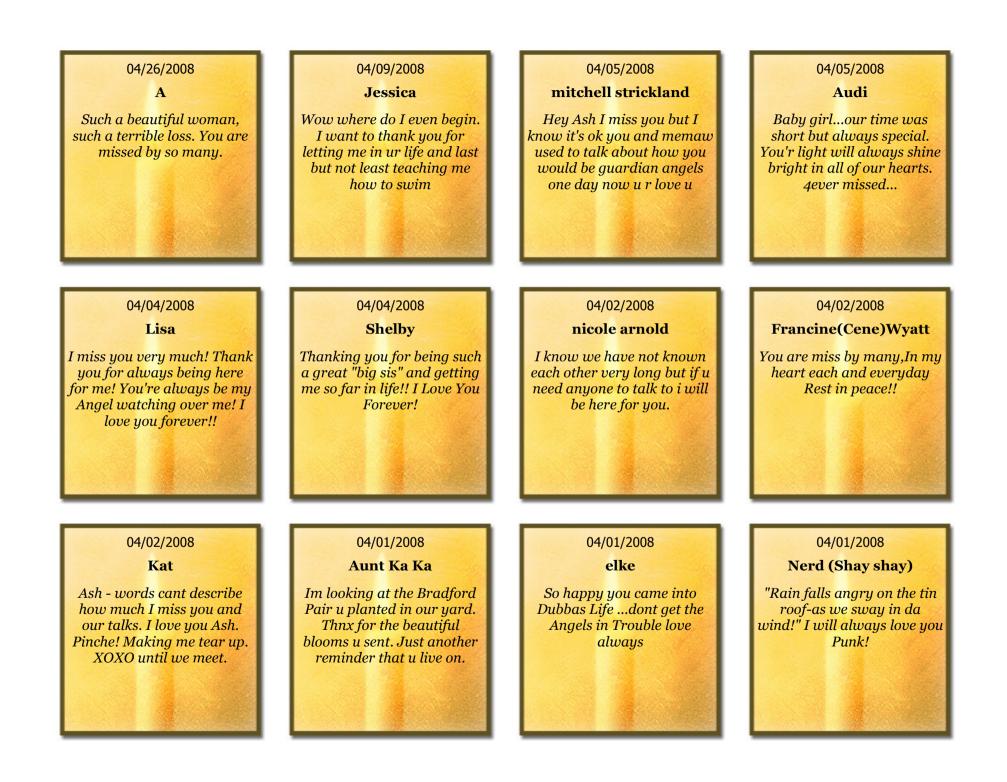






# Memorial Candles

our words, your light...







from the deepest of our hearts...

di	Then there was U	April 5, 20
you I knew that you f and it continues to be together for a reason	ght so much happiness and joy to your mom. Th illed a void. Your laughter and smile resonated felt in the lives of all who knew you. I believe , and you pretty-girl have inspired many, espe th be in vain, watch over us my sweet angel and	everywhere you went that God brings people cially your mom. We
We miss you,		
Crystal, Noel, Marlon, A	ıdi	

John Sr.	Uncle	April 1, 2008
	$\sim$	
I wish to express commemor	ration for each and every single day of Ashley's life	e. For she truly lived each

day as the gift it is from God. My heart knows you smile upon us now Ashley Nicole, and anyone who had known you is truly more blessed. I do feel cheated that my niece had left us way too soon, but I must have faith in my father's plan. I do love you sis, and know your daughter is truly loved and very much miss.



all the gray you turned into colors...

I remember the time when me and ash we're kids are room was a mess and we we're so bored we decided to play a game we called war the rules we're when the light went off we would throw everything we could find at each other when they went back on we would stop well I kinda hit her with something and she said stop so I went to turn on the light and when I got it on she had in her hand the birdhouse I'd made that day a big heavy birdhouse she rared back and slammed it right at my nose broke it and when I cryed and bled everywhere she just laughed and asked me not to tell told me she would make me peanut butter sandwiches for a week so I didn't tell and I didn't get my sandwhiches either but i still got the broken nose to this day and that is a memory with ash I won't ever forget :)

# Shell White



### Dearest DeB,

I have not written to you before now. I have many things I have wanted to share with you, but you don't even know me. We have never met. I was the resident DJ at the Lipstick Lounge for about 3 years before I left town in May of 2006. Leaving behind that crazy little bar and all of it's inhabitants left a hole in my lil' old heart that will never be filled.

Part of that void is Ashley's.

Words cannot express how utterly sad I am that she has left us and I still find it hard to believe she is gone. If I could tell you how much it meant to see her smiling, pretty face walk into that room . . . She absolutely lit it up. Every time. Without fail.

I was always thrilled to see her and Ashley always had a hug for me when she arrived. Always.

Another part of my excitement, as the DJ, was that I KNEW that once she had done her rounds and said Hi to everyone, Ashley would grace the dancefloor! I loved to see her out there, she was so alive and boy did she love to be on that stage. When Ashley was up there, I always played the songs I knew she loved to dance to, I wanted to keep her up there dancing for as long as I could because she had SO MUCH FUN. I also always had to play with the lights!!! You already know, that girl so deserved and LOVED to be under lots of lights.

On our first visit back to Nashville after about a year and a half, we finally made it back to the Lipstick. God, it was great to go back. But, it was a quiet night, maybe a Tuesday or a Wednesday so I wasn't expecting to see any if any of the old, familiar crowd.

Then, in walked Ashley and sure enough here came that glowing face and attitude. I was - again - so thrilled to see her. It really made my night.

I snapped this picture that night, of Ashley with my girlfriend Kelli. Kelli is also a dancer and had made comment on many occassions about how GREAT of a dancer Ashley was. Those two got along really well.

I have wanted to share this with you for a long time and I should have done so before now. Then I saw this and felt it was a perfect opportunity.

I think of Ashley often. Not only when I ponder the bar, but in moments when I can just see her face so clearly in my mind. Every time I see her, she is smiling and mostly, she dances.

I will always remember Ashley dancing and being the center of attention. It really didn't matter how many people were in that place, it could be wall to wall packed and Ashley would still stick out like a beacon.

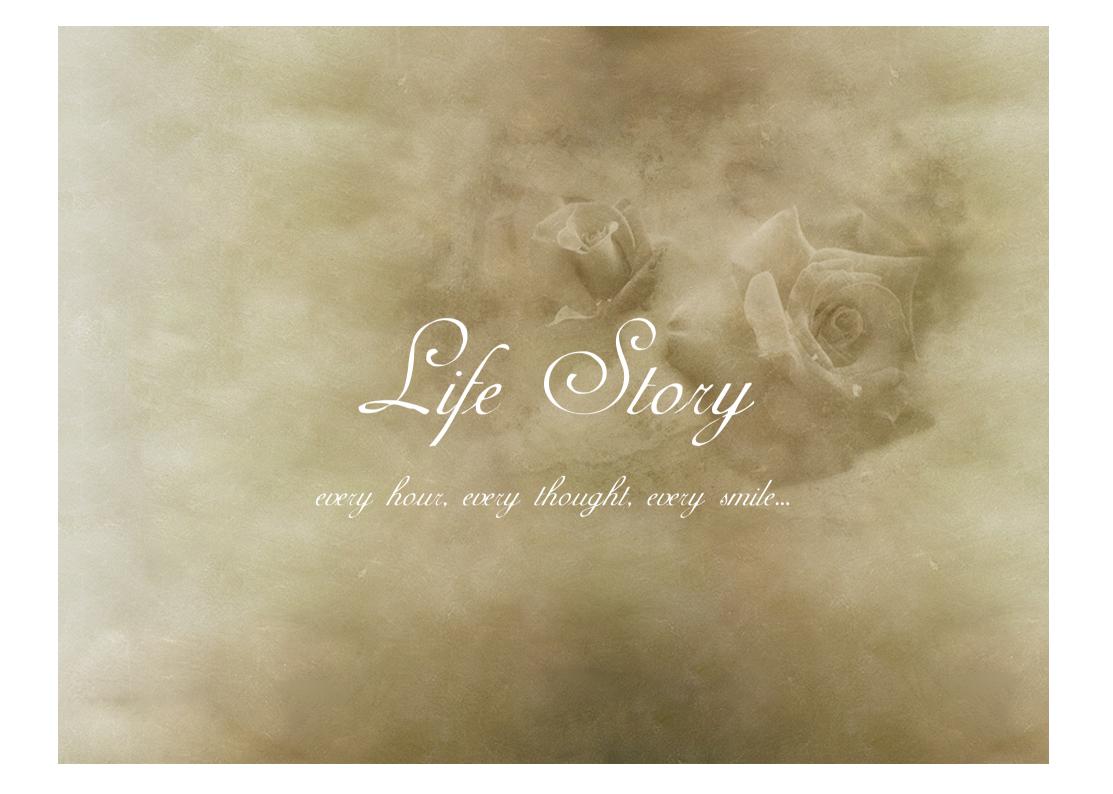
That she is, a beacon of light.

DeB, I don't know what, but if there is EVER anything I can do for you, just say the word.

I wish you love and peace and I know that oneday you will see your beautiful and outstanding baby girl again. When you do, when you finally are able to throw your arms around her and hold her tight and tell her all the things you have so wanted her to know, listen to the music in the background and when she starts to dance just let her lead . . . the music will be playing for her and she knows it.

All the very best to you always,

Shell



### August 24, 1986

Born in Jacksonville, FL on August 24, 1986.

### April 28, 2004



## Adoption Day ~

Ashley spent many years in foster care moving from one home to another. I spent many years waiting for the State to place me with a child. On October 3, 2003 I got a phone call asking me if I would provide temporary care for a 16 year old. Never did I imagine my life would be changed forever with that call. After only 6 months of

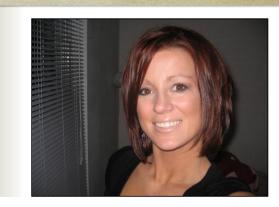
Ashley coming into my life, she asked me to become a Mother, her Mother! The joy that filled my heart that day and every day since I met her is indescribable. We officially became a family on April 28, 2004 and I proudly stood before a judge and was honored that Ashley wanted to become my daughter. Ashley and I were so scared that day, as we shared with each other how we never wanted to let the other one down. I had been through so many broken promises of being able to adopt and Ashley, well she had been through a thousand more disappointments in her life than I could have ever imagined. And there we stood, repeating after a judge saying all the right things to make us a "legal" family. As we walked out of that courtroom on that beautiful day, I'll never forget Ashley looking to me and saying, "I will make you proud!" I responded with, "You already have, I can call you my daughter!"

We had a huge celebration that night with 100 of our friends at the Rain Forest Café and Ashley was overwhelmed by the love outpoured that day. Our friends stayed by our side everyday and continued to bring such love and support throughout the years.

I never expected that my time with Ashley would be cut so short as I thought it was only the beginning of decades to come. I remember being so scared inside as I sat alone next to her bed at Vanderbilt Hospital and they told me the end was near. I couldn't imagine life without her as she was such a gift of God.

Before her last breath was taken, I whispered in her ear, "I want to make you proud, as proud as you made me on the day we became a family!" I love you A ~

May 4, 2007



Passed away on May 4, 2007.

Our Deepest Sympathy

www.last-memories.com