

Hope by Barbara Kennedy

I graduated from the University of Montana with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism in 1983, three years after my husband passed away from Hodgkin's Disease and one year after my eldest son was diagnosed with a progressive neuromuscular disease. For my graduation my mother gave me a very special card that set me on my path to faith and hope that guides me still today. On the front of the card were the words to the song "You'll Never Walk Alone."

When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm there's a golden sky,
And the sweet, silver song of a lark.
Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown.
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone, you'll never walk alone.

Inside the card it said "May you walk with pride today, with hope tomorrow, with faith always." I've kept this card for all these years and look back at it during times of despair. While many of my hopes and dreams have been tossed and blown, I've turned to my faith and watched and waited until God's plan revealed itself. I've learned that hope and faith are intertwined and even though my hopes and dreams don't always come to reality, there has always been a more precious gift revealed to me. Whether these gifts have been the friends I've discovered over the years or the adventures that have blessed my life, hope and faith have been the guiding lights to that "golden sky."