

Ryan Delany

By Shan Delany, in memory of her son

TOMORROW NEVER COMES

If only every parent knew how easy it is to lose their child, how there are so many hidden dangers, most of us never even think about.

Their life is so incredibly fragile, death lurks in every corner, waiting for our children, and before we know it, they're gone beyond death's door.... And there's no way out.

Now that I have lost my son, I think of so many things I should've said or done, wishing I'd taken more photos of him, and kept every little drawing or card or anything at all that he ever made for me.

I remember little things he spent such time and love, making for me, things I didn't keep..... We tend to throw away the piles of paintings from kindy, the posies of "weeds" from the garden, given with such love! But I thought we had forever And it wasn't meant to be.

I wish I'd had a professional photo taken of him on every birthday, and Christmas So much of his short life is now lost forever, in the "overgrown backyard" of my grief-weary, tormented mind.

It's easy for people to say, "You still have your memories!" But when you need them the most, they seem to elude you All I can recall are the "bad times", things we said to each other, that were so unkind.

So many phrases have taken over my vocabulary, like "I wish" or, "If only", and "I should have". They just go on and on, like a cracked record, taunting me.

While I try desperately to accept the loss of my child, I can't help having all those thoughts, it's almost as if he's still around me somehow, haunting me.

I believe every parent should go to a Compassionate Friends meeting, just once, to hear and see what horrific things can happen, no matter how much care you take. Maybe then, they'd keep that tattered bit of cardboard, posing as a birthday card, or the "painting" which looks like someone had an accident with the paint tin!! Then they'd have their precious "gifts", instead of a heart that can do nothing else but break.

Please, each day, make sure you hug your children, and tell them how much you love them, never take one moment for granted, cherish each day, each minute, each second, in your blissful role as dads and mums.

Because, no matter how safe you think they are, or how many decades you may think you'll have them to love, you have to remember, that for so many parents, and their beloved children,
TOMORROW NEVER COMES!!