

The Owl family was ending their family vacation in Virginia at the end of July in 2004. The family of four went to Busch Gardens, Water Country USA and Colonial Williamsburg for a week. They went to The Olive Garden for dinner. "Todd chew your food properly or I'm not taking you out to eat again", yelled Erin Owl at her husband. "I'm having a hard time chewing my food, I'm trying to chew properly", snapped back Todd. Marie and Lorelai were sitting there listening to the couple and eating.

Once they got back from their vacation, the three adults went back to work and Lorelai started band camp for the high school marching band. Todd was working on the line at Bradford Forrest Product when he collapsed. His co-workers called 911 and they took him to the hospital for tests. According to the doctors Todd had a stroke and they sent him home. Over the next month he continually went back to the ER at the Bradford Regional Medical Center (BRMC), each time the diagnosis was different. They told him it was a pulled muscle, a stroke, etc. They kept running tests over the next few months. In January of 2005 he was sent to a hospital for men in Buffalo, NY. They diagnosed him with Myasthenia Gravis and said that he should quit his job. He quit his job at Bradford Forrest Product. The doctors explained what Myasthenia Gravis is. "Myasthenia Gravis is a neuromuscular disorder. It affects the nerves and muscles. It makes it difficult for the people that have it to do everyday things", explained Doctor John Bennett. Todd was put on medicines to help him. His family was shocked but happy that they know what is wrong.

The family was having a fine time that year. Lorelai had finished her freshmen year of high school, Marie had a job that she really liked and had been working at for a few months

now. They lost some income because of Todd quitting his job because of the disease but other than that they were fine. In June Erin had noticed something different about Marie. "Lorelai, I think your aunt has gained some weight, I don't want to tell her because I don't want to get her worried", Erin mentioned that to Lorelai. "Marie lets go to the doctor, I don't want you to get worried." When they got back Lorelai asked "well what did the doctor say?"

"Well they are running tests and they'll be back in a couple days", said Erin. A couple days later the tests came back. Erin and Marie went back to the doctors to see what the tests said. "Marie you have ovarian cancer", said Doctor Carkin. "When need to do a hysterectomy then we'll start you on chemo ASAP after the surgery, it may be best if you take a medical leave from work." "When will I start chemo?" asked Marie. "We'll start you after the surgery when you're healed from it and strong enough for it ok?" stated Dr. Carkin to Marie. "Yeah that's fine with me" replied Marie. So Marie took a medical leave from her job hoping that once chemo was done that she could come back to work. So the next week she started on chemo. Over the next few months, Marie and Todd went to doctor appointments. Lorelai helped as much as she possible could to make her parents and Marie's life easier.

In August Lorelai went to band camp and tried to be a normal high school sophomore. She didn't talk about her aunt and dad's problems very much at school. Lorelai was in marching band, percussion ensemble, and mixed chorus at the high school and she was part of the drama club as well along with swimming during the winter. She didn't go out with friends to movies and such because her family had one working member and that was barely enough to live on for them. She was also active in the youth group at the Methodist church her family attended.

Everything was pretty normal for the next couple months, no one was in the hospital and Lorelai was doing well in school. In November, Marie was hospitalized at BRMC for her cancer. They moved her to the Magee Women's hospital in Pittsburgh. She was there for the week of Thanksgiving. "Hi Marie, how are you feeling? Did you get any turkey today?" Asked Erin when she called Marie on Thanksgiving. "I'm feeling ok, that's all they've been feeding me, I'm tired of it", replied Marie. "Oh well Happy Thanksgiving, we all love you and miss you, have you heard anything from the doctors?" Erin asked. "Thank you, Happy Thanksgiving to you guys too, I love you and miss you all too", replied Marie. "When do you think you can come home? Did the doctor tell you?" Erin was wondering that. "No he hasn't told me" said Marie. "I'm really tired, I'm going to go, love you guys." Erin responded, "We love you too." Erin turned towards the rest of the family, "She doesn't know when she's coming home, but she thinks soon."

Lorelai and Todd both responded with "that's good that she thinks she's coming home soon." A few days later Marie called that she was coming home. The night before Marie was coming home, Erin tried getting some sleep and couldn't. So she headed to Pittsburgh at 2a.m. She got there around 5a.m. and got some coffee then called her mom and daughter telling them that she was already in Pittsburgh. Around 6a.m. or 7a.m. she called Marie "Hi Marie, I'm here, I'm downstairs" she said then hung up. The doctor came into the room after Erin called Marie. "Good morning Marie, How are you feeling?" asked Doctor Murphy. "I'm feeling fine doctor. My ride is here, Can I leave now?" "Sure you can leave now Marie, have a good trip home" responded Doctor Murphy. Erin and Marie headed back home. When they got home Lorelai was so excited but Marie wasn't quite herself. Then everyone was home for Christmas

and on Christmas day there was a knock on the door. It was friends from the Methodist church that the family went to. There like 6 people who brought like 30 gifts for the whole family and Christmas dinner. "Merry Christmas" said Biff Johnson along with a few others. "We wanted to make this a good Christmas" said Tom Roft. After the family said thank you and hugged everyone, they all left for the Owl family to enjoy the rest of their Christmas. That Christmas Erin applied for the E.L.F. fund Christmas benefits and Zippo/Case took on the Owl family to provide gifts for the family along with Christmas dinner but the stuff they got wasn't that good including the dinner. The family had a great Christmas, what made it even more special was that they had no clue that the people were going to do that for them.

The day after Marie went into the hospital. They kept her at BRMC. Erin was there as much as she possibly could. Lorelai went sometimes but she mostly stayed at home with her dad. A couple weeks passed and it was New Year's Eve. Lorelai did what she did on New Year's Eve. She did First Night activities with her mom and friends. Then the next day Marie was moved into the Nursing Pavilion at the hospital. Then her birthday came, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. "Hi Marie how are you feeling?" asked doctor Scherrep. "I'm doing ok. I just want a milkshake" she replied. "Well then you hear the young lady" said doctor Scherrep, "get her a milkshake." Marie replied "Thank you doctor Scherrep." Later that day Erin called. "Hi Marie, Happy Birthday" she said. "Thank you, I wanted a milkshake and Doctor Scherrep let me have a milkshake" said Marie. "That's really good, how are you feeling today?" She asked. "I'm feeling a little better now that I have a milkshake, I'm really tired, I'm going to go" Marie said. "Oh ok, get some rest, we love you", Erin replied. "Love you too, bye" said Marie as she hung up. Marie was feeling up and down the next couple of days.

At 2:45a.m. on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 Marie Owl passed away. The nurse told the Owl family that when she walked past the room, Marie was fine when she walked past one minute later she was gone. That same day Marie's disability results came back. She was approved for the money but the Owls never saw a dime of the money because the check was sent to her mother and she didn't give them any even though they saw her go through the chemo along with being there for her. A couple weeks later, Erin, Todd and Lorelai had a memorial service for Marie with her friends and family from Erin's side of the family because her mother and siblings couldn't wait to hold the service her way. Erin planned out the service with Marie before she passed on.

Lorelai continued on going to school and doing her activities, Erin continued working and Todd continued on having his doctor appointments. With only one income in the household, the Owls were having a hard time supporting themselves. Sometimes it came down to which bill was a shut off notice to decide which ones would be paid. Lorelai was still getting used to having her dad home because he used to work nights and they never saw each other during the week while school was in session.

"Mom I'm going for a walk with Sarah", said Lorelai to her mom. "Ok dear have fun", replied her mother. "Lorelai where you going?" asked her father. "Out I'll be back", she told her dad as she left with the dog for a walk. An hour later she returned tired. "We're back", she said as she let Sarah off the leash before she could run into the house. "Did you have a good walk?" asked her dad. "Yep we did, I saw some people I knew. I took her out the trail at Pitt", she replied. "Oh that sounds fun", he said as Lorelai headed up to her room to rest. She heard

someone yelling her name; she went to her parent's room because she thought it was her mother.

"Mom, you called?" She asked as entered the room. "Yes dear, I want you to tell your dad where you're going. Just be nice and tell him, I know you don't like to but it would be nice to just let him know. I'm having a hard time adjusting to him being home as well", replied her mom. "Ok I'll try to let him know for now on", she said as she went back to her room. So after that night, Lorelai tried telling her dad where she was going. It was really hard for her to do that because she just used to asking her mom if she could go places.

That spring Lorelai joined the softball team and got into the drama play. The drama play was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; Lorelai got a part as an Oompa Loompa. She was very excited but she skipped play rehearsal for a softball thing one night. "Lorelai where were you yesterday?" asked her best friend Deanna Skippy. Deanna was in the play with her as an Oompa Loompa as well. "Mrs. Hope said that if you miss one more practice that you will be kicked out of the play", explained Deanna. "Well I'm sorry, I had a softball thing to go to", she explained back. "Well there mad because you didn't show up and you didn't give them a reason as to why you weren't here", she said trying to help her friend. As rehearsals went on the girls that were Oompa Loompa's learned the dance routines, discovered the costumes they were going to wear, brought in some stuff for the costumes, and perfected the dance routines. Lorelai was only able to make it to practices for the softball team because every game was during a rehearsal for the play and she was scared to miss a rehearsal. Well the time came for the show to open. Lorelai and the rest of the cast were very nervous about the opening of the show.

Everyone chuckled at the look of the Oompa Loompa's because their faces were yellow, with rosy red cheeks, bright red lipstick and really blue eyes for the makeup. Then the actual costumes were a solid color shirt, like for Lorelai, her color was purple. Her shirt was purple, and then jeans that were cut off around the jeans with purple colored fabric sewed onto where the jeans were cut off at. Then they all had fuzzy hats, scarves and kid sunglasses. Lorelai was very proud of what she had accomplished with that show.

Then suddenly summer was here. Lorelai was very bored during summers because she was now too old to go to summer camps like she did in the past. This summer she was excited because in July she was going on a mission trip for a week with her church. She went on a mission trip the summer before that was only a 3 work day mission because Tom Roft and his wife Kate wanted to introduce the idea of mission trips to the youth plus this was open to the whole church and not just the youth group. So she was getting prepared for the trip and she was suppose to read two novels for English but she had time to read only one over the summer. Then July was here, the trip was approaching. She was headed to the middle of nowhere Kentucky to help with stuff at the small community of Red Bird Mission. Lorelai ended up painting the inside of the one house with 5 or 6 ladies of the church. They had fun with this and Lorelai learned how to paint even more. Wednesday came around and the people got the day off to explore Kentucky. They went to a sonic and the original KFC, Lorelai managed to call her mom to check in. They also went to a small water park of where everyone went down this one slide. Lorelai made friends that were from Iowa and stuff. Then the week came to an end. On the trip home Lorelai finished her book for English. When she got home it was time for band camp once again.

Then school was around the corner. Lorelai was still helping her parents as much as she could. Helping her parents included taking the money to pay the bills, taking her dad to his appointments, picking up his medicines and doing the grocery shopping once in a while. This was also the year that the band was going to Walt Disney World for the magic music days and the French trip to France. Her mom found a way for her to go to both. "Hi Erin", said Mrs. Figurel. "Hi Mrs. Figurel", said Erin. "Don't worry about Lorelai going to Disney; we'll make sure she goes. We'll help as much as we can", said Mrs. Figurel. "Thank you very much, we appreciate it", replied Erin to Mrs. Figurel. "You're welcome. My husband and I know how much this means to your daughter along with you and your husband", Mrs. Figurel replied. "Have a nice day, tell Lorelai we said hi", Mrs. Figurel said as she started to walk away to finish her shopping. "Have nice day yourself and I'll tell her you said hi", Erin replied back as she started to look around the store. Erin finished up her shopping and headed home. "Hi honey I'm home, could you please come help me bring in the groceries?" Erin said entering the house. "Hi mom, of course, I would be happy to help", Lorelai said as she started to bring in the groceries with the help of her father. "I saw Mrs. Figurel at the store today", mentioned Erin as she entered the kitchen. "Did you? What did she have to say", asked Lorelai out of curiosity. "Yep, she said that we don't have to worry about paying for your Disney trip that they will make sure you will go", Erin told her excitedly. "Really? That is really nice of her", Lorelai said as her mother went up stairs to lie down.

Then next few months, Lorelai and her parents sold fruit, candy bars and fudge to help pay for the trip because the money could be taken out of Lorelai's band account. She also transferred money out of her choral account to also pay for the trip because Lorelai was able to

join the choir that was going down to Disney with the band. This was the first year that they have done this. They prepared 5 pieces, one Italian and the rest in English. The songs were fun ones but the one song, you raise me up made Lorelai sad because it reminded her of her aunt because that was one of Marie's favorite songs. But the more they rehearsed it, the easier it was for her to sing it. The months passed by quickly. It was March already. The school was putting on Guys and Dolls as the musical. The director of the musical was able to take interested students to Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) to see them put on Guys and Dolls. Along with seeing the show, the kids got to sit in on the one choir rehearsal, get a tour of Cogswell hall, interact with the musical theater class, ask the cast questions, get a tour of Waller hall, had dinner at Foster Residential Dining Hall and ask questions after the show. Lorelai knew that IUP was the school for her because she loved the way the school was and her gut told her it was the right school. Lorelai found some of the students she had met on Facebook and such, which led to friendships. Then a few days later it was time for Bradford Area High School to put on their show of Guys and Dolls.

Before Lorelai knew it, it was time for the trip to Disney. They met at the school at 5 a.m. to make sure everyone was there and had their magical express tags on the luggage and made sure the luggage was properly tagged inside and out. Once everyone was there they loaded the luggage onto the bus then everyone got on the bus for the airport. They didn't have a long drive to the airport. They were leaving from the airport in Buffalo. It took everyone a while to get checked in and through security. Lorelai made sure she had everything with her. Everyone was leaving at different times because they took three different planes as a group. Finally her group's airplane got there. They got on. It was a small plane and was very uncomfortable.

Lorelai felt a little sick but she was fine. They landed in Atlanta, Georgia where they had a connecting flight to Orlando, Florida. Lorelai and her friends grabbed something to eat at the airport before they took off again. They had an hour or so to kill. Once again they got on the plane but this time to Orlando. Lorelai once again felt sick but she was fine until the plane landed. When the plane went into the landing, her body didn't like that but nothing came up. Finally in Florida they got off the plane. Then went to the monorail that took them from one part of the airport to another part of where they got on the magical express bus which took them to their hotel. They stayed at the All-Star Music Hotel. Since they got there so late, they decided as a group to stay at the hotel and not go to downtown Disney. Lorelai was mad because she didn't put her swimsuit in her carryon bag and the luggage didn't get to the hotel until 2a.m.

The next day they went to the Magic Kingdom. Lorelai had to wear her band shirt and khaki shorts because the marching band was performing that day in the one day parade. Lorelai's group was her, Jazzakai, Kristie and Selena. They rode a few rides then Lorelai and Jazzakai had to go take pictures in the rose garden by Cinderella's Castle. Then later they had to meet by the one place so they could get ready for the parade. Lorelai didn't like the parade because she had to carry the banner that weighed a total of 120 lbs that could fit ten people on it. Luckily they had ten people on the banner so it was easier to carry. It was exciting because there were people from everywhere at the parade then the choir students and chaperones were there to cheer the band on. Once the parade was done they could go do whatever they wanted as long as they checked in with their chaperones. Well Lorelai's chaperone was the choir director's wife, so she was happy about that. The girls went to story time with Bell. Then

they rode more rides got food during the day then met back up with their chaperones during the SpectroMagic parade. Then they went to the Animal Kingdom. That was a bad day for Lorelai. They went on the safari and Erin was jealous of her daughter because Erin loves going on safaris. Lorelai took pictures of the animals with her phone. The best part of the ride was that the tour guide made it an adventure. Then they got to the dino part of the park.

“Hey lets go on this ride, it looks like fun”, Lorelai said. “Ok replied”, Jazzakai, Kristi and Selena. They went on the Primeval Whirl. It was a fun ride until they got off. “Hey guys, I can’t find my phone”, said Lorelai as they got off the ride. She searched through her bag. Then they told the people operating the ride. They found the car they were in and no phone. Lorelai was very upset. They thought maybe that the phone had fallen beneath the track. “Lorelai, I think the kids that were in it after us stole your phone”, said Kristie. “I agree with Kristie”, said Jazzakai. Well they told park officials and they told the girls that they would let them know if they found it. Lorelai was in tears and didn’t want to tell her mother what had happened. They found the Figurels at the one store. They asked what’s wrong and let Lorelai call her mom.

“Here Lorelai, call your mom”, said Mrs. Figurel handing her the phone. Lorelai dialed her moms’ number. “Hi mom, how are you?” asked Lorelai. “Hi honey, I’m doing fine”, answered her mom. “I lost my phone today on the one ride”, Lorelai said as she started to cry, “I didn’t mean to lose it”, she continued on. “Honey its ok, I don’t care about that. It’s only a thing and can be replaced”, Erin told her daughter calmly. “Ok mom, well I’m going to go now. I love you”, Lorelai said. Erin replied back by saying “Ok have a nice rest of the trip. I love you too.” They hung up and Lorelai handed the phone back to Mrs. Figurel. “Thank you Mrs.

Figurel”, said Lorelai. “Let’s go ride some rides and look at stuff”, said Kristie to Jazzakai and Lorelai. “Ok that sounds fun”, the two girls replied. They continued the rest of the day and they got the autograph of Baloo. They also got pictures with Baloo and King Louie. Then they went on Expedition Everest a few times throughout the day. The one time she went on it, Lorelai sat in the front seat of the first car. She thought that was so much fun. Then later that day, Jazzakai, Kristie, Selena and Lorelai met up with Kristie’s sister to celebrate her birthday a little bit with a birthday dinner. Then when they got back to their hotel, they were going to have Brittany’s party in a friend’s room. Lorelai thought since she was going to be the only one there for a while, since Kristie also told her that she could, she took a shower. Well when Lorelai was done in the shower, she thought she heard Brittany’s boyfriend in the room. When she peaked through the door, there he was sitting on the bed with the door open and Mrs. Figurel sitting by the door. Lorelai called Kristie over to the bathroom door. “Kristie, what is going on? I thought the party was in Brittany’s room?” asked Lorelai. “Well it was but then her roommate wanted everyone out because she doesn’t feel well. I’m really sorry about this”, replied Kristie. “It’s fine. Could you hand me my bag please?” Lorelai asked. So Kristie brought over Lorelai’s bag so she could get dressed in the bathroom. Lorelai was a little mad because she wished that they would have knocked on the door and told her first, but Brittany was her friend also.

The next day they went to Epcot. The girls were walking around the world showcase and when they were near France they saw Cinderella. They went up to her and got her autograph and it didn’t take that long because they were the only ones there at the time. Then they went to the Japanese part of the showcase. Jazzakai got a traditional Japanese dress. Then they rode test track. The girls enjoyed that ride a lot. Then we went on Mission: Space. Lorelai didn’t like

that one so much. They also went on the Seas with Nemo and Friends. They liked that one because it had the characters from Finding Nemo and then there is an aquarium, turtle talk with crush, and they got to see dolphins which were really cool the girls thought. While they were at Epcot, the choir performed there pieces. So the girls had to meet in the world showcase by Italy to go backstage and get ready. The girls didn't enjoy the dresses because they were wearing black dresses with black shoes. When everyone was ready they got on a bus to go to the stage. After they performed and got back into street clothes they continued their day, riding rides and doing the different things.

The next day which was the last day they could go to the parks, they went to Hollywood studios. They could also go to the one water park but the girls thought it was too cold to go there. They rode the tower of terror, the voyage of the little mermaid and they rode the rock 'n' rollercoaster a few times. They also went to the block party bash parade of where saw all their favorite characters. They also went to the Magic of Disney Animation of where they learned how to draw goofy. While they were waiting to get in they saw the name tag of the kid at the door had a university on it. "Hi how do you like working here? Why are you all the way down here?" Kristie asked the guy. He replied "I like working here. I'm here for the Disney College Program through my school." "That's really cool" replied all the girls. They got into a conversation about the program with the kid. "Lorelai, I really want to do that, it sounds like fun", said Kristie. "Yea it does", agreed Jazzakai and Lorelai. After they learned how to draw a character they went and explored the rest of the building. There were interactive games that tell you what character you are most like. All the girls did that, they all got different characters. They also saw that the Mr. and Mrs. Incredible were there doing autographs. So the girls got

their autographs. They also saw the Beauty and the Beast live show during the day also. Then they went to Fantasmic at the end of the day because that is the ending performance of the day at the Hollywood studios park. Then they left and went back to the hotel at the end of the day. Then the next day they came home. Lorelai's airsickness got worse on the way home. Then when she went to get on the bus on home, she wasn't feeling so good either.

So the chaperones let her have the two seats at the front so she could feel better. "Mrs. Figurel I want to call my mom and tell her I'm on my way home", said Lorelai to Mrs. Figurel. "Lorelai honey, I called and told her already. You can relax I've taken care of it", she replied. They got back to Bradford and Lorelai was really happy to see her mom. They got home, "Lorelai, I have something to tell you", said her mom. "Yea mom, what is it?" asked Lorelai. "It's your dad, he's in the hospital. Before you left, he stopped breathing in the middle of the night. I yelled his name at top of my lungs to get him awake but he didn't wake up and neither did you. I called 911 and when the EMT's got here they wanted to wake you up to help get him out but I told them not to wake you. Then they took him to the ambulance and sat there for 45 minutes trying to get your dad to breathe. They finally did then they took him to BRMC. I let you go to school last Friday without telling you because I wanted you to enjoy yourself on the trip but all the chaperones knew about it though", Erin to her daughter. Lorelai didn't know what to say. They stood there embracing each other just crying. Then they went to bed.

The first weekend Lorelai was home from the trip, she stayed at Kristie's house while her mom went to see her dad for a few days. Her dad was in Hamot medical center in Erie, Pa. The girls had fun together. Lorelai was like another child to Kristie's parents. Since they were in

Florida for Brittany's birthday, Brittany got to choose where she wanted to have her birthday dinner. They went to Ponderosa in St. Marys, Pa. Then Lorelai didn't want to leave when her mom came home because she liked being at her friend's house and they liked having her over.

Lorelai's dad spent April and May in the hospital. In April he was on life support, breathing tubes and feeding tubes. He was in the MICU for most of his stay. While he was there they did a plasmapheresis on him. A plasmapheresis is where they take the patients' blood out and clean it; they take the all bad stuff out so that way the patient feels better. That did make Lorelai's dad feel better. Lorelai went up to visit him once with her mom. Other friends and relatives of the family went up to see him. The doctor had Erin think about pulling the plug if it came to that. Erin thought if she had to, then she would pull the plug. Todd's family didn't like that because they thought it should be their decision but in fact it was Erin and Lorelai's decision, not theirs. They didn't even come up and see him when he was in the hospital anyway. Towards the end of April and the beginning of May they removed the life support and all the stuff he was hooked up too. They thought about putting in a thing in his throat for him to breathe, but it never came to that. Then in May they moved Todd to the rehab center. When he got better, he was sent home. Then he had a doctor's appointment with doctor Carkin. "Todd you can come back now", said the nurse. "Okay let's get your weight, stand on the scale for me. Thank you. You'll be in this room right here. How are you feeling today?" She said. "I'm feeling fine", said Todd. "Well doctor Carkin will be with you shortly", she said as she left the room. Then doctor Carkin came in. "Todd what are you doing here?" Asked the doctor in a surprising tone. She didn't give him time to answer "People with Myasthenia Gravis that crashed like you

did never get off the machines and are a vegetable for the rest of the lives”, she explained to him. Then she continued with the visit.

Then June was here, Lorelai was a bridesmaid in her cousins wedding and they were having the bridal shower the last weekend. Lorelai’s aunt, uncle and second cousin came to pick her up for it. She had a really fun time. Lorelai got try on her dress and when it didn’t fit quite right, her cousin took her to try on similar dresses to figure out exactly what size she needed. The dress didn’t fit her right in the chest area. Then they also went shoe shopping and it was her cousin Josephina’s birthday the week before, her future aunt took her shopping. Then the actual bridal shower wasn’t that fun because she was one of the youngest people there and that didn’t make for much fun. After the weekend was over, her aunt and uncle brought her back home.

Then the next month went by so fast, the next thing Lorelai knew it was August band camp again. Then at the end of August was her cousins’ wedding. This time the whole family went down. Erin, Todd and Rose stayed at the one hotel while Lorelai stayed with her relatives so that way she could do everything with the bridal party easier. While her cousin Chelle was out, her aunt was in the shower and Chelle called her mom, well Chelle’s mom came out of the shower to answer it and she was wrapped in a towel that didn’t cover her so well. Now Lorelai was scared for life. Lorelai went into the room of where she was staying. “Lorelai I’m sorry about grandma, she is so embarrassing”, said Josephina apologizing. “Its fine really, I guess. I wasn’t expecting that”, replied Lorelai. Then the girls went back out to the living to watch some TV and wait for more to do with the wedding. Later that night, was the wedding rehearsal and

dinner. "Then I will say you may kiss the bride", said the pastor as held his bible in between the couple so they couldn't kiss because that was kiss couldn't be done until the actual wedding. The rehearsal didn't take that long. Then they headed to the groom's parents house for the dinner. Once they were done with the dinner some of them went to the fire hall to decorate for the reception that was going on the next day. "Lorelai, could you watch the kids for us?" Vicki asked nicely. "Sure I don't mind watching them" said Lorelai excitedly because she didn't get that much time with her cousins. Then they went out for ice cream before heading back to the house for the night.

The next morning the girls had to be up early to get ready for the wedding. The girls got up and went to the hair salon to get their hair done. "Chelle what do you want me to do for Lorelai?" asked Trixie who is the hairdresser. "Just give her a French twist, keep the girls looking there age please", replied Chelle. "With Josephina, just do a French braid, I don't want her looking like she's 18 yrs old", said Chelle. "Okay that's fine", Trixie replied back as she started to do the girls hair. After she was done, Trixie moved on to do Chelle's hair. Once the girls were ready, they went to the church to get ready. Chelle got some help with her dress. Once they were ready, it was time for pictures. The photographer had the bridal party do a whole bunch of combinations of people. Then it was time for the wedding and everyone got into their places. After the wedding, the bridal party carpoled to this beautiful property not too far from the church to take more pictures. There they took the "wedding magazine" pictures.

Then it was time for the reception. Lorelai was excited about that because her name was announced as she came into the fire hall with her escort. The fire hall was decorated very

nicely. There was buffet set up as you came in near the kitchen, with tables set up in front of it for the guests to sit at. Each table had sparkling grape juice and little things the guest could take home with them. Then the cake was sitting at the end of the buffet on a table of its own. Then the bridal table was set up at the far end of the hall facing the rest of the guest. The DJ was set up to the left of the bridal table. That was where the dancing took place, was between the guest tables and the bridal table. Then everything came to an end. Lorelai was going to leave but she remembered that she forgot something, when she got back to her aunt's house she saw Chelle jumping on the trampoline in the back. "Hi Lorelai, I've waiting to do this all day", Chelle told her as she jumped up and down. "I bet you have. That looks like fun", she replied back. "Lorelai, if you would like, Frankie and I would like to have you over to our house next summer if that's ok with your parents", said Chelle and Frankie agreed with her. "Yea I would love that", Lorelai replied very excitedly. When she got back to the car she told her parents and grandma what she had been told. They were very excited for her. Finally they were home after a long weekend.

As the days continued on, Lorelai and her parents were getting ready to for Lorelai to go on her trip for France, Which included getting her passport and saving up money for Lorelai to take for souvenirs and such then getting that money turned into Euros. Then November came around really fast. Lorelai was really excited. Then came the day that they left, they left early in the morning. "Bye mom, I love you", Lorelai said while loading her luggage on the bus. "Bye hunny, we love you too, Have a great time on the trip", Erin replied. "I will. Thanks mom. I'll call you when we get to the airport", she said before getting on the bus. The kids and chaperones had a long trip ahead of them. They were leaving from the JFK airport in New York City because

that was the closest international airport to them. Before they got into the city, they stopped in a city in New Jersey to get something to eat.

It took a while to get into the security. Before they entered, they had to put their bags in a thing to be x-rayed before they entered the airport. Then they had to show their passports after that at the desk. Then they got their luggage checked in. Then they had to go through security. Everyone had to put there carryon bags, purses, shoes and everything in their pockets in a container to be x-rayed then the person went through the metal detectors. All that took so long, mainly because there were 50 people all together that were going on the trip. Then it was time to find there gate and wait for the plane to come and for them to get on. While they waited, everyone wandered around the airport getting food, souvenirs and exchanging their money for Euros if they hadn't done so already. "Hey Lorelai, your 18 right?" asked a fellow classmate. "Yea I am why?" she asked in a surprised manner. "Could you buy us some tobacco?"The boy asked. "Sure. I'll go get it now", she replied. She went to the store to get what the boys wanted. Well after she did that the one boy told her they didn't want it no more. So she went back to and got her money back. "Did you get the stuff?" The first boy asked. "Yes I did but he told me to return it", she told him. "Why would he do that?"He asked. "Well I don't know. I'm not buying it again", Lorelai replied as she headed back to the gate.

Finally it was time to get on the plane. Lorelai had both seats to herself on the plane. She had both window seats. Lorelai had gotten headphones before she got on. So she put her seat belt on and listened to the radio. Well the flight wasn't very pleasant for her because she forgot to get Dramamine tablets because she gets air sick. Unlike the last flights she had just

been on, the flight to France was way worse than the other time. Lorelai was so embarrassed. She tried to sleep it off but it didn't work. She was sitting there trying to sleep it off and she felt a hand on her shoulder, it was her friend Ellen. "You're not the only one that gets airsick, you're not the first and you're not the last. Don't worry about it", said Ellen trying to make her friend feel better. Which it did work a little bit. Finally they landed in France. Thank God we're finally here thought Lorelai. They went to pick up their luggage and got on the bus that was waiting for them. Lorelai wasn't even sitting down when she felt sick. "Let Lorelai off the bus please", said one of the chaperones. As she rushed past people to get off. But the day got better because they got see some sights around Paris after they dropped their luggage off and Lorelai changed her sweatshirt, so that way she didn't smell bad.

When they got back to the hotel, everyone had to stay on the bus until one of their roommates name was called so that way the tour guide could give out the room keys more easily. Lorelai got her own room because someone didn't come on the trip. The next 2 days they stayed in Paris. They got to go to the Eiffel Tower, Artist Hill, Musée du Louvre, and Arc de Triomphe along with a tour of a perfume factory, Notre dame and the shopping district. They also got to take a boat ride on the Seine river at night time. Then they went to different places that were included in the D-Day attack of World War II. That included the German Battery, American cemetery, and a port that has the ramp things that were used to get machinery and trucks off the boats and onto the shore without getting to close. At that port there was also a museum that Lorelai thought was really cool.