

I Have a Tattoo

written by Candice Handy

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Nate sits in a chair that is apart of a circle of other middle school students in a chairs. He hesitantly raises his hand to speak.

Today Mr. Davis asked me how I had a tattoo already and I got mad cuz I didn't wanna talk to him. Sorry Mr. Davis. I really don't like sharing, but since we're here I guess I can say something.

Pulls up his sleeve to show a tattoo on his forearm.

So, my dad took me to get it done when he came home from prison. It's a picture of my Mom. I don't really remember her. She died when I was only one year old. My dad told me her name was Jackie and that she was so fine, all the other guys in the neighborhood were jealous of my dad. Anyway, my dad took me to get this tattoo because he wanted to get to know me better. He has one of my mom on his arm too. So, me and my dad have matching tattoos! I guess that means we're close. While we were at the tattoo shop, I asked my dad, "what was it like in prison." He said, "son always do what your aunt Millie and grandma Netta tell you cuz you don't want to go there." He told me he would tell me more about being locked up when I was older, but he did say that he missed me the whole time he was in there. He was locked up for 12 years. I'm only 13, so I'm just now getting to know him. He seems cool though. He did let me get a tattoo so that's cool. I always wonder one thing though, "what did he do?" Auntie Millie always says "Rome is a good dude, he just make a lot of mistakes." What mistakes? I really wish I knew if my dad was a killer, a thief, a drug dealer...or maybe he was innocent. Grandma Millie always say "stay out of grown folks business." I just wanna know in case I really got my daddy in me, like my auntie always say before I get grounded and she takes my phone away. It don't matter though. I love my dad and I'm glad he's home. I hope to learn more about him soon. And that's all I have to say in "Sharing Circle" this week.



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