



Shannon Lace

Shannon Lace is a senior at Chugiak High School. When Shannon was six her parents divorced and her grandpa died. During this period of her life, she moved every year and she went to a new school nearly every year. Shannon writes that she grew up in a poor home in which her parents refused charity. Because of the constant moving, Shannon found it difficult to participate socially. She writes, "every time a teacher would say we could choose our partner for an activity my heart would feel like it was stopping. It was not that I did not want to be social, I just did not know how. In class I was the silent, but diligent girl."

Shannon explains that in her early high school years, she turned to drinking and sex as ways to fill what felt like a "large void inside me." Shannon writes that her only joy was when she was with her beautiful nieces and nephews. She spent time helping her eldest sister through her divorce and spent a lot of time with the kids, becoming their "Aunty Mom." She explains the only time she felt comfortable to be herself was with children.

Shannon says she has always had strong willpower when it comes to something she believes in, so she left her "wild days" behind her and thanks to her favorite teacher (Mrs. Vik) she got involved with the community. Shannon is involved with Family Careers and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and AWANAs, a Bible school for children. Shannon is making straight As in her senior year, and attending King Career Center for a child development course, as she wants to help children in her future.

Shannon writes, "during my high school years I have met many young women who here in similar situations as me. They give their minds, hearts, and yes bodies for even a shred of acceptance and feeling. Lately I have been trying to show kindness to these girls and listen to their troubles, to befriend them when they will let me."

Shannon continues, "My family has always been very open to different races. I guess you could call us the United Nations with all of the different blood flowing through our veins. I have nephews and nieces that are half African American, half Native, and half Filipino. I like to think of our family as a role model for how to accept different people."