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## Soul Sisters

Julia Top  
*Humboldt State University*

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## Soul Sisters

By Julia Top

For every person there is always that one person that is special to you in your life. It can either be a family member, a teacher, or a friend. You can spend countless hours with this person for many years but still not know parts of their life or who they are. As you learn more about them, you start to understand the person more. The person I'm talking about, and who is an important person in my life, is my best friend.

I remember when I was around the age of 9 I had to start over, make new friends, and become a new version of myself because I was attending a new school. The school I attended ran from K-12 and I started during the 5th grade. Even on the first day I could tell everyone in my class knew each other and grew up together. I had a group of friends that I hung out with every day for the past 9 years, these 7 girls were my everything. I remember thinking I would do anything for them and that still stands till this day. We grew up together, but even though we hung out every day and were good friends as a group, we talked to one another individually as well. We all had that one person that we were closer to in our group, but for me that wasn't my best friend. I never thought that after 9 years the person who I would consider my best friend was someone I rarely talked to growing up.

Growing up there were certain events in my life that I never shared with my friends so expressing how I felt was very hard for me, whether it be good or bad moments. I was a very private person who didn't let anyone in, until I went to college. My roommate was part of my friend group back home but we were never close until we found out we were both attending the same university. Growing up we saw each other in different ways than we do now. I remember in high school I was known as a loud and energetic person, while my best friend was known as the class clown who talked to everyone. But after coming to HSU we realized we had our reasons for why we acted that way, and together we became more of the people we wanted to be.

Being far away from home was something new for both of us since we weren't with our families and the people we grew up with had gone our separate ways. We only had each other which was hard considering it took us a while to be able to open up to one another. Opening up was especially hard for me. Living with my best friend

has been a transformation, in a way, for me. Growing up I had always kept to myself and shut people out. I believed that I didn't need people to fall back on when I needed support, because that's not how I grew up. I believed that I had to be independent and had to deal with my problems by ignoring them. But coming here and living with my best friend, I learned how to be more open with how I'm feeling. She now knows about every event throughout my life and how much it affected me, I also know certain events that went on in her life. After learning more about each other we became closer to where I consider her more than my best friend, she's my sister. For me, opening up is still something I'm learning, but it is easier for me now. I know that by coming down to HSU I grew more as a person, but the best experience is growing with my best friend and knowing that she's a person that I will have in my life continuously.