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Unexpected Times

It all started in late January of 2020.

"Oh my god did you hear that someone in California tested positive for covid."

"Dude everyone is overreacting, it's not even that bad!"

"Well we are far, it's not going to get to us."

This unknown virus had suddenly popped up, and started to spread throughout the population faster than it spread throughout the news; that was a first, considering the fact that the news is always the first to spread things. To be honest, in my school, everyone was the least bothered about this virus. I remember hearing people say that it was fake and that it would not even enter LA County. We all kept taking it as a joke, until one day in early March, in school we were informed that LA County got its first covid case. Hearing about how serious this deadly virus was, I got worried. On March 13th, our last day before spring break, we were told that instead of one week off, we would get 2 weeks of spring break due to covid. None of us said our goodbyes, and most of us were just excited that we got more days of break, not realizing that March 13th would be the last day of our school. I still look back at that day and think, maybe I should have said thank you to that teacher, and maybe I could have properly hugged that friend and said bye. The biggest lesson I learned from this was that you never know if there will be a tomorrow, so do everything that you can in the moment. During the stay at home lockdown, I spent a lot of time reflecting on my memories; I also evaluated the parts of my life that were actually meaningful to me, and started focusing on them. In the first few months of quarantine, I barely saw my close friends, which made me realize how important they are to me. The positive side of staying at home was that I got to spend so much time with my family, the time that I never had because of school work, basketball, or other activities. As months passed by, quarantine became more of a routine. It felt natural to just wake up and stay at home; even when my close friends and I met up, we either stayed at home or just went on a drive. In September, college started, and we had to start all of our classes online. It was indubitably very different than I had expected my first semester of college to be, but everything happens for a reason, I guess. Later on in the semester, most of my family members tested positive for covid. As overwhelming as it was, I tried to remain calm and be the support system for my family. I could not focus on my school work as it was just too much for me to handle at that time. My dad's case was severe and he had to be hospitalized, and as much as I wanted to be there for him and the rest of my family, all I could do was facetime them while being locked in my room. As I could not meet my parents, grandpa, and brother for two weeks, I had never felt this helpless towards my family in my whole life. As they were recovering, I realized that life is so unexpected. In February of 2020, I would have never imagined that my family and I would have to go through this. But, whatever happened for the best, and it made us stronger. One of the biggest things coronavirus has taught me is that my family and close friends mean the world to me, and without them I am nothing.