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Run Your Own Life

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I was eight years old when my sister was first diagnosed with Lyme's Disease. Living in the woods in Ridgefield Connecticut the deer tick is quite common. We all had had minor cases of Lyme's disease in the past, my family along with our various animals but these cases were nothing compared to what happened to Kaitlyn. For her sixth grade year of middle school Kaitlyn was not present. In both seventh and eighth grade Kaitlyn used a wheel chair with an assistant to move around the school, and in each and every class there was a lounge chair set up so she could lie down. Her back was in chronic pain day after day. My parents truly thought she would not walk again. Kaitlyn saw countless doctors for the back pain and excruciating headaches, yet nothing could stop the overwhelming pain. Yet after a while, for Kaitlyn, as she tells me today, it was not the pain that was the problem. It was mostly the constant staring, and the thinking that she may never be able to experience life as most every other woman gets to experience it. She was afraid. I write about my sister because indeed she was afraid, but with this disease she learned to fight. After years AKzitlyn began to improve. But I do not believe it was the shots. She wanted to live. She would talk to me at night in our room about running marathons one day and seeing the world. Today, at age 21 she has run 8 marathons in 7 states, and wants to continue running and traveling throughout her life. Just because a person is sick or incapable at a time in their life does not mean they have to give up. Time brings about great change and great opportunity for all. My sister is proof of that.