

This is a Keeper

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I grew up with practical parents.

A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen before they had a name for it.

A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones.

Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away.

I can see them now, Dad in trousers, old shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, ladle in hand, and dishtowel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress.

Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste means affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away...never to return. So...while we have it... it's best to love it...And care for it...And fix it when it's broken...And heal it when it's sick. This is true. For marriage...And old cars...And children with bad report cards... And dogs with bad hips...And aging parents... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like family, a best friend that moved away or a classmates we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special... And so, we keep them close!

I received this from someone who thinks I am a 'keeper', so I've sent it to the people I think of in the same way...Now it's your turn to send this to those people that are "keepers" in your life.

Good friends are like stars... You don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Keep them close.

God won't have to ask how many people you forwarded this to, He already knows your decision.