My biggest influence growing up has always been my mom. Both my parents have been great role models obviously but my mom is the one who I’ve always talked with about stuff and she’s the wisest person I’ve ever met. The coolest part about our relationship is that it isn’t one sided. When we have our deep talks (or any talk) a lot of the time we both end up developing because we bounce off ideas and thoughts and such with each other, and both come out the wiser. Here are a few of the biggest things I’ve learned from her and/or we have both learned together. She often talks about zen. Over time I have learned to sometimes just remove myself and take a step back. It’s very helpful because you can see the big picture, or areas that need improvement, or just areas that simply need more of your attention. Another thing that has helped me a ton is the “life puzzle”. This is a puzzle that you have to get pieces to over time, and you will never complete it. The most you can do is live your life and always be thinking and observant, the puzzle pieces will show up and you can make do with them what you can. The biggest thing for sure though is the idea of shining. This is the one area where my mom and I have usually clashed. I didn’t have faith in humanity. I think it’s gone too far too often. I still struggle with trying to find hope in humanity. And mom’s point is that yes, the vast majority is terrible and what not, but you have to look for individuals similar to us. You have to shine and be a beacon. Take care of yourself first and then always be on the lookout, because we aren’t alone. There are other wonderful people out here with us.

All of these are hard to explain because they’re so far out, but they have definitely helped with my life and her life, and they can help anyone. Just keep searching.