

# Who is Alison Tidwell?

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## **Alison M Tidwell**

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Dear Hiring Manager,

After recently reading a few of Ruth Ware's novels, I was inspired to totally recreate how I approach my cover letter. (FYI-A few characters mention their life story topic that was turned into their CL.) Rather than go on about my work skills and experience, I would like to share a brief version of my life story of who I am and where I've been. Here it goes.

I like to think I had a pretty great childhood. I have my 2 younger brothers, Eric-22 and Nicky-17, and my parents were always very involved in our lives - being our baseball coach or room mom, vacationing every summer, go-out-to-eat nights, etc. We were raised very well and still to this day my siblings and I are praised for our parents teaching us great manners! However, being the oldest sibling and growing up first, I started to notice things and became more aware of what was going on at home. My dad had always been a heavy drinker, but when he lost his job, around 2008, it was more than ever. My mom and dad had really faded as a married, it didn't appear as if they even liked each other. With money being tight, there were constant fights at home - I wanted to shield my brothers but it was also affecting me constantly. I mastered the art of always looking like life is great and never letting down my wall - having a large group of best friends, this was an act I always put on. I kept myself busy though, with student counsel, cheerleading, softball, coaching cheerleading and my job. Keeping busy enables you to suppress any subject you want out of your head and thoughts - and there were definitely things I wanted out of there.

While I absolutely loved my high school experience, that time was probably the worst for my family. My dad had gotten a DUI one night that he was supposed to pick me up from my friend's house, which was only a temporary eye-opener for him. He soon began to heavily drink again, and during that time my mother had an affair. All of this information destroyed me and it was difficult at that age to learn how to cope. I was embarrassed by my family issues and thought I was the only one with a messed up family like this. All of these issues just kind of became normal and unspoken in my family but it wasn't until my last year of college that I experienced more family trauma. My father had fallen behind on the mortgage and lost the house I grew up in. During that same time, I found out I had an older half brother my mom gave up

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for adoption before I was born and she would be rekindling a relationship with the man she had the baby with. My home was taken away from me and my family was moving to random areas all separately. I felt powerless, depressed, confused and alone. I was closed off from my personal life because I never wanted people to know what was going on. All I was concerned about was stepping in as the 3rd parent for brothers - and I did rather well I think.

My life began to change when I started seeing a therapist in 2014. I had never said personal information out loud or allowed myself to cry in front of someone before therapy. It was extremely liberating to be so open and feel so unjudged. She encouraged me to let everything out and taught me about life and forgiving the things you cannot change or take back. I truly believed I changed for the better after my 2 months of treatment and felt optimistic that one day I would find that forgiveness she told me about. I am now 26 years old and have never felt mentally better in my life. My parents have [separately] really changed their lives around and I was able to naturally feel and give them my forgiveness - our relationships have truly never been better. Although growing up you may take them for granted, but I have realized how much my family means to me and that my brothers are the best friends I could ever have.

My family life experience has molded me into the person I am today. I have genuine compassion for every person, whether they share their story or not, because you truly never know the battle a person could be fighting. I have developed strong work ethic from working at a young age and juggling a job, school and social life while having to plan ahead to pay my bills and rent - something many of my college peers did not have to do. I have become strong and independant and most of all I found myself. I share my story now because, although this might not be the worst problems ever compared to others, it was my life struggle and it made the person who I am currently. There were times I really felt like I was mentally and emotionally at rock bottom - but I won my fight against life, and I won't ever let it take me down again. I hope we have the chance to learn more from each other in a new chapter of my life journey.

Sincerely,

***Alison Tidwell***