

Did you hear about Juliana Ritter?

By Brian Judge

Juliana was always cheerful and smiling, the life and soul of any party. In fact it was difficult to remain feeling low when she was around. It seemed that she could not tolerate anything which did not include fun, games, joking and teasing. This was the face she showed to the world. Few of her friends knew that on her own she would often feel down. She saw herself as a complete failure, having never married or achieved a decent respectable job whilst all who knew her envied her 'joie de vivre' and looked up to her on her pedestal as the most happy and secure person they knew. After returning home to her little flat which had never been redecorated since she had first moved in fourteen years before she would become depressed. The place was falling apart. Every month something seemed to break or go wrong. If it wasn't the plumbing, it would be the Fridge or a handle would come off the door or a leak in the roof would appear. Always expensive repairs and her wage in the canteen didn't amount to much. She would frequently sit alone worrying and sometimes break down in tears regarding her perilous situation. And there was no prospect of improvement.

It was therefore with a feeling of disbelief when her friends heard the news that she had committed suicide. It was inconceivable that such an out-going always happy person would take her own life.

Later, after the funeral, when clearing out her apartment, a suicide note was found. In substance it said that she had got into serious debt, was being threatened with violence and couldn't take any more. This came as a shock to all. But there was also an unopened letter which had been delivered the week after she had died and the contents were even more amazing. She had just inherited \$325,000 from a rich cousin who had recently died in the Bahamas.