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# Fathers & Daughters

by Anastasia Hendrix



Susie and Paul Kalinian

THE LOVE THAT LINKS Susie Kalinian to her father, Paul, is nearly visible. It's an electric connection that can be sensed immediately when they enter a room, when they are engaged in conversation - whenever they are together.

They often complete each other's thoughts - sometimes even the sentences. They are comfortable discussing any subject. They share the same sense of humor, passion for art and ambition. They compliment each other in many ways - even dressing alike on big occasions. Susie picks out the clothes because she is a flair for fashion.

Paul, 63, is a local photographer and filmmaker, best known perhaps for his recent, award-winning documentary film on William Saroyan. Susie, 28, is a pre-med student who delayed her studies so she could collaborate with her father and co-produce the movie.

"I need someone to help me with the research, and without hesitation she said she would, though she didn't know then how many years it would take," Paul Kalinian said.

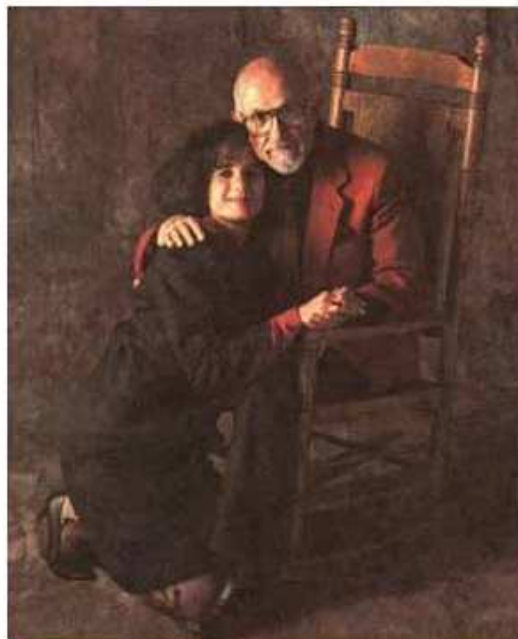
The film took six years to complete, far longer than they had planned. The research proved to be very intensive and time-consuming. Then Paul was struck with cancer that left him weak and ill for nearly two years during the project.

Susie stayed at his side in the hospital, with her mother and brother. When he returned home, she took to caring for him fulltime - feeding, grooming, bathing and dressing him.

"I didn't view it as taking time away from my career, I saw it more as a learning experience. My dad had taken care of me and now we were at a point when I had a chance to give back some of that love."

Paul said that while the experience was physically painful, it was one of the most emotional and positive times in his life.

"She would hold my hand and give me baths. She fed and groomed me, but it was



Susie Kalinian and her father, Paul, share a special bond.