

July 11, 2003
Renée Rahamut

Amanda's name is from a Latin word, it means worthy of love. Amanda's family...I have known them some years now and they are an amazing family.

They are the closest family I have every known and this was demonstrated to me the first time I went to their house.

It was at night and they were going to bed. From then on, every night I knew them, they always said "I love you Manda" and they always kissed her. They did this every single night with both Lisa and Amanda.

Lisa and Amanda were never ashamed or embarrassed about this. They had many friends over at night and both parents did the same thing every night. "I love you Manda" and she replied "I love you Mum, I love you Dad"

Amanda was loved so much. The greatest thing in her life was that she knew what it was like to be loved and she loved back,

This poem was written by Paul Parker, at the University of Waterloo:

Cherry Blossom

The cherry blossom is Japan's national flower

Every spring, festivals are held and people gather beneath the cherry blossoms for Hanami or flower viewing. This practice began as religious ceremony over 1000 years ago.

The cherry blossom holds special symbolism in two ways.

First, it falls at the height of its beauty (before it withers with age).

Second, its transience or short life (typically only a week) reminds us of the value of each day.

Despite its short life, the cherry blossom inspires millions of people to open themselves and live to their full potential.

Amanda lived as the cherry blossom for us.

Full of beauty, full of inspiration, and fallen at her prime.

Manda, you are forever in our minds and in our hearts.