

THE NEW YORK TIMES MODERN LOVE

My Modern Love “Tiny Love” story in the *New York Times* appeared in 2021 and was reprinted in December 2024 as one of the best holiday themed pieces. ([Tiny Love Gloria Barone Rosanio.](#))

Tiny Love Stories: ‘My Mother Upstaged Jesus’

To celebrate the season, we gathered five of our favorite holiday-themed Tiny Love Stories.

December 24, 2024

Greeting the Seasonal Guests

Twenty-nine years ago, my mother upstaged Jesus by dying right before Christmas. I was a single mother of a 4-year-old. I made the season merry for my daughter, though inside I felt like the sun would never shine. Over the years, I accepted that sadness would arrive around December. I greeted it at the door with a cocktail in hand — recently, with a pot of coffee. Sad and happy memories will always sit together at my holiday table, like restless houseguests. In the new year, happiness extends its stay while sadness slips quietly out the door. — *Gloria Barone Rosanio*



An old family photo of me and my mother.