QUEENAGERS

BY sharethedignity

The Queenager File Questions: Jules Brooke (#003)

1. **What is your favourite part of being a Queenager?**

To be honest, it's that I have no f#%*s left to give, in terms of people's view of me, but a more polite way of saying it is that I feel free. Free to speak my mind, free to do what I want, and free to enjoy my life on my terms!

2. **Life isn't always kind. If you're happy to share, what has been one of the toughest parts of your journey and what helped you through it?**

Oof! There have been a few troughs in my life (but we need them so we can see the peaks when they come!) but the ones that spring to mind are my divorce (which was horrible and continues to pain me), and becoming a single Mum of three boys - now men. It wasn't my experience as a child, and I really wanted my boys to have a similar upbringing, but that's not always possible. Another terrible thing was being ditched by my best friend of many years. She has never spoken to me again and it's coming up to 14 years. Very painful. And my Dad died when I was only 39 and he was 63. That was a terrible year. He had a brain tumor and it was rough on me and my brothers, and my Mum, never mind my poor Dad.

3. **What has been one of the most joyful moments of your life so far?**

There are so many! From my wedding day, to the birth of my boys (I had twins!) through to the birthing of my businesses. The one I will never forget was when the twins were born though. My Dad was a doctor and they had just named a ward after him at his old hospital (that night!) and I still remember ringing Mum at about 10pm to tell her to come up to the hospital as the twins were going to be born. She had been very sad, thinking about Dad, so it was a brilliant night for all of us!

4. **Who are the women (or people) who have made your life better and why?**

My girlfriends have to be at the top of the list! I couldn't have lived my life without them. I am still really close to a lot of my school friends (we still meet up 2-3 times a year, and we met in 1978 when we moved to Australia). Ditto for my bestie who I met in Thailand in 1989 when our flights were delayed by 18 hours. We became best friends that day and still are! We have survived relationships, marriages, travelling and heartbreak

together. She is godmother to my boys too. Just a rock-solid friendship that has stood the test of time. I would do anything for her, and vice versa.

5. **What words of wisdom would you share with younger women, and what are you most looking forward to in your own future?**

So many things! I would tell younger women that life just gets better, and that they have so much to look forward to. I would also tell them not to put off something they really want to do, in life or business, because time whizzes past and suddenly you realise you are in your 50's and that time is finite. Personally, I am looking forward to doing so much more: travelling, visiting old friends and making new ones, making a difference somewhere and enjoying my life!

And one final sentence:

Being a Queenager means... **grasping life in both hands and enjoying every last second.**