

## IS THIS A DREAM?

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My brother, Sean, died seven years ago. Over the year leading up to this anniversary I have often thought, is this a dream? If it is a dream, I wish I'd wake up.

One night a couple of months ago, I had a dream within a dream. The dream was the strangest I've ever had. It was about the day Sean died. I remembered every moment of that awful day. I woke up from this dream crying to find Sean sitting next to my bed. He was shaking me awake and asking me what was wrong. I told Sean I had a horrible dream. I told him every detail of my dream. He laughed at me and gave me a hug. Then Sean said to me, "How can I be dead? I'm right here with you!" Then we both started laughing. I woke from that dream laughing with Sean. I felt so good. Then I realized that I had dreamed the last part. When I realized that, I was so angry.

Even after seven years, the pain, the anger, and the hoping are still there. Even though the pain and anger don't come as often for me, it is still there and I know it's okay. Just like I know that I'm not crazy or dumb for holding on to the hope. I do realize that Sean is gone and the only place I will see him for a long time is in my dreams. I know that he loved me and always will and that he is with me every day. All I can do is welcome him into my dreams.