- 1. **Orange:** While orange is CD's favorite color it's much more than that. In the days of old when a coat of arms was used as a means to decipher things such as family, titles, royalty, etc. it held a much deeper meaning. The color orange represents strength and endurance. I can think of no one with a more enduring spirit than my mother.
- 2. **Supernova:** Although Star Lord is one of my biggest idols, he doesn't hold a galactic candle to the one who REALLY makes the star's shine. This woman gave birth to all of my hopes and dreams so to me she's nothing short of a supernova. A bringer of stars.
- 3. **Sacrificial:** In a world overrun by self-entitlement and an unstoppable urge to be recognized virtually and vocally, my mother walks quite a different path. Her self-less attitude has helped students young and old achieve a sense of belonging even when no one else was there to give it. Her unwavering ability to put others before herself is a quality we should all try to emulate.
- 4. **Incorruptible:** I may not be the perfect man, but I owe all that IS positive within me to the woman who raised me. With a steady set of morals and unshakeable values, nothing could have better prepared me for the world than her guidance and love.
- 5. **Stately:** At first you might think my mom held some sort of political office (and to be completely honest she should have) but in actuality this is a term that refers to her ladylike presence wherever she goes. Her elegance and dignified stature is unmatched in the state of Kentucky and beyond.
- 6: **Forthright:** Just as I'm telling it you straight that my mom might not have hung the moon but she DID ignite it, her sense of honesty is truly astounding. Anytime I've needed advice, made the wrong choice, or required a helping hand without even being aware, she has always been outspoken and honest with me. There's no sugar coating it with this one, but isn't that what this world needs most?
- 7. **Philotherian:** Not only is this the biggest, most complex, and foreign word I've ever used in any context there isn't another term in existence to better identify who my mom was as a person. Philotherianism is a word used to describe those that are vastly fond of animals and devote the majority of their life to taking care of them. There have been so many dogs and cats in and out of our house over the years I've lost count. I've even been called a <u>plethora</u> of names that aren't my own by mistake. If dogs don't go to heaven I know my mom won't enter until they're allowed.
- 8. **Ardent:** I think the word we can ALL agree matches my mother's persona is any synonym of the word enthusiastic. Whether it's an art project, a school assignment, a table she's waiting on, or a story that's being told, there is no better person to relay the details. Her magnetism and wit are truly undeniable and have brought people of all kinds together. What a quality to possess.
- 9. **Heroine**. The word heroine is defined as a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. My mother exemplified these characteristics from the day she was born until the very end. While this was an unnecessary and immeasurably horrific tragedy, my mother left this earth doing what she has always done best saving lives. Although she is no longer with us physically, there is not a single doubt in my mind she will continue to save my life mentally, emotionally, and spiritually for the rest of my days.

And finally...

10. **Carrie Downing**. If you fail to grasp, comprehend, or recall the previously spoken sentiments, then simply hold on to those two names for they have become the grammatical embodiment of love itself. My belief is that the world will truly become a better place one day if we can all remember to

#lovelikecd.