

# After death, comes the birth of a child

*Rebecca Orr had to find strength to move forward as a widow, and a single parent.*

**C**AITLIN BRIANNE ORR CAME INTO THE WORLD with jet-black hair and piercing blue eyes, just like her daddy. Now five years old, she's become more like her brown-haired, brown-eyed mom Rebecca in appearance, but she's every inch her father's daughter.

"She's 100 per cent Lance's daughter," says Rebecca, laughing. "She is strong-willed and feisty. She believes the world is black and white, and that is that. She will fight you to the end on something if she believes that something to be true, and if she feels she has been wronged in any way, you can bet she will let you know!"

The little girl never knew her father. He died in a workplace accident before she was born. The memories

she keeps in her heart have been placed there by her family, through stories and photographs.

Rebecca was six months pregnant when her husband of five years died. Then 27, he worked as a rigger; it was his job to oversee the lifting and moving of particularly heavy objects on job sites.

*"I've learned not just to stand on my own two feet, but to walk, too."*

That day, the load slipped from the chains of the crane that was moving it, crushing him under its weight.

He died instantly.

In that moment, the then 26-year-old Rebecca went from being a wife to a widow—and a soon-to-be single parent.

In the months that followed, Rebecca put one foot in front of the other, watching her life through a pea-soup fog that dulled her senses.

Her life started coming back into focus three months later, when Caitlin was born. And while there are still challenges, Rebecca, now 30, says she has learned a lot about life, and about herself.

"I've learned not just to stand on my own two feet, but to walk, too," she says. "Being a young widow—and a single mother—has its share of struggles, but my eyes, and arms, are wide open to whatever life has in store for me."

