

Eulogy Delivered by Alia Younes

Over the past week and a half, I have been approached by people I have never met, to be told how Nadia has touched their lives, however briefly. I was recounted anecdotes about the time she nearly burned her office down in New York with a cigarette, and how everybody wanted to be near her, to feed off of her contagious energy.

Nadia was eloquent, uplifting, smart, funny, but not terribly subtle, and that made her a fantastic storyteller. No matter how many times she repeated herself, it always goes funnier, and she NEVER let the truth stand in the way of a good story. She had the ability to make a situation come to life and make you feel like you had been there. Through these stories, we shared a piece of her life and came to incorporate her experiences as our own.

This week has been very surreal to me. I can't quite see to wrap my mind or emotions around the fact that Nadia is gone. I will no longer hear her throaty laugh. I will no longer see her strut into a room and shout 'hello'. I will no longer hear her say "get a grip, I mean really' in mock exasperation. She was there when my sister and I needed her the most, with a listening ear and unjudgmental, compassionate advice. She exemplified the potential an independent, educated, unmarried Egyptian woman can be with determination and drive. She was quite simply, Nadia.

When she told us that she was going to Baghdad, we tried to dissuade her, but she didn't listen. To her, it was another adventure. Another cause for which to fight.

When this sinks in, we will all miss her terribly, but we will find consolation in the fact that she died doing what she loved, helping and trying in her way to make a difference in the world. And she did, in all of our worlds. And for that, we are proud to call her our aunt.

On behalf of Younes family, I wish to extend my sincerest condolences to the families of those who, too, perished.