



Mom's Ring

It's become a family comedy, of sorts. Everyone knows of Mom's ring, but no one knows where it came from. Mom conspired with Dad's family to get them married. All Dad had to do was show up. So he purchased several rings throughout their marriage because Mom always said, "you never bought me an engagement ring." Dad remembers that this one must have been inexpensive because he and Mom were broke. Their son Allen learned that it's a moonstone, or a Feldspar mineral, a stone the Romans once believed to be formed from moonlight. During Mom's frequent hospital stays, the ring stayed on her bedside table at home. As a boy, Allen liked to sit in his Mom's lap with her arms around him. He'd play with her cloudy-blue ring, spin it, and move it from finger to finger. Her hands, like Allen's, were long and skinny—she was six feet tall and very thin. Allen never minded how his hands appeared because they looked just like his Mom's. He recalls her hands (and that ring) more than her face.