

**Western Voices 2013, English 180, Third Place, (Instructor, Kristen Bradley)**

***From His Finger to Mine***

**Hillary Kelly**

I have to say that I have always hated my chunky and annoying fingers; it was a serious issue for me at 16. I even ignored the fingers sized and commented on. My friends and family always got on me and told me that I had normal fingers, but how would they know, right? One person who always told me just how special I am was my stepfather, Bill. Bill always had a big smile on his face and he always had this big heart for the world, basically a true hero. Bill was the chief of police in our small town and he was loved so much by everyone in it. He always hated when I kept picking at what I thought was wrong with me, especially my fingers. No matter how many times he tried to change my thoughts, I never would budge. I thought it was the worst thing that I had to deal with, but on August 6

to me. I realized he dealt with so much stress from work, but when he came home, he did his best to make us happy and laugh. He really loved us and just wanted us to realize how special we are and the things we were capable of accomplishing. Finding his ring and learning more about the man he was inspired me to attend Western to major in Law Enforcement. I will say that I still cry sometimes but I know I am doing something that will make him proud. I am becoming the woman I am meant to be. The ring remains with me as a motivation and a memory of an amazing man who changed my life and it keeps me going towards my career. I learned to cherish the people in my life and to love myself for who I truly am. I will say to whoever reads this: go and amazing how he passed all of his knowledge, passions, and stories just from his finger to mine.