

THAT WAS THEN...THIS IS NOW!

Chapter Two

Why do we insist on living in the past, why do we project ourselves into the future? The only sure thing is **NOW**, right this moment! The next moment you could be hit by a drunk driver or worse; someone from your church could smack you with their Bible and break a vital blood vessel! Cherish what you have, hold it in your heart...not too tightly but in an attitude of gratitude. Be grateful for whatever it is that you have been given and, NO, you have not been given disease and/or financial ruin...that's you! You chose those lessons yourself. For whatever reason, we create our own destinies and believe it or not, there is always a Pay Off to our behavior or we wouldn't do it.

Hey, I'm not casting stones here. If you could've seen my life you would ask yourselves...“what the heck was she thinking?” That's the point, there's no thinking involved, your soul knows and selects the lessons it needs to grow and mature in this life prior to even being born!

Well, this certainly puts a new twist to the term “reborn” doesn't it? My ego, my physical self, certainly has wished that I could have “do overs” and be reborn to a nice family; one who loved me, one who didn't beat me on a daily basis, one who didn't wish I had never been born (ouch). But alas, that was not to be.

I AM A REMARKABLE HUMAN BEING AND I LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT MYSELF! No, really, I am who I am because of the life I've experienced! I have more integrity than anyone else I have ever met, I am extremely loyal and I am a caring and giving individual.

I have a theory; I call it, The Wildflower Theory : Once, when I was hiking in the mountains of Colorado, (I absolutely love being in Nature), I came upon a boulder in the middle of a rushing stream. Growing out of the middle of that boulder was a beautiful Daisy! Its leaves were stretched towards the sun and it was basking in all its splendor...it was magnificent. It was an eye opener to me to see this delicate looking flower surviving in such a harsh environment. That little Daisy certainly had the will not only to live but to flourish as well and certainly seemed to be enjoying its environment! Not only that but it served as a reminder to everyone who passed by and gazed upon its beauty that **NOTHING** is impossible if you want it to happen.

You know how you just can't get rid of those “damn” (oops, sorry) weeds that plague your garden and lawn? They seem to have an insurmountable will to survive. Then you purchase a cute little rose from the nursery that's been pampered; it's been watered regularly, fertilized and sung to on a daily basis (okay, so I'm getting a little carried away). You take the little darling

home and plant it under optimal conditions and within two to five days the delicate little “wimp” dies!?!?!?

Well, I like to think that I and many others like me are Wildflowers. Having survived less than optimal childhoods, marriages or just life situationswe have decided to make the very most out of what we have been given, trust in Spirit and “know” that we can be whatever it is we want to be!

My very first memories of life on this earth were when I was about one and a half years of age. My family had gone to the Arkansas Valley Fair in Rocky Ford, Colorado. As a very small child, I remember that it was a magical experience for me; initially that is. I was intrigued by the bright lights, the festive atmosphere and all the people (well, as many people as you can have in a town the size of Rocky Ford, which is a small farming community). I was squealing with delight and pointing at everything and everyone, so enthused was I about everything. Now, please bear in mind that I was in a stroller this entire time!

Then, someone mentioned to my father that I was such a cute little girl and I looked just like my “da da” and wouldn’t it be so nice for my parents to let me go on a ride? I think the well intentioned individual was suggesting that they put me on a kids ride??? My dad took the bait, always seeking recognition from his peers, and before I knew it, I was strapped into this huge tub-like apparatus that spun violently around while turning on a platform that not only also was spinning but rose off the ground. You’re familiar with the type of rides that now require you to be a certain height before you can get on? Yipers! That ride was a lot for a one and a half year old to handle! In fact, it was way too much!

Anyway, getting to the point here, I was terrified. I screamed, okay, screamed is a politer version of screeching, so loudly in fact, that the ride attendant stopped the ride and had my parents take me off. Bad move on my part, really bad move! My father was enraged. So much, in fact, that we immediately left the fair and went home. Upon arrival at our humble abode, my dad ordered my mother to strip me down to my diaper and proceeded to beat me to a bloody pulp!

I remember that I had no idea what I had done and had never seen my dad so upset before. Now I was really frightened but somehow, I knew I had to keep silent, not matter what! After the beating was over my father paced back and forth showering me with a barrage of profanity and expressing his hatred towards me. All the while, my mother, on her hands and knees, wiped the blood from my small body as I sat upright in a wooden, straight back chair.

Definitely, no wimpy flower here! What I’m trying to say is that no matter what type of life you’ve led or experiences you’ve had – you are the product of those experiences. And, the choice is yours; YOU get to decide whether your experiences end up being for the better or for the worse! If you’re strong and have the will to live...GOOD FOR YOU! You can help others who have also had less than optimal pasts. But, if on the other hand, you give up, give in to the

“poor me’s” and become a victim because of all your hardships then that is what you become - - a victim, bounced around by fate. Life happens **TO** you, you never really live your own life. And because those are the thoughts you put out there and the energy you express, you continually call one bad experience after another into your existence!

Yes, **YOU** call bad luck into your life, because that’s what you expect, it’s what you think you deserve, you’re always looking for it right around the next corner. And you know what? Life always gives you what you expect, what you’re looking for. You’re never disappointed.

Someone once told me that in order to love who you are, you cannot hate the experiences that shaped you, and I believe this to be so true. Clearly, no one is asking you to love or to cherish these circumstances, situations or trials and tribulations but at the very least, it would be wise to be more accepting or tolerant of these lessons for they taught you much about yourself; and they made you strong and wise. They helped to shape the individual you are today and obviously, since you are still here, you are at the very least, a thrivor! Remember that a diamond is just a piece of coal until **EXTREME PRESSURE** is applied. Anyone can be a piece of coal but a diamond is so much more valuable - - aren’t you glad that **YOU** are a Diamond!?

In Grad school one of my professors handed out a picture of a huge bird, I think it was a Pelican, that had partially swallowed a frog. Instead of “succumbing”, the frog had decided to wrap his frog hands, paws (?) (what do you call frog limbs), around the birds neck. The expression on the birds face was priceless. The caption read: **DON’T EVER GIVE UP!!!!**

When you give up, you’ve lost. Have faith in yourself. You are a magnificent spirit in a human body, but you are not your body. Your spirit chose to come to this earth for a reason, why give up and fall short of your mark? You’ll just have to repeat the lesson later on and it just keeps getting harder and harder. Listen to the voice of experience here!

Believe in yourself, no matter what anyone else says. What do they know anyway. Most people, yes, parents included, criticize you because they are unhappy with their own lives.

History books are full of stories about people who in spite of having faced insurmountable odds have become famous or even became a president, like Abraham Lincoln, or, Thomas Edison who experienced so many failures before he finally succeeded and the list goes on and on. Look at the movie **Rudy**. This kid desperately wanted to play football for Notre Dame. He didn’t have the stature or the speed, but he had the will. Some people scoffed, no one took him seriously ...BIG MISTAKE!

Just like the bird in the last, next to last, the one before that, story; don’t ever underestimate anyone and especially, **NEVER** underestimate yourself! **NEVER!** For you are a storehouse of untapped potential just waiting for the right time to peak! Seriously, if a little one and a half year old girl, with curly hair and a big mouth, could survive to write this book...**ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!**

