

Once upon a time...

By:

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This book is dedicated to my family...

Past,

Present,

And future.

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Chapter One
A star is born . . .

I was born on January 17, 1983 in Presbyterian Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee. My mother was in labor for eleven hours, but it was worth the trouble. At approximately one p.m. a baby girl was placed into her father's arms. From that point on the world would never be the same.

My name, Bethany, is Hebrew and means "house of God." My parents gave me the middle name "Caryl" after my late aunt. Although these names fit me perfectly well my family insists on calling me "Boo." This nickname has stuck with me since I was a baby. It has crossed over from my family into my friendships. I like having a nickname because it sets me apart. It's my own thing. It is the name I answer to the most.

My sleeping habits as a baby were not exactly kind to my parents. I did not go to sleep until three o'clock every morning. After such a long night, it was only natural that I slept all day. This cycle continued until I was three months old. When I was able to speak I would stand in my crib, looking confused and say to my mother "but I woke up this morning."

I began talking early and I talked often. I tried to keep up with my older brother. I used to play "He-man" with him and beat him with a plastic sword. Thus began our sibling wars

I am the younger of two children in my family. My brother and I are four years apart. He loved me from the first moment he saw me. How could anyone blame him? He had asked for a baby sister and that is exactly what he got. When my parents' brought me home from the hospital he said, "I think I'll keep her." I do not think he knew what he was getting in to.

Chapter two
A star begins as a sparkle...

My earliest memory is Christmas 1985. It was at my grandmother's house in North Carolina. I was wearing a purple Cabbage Patch nightgown. I remember it because I got my first Cabbage Patch doll which I named "baby Micah" after my brother. That was my favorite doll during my childhood. I played with it more than any other doll I owned. I still have it.

I was an average preschooler. I was cute; I had blond hair, blue eyes, and a sweet, mischievous personality. I had a huge imagination. I loved playing with Barbie's, My Little Pony, Cabbage Patch dolls, and my brother's GI Joes. I adored my brother. I loved playing army and matchbox cars with him. I spent hours sitting on my porch step talking with my best friend Quinn about terribly important things that go on in a four-year-old's world. He and I were inseparable.

My parent's were lucky when it came to babysitters. I loved staying with them when I was small. I didn't stay with them very often, however. My favorite babysitter was the brother of one of our regular babysitters. I do not remember exactly why I liked him. He just seemed to be more fun than his sister was.

Before I started kindergarten I stayed at home or went to a preschool several days a week. I also stayed with my best friend Quinn when my mom was working. I loved going to preschool. I remember a day when we dressed up and wore paper plates with macaroni glued to them as hats. You can amuse a four-year-old with almost anything. I also remember very intrigued by the girl who ate glue. I think every preschool has a "glue-eating" kid. We kept telling her to keep eating it to see if her mouth would ever be glued stuck. I hope she's ok. I enjoyed my preschool years. My memories are filled with laughter and good times.

Chapter three
A star tries to shine...

I have always been a performer. In fourth and fifth grades I formed a singing group with a couple of my friends. We played church and school talent shows and occasionally sang for our class. I always seemed to find myself involved in plays and skits. In fifth grade I played the villain in a play my friends wrote. In sixth grade my best friend and I wrote a suspense thriller about all our friends for an English project. We also made a tour guide video on Costa Rica for a Social Studies project. We were busting with creativity. I have always forced my way in to the spotlight.

My mother says I have picked out my own clothes since I began to speak. That means I have been dressing myself since I was eighteen months old. I was never prissy. I often refused to wear dresses. My favorite clothes have always been t-shirts and comfortable things. I used to mix and match the outfits my mother would buy for me to make outfits that I wanted to wear. I have always had a distinct opinion concerning my clothes. Now that I think about it I have a distinct opinion concerning almost everything.

I loved watching movies and TV as a kid. My favorite movie was and is Disney's Robin Hood. I also liked watching cartoons, especially Gem and the Chipmunk Movie. I used to watch the actors and think, "I can do that...better." I have always wanted a chance to prove that.

Chapter Four

The sun, moon, and other stars
In my sky...

My family seems to have the qualities of the typical "American" family: middle class suburbia, two kids, two dogs, and pool in the yard. Appearances can be deceiving.

My mother, the queen of our household, is 5'3" with blond hair and blue eyes. Her personality seems to be contradictory in an extreme fashion. One moment she is being silly, laughing, and having a good time and within seconds she turns into a stressed out ball of nerves. She is generous, sometimes too generous. She loves to laugh and laughs often. We get along well because of the similarities and the contrasts in our personalities. We cannot be in the same room without laughing. We talk about everything. She gets me into a lot of trouble. We love to laugh and get in trouble together.

She works as a secretary for a landscape company. Her hobbies include beginning really neat projects, never finishing what she begins, and turning my life in to a bad soap opera.

She has taught me to be myself and love the person God made me. She has taught me not to take myself too seriously but to always be confident. I will always know that she is the person who taught me to laugh.

My father is the "head" of the household in more ways than one. He is 5'11" with gray eyes and some dark hair. He is very kind, sensitive, and giving. He often attempts to be funny. He likes to fly fish and watch TV through his eyelids.

My dad and I get along very well. He is the only person I cry in front of. He always listens to me and always cares. We both love Colorado, huskies, and Toyota Sport Utility Vehicles. He has instilled in me the value of honesty, integrity, and a relationship with God. I will always be daddy's little girl.

My brother, Micah Dean, is the other star in the family. We try like crazy to outshine each other. We are great rivals and great friends. He is 5'11" with blond hair and blue eyes and an athletic build. He currently attends The Citadel in Charleston, SC.

We are both deep thinkers. We talk about everything from relationships to religion to cars. He loves to argue. He can become instantaneously fired up about any topic he can debate about. He is very passionate and intense about everything he does. I admire that in him. He can also be very sensitive and compassionate. We joke about having

reversed roles in our family. He tends to be the emotional one while I am the one who shows no affection and refuses to cry. We both crave being the center of attention. We are both artistic in different genres. He draws. I act. We both sing.

My favorite thing to do is spend time with him. We drive around town and I listen to him analyze his relationships and philosophies on life. He talks a lot. He tries to ignore the fact that I am growing up. I will always be his baby sister. He will always treat me as his baby sister. He is highly overprotective of me, but I don't really mind.

We disagree on numerous things. We have opposite tastes in clothes, music, and friends. These things stimulate arguments, name calling, and deep discussions. We find a variety of ways to prove our points. We have fun competing, disagreeing, and getting the other to admit he is wrong. I love spending time with my brother.

Chapter five
The everyday life of a star...

My opinions, tastes, and favorite things are often different from my friends. I am not a predictable person when it comes to the things I like. I wear clothes that are comfortable and plain. My mom always says I dress like a hippie. My favorite things to wear are blue jeans, t-shirts, and Converse Chuck Taylor's. I listen to a variety of music from every genre. I listen to everything from the Beatles to Bach to Bon Jovi. I love guitar music. James Taylor, Eric Clapton, Dave Matthews, and Jimi Hendrix are among my favorites. I love rock and roll bands from all eras. I enjoy operas and classical music too.

I love the theatre. I love acting. I love film. I love singing. I spend most of my time at the Warehouse Theatre as an apprentice. I have learned so much about acting since I began my apprenticeship. I continue to find out how difficult this art and business is which causes me to constantly try to get better. I love the challenge.

I feel privileged to be able to attend the Fine Arts Center for theatre and voice training. I have learned so much about acting and singing from my instructors, Christina Keefe and Michael Rice. They are two extremely talented people. They have pushed me to take risks and go beyond the limitations I set for myself. They have given me an opportunity to learn that I would have not had anywhere else. The only downside is that I cannot take all my classes there.

Most of the conflicts and stress in my life come from school. I push myself to make good grades and to be a good student. I am not always successful at this. I push myself to be better everyday than I was the day before. I desire to learn and grow as an artist and a performer.

I worry about my future. I worry about going to college, getting scholarships to pay for college, getting married, having kids, finding work, and every other detail of the unknown future.

If I am not worrying about school or my future I am worrying about friends. I am not very good with relationships. I have a hard time opening up to people. Because I have difficulty showing emotion, no one knows exactly how I feel about our friendships. I am scared of getting hurt so I try to protect myself by staying distant. I know this is a bad quality and I am trying to fix it.

I do not date much. That is not necessarily my own choosing. I have not found anyone worth my time ...yet.

Chapter Six

Every star needs other stars to help it shine

brighter...

I love my friends. I love to be around people who I can laugh with one minute and have a serious conversation with them the next minute. Friends are people who I can be honest with and who will be honest with me about everything. I consider friends people who I trust and who I enjoy spending time with. My favorite thing to do with my friends is laugh.

My mom is my best friend in my family. We talk about everything. She loves to hear my stories about school and boys and theatre. I love to hear her try to tell funny stories, but she rarely finishes them because of uncontrollable laughter. We spend a lot of time together. We go shopping, watch movies, go out to dinner, and talk over chocolate chip cookies and milk. She trusts my opinion and my decisions, and I respect hers. We have so much fun just laughing.

I have a wide variety of friends. My best friend is Lauren Hilton. We have been friends since sixth grade. Although we are complete opposites and go to different schools, we love to do things together. We laugh a lot. As we have grown and changed as people, our friendship has also grown and

changed. I also have friends from the theatre who I enjoy spending time with. I like hanging out with people who share my passion for acting and relate to me on that level. I also have friends from church that I spend time with. My brother and his friends have also impacted my life. Jon Sipe and Tommy Kline are my "other brothers." I enjoy having friends from all aspects of my life. I like the fact that I have such a wide variety of friends with different personalities and lifestyles.

I am afraid I am just like most girls my age when it comes to the matters of romance, love, and marriage. I want to find true love just as much as the next girl. It just has not happened yet. I have been waiting not so patiently.

I think people my age dwell too much on the physical and material features of a person rather than on their personality. Of course there are exceptions to this. I do not understand the point of serious relationships in high school. They seem to do more destruction than good. I think girls my age put too much of their life into the guys they date. They are trying so hard to find someone to love them, and instead they usually find someone who wants something from them. Needless to say I have not dated much.

I hope to some day get married. I dream of falling in love and getting married and having kids. I want to marry someone who is strong in the Christian faith, loves kids, loves laughing, loves sitting and doing nothing, and loves me. I am not asking for too much.

Chapter Eight

Twinkle, twinkle, little star...

I hope to one day be a successful actor. Acting is something I love and I feel I have some talent. This is the career path I have chosen. I have wanted to be a performer for as long as I can remember. I have always found ways to put myself in the spotlight, make people laugh, or just pretend to be someone interesting or foreign. Acting has intrigued me ever since I was a child. The Fine Arts Center has given me a chance to get excellent training at such a young age. Taking classes at the Fine Arts Center, as well as my apprenticeship at the Warehouse Theatre, has given me a taste of the business and ignited a passion in me for my art form.

I think it is possible for someone to enjoy work. People often choose things that they are good at or that will pay the most money, but that they do not enjoy. I think if you are doing what you enjoy you will be satisfied with the payment. Although money is necessary to survive in this world, it ^{not} does buy life. People often choose careers for the wrong reasons. I know that it might take me years to make money as an actor, but I also know I am willing to sacrifice some pleasures in life to do what I love.

I am going to try my hardest to make it in the acting business. I have confidence that I can. However, I do not know what God has in store for my life. I would be completely happy being married with four kids and living in a suburb. Maybe my dreams will completely change in the next few years. Only God knows.

Chapter Nine

**There are some people who can
make anyone feel like a star...**

MY MOM my best friend, always laughing

MY DAD my strength, comforter, provider,

MICAH protector, friend, reason I try to make myself a better person

GRANDMA ENLOE my hero-Godly, strong, compassionate, self-sufficient, self-sacrificing

GRANDPA ENLOE my missing link, my artist

GRANDPA CARLSON given me a love for fixing cars and making people laugh

GRANDMA CARLSON inspiration- strength through hard times, cooks delicious food

GENE ENLOE faithful, Godly, talented, tells the best version of "Little Red Riding Hood"

JASON ENLOE only person in my family who really understands me, my musical influence

LAUREN HILTON my best friend, my partner in crime, my opposite

TODD ERICKSON friend, unofficial therapist, encourager, keeps my head out of the clouds

LYNN ERICKSON friend, Godly woman, influences and encourages me by her patient smile

MRS. WHITE 3rd grade teacher, instilled in me an excitement and hunger for knowledge

NANCY LEIGH WILBURN I could only hope to have a small amount of the FAITH she had

LAURA HUEY my second mother, always caring, always giving, always trusting, self-sacrificing

JOHNNIE HALL teaching me what it meant to have a relationship with Christ, encourager

ALL MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND STRANGERS WHO HAVE SHAPED THE PERSON I AM
AND THE PERSON I WILL BECOME.

My faith in God is a very important part of my life. In fact, it is probably the most important part of my life. It affects my relationships, my decisions, my morals, my standards, my behavior, and my view of myself. The church has given me a place to worship, grow in my faith, and build relationships with other believers. It has also encouraged my growth in my relationship with Christ.

My family is very active in the church. My parents raised me in the church, but there was a time when I had to make my own decision that this is what I believe to be true. I had to decide for myself which path I was going to follow. It has not always been easy. I have gone through many rough times in my life, but I have leaned on my faith in God to get me through. I have failed miserably many times but God always seems to forgive me. I am thankful that my parents encouraged me to go to church, but left the decision up to me. I am a stronger person because of the things God has taught me. I would not have made it through high school without that stability.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

STARVULT:

RANDOM FACTS AND PHOTOS

- **I have a teddy bear that I got when I was three. He has a red bow tie with a pink fuzzy ball in the middle. He wears camouflage pants. Over the years, his nose has rubbed off and he has lost an eye. His fur is wearing down. He has been with me all across the world: Peru, West Virginia, Miami, Colorado. He goes with me wherever I go.**

- My favorite movies include:

Disney's Robin Hood
Princess Bride
Sleeping Beauty
Cinderella
My fair Lady
Billy Madison

- My favorite books and plays include:

Corduroy, Tuck Everlasting, Romeo & Juliet, Julius Caesar

I love to sing and make people laugh.