

## MY SISTER-IN-LAW SAVING THE PLANE

My husband and I planned to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Hawaii. We made plans all year. We had 13 guests to travel with us to help us celebrate this event. We planned our trip through AAA, they were very helpful in getting all the details together for us and we thought that everything was set and ready to go. Of course working with 13 different personalities was not easy, there were snags along the way. There were people who threatened to drop out because of issues but we ended up not losing any member of the group, everybody was able to travel.

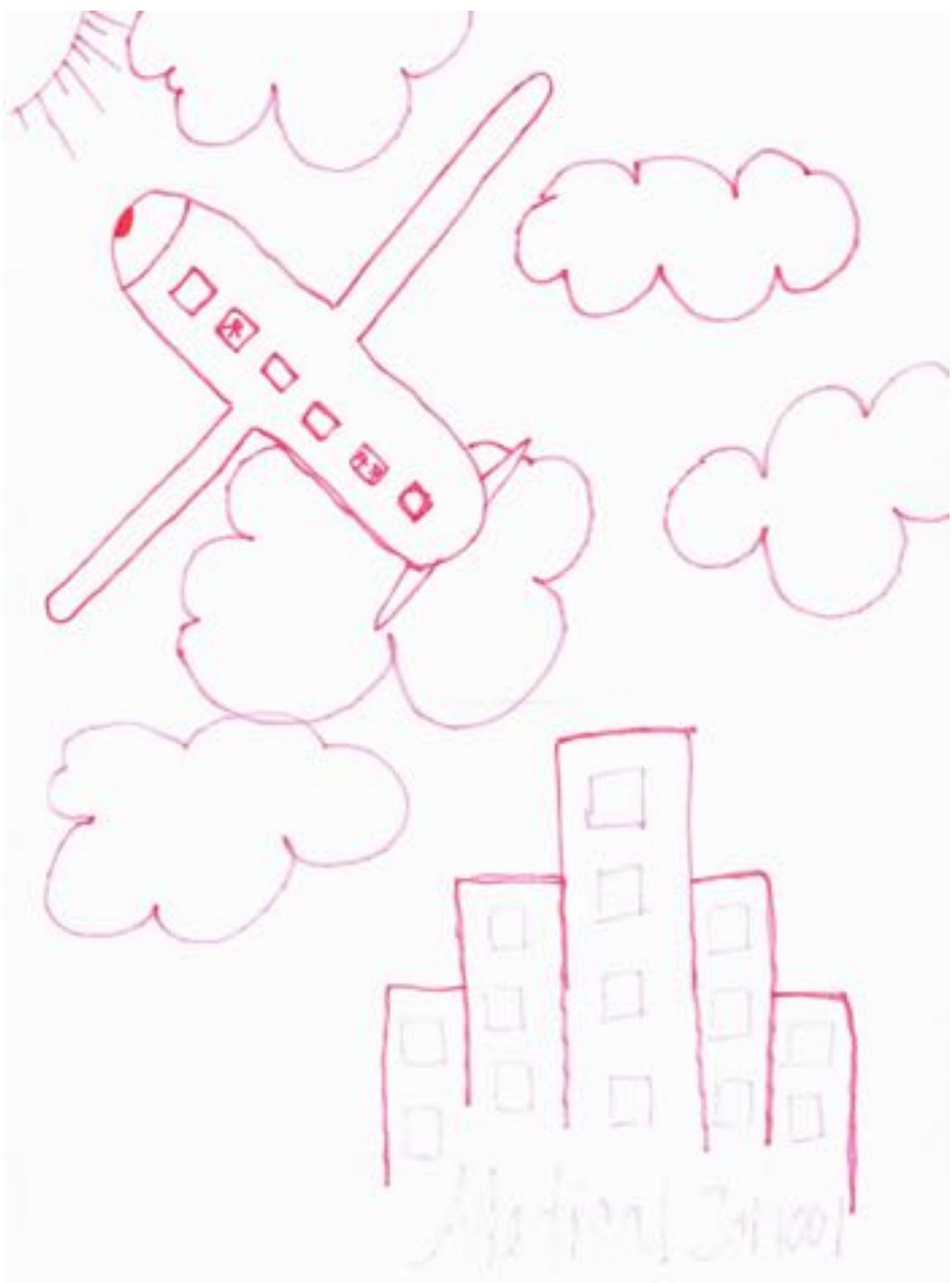
We did not travel together. We travelled on different planes in different groups. But my husband and I travelled with family. He has two sisters who travelled with us with their children. When the time arrived for us to go, in the excitement my husband and I arrived at the airport an hour and a half early. We wanted to make sure we got through the security and everything on time. It was an early flight so we were there about 45 minutes before the ticket stations opened up.

Once we had cleared the check-in we were going through security... Inadvertently I had put some scissors in my pocket book and security decided to hold us up. Everybody else went through but because of the scissors we were pulled out of line and held about 30 minutes, discussing these scissors!

Eventually they cleared us and we were travelling down the walkway, my husband was at that time not walking very well so he was in a wheelchair. I saw the flight attendant running up the walkway and I didn't know what was wrong but he said "come on, come on, come on!" We found that the plane had been held up about 30 minutes waiting for us. They had attempted to leave us about twice but my husband's sister who was on the plane pleaded with the pilot and attendants to wait. There was no chance of them going to Hawaii without the Bride and Groom!

So, the anniversary vows were saved by my sister in law who pleaded with the plane to wait for us, otherwise we probably would not have celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So I think that is a key moment: my sister in law saving the plane.







## THE HUDSON RIVER

My husband and I were both in school in New York and we were fortunate enough to get an apartment on the Hudson. There was a window in my bedroom that looked over the Hudson and we lived right on the riverside there.

I would get a nap in the afternoon and that was something that I was not accustomed to but I would get a nap in the afternoon and that memory still brings pleasant thoughts, when I think about my summer in New York off the Hudson.

That breeze off the Hudson is a dear memory.



## Forget Me Not

Elaina and Stefan have been best friends for as long as they can remember. But on the last day of high school Stefan decides to confess, to tell Elaina how he really feels – he writes Elaina a letter:

Dear Elaina,

Lovely Little Love if it's meant to be meet me at our tree, where we carved our names and felt the breeze of Ocmulgee River, 10 years from the day we carved them.

Love Stefan.

Stefan silently slips the note into Elaina's yearbook without her ever knowing. The very next day Elaina leaves Macon for college but Stefan remains. 10 long years pass but Stefan's love for Elaina remains true and strong. Elaina carries on with her life oblivious of Stefan's love but with a niggling sense of something lost, something missing in her life.



Two days before the 10 year anniversary of Elaina and Stefan carving their names into the tree, Elaina begins to reminisce about Stefan and life back in Macon. She opens her year book and out slips Stefan's letter, now old and grey. Elaina reads the words Stefan wrote so long ago, they are new and they are bright. Elaina's eyes light up and a smile sweeps across her face. But panic swiftly follows - Elaina only has two days to get back to Georgia.

Is Stefan what Elaina's been missing all these years? Elaina must get to Stefan and find out - she tries to book a flight but all the seats are full. Elaina goes to the bus station and tries to get on a bus but again, all the seats are already taken. Elaina pleads with the bus driver to let her on, she'll stand all the way there if she has to! The bus driver just keeps on shaking his head – no, no, sorry, no. Then, one of the passengers, a woman with long straight grey hair overhears Elaina's pleas, her story touches her deep inside. She gets up from her seat and hands Elaina her ticket – go to him she urges and walks off into the night. Elaina shouts after the woman, thank you, then jumps onto the bus and begins her 28 hour journey back to Macon. Elaina's forehead creases, she doesn't know if she'll make it in time, she wishes she could stop the clocks but they just keep on ticking.

Stefan traces his finger over the heart that he craved into their tree all those years ago and waits. He rolls the wedding ring he bought for Elaina between his fingers but as time pushes forward his heart begins to sink. Stefan listens to the river rush and questions flood his mind - Is she coming? Is she on her way? Does she love me not? 2 long hours pass, Stefan looks at his watch and sighs as both hands hit 12 – it's midnight... it's too late, she loves me not, thinks Stefan.

With a heavy heart Stefan begins to walk away leaving all his hopes and dreams behind. Then there's something in the distance, through the darkness there comes a body, running, running - it's Elaina! Stefan falls to his knees and offers her the diamond ring. Elaina looks into Stefan's eyes and knows that he is what has been missing, she takes the ring and finally, finally they embrace.



## FINDING THE STRENGTH TO SING

I must have been 5 because I was still not in school. Daddy and I were singing at a funeral. The child had died of something contagious like scarlet fever so my Mother had said no, we could not do it. But the family just kept asking. So they had the funeral outside thinking that that would do away with germs and things.

When we got there I stood on the piano stool. He always stood me on the piano stool. And I remember that I started crying. I'm sure it was the trauma of everything and probably seeing everybody crying. Maybe I had never been to a funeral before I don't know.

But I remember him just taking me in his arms and pulling me up against him. He said, "These people need to hear you sing. Can you do it?" And I looked up, I looked up at him and I said, "Yes, I can do it Daddy" and we did.



## A TURNING POINT

I was in Mississippi. I had taken a group of young people on a trip, I'm sure it was in the summer.



At one point I had some time by myself and I went off into the woods to read. I was sitting on a log and I was reading my book or my bible, I don't remember which.

All of a sudden I had such an impression, a feeling, a spiritual feeling. I looked up and the rays were breaking through the trees. The sun rays were beaming down and it was as though I saw God.

The song came to my mind "How Great Thou Art" and I sang it to that light, whatever that was, that was coming through to my mind and it changed my life right then.

Nobody knew about it but me, but I rededicated my life to Jesus and confessed my sins again and so it's been with me ever since. It was a turning point in my spiritual life and in my everyday life because that moment affected everything I did.



## GRANDMA DIAMOND

Once upon a time there was a lady called Grandma Diamond. She was a very kind Grandma to all of her family and she was especially close to her granddaughter, Red. When Red was eight years old, Grandma Diamond got sick and her family had to take her to the hospital. Red stayed by her side hoping that she would get better, but Grandma Diamond was very sick and she died. Red was very sad because she thought she should have been able to do something to save her Grandma.

Grandma Diamond's family all went to the funeral and Red's momma tried to comfort her but Red was still very sad because she thought Grandma dying was somehow her fault.

Red left the funeral and went outside to be by herself. She sat down on the grass outside the church and thought about how much she loved her Grandma. She looked up at the trees and as the light shone through the leaves, she saw Grandma Diamond's spirit reaching out to her. Red felt the warmth of her Grandma's spirit and she felt happy.

Red went back in to join her family and saw that everyone in the funeral was still very sad. She was full of the warmth of her Grandma's spirit and she felt strong so she stood up to sing her Grandma's favorite song, "Oh Happy Day". The song brought back happy memories of Grandma Diamond and soon all the guests at the funeral were clapping, singing and dancing, celebrating Grandma Diamond's wonderful life.



## RED

Most of my memories are from wartime England. It was frightening, but there is one day I would like to go back to.

I was in service. Everybody, every woman in England, if they didn't have a child, if they weren't married and they didn't have a child, every woman was either in the Land Army, the ATS which is the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the women's air force or the WRENS, the navy. So I was in the ATS. They wanted young women in the Army, so they had this advertisement, "If you join the ATS you could be a driver and drive officers around." Well, guess what? I joined. As soon as we got there, we were to have different jobs so they gave us all a test. Mine showed I was "not mechanically minded", so there went my driving. That was the end of that!

But I met my husband around that time, he had red hair and I always called him Red. My friend was going with an American at the time so they set us up on a blind date. I was not the least bit interested in him and he said he certainly wasn't interested in me! I told the friend of mine that had introduced us, "I'm not seeing him again" but she said, "Oh yes, you've got to see him, this is embarrassing, I arranged it. Yes you're going to have to see him again". His friend said the same thing to him and so there hangs the tale, we were married over there.

Have you heard of D-Day? D-Day was a big secret. Red was loading soldiers and equipment for D-Day and suddenly one day he dropped off the face of the earth! I couldn't pick up the phone and call, he didn't have access to a phone and I certainly didn't and so for 2 weeks I didn't see him or hear from him. I knew he had just thrown me over and I was really, really upset.

But then on D-Day, late in the day, I was in the barracks where we lived. Somebody came and said, "Hey come on Red's out there!" Well, I flew out there! He had borrowed a jeep from somebody and he'd come out to see me. D-Day was in the news by now, so it wasn't a secret anymore. He had a 2 week growth of beard and he looked like he hadn't had a bath for 10 days but he came just long enough to let me know where he'd been. So that was a great day for me. I'd like to re-visit that.





### A SWEET MEMORY

I can remember one Christmas Day. I lived in Uruguay and was hot in December at Christmas. I remember getting this dog in a dog bed. I was outside, I can remember it being hot.

His name was Tinker, he was a wire-haired terrier.

I remember when we were coming home to England, I was nine. I don't remember much but I remember we couldn't take the dog. I remember laying on the back lawn with my head on the dog because I knew we were going to leave him.



## MY FIRST TIME IN A PLANE

The first plane I ever went up in was the Ford tri-motor. It has 3 engines, one right on the nose of the thing, one out on this wing and one on the other. It moved so slow that they could use golf courses or anywhere for airports.

A few of these Ford tri-motors were made in Detroit Michigan by Ford motor company and aspiring money-makers would take these airplanes and fly them around. They would land on these golf courses and tell the public, "Come out and we'll take you for a ride." At that time, about 1932, 1933, it was quite an experience to ride in an airplane. So, my mother took us out to the golf-course and my younger sister and I got on this Ford tri-motor and the pilot took us around the city. You go over the beach a little bit and you're part over the Atlantic and part over the State of Florida.



I knew from that point on I'd never be happier in my life than flying in a plane. I got as close up behind that pilot as I could because I wanted to see everything he was doing, as if I could learn how to do it. I must have been about 5 or 6. But that's how I got started and fell in love with flying airplanes.



## GIPSY

I had a dog called Gipsy and that dog taught me a lot about nature. I would take the dog out to catch quails or doves or whatever and there were so many things that dog and I would do together.

In the summer time when school was out I could hardly wait to go out on my Grandparents' farm. That dog taught me a lot of things about the farm, about nature.

We would catch squirrels. We'd get up at 4 o'clock in the morning when it was still dark. The adults would say, "You just let gipsy take you out there. He'll show you where the squirrels are." We had to get in place while it was still dark because squirrels would come out just as daybreak would start.

I learnt all kinds of new things. If I told that dog to catch a cow, that dog would actually go for the cow and they'd both be running along at full speed and that dog would finally make the leap and grab the cow by the ear and just the weight of the dog would flip the cow over. Of course, I'd immediately be there to make it turn loose. I was learning how to do all these things and it was exciting for me. Gipsy the dog sort of helped me along.





# Vampire Diaries by

the man who had a dog  
a crow and  
a rabbit

## A COW CALLED SHEEP

A lady was flying back home in her private jet. She hadn't been back to the farm since she wrote her novel. She was a famous author now, with personal assistants and private jets and air stewardesses always on hand to offer her roasted peanuts. On her flight home she began to think about a time when she went walking in the woods.



Years ago she went squirrel hunting with her dog just before day break. The stars were out and the sky was all black, but she was happy coz she was with her dog and her dog was her best friend. But as they approached the woods there was a noise and her dog got all excited and ran off into the woods to chase after the noise.

She followed into the woods but it was dark so she couldn't find him anywhere. The stars were hidden by the tree branches and there was no light anywhere. She thought she was seeing scary things in the trees like vampires and bats and crows all looking at her, but she was brave and kept looking for her lovely dog.

Suddenly there was a grumbling rumbling sound. It was far off at first but then it got closer, and it was loud and terrifying. So she ran away from the noise but the noise kept coming towards her. It was so dark in the woods she couldn't see where she was running and she was very very afraid.

Finally the sounds were right behind her and out of the dark leapt her dog. It had been the dog all along running towards her and the dog was running beside a cow. The dog and the cow were friends now. The cow was called sheep and now the dog and the cow called sheep wanted to play with her.

She and the dog and the cow called sheep all walked home together. It was light now and not at all scary. When she got home her dog and Sheep played outside, whilst she went inside to write a story. The story became a book and the book became famous and she became rich and happy. And the book was all about what she'd imagined she'd seen in the woods when she had been so afraid. And it was a scary book but she felt brave when she wrote it. And everyone loved her book and it made them brave when they read it. She was looking forward to seeing the farm again.

## SCOUT CAMP

I think back to a time when I was a boy scout and we had our scout troop. My father went out there with us. It was exciting being out at a camp with a group of your friends. Everything was sort of an exciting adventure, being in a place where the big boys were but then at night, we would get in the cabin and Daddy would tell us stories, sometimes ghost stories, sometimes just adventure stories. It was a happy time and it seemed like the world was a good place.

We'd go down to the mess hall and have meals and we would always have some songs or camp stories afterwards. We had a good time.

We'd go down to the waterfront. We used to love to go down there to go swimming. It'd get kind of hot in central Georgia in the summertime and so going down to the lake and having a swim was always fun. We were concerned at that time about getting ear infections so one of the things you'd have to do before you went in swimming was to have some mineral oil put in each ear and then it was ok to go in swimming.



We had the buddy system, you always had to have a buddy. Any time that they rang the bell you had to grab your buddy's hand and you had to grab it by the time they'd count to ten otherwise you had to come out and just wait outside for a while until they said you could go back in.

They had a big bell that must have been about 2 feet across. It hung from a big post and it had a hammer on a rope by it, they'd take that hammer and bang that bell and you could hear it all around. We had a good time.





## THE ROCKING CHAIR

I have a sweet memory of my mother reading stories to me as a child.

She would be in the rocking chair and a lot of times I would be standing beside her looking in the book and she would be reading stories to me. One time we had a little bit of a problem because I was bare footed. I let my foot get under the rocker and she rocked back onto my foot, of course not meaning to.

It hurt! There was no permanent injury but it did hurt at the time. Still it was a sweet memory of being read to.

I guess another sweet memory would be her writing to me when I was in boy scout camp. Wherever I was I got letters from her. If ever there was a mail call everybody would be jealous of me because I would nearly always have a letter in mail call, Mother would be writing to me.



## BLIND DATE

When I went to work for the telephone company, I worked my way up, I applied myself. I got to be night chief operator and that's when I met my husband. He was with the railroad. My best friend worked with me and her beau, her fella worked with the railroad. So, they set us up on a blind date.



We went to church that night, but being a blind date I had no idea what he was going to look like or anything! When he picked me up he had had this little dinky Chevrolet and I thought, "That is a horrible car!" I had to climb right up to get in it. It had the little rumble seat. Now I think it's cute. I don't know why I thought it was so horrible at the time, I guess because I had to step up so high to get in it.

Anyway, by Thursday he had already called me. Walt just became more interesting to me because of the qualities in his life. He was a great person. He had the same view of life that I did. So we dated for about 9 months and then we got married. We've been married 64 years so I made a good choice.



## THE TOUGHEST AND THE FAIREST

When I was working for the government I was selected from a large group of people to go on this program that transferred from Washington. They investigated me fully because it was a classified job. It was working with the U2 aircraft and at that time it was highly classified so you didn't say anything about what you did. Being selected from that large group of people was an honor and I was the first one.

It made me feel great because I had established a record by working hard. When they selected me I was able to hand pick people to come and work with me. I picked the best qualified people, people I knew were trustworthy and loyal so, we built up a great program.

I was the contract negotiator, I would negotiate the terms and conditions and I would always have to sign the contract, I was responsible for the team.

I was the head person so I had to be strong. I was tough. I really was. I was a tough little lady. I did what I felt was right and people respected me for that. At my retirement one of the contractors got up and spoke. He made me feel great because he said that of all the people he'd ever dealt with, I was probably the toughest but I was the fairest. To me that was a real compliment because I did always try to be fair.

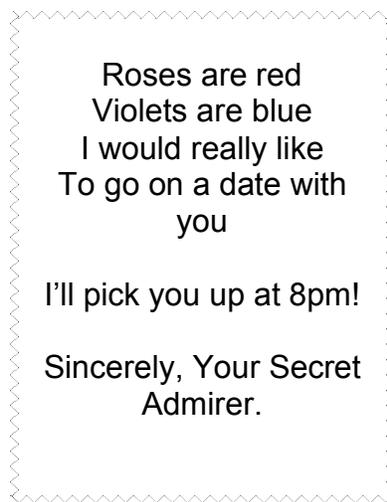


## CONVERTIBLE CAR FACTORY

Mary Ann Jordan was the most dedicated worker at the Convertible Car Factory. She was an engineer and was a very important lady. She would get to work earlier than any one else and work hard all day long with her hammer and also stay later than anyone else.

One day Joe started working at the Convertible Car Factory. He got a job as a secretary and sat in the office. When he saw what an amazing woman Mary Ann was, he fell in love and knew he had to ask her out on a date. He was too nervous to ask her out, so, during his break, he slipped a note in her locker.

The note read:



Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
I would really like  
To go on a date with  
you  
  
I'll pick you up at 8pm!  
  
Sincerely, Your Secret  
Admirer.

When Mary Ann finally finished her work at the end of the day, she looked in her locker and found the note. She was so surprised! She looked around to see who could have put it there, but Joe was hiding so she didn't see him.

She went home and was very curious to see who her secret admirer was. She was looking out of the window when she saw this terrible car come down the street. Her heart sank as Joe got out of the car and came to her door. When they met, Joe had a big smile on his face and Mary Ann had a face that looked like it tasted spoiled milk or rotten eggs.

The car trip to the restaurant was very quiet. But Joe was nice. He was actually really funny. When they got to the restaurant he kept telling her little jokes and making her laugh and laugh. They both ate fried oysters and French fries and as they got to know each other they realized they both liked the very same things. She forgot all about that car.

A year later, Joe and Mary Ann got married and lived happily ever after!

