



Because Of You, I Am Blessed To Be Me



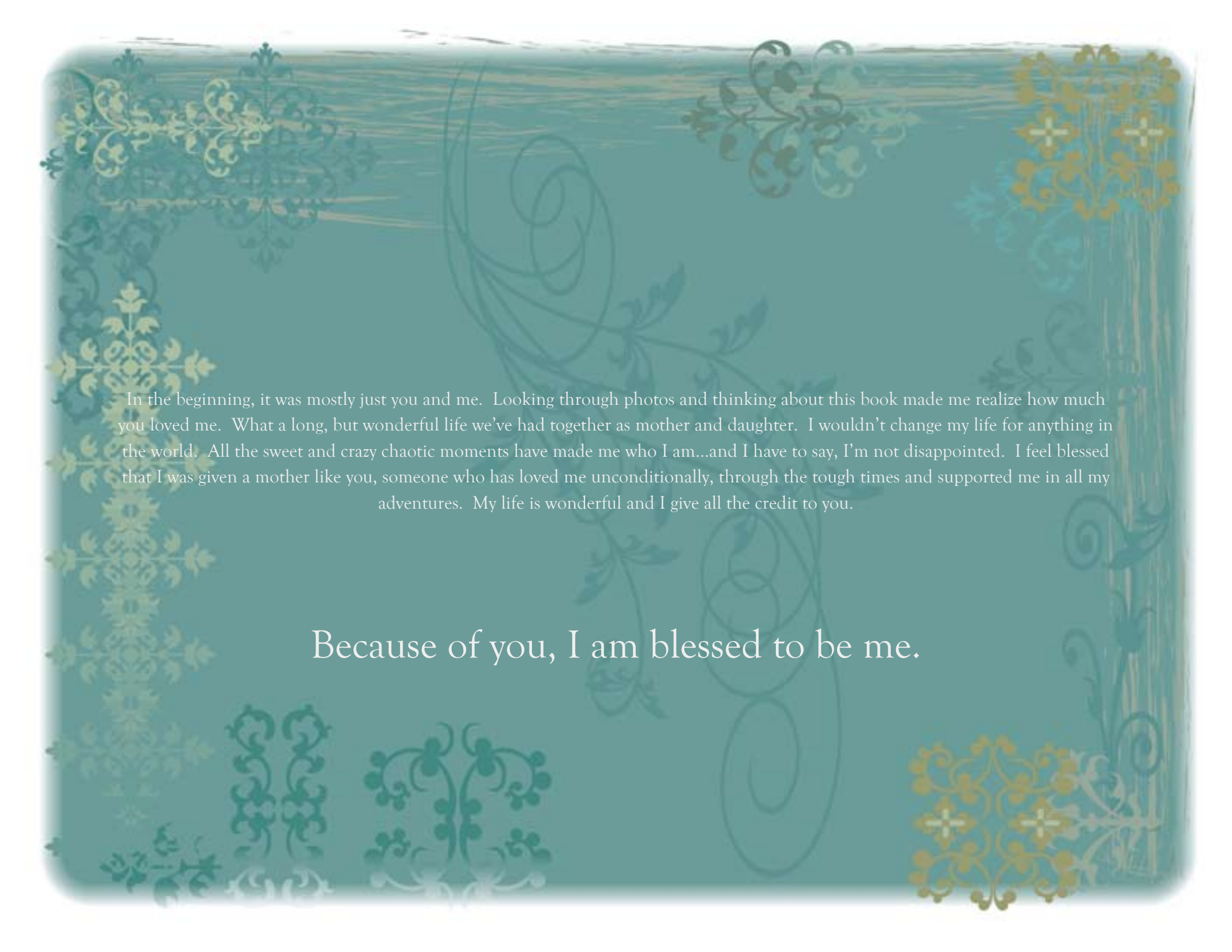
Because Of You, I Am Blessed To Be Me

A Book of Tribute

Love Always, Tara

In the beginning





In the beginning, it was mostly just you and me. Looking through photos and thinking about this book made me realize how much you loved me. What a long, but wonderful life we've had together as mother and daughter. I wouldn't change my life for anything in the world. All the sweet and crazy chaotic moments have made me who I am...and I have to say, I'm not disappointed. I feel blessed that I was given a mother like you, someone who has loved me unconditionally, through the tough times and supported me in all my adventures. My life is wonderful and I give all the credit to you.

Because of you, I am blessed to be me.

Growing up





“A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. “

-Tenneva Jordan

Growing up, I remember you always putting me first. And when Jesse and Nikki came along, you took care of all three of us first. When someone needed help, advice or even a haircut, you took care of them right then. If someone needed a warm bedroom and some dinner, they came to you. And when someone was lost, looking for their way, you showed them where to go. Growing up with you, I learned compassion, sacrifice and how to take care of family.





“My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw.
All I am I owe to my mother.

I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and
physical education I received from her.”

- George Washington (1732-1799)

Dreams

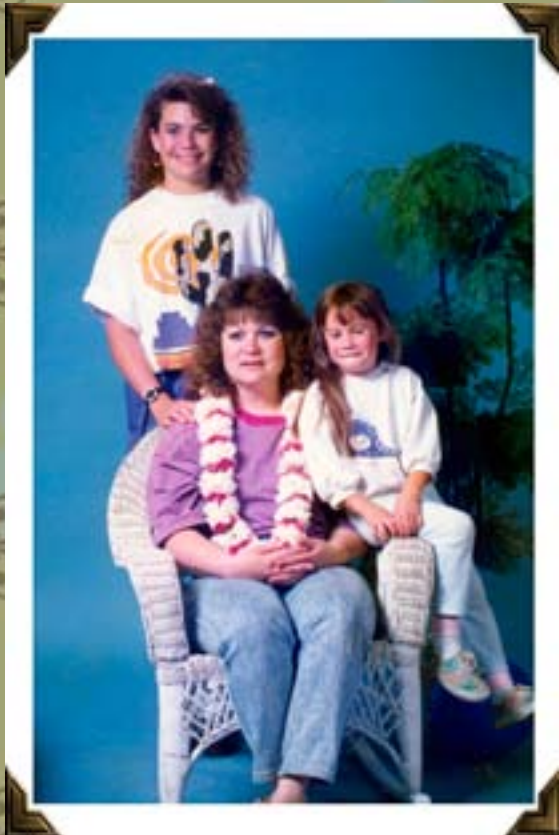




Since I can remember, I've been a dreamer and I think I'm still a dreamer. I would dream about the day I would become a teacher and the night I would be crowned "Ms. America", but one dream I never stopped dreaming was finding Mr. Right...in my case, Shawn Brown. I dreamed about having a beautiful dress, a big reception and opening lots of presents, but my biggest dream was to be happy.

Be happy with whomever I married. I'm grateful to you for supporting me and helping me make that dream come true. It was a bumpy road, but with your support and direction, my dream came true. I did marry Mr. Right and I'm Happy! I'm so happy to be able to share my life with you.

Memories





“Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose.”

~ From the television show *The Wonder Years*

I have so many memories of growing up with you, and lots of good ones I might add. I remember the night I had to make my “Crazy Hat” for Crazy Hat Day at school. It was second grade; I had gotten in trouble at dinner that night and sent to my room by my dad.

I was so upset...not about not getting my dinner, but about not getting my hat made. I sat in my room crying for awhile and then I remember you sneaking in my room. In your hands you had red construction paper, some scissors and toothpicks. You pulled that Styrofoam hat out of my dance costumes and went to town on making me the cutest hat for “Crazy Hat Day”!

I have great memories of “Grandme’s Closet”. It seemed so big and always smelled like lavender. Her closet was a girl’s treasure chest. I remember digging through shoe boxes, looking for hats that sparkled and always finding her stash of beads and jewelry. To this day, I still remember dressing up at Grandme’s house and how much I looked forward to it every time I went to her house.

The memories I have with my cousins, especially Sue, are still very clear. She was the cousin that every little girls dreams of having. I loved that you always took us out to Uncle Bill and Aunt Kathy’s house. I loved spending time with “Suzie”...she always did my hair, dressed me up, and I think she married me and Jeremy about a hundred times. I’m grateful that I was able to be so close to my family.

Home





Home, Sweet, Crazy Home...but it was Home. When I think of our home growing up I remember you always keeping it clean. It could get messy like any other home, but it always clean.

I remember our home hosting all of my birthday parties. I had a party EVERY single year. And every year you'd make my cakes, which were better than any store bought cake and prettier too. My favorite cake is the one with the rainbow. I always drew that picture...the house, the hill, the grass, the rainbow, the black bird, the flowers, the sun. That cake was the prettiest cake I had ever seen, and it was mine. Everyone of my friends wanted that cake too, but none of their moms could make cakes like you.

If someone were to ask me, "What do you remember most about "Home" growing up," I'd say the holiday decorations. You were so good about decorating for every holiday. You always had cute decorations we'd hang in the windows and on the big mirror in the family room. But the warmest memories come from Christmastime. I loved decorating with you. We had the same decorations every year and they went in the same place every year, but our house was a home in December and I still get the warm fuzzy feeling when I think back. I think some of this has stuck with me and now my family gets to have a very decorated Christmas too!

Traditions





Some of my favorite traditions come from the holidays...especially Christmas. I'm a sucker for the holidays, but I think it's because I have such great memories. My favorite of all holiday memories is Christmas Eve at Grandme's. I remember those nights as far back as when I was 3 or so. I miss that tradition more than anything. Christmas Eve was always so magical and wonderful...and every bit what a child expects it to be. From Ironwood to Browns Valley Road, and homemade grub to Pietro's, it didn't matter. It was always a great time. Good food, good company and good times! The presents were always so unique and fun. Grandme always made me something...I never knew what it would be, but I always loved whatever she made me. As the night came to end the excitement built up because I knew as soon as I went home it was lights out...Santa was on his way!



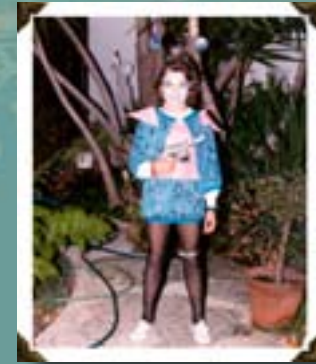


“I affirm my profound belief that God’s greatest creation is womanhood. I also believe that there is no greater good in all the world than motherhood. The influence of a mother in the lives of her children is beyond calculation.”

- James E. Faust, April 1993 General Conference

Lessons learned





You have taught me many valuable lessons, but there are a few specific ones I recall. Now these may be lessons that you don't even realize you taught me, but you did. And I must say, I have never forgotten them and have made sure that my children never have to suffer like I did.

First lesson, Hair! Now, you did know how to cut, perm and do hair. But my hair was a different story. It didn't matter how cute it looked or how curly it got, whenever you did my hair there always seemed to be a brawl after. I learned that mothers should never, ever cut their own kids hair. I have never attempted it and never will. Too dangerous!

Second lesson, Fashion. Okay, back in the day that dress was cool. But when you show up for a dance and 17 people have the same dress you have on, it's not okay. So I learned that when there's a huge sale at the only dress store you know of and they have only one style of dress for sale, it's best not to buy that dress.

And last but not least, don't wait until 15 minutes before Trick-or-Treating to tell your mother you don't have a costume.....

Hobbies





My hobbies were your hobbies. Your life revolved around what us kids were involved in. You loved letting us shine and be our best. You were 110% supportive in everything that we wanted to try. I knew at the time you weren't doing back flips with my obsession of beauty pageants, but you still supported me and allowed me to enjoy it. From dance lessons, expensive pageant fees to dresses and shoes, you allowed me to be apart of something most girls can only wish and dream about.

My success in sports came from you! You let me play the sports I loved and always had something good to say to me. Not once, ever, do I remember you correcting me, giving me advice on what I should have done or even ask me why I played like crap. Never! You always said, "You played great," and encouraged me to keep up whatever it was I was doing. You made me think that I really was the best player out there and so I worked at it and wanted to make you proud! Thanks for supporting me and giving me the confidence I needed to be the best I could be.

Goals achieved

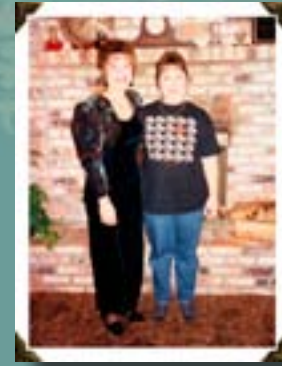




As a mother my goal in life is be the best mom I can be. I need nothing else in my life. I'm not perfect, but I believe I'm a good mommy to my 5, yes, 5 kids because I learned from the best. Because of you and your example as a mother to me, I've become a good mother too! I love being a mom! I learned to love this blessing from you. You taught me through your quiet service and sacrifice that there is nothing better than being a mom. I'm so honored that I've been given the chance to give you, 5, yes, 5 grandchildren. I'm blessed to have you as mother as much as they are blessed to have you as their Bamba!

Mothers and daughters are closest,
when daughters become mothers.





“A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.”

-Washington Irving

Family





You have an amazing gift for unconditional love. You showed me how to love and enjoy family. Family is what keeps us going... what makes us who we are. I loved being close to my family as a child. I love that Grandme was only 2 blocks away, that my aunts and uncles were wonderful, caring people who loved and enjoyed me as much as I enjoyed them. I love that I had cousins who were adventurous and good examples to me. I love that our family spent time together, holidays together and supported each other in everything we did. You instilled in me the value of family and how important they are. You allowed me to grow up knowing that I had a wonderful family who loved me and cared for me. The relationships I have with them now are because of you and your example.





Families are like fudge...
Mostly sweet with a few nuts.

Friends





Loyal Friend

You are the most loyal friend anyone could have. As a child, teen and even now as an adult, you show me how important it is to treasure friendships and stay in touch with people. Lots of people come and go in a lifetime, but you seem to be able to keep track of everyone. You always think of people and how they're doing. Not many people make time in their lives to send someone a hello or find a long lost friend, but you do. I have had many friends come and go in my life, but through your example I have kept those that are my closet friends close to my heart. Thank you for teaching me the importance of true friendship.

Special people





“You don’t choose your family.
They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.”

-Desmond Tutu

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