CROWN OF BEAUTY

THE AWAKENING ISSUE

TAKE BACK YOUR SWORD
BIBLE STUDY INSIDE

7 TIPS FOR A WHIMSICAL SUMMER

HOST A STRAWBERRY PARTY

ISAIAH 62:3

"You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God."

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Shake Your Mane

Once upon a time, I was trapped in a tower. Lulled to sleep by the enchanting lullaby of sin, I was far from God. A thick overgrowth of thorns and tangled cobwebs of deception kept me far from the truth.

Until the fateful day everything changed. A Prince arrived on the scene.

"For now the hundred years were at an end, and the day had come when Rosamond should be awakened. When the prince drew near the hedge of thorns, it was changed into a hedge of beautiful large flowers, which parted and bent aside to let him pass..."

The day Jesus defeated the darkness, He called His Sleeping Beauty to arise.

"Taking her by the hand He said to her, "Talitha cumi,' which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.'" (Mark 5:41)

Stepping into the light of salvation changes everything! The thorns are transformed into flowers, the dragon is defeated, and freedom is ours! So why is it, that even when we've been walking with God for years, in relationship with Jesus, we can still feel trapped and isolated? Why are there still chambers in our souls aching for a rescue? Why are we still battling the curse of sin, the fangs of fear, and the lies of hell?

We have an enemy. The Great Dragon particularly hates God's daughters and is on a cruel mission to attempt to keep us in bondage. We can draw many similarities between Satan and the evil sorceress presented in the 1959 Disney animated *Sleeping Beauty*. Maleficent, the bitterly jealous, enraged villain, reminds me of another, Jadis, from *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe.*

CS. Lewis penned these words about the alluring deception of sin and selfishness, disguised as sweet morsels of delight.

"...enchanted Turkish Delight and that anyone who had once tasted it would want more and more of it, and would even, if they were allowed, go on eating it till they killed themselves."


“For now the hundred years were at an end, and the day had come when Rosamond should be awakened.
When the prince drew near the hedge of thorns, it was changed into a hedge of beautiful large flowers, which parted and bent aside to let him pass…”

I can't think of a more fitting description for the battle our hearts face on the daily. We live in a culture obsessed with sugar-coating addictive lies that attempt to draw us far from Jesus.

Jadis possessed the power to turn hearts to stone. And that's exactly what happened to each one of us, before we encountered the Breath of God, and received hearts of flesh! (Ezekiel 36:26)
But, just because our hearts are beating doesn't mean they're awake.

We can live with the head knowledge that Jesus delivered us from sin and darkness, but it's totally possible for our hearts to still be asleep in some areas of our faith. If we're partnering with lies, consciously or subconsciously, and have yet to see the freedom of His Word rule in a particular area of our lives, God wants to change that! When we believe a lie, we empower it.

Jesus wants to set us free from all forms of oppression and slavery! If you're struggling to feel alive, awake, and free, don't fret. Life is a process. Faith is a journey. Saying "yes" to Jesus doesn't mean all of your problems magically disappear overnight. The journey of sanctification is a beautiful, holy, exciting one that we're on together!

If you're struggling to love the girl you see in the mirror, to forgive yourself, to believe what God says about your royal identity in Him, and to dream alongside your creator, don't despair over the "dead" areas in your heart. Let the words that Jesus spoke to Jairus, when he received the heart-wrenching news that his daughter had died, whisper courage to your soul.

"Do not be afraid, only believe."
(Mark 5:36)

Jesus wants to bring freedom and restoration to every area of your life and heart, far more desperately than you desire it! The passion with which the animated Prince Phillip wielded his Sword of Truth and fought through those gnarly thorns and defeated that fire-breathing Dragon is only a tiny fraction of the passion Jesus feels toward you! He has already defeated every enemy in your life, through the Cross and His resurrection (check out Colossians 2:15!), and is totally committed to the process of freeing your heart!

God is fighting on your behalf. Jadis's icy, cruel reign of witchcraft, cursing, and torment is over, and Aslan is on the move.

May your heart swell with hope at the promise of all the life and beauty to come.

"Wrong will be right,
when Aslan comes in sight,
At the sound of His roar,
sorrows will be no more,
When he bares his teeth,
winter meets it's death,
And when he shakes his mane,
we shall have spring again."

(C.S. Lewis)

Jesus' mission (and the mission of *Crown of Beauty*!) was clearly stated in Isaiah 61. Liberty, healing, beauty, praise, righteousness...the mission of the King is to awaken every slumbering soul!

"And immediately the little girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age) and they were immediately overcome with amazement." (Mark 5:42)

Bringing Sleeping Beauties back to life is what He's been doing from the very beginning! Ever since the serpent started messing around with God's daughters in Genesis (yeah, seriously bad move on the enemy's part! Jesus crushed his head! Genesis 3:15), Jesus' plan of redemption and restoration for your life has always been in motion!

And the super amazing part? He wants you to partner with Him in it!

In the same way that partnering with lies causes serious bondage, partnering with the TRUTH brings freedom, deliverance, beauty, and joy! Not just to your life, but to the lives of everyone around you!

You are a Daughter of the Most High King. You are the beloved Princess Bride of Jesus Himself! You have favor, authority, and an endless covering of love from the God who holds the entire universe in the palm of His Hand. You've been given a royal responsibility to renew your mind in His Word, partner with His truth, and speak it out over yourself and those you love.

C.S. Lewis wrote: "He's not a tame lion."

Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He is not a domesticated house cat!

And guess what? Neither are you. You're not a little kitten. You're a lioness.

You were not meant for captivity in any way, shape, or form. Fear is a liar. Anxiety is under your feet. Sin is defeated. Selfishness is crushed by the Cross.

"When Aslan shakes his mane, it shall be spring again."

Girl, it's time to shake YOUR mane. You are not a victim. Jesus has given you all the tools, authority, and permission to crush the devil, in the same way Jael took out the enemy commander by driving a tent peg through his skull. (Check out Judges 4 & 5.) The Word of God is your tent pegs! His truth is your weapon!

"Sword of truth fly swift and sure, that evil die and good endure!" (Sleeping Beauty 1959)

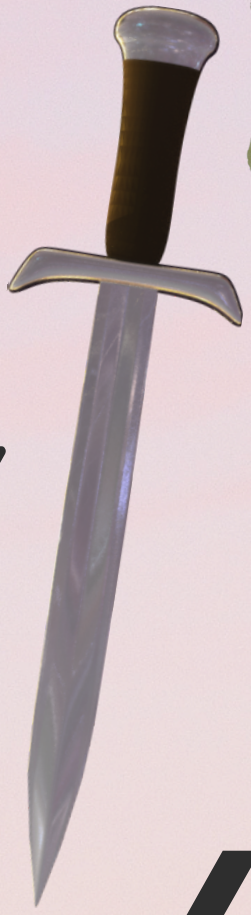
There's a whole world of captive beauties out there who need us to arise, put on our royal robes, and believe what the Bible actually says. Sister, we're in this together! You have been called into the Kingdom for such a time as this.

Have courage. Take heart.
And shake your mane.




SACRÉ CO.
DIVINE OLFACTORY
JARDIN ÉTERNEL
INSPIRED BY PARADISE.
sacré co.
DIVINE OLFACTORY
JARDIN ÉTERNEL
extrait de parfum
MMXXV
LILAC
HONEYSUCKLE
GARDENIA

Take Back your Sword



Grab a pen & dive into our Bible Study!



Once upon a time, there was a boy without a sword.
And yet, the land was fraught with giants.
Enemies abounded. Philistines.
Merciless bullies who worshiped the "fish god",
Dagon. David grew up in a generation without access to swords, spears, weapons, or blacksmiths. And yet...God had a plan.

Let's begin in 1st Samuel 17.
Take time to read the entire chapter.

Historical Context:
The Philistines were causing serious problems in Israel.
Read 1st Samuel 13:19-22.

Why wasn't the army of Israel supplied with swords?

_____

_____

_____

_____

How would I feel if I were expected to fight without a sword?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Why did David choose to fight without a sword?
Here are 3 reasons as to what his potential motivation could have been:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Who was the most qualified person to fight Goliath?
(Hint: check out 1 Samuel 9:2 to see who had a height advantage!)

_____

_____

_____

Are there any areas in my life where I feel like I'm trying to "fight without a sword"?

What "sword" has the enemy stolen from me that I know I'm only going to get back if I face this head on, in faith?

What is trying to INTIMIDATE me? What fears is the enemy trying to use to hold my sword captive?

(**Bonus Context:** 1 Samuel 5:1-4. Goliath worshiped Dagon, the "fish-god", but Dagon was defeated long before David ever stepped foot on the battlefield! God has already defeated every enemy in my life!)

If the enemy is lying to me, just like Goliath tried to taunt David on the battlefield, what are some specific lies that I need to address?
Lord, a lie I'm really struggling with right now, is:

Holy Spirit, what is the truth? What do You say? (Use Scripture!) The truth is:

LIE #2:

The truth is:

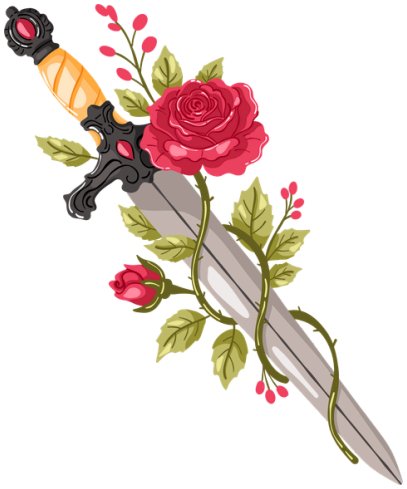
Don't be intimidated by fear. Goliath looked incredibly intimidating, but David chose to trust God and turn to His heavenly perspective, rather than trust his own eyes!
In 1st Samuel 17:5, Goliath's armor is described by the Hebrew word kaskassim, which means "scaley". The plates of brass were tightly overlapping each other, giving the imagery of the scales of a fish, or a dragon, likely as a nod to Goliath's "fish-god".

The idea of a giant looking like a freaky merman, or a terrifying dragon, could inspire fear in the heart of a boy without a sword! But, like C.S. Lewis wrote, "It simply isn't an adventure worth telling if there aren't any dragons."

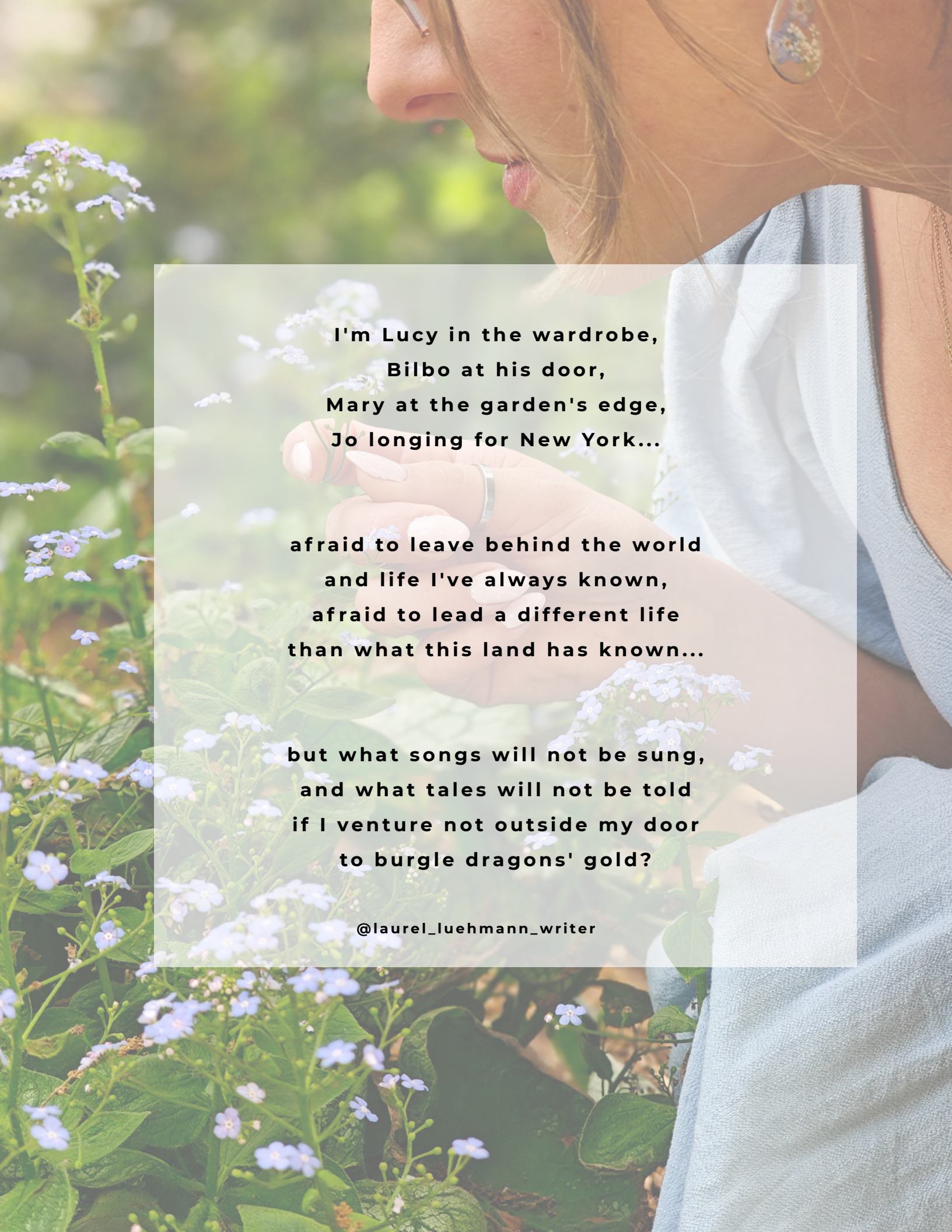
The dragons you're facing today are guarding the treasure, breakthrough, and swords, you'll be using tomorrow!

Someone once said, "Our deepest fears are like dragons guarding our deepest treasure". Don't shy away from the difficult challenges. Just like David, you have a destiny. Kings and Queens don't listen to the voice of fear, because they know that defeating the dragon will result in the freedom of others.

Beloved, it's time to take back your sword.







I'm Lucy in the wardrobe,
Bilbo at his door,
Mary at the garden's edge,
Jo longing for New York...

afraid to leave behind the world
and life I've always known,
afraid to lead a different life
than what this land has known...

but what songs will not be sung,
and what tales will not be told
if I venture not outside my door
to burgle dragons' gold?

@laurel_luehmann_writer

Animated by Purpose:



When God Writes Your Story

Animated: the state of being lively, brisk, or full of spirit and vigor





Aurora Liljestrand is the Websters 1828 Dictionary definition of the word *animated*. Her infectious laughter lights up a room, while her childlike spirit and playful zest for life are bound to bring a smile to your face. The lively twenty-three-year-old is living every animator's dream, working at a *real* animation studio. Her first job in this highly competitive industry wasn't creating ads or working in marketing. She landed a role working on a T.V. show known and beloved by countless fans: *The Wingfeather Saga*!

"I've always had a knack for creativity."

I caught up with Aurora during her lunch break, and our conversation kicked off with returning to the place where all stories get their plucky little start: at the beginning. "What were you like as a kid? I feel like so often God puts something in us as a child, giftings, dreams, et cetera, that we rediscover later in life."

Aurora happily reflected on her childhood. "I grew up in Colorado, in the mountains, in a nice little suburban community. I lived in a cul-de-sac neighborhood full of kids about my age, so I was friends with a lot of my neighbors. I remember walking over to our neighbors' house, knocking on the door, and asking, 'Do you want to play?' I was very social! I've always had a knack for creativity. One of the neighbors had American Girl dolls and introduced me to YouTube videos of people making stopmotions, which were very interesting to me. I was like, 'Wow, they're making the dolls move, that's really cool!' So I got my first American Girl doll off of Craiglist, Kirsten, and then my dad, when I was in fifth grade, handed me a camera. He was like, 'There ya go!' I said, 'I know exactly what to do with this!' So I went to the corner of my room with all my doll stuff, and I just started taking pictures, then moving my doll a little bit, then taking a picture, moving her again, another picture. And that's how I started making stopmotions."

But Aurora's childhood wasn't all butterflies and roses. Despite her cheerful disposition, her teenage years got a little bumpy.

"My family moved from Colorado to North Carolina in the middle of eighth grade. After I moved, I started drawing a whole lot more. I was really excited about art! I was in a new space, a new city, and I didn't know anybody yet, so my friends were God and art! And my family, they were there too!" She laughed. "I finished my school year in 8th grade doing online classes, and little did I know, my mom signed me up for ninth grade level classes, so in, like, three months, I walked away with a few high school credits. When I went into a charter school the following school year, 9th grade, my first year of high school, I was so excited about my art class! My art teacher was adorable. She was showing off her different assignments, and I was literally over the moon about getting to dive into this! But one week into classes, I got called into the principal's office."

Aurora was offered an amazing opportunity. But it required a huge sacrifice. "My principal essentially said, 'Hey, you have high school credits, so you can skip a grade if you want. But, if you do, you have to replace your elective of Art with PE.'"

"As soon as I heard that, tears welled up in my eyes, because I did not want to give up my art class. It meant a lot to me. But it was a strange opportunity that I felt like I had to take advantage of. Even though I love school, I was like, 'this is short term suffering for a long term benefit.' So I chose to skip a grade and give up that art class. And I kid you not, I was depressed for the next two weeks! I felt a raincloud hovering over me, and I'm the happiest person on the planet!" Aurora laughed again in reflection. "It was such a strange experience. I remember going into the bathroom, and as soon I closed the stall door, tears started flowing."



It wasn't until she surrendered her dream (and heartbreak over giving up that art class) to the Lord that something started to change.



"At church, I went into the main sanctuary and walked straight to the front and dropped down on my knees, and I felt like this weight rolled off my shoulders. The depression just cleared! Obviously, the emotion still lingered. I walked by my art class and I would get choked up. But I started going to my art teacher to ask if I could come in early in the morning to do assignments. My homeroom teachers were very kind to me and let me come early into school, and they let me be in the art room and do art projects just for fun!

"One of the first things I ever felt like I heard God say, I was in my bed as a teen and I was yapping at God about making movies and shows and all the creative endeavors I wanted to embark on, and this thought popped in: 'one step at a time.'I busted out laughing, because the tone of it was so playful and considerate and kept me in check! He was basically like, 'Girl, slow dooowwnnn!' And that became my mantra, especially later when searching for colleges. I remember one night I drew a comic that was deeply meaningful and symbolic of myself in a cave. I was in the dark asking, 'God, what do I do next?' And a footprint illuminated the darkness in front of me. I got up, and took a step. Then another footprint, then I stepped on that one, and this process continued until it started creating a trail in front of me. I was following this footstep trail, following these illuminated footprints through the darkness, until I was led out of the cave onto a beachside."

It wasn't until she surrendered her dream (and heartbreak over giving up that art class) to the Lord that something started to change.

Fast forward a few years, and it didn't take long for Aurora to realize that she was truly living out the comic she had drawn in her bedroom as a teen: a comic of faith and trust in her Animator!

"It's interesting to see how God wove that all into my story, since I skipped a grade. God led me to Lipscomb where I studied animation. My two last years at that charter high school, I took college courses, so I graduated with my associates. When I went to Lipscomb, I went through that program in three years, and because of that, and the Lord encouraging me to take summer classes, I met important people in that class that got me my job at *Wingfeather*. If I had not gone through school on that exact timeline, I would not be here right now! The big picture? Six years ago I didn't know what a key frame was, and now I'm working on an actual production. Which is insanity!



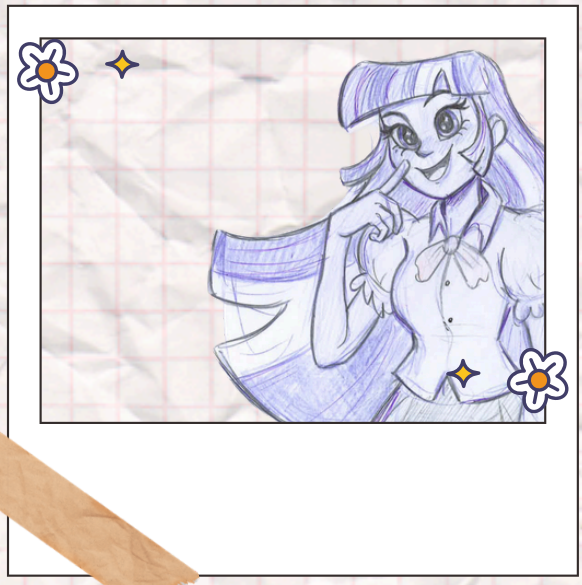
"So much of who I am is through art. Even today when I have quiet times, I go to the Lord with a question, like, 'Hey God, why does this scripture say this thing?' Then an image comes to mind and I'll draw the image. Then God will be like, 'Ask me a few questions about the image'. Then my answers answer my question! So there's a lot of integration with who God created me to be, where my art and my relationship with Him is very intertwined. Which is why I'm grateful to work on *Wingfeather*, because the story of *Wingfeather* was written by Andrew Peterson, based off a book series. Andrew Peterson is a deeply Christian man. His work comes from a place of deep faith. So the story itself is a story of identity and longing to be part of a kingdom that you're not physically a part of yet, which is basically the Christian existence of us longing to be part of God's kingdom, even though we're actively living in a broken world right now. And that's just part of the beauty and abstractness of life and faith. It's crazy to be working on a show that comes from a place of deep understanding of how God works with our broken world and broken selves, so it's a treasure to be working on this project. But this is unheard of, Liv! This is probably not a great starter story for your girls because it's kind of a one-in-a-million situation! It's crazy! I can't take credit for any of it. I didn't know Nashville existed; I didn't know the studio existed when I moved here; I didn't know the story existed either; and now I'm here!

"I look back and it's all Him—it's all the Lord. It's also my obedience, like I don't sit around and the Lord does everything, but He works through us. We are working together here. But all the big moves, that's God! I make all the small moves."

My grin grew thinking, *Actually this is the perfect starter story, because it shows off exactly what God can do when we surrender the pen of our dreams to Him!*

As we wrapped up our sweet convo, I asked what her favorite thing about working at *Wingfeather* is. I've heard they have tons of fun over there. "Maybe a little bit too much fun!" I joked.

"I like working at a smaller studio because I get to wear different hats. I get to test out different parts of the pipeline and see what I really enjoy doing. In most big productions, you really specify and get really good at one specific thing, but this way I can be fairly good at different things. I've found my niche in texture painting in our show, so that's been fun. I've discovered that I like layout, which I didn't do in college. Or lighting. But it's fun to learn! I love learning! It's so cool to be in an environment where I'm being encouraged to learn. Another strange random thing is that they do hire a lot of young people, and they are aware of it!" She laughed. "Young people are cheaper, and we are available. But our CG lead, Keith Lango—executive producer, our backbone of everything—he's a teacher at his core. So he's pouring into us, helping educate us, telling us horror stories of the animation industry, keeping us in check!" She laughed again. "The greatest highlight of our show is that we do premieres for every season! So far, we've done it for 1, 2 and 3. I've been able to go to all three, and the first one I went to as a fan, without any prospects of the job at all.



"They're so fun! It's a great time to celebrate the work that we've done, the community gets to be part of it, you see people dress up in costumes, and it's just such a fun event! Chris Wall's (our show runner) wife is incredible! She's been planning all of them and she does a fantastic job. Season 4's premiere is coming out in September. It's an open ticketed event for whoever wants to go to the premiere!"

With the rise of AI, and so many other threats and challenges permeating our culture, I asked Aurora for a word of advice and encouragement for all the other young creatives out there.

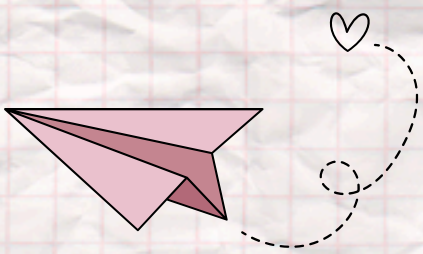
"In terms of AI, none of us really know how it's going to go down. But there's always the hope that we can make stuff. We CAN make stuff. Honestly, worst case scenario, maybe we can't all do this as a job to make our income, but we can still create because that's what God calls us to do! It's important to put our art out there, and to make stuff, and to connect with God and others in that way, because that's part of how He has designed us. There are other ways to make money. I had lunch once with someone who started an animation studio in the Nashville area, and he was like, 'Yeah, have a job in animation, make art, enjoy yourself, but get into Real Estate!'"

I laughed. "That is such a Nashville thing to say!"

"I'm still learning how things work. All I know is that God is in control. He will guide me through whatever circumstance comes my way, and I'm learning the most I can about the world, how it works, how to be financially responsible, and that's all I can really do. In terms of AI, it will try to take over, it will try to steal our resources, it will try to take our voices, but we're the ones with the creativity! We're the ones that get to choose how that affects us. Just don't stop making stuff. Truly! If the terminator comes tomorrow, just keep your eyes on Jesus!"

We laughed in unison at that *truly* Aurora line. Maybe we should get those words printed on T-shirts!

"Just keep your eyes on Jesus. He will guide you through the rest."



"Just keep your eyes on Jesus. He will guide you through the rest."









The Beauty of Snail Mail



There's something unmistakably magical about receiving a letter in the mail. The idea that another human soul slowed down long enough to pick up his or her pen to express their thoughts, fills our hearts with warmth. I am a firm believer in the magic of the mailbox. (Oh dear, I sound like Oliver O'Toole from Hallmark's *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*!)

In a culture that's growing increasingly fast paced and quick-dopamine-hit-obsessed, we must daily challenge ourselves to slow down and cherish the little things in life—such as a sweet, "thinking of you", gift in the mail.

We cannot allow snail mail to become obsolete. We are the culture makers and the trend setters, we can choose where to spend our money, and what we want to support! We can spend less hours on our phone, and more hours going analog, embracing life in the *real world*.

Isabel Grace, an artist with her very own "Snail Mail Club" believes the same thing! She ships "happy mail", featuring her God-glorifying artwork, out to her club members each month! Her goal is to encourage people to shine their light for Christ, especially in a world that makes it hard to live for the Lord and keep our thoughts centered on the virtues of Philippians 4:8.

The Starlight Print Club Includes:

One 5x7" Fine Art Print
Ahigh-qualityreproduction of a new painting, perfect for framing or gifting.

A Heartfelt Note
Eachprintarriveswithahandwritten message sharing the story behind the artandawordofencouragement for your month.

A Scripture Verse Card
Abeautiful, physicalreminder to keep close, designed to provide hope and lightinyour dailylife!



Visit
isabelgracestudio.com
to join the Starlight Print Club and explore her stunning artwork!







Quirky Corkboard

Let's just dilly-dally !!







Girl Talk

We asked our readers, "What's one small thing that helps you draw closer to God during the day?" Here's what they said!

"Prayer Popcorn! One second prayers that I can say at any point, such as, 'Thank You for friends' , or 'help me feel less stressed.'"
~Rachel

"Worship music! It always centers me when I need it."
-Anna

"Seeing the love that I have in my family. It just blows me away how much God has blessed me and my family."
~Galileo

"Stopping to sing a worship song- or appreciate the beauty of creation (clouds/the sky often draw my attention)"
-Alissa

"Witnessing the beauty of creation in the stillness of the morning, despite not being much of a morning person!"
-Makayla

"Being outside in God's beautiful creation and hearing the birds sing in the trees."
-Moriyah

"Taking the time to get cozy and read and study the Bible!"
-Alex

Join in the convo!
Visit www.crownofbeautymedia.com to connect with community, share your thoughts, and join our Sisterhood!

SUMMER STRAWBERRY PARTY



This is your sign to gather your girls, grab your picnic basket, and frolic in the sunshine.



Summer Strawberry Party Checklist



- Picnic Blanket
- Strawberry Spinach Salad Cups
  (Greens + strawberries + cute cups!)
- Picnic Basket
- Strawberry Muffins
- Strawberry Matcha
  (or your favorite pink drink!)
- Sweet friends







You're Invited

to a berry-fun picnic!
Join me for
a whimsical soirée.
Bring a snack to share!
August 22nd RSVP

"Friends are the flowers in the garden of life"

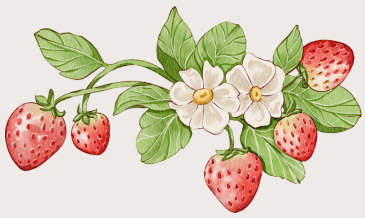
Summer To Do List:

- Get a “point and shoot” film camera and document an outing with friends
- Send a family member or friend a letter
- Find a cookbook and bake a sweet treat
- Start a scrapbook and fill it with summer memories



- Brainstorm your own ideas and add to the list below!

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Our Summer Playlist

Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles

Sunroof - Nick Youre

Flowers in the Water - Nathan Evans

Just That Good - Passion

Better Together - Jack Johnson

When I'm With You - JJ Heller

The Nights - Avicii

Irish Eyes - Rose Betts

Sovereign Ruler of the Skies - The Foto Sisters

Fruit Takes Time - SEU Worship & Chelsea Plank

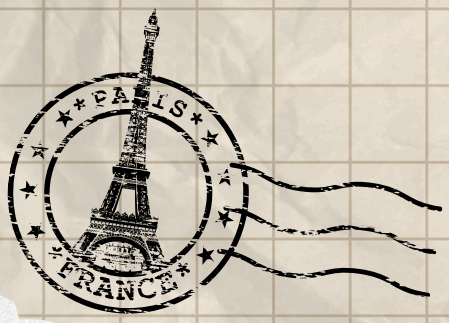
Beautiful Life - Pat Barrett & CAIN!







Awakening in Paris



BY SAVANNA NICKS



I sat down at the little café just down the street from my AirBnb my first morning in Paris. I peered out of the window, and thought to myself, *What have I done*?

I was in another country, on a completely different continent, where half of the people don't speak English, entirely by myself. I ordered myself an egg, ham and baguette breakfast as the weight of my choices came crashing down on me. I started fidgeting, shifting in my seat every few seconds, and that old familiar feeling of anxiety came crashing down, as it so often does.

Now I'm having a panic attack in another country, on a completely different continent, where half of the people don't speak English, and I'm by myself.

Again: *What have I done*?

I was chest deep in the turbulent waters of my mind when an elderly woman walked into the café. She was greeted with a joyful "*Bonjour*!" from the waiter and the man behind the bar. She greeted them back—and every other person in the café, too. She seemed to know them all and they knew her. She was magnetic.

As she sat at the table perpendicular to mine, she gave me a gentle smile. In that moment, the freezing grip of anxiety started to thaw in response to her warmth.

With the little French I had studied in high school, I remembered how to ask, "Do you speak English?"

As I asked, she began speaking quickly in French, which I had no chance at keeping up with. Our waiter swiftly arrived by our sides and kindly translated. She joked that she hadn't spoken English since 1959, asked where I was from, and warmly welcomed me to her city.

Then, my food arrived.

As I started to eat, I looked out of that café window and thanked God that I was here—in another country, on a completely different continent, where I got to speak to one of those people who didn't speak English, and I was here all alone.

How special!
How exciting!

The rest of my week in Paris was wonderful. It was filled with reading and writing in the romantic gardens, walking along the Seine, browsing local markets, and getting to see some of the most incredible and most well-known art in the world. I was teeming with inspiration and gratitude.





I even got to attend a church service where I met a kind Brazilian mother and her daughter who told me, "*If you feel alone, don't—because we are here for you if you need anything at all.*" Their kindness settled the last bits of worry still trying to stir inside me.

As my plane landed back home in Nashville, I thought to myself, **Wow. I actually did it. And I loved every moment of it.**

Every day was challenging, but it didn't debilitate me. I met those challenges and kept moving forward, receiving each moment as the gift that it was.

This Story Started Long Before Paris

This could simply be the story of a 21-year-old girl who went to Paris by herself, had one panic attack, and then had a wonderful rest of her trip—which, in itself, is a valuable lesson: **a rough start doesn't have to determine your entire experience.**

But this story holds even more meaning when you look at where I came from.



my anxiety was crippling

When Anxiety Made My World Small

My dream of traveling to Paris came around as I started dreaming of becoming a fashion designer at ten years old. Like most people, it was hard to conceptionalize going that far away—but I had one other major limiting factor:

I was drowning in anxiety.

The Shepherd Who Led Me Here

So, how did I go from being unable to leave my childhood home to flying across the world by myself just five years later?

Only by the wonder-working power of the Prince of Peace Himself: **Jesus Christ.**

If I had to choose one passage of Scripture to sum up the last five years of my life, it would be Psalm 23. The Word of God is living and active, and when I was unsure of my way, I returned again and again to the good promises of Jesus' leadership found in this Psalm.

Psalm 23
The Good Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd;
I have what I need.
He lets me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He renews my life;
He leads me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even when I go through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
as long as I live.



Psalm 23 is a popular passage for good reason. In just a few lines, it beautifully illustrates what it means to live a life led by Jesus—one that is both deeply comforting and lovingly challenging, always pushing us forward toward growth.

The path to freedom is not passive, but it's also not all on you.

As you allow Jesus and the Word of God to have authority over your thought life—and really, over all that you are—it begins to transform you from the inside out.

If the Lord is my shepherd, then that means that I don't need to worry.

A shepherd takes care of all of their sheep's needs, leading them to grass to graze, water to drink, and shelter to sleep. Because of Jesus, I have everything I need to survive and experience peace right here and right now.

This was something I would often repeat to myself when anxiety would rise:

Jesus is my Shepherd and I have all that I need to make it through this. Right now, I have all that I need to experience peace because He is with me.

Over the past couple of years, I have also begun to understand what this Psalm means when it says, "Your rod and your staff—they comfort me."

A shepherd's rod and staff are tools of correction. They correct the wandering sheep, guiding them back onto the right path. This is a comfort to know that as I walk, Jesus will correct me.

And discipline—though often uncomfortable—is one of the ways God leads us into a fuller life. In John 10:10, Jesus says. "I have come so that you may have life and have it to the full." The closer I walk with Jesus and follow His ways, the fuller my life becomes.

My journey to Paris was built on a million little yeses to Jesus—each one leading me to the places I never thought I could go.





A Million Little Yeses

It started with going on weekend church retreats to the mountains. Then trips to another state with my family. Then visiting my brother in California by myself.

Then Jesus challenged me to do something really big:

Move to another state for university, knowing no one, and move into a house in the city because the school didn't have room for me in the dorms.

So I went.

I did it scared and found more freedom on the other side—a decision that single-handedly changed my life forever.

That season opened doors for me to continue growing in confidence being away from what I considered "home" to be, until finally, I found myself there—in that little local Paris café—thanking God that He brought me to another country, on a completely different continent, where half of the people didn't speak English, and all I had was Him.

What an incredible place to be.

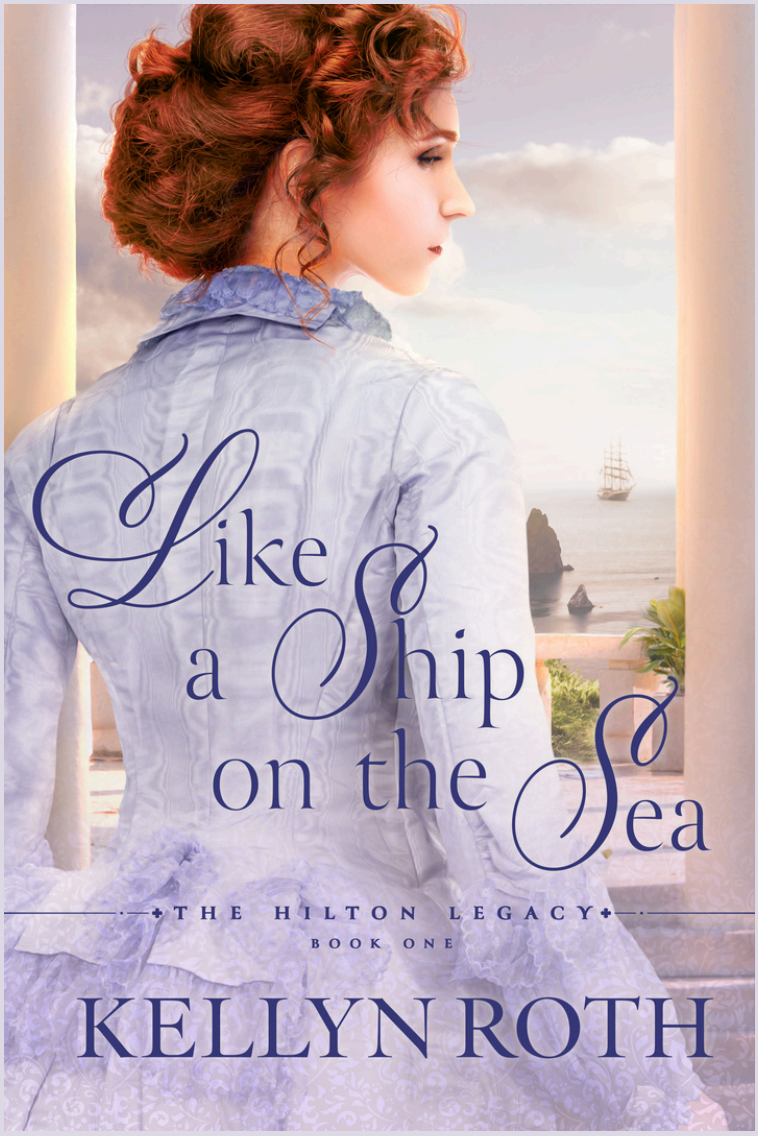
Hallelujah.

Savanna Nicks is a poet, film photographer and concert lighting designer.
After years based in Nashville, she is stepping into a more nomadic chapter centered on faith, creativity, and exploration. She is deeply inspired by Jesus and the ways He reveals Himself through people, art, travel, and everyday moments, and hopes her work encourages others to appreciate the beauty of this world and live more fully through faith.
Follow her journey on Instagram! @savannanicks



Our Summer Fiction Reading List Must Have:

Like a Ship on the Sea



Lady Mary Cassidy O'Connell has a dream that can be summed up in three connecting ideas: a loving husband, adorable children, and a home of her own. Her mother's lack of care makes life difficult for Cassie, and an escape is necessary. The plan? Marry Aubrey Montgomery, the man her parents have chosen for her, and find the peace she craves.

Unfortunately, Cassie is uneasy about marrying Aubrey. Her apprehension grows as she witnesses her dearest friend's loving marriage take place. At this wedding, she catches the eye of Patrick Hilton, son of a wealthy American. Like Cassie, he's also set to marry a woman chosen by his parents—only, Patrick claims, he is content with this choice.

Torn between her desire for happiness and the knowledge that God is leading her in a different direction, Cassie confronts the impossible decision. Is a loveless marriage of obligation better than being alone, or will she set sail on a voyage without a safe harbor?

If God asks you to confront a storm, how dare you stay in the harbor?

Explore More!

Austen Ever After

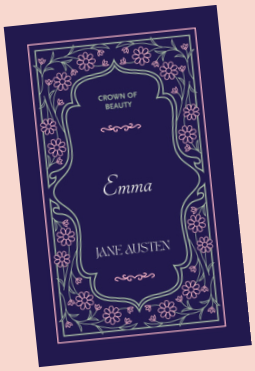


What could possibly be more whimsical than getting lost in a Jane Austen novel?

For the girl who dreams of long walks in the English countryside and reading beneath the shade of a magnificent oak tree while patiently waiting for her Mr. Darcy to arrive on the scene, this is for you!

Choose your literary match!
Which title will you pick?

A.



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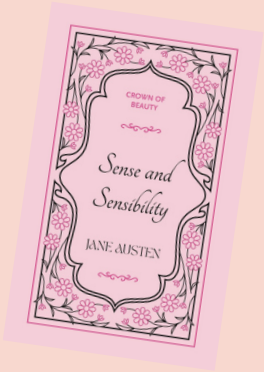

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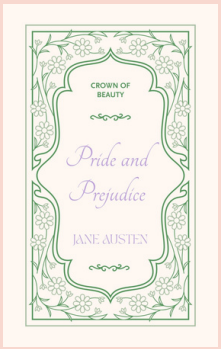

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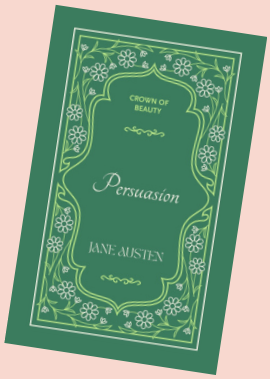


Choose your dream drink!

A.



B.



C.



D.



Book + Beverage + Dress =



A. Camille Cotton Floral Maxi Dress



B. Elise Lace Gauze Maxi Dress

Be transported to an Austen novel this summer by selecting one of these romantic dresses from *Justyna Grace Boutique*! Which will you choose?

A Dreamy Austen Summer



C. Romantic V-Neck Tensel Dress



D. Valerie Floral Shirt Dress

Shop these looks at justynagrace.com



Created to Create

Meet Livy Lynn

What do you do with a little girl who dreams of writing books, producing films, being a recording artist, running her very own "castle library," and traveling the world? Why, you do the only practical thing a young lady graduating high school in her predicament could do...start a magazine!

To say that Livy Lynn was always a big dreamer would be a massive understatement. As a small child, she believed that every career under the sun was actually possible. She could train dolphins, breed racehorses, start a news station, and star in her own films—all while towing her ten baby dolls along!

Fast forward a few years, and the bleak realities of her high school and college years attempted to siphon her dreams to dust. Dreams that once sparkled and danced in her heart now sat barren and dormant. How could she possibly write and release novels when the chances of getting published were one in a million? How could she tell stories that touched hearts when she felt trapped in a tiny town with no opportunities? How could she live out her God-given dreams when the pressure to be wildly successful had her frozen in fear?

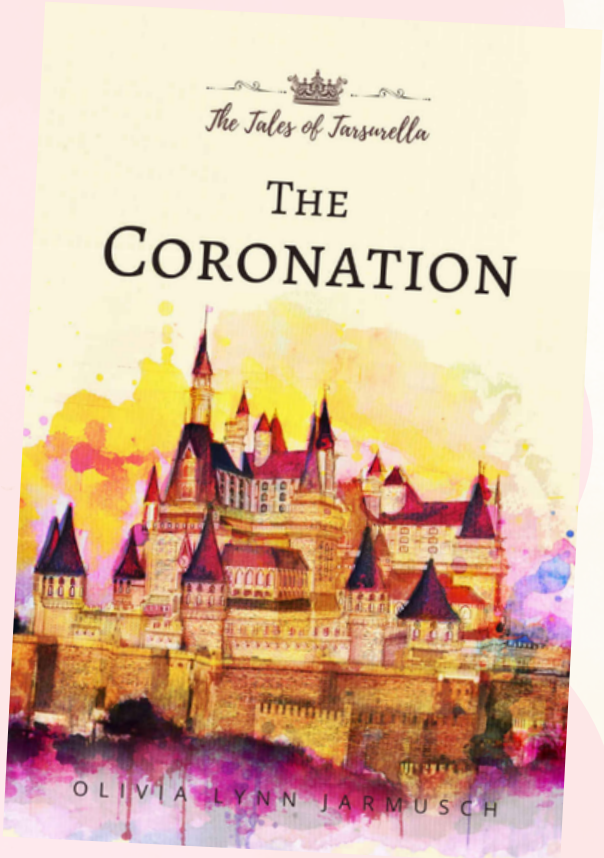
If you're on the verge of graduating High School, you can probably relate. When Livy asked God, "What am I supposed to do with my life?" she was hoping for a thunderous reply. "What is my mission and purpose? What is my calling?" Livy didn't know how she was supposed to choose just one thing and devote the rest of her life to executing it.



"For multi-talented, divergent, multi-interested individuals, the pressure to 'figure out what to do with your life' can feel wildly intense. That was me in high school. But one day, after praying**, I felt the Lord impress on my heart a simple thought: 'What would you *love* to do?'** And then, 'What's a problem you're passionate about solving?' Those two simple questions brought me so much freedom! I thought, 'I would love to run a magazine! And I would LOVE to encourage girls who struggle to believe and embrace their worth and royal identity in Christ!'"

And just like that, *Crown of Beauty* was born. Livy didn't wait for permission. She didn't wait for a dramatic word from Heaven to tell her what to do. She didn't wait until she had the finances, the teams, or the support. Just a girl, God, and her laptop, quickly building a thriving online community. Throughout her early twenties, Livy's vision began to change.

"As much as I loved everything that was happening at *Crown of Beauty*, I couldn't shake my desire to write fiction. Being a storyteller is just in my DNA; it's simply who I am! Whether it's through songwriting, novel writing, or interviewing someone about their God story, I just have to be creative! It's how God wired me! Once I discovered the magical world of independent publishing, everything shifted. I started writing and releasing novels like Alexander Hamilton, running out of time!"



Livy's debut novel, *The Coronation*, brought her writing dreams to life. *The Coronation* (Book #1 in *The Tales of Tarsurella*) follows a contemporary royal family on the verge of Prince Addison's coronation. (Think *The Princess Dairies* meets *The Sound of Music*!) The series follows Addison and his younger siblings (all seven of them!) as they navigate new relationships, discover God's will for their lives, and learn to guard their hearts.

"Once I got deep into writing *The Tales of Tarsurella*, I felt like God was transitioning me into a new season of being a full-time author. I had to surrender *Crown of Beauty* and lay it on the altar. It was hard. I had poured so much of my heart and life into building something, all to let it get burned to ash. When you spend years and years building a brand, it feels so weird when the website is taken down and all of your momentum dies. It's kind of like a funeral of sorts."

But Livy kept writing and releasing novels, working toward her goal of releasing all seven books in *The Tales of Tarsurella*. "Writing a seven-book series is crazy!" Livy laughed. "I don't exactly recommend it for your first project. *The Coronation* was the first draft I had ever finished in my life! To jump from that, to committing to a seven-book series, is kind of wild. But I learned so much through the process! I wrote dozens of other manuscripts that have yet to be published, and some never will, within the span of a few short years. I thought I would be working on this series until I was eighty, but somehow God gave me the grace to finish much sooner!" She laughed again.

"One of the hardest things about being a multi-passionate person is fighting off the temptation to chase down each new idea that pops into your mind! My brain feels like a twenty-four-seven idea generator, and I literally have hundreds of story ideas jotted down everywhere. It makes me a little sad that I'll never get around to all of them, but who knows, maybe one of my future children will want to carry the baton in a sort of Michael Landon, Michael Landon Jr. situation! But yeah, just staying focused can be challenging sometimes. When the new 'plot bunnies' hop into my mind, I have to pray for discernment on what to embrace and what to ignore."

One of those 'plot bunnies' that refused to be ignored, was *Regal Hearts*, a three-book sister series to *Tarsurella*.

"*Regal Hearts* was inspired by the craziest idea ever. One day, I asked myself, 'What would happen if a Princess, a Popstar, an Amish girl, and an average girl, were all separated at birth? What if these quadruplet sisters were all out living their own lives, and then one day they find out that their entire lives have been a lie, up to that point? What if they discovered that they were heiresses of a European monarchy, and the leader of their nation murdered their parents, and stole their crown?' I was like, 'Now that is a T.V. show I want to watch!' Regal Hearts was never actually supposed to be a book series. I've always seen it as a T.V. show, and I wrote the pilot episode for the script, but I was like, 'I live in a tiny town of five-thousand people in the middle-of-nowhere Northern Michigan. I don't see a super clear path to getting this greenlit anytime soon.' But the story wouldn't leave me alone. I thought, 'Even if just ten or twelve girls out there can experience the absolute joy and drama and excitement of what I'm seeing in my mind right now with this show, if they can experience it on paper, in the movie theater of their own imaginations, we can start to get the story out there, and come back around to produce the T.V. show in God's perfect timing!"

So Livy started *Regal Hearts Friday*, where she emailed her readers a new "episode" of *Regal Hearts* each week.

"The dream was for Friday to feel like the best day of the week. For 'viewers' to be on the edge of their seat, running home excitedly from school to see if the newest episode had landed in their inbox. The fact that this actually started happening was SUCH a dream come true!"

When asked what her biggest piece of advice is for other creatives out there, Livy said, "I just want girls to know that absolutely nothing is impossible with God! Dream seeds are precious and they're valuable, and God planted them in your heart for a purpose. They might be tiny, but you can't ignore them. God wants us to steward what He's given us, even if it's in a small way. If you dream of writing, write. If you have a message to share with the world, start a blog, get it out there. Don't wait for permission from a human. You already have full permission from God to fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples, by using the creative giftings He has placed inside of you! I could've stuffed my idea for *Regal Hearts* on the back burner and thought, 'Well, I don't have the budget and industry connections yet to make *Regal Hearts* come to life, so I'm just going to wait.' But that's not how things work in the Kingdom of God. The man in the parable of the sower who sat on the talent God gave him was rebuked for being wicked and lazy. Yikes. I want to use everything God has given me for His glory! When I die, I don't want anything left in me. I want to have poured it all out at His feet."

Today, Livy continues the tradition of "weekly episode releases" on her Substack, with *Regal Reign*, a continuation of the *Regal Hearts* saga. (Subscribe to read free, weekly chapters, here!)

As Livy's audience and readership began to grow, she was often asked the question by moms, "Do you have anything for my younger girls to read?"



"When I die, I don't want anything left in me. I want to have poured it all out at His feet."

Read Regal Reign for free!



Check out The Tales of Tarsurella on Amazon!

"I typically recommend *The Tales of Tarsurella* for ages thirteen and up. Even though all the romance is Christ-centered and pure, there are some more mature and dramatic topics, so I want parents to have a fair heads-up." Livy explained. "But writing Middle Grade is something that's always been on my heart, and I couldn't wait to get to that! So I basically wrote the series that I wish I would've had as a little girl and, funny enough, tried to write a version of when I was ten years old! I think that's why the *Chestnut Academy* series is so beloved by girls ages eight to twelve, because the original idea to have a horse school for girls in the heart of Kentucky came to me when I was ten and totally horse obsessed! I think something about that just feels super genuine and real for kids. Horse lovers of all ages can enjoy Princess Millie's adventures and dream about that horse they always wanted but never got to own!"

Following Jesus is an endless adventure. Whether you're on the verge of graduation, or you graduated years ago, we never stop learning, growing, changing, and maturing. Just when Livy was getting comfortable in her author life, God stirred those dusty old magazine dreams up once again!

"I had been in a season of praying for fresh vision and direction in my life, and all of a sudden, I woke up, dead out of my sleep, as my spirit literally exploded with vision. All at once, everything danced before my mind: Crown of Beauty Magazine! The electric covers, the gorgeous photoshoots, the unforgettable conferences...I could see it all. Everything I'd ever asked the Lord for all those years ago. Dreams I had literally forgotten about. It was all erupting back to life!"

God is in the business of restoring and awakening dreams. We can trust Him with our dreams in every form. Whether they're tiny seeds, brave little green sprouts pushing through the dirt, or mighty oak trees that are giving life to everyone around us, every seed has potential. No matter where we're at in our process, we can trust the Author! **When God gives you a dream, you can be sure that it will come to life in His perfect way and His perfect timing.**

Do you write

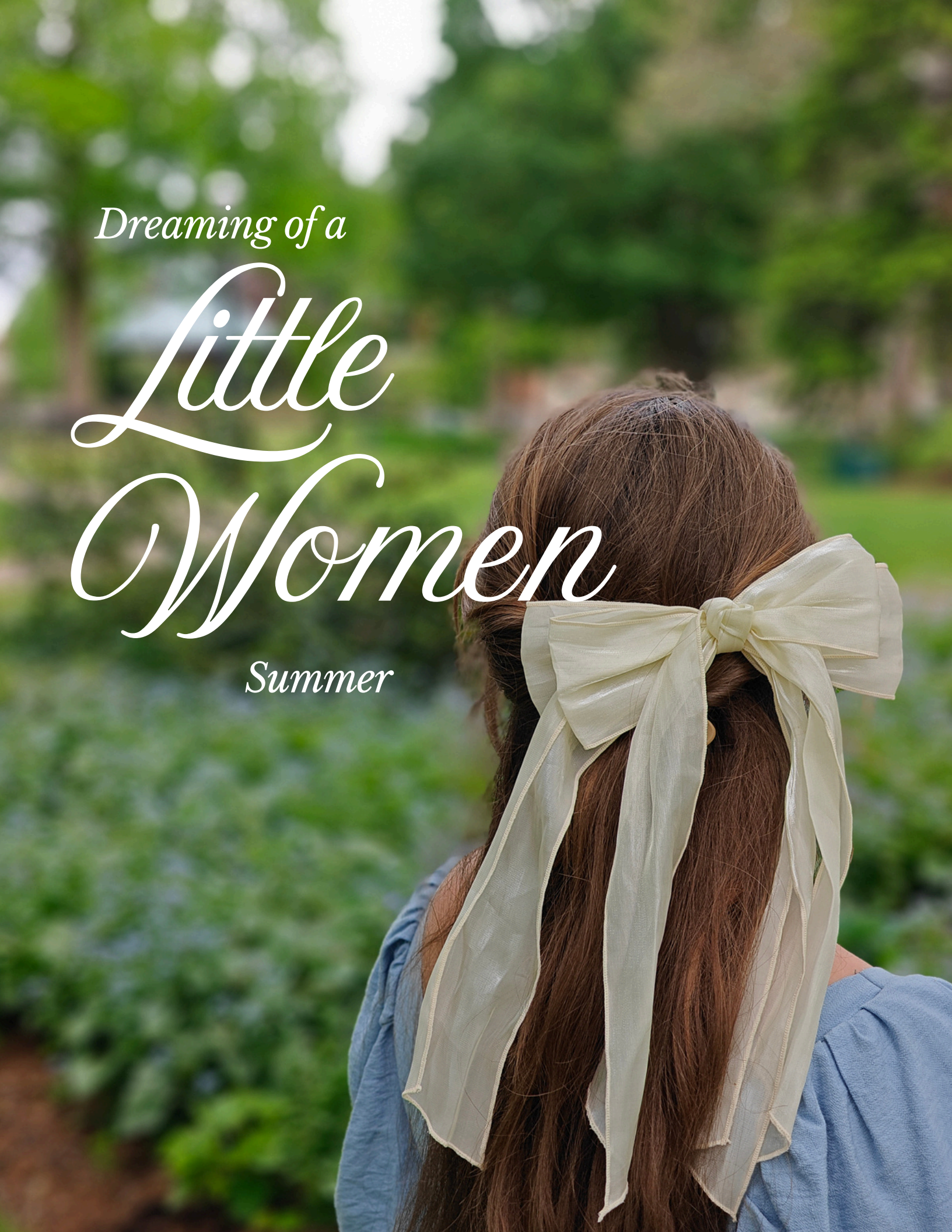
Christian Fiction



for teen girls & young women?

Submit your book to be featured on one of our future reading lists!
Our recomended reads are always read by someone on our team to ensure that our audience will love it!
Become one of our sponsors & help us reach even more girls!




Dreaming of a
Little Women
Summer



We all dream of diving into our favorite books and escaping there. Little Women is such a beloved novel, cherished by girls young and old throughout the ages. If you've never read Lousia May Alcott's classic novel, this is your sign to grab a copy!

Our Little Women Summer Checklist:

-Collect wildflowers and preserve them between book pages. Use them to decorate your journal or scrapbook.

-Write a short script, invite your friends or family members to star in it, and perform your production for the family!

-Start your own "Pickwick Club", with a newsletter, secret motto, and monthly meetings.

-Read under a tree for an entire afternoon. Stay outside long enough to lose track of time.

-Plant flowers in a small pot or dedicate a corner of your yard to a tiny cottage-style garden.

-Reach out to someone with an act of kindness in true "March Family" style. Leave flowers on a neighbor's porch, pay for someone's meal, or donate used clothes or books.

-Watch every version of *Little Women* and create a venn diagram to rank your favorite elements from each adaptation.

-Read *The Little Women Devotional* by Rachel Dodge.

-Sit outside and sketch what you see! No artistic talent required. Draw a tree, birdhouse, garden, or your favorite view.

-Choose a "Little Women" hobby to learn and practice this summer! Embroidery, crochet, watercolor painting, calligraphy, flower arranging, or baking!

-Take the "Jo March" Writing Challenge!
Draft one short story, one poem, and one journal entry every week this summer. By the end of the season, you'll have your own little collection of creative works.





Wear a pretty bow

"I like good strong words that mean something."
~Josephine March



Slow down & capture the moment





Get the creative juices flowing with these prompts! Set a timer for ten minutes and challenge yourself to write whatever comes to mind!

Little Women Inspired Writing Prompts:

-What if Jo said YES to Laurie's proposal?

-What if Amy said YES to Fred Vaugn, right before Laurie's proposal to her?

-What if Meg wasn't able to have children?

-What if Beth kept a secret diary, found by her family after her passing?

-What if Laurie wrote a letter to Beth, revealing secrets only meant for her?

Modern *Little Women*:
-Jo enters a national writing contest, only to discover that one of her biggest rivals is using AI to write her entry!

-Amy suddenly explodes with popularity on TikTok! How does she handle the sudden onslaught of fame? How does her family react?

-Meg is nannying some wild children, struggling to survive the day, when she gets an unexpected visit from the adorable John Brooke.

-Beth has a passion for songwriting, but she wouldn't dare play her music for a living soul outside of her home. When one of her sisters secretly uploads a video of her playing, her entire world is flipped upside down. A record label scout shows up at her doorstep!

-Laurie has been in the group chat with the March Girls for ages. But one day, he accidentally sends a voice message meant just for Jo, to the entire chat.

SUBMIT YOUR SHORT, *LITTLE WOMEN* THEMED STORY!
We're excited to read your submissions and will publish some of our favorites on our Substack! Scan the QR code below to fill out our story submission form!



Cherish a beloved book

Don a darling summer dress



Like something plucked straight from a sunlit chapter of Little Women, the Bleu Toile Dress feels as if it were made for wandering orchard paths, writing letters by the window, and reading beneath a willow tree.

Soft and airy with countryside charm, it's crafted from 100% breathable cotton and lined for comfort. Perfect for long days of storytelling, sketching, or day dreaming. A gentle elastic waist gives an easy, flattering shape, while the removable fabric belt allows you to style it as simply or as sentimentally as you please.

This dress simply wouldn't be complete without an element every heroine insists upon - pockets! Ready for picking wildflowers like Meg or tucking a half-finished poem inside like Jo, the Bleu Toile Dress perfectly captures the romance and childhood innocence of a Little Women Summer.

Explore The Skirt Society at theskirtsociety.com

A Little Women Summer

Clip Art










poem

A Little Women Summer

Which *March Sister* Are You?



Which March Sister Are You?

There's just something about summertime that feels like returning to the pages of your favorite novel. The sun rises earlier, golden hour stretches longer, and a little voice inside reminds us to slow down and savor every sweet blessing. One of our favorite novels here at Crown of Beauty is Little Women! Which of the March sisters are you most like? Take this quiz to find out!

1. I wake up and discover I've got the whole day to myself! How am I going to spend it?

A. Writing! There's truly nothing sweeter than spending a day tucked away with my pen.

B. With my family. Life is so busy. I cherish every moment I can with them.

C. It depends on my mood. If I've got the cash, shopping! Or wandering around an art store. Or painting, working on a craft project, or something fun at home!

D. Reading. I will be locked away for the next several hours, thank you very much!

2. My best friend won't stop yammering on about her church crush. How do I react?

A. If I can't distract her by changing the topic, I may take the more direct route of hitting her on the head with her Bible and reminding her that life doesn't revolve around boys!

B. I try to give her a little bit of wisdom, or a word of encouragement. Young love is fragile!

C. Pop the popcorn and brew the tea, because I am SO here for this! I want ALL the details!

D. I don't mind listening. She tells me everything, so if this is important to her, it's important to me.

3. There's a new girl in town that I would absolutely love to be friends with. How do I reach out to nurture the connection?

A. Set up a coffee meeting! Ask inquisitive questions, discover something we have in common, and talk about it!

B. I would be more comfortable inviting a new friend to a group setting, such as a girly get together or a family event, that way I don't have the pressure of carrying the whole conversation.

C. Host a themed party! Literally the best way to turn strangers into besties! Or, we could plan a fun activity, such as making pottery, so there's never a dull moment!

D. I don't. I will wait until she, or a mutual friend, invites me to something.

4. It's my night to pick the movie! Which one am I choosing?

A. Ahh, it's so hard to choose! I might go for adventure and action, or maybe a mystery, or a drama…or maybe something with all of those genres blended into one?!

B. I would choose a sweet romance. A cozy, sincere, thoughtful piece. Perhaps a period drama?

C. Something with a gorgeous aesthetic. The genre doesn't matter so much as the vibe, the visuals, the overall cinematic experience. I do love a good coming-of-age story.

D. I would enjoy a gentle, heartwarming story. Cozy, slice-of-life, animal stories, or even a musical!

5. If I had to choose just one quote to live by, I would pick:

A. "*You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose*." - Dr. Suess

B. "*There is no charm equal to tenderness of heart*." - Jane Austen

C. "*Beauty begins the moment you decide to be yourself*." — Coco Chanel

D. "*It is no bad thing to celebrate a simple life*." — J.R.R. Tolkien

6. I'm planning my dream birthday party! The theme is:

A. Something literary! I could totally see myself planning a Little Women, or Jane Austen themed bash. Attending in costume is a must!

B. An elegant, garden tea party. Beautiful and refined, with fresh flowers in vases, lacy a lacy tablecloth, and dainty finger treats.

C. Oh, it would have to be an Artistic Soiree! Think, Rapunzel energy, but more sophisticated.

D. My party would be simple and heartfelt, there probably wouldn't be a theme. I'm thinking tea, birthday cake, and sweet conversations.

7. My favorite Disney Princess is:

A. Mulan! Let's defeat those Huns!

B. Cinderella. Always and forever.

C. Princess Aurora. Romantic cottagecore? Sign me up.

D. Snow White. She is terribly underrated. A true gem.

If you got mostly...



A's: Josephine March
Your boundless imagination and fiery zest for life are truly unbridled!



B's: Meg March
Your sweet spirit and heart of gold are truly a treasure.



C's: Amy March
Your vivacious spirit makes you an absolute joy for others to be around!



D's: Beth March
Your kind, selfless soul makes your life a blessing to everyone you meet.



The Beauty and Battle of Sisterhood

When my brother was younger, he thought my sisters, mom, and I secretly tried to be the prettiest girl in the family. If we told Mama that she was beautiful, he was confused; why would we cheer for our competition?

Now as adults, we laugh at the idea. (And know Mama is always the prettiest.)

But what if we do have hearts of comparison when it comes to our sisters—birth sisters or faith sisters? How can we "love our [sisters] as ourselves" (Mark 12:31) and disciple (be a big sister to) younger girls in our lives?

The Battle

As a two-year-old, I asked God for a sister; He blessed me with one... then three more, and they've been some of the sweetest gifts. They've also been a means of character growth and taught me the beauty of grace.

I've learned (and still learn!) to live life with others, see their strengths and weaknesses, pray and forgive, be real, and cheer for my sisters.

Because before we were in Christ, we were like Sleeping Beauty—unable to resist the enemy because we were slumbering! When we let Jesus be our Master, we're given a higher calling:

"Do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." (Romans 13:11-12)

We're in a battle, and the enemy tries to make us fight against our fellow soldiers.

It's easy to let lies of comparison ("they're doing such-and-such better or worse than me") be arrows that pierce our joy and love for our sisters. The Church is under attack from the enemy, and God calls us to take up arms!

My sisters are warriors who fight alongside me. Why would I sleep in darkness when the enemy is like a roaring, destroying lion (1 Peter 5:8)?

We need a Prince Charming to wake us, and that Prince is Jesus!

It's easier to walk in darkness, chat only about casual things, and never get deep and vulnerable with others, but we're called to stand with and fight alongside the girls in our lives.

I challenge you to be a Princess Warrior.

.

Weapon #1: Pray:

When the Bible talks about the armor of God, it includes prayer.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)

Our sisters need prayer. (We do too!)

The enemy wants us to think no one struggles the way we do, but that's a lie.

Once, I texted a sister for prayer but later felt ashamed. "I should be strong enough to face things on my own," my mind chided me, but the truth is, sisters are honest with each other.

Later, the sister texted me a prayer request, and I was so happy to pray for her!

When you take that step to pour into younger sisters, start with prayer.

Find prayers in the Bible (I love Ephesians 3:14-21) or sit with Jesus and pray whatever He puts on your heart for them.

If there's a girl you struggle to forgive or love, pray for her too! God loves when we cast our burdens on Him because He cares for us.

Also, prayer blesses us. When the enemy attacks me with lies, I pray for other girls, and God uses it to encourage me!

Weapon #2: the Hard Questions

I remember the first time my older sibling asked me about my walk with God. I felt awkward and didn't know what to say. Now, I'm grateful he did the difficult thing.

True sisters are honest. They chat about fun, girlish things but don't stop there. They ask questions like, "How can I pray for you? What are you reading in the Bible? What's God teaching you?"

But it takes someone to go first.

If you want to fight the good fight of faith with a younger sister, don't be afraid of awkward silences. Some people need more time, and that's okay, but don't settle for surface-level relationships if they need an older sister.

Ask how they're doing, and wait for an answer. See how you can pray for them (then pray!) and check back on the request.

Be honest in return. Share the hard things (and answered prayers).

When God grew me and my siblings in this, it transformed our relationships. Instead of just living together, we fought the enemy together.

Weapon #3: be their Cheering Squad

The enemy wants us to live with "strife and envy" (Romans 13:13), but we're not going to listen.

Your younger sisters are unique, beautiful girls whom our Father yearns to call "daughters!"

My sisters include a: missionary, birth doula, ballerina, and a sweet, hug-giving 8-year-old, but beneath that is way more. They're encouraging, creative, can wrangle a herd of sheep, or cook a meal from the garden; the truth is, we're all different.





We follow Jesus, live healthy lives, organize, dress, even drive cars differently.

That's *beautiful*. Our family is complete because of the differing members who are unified in Jesus.

I challenge you: be a cheerleader.

Walk in the humility of Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11) and turn your eyes off yourself and onto that younger sister. Cheer for their strengths! Encourage them in their weaknesses! Embrace your differences!

Go fight, Princess

Romans 13:14 tells us to, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

What would it look like if Jesus poured into your younger sisters? It would start by spending time with our Heavenly Father.

Friend, you have sisters in your life—at your home, church, job, school, sports, or a letter away—and we're fighting until the day Jesus returns.

The joy is that with His Holy Spirit in us, we can know God! We can love His Word, pray, and seek His face, and *then*, we can be disciple-sisters. (one of my siblings calls it "sis-ciples")

I challenge you to let Jesus wake you up from your sleep.

Let's live life with, pray for, be open with, and encourage our younger sisters.

Let's be sis-ciples. ;)

About the Author:

Because of the grace of God, Hosanna Emily is a warrior poet: a warrior because God is her Father (which makes her a crazy-in-love princess) and she lives fighting to be faithful for the day Jesus' Kingdom will come and a poet because she loves beautiful, truth-filled words. Thus, she fills her journal with poetry, her blog with urges to live for Jesus, and then writes books on top of that—from fantasy to middle grade and more—stories to inspire radical living for the coming King who is worthy.

On a normal day, you may find her homemaking on the family farm, going on long walks, singing worship, cooking healthy food, playing Frisbee, randomly dancing the Virginia Reel, dreaming of Jesus' coming Kingdom, and enjoying life with her family of more than a dozen amazing people and her Church family of even more.

https://www.hosannaemily.com/

Walking in Wonder



Walking in Wonder

7 Tips for a *Whimsical Summer*

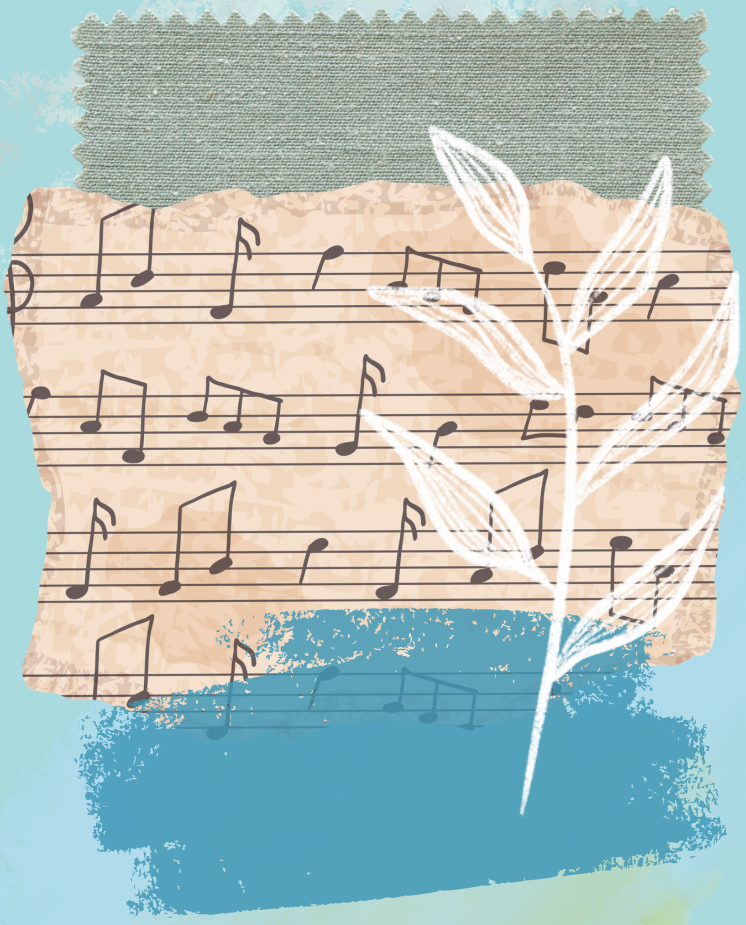
The sun is getting warmer, the days are getting longer, the grass is getting greener, and your smile is getting bigger. Summer's approaching like waves approaching the shore, and this one's yours for the taking! Looking to increase the whimsy of summer '26?
Here's 7 quick tips to make this season the summer of your dreams!

Written by Leila Ann
Illustrated by Isabel Grace

1. Make a Whimsy Playlist

This will always be my number one recommendation, because your life can't be a movie without a killer soundtrack.

A whimsy playlist can look like anything: your favorite romcom soundtracks, your favorite Disney songs (bonus points if they're summer songs from Teen Beach Movie or High School Musical 2!), your favorite worship songs (Abbie Gamboa, anyone?), or just the most upbeat girlypop songs you can find!



2. Take Your Artsy Little Self Outside

It may sound childish, but drawing with chalk is one of the best whimsical summer activities I can think of! Draw an elegant flower, a delicious ice cream cone, or your favorite Bible verse in pretty cursive!

Or, if chalk isn't your forte, plan a pretty picnic, bring your journal to your favorite view of the water, or go on a color walk—taking aesthetic pictures of the color of your choice. Whatever it is, get some fresh air and activate the artist inside.

3. Get Up and MOVE

This one has never been my favorite, but every time I exercise my body, I grow in understanding why it's important. Our bodies were made to be active!

But the beautiful thing is that they're also made completely uniquely—so active for you can look entirely different than active for someone else. Whether you love walking, biking, running, jump-roping, playing volleyball, pickleball, basketball, golf, pilates, swimming, or anything else, your body and your mind will thank you. Make this a summer of movement!

4. Plan on People

As a recovering introvert, it's easy for me to want to always spend my time off by myself. But if your friends or your family are healthy relationships in your life, their company will literally be refreshing to your soul —you need it! You need laughter, adventure, conversation, and understanding. On your best days and your worst days, I promise you need people.

So when life gets busy (like it tends to in the summer!), plan on people. Set plans weeks in advance, or set recurring plans every week or every month. Whatever it is, however often, make sure you're making time to be refreshed by life-giving souls! People can be one of our biggest blessings.

5. Allow Yourself to Feel...Deeply

Don't be afraid of emotions. King David brought all his emotions before God. God is big enough to handle them!

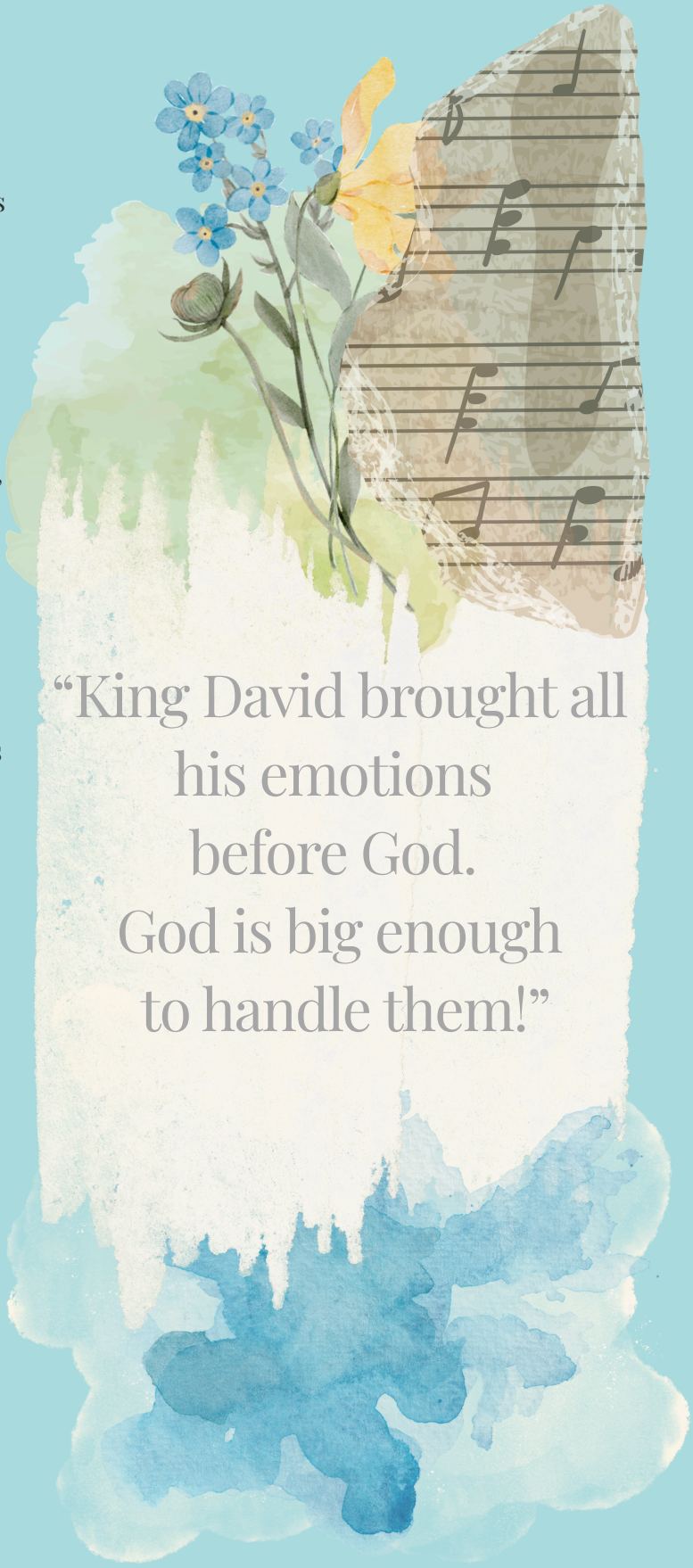
A full summer will never be truly lived if it's lived artificially. If you're pushing down what you're truly feeling, attempting to distract yourself with your phone and endless activities, it's time to unplug.

If your heart feels heavy, if you're struggling to keep a good attitude, and it feels like everything that "should" be making you happy is covered by a heavy raincloud, it's time to process what you're feeling!

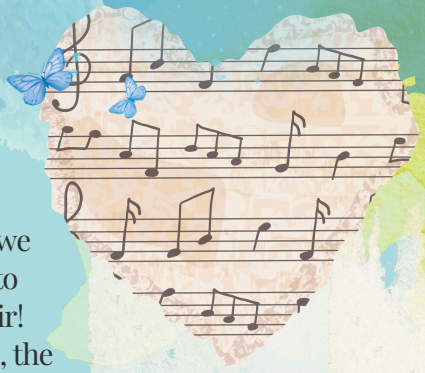
Go on a prayer walk. Have a conversation over coffee with a trusted friend. Journal. Lay quietly in the sun. It's scary and hard and sometimes there are tears, but I promise that it's good. You can trust God with your emotions!

6. Breathe

It's so simple, and yet it's so neglected. When was the last time you breathed in the fresh air? Not because you need it to survive, but because it fuels you to live?







God made His creation for us to enjoy. How often do we stop to really take in that blessing? This summer, try to step outside every night and breathe in the evening air! Maybe it smells like conversations around a campfire, the calm after a rainstorm, or freshly mowed grass. Whatever it is, it's pure and it's revitalizing.

Fill your lungs, and remember the joy of Jesus and the beautiful life He's given you this summer.

7. Draw Near to Jesus

Last one, best one. If you do nothing else on this list, do this, and you'll find the whimsy, joy, and satisfaction you've been longing for!

Spend every free thought on a, "Hey, Jesus, I love you. Thanks for this yummy donut, this light breeze, this new water bottle."

Use your time to talk to Him, and use more time to listen to Him and learn from His Word. Fall in love with God's Word—it's the best book out there. The Psalms are full of whimsy, and heartache, and everything in between... perfect for reading in a park. Spend your summer of whimsy and wonder in the center of Jesus' heart; there's no better way!

So what are you waiting for? Turn off your phone, grab your journal and your sunglasses, and embrace that romcom-main-character energy.

"Spend your summer of whimsy and wonder in the center of Jesus' heart; there's no better way!"



Our Summer Fiction Reading List Must Have:

Rising Warrior



It's well known throughout Thedessa that Dictator Odin Ishard killed the heirs to the kingdom and the elite team of knights accompanying them–including Alyth Renley's father. Now a lady-in-waiting to the queen, Alyth plots the demise of the man who killed her family.

The only problem?
While a skilled archer, she needs more skill to defeat the cunning dictator. She has to join the King's Guard– the elite team of knights her dad was in– to gain the skills needed...or risk losing her societal status trying.

Through incredible circumstances, Alyth manages to be accepted into the Guard. Just days later, Thedessa is invaded by Ishard, and when the kingdom falls, Alyth is forced to flee into the deadly Seocca Woods with a group of knights to raise aid before their kingdom is lost completely.

When Alyth has the opportunity to kill the man who destroyed her life, will she choose to satisfy her craving for revenge, or save the lives of those around her?

One lady-in-waiting.
One dictator.
A fierce desire for revenge.

EXPLORE MORE!


Connect with the artist!
@eirenebewithyou
&
ko-fi.com/eirenebewithyou

So why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field:

they neither *toil* nor *spin;*

and yet I say unto that even Solomon

in all his glory

was not arrayed like one of these.

Now if God so clothes the grass of the field

which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,

will He not much

more clothe you, O you

of little faith?

LUKE 12:27



YOU WERE MADE YOU WERE MADE FOR SO MUCH MORE THAN TO SCROLL YOUR SUMMER AWAY!

NEXT TIME YOU'RE TEMPTED TO GRAB YOUR PHONE AND KILL SOME TIME, TRY THESE TIPS!

Set a Timer for Fifteen Minutes

Set boundaries for your screen time. Our brains love novelty, excitement, and inspiration. We often scroll on social media platforms with the purpose of finding joy or a new idea to amuse us. Our brains crave dopamine, and we've trained ourselves to get a "quick hit" in hopes of landing on a video or post that will make us smile or laugh. We need to set limits for ourselves and realize that endless scrolling is much like playing the slot machines at a gambling hall. It's easy to become addicted to the feeling of, "Ooo, I don't know what's going to pop up next, I want MORE", and become sucked into apps and websites designed to steal our attention.

Scroll Thoughtfully

The problem with scrolling for large chunks of time, is that we're not taking time to *process* what we're actually consuming. Most forms of media, such as books, TV shows, and movies, give us ample time to digest what we're engaging with.

But with social media, as information arrives so quickly, much of it never gets deeply processed or stored in long-term memory. It's far-too-easy to waste minutes, if not *hours* of our day, on trivial things that aren't bringing any true value to our lives. If you follow fun creators who produce shortform content you adore, try this next time you pick up your phone: Grab your notebook and a pen, and after each video watched or post read, ask yourself some questions and journal the answers! *Why did I enjoy that video? How did I feel while watching it? What can I learn from it? Is there something I can apply to my life? Did it bring me value?*

Taking the time to slow down and do an audit of what you're consuming will dramatically change the way you view and interact with social media!

Value Your Time

What if it cost you one dollar per hour to use Instagram, or your favorite social media platform? Imagine for a moment that what you give your attention to, costs you something. Would the fifteen minutes you spend, be worth fifteen dollars to you? Or would your rather spend fifteen dollars on a book, a movie, or a coffee date with a friend? The truth is, our time is wildly valuable, and how we spend it matters!

Create More Than You Consume

Give yourself a challenge this summer! Keep track of every minute spent on social media. At the end of the week, total up the hours spent, and then spend that same amount of time *creating* something new! As God's daughters, we were designed to create FAR more than we consume! Be a life-giver! Create, design, and pour into those around you!

Be a Flâneur

A *flâneur* is "a leisurely wanderer, someone who idly strolls about with no particular destination in mind. The word comes from 19th leisurely France, evoking all the luxury of being unhurried."

Next time you're tempted to grab your phone for entertainment or inspiration, *scroll* somewhere else...wander through your backyard, stare up at the clouds. *Scroll* through your journals and reflect on past thoughts and prayers. *Scroll* through your memories and write an old friend a letter. *Scroll* though a magazine or pretty photobook. Be a flâneur and take a few minutes to leisurely wander through life....not your phone!

Go on a "Micro Learning" Sidequest

Challenge yourself to spend fifteen minutes learning something new, instead of scrolling. As mentioned before, our brains love novelty and discovering new things. Make a short list of things you would enjoy learning about. Take yourself to the library and check out some books on the topic, add YouTube videos or documentaries about the subject to a playlist, and make the materials and information easy to access! Next time you're tempted to scroll, you can learn how to bake, unlock a new language, master the art of storytelling, or develop your photography skills!

Schedule a "Thinking Date" with Yourself

Deep, reflective thinking, is super important for cultivating healthy brain activity and Godly patterns of thought. In a digital world that's teaching us to rapidly switch attention between tasks, notifications, and social media, *we need to know how to slow down and think*. Dr. Caroline Leaf, a Christian neuroscientist talks about the importance of "thinker moments"—periods when you're *not* consuming content and instead are reflecting, daydreaming, journaling, praying, or simply thinking and processing things with God. True growth doesn't happen while consuming information. It happens when we stop, reflect on what we've experienced or learned, and intentionally engage with our own thoughts. So set a "no phone allowed" date with yourself! Go to a bookstore, coffee shop, library, the park, etc. and ask questions!

Going Analog

Clip Art

Grab your journal and a pair of sissors and enjoy this adorable clipart from:
-Baileigh's Brush @baileighsbrush (page 68)
-Nita Design Co @nitadesignco (page 70)
Go support these amazing artists!
Baileigh: www.etsy.com/shop/BaileighsBrush
Nita: nitadesignco.com
Rebi: (Adorable seamless patterns, pg 26 & 51!) @rebireads on Instagram

Submit Your Art!



Want your art to be featured in the next issue of *Crown of Beauty Magazine*?
We're looking to work with more artists and illustrators!
This magazine wouldn't be what it is without *you*, using your amazing God-given gifts for His glory! Scan the QR code to be added to our "Artists Wanted" email list!


Chosen
Loved
Worthy
The
Holy
Bible
In His Image


SAVED BY GRACE
JESUS IS MY SUNSHINE



MEET OUR

COVER GIRL

Meet our cover girl, Olivia! This bubbly, Jesus-loving Princess, works in entertainment at Walt Disney World, and has a passion for music, dancing, and spreading the love of Jesus everywhere she goes!

Favorite Disney Princess: That's a very tough question! If I had to choose, it would probably be Rapunzel because she's very creative and free spirited! I relate to Rapunzel. She's also a blonde princess with blonde hair, so that makes sense, haha!

Fun Random Fact: I'm a bit of a dare devil. I think I was maybe eighteen or nineteen when I went skydiving in Colorado fourteen thousand feet above sea level and loved it!

Advice for Christians in the Entertainment Industry:
Don't change who you are when you go into that world. It's so easy to get into a space like entertainment where I work, and you see everyone coming from different walks of life, and it's easy to want to change part of yourself to fit someone else's convictions, and it's easy to want to conform to that. Number one is don't change who you are to try to fit what someone else believes. Just speak life wherever you go! Don't be afraid to speak about Jesus. Of course it's tough because people don't believe the same thing that you believe, but reach out by saying, "Let me pray for you about that", or "I'll be praying for you about that". Find ways to incorporate Christ into your conversations. Always remain positive and have a joyful spirit when you're talking to people. That makes a huge, huge difference!

My Big Dream:
Right now where I'm at with Disney as a performer I do a lot of dancing and such, but I think in the future though, I would love to sing with Disney somehow! Whether that's a movie role, or for the fireworks show, or something in entertainment would be a dream come true! I would love to release a full album of original music at some point as well! An E.P. is the goal I'm pushing towards.

History Behind 'Before I Meet You':
I wrote this song called 'Before I Meet You'. As young women, everyone dreams of finding her Prince Charming and getting married and riding off into the sunset! Coming from a place of a couple very tough relationships in the past and walking out of those, I realized that in order to be in a relationship that pushes you toward Christ, the young man has to make a decision to choose Christ first—before me. I've been in places where the gentlemen has made choices for my sake and it shouldn't be for that reason, it should be for Christ. The main thing is for him to be making choices to strive to honor Christ before he decides to pursue a relationship with me.

Follow @jesusfreak_ballerina



Stream *Before I Meet You* on Spotify!

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Sisterhood



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