

Young girls and boys grow up with the idea that their life will be wonderful, and I was no exception. I believed I would marry, have children, and do something important with my life.

Deleted: that ...her life will be wonderful, - (...)

My mother always said, "You are here on Earth today for a reason." Although I was unsure of what that reason would be, I have held onto those words my entire life.

Comment [All Ivy1]: When used as a proper name, Earth should be capitalized. "Plants grow in earth; Earth is a planet, just like Venus and Jupiter."

Deleted: e

Deleted: though I was unsure what that purpose would be

Deleted:

In 1990, I was young and ready to strike out and see what life had to offer. I worked for a publishing company owned by longtime family friends, I enjoyed the job and found it to be fulfilling. I liked working and learned quickly that a strong work ethic was respected—an ideology that influenced who I would become. The publishing office was extremely stressful; its culture emphasized a philosophy of overachievement. I went from being a young, 19-year-old girl to a business woman within a very short time.

Comment [All Ivy2]: Changed to avoid redundant use of the word "work."

Deleted: that

Deleted: long time

Deleted: owned

Deleted: work,

Deleted: it was

Deleted: and this ...influenced who I would (...)

During this period of my life, I started dating the man who would ultimately become my

husband. We were at very different places in our lives, and, looking back, it was much like a merger of two companies. I was a savvy, high-energy go-getter, ready to get things done and done quickly—no excuses. He was a newly graduated doctor, ready to use his skills to help and heal others. Together, we were a team committed to getting his new practice up and running.

Deleted: ,

Deleted: the ... savvy, high-energy savvy ...o- (...)

Comment [All Ivy3]: No hyphen necessary after words ending in "-ly."

Deleted: -

Deleted: -

Deleted:

Deleted: on

Deleted: to

Deleted: with enthusiasm

Deleted: but

Deleted: while

Deleted: ed

Deleted: ing ...to work at the publishing compa (...)

Deleted: . Still,

Deleted: of ...he real journey laying (...)

I enthusiastically took the task of helping him build his business while continuing to work at the publishing company. At the time, I thought it would be the most difficult period in my life. I worked 70 hours per week, yet struggled to stay afloat financially. I had no idea the real journey lay waiting for me four short years down the road.

Comment [All Ivy4]: Lay in this context is correct as we are speaking of past years.

Deleted: in

Deleted: that every ...any young couples (...)

Deleted: ,

Deleted: ... We had a lot of love, (...)

Deleted: coming ...rom extended (...)

Deleted: ¶

My husband, Rick, and I started our family with all the hopes and expectations many young couples experience. We welcomed our first daughter in 1997. I found motherhood a wonderful, though somewhat overwhelming experience. We had a lot of love but little money, and financial support from family was not a practical reality. We lived as many young families

do, with ups and downs. Stress was ever present, both in business and our finances. Several subsequent miscarriages took a heavy toll on us emotionally.

- Deleted: the form of
- Deleted: the
- Deleted: related
- Deleted: our
- Deleted: , and
- Deleted: but
- Deleted: also
- Deleted: in the
- Deleted: form of
- Deleted: emotional strain of
- Deleted: ress as we experienced
- Deleted: several

Deleted: ¶