

Skipping Through Life, The Reason I Am

Skipping Through Life interprets a life span in vignettes, the bits and pieces that makeup the chronicle of a life but not necessarily in the order lived. It is a collective narrative of one woman's journey through life; learning where she is, where she's going and why, as the author describes the delightful, the sad, and the painful aspects of becoming a complete person. Readers will easily relate to epics of love, physical abuse, and comedic episodes. Childhood memories, career development, and stories of the heart are what makes *Skipping Through Life* captivating reading.

The memoir begins with "Daddy," a story of abuse by a father whose frustrations are extended to his daughter. With no outlet for his diverse skills, he instead uses physical abuse as a cover for his misplaced insecurities. One day the daughter is fed up that her only option is to kill him in retribution for the love that is lost. In the same compelling vein, the author tells of her mentor who teaches her the ways of men and women in relationships, the ups and downs, and the ins and outs of developing from a girl to a woman.

Then there is the story of life or death. What did the author think when she had to decide if she wanted to live or die? After being comatose for two weeks, the author travels through a maze of reality and recovery, never regaining the weeks lost. Questions of what happen, why me, where do I go from here are confronted in "Before . . . and After." Because people have many different tragedies in their lives, in "Have You Seen My Sister?", a tale of abuse often suffered by families is told as the author talks of a sibling who is a high end drug user.

On the lighter side of life, the author expounds on looking for a mate in "The Personal Ads," laying the sod in a front yard in "The lawn," to adjusting to partials in "New Teeth." The stories tell of wishing, learning, and laughing as she faces life's challenges. From becoming a mother in "Challenge Me with Motherhood" to remembering friendships in the good old school days in "puberty," the author reviews individual moments of her life — the pints in time that define her as she is today.

There are serious and humorous sagas in *Skipping Through Life*, from childhood antics to mid life changes, stories that will give readers a sense of "I've been there" as they cry and laugh while thumbing through the pages.