

Chapter 2



My Childhood

Suffer the little children to come unto Me (Mark 10:13-14)

When I was a little girl I had the same dream over and over again. I dreamt that I was a white old man with big hands, I saw in front of me a big scroll and when I unrolled it I saw different diagrams and formulas. There were arrows pointing at different diagrams with a description. I understood absolutely everything that was on this canvas. But when I woke up I was Michelle once again. And the vision would fade in to nowhere in which it came. I was no longer this man, I was a little girl in this terrible scary house hold.

~O~

I remember sitting in the bath tub and pouring shampoo all over my body I loved the way it felt across my skin as I moved around in the water making bubbles. My mother yelled don't waist the shampoo shelly. I heard her but I did it anyway every chance I got.

I loved the feeling of the water surrounding me the warmth felt so good. And the way it moved when I stirred it around with my hands. I even loved the sound when it was filling up in the bath tub, where was the water coming from? It must be magic I thought as Water rushed over my feet under the spout. It felt so good, what a unique feeling.

~O~

I would get so sick sometimes vomiting out of control. Seems like it would happen before bed. My mother would say I had a cold. But the only symptom I had was vomiting. Sometimes I would still be vomiting though nothing was coming out.

~O~

I remember as a little girl we had a garden and I was picking bugs out of the ground, my mother had a dream of having a garden and so as a family we dug dirt sifting through the soil. I just kept picking bugs out of the dirt, they were in their cocoons, in some cases I could see them moving around inside their cocoon. How amazing. I never feared that the bugs would bite me or sting me, the only fear I had was of my own parents.

~O~

One day my mother called me into the kitchen, I have a surprise for you. She opened the cupboard and there hung a long bread paddle. This has your name on it. When you're a bad girl you are going to be spanked with it. I remember being beaten by the bread paddle when ever I did something wrong, but I was always doing something wrong even though I wasn't doing anything at all. If I wasn't being threatened by the paddle I was being hit by it.

~O~

As A child I was so afraid of every thing. Even sleeping. While I tried to sleep, the shadows seemed to move around in my room, and I would just lie there and stare into the darkness, afraid of what might get me. I remember having terrible pain in my legs that wouldn't subside. They would just ache and ache all night long. I didn't know why. I thought it was because I was growing, getting bigger and these were growing pains. I didn't dare scream from the pain, for I knew I would get spanked by my stepfather. I couldn't go to my mother because she was sleeping with him. If I opened the door, I knew he would wake up, but there was no way to ignore the pain. I just laid there with my teeth clenched waiting to wake up.

~O~

I remember when I would lay down to sleep I would hear the sound of marching in my ears, at times I would deliberately listen to that sound and it would put me to sleep.

~O~

My mother would read us grimes fairy tails before bed. One night there was a big mosquito flying around the room, it landed on my arm. I screamed. It was huge maybe because I was so small. Mother said don't be such a chicken she smacked my arm and continued reading.

~O~

I remember when I was watching my mother making icing she let me lick the egg beater after she was done whipping the icing. I don't remember what I said I just remember saying mother, and she smacked me across my face. I could still taste the icing in my mouth as the tears rolled down my face.

~O~

I could never go to tell my parents because they were the ones I feared. There was never a time that they made sure I was okay. They were the ones hurting me, They were the pain in my life, I tried my best to stay away from them, when ever they called my name it seemed every muscle in my body would tighten and my heart would race. Am I going to get spanked? What did I do, oh no what did I do?

~O~

The only cartoon I loved was called Kimba the wild Lion.

~O~

Mother used to call me squidget because when I was a baby I would always move around. And she would call Steven squirt because when he was a baby apparently he peed on her when she was changing his dipper.

~O~

I remember one day a neighbor (an old man) asked me to come into his house.

Neighbor: Do you want to see my baby rabbit?

I shook my head yes. I followed him inside his home. He smiled at me and then sat down at the kitchen table.

Neighbor: Come over here

He said while patting his knee. I just stood there looking at him, I felt very uncomfortable. I ran out of his house. My parents just happened to be in their car. Which was a Monte Carlo. Michelle where have you been, get into the car. The old man was right behind me, and waved at my parents. I never said a thing, I didn't know what just happened to me.

~O~

Ray was molesting me from time to time. Whenever Mother would leave us alone he would have me lie on the sofa with my head on a small pillow between his legs on his genitals. He would pivot his hips while stroking my head, pushing it down on the pillow. This would last as long as Mother was gone. She deliberately tried to keep me away from Ray, but there were times that it just couldn't be avoided.

~O~

I remember the first time I ever held a baby. Friends of the family came over to visit. I asked if I could hold the baby. When no one was looking, I took the baby out side behind a fence. I ducked down so no one could see and I pulled her diaper down and I touched her between her legs. Was it curiosity? Was it because it had been done to me? I had a feeling that what I was doing was wrong, so I stopped touching her and went back inside the house. I then gave the baby back to her mother.

~O~

There was never a time when either of my parents said I am proud of you, or bragged about me, I was never praised for anything. I was never talked to in a gentle way, never told I was special, or that I was loved. Never was I shown any affection, My hand was never held, my face was never kissed. I was only given orders, scolded or spanked, I was never told that I was a good kid. No one ever paid attention to me while I grew up. My parents never spoke to me in any type of normal conversation. They never asked me how I was feeling about anything, or if I was happy, or if I needed anything. Or if there was anything I wanted. I was just there like a pet that they put up with.

~O~

I remember a beautiful small old woman who lived across the street in a two story home with her sister. I loved seeing her out side. I would run up to her and talk to her. She asked me if I would like to come inside her home there were windows surrounding the entire room it was huge and on the table was set with tea cups and coasters everything was lined in white lace. It was so beautiful.

Old Woman: What is your name?

She asked in a soft voice.

Me: Michelle

Old Woman: Where do you live Michelle?

Me: Across the street.

Old Woman: Where are your parents?

Me: Across the street.

Old Woman: Oh.

She walked around the room speaking soft words about nothing. When ever she would pass me on her walking around the room she would touch my elbow and smile at me. A few minutes would pass and she would ask me the very same questions she did before. What is your name? Where do you live? And Where are your parents?

~O~

I was always embarrassed, though I don't know why. I was shy and quiet. I didn't let anyone see or hear me do anything like going to the bathroom. My heart would beat right out of my chest when I had to go to any public bathroom. What if someone heard me? What would they think of me? I couldn't eat in front of people either. What if they watched me eat? I was

afraid of being too noisy, too messy. I feared they would laugh at me. I was in a constant state of anxiety. I was afraid of people and felt I needed to hide. I kept my hair in my face, Mother would always pull it back with barrettes and bobby pins, but as soon as I could I would take out, I was shy and didn't want anyone to see my face.

~O~

I was watching an episode of MASH. I wanted to see what happened next, I was so intent. My mother interrupted the program by telling me to go across the street to a neighbors house to tell them something. Saying no or wait was never an option for me, I had no voice. So I ran thinking if I ran fast enough I would make it in time to see what happened next. But in my rush, I tripped and fell in the middle of the street. Right in front of a car. I heard screeching of tires and in a moments time I heard my mother screaming "Shelly!" Of course I had to sit in the corner for hours think of what I did wrong.

~O~

I remember going to the grocery store with a dime, and getting an ice cream, I remember standing in line and hearing a man buy cigarettes for 55 cents. At school to call home was a dime.

~O~

I was 10 when I first inhaled cigarette smoke. Raymond had a cousin named Danny, He was about 21.

Danny: Have you ever smoked

Me: No

Danny: Here try this

He let me take a drag off of his cigarette, I felt faint and nauseous, why I ever continued is beyond me. After awhile when ever Danny would come around I would ask him if I could take a drag off his cigarette, and he would let me. He actually showed an interest in me. One day he was weaving a flower pot holder and I watched, he then turned to me and asked.

Danny: Would you like to learn how to do this?

Me: Yes.

And he taught me so patiently. I liked him he always had soft words for me. One day I was out side my bedroom window it was coming off, Danny asked me what I was doing, I told him that sometimes the window comes apart and I fix it, he offered to help me put it back in.

Danny: Has that happened before?

Me: It happens all the time.

Danny: Do your parents know about it?

Me: No, when it comes apart I fix it.

My mother since we were born would save coins of the year Steven and I were born in separate glass piggy banks, she left the banks in the kitchen cabinet.

The family went to go camping and while we were gone Danny broke into the house through my bed room window and took those piggy banks.

Mother realized that the banks were stolen because apparently Danny in his haste dropped and broke one of the banks and didn't bother cleaning up after himself though he did take the change with him. Mother knew it was him though I said nothing about the window. She went straight to his apartment (efficiency) with Steven and I.

She knocked on the door.

Danny: Come in

He was sitting on his bed which was his living room there lying next to him was magazines with naked beautiful woman.

Mother: I know it was you. I don't think it's a good idea that you come around

The house any more.

As she walked out of the apartment.

Mother: Come on kids

I turned to Danny and waved good bye, he smiled and waved back at me. And from that day on I never saw him again.

~O~

Raymond had a friend named Little Nicki that used to walk the alley ways. When ever he saw Steven and I he would always wave at us and smile. He was an old class mate of Raymond's they went to high school together. Nicki was a handsome man, and he seemed nice. I was told that he lived on the streets, I asked my mother.

Me: Where does he sleep?

Mother: On the ground I would imagine.

Nicki would always ask Raymond for money when ever he saw him, and Raymond would reach into his pocket and give him some. This went on for years but then one year around the forth of July something happened, Mother told me that Little Nicki was run over by a truck. The driver didn't realize that Nicki was sleeping under it and the driver rolled right over him crushing him under the tires. Nicky was the only person I saw Raymond have any compassion for.

~O~

Steven was afraid of loud noises, Raymond used to yell when Steve would cup his hands over his ears and cry. "Quit acting like a little baby"

~O~

We had company, there was a woman sitting on our sofa with a dress on. Mother was in the kitchen as she always was, Raymond ran his hands right up this woman's thighs, I stood there and could see the tension on the woman's face. "Stop that Raymond" she said he did it again and she repeated "Stop that Raymond" a moment later mother walked into the room both of them acted like nothing had happened.

~O~

Raymond would hang out with the neighbor and his wife. Mother would go absolutely crazy crying and screaming at him. Telling him to come home.

Raymond did as he wanted when ever he wanted and no matter how much my mother screamed and cried he still did as he pleased. The neighbors were always partying, they had a daughter and their daughter was always dirty, no one seemed to clean her up, and her teeth were black and dirty. I didn't understand much but I did know that something was different about her teeth.

~O~

I remember my mother had a friend and we were all sitting around the living room listening to Karen Carpenter. I loved the music I was hearing, we listened to the entire album, what a voice. She showed me the picture on the album of Karen and her brother. It was so beautiful.

~O~

I usually went to school hungry because my mother always seemed to make oatmeal. It had the consistency of paste, I couldn't eat it, she would dress it up with brown sugar, sometimes she made cream of wheat, but for some reason I couldn't eat it. She would yell at me and tell me I wasn't going to be excused from the table unless I ate whatever was on my plate. She would stand there and watch me, until I cried and then at times she had me put this paste in my mouth as I cried. Almost as if she was enjoying my misery. I was sent to school with a sandwich and a dime for milk the sandwich would never reach the campus I would eat it before I ever got to school. I would be so hungry by the time I got home that I would climb over the fence in the neighbors back yard and pick the green apricots off of his tree. I always ate them even though they weren't ripe. I couldn't wait I was so hungry. We had a lemon tree in the back yard and I would also pick the lemons and eat them too. I ate whatever I could from around the neighborhood. After a few years of this I acquired a taste for green apricots.

~O~

I touched a flower off of a bush and a girl from my class told me now I was going to die, she said that it was a deadly plant. she acted horrified, which made me believe her all the more. I ran around the classes trying to find help. I ran into my first grade teachers class and told Mrs. Lucy the bad news.

Me: I touched a deadly plant, I am going to die.

Mrs. Lucy: Here let me take a look.

She held my hand

Mrs. Lucy I don't see anything. You are not going to die.

Me: But I was told that I touched a deadly plant.

Mrs. Lucy: Who told you that.

Me: A girl from my class.

Mrs. Lucy: She said that just to scare you and it worked, don't give it a second

thought, your just fine dear.

She smiled at me and sent me on my way. I never forgot the cruelty of the little girl, or the kindness of Mrs. Lucy.

~O~

I was in the park one day and a man was playing there with a little boy, he was swinging the little boy, when he put him down he asked me if I wanted to swing I said I wasn't sure, he said lay down and so I did hesitating he grabbed my ankle and my wrist and lifted me off the ground at first he was swinging me slow as he was turning circles. But then he went faster and faster, I screamed "Stop!" he started laughing and the louder I screamed the more he laughed, he didn't stop spinning me until he lost his energy. He dropped me and I just laid there. The sky was spinning, I tried to stand up, but I couldn't I fell back to the ground. The feeling was still there. I was so dizzy, Days later as I would sleep I would see a red and white top, spinning and spinning and spinning.

~O~

My mother used to hold her hand out in front of me with her fingers spread open.

Mother: Put your hand in mine.

Me: I don't want to.

She would continue holding it out there till I complied. Weaving my fingers into hers. And then she would squeeze them until I would scream. She would do that ever so often. Why? I don't know.

~O~

I was in swimming classes and really enjoyed the water. I was told to swim back and forth, and I did it, It was so fun, I was also taught to dive off of the diving board. I enjoyed the feeling of freedom as I swam. It was hard to learn at first, but I am very happy that I learned how to swim, because the feeling of being surrounded by water and just cutting through it with my hands, well there is just nothing like it in all the world.

~O~

My mother gave me a little black purse. I took that purse with me to the general store, and there I helped myself to a few chocolate bars. I got away with that three times I loved it. I didn't realize it was wrong until the man behind the counter yelled, "What do you think your doing?" I grabbed my purse and ran out of the store never to do that again. I asked God to forgive me.

~O~

While I was in school I learned a song, "You are my sun shine, my only sun shine you make me happy when skies are grey. You'll never know dear how much I love you, please don't take my sun shine away" As the teacher strummed her instrument and we all sang together I could feel this particular song touch my heart, for the first time a song moved me.

~O~

There was a book fair at school. I was given \$10 from my mother to pick out what ever books I wanted. I was so excited I bought a poster of three Chimpanzees hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil. And a book in which I forgot the title, but I never forgot about those chimps. I lost everything I sat it down to look at more books and when I turned around they were gone. I spent the rest of the day looking the entire fair over trying to find that which I had lost. It hurt so much because that was the first and last time I was ever given any amount of money to pick out something for myself. Mother asked,
Mother: What happened to you books?
Me: I lost them
Mother: Oh shelly
I never spoke of it again, and I was never asked.

~O~

My mother taught me how to whistle and once she taught me. I whistled all the time.

~O~

Mother took us to church The United Methodist church and there I heard beautiful music, in which later I would whistle. There were three songs I liked the most. In The Garden, Amazing Grace, and It Is Well. Whistling seemed to calm me down. I never was able to sing well though my mother had a beautiful voice. I did have an ear for music though I never played an instrument.

~O~

One day I remember Raymond was going to beat me and I ran down the street as fast as I could I out ran him, I looked behind me and I saw his feet hitting the pavement slowly as he waved his arms back and forth. I saw him stop and bend over placing his hands on his knees to catch his breath. I was still afraid but for some reason I felt I had accomplished something, I beat him for the moment.

~O~

Ever so often Raymond would be out side in the garage tinkering with things. There was only one moment when he was decent to me. I saw a jar of silver liquid. When I moved the jar the liquid seemed to stay in one piece following it's self around. What is this I asked. Mercury he said. I saw a show little house on the prairie I saw the little girl say Pa and then the father reached down and hugged the little girl. So I said Okay Pa and he replied okay Da in an angry voice. I thought he would respond as the man did on TV. I was confused and walked out of the garage quickly.

~O~

I loved peanut butter, Mother bought what seemed to be the biggest jar in the store. And if I was chewing gum and it lost it's flavor I would dip it in

the bag of sugar. I didn't know sugar was bad for the teeth.

~O~

My mother handed me a purse and said she was going to take Steven and I to Dominguez park. There was going to be free lunches and plenty of fun things to do. And she was right it was so wonderful. Once we arrived she met up with one of her friends. Her friend had a daughter about the same age as I was. The little girl was so cute and very chubby, I thought she looked adorable. We were all excited because from the top of the building they threw what seemed like thousands of pennies. All of the children including my self scrambled to grab as many pennies as we could, I filled my purse to over flowing and then proceeded to fill my pockets. I was so happy that day. I ate till I couldn't eat anymore. And the little girl and I sat there and counted our pennies till it was time to go home.

~O~

I knew a little boy named Timothy Elliott he was attracted to me and tried his hardest to have sex with me. One day we were alone together in my room and he took my cloths off of me, we were very young maybe 11 he was about a year older then me. I knew what he was trying to do, but I had never had intercourse, I kept moving around then pretended that it was inside of me. It didn't last long he didn't know what he was doing. Thank God.

~O~

I found a little boy named Lee to be very cute I told my mother I thought he was cute and ever so often she would ask me if I had seen him and asked if I liked him. I think it was wishful thinking on her part maybe hoping that I liked him more then I did.

~O~

When I got a little bigger, there was a little boy across the street . When we would play I kicked him, he would kick me back I would kick him even harder. I enjoyed seeing him frightened. One day we were playing and he got serious and started fighting with me. I never played with him again.

~O~

I would trick Steven into saying bad words, and then I would threaten to tell Mom and Dad. When I finally made him cry, I would take pleasure in comforting him. "It's okay Steven I won't tell" While I would put my arms around him.

~O~

I had a neighborhood friend named Edwin it was known that his mother was an alcoholic, My mother when ever I would play with him would sort of feel

sorry for him, I never understood that because we were living the same reality with Raymond.

~O~

Raymond used to watch a TV program In search of with Leonard Nemoi One day they were talking about Killer Bees and Killer Aunts. I didn't stop thinking about that for years.

~O~

We saw all the Star Track episodes so it seemed. I liked the relationship between Kirk and Spock I thought Kirk was such a nice man.

~O~

I was visiting a neighbor who was an older woman her dog bit me when I reached across the table. It was a German Shepard who thought I was going to hurt her. Its teeth tore into me underneath my right arm. It shook me and shook me, until the old lady grabbed the dogs face and pried it's mouth open releasing me from it's grip. I heard her say I'm sorry I'm sorry. She walked me to my house there meeting us at the door was my mother.
Mother: What happened?

Lady: She reached across the table and the dog thought she would bring me harm.

Mother: That's fine, it was an accident. Don't worry about it well take care of it from here.

My mothers friend Linda was there asking me if I was okay. It felt so good to have someone speak soft words to me. My mother told me to lay down on the sofa she pulled my shirt off and threw my right arm over the back of the sofa.

Linda : Should she get stitches that looks deep.

Mother: No she'll be fine.

I loved the attention even if it was just for that moment. I don't remember the trauma of being bit, I just remember the moment of concern for my safety.

~O~

I was taken to the doctor and was prescribed Ritalin. I was never told anything, except that I was hyperactive.

~O~

I watched a cat jump out of a tree it made it look so easy, so I did it too I climbed to the top of the same tree and jumped thinking I would be as graceful as the cat, but once I hit the ground the skin on my left foot ripped open.

~O~

I was getting out of a van and I swung my legs under the van burning the back of my calves on the tail pipe. I had scars for years.

~O~

I was running across a hard wood floor. and slipped running my leg along side the edge of one of the beams of wood. My Mother, Raymond and a couple they were visiting Billie and Charles. Sat around me and picked at it with tweezers, the sliver of wood was lodged right under my left butt cheek. I was horrified but lied there exposed and embarrassed. They were talking around me taking turns trying to get it out. Nothing was done the piece of wood was still there, and stayed there until it eventually disappeared over the years.

~O~

I remember I was with my Mother and Steven we went to Billie's house she had two beautiful girls. Maria and Barbie, while we were there, There was a boy acting up it was the son of one of Billie's friends. I watched while this woman hit her son very hard across the back of his head and on his back with an open hand, why wasn't anyone stopping her or saying anything? The woman said he is hyperactive and needs to be disciplined because he is out of control. I didn't understand, my mother said to the woman "Shelly is hyperactive too" And then the woman pushed her son in the back seat of their car and left, as they were pulling away I heard the boy say no mama please. I never forgot.

~O~

I went into the medicine cabinet in Raymond's brothers house Paul. There were little red capsules in these separate plastic packages they tasted like candy so I ate all that I could. Paul's wife Claudette found out and told my mother. My mother called poison control after confronting me about the incident, she opened the refrigerator and had me drink milk she kept pouring and I kept drinking until I finally vomited.

~O~

At a Methodist church I was sitting next to a beautiful blond woman I picked up her church bulletin that was laying between us and I took a little pencil off of the pew in front of me. I sat there and drew a bird. she watched me and I looked up at her when I was finished. She said, "your quite the artist" then she smiled at me.

~O~

There was a boy that we all played with, It was the middle of summer, he was sitting in a small pool by himself in his front yard. As I took a good look at him, I saw sores all over his body. I never asked him what it was I just stood there from afar staring at him knowing that it must be terrible to be covered with open sores.

~O~

My mother got a cat from I don't know where. There was a little girl that was in the girl scouts with me her name was precious. So my mother told me that she was going to name the kitten after this little girl. Precious the cat was beautiful and black her hair was long and luxurious, and she walked with sophistication. Mother said the cat was mine. A few weeks later mother announced that the cat was no longer mine, but belonged to the entire family. Even though the cat was still around I had this small pain of loss inside of me, every time I would look at her I would feel she was once mine. In years to come Steven still referred to precious as my cat.

~O~

I listened to the church people talk about a God, I was told that he loves us and that he is all powerful, But he can't be seen it's only through faith that he shows himself to us. I wanted proof. One day when my mother was shopping I was left in the car. It was just her and I. I took out a deck of cards that were in the glove compartment. I placed one of those cards on the dash board and said to God "If you're here move the card" And I sat there and stared at that card intently not moving my eyes, I said a little louder just in case he didn't hear me. "If you're here move the card!" I changed the card to a Jack. "Move the card!" I placed it on another part of the dash board. "Move the card!" Nothing happened. Mother came out to the car. I didn't say a word I just though he's not all that powerful.

~O~

As girl scouts we went to a lot of different places like horse back riding, camping, and other places but the best place we went was this place where there was stacks and stacks of news papers and magazines, I loved climbing and looking through all of the magazines. It was a recycling center where they made paper. I was very impressed.

~O~

I knew I was attracted to girls as far back as the age of eight. I was a Girl Scout and was attracted to another girl in the group named Vickie. She was a pretty little blond girl. It was my first attraction to another person. I was always looking at her marveling at every move she made, she didn't do anything out of the ordinary. For she was just one of us ... a Girl Scout ... but for some reason I couldn't take my eyes off of her. My mother noticed the attraction I had for Vicky and being the Girl Scout leader was able to space us apart.

Eventually I grew out of Girl Scouts and Vickie. A couple of years had passed, and then I had even stronger feelings for a childhood friend, Angie, the daughter of my mother's friend. She was so cute, smart and confident. I loved her attention. When she spoke to me there wasn't another sound in the room. I found myself trying to impress her. I took apart things and then put them back together. She said to me, "You're so smart" My eyes lit up and I smiled. She called me smart, she called me smart, she actually thinks I'm smart. When it was time to go home, I would repeat the things that

Angie told me over and over in my mind.

I was never sure when we'd next meet, so I would pretend when I missed her that she was in front of me talking to me and looking at me. I believe this is what they called puppy love. My feelings never took that form when it came to boys, still what I felt for Angie was some form of love. My heart beat so fast when she came around me, like nothing I had ever felt before.

~O~

There was a little girl named Mona and her sister Chatha who lived a few houses down from us, we would all play together Steven, Mona, Chatha and I, one day Mona and I were laying in bed and she touched me and kept touching me until I got up. I was scared and wasn't sure what she was doing to me.

~O~

I was in charge of cleaning dishes. One evening while sitting at the dining room table, the family was eating a meal. Raymond kept looking at me then said, how does your meal taste Michelle? I said fine, He said must be nice eating out of dirty dishes, you didn't do a good job cleaning them so you are eating out of dirty dishes, I looked at Steven then my Mother then back at Ray then I cried I was so humiliated and disgusted. I just sat there I was told not to leave the table and to finish my dinner, I just sat there and choked down whatever was left on my plate as the tears rolled down my face.

~O~

The family was at a restaurant and I spilled my milk on the table, Raymond screamed at me in the restaurant and I just cried my mother took me to the bathroom so I could compose my self I just stood there and shook.

~O~

When I was in middle school in California I opened my locker to find a black widow spider there. I looked on its belly and there I saw a mark of red it was the mark associated with the black widow, it was beautiful. When I went to my class room I told my teacher, but my teacher didn't believe me, he said to the class Michelle is late dancing with black widow spiders, but it was true and it's true today.

~O~

I had two child hood fights and lost them both, I never fought before and didn't know how to defend my self and really didn't know why we were fighting in the first place. The first fight was with a girl named Teresa Huggins. At school while I was washing my hands in the bathroom she started yelling at me and before I knew it she was hitting me where ever she could. I pretty much just stood there because I didn't know what to do. It didn't last long I guess she was winded and she yelled a bit more and

then left the bathroom. I cried though it wasn't because I was hurt, I was more confused than anything. I never did pay any attention to Teresa before or after the fight, to this day I have no clue why she was upset.

The second fight was in a park with a girl named Cynthia Camacho. I actually liked the girl Cynthia I don't know why she was angry with me either, she and I were at the park and she threw me down on the ground and punched me over and over. A crowd of children circled around to watch our fight, but there wasn't much to see. The fight consisted of Cynthia hitting me and me covering up my face. A big black boy pulled her off of me. Not more than two days later when she saw me in school she apologized and we were friends, she asked me over to her home there she was alone, she said she lived with her father but that he was never around, she pretty much had the run of the house.

~O~

I was at my middle school graduation. I had never wore panty hose before, as I was sitting there I pulled the balls that I found on the panty hose. And there seemed to be a tare and then as I would pull at them trying to fix it the tare run down my entire leg. I didn't know what was happening. Why are my clothes falling apart. I kept pulling at them and they continued to fall apart. What was going on? Finally it was my turn to get my diploma, I was mortified I knew I didn't look right. I stood up and grabbed my diploma. I got a few strange looks. I quickly sat back down again, I almost in tears. At the end of the ceremony one of my mothers friends said to me that she runs into that problem all the time when she wears panty hose, she was trying to make light of the situation, I wasn't quite sure what she meant, I was a little girl, but I always remember her soft words and her kindness. I always felt intention, I didn't always understand what was being said, but I always understood whether it was a kind gesture or not.