

# NOTES TO MY DAUGHTER



BEFORE YOU GO

Vesna M. Bailey



*Go confidently in the  
direction of your dreams.  
Live the life you've imagined.*

*~ Henry David Thoreau*

# Introduction

Once upon a dream enchanted every mother saw her daughter's name ablaze with a radiance beyond compare... and without our daughters, a certain love story would never have been told.

I wrote this book for my own daughter, Lauren, when she was leaving home to go away to university, to explore and pursue her own enchanted dreams for a fantastic journey ahead, all of her own.

In the gift and privilege of loving our daughters we tried our best to protect them, to reassure them of life's goodness and all its promises, to enable them to be independent and open minded, to empower them to be strong and loving, to challenge them to be nobly vulnerable to reflect in themselves the best of humanity, and to always search for the best of humanity in others, and the world around them.

So... what would we say to our daughters at this time when they bravely leave their childhood behind? What a fantastic dream to be realized lays ahead of them! Our window of opportunity suddenly seems so small – yet there are so many things we want to remind them of... just one more time, before they go out the door.

Yes, we want to say: Today is your moment in time – carpe diem ( seize the day )! Run out this door with all the joy, exuberance, passion, and energy that you can muster. Know that the decisions and choices you make, your words and deeds – they will be the thumbprint you leave on the world. You have an obligation to yourself, to find a peace and happiness, and you have an obligation to your fellow man, to care... and to act accordingly.

From now on you are the weaver of your own tapestry, and that is as it should be. Challenge yourself to rise beyond the limits you once thought impossible and you will soar to heights untold.

...as for me, I am not going anywhere. I will always be there to write your name in the sand each time the tide washes it away. I will be there to applaud you when all the other chairs are empty. I will be there to catch your dreams... to love you, always and forever.

Thank-you for letting me journey with you thus far; it has been a privilege beyond compare. You are a little piece of heaven that fills my every breath... you are my rainbow to keep.

Now, gallop away into the new horizons awaiting you... my eyes will always be watching you... never will I lose sight of you!





# ALL AWHIRL! ... CATCH ME If You Can...!

*Do not quiet the whispers from your heart and soul -  
Turn up the volume,  
Let your spirit soar,  
Let your imagination fly,  
Let your laughter sing,  
Let your footsteps chase your inspirations, and  
Let your life live.  
~ Mom*

Give away your smile! A million times a day!

Do not wish your life away. Chase your own dream!  
Live your own dream!  
Begin now.

Make your favorite story the one you are living in right now.



*To err is human, to forgive, divine.*  
~ Alexander Pope



Be your own best friend. Let mistakes and regrets lead not only to a lesson learned but also self-forgiveness.

Gentle is the wind that brings songs of praise but ferocious is the storm that comes to question us. Trust that all things considered you did your best, and peace is yours to keep.



How wonderful that things do not always turn out as planned! –  
sometimes we 'luck into' unexpected detours, only to later discover  
life has granted us yet another gift.

It is on the detours that life happens –  
it seems that is where life waits for us, with all its' sweetness,  
with all its' challenges, and in the end, with all its' rewards.  
Even bumpy roads eventually emerge onto level ground.

Detours are merely opportunities.  
Seize the opportunity when you have it –  
life has a knack of not repeating itself in this regard.

Things may not be forever, but the journey is forever.  
In the end you will emerge a refined, polished, cultured pearl.  
Stay the course.

Keep things in perspective.  
To be hungry is not the same as to be famished.



*We must accept finite disappointment,  
but we must never lose infinite hope.*

*~ Martin Luther King*

Remember this, life does not come in black and white.  
There are no clear rules.  
We all try and do the best that we can, and hopefully  
that will be good enough most of the time.



Life is wonderful! It truly is full of wonders,  
but the most amazing wonders of the world  
are those that lie within your own world.  
There is no greater fortune  
than being lucky enough to recognize them on time.

I love you.

Call home.



# What would a mother say to her daughter as she prepares to leave her childhood behind?

Within these notes to her own daughter Vesna's voice has struck an eloquent chord, resonating with a gentle instruction on all things important in life while lighting a fire within all readers to "carpe diem!" (seize the day!); to live with self-conviction, joy, exuberance, passion, a responsibility to attain one's potential, and to reflect in oneself the best of humanity... and to live with a mission to find an uncommon happiness at every turn of the fantastic personal journey that awaits.

At the beginning Vesna says, "...and without our daughters, a certain love story would never have been told." - and at the end she assures us this story is not over; she says, "...you are my rainbow to keep. My eyes will always be watching you, never will I lose sight of you!"

**Also available from Vesna M. Bailey**  
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