

SO GOD MADE A

mother's story

+

a keepsake journal

CREATED BY
LESLIE MEANS
FOUNDER OF
HER VIEW FROM HOME



SO GOD MADE

'S

STORY

WRITTEN WITH LOVE BY

DEDICATED TO

DATE

SO GOD MADE A
**mother's
story**



a keepsake journal



CREATED BY
LESLIE MEANS
FOUNDER OF *HER VIEW FROM HOME*



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Introduction

MOM WROTE ME A LETTER when I was in college. An excellent typist, she composed most of it from her computer. Inside her note, she left pieces of advice and words of wisdom. And at the end, she signed it in cursive, with ink:

I love you, Mom.

I cherish that letter. I love the advice inside, and her penmanship is truly lovely—but the thing I love most about that note is the way she ended it.

I love you.

Mom didn't often speak or write those words. Maybe it's a generational thing, a product of being born in the late 1940s. Tough love and all that jazz.

For whatever reason, "I love you" is much easier for me to say out loud.

I say it at the end of phone calls and when we talk, and I write it for the world to read.

“I love you, Mom!”

It's how I tell my loved ones how I feel.

But Mom? She showed me.

In a batch of freshly baked cookies.

As she twirled my hair when I sat on the edge of her bed.

In the silence when we rocked together on our front-porch swing.

In her cheers when she sat in the stands of my childhood sporting events.

In her hug on the day I married the love of my life.

In the hospital room when she held my first baby girl.

Mom shows her love in action because sometimes it's just too hard to write it down. It's hard to tell the world how you feel.

But just as I cherish that note Mom wrote me all those years ago, the people you love crave your words, your inmost thoughts, your story.

This journal will guide you through sharing precisely that.

Why does it matter? Because, friend, your story matters. Your family loves you dearly and wants to know what makes you *you*. What were you like as a child? What makes you happy? What makes you mad? What makes you want to skip and dance and shout for joy? They want to know about your first love, your wedding dress, your hopes, your dreams, and your secret fears.

Having those details preserved in your own words, in your own handwriting? It's a gift that will be cherished long after you're gone.

INTRODUCTION

I encourage you to move through these pages at your own pace. Imagine someone you love sitting across from you (probably over a plate of cheese) asking you these questions. Maybe you'll finish the whole thing this weekend. Maybe you'll still be adding to it this time next year. There's no pressure and there are no perfect answers—there's simply this invitation to open your heart and let it spill onto a page.

Sprinkled throughout these pages are quotes from *Her View From Home* writers who contributed to *So God Made a Mother*—the book that inspired this journal. We asked them to share the wit and wisdom of their own mothers and grandmothers, and they definitely delivered.

Now it's your turn. Once you breathe life into this book, it will become an everlasting *I love you* . . . whether you say the words or not.

The world needs your story—it's time to share it.

xo, Leslie



Section 1

Tender Beginnings



*Mama always said mothering is hard—if I made it
look easy, it was only because you were easy to love.*

KIRSTYN WEGNER

When and where were you born?

What is the meaning behind your name?

What do you know about the day you were born
or early days with your parents?

Mama, did it hurt
when I was born?

It can be painful.

So it can hurt
to be a mom?

Sweetheart,
you have no idea.

ELIZABETH ALLISON



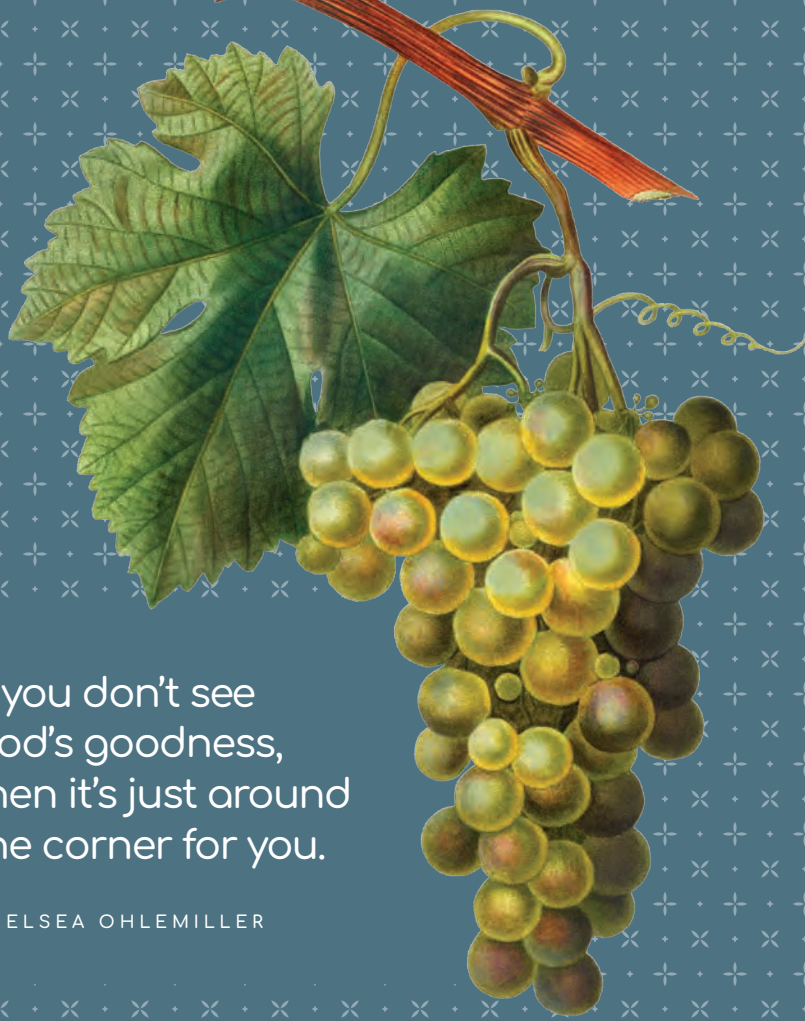
Describe the home you grew up in.

What did it sound like?

What did it smell like?

What was your bedroom like?





If you don't see
God's goodness,
then it's just around
the corner for you.

CHELSEA OHLEMILLER

Where did you go to elementary school?

Who were your best friends as a child?



**Whenever I was really in the middle of something hard,
Mom would tell me, “Spring always comes.”**

REBECCA COOPER



Describe your most memorable birthday.

Who was your first crush?

What were family dinners like at your house?
