

Neighborhood of Secrets

By

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Chapter One

Go Toward the Light

Mama died when Diana was born. Her spirit kind of floated out of her body and just hovered there for a while looking at herself and the new baby girl. She was good sized that baby. Ten pounds and a hundred ounces at least, and who knows how many weeks Mama had been in horrible, painful labor? There were frantic voices all around her and Dr. Erkie was working feverishly to bring her back. It was during all that confusion and commotion that she saw it. At first, it appeared to be a glimmer at the end of a long corridor, beckoning, calling her by name. She felt compelled to get up and walk toward it. The closer she got the brighter it became until "Lo and Behold," she was in Heaven, and that's where she met up with God.

I guess they talked for a time, there on the streets of gold, just sort of catching up on life and stuff. But then He told her she had to go back and raise her children. There was certainly no way Bill could do it! Left up to him they'd all be dancing barefoot in the park somewhere like Gypsies while he played his harmonica. Lord, have mercy! How could she marry such a man? She knew better. She figured it was on account she was backslid and all when she met him, and this was just one of her many punishments for being desperate and foolish. She should've known there's always a price to pay for leaving your Father's house.

But, there she was, talking to the almighty God, suspended between life and death. She said she wanted to stay in the most powerful way, but knew better than to stand there and argue with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. The decision had been made. At least, like the apostle Paul, she'd been given a little taste of Paradise that would help carry her through the many dark years that waited ahead. So she went back and obediently crawled into her lifeless body lying there on the table. It was a miracle you know, her coming back and all. Always kind of made me wonder about things...

Dr. Erkie told her not to have any more children. She might not be so lucky next time. But in a moment of reckless disregard and duty driven obedience on her part, I took up residence in my Mother's womb. Now that was a miracle. Makes you want to put your fingers in your ears and talk about nothing till the pictures go away.

A short fourteen months after Mama's trip to Heaven, I was welcomed into this world with my very, first spanking. A predictor of things to come...