

Preface

“That Moment...” written by C.C. Champagne, is a book containing stories based on actual events in my life, as well as that of friends and family. They span over one hundred years extending to present day, and they occur around the world.

With each story, it becomes clear that an explanation for how the events have come about and how they conclude cannot be passed off as being luck, coincidence, or any other generalized terminology we may use. It makes no difference what your culture, religion, or beliefs are. It doesn't matter what you call it. You can't help but feel, and think there was something else involved in guiding the situation for a reason. Some may call it chance, karma, or they may shrug their shoulders and think, “That was weird!” On the other hand, most would call it God, Angels, or a Guide. The point is not really what you label it, but more that you recognize that a higher power was involved in the outcome of what you experienced. Life is a blessing, and each one of us is a unique individual whose path through life is guided. It is our decision as to what we do in that moment, which then determines how the events play out. This is not a book that will tell you what you should do, or how you should act and feel. It is just a few individuals who made a conscience decision, be it planned or not, to get involved. They realize later that the choices they made at that moment altered the events in a profoundly positive way. They impacted the lives of those around them, and they knew they had been guided there for a reason.

Introduction

We see people in situations every day on the streets, at work and in our schools, everywhere. We pass them and go on with our busy lives. Yet, one day you stop! One day you see what everyone else seems to miss. One day you decide to help, but then you ask yourself, why today? Why here? Why me? What is different today that makes you stop on this day, when hundreds of times you have not stopped before? Is there a reason or a purpose for it being today, and it being you? Could it be that your character and soul are being given the opportunity to do the right thing? Maybe that's how you end up in the right place at the right time and make a difference. How does a situation, which you know nothing about at that moment, happen to draw you, the right person, into that situation at the right time?

There are things that happen to us throughout our lives that hurt our soul. We all have lost someone close to us. Someone we know is injured in an accident, struck by illness, or any number of things can crush our spirits. I don't think anyone should tell you how long your grieving process should take. Although, I do hope everyone knows it is advantageous to heal your soul as soon as possible. Grief is very personal and different for everyone. I try to search for any scrap or minute particle of positive that I can focus on in order to move on. If that doesn't work for you, then find the most ridiculous reason to keep yourself from crying as I have. For me, I try to do my best to look nice every day. When I cry for a long time, as I did when my dad passed away, my eyes developed the look of two deployed airbags, it was nasty! So that alone promotes me to pull myself together and focus on the positive. Compassion, understanding, forgiveness and laughter are all things that will help you heal. Out of every moment of sadness, you can find the strength for happiness if you focus on the right things. I think of my grandmother as an example, as she has been my best inspiration throughout my life. She has made a career as an artist, painting and creating beautiful pieces of work in various mediums. During the war, she worked for the underground in Denmark alongside my grandfather and her brother Kye. A world traveler, she has lived on three continents. She has never conformed to old age and has always maintained a great attitude towards life. Sadly, a few years ago, at the young age of ninety-three she was partially paralyzed from a stroke and is no longer able to walk. The doctors informed us she would never be able to feed herself, walk or sit up for longer than a few seconds without having help. Hah! They don't know my grandmother. There was no need for further discussion; we took her home where she belonged. A wonderful physiotherapist, Paula, was contacted to help in my grandmother's recovery. Today, thanks to my grandmother's family doctor and her physiotherapist, at age 97, she is doing great! She feeds herself, sits up all day interacting with family and friends and she watches her television shows. She loves going on outings with us, and although she still can't walk, and that might not change, we never let her feel that she's a burden to us in any way. If that isn't positive enough, we introduced our good friend Jay, who is a chiropractor, to Paula when he came into town Christmas Eve. It was just three months after Paula started working with my grandmother. Jay is a handsome, athletic man in his early 50s, and Paula is a tall Australian beauty in her late 30s. I thought they would be perfect for each other, and I was right. They were married 10 months later, on my grandmother's birthday, and now they have a beautiful baby boy.

What happened to my grandmother was devastating for our family, and yet out of that situation, two people found each other and a new life came to be.

There are many things that happen in each of our lives every day. When you are aware of your surroundings, we get involved with life. It's never boring or mundane, unless you have a blindfold on. I look towards life as an adventure; it takes us in many directions. I believe in a higher power that guides us through our lives. We are brought into situations to gain knowledge and assist in some way. Your actions can make a huge difference in someone's life. Something as simple as helping an elderly person across the street, smiling at a passerby, stopping to ask if you can help someone, instead of presuming someone else will, can change our perspective towards mankind. We never know what people around us are dealing with unless they explain it to us or we see it first hand. You can so easily renew someone's spirit by taking time to make a difference. It only takes one person to inspire others when you show care and concern for your fellow man. You could say it's almost contagious! Once we give of ourselves without expecting or wanting anything in return, it comes back to us ten fold. With that in mind, it also replenishes our soul, and that is the most wonderful feeling,