



A LITTLE
G I R L
INSPIRES

Excerpts Of Interesting
Conversations With
My Daughter

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PREFACE



Ever since our daughter could speak we have been consistently amused -even intrigued by her manner of speech and conversation. Her utterances sometimes ridiculous other times witty would always come in handy at fun times and as stress-busters.

Since the tender age of three, it's been a common occurrence for our conversations to be characterised with lots of amusement. After a while, I became too regaled to keep from documenting our mother-daughter talks as I would sometimes have difficulty recalling the exact sequence of each chat when I relayed same to her Dad.

In no time, I realized I had filled a few dozen loose sheets of paper with these talks! I promptly followed this up by dedicating an entire booklet for this purpose! Things soon evolved and some of these discussions became an interesting source of inspiration for the budding writer in me. The result is this book which you now hold in your hands.

If you call this work a 'Parenting journal with a twist,' I suppose you would be right. It is not exactly a 'how to' book meant to coach on ways to raise a child, it is however a compilation of real accounts of my parenting journey and my elucidation of these through a mother's eyes.

So as you read, feel free to reminisce on your own childhood [if you are already an adult]; recall some of those queer thoughts that played around in your head much of which you probably never dared to voice or share...

Be inspired by the sheer innocence - even audacity of a child to convey her views on life and her interactions with the same. Allow yourself to be enthralled with the possibility of sharing a legacy of curiosity, learning and exploration with the young ones in your own life...Shed off the guilt [even for a moment] of not being hyper critical with respect to the appropriateness or other wise of your child's outlook to living and just relish the gift of a young child.

Following every piece I invite you to ponder and consider the diverse and interesting ways you and your young ones have responded [or could respond] to a given set of parent-child conversations and/or circumstances - who knows, you just might be on your way to compiling your very own account as you reflect on and possibly pen your thoughts in this regard.

'A Little Girl Inspires' may not make it to your list of really 'serious books' - but that's ok. I'm hopeful though that it'll make you want to lift up and cross your legs on your coffee table; that it will make you want to just relax, giggle, laugh, breathe and just be.

TOUGH LOVE

“I don’t want you to see what’s in my journal!”

Journaling has become an important part of my life. It’s a habit my daughter has come to admire and is beginning to take on. So excited was she about this ‘new way of life’ that she decided to take her journal to school! A practice I discouraged to keep her from being unnecessarily distracted from vital school work. While she’s taken to this new journaling habit, I guess she couldn’t keep from getting into trouble on account of it...

It was a normal school day and we were commuting together. A conversation ensued and the journal soon became the subject of discuss. Why? Again, she had her journal in her school bag; a direct violation of my instruction in that regard. I had seen the journal sticking right out of her bag, I made an attempt to pull it out but she quickly jumped to her journal’s defence retrieving it from my careless grip.

“Why did you do that?” I asked referring to the impolite retrieval.

“Because I don’t want you to see what’s in my journal” she said tucking the book away behind her back.

Really?! Where was I when this girl was growing up? She’s barely seven years old and she’s hiding her journal already?! I couldn’t believe my ears - and eyes!

“Why?!” I queried impatiently.

“Because I wrote something bad about you in it” she answered, almost sounding ashamed.

“Thank goodness it’s just that” I muttered under my breath.

You see, the young lady deserve to be commended for this kind of rare disclosure. When I was her age I could only attempt to think bad thoughts about my Mum, I dared not pen it down! Back then, you can be sure that if a Mum discovered such insolent material, she would most certainly ‘lay her hands on you’ before she does so your journal!

As we journeyed I put my mental faculties to work in devising a plot to get hold of the journal and uncover its exclusive content! I subsequently engaged my ‘Mummy power’ and demanded that the journal be left in the car; there was no way she was going to school with that journal way!

I just couldn’t wait to have her get to school and to disembark from the car; I had to see what ‘bad thing’ it was she wrote about her Mummy in that book - I had to.

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For the rest of the journey, we spoke very little [if at all] as my thoughts drifted to my growing up days...

As young children, we believed our Mums were the worst Mums in the whole wide world! An illusion - that is all it was. Ask most adults and they will tell you in a heartbeat that their Mother is the best Mum in the entire world, and it doesn't matter if they haven't had a conversation with her in a million years! I know of a grown man who never saw eye to eye with his Mum but once she passed on, he wrote her the most moving and amazing eulogy ever! What then is responsible for this kind of paradigm shift?

In one word I believe it is - GROWTH. Growth is what gives us a whole new outlook to life.

As children, we struggle to bear with the disciplines our Mothers mete; as adults we can't thank them enough for not letting up on us with regards to the discipline! Even more importantly, we wonder what our life would've been like without a mother's tough love - What paradox!

Eventually I finally got to see what 'bad thing' my daughter wrote about me in her journal and it was by no means complimentary. She penned something like this:

"I can't believe my Mum could beat me; I think she is wicked to me..."

Not even my appreciation of a young child's irrational view of parental discipline could help in alleviating the discomfort I felt reading those words. But I'm wont to counsel my lovely daughter:

That her views on Mummy's tough love are only transient and that she'll soon get over it. That she'll soon call her Mummy 'blessed' on account of the disciplining which has earned her Mum a bad commentary - for now.

You'll get over it darling, I promise you!

A Little Extra on Parent/Child Drama

Have you ever seen a full grown adult get very emotional and teary-eyed when recounting stories about the mother who passed on some forty-years ago? I have. I have seen such play out severally and quite frankly it's always an interesting thing to observe. Did these persons always have such sweet relationships with their mothers while they had them physically and maybe not.

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But my point is this, there's something about the human species that fails to appreciate what it has until it loses it; the same way a child would think he hates his Mum [and even tell her so] only to cry inconsolably when she doesn't show up to pick him up early after school. Fascinating - very fascinating!

Inspiration Zone

Would you say you agree with the above analogy with respect to the human tendency to take for granted what they have? If yes, what in your opinion is the reason why this is? Please share and join the conversation on book's blog.

