

Yetta Yvette

Age Ain't

Nothing

*but
a*

Number

You never know who you're going to fall in love with, even if it's taboo.

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Dedication

A special, very special dedication goes to my sixth-grade Catskill Elementary School teacher, Mrs. Barbara Watters (R.I.P.), who gave me encouragement with her words, “Baby, you can do whatever you put your heart and mind to.” I love you for that, and I appreciate it gratefully.

Recognition

I take great pleasure in writing the story of my life on the pages of this book. It's like therapy to my soul and a chapter of my life. That is and will always be so memorable. I have to admit, it has shaped me into becoming a strong, black woman and entrepreneur. Many people wondered why, and they would ask, "Why are you so driven?" Now you can understand why. Thanks for reading my story! This book is dedicated to those who lost their other half and feel that they can't go on. Just know that with each passing day, it gets better. Like what they say, time heals all wounds. A special thanks to all my English teachers, especially, Mrs. McMurray. The Pratt family, my beautiful mother, handsome father, my lovely sisters, all the people who are a part of my life story, and God, who strengthened me when I was weak.

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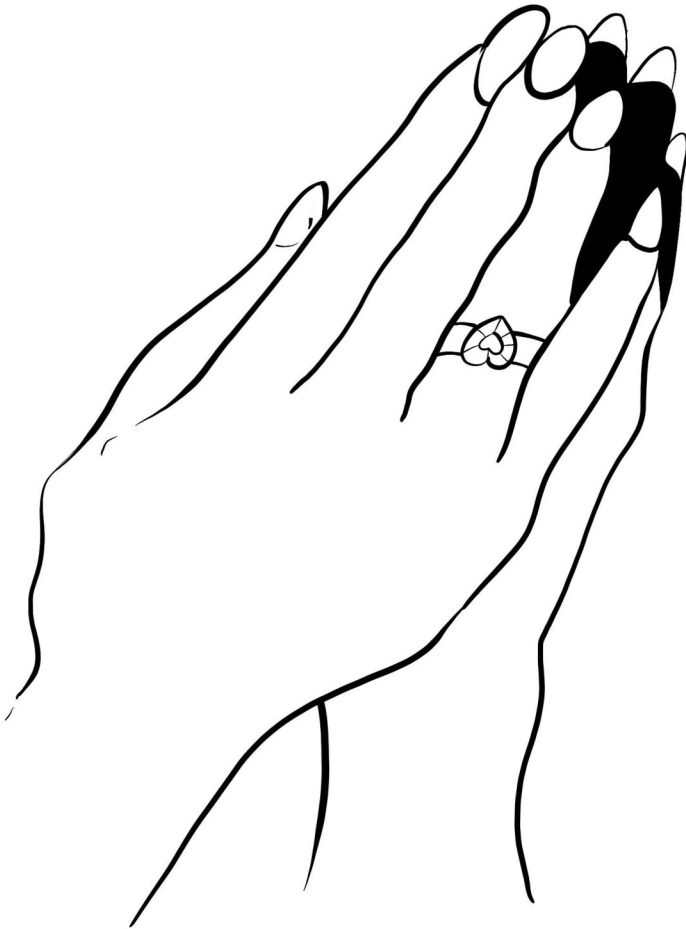
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Love Is Love

A Poem
by Yetta Yvette

Love has no boundaries,
love is unconditional,
love doesn't discriminate or eliminate,
when you truly love someone.
It's not about Age, Race, or Creed;
love is about two people with
strong feelings, who need each other to survive.
Love tells no lies;
when you know it's true,
love makes you a better you!

Life

There will be stops and road blocks...Pot holes (negative people) to avoid, but you have to not let it detour you toward a direction of giving up. Strive and continue to progress down the journey of life. Before you know it, you will have arrived to your destination.

Inspirational Quotes

Don't judge a day by the happiness, you take from it. Judge it by the happiness you bring into it. It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that things are difficult. —Seneca

What the mind can conceive, it can achieve. —Napoleon Hill

All dreams can come true-if we have the courage to pursue them. —Walt Disney

It is never too late to be what you might have been. —George Elliott

The best years of life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the president. You realize that you control your own destiny.
—Albert Ellis

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. —Albert Einstein

Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people. —Eleanor Roosevelt

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door. —Milton Berle

When you can't change the direction of the wind-adjust your sails. —H Jackson Brown Jr.

Your time is limited, don't waste it living someone's life. Don't be trapped by dogma, which is living the results of other's people thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinion drowned your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition, they somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary. —Steve Jobs

Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love. —Albert Einstein

Never let opportunities pass you by. Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will, never, never have enough. —Oprah Winfrey

Those who wish to sing, always find a song. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. —James Hollingworth

Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity. —Seneca

A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives. —Jackie Robinson

Watch your thoughts they become words. Watch your words they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habit. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. —Lao Tzu

Life is tough, but it's tougher when you're stupid. —John Wayne

The hardest thing to see is what is in front of your eyes.

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YETTA YVETTE



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The Diary of Yetta Yvette

At birth, I was given the name Yetta Yvette. For those who think that they may know me, actually you haven't the slightest clue. This is the life and the diary Of Yetta Yvette. According to the Old English meaning, Yetta means "to give." Generous. A name that I eventually will live up to in my life. I was born a Leo baby in the month of August. At eight months old, my family left the dirty south of Shreveport, Louisiana, and migrated to Los Angeles, California. From this point on in my life, I grew up to be a West Coast California girl, my mother and father's first creation, and the eldest of my two younger sisters. I was my mother's little helper, as she would call it, and my daddy's little girl.

At the early age of five, I was struck by tragedy. I was viciously mauled by my older cousin, German Sheppard. They called him "Champ." The screams and cries of my mother terrified me more than the terrible incident. I was rushed to a nearby hospital. Doctors worked relentlessly on my badly scarred, bruised, and swollen face. During my recovery, I had to wear bandages, and it was very difficult for me to eat food. God was looking out over me though, because just a centimeter more from the dog bite, and I would have been blind in one eye. I cringe at the thought. I have stitch marks as a reminder of that day. I was so blessed for a second chance. Even after that catastrophe, I am proud to say that I am still an animal lover. In fact, I received my dog Pepper as a gift from a very special person, when it was just five months old. Now, he is going on fifteen years old. My other dog—Stumpy Thump Thump, that's what I call him—I got him from a co-worker when he was just a puppy. He is going on nine years old now. I raised both of them, from puppies to grown dogs. I love my two dogs to death.

After six to eight months of healing from the incident, I was already changing my sisters' diapers, making baby bottles, and just doing whatever was necessary to assist my mother. I would soon have the responsibilities of being a role model to my two younger sisters. Because of that role, I learned leadership. As a young girl, I always aspired to be in the spotlight. My mother always kept my sisters and me participating in dancing, sports, Girl Scouts, and other various activities, to keep our young minds active.

Church was also a part of our world. When Sunday morning came

along, the white church bus would pick us up at exactly eight o'clock in the morning. We were taught the word of God; our faith was Baptist, and I was even baptized. That was also the time when I experienced my very first crush on a boy. He was two years older than me, and was such a cutie. It was always fun attending church, especially knowing that he was going to be there. His presence always gave me butterflies inside. I was so nervous around him that every time the bus pulled up to his house, I always prayed, "Oh please, I hope he will be going." There were also a few times when he didn't show up. I was so disappointed.

My mother never had any problems with me when it came to going to church, and she eventually found out the real reason. She didn't have to force me to say it, like some parents would do.

At age thirteen, I went to modeling school. I anticipated a career in show business. My ultimate dream at the time was to become a huge supermodel, who would work the runways with the latest fashion, but I fell short. I only grew to be five feet and four inches tall. My height wouldn't allow it, and it crushed my heart to pieces. I then began developing a strong love for the game of basketball. I played in some neighborhood parks, and I loved it.

Once I enrolled in junior high school, I became a huge fan of drill team and was accepted to Black Heritage Club. I sang in the school choir and learned to play the guitar. In 1987, I attended Hollywood High School, a performing arts school that mostly focuses on the developments of a career in show business. I was still aspiring to shine like a "star." Acting, dancing, and singing were my main priorities. I remember waiting at the bus stop at five forty-five in the morning for my bus to come and pick me up for school. The school was an hour and a half away from my house. I did my eight hours of school and would be back on that bus. On my way home, I had to do my homework on the bus because by the time I made it home it was already seven thirty in the evening. And before you know it, it was time to do it all over again.

The experience was like the television show Fame. Fame. It was what I desired, what I dreamed of. But then my grades started to take a turn for the worst. My parents took notice of it, and the next thing I knew, I was withdrawn from that school and was now attending a nearby school. I hated the switch, but I had to adjust myself to the changes. Eventually, my grades made it back up to As, Bs, and Cs, and I became very active at my new school.

Once again, I was able to sing in the school choir, have lots of fun in the drill team, and attend the Friday night football games. Once when graduation was near, I remember I had a teacher who asked me, "What

would you like to do more than anything in the world once you graduate from high school?”

At that very moment, I knew my career path. I decided I wanted to make big bucks, lots of money. I wanted to be a businesswoman. At that time, I knew that I wanted to be extremely successful with a purpose in my life.

Upon graduating from high school, my mother and father gave me a trip to Hawaii. That adventure with Stacey made me really realize the kind of lifestyle that I had to have. We encountered fun times together, and after I graduated from high school, I enrolled at a two-year junior college. I started working part-time for a real estate company, a retail store, and a fast-food chain. I was doing it all at once, and sometimes I was working two jobs at a time and then off to school at night. I would be so exhausted, but I had to keep myself awake, so I could absorb the lesson.

At age twenty-two, I finally figured it all out. The line of business I wanted to go into was cosmetology. I was fascinated by cosmetology because when you look good, it makes you feel better about yourself; you'll have a positive attitude and outlook in life. I took facial makeup courses at Universal Studios and enrolled in a Cosmetology course. The course was for two years. I wanted to be an entrepreneur and have my own business. Once I finished the course, I took the exam, and after two tries, I was a licensed cosmetologist. I was doing hair and having fun with my styles. I did this for a while, and then a position opened up that allowed me to make more money. At that time, I was twenty-four years old, and I had a tattoo of my nickname, Lady Y, with two-dollar signs on my shoulder, valuing myself in the highest manner like money.

My dreams have never been to live an average lifestyle. I always desired to live over the top. I craved for it. Like a celebrity, I knew what I wanted, and I was on my way to it. I had the fire in my eyes, and I was hungry for it... Success!