



September Special Preview

September is a month between warm summer days & cool autumn nights.

The in-betweens are where special moments happen and are remembered.

This month we will take a special look at love & Friendship, and a preview at the upcoming story of Effie & Flora. The book ***Remembering*** is about life long friendships, the kind that never leave. It's a call to remember when life was simple, even when it wasn't.

Thank you for wanting to come along on this journey!



The sound of children's laughter filled the house.

The smell of grilled cheese sandwiches lingered in the kitchen.

Jill stood at the kitchen sink looking out the window. The sun beamed in the windows.

She took in a deep breath.

Smiled.

She loved it when *all* of the kids were at her house.

And... she thought to herself... she loved the sounds and smells of normal days. As she looked out the window and saw a little rabbit run by, Jill closed her eyes.

Like a distant echo, she could hear two little girls laughing.

The feeling of innocence and exhilaration came over her.

She was remembering...

Suddenly, she was out of breath.

She was running, jumping over fallen logs... "Effie! It's getting away, hurry!"

She was back. She was with Effie again.

She went back to a different time... without Grace.

"Flora, I am running as fast as I can!" Effie yelled back.

Her legs were going as fast as a seven-year old's legs could go.

Flora yelled to her, "I will cut it off; you keep going straight."

Flora leaped over the pile of rocks; she thought to herself, she wanted to get ahead of Effie so the bunny would circle back towards her. This time they would catch it!

The girls laughed as they ran. Jumping logs, keeping up with the rabbit's twists and turns. They almost had it when it jumped and crossed the creek onto the old fallen tree.

They both stopped. Each with their hands on their knees.

Panting. Laughing.

"Oh Flora!" Effie said before she burst into laughter again.

Flora let her knees hit the ground. She held on to her stomach as she laughed. They sat by the creek as the mist raised up from the water. They knew they were not allowed to go on the other side. They decided to walk home along the creek this time. The sun was beaming down through the trees, and the berries were perfect for picking! They filled their pockets, they also filled their mouths.

Then Flora stopped.

Effie did not notice that Flora was not beside her. She was digging in her hands trying to remove the stems from the berries. She looked up. She spun around.

Flora stood still. She was looking through the trees. She motioned with her hand for Effie to come back. She put her finger to her lips.

The two of them squatted down and watched the man down the hill. He was trying to start a fire. The girls knew that he was not part of their village. Nobody started fires there. Fires were supposed to be at the big pit by their cottages.

He did not notice them. He was bent down facing the other direction.

They were not scared. This was their forest.

But they knew. They knew he did not belong...

Stay tuned... This book will be out soon.

Effie and Flora deserve to be known.

Remembering...

Back then, forever was easy.

*It was bare feet racing through the grass,
mud on our knees and wind in our hair,
sharing secrets beneath old trees
and laughing until we could hardly breathe.
We made kingdoms out of fallen branches,
wishes out of dandelions,
and grand adventures from places
grown-ups walked past without ever seeing.
We did not know how quickly summers passed.
We did not know that one day
the road home might look smaller,
the trees might not seem quite as tall.
But somewhere inside of us,
those little people we once were, are still running...
still chasing fireflies...
still keeping secrets...
still believing the woods are enchanted
and every path leads to something wonderful!
Perhaps that is the magic
of a friendship born in childhood:
No matter how many years come between,
some part of us remains there forever—
barefoot beneath the trees,
waiting for our very best friend
to come outside and play.*

Verse of the Month

1 Peter 4:8–10 "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

~"A friend says, 'I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be a part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, 'I always knew you could be like this. I got glimpses of it on earth, but now look at you!'"--Tim Keller

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