



Georgia Marie Miller

- A Story of Faith and Sacrifice -

This book was written for my heartbeats.

- I love you more -

My Family

My name is Georgia Marie Miller, and I was born on September 6, 1957 in Atlanta, Georgia. If you've ever been to Georgia, you know that it is a historic city with plenty to do and lucky for me, I was born in the thick of it - right in Downtown Atlanta. I'm proud of my city, but I'd be lying if I said my upbringing was all roses and sunshine.

You see, my family was a bit non-traditional compared to many others out there in the world. We were extremely poor. My father, Arthur Ray, wasn't around very much. So because of his absence, my mother, Betty Rose Miller, raised me.

We had a rocky relationship during my childhood, but that's largely attributed to the fact that she was working outside of the home most of the time. I resented not having a strong mother-daughter relationship like some of my friends at the time, but as I grew older, I began to understand that she was doing the best she could. She would always say how happy she was to have a girl. I'm the only girl out of her four children, so I like to think I was a gift!

My siblings are Charles, Edward, and Frank. I deeply care for all of my brothers, but like most siblings, my relationship with each is very different.

To summarize, I wasn't very close to my oldest brother, Charles, because we grew up in different homes. Edward and I were always in constant battle, but I have always loved him and only ever wanted the very best for him. Frank, my youngest brother, is like my child. We have always been extremely close.

Because my mom had to work multiple jobs to make sure that all of our needs were met, I took on the mother role with Frank as a young child. We spent a lot of time together, so I grew to view him not only as my brother, but my confidant and friend as well.



My mom, Betty Rose Miller



My two oldest brothers

My Upbringing

Growing up, I was not allowed a lot of freedom. As I mentioned before, my mom worked a lot, so school and home were the only items on my weekly agenda. When I wasn't doing schoolwork, I was taking care of our home and my younger brother. It was difficult, but when my mom was actually home for long periods of time, typically during the holidays, we had the **best** time. She never allowed a holiday to pass without some type of celebration. Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas, our birthdays, and any other holiday you can think of were always celebrated.

As I grew into a teenager, my responsibilities of school and taking care of my brother expanded into part-time work. When I wasn't at school or taking care of Frank, I was working at a convenience store. I don't know how I managed it all, but somehow I was also able to cheer, play volleyball, and serve as the co-editor of my high school yearbook.

I remember that it was an incredibly stressful time, but the friendships I was able to start forming with other girls my age made it worth it. To this day, some of them are still my very best friends.

Despite those positive memories, finances were tight, so I remember not being able to attend my senior class trip to the Bahamas.

I knew we could not afford the trip, so I never even asked my mom for the funding. That was a tough pill to swallow, but being crowned Ms. Homecoming and graduating in the Top 10 Percent of my class that same year made it a little bit easier.

Ultimately, I would have loved for my mom to be more involved in my extracurricular activities, but I was supported by my extended family who did their best to show up for all of us when we needed them.

One time when my mom was ill, my Aunt Shirley and her husband allowed us (my mom and three children) to stay with their family until my mom was physically able to work again. My aunt already had eight kids of her own, but she stepped in as our second mom and always made her home and love available to us.

That was a great time in our lives because my eight cousins, two brothers and I really bonded as siblings.



A few members of our extended family

My Career

When I graduated from high school, I decided to attend Albany State College where I was a cheerleader. Unfortunately, I did not earn a degree because I had to drop out to come back home and help my mom with Frank.

I wasn't sure what type of career I'd be able to have without a college degree, but today, I am an Analyst for the Better Business Bureau. I was previously employed with a law firm for 12 years, but when the company closed, I struggled to find work for a really long time. Luckily, my friend, Dorothy, referred me to the Better Business Bureau. I'm so glad that this career path chose me because in all honesty, I cannot think of anything that I don't like about the company. I love the flexibility, coworkers, and the fact that I am able to help consumers solve problems with business owners.

If I had to do it all over again, I would definitely finish my college degree and become a social worker. I just need two additional years of college, so until then, my bucket list continues!

Love, Marriage & Children

My first love was Chester. I cannot remember his last name, but he was a basketball star and broke my little heart when he ended the relationship. I healed and later went on to marry Emmett. I knew I was in love with him because we laughed a lot and enjoyed each other's company. I could be myself and know that I was accepted around him.

One day, we were watching television when he got down on one knee and proposed to me. It was a beautiful moment, but our wedding was even better. My brother, Frank, gave me away, and I had five bridesmaids who I loved dearly there to support me on my special day. Shortly after the wedding, Emmett and I went on a cruise to the Bahamas for our honeymoon.

As for the marriage itself, it was great initially. We worked together at the same company and were truly inseparable. Unfortunately, Emmett had an affair, so we got a divorce.

It was difficult, but I healed with time and prayer and prioritized raising my son, Brian.

I had Brian via C-Section, and he was a whopping 10 pounds 3 ounces at birth! The nurses were amazed at his weight. Side note: The best part of being pregnant with Brian was eating as much food as I wanted and blaming it on the pregnancy (Ha!).

As Brian grew up, it was a challenge to remain firm as a single parent. I was both mom and dad, and had to make tough decisions for his upbringing. But despite the difficulties, I look back and have no regrets. He is a Christian first and foremost and has blessed me with many "proud parent" moments.

His passion for education is just one example. He earned his undergraduate degree from Georgia State University, received a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth, obtained a specialist degree from Piedmont College, and entered the University of Georgia in 2021 to pursue his Doctorate.

God smiled on me when he blessed me with Brian.



My son, Brian

Because my relationship with Brian's father didn't reach its full potential, he didn't support Brian financially. So, I had to work hard and often, just like I did in my childhood. But despite it all, the challenges made me the person that I am today.

I did end up getting married again, but I would rather not talk about my second husband. He was a devil, and the marriage lasted less than one year.

Today, I'm dating Richard Walker. Our children were in middle school together, so we met as PTA parents. I'm still pondering when I knew I was in love with him, but he is absolutely my best male friend. We would get married, but I recently had cancer and I don't want to be a burden.

Even with this health scare, I make it a priority to tell Richard thank you on a daily basis and make him aware of how appreciative I am of whatever he does for me. If (God forbid) something happens to him, my final words to him would simply be "please don't die."

My Heartbeats

I've had a lot of tough experiences through this point in life, but my mother's passing was extremely painful. She wasn't ill, so her transition was sudden, and my heart still has not completely healed. I was at the hospital when she passed, but the realization of living without her is like an empty hole that will never fill.

I don't think I will ever get over her death, but I believe in God's word. Job 14-16 says 'Man born of a woman is of a few days and full of trouble.' My mom's few days were over and so was her trouble, so this scripture gives me peace and comfort.

If I had the chance, I'd tell her: "You did a great job as a mom. Thank you!"

In addition to my mom, I was blessed to have 11 phenomenal female friends in my life. We were cheerleaders in high school and remained very close through the years. I also have a host of female cousins whom I love very much. Just to name a few, there's Rachel, Janet, Catherine, Virginia, Ruth, Anna, Amy, Sharon, Emily, and Deborah.

I do not have a biological sister, however God blessed me with Michelle Thomas (Frank's previous wife). Because of Michelle and Frank, I am blessed with Ashley and Ryan, my niece and nephew. God truly "showed out" when they were born. They have given me so much joy, love, and happiness. My first heartbeat will always be Brian, but I consider Ashley and Ryan to be my two other heartbeats.

Another side note: I want the world to know how special Michelle is to me. She is the epitome of a woman, mother, sister, and friend. My challenges were easier to bear because of her unconditional love, encouragement, and support. Michelle never judges me. She accepts me as I am and her love for her nephew/my son, is unquestionable. My life is better because of her.



Ryan and Ashley

Fast Facts

Race

-White

Ethnicity

-European

Native Language

-English

Religion and Beliefs

-Christian

-When I reach my final resting place, please know that I am at peace and my work on Earth is done. Know that I deeply loved those whom I knew and did my best to enjoy life to its fullest on a daily basis.

Sex/Gender

-Female/Woman

Sexual Orientation

-Heterosexual

Historical Events I Remember

-The Civil Rights Movement - I wish I'd done more to help.

Parting Advice

-Give your life to the Lord in your youth. Never doubt that you are awesome and with hard work, you can reach many milestones in your life.

A LIFE TO SHARE