

## **FINDING MY MARBLES, *metaphorically conquering the* Game of Life.**

***“Sometimes God redeems your story by surrounding you with people who need to hear your past, so it doesn’t become their future.”***

Over the past 30 years of my adult life, I have been blessed to find Marbles that I seemingly lost at the very beginning of my existence....yes, and I really do mean literally finding the little round spheres inauspicious moments of my life since the age of 23, (ironically 23 is a huge number in my life). I would find these little spheres in various forms of condition, some were worn out from use, some seemed brand new, and they either contained prisms of intertwined swirling colors or in the form of crystal clearness. However, my marbles were generally found in the prisms of color, as I'm just that kinda swirly girl, and rarely do things come crystal clear to me!...however, when I was blessed with one of those, I hailed the heavens!

My story of Finding my Marbles will be the Forward of this new Anthology project partnered with Elizabeth Hill and Green Heart Living Press. To understand what this whole Marble thing is about, I want to share this draft/shortened version of the Forward with you...thank you. :)

*“A long time ago, back in the 1970s, my brother and I would play in my Pepere’s huge garden in their backyard. Of course, it was generally pre-planting season when there was good dirt to dig in. We would find little marbles in the dirt, and over the years my Mom would tell me that these were marbles lost in the garden from the days when she and her siblings were kids; how divinely they were left for us to find so many years later. Hence...the story begins.*

*May 2nd, 1985, my Pepere died in a horrific car crash; his death was sudden, tragic, and very debilitating to my Memere, my Mom, her siblings, and our family. He was an amazing man, and his death was a huge pivot in how our family moved forward ever after. My Memere and Mom would never be the same.*

*Over the years, the marbles my brother and I found were lost among the other toys we played with and replaced with new adventures we would have created as youngsters in the 70's and early 80's. Come the Spring of 1990, at the age of 23, my children's dad and I moved into our first home, just after giving birth to our 1st daughter, Ashley, who would subsequently be diagnosed with Autism, which at the time symptoms started to present dynamically. One day I was digging in my yard in a bed of Lily of the Valley that the previous owner cultivated, an old lady of the day and original owner of the home. This is where I found my first marble, in adult life, once again digging in the Spring dirt, cultivated with love. This marble was the first in dozens I would find over the years, and to this very day, each and every time when I need guidance, and a “sign” that it was going to be alright, God has you, Pepere has you.*

***“Not all those that wander are lost” JRR Tolkien***

My story begins there, and my life has been a journey of tremendous challenges, and successes, either by design, circumstance, or decision. All along the way, career, home, or random serendipitous places, I would find a marble and it would make me laugh, or cry, but either way, I knew I was never alone. Over the years I thought this would make an amazing personal book to share with those that could benefit from many lessons I've learned, and how I came to be the grounded, spiritual, lover of life I am, (still ever-evolving), with such a challenging life filled with diversity. Well, y'know what? I was guided in a completely different direction, and while yes I will be sharing my stories, I absolutely believe there are so many others that have "FINDING MY MARBLE" life stories that NEED to be shared. I approached Liz Hill, and we decided that this is the first Anthology project for Bloom23 Productions and Green Heart Living Press to create....so excited.

We invite 20 authors to become part of, FINDING MY MARBLES, and share a story of metaphorically conquering the Game of Life. Does this project resonate with you? We would love to have you share your story(s) of inspiration, lessons, growth, and all-around fabulous'ness, to possibly help someone else in their awakening process letting them know they are never alone. Please see the attached application and outline of the process, and join us on this journey.

As always, Stay Bloomin'

Love, CM xo

***"ONE DAY you will tell your story of what you went through and it will be someone else's SURVIVAL GUIDE". A quote from a card given to me from a dear friend in the Spring of 2020.***

**Make it a great day!**

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