



NOTES TO MY SON



BEFORE YOU GO

Vesna M. Bailey

No bird soars too high
if he soars with his own wings.
William Blake





Introduction

Every mother and son has their own story to tell – yet at certain milestones, their story has a juncture common to all.

I initially wrote this book for my own son as he prepared to leave home for university where he would pursue his love of flying and aviation. Like many mothers I had a checklist in hand to help me gather things he would need for residence life, but I found there were so many more pressing and urgent things I needed to remember to pull from the shelves in my heart – a mother's last minute words that are meant to last a lifetime.

The mission of this book is to capture all that we as parents aspire to impart to our sons in preparing them for their “solo flight” – words that will inspire them, guide them, and anchor their footsteps on solid ground as they spread their wings to soar as high as their dreams will carry them.

Although we well know our heartstrings will always keep our child near, we also know that the path they will travel from now on will very much be their own journey – and we must allow them to feel it and walk it freely, while still being there to celebrate their footsteps along the way.

For a son to leave behind his childhood is certainly a remarkable milestone. After much soul searching we realize the only truly meaningful and adequate things measuring up to this occasion that we could authentically pass on to him are the bits and pieces of ourselves, borne of our own life tapestry. With these comes our boundless wish that he will be blessed with a happy and full life – one filled with good health, joy, laughter, kindness, compassion, justice, and peace, that he experience the best of humanity and life's goodness – and that he may lead a life worthy of all these things.

Life is not all a fairy tale. It truly isn't. But we must know and trust that our sons will have many amazing chapters that will carry them through the valleys and thunderstorms, only to emerge atop a glorious mountaintop. We now take a back seat knowing they will continue to amaze us with their potential to grow and learn, to love and to feel.

We say these words to our sons with almost incomprehensible joy, yet how bittersweet they feel:

“Thank you for letting me travel with you this far. I am so proud of you – you have no idea! ...Now, fly away, soar high, and knock their socks off!”





SUNFLOWERS
always TURN TO THE SUN



 As they say, in truth life is like a box of chocolates - you never know what you are going to get. React carefully, choose wisely, handle setbacks gracefully, and stay excited about the limitless possibilities - forge ahead confidently.

 There is nothing mystical about achieving a full and happy life - find your purpose; live a kind, honest and good life; be productive, creative, self-sufficient; be open to love and being loved.

 To find your purpose in life is not always easy - be patient as you allow it to change and evolve. Time will transform it to its intended form. Trust.





Be your own best friend.
 Let mistakes and regrets lead not only
to a lesson learned but also self-forgiveness.

 Gentle is the wind that brings songs of praise
but ferocious is the storm that comes to question us.
Trust that all things considered you did your best,
and peace is yours to keep.

 How will the success of your life be measured?
Only your answer counts.

 Respect your fellow man - their views, challenges,
perspectives, upbringing, weaknesses
and vulnerabilities, strengths and virtues.





 Remember, self-respect and respect from others is something that has to be earned.
One might say we are always at work in this regard.

 Love is unconditional but respect is earned.
It is a lot easier never to lose the respect of others than it is to earn it back.

 Give and take in all your personal and business relationships.
It's about winning at life - not about winning the competition or argument.
Be aware of your motives.

 Be willing to compromise, as long as it does not involve sacrificing your values and integrity.

I HAVE A DREAM
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963

 Make a difference. Be the difference. Live a noble existence. Celebrate YOU!



I love you.



Call home.



What would a mother say to her son as he leaves his childhood behind?

Vesna Bailey has captured those last-minute words that are meant to last a lifetime. These notes to her son were written to guide and inspire him in all things important including thoughts such as: how to sort laundry; on being a gentleman; on self-discipline and work-habits; on values and learning; on cherishing the love of friends and family, and --- on living a life reflecting in himself, the best of humanity. She shares her words with all moms to pass along to their sons before they leave home.

When Vesna presented these words to her son she felt a sense of peace and calm. "I knew I had left him the essence of a mother's soul – my joys, my loves, my passions, my convictions – all carrying hopes and dreams for his own journey ahead."

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the IFM project Rescue the Children in Ghana, (children sold into slavery for the fishing industry). Every child deserves to have a childhood and an education.

