

“There are so many different ways lives work out, so many stories, and every one of them is precious: full of joy and heartbreak, and a fair amount of situation comedy.” -- Sean Stewart

Parent Cornerstone Book

Sample Title: *Before I Was Your Mother/Father*

Pg 1: Before I Was Your Mother/Father...

“... I was a baby just like you were. I was a child who loved to play and learn and explore. When I grew up, I met your father/mother, and together we created a family, that includes a very important person...you! Here are some things you might want to know about me...before I was your mother/father.”

Pg. 2: I Was a Baby

Write about your early childhood. Include details such as your birth date and birth place and where you grew up. What kinds of things did you enjoy doing as a little child? What did your parents or siblings say about you? What were some of your character traits?

Pg. 3: Your Father/Mother Was Once a Baby too

Write about your spouse’s early childhood. Include details such as birth date and birth place and where your spouse grew up. What kinds of things did your spouse enjoy doing as a little child? What were some of your spouse’s character traits?

Pg. 4: Going to School (You)

Write about your elementary school experiences. Did you have any favorite teachers or classmates? What were your favorite subjects? How was school different for you than it is for your kids now? Include an experience of triumph and an experience of disappointment.

Pg. 5: Going to School (Your Spouse)

Write about your spouse’s school experiences. Did you spouse like school? What was your spouse best at? What did your spouse like about school. Include an experience of triumph and an experience of disappointment.

Pg. 6: My Favorite Thing to Do Was...

What kinds of activities did you like to do as a child? What interested you? What were your talents and hobbies? What games did you like to play?

Pg. 7: Your Father/Mother’s Favorite Thing Was...

What kinds of activities did your spouse like to do as a child? What interests did your spouse have? What were your spouse’s talents and hobbies? What games did your spouse like to play?

Pg. 8-9: When Mommy Met Daddy

How did you and your spouse meet? What attracted you to one another? What kinds of activities did you like to do together?

Pg. 10-11: Getting Married

What was it about your spouse that made you want to marry him/her? How did you or your spouse propose? Where did you get married? What were your thoughts on your wedding day?

Pg. 12-13: Making a Living and Building a Home

What jobs did you and your spouse have? Were you in school when you got married? What did you do to establish your home and life together?

Pg. 14: Preparing to Be Your Mother

How did you feel when you found out you were pregnant? What kinds of expectations did you have? What changes did you undergo? How did you prepare for the arrival of your child?

Pg. 15: Preparing to Be Your Father

What were your spouse's feelings about becoming a father? What kind of expectations did he have? What did he do to prepare for your arrival?

Pgs. 16-17: And Then There Was You

Devote these two pages to your child. Talk about some of their wonderful character traits that you've seen developing in them. Include some descriptions of them as a baby. Write about their talents and interests.

Pgs. 18-19: You (and your brothers and sisters) Make Me Happy

Talk about the contributions your child makes to the family. Express your love for the child and recognize their skills and accomplishments to date.

Pgs. 20-21: This Is What I Wish for You

Write down your hopes and dreams for your child (children). Include hopes for their future and for the character traits they will develop. Express your confidence and excitement about the person your child is becoming.