

# In The Midst Of It All: Everyone Has Their Own Rock Bottom

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*In The Midst of it All*

Part 1

Everyone has their own rock bottom By Emerald Stone

In the Midst of it All

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*Forward*

When I met Emerald, she was beautiful with an amazing smile and not to mention a personality that lights up a room. She carries herself with such class leaving the impression that life is smiling upon her.

In the mist of it all reflects life filled with love, family, and tragedy but through it all faith overcomes destruction. The series of events are told from the eyes and heart of a young woman trying to find her place in the world. She is wishing for love stability and happiness, yet finding confusion, betrayal and death are lurking in the midst as well. She learns a valuable lesson about faith and the power of prayer. She goes on to share this knowledge with other people.

Reading her book really makes the statement "You can't judge a book by its cover!" Learning the things that she had to witness and experience has made me wonder how she can continue to smile? She demonstrates strong continued faith, determination, and the will not to give in or give

up. She has shared her story to inspire others. She realizes that life can change in a second and with the wrong choices it can dramatically affect others. She learned that life teaches us lessons and mistakes occur when you don't learn from the lessons. She understands that things do not have to remain the same, however you must work to change them. She shared her goal and desire to generate love and peace within. She began to release bad memories making room for new positive loving experiences. In writing this book, part one of a series collection, she hopes that others can learn how to forgive what they cannot change and how to create something beautiful. Because in the mist of it all life can still be great. ~D. M. Davis, M.A

### *Dedication*

*With love, I dedicate this book to the many people who have experienced trials and tragedy yet still find hope and new life. May you grow in grace and love.*

*Your glow to illuminate bright in the world.*

*Acknowledgements First and foremost, giving glory and thanks to*

*Lord God for life experiences and his protection in the midst of it all. Thank you to family and friends who encourage and support this project. A very special thank you to Javonte and Demetria. They are two of God's many blessings placed in my life. Thank you, the reader for the opportunity to share this story with you. **Table of Contents***

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**Chapter one**

***Birth of the Beginning***

The police rush to handcuff a young black girl for some reason. They push her into the car with so much force that she slams her head against the door. One of the police officers declares, "You are under arrest, you are being arrested for murder, you have the right to remain silent." As the officer

reads her rights, she is unable to process the words coming from his mouth. In her mind, she hears only muffled sounds as he speaks. Her vision is blurry from the tears that will not stop flowing. Her mind drifts away to the beginning of how this all started.

Summer of 1972. The soulful sounds of the 70's is playing loudly through the radio speakers while the DJ prepares the next record to keep the crowd grooving on this warm sunny day. A beautiful almost eight months' pregnant young lady whose honey colored skin looks as if it's been kissed by the sun is dancing to the music. Her ponytail hangs to the middle of her back and is swinging from left to right as her body sways to the music.

Her friends join in and they began to dance in unison performing a routine they have danced many times before. The smell of burning charcoal and barbeque fill the air. People are talking amongst themselves while laughing catching up on all the latest neighborhood hustler's stories. One guy recalls, "Man do you remember when Antonio threw that big block party last summer? all the fine honeys came out to play!" There is plenty of drinking beer and smoking marijuana happening. Fancy cars, mostly Cadillacs and Lincolns, line the driveway and street.

Motorcycles owned by local club members display their brightly painted and uniquely custom designs on the front lawn. Each of the riders have donned their club vests to represent the brotherhood and show unity to the biker world as well as the individual club each is affiliated with. The pregnant girl's brother is a member of the Zulu Riders. His appearance is of Cherokee Indian descent with long, silky, black wavy hair and cocoa colored skin that is flawless. He is book smart even though he did not go to college and barely finished high school. He remains a well-rounded guy who can hold a conversation with anyone from a homeless man at the corner store to the president of any Fortune 500 company. To say the least, he's never had a problem attracting the ladies whenever he feels the need. Many women would love to call him their own because of his reputation for pleasing his woman in every way. He sexually satisfies his lady and showers her with gifts. However, once they fall for his spell, they soon learn he rules the women in his romantic life with an iron fist. So much so that none of them dare to cross him. The cocoa colored man yells out, "Hey let's go for a ride."

The pregnant girl hops on the back of her brother's motorcycle and adjusts her body in a saddle style position to maintain her balance while they speed off racing down the street. As they are racing down the freeway approaching a dangerous curve known as Dead Man's Curve located near the east side of town, the two of them, followed by a caravan of cyclists, are having the time of their lives. The breeze is blowing against their skin while passing through the city enjoying the scene. All of a sudden, the pregnant girl starts having very strong stomach cramps and tightness. The feeling hits her every few minutes until a wet sensation trickles down her legs. She screams in her brother's ear, as he changes lanes, "I think I'm in labor." He says, "Aww damn, hold on don't have that baby yet." He rushes his sister to the nearest hospital. When they arrive, the young girl is in a panic, screaming and yelling as each contraction becomes stronger and stronger. "What's going on? I'm not even nine months pregnant yet. Is the baby going to be OK? It hurts so bad!"

The triage nurse takes her blood pressure and then starts an Intravenous access to give a bag of fluids for hydration. By this time, she is in full labor while being admitted to the hospital then transferred to the delivery floor in preparation to have the baby. Already it has been twelve hours and she continues to have labor pains. Finally, around seven o'clock in the morning, Destiny Delano is born. She is premature arriving three weeks early. The doctor says the baby can't go home until she gains more weight. She weighs 4 pounds 13 ounces but needs to be at least 6 pounds before discharge. This creates an extended hospital stay in an incubator for several days allowing the baby to build strength and gain enough weight to be released for discharge home. Carmen Banks, thoroughly inspects her newborn baby counting all ten fingers and toes. She finds no deformities but notices a dark reddish mark on the baby's skin. She rings the call bell for the

nurse to come. As the nurse enters the room, Carmen shouts, "That doctor pulled my baby out the wrong way, why is this mark on my child?" Carmen starts to blame the doctor or whomever else she feels is at fault for the mark. The nurse takes a deep breath and calmly examines the newborn then tells the naïve girl, "The mark is a birthmark, a skin blemish appearing at birth or shortly after with no known cause. In the olden days, the elders have called it a kiss from God." Carmen is embarrassed, but does not apologize or say another word.

The baby's father Antonio Delano is several years older than Carmen and has it going on. He recently returned from serving six years as active duty military which he joined straight out of high school. His handsome looks and dapper demeanor earned him the title, "Distinguished Gentle", given to him by his peers. He works long hours in a car factory during the day but has started his own business during the evenings and off days. His business involves creatively masterminding a sophisticated organization that obtains high end luxury cars, then reassigns a new vehicle identification number to the car, ultimately selling the cars for top dollar. He makes more money at his own business than he does working his day job but he keeps his legitimate job for tax purposes. Standing six feet three inches tall, Antonio is a muscular, Carmel toast complexion, well dressed, smells good all the time man who can have any woman, but he only wants Carmen. Typically, a love like the one Antonio has for Carmen leads to the American dream of a pictureperfect family, white picket fence included but this is real life and things don't always go as planned.

While waiting for Antonio to come to the hospital, Carmen calls her friend Jerome, whom she met while attending cosmetology school. The two of them developed a strong friendship during their time in school together. Their bond is not a physical attraction but a pure brotherly love. He remains her confidant and comforter, sharing many intimate detailed conversations that only the two of them are privy to about their life, and secrets neither would divulge to anyone else. Carmen knows she can trust him always and vice versa. After hanging up from talking with Jerome, Carmen begins to reminisce back to the day she first met Antonio.

She envisions the moment vividly, remembering sitting at a table for the grand opening of the new Elite Restaurant Lounge waiting for her friend to come meet her there. As she is listening to the music she glances over to the door with anticipation of her friend Evette to arrive. She's beginning to wonder if she's even coming it's been forty-five minutes and she still isn't here. A few minutes later she glances over once again towards the entrance and in the mist of her looking for her friend, her eyes meet Antonio. He came through the door with a guy walking beside him. His whole presence exudes

confidence charisma and style that captivates Carmen's attention. He has on an unbuttoned navy-blue wool trench coat with a matching hat tilted to the side. Underneath the coat reveals a double breasted gray suit. His attire is

complemented by navy trimmed grey leather shoes. As he walks through the club, guys are going out of their way to shake his hand and ladies are admiring from a distance. On his way to the bar he encounters Carmen. Their eyes immediately connect. Instantly she feels dreamy inside with thoughts of becoming his lady. He proceeds to the bar with his friend. Carmen stays seated at the table with her legs crossed sipping water from a glass. To Carmen's surprise, the man's friend appears at her table saying, "Excuse me Miss I was just wondering if my friend and I could have a seat here with you?" "We just got here and all the seats are taken." Carmen agrees hoping to spend time with the smooth looking gentlemen who had her in a brief trance. Antonio grabs his drink and joins them at the table. At that moment, everything fades in the background the only thing Carmen can see or focus on is this fine man sitting in front of her.

Carmen's thoughts shift to when Antonio expressed to her how he felt the first time he laid eyes on

her. "When I first laid eyes on you, I knew then you were going to be my wife, because in that club filled by people everywhere the only person that I could see was you. As I listened to the chatter filling the room I only wanted to hear your voice. Your eyes seem to look straight through to my soul and instantly I knew that I must have this fine, beautiful, tender lady in my life. \*

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Destiny, the main character, was born to a world wind of multiple challenges beyond her control. Later as she navigates her way through one opposition after another, she encounters situations not many could bear. The story depicts many familiar characters in which the reader might identify from one's own personal journey. It paints trials and tragedies revealing the uncertainties of life. Ultimately Destiny's life takes a turn that leaves the odds and stereotypically statistics puzzled. In the *Midst of It All*; series collection, gently reminds the reader of the mighty power of prayer in a world that can be so cold and callous.

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