

From the time I was born, my mother always made sure I felt secure in life. Yes, times have been tough, but we've gotten through everything together. With every obstacle, there's been a lesson learned. She has taught me how to get through life and stay strong. I couldn't ask God for a better mom. This book is an authentic representation of who my mom is and what we've gone through. I hope it encourages all of the moms who read it and reminds them that they're not alone.

—*Jaslyn Edgar, Nikki's daughter*

This is a life-changing book for single moms. It is so hard juggling life, kids, and your own heart when you are single. So often we overlook ourselves in the process of taking care of everyone else. So take time to enjoy this thirty-one-day process of finding yourself and your purpose.

—*Kimberly Jones Pothier, author of Beautifully Whole*

Every single mother feels like a ship alone at sea at times. Single mothers have become the modern-day widow, and the percentage rises every year. To be seen and to know they are not alone is a rare gift to any mother. Regardless how a woman finds herself in the role of single parenting, to feel she is not alone and can raise exceptional humans is all the encouragement she sometimes needs. Nikki offers encouragement and hope that all is not lost, and that heroes sometimes look like women who are both mother and father to their kids.

—*Rita Springer, songwriter, singer, leader*



All Things Beautiful

31 Devotions for
Single M♥ms

Nikki Leonti Edgar

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Foreword

by Holly Wagner

Over the last few years, I have spent quite a bit of time with Nikki Edgar. During casual dinners, she will occasionally belt out a song, which is inspiring and annoying at the same time! Her voice is just beyond belief, especially to someone like me who can't sing two notes in the same key. She is just one of those people you want to hang around—not because she is perfect and has it all together, but because she is real. With Nikki, you know you can have a genuine conversation and find an authentic friend.

I have watched her walk through some tough situations, and I have seen her stay faithful to the God who loves her. She is refreshingly honest, and in Los Angeles, which can be the city of 'fake,' that is such a treasure.

Being a mom is a hard job, and I can only imagine the challenges that come with being a single mom. In all seasons, Nikki has handled her role as mom with inspiring grace.

As I read through her book, *All Things Beautiful*, I experienced a lot of different emotions and was honestly



All Things Beautiful

encouraged to trust God more. I am not a single mom, but I was refreshed with each chapter.

I love this girl, and I know that you will too. You will feel like you are having a conversation with a friend. And if you want to hear her sing and you can't make it to dinner, you should check out her music on iTunes. You will see what I mean about her amazing voice!

Holly Wagner

Pastor, Oasis Church, Los Angeles, CA

Author, *Find Your Brave*

Dream Catching

Maybe you've heard it said that writing out your dreams and goals is not only cathartic, but it also helps increase your faith and gives you an opportunity to see what God can do. I write out a list of my goals for the year every January first, but you can start this at any time. On these lists would be my intentions, dreams, desires, or even things I considered to be a little foolish. Some years, my list would start with braces for my daughter and end with writing my own book. (Hey, hey! I'm doing that now.)

I make a list of prayers for my family, and I used to make a list when asking God for a spouse. I wrote out everything that was important to me in a partner and what was an absolute in character. From loving my children to loving God, I carefully listed around twenty things that were non-negotiable. A year after I made this list, God sent me someone who was exactly what I prayed for. Down to every single detail.

All Things Beautiful

Writing down our desires and prayers also serves as a constant reminder of what we deserve and what we should set out to attain. If I met a guy that I kept making excuses for, or if I thought I could let a couple of things slip just because I was attracted to someone, I would pull out my list and remind myself that my prayer was for someone who was truthful, caring, patient, etc. Like it did for me, a list can help you maintain focus and set a clear vision of the overall goal.

You can also take the things you pray for in a mate and turn them around on yourself. If my list was for someone honest, kind, open-hearted, nonjudgmental, and focused, I would then ask God to help me lead with kindness, honesty, and an open heart. You attract the things that are overflowing from within you. This goes for relationships, work, and other areas of life.

In 2012, I made a list as I do every year. I asked the Lord for a nice apartment for myself and my kids, a new job, and an island in my kitchen. God definitely has a sense of humor, because when it came time for me to find a new place to live, at the end of the walk-through, the owner showed me an old island cart that he said I could use for the kitchen. It wasn't the vision I had in my mind, but it sure was a detail of my prayer that didn't get overlooked. To this day, it makes me giggle when I think about that little wheeled island that I would make cookies on while I thanked God that I had worked my way out of sleeping on couches or counting quarters.



Dream Catching

I encourage you to take a couple of minutes and journal some of your prayers and desires. Don't be conservative with your dreams; really go all the way. Watch what God can do and how seeing these things in front of you will stir a motivation within you to take steps toward your destiny.

Beauty Mark

Invite God into every aspect of your life and he will direct and bless you. He cares about the desires of your heart and will weave your dreams together beautifully.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:6 ESV



Lord, I acknowledge you today and ask for you to open the windows of my heart so that I can clearly see your paths. I invite you into every situation of my life. Thank you for your goodness and care in all the details.

What are some dreams that you have
for this year?

When You Just Want to Move On ... But You Can't

Well, let's face it. I didn't always make the best decisions. I settled for things I knew weren't the best for me, I made a ton of excuses, and I didn't listen to other people's opinions. As an eighteen-year-old newly married woman, I thought I knew it all. I look back and laugh as I now look at my seventeen-year-old daughter and can't imagine her being a married mom like I was. And to think that I thought I had it all together!

By the time I walked through a second divorce (yes, second), I was finally ready to surrender to God and move on. Unfortunately, as you probably know, even though you're ready to move on to new things, your past has a way of sticking around. Whether it be in the voice of a mother-in-law,

calls from your ex-husband about school details, or old unpaid bills, the past has a way of reminding us where we went wrong. It may seem like you'll never escape the reminders that you didn't always make the best choices, but I promise you'll overcome.

The headaches of your past can creep in whether the other parent is in the picture or not. I thought my divorce would bring finality, but for me it was the beginning of a very long road. From continuous custody battles to meddling family members, I felt like the light would never shine through the tunnel.

Can I say right now that I'm completely on the other side? Well ... no. My older two children are teens and things are easier, but I still have to face reminders like the ghosts of Christmas in the *Scrooge* movie. They can lead me back through the darkest corners of my life where I can't believe I'd ever ventured. I constantly remind myself that God has not failed me and that I have made it through 100 percent of the battles I've faced. One hundred percent is great odds that I'll make it out of what I'm going through right now too.

You may be reading this wondering how you'll endure another day of friction, worry, or upset. But if you continue to look to the one who will never fail you, I promise he will keep you above the circumstances that are trying to hold you captive in negativity. The turmoil may not become easier overnight—in many cases it won't—but your faith in the



When You Just Want to Move On ... But You Can't

knowledge that you will overcome and that there will be restoration in your story will be the wings to guide you through the uncertainty of your life.

Let the spirit of God who dwells in your heart and mind move you forward and above when the arms of your past want to drag you back down.

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Let the beauty and grace from within you shine through the darkness that may be surrounding you. You can ignite a difference in your life and in those around you.

From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

PSALM 61:2 KJV



Lord, I ask for patience to handle the things that overwhelm my mind. Help me be slow to anger but rich in grace and understanding. Fill me with your love so it may overflow to my children and those around me.

What things are overwhelming you?
Write down the name of someone who
can support you in that area.

Journal

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, spanning the width of the page.



When Your Life Is Flipped

Well, if you've ever been involved in a home restoration project or watched one of the many house-flipping TV shows, you know there's a lot more to it than what you see in the thirty minutes that they neatly wrap into one very gratifying program. A renovation can bring leaks, broken pipes, permits, paperwork, termites, and other random curveballs. If you were to start a home project without any knowledge of the in-between, you'd probably be seriously disappointed that it's not as glamorous as it appears.

As children and teenagers, we have ideals and dreams of what we think our life is going to look like. My dreams were so detailed that anything less would've been deemed failure in my eyes. With my purity ring on my finger, I imagined kissing my future spouse for the first time when he proposed to me, losing my virginity on our wedding night, having our

first child five years after our wedding and our second child two years after that. We would live in an old home that we restored together and life would be complete bliss.

I was a dreamer and a romantic comedy addict. When my life started to look different from that, I began to feel like a failure and believed that I would never have the happy ending I visualized. I saw the before and after of my life but didn't grasp the in-between. I put my future in a neat little presentation with the big red bow. I saw the house with the beautiful shiplap, original hardwood floors, and of course the *wow* moment, but I had no idea of the journey it would take to get there.

Oh, but the life we live to get to the beauty isn't always beautiful, and it definitely doesn't happen in thirty minutes. There's pain in the process of refining.

Like myself, you may have ventured far away from your original dream. This doesn't mean you can't have a beautiful story. A detour is only a side road on the way to your destiny. You can't perfectly plan your life and not expect to have some bumps along the way. You also can't live in a mindset where you believe you have already failed because things didn't go the way you imagined them.

You may be in over your head with something you didn't imagine would be this difficult, or you may be losing hope that you'll have the extraordinary life you imagined. I can tell you with certainty that no matter how many things may be going wrong in your house, you're on a path to



All Things Beautiful

something beautiful. It may look like the biggest mess you've ever seen, but there is a restoration process that is going to lead you to something better than you could've ever imagined.

When Your Life Is Flipped

Beauty Mark

Give God the uncertainties and difficulties of your situation. Have faith that he can guide you through the steps of unveiling your restored dreams.

And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten.

JOEL 2:25 KJV



Lord, I ask you to fill my heart with renewed hope. You are a God who restores the broken with your redeeming love. Reignite my dreams and help me see that beauty can arise from any circumstance.

What is one life project that is
in the process of healing for you?



*Bible Promises
for Single Moms*

Encouragement

The humble will see their God at work and be glad.
Let all who seek God's help be encouraged.

PSALM 69:32 NLT

Since we first heard about you, we've kept you always in our prayers that you would receive the perfect knowledge of God's pleasure over your lives, making you reservoirs of every kind of wisdom and spiritual understanding. We pray that you would walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you'll become fruit-bearing branches, yielding to his life, and maturing in the rich experience of knowing God in his fullness!

COLOSSIANS 1:9-10 TPT

Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

EPHESIANS 4:29 NLT

Finances

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

HEBREWS 13:5 NLT

My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

I TIMOTHY 6:17 ESV

Hope

He lifts the poor from the dust
and the needy from the garbage dump.
He sets them among princes,
placing them in seats of honor.
For all the earth is the LORD's,
and he has set the whole world in order.

1 SAMUEL 2:8 NLT

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 15:13

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 1:3 ESV

Peace

The LORD will give strength to His people;
the LORD will bless His people with peace.

PSALM 29:11 NKJV

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

COLOSSIANS 3:15

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

JOHN 16:33 NLT

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

Strength

In your strength I can crush an army;
with my God I can scale any wall.

2 SAMUEL 22:30 NLT

The LORD gives strength to his people.

PSALM 29:11

You empower me for victory
with your wrap-around presence.
Your power within makes me strong to subdue,
and by stooping down in gentleness
you strengthened me and made me great!

PSALM 18:35 TPT

My flesh and my heart fail;
But God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

PSALM 73:26 NKJV

About the Author



Nikki Leonti Edgar was raised singing in church with her family, and her love of music was birthed through hearing the sounds of gospel choirs. She experienced the loss of a brother through cancer at a very young age, but she was inspired by her family's continuous faith through that tragedy.

Nikki had a successful Christian music career with number-one songs and charting album sales, but it wasn't enough to fill the emptiness inside her. She found herself alone with two children by the time she was twenty-four years old, and soon moved to California and began to create a business for herself, all while being a single mom for nearly a decade. Throughout her time in California, she wrote music for television and film that spanned all genres. Her credits include multiple Disney and Dreamworks movies, lending vocals to over two hundred songs on Fox's hit show *Glee*, as well as backing vocals for albums and live shows for artists such as Rod Stewart, Carrie Underwood, Katy Perry,

All Things Beautiful

Demi Lovato, CeeLo Green, Amy Grant, Selena Gomez, Faith Hill, Josh Groban, Pharrell Williams, Kirk Franklin, and many others. She has written songs for various artists, including Jessie J, Robin Thicke, Candice Glover, Rebecca Ferguson, Olivia Holt, and Dove Cameron. During her years of being single, she found strength in God and an incredible peace with being alone.

At the end of 2013, Nikki was given God's greatest gift through the love of the wonderful man who is now her husband, Ryan Edgar. He adopted her older daughter and has been very supportive of Nikki. They just completed their run on NBC's hit show *America's Got Talent* and made it to the semifinals. The family is actively involved in their church through worship arts and are pursuing various avenues of music through writing and live shows. They look forward to the adventure ahead and how God can use their stories to ignite hope in others.

To learn more about Nikki, visit NikkiEdgar.com.