

Afterword

Andy, I don't even know her last name, but I have to say I've grown to love the curious, talkative, thoughtful, and feisty little girl I created. I'm sure I don't write like professional writers because I often didn't know where the story was going until Andy took me there. I used stories I heard from my mom, dad, and their families to try to make Andy and her surroundings as accurate as I possibly could.

Much of the story, Thanksgiving and Christmas, was about Andy being committed. However, when I got to that part of the story, I played it down rather than up like I imagined I would. Why? I wondered that myself, but I realized that accepting Jesus was Andy's personal change and revelation. She and Reverend Simpson (the minister who baptized me) had conversations, and through those talks, Andy knew she was ready to take the step forward and commit herself to the Lord.

Hopefully, you saw the change in Andy. Without saying it, she forgave her best friend, Lacy Cleaves, for winning the part of Mary, a role Andy wanted more than anything. When it came time for the finale and Lacy's big moment, Lacy froze. Without hesitation, Andy knew what she had to do for her best friend. That was the new Andy.

I know Andy's life changed when she committed to the Lord, and I know Andy will be a work of progress, slipping and sliding, questioning and learning, and eventually understanding what road she wants to travel. I want to travel that road with her, and I hope you want to travel that road with us.

Thank you for letting me share Andy's journey with you. I will be forever grateful.

Sandra Mayhugh
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