

Note from the Author

Writing this book was a challenging journey.

I encountered some difficult moments where I felt like giving up everything. As someone who is inherently flawed, the process of filling that void can sometimes be overwhelming.

At times, the writing process took me back to the past — to people, and experiences that still bring me pain but have no place in my present. Some pieces have been previously published but have since been refined.

To be honest, writing this was not an easy task. It was a painful yet necessary journey.

However, it was also a journey of self-discovery and healing.

As I poured my heart and soul into these pages, I found myself confronting my deepest fears and insecurities. I learned to embrace my imperfections and accept myself for who I am.

I hope that as you read this book, you too will find inspiration to confront your own demons and embark on your own journey of self-discovery. Remember, we are all works in progress and it's okay to not have everything figured out.

Thank you for joining me on this journey. It is my sincere hope that my words will resonate with you and bring you comfort and clarity in your own life.

Sincerely,

Stephanie

Reflecting on the past

Searching for happiness and stability. Looking at a picture, I am reminded of my fourth birthday, where I sported strawberry blonde ponytails, an outfit lovingly crafted by my mother, and wide smile showcasing my missing baby teeth. It seems like I was happy. But the truth is that I wasn't, and I wouldn't be for a long time. My life was riddled with difficulties from a young age. By the time I was six, I had already been exposed to more police cars, shelters and strangers than any other child on the block and moved houses several times. Despite this, I always ended up back at the same dreadful place that I had to call home. As a result, I lost the ability to be carefree and trust in humanity.

By the time I was twelve, I had moved six times, officially, on the record. By fifteen, it was ten times, and to this day, I have moved a total of 26 times. I never stayed in one place for longer than a year and three months, on average. Now, I pray that I have finally found the safety and stability that I have yearned for my entire life. The safety of having a home, my own home.

Stephanie