Marianne’s Autobiography

# I Am..

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A mother

Passionate

Unique

Headstrong

Independent

Beautiful

Happy

Hard to understand

Confident

Ready for my awakening

Outgoing

Intimidating

Creative

## Birth Story

My mother gave birth to a baby girl on December 28th, 1996 at 1:33 p.m. in Littleton Advanced Hospital. Her and Brian named that baby Marianne Rene’e Flaugher. That baby is me. I was raised in a little house in Englewood Co right up until a year or so after my brother was born. We then moved to Salem, Illinois. That is where my dad’s family lives. A year later, after my parents were unable to find work, we moved back to a house on Patterson Place, in Littleton, CO. This is pretty much where my legacy starts.The neighborhood was quiet for the most part and beautiful. We had parks and school and stores within walking distance. I had friends all throughout my neighborhood. My brother and I got into sooo much trouble, all day everyday. My sister, brother and I attended Centennial Academy of Fine Arts Education, a public elementary school. It based their program on more detailed specials, art, music, and physical education. We had the opportunities to learn to play instruments, to sing in strict choirs, to juggle or walk on stilts. That is when I found my love for music. I graduated 5th grade just like any other kid and furthered my education at Goddard Middle School. Within 6 months I was off to start school in a brand new area i’ve never even been, with new people, new everything. After Christmas my father moved us all to New Castle, Co, so he could start a new life, with a better job. My brother and I had gone to Riverside Middle School. I hated it. I hated the new kids, who bullied me for not being like them. I hated the new teachers, who put me in regular classes, not advanced, because the way i solved things weren’t exactly the way they wanted it. I hated the stupid cold snow and the ugly mountains. Everything sucked. It took me awhile to make friends, and when I did we all were considered “nerds”. The ending of 6th grade year I met this girl named Nicole. We had made plans to hangout over summer break, we did just that. Nicole and I soon became real great friends. I started 7th grade year with a new group of friends and even a new house, in a new town. This time I didn’t hate anything about it, aside from having to share a room with my sister. I started going to school a lot more and making plans with friends. Somewhere between the middle and ending of 7th grade year I smoked pot for the first time. I guess my friends weren’t considered good kids. I Smoked with them ever since. 8th grade was a good year for me. I became labeled as a “stoner”, but other than that I went to school regularly and did my work. As far as it goes for my freshmen year I was still a pretty good kid. That’s just not how people saw me. The summer of my freshmen year I drank for my first time. There was no turning back. Nicole and I started partying every night and drinking our life away. I never showed up to school and when I did I’d walk 3 miles home after my first class. I soon didn’t care about ANYTHING except my friends and getting messed up. Coal Ridge High School sent me to truancy court. I tried to get my GED but never showed up to the classes. Then I applied to go to school at Yampah Mountain High School. When I finally got accepted I ran away from home. I left for 3 days to a week, and Yampah took my spot from me. I continued life on this deadly path until one day i decided I needed to go back to school. I asked Yampah once again and they actually accepted me back. This was my junior year. I slacked off a lot barely got credit and didn’t care much. Still hanging out with a bad crew. Until about half way threw I found out I was pregnant. I switched down stairs to the Teen Parent Program. I was in denial my whole pregnancy but once I met my son, Jayce Lukas, I knew it was going to be a good thing. My senior year was hectic. Still hanging out with a bad crew. I got into deep Deep What? and did a lot of things I’m not proud of. Around March or so I got my life together and went to school for the remainder of the year. I want to graduate and be something awesome in life so i continued to go back to Yampah to graduate. Life for me has been a struggle, but as of right now I’m doing better than ever. I strive to be great things and Yampah and all the TPP staff have helped me realize that. Thank you.

### My Parents..

Brian and Karen, my parents. Opposites attract, well that’s just what they are. My father is a hard working man. He currently works at Ajax Plumbing and Heating. He has been a master plumber my whole life. He is very giving and caring. Wise beyond anybody I’ve met. He gives me the best advice and understands just what I am going threw, most of the time. He loves the outdoors. One of his favorite things to do is garden, especially with his grandson, Jayce. Our yards are full of beautiful flowers, and edible treats. My mother is a home worker. She puts her all into keeping a clean, happy home. She is temperamental at times and gets stressed easy. Mostly, my mom enjoys family time and baking. My mother is a great baker. When she was working she was an accountant. My mother has the biggest heart and she always makes me feel alright after a decision I have made. Over all I wouldn’t ask for better parents, I love every flaw and positive thing about them.

#### **My Siblings..**

I have two siblings. To start off with my eldest, that would be my sister. She’s 21 years of age. Her full name is Lillian Faye. My sister is very kind, outgoing, wild, caring and over all great. We have a lovely relationship. I can trust her with anything. I know when I’m stressed out I can talk to her and she will help me out. Faye also has a daughter who is only 8 days younger than my son. It was helpful to go through pregnancy together. My youngest sibling would be my brother Dale. Dale is 17 years old, he attends Yampah Mountain High School as well. He’s held a job at Mcdonald's for over a year now. Dale is very intelligent and wise. He loves cars, and wants to be a mechanic when he graduates.

##### **Pivotal Moments**

I have a couple pivotal moments I would love to share.

One pivotal moment I had around 8 years old, was falling on my bike and almost getting hit by a car. I remember going to the hospital and my ankle was the size of a softball. It taught me to be aware of my surroundings.

My Uncle on my dad’s side of the family had a heart attack, when I was around 9. This happened so close to Christmas and my birthday is three days after. I remember being scared for him but not completely understanding what was going on. My dad flew out to Illinois on the 27th of December and the next day I celebrated my 10th birthday without him. That really upset me, but it taught me to remain unselfish. Sometimes it’s ok be hurt about a situation but to look at the bigger picture.

Another moment was fishing with my dad and uncle Terry (dad’s brother). I loved fishing and I loved spending time with them. I was about 12/13 and while we fished my uncle started skipping rocks. Well I couldn’t figure it out. My uncle picked up the perfect rock to skip and positioned my hands around it just right. He then told me to look at the top of the water and imagine a straight line. Gently but firmly throw the rock. From then on I have been able to skip rocks on water.

My last pivotal moment was recently. My family and I, all 7 of us packed up our things and headed out for two weeks. Our destination? Grandma’s house, in Salem,Illinois. I was so excited Jayce would get to meet his Great Grandma on my father’s side, we never really make it out there very often. We all got to spend 2 awesome weeks with her, made more memories, but definitely had some hard times too. We got to throw a mini family reunion and see most of our family. A couple weeks after leaving my Grandmother ended up passing away. It was really hard on my father, as well as the rest of us. It did teach us all to cherish and hold close everyone who means something to you. That pivotal moment taught me the most, and I’ll always hold my Grandma Marty in a special place in my heart.

I have an extreme amount of moments in life that have taught me so much and made a huge impact in my life but I decided to only share these few.

###### **What Makes Me Happy..**

1. Food

2. My family

3. Animals

4. Meditation

5. Nature

###### **What Makes Me Sad..**

1. War

2. Starving children

3. The government

4. Disappointing people

5. Heart breaks

###### **Positive Characteristics..**

1. Understanding

2. Forgiving

3. Strong

4. Intelligent

5. I know what I want out of life

6. Always looking forward

7. Interested in MANY things in life

###### **Weaknesses..**

1. Sometimes I’m too hard on myself.
2. Procrastination
3. Helping the wrong people

###### **Religious/Spiritual Beliefs..**

 I was born into a Lutheran Christian lifestyle. Went to bible camp/study, went to church all the time. Spent a good amount as a child learning the religious views of the Lutheran beliefs. As I grew into my teenage years I no longer attended church, I no longer studied any beliefs. I thought I was atheists, I thought nothing existed outside of my body. This was it and it’s all I will ever be. Well progressing through my teenage years I met a lot of people learned more about religions. A few people stuck to me and had my mind moving, wondering, wanting to learn more and think more about all the options. Currently I don’t have any specific religion. I believe a few things. One thing science did tell me is, we ALL have energy in us, it’s what keeps us and our brains alive and active, well energy never dies; you cannot destroy it. So I do think my energy will find a new home for itself, what I don’t know is if it will be on this planet, in another human, animal, plant. I do very much believe in reincarnation as a thing, and maybe with more study, my beliefs could gravitate towards Buddhism.

###### **Beauty Is..**

Well like they say “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” Beauty is in everything you just have to acknowledge it. Beauty is in people; their eyes, their hair, stories, adventures, smiles, thoughts, creations, laughs. Beauty is in nature; water, flowers, animals, plants, mountains, skies. Beauty is in everything and anything. The important part is looking for the beauty in life, you’ll never see it if your eyes are closed.

###### **Friendship Is..**

Having a friend to me is, having someone to talk to, venture with, joke with. Friendship is important it helps you mentally. When you have someone in life who is on your side because they WANT to makes you feel important. The vibes you create are ones you attract, you’re going to attract many people in life for many reasons, but when you vibe with someone you almost feel a little more complete. They’ll encourage you to be a better you than you were before, and to me that makes all the difference.

###### **Home Is..**

Home is…. where you make it. Home is where your heart is. You could be anywhere in the world, and hate it. If you don’t put your heart in it, you will never be happy. Home right now for myself is my parents house in Rifle, CO. Home before was Littleton, CO. I think it’s safe to say I will probably always reside in Colorado. It’s the perfect place, so much to see, and do. I still haven’t seen it all in my 18 years. Yes i’d love to see more than just Colorado, but I would love to know my home as well as it does me.

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###### **Being A Good Parent..**

What my opinion on being a good parent is.. support, love, trust, and attention. Support your child, financially and emotionally. Of course to survive life on earth we need the basics; food, water, shelter, warmth. To have all those you need money income. That’s just what we need to survive but with all that and no support system for your thoughts, plans, goals, you probably still could believe your parents don’t care. You need to be with them every step of the way, and not literally, but mentally. It will help gain the trust I was talking about. With them being able to talk to you about their thoughts that will establish a trusting bond. I’m not going to say they’re not going to lie every now and then but when they feel endangered or screwed up they will most likely run to you first. All of the things I listed tie into each other. It’s hard to do one without the other falling along side of it. Of course last of all discipline, it’s required so they know morals and rules. It will help them in the long run to make good decisions when faced with bad and good.

###### **Future Happiness..**

Well, for me… I don’t really believe in “future happiness” and the reason for that is EVERYDAY, every second you have the chance to turn situations into happiness. I live day by day. Rarely do I plan or go with my future plans. At any time, any moment something could change that plan and disappointment is right around the corner. Rather than planning steps out, I ride the river and hold on. There’s always going to be up’s, down’s, hell, you might even be sideways at one point; but you can always choose to smile through it and create your own happiness.

###### **Success Is..**

Success is… finding your true passion, your reasoning and pursuing it. Success is not fitting into what you’re told to do, it’s creating your own ideas of life. Chasing who, and what you want to be. Finding what you enjoy. Keeping going even when you have a struggle. Don’t let others tell you what to do or be, choose your own life, thoughts, ideas.

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###### **I Am Grateful For..**

I am grateful for life. The breaths I take. The chances I have to experience. All the places i’ve seen, as well as the many more I will see. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to learn everyday. I am grateful for my thoughts and how well I use them. I’m pleased to be able to choose who I want to be, everyday. Jayce brings me hugs and smiles full of gratitude. Not every human has the chance, opportunities, or freedom like I do, my journey is to not take that for granted and use it to my best potential.

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