Synopsis

A real-life testimony about the potter and the clay, metaphorically, of course. After a lifetime of brokenness, Hannah comes to the realization that all that God allowed to happen in her life was and is for a purpose. As the potter, the Lord, shaped her and molded her into what she is today, the clay, Hannah, learned to walk in obedience to bring Him glory despite all the heartache, pain, and brokenness. God shapes the clay every time molding her into something more beautiful than before.

Outline

Chapter 1: May 28, 2016

-Ash commits suicide.

-My mom forces me to move to California for the summer.

-I go back to school for senior year

Chapter 2: December 9, 2016

-I go to school as usual.

-I get taken to hospital and receive the diagnosis of a severe nervous breakdown and AMS (altered mental status).

-Flashbacks to parents' divorce and grandparents' death.

Chapter 3: December 12, 2016

-I went back to school. I met with the counselors and my teachers and got a 504 plan.

-The spring semester was hard. I dropped almost all my advanced classes. relearned to read, write, talk, and eventually graduated high school.

Chapter 4: May 27, 2016

-I graduated high school. I spent the whole summer with John and Marie.

-I started college at OBU. I switched my major and accepted the call to ministry.

-I attempted to commit suicide. I went on a mission trip to Peru.

Chapter 5: July 2020

-I applied to SkyRanch and got a job as a photographer.

-I caught COVID. COVID led to pleurisy, then mesenteric lymphadenitis, then colon cancer,

then endometriosis.

Chapter 6: May 2021

-I graduated college and moved back home. My dad said he wished I was never born. I went back to SkyRanch. I came home to work for a startup private school. I started working at Church on the Rock.

-Left Church on the Rock to go be a Director of Children's Ministry and moved out on my own. I totaled my car and went on my first ever date and that spiraled into the worst anxiety I had ever experienced.

-I was having at least four anxiety attacks a day. Depression was my best friend.

-I resigned and moved back home. I went back to Church on the Rock.

Chapter 7: December 9, 2024

-Being delivered from anxiety and depression.

-Receiving spiritual gifts.

-As I looked back on everything, I have been through in this life, I can finally see God’s hand in it all. On this day it has been 8 years since I lost my memory. I subbed today and wrote the date down many times never realizing what today was. It was like every time I wrote it, the Lord redeemed it. I realized at 11:48pm, that today is the anniversary of the day that the Lord grabbed a hold of me and brought me back to Him and though this has not been an easy life, it’s a redeemed life. It’s a purposeful life. It’s a well-positioned life for the Potter, my Lord and Savior, to sculped something beautiful that tells the truth of His love, mercy, and redeeming power. A life molded and shaped to bring Him glory.

Preface/Introduction

Ever since the accident happened, everyone has told me to write a book. As I often brushed them off, the Lord began to grow in me the vision and message for this book that retells how the Lord never leaves you nor forsakes you. Three years ago, I was at a women’s conference with my sister. During the conference one of the speakers talked about the biblical account of the potter and the clay, Jeremiah 18. She spoke about how everything we have been through has applied pressure in a place to mold us and shape us into who God has called us to be. As I retell you my real-life experiences leading to the accident and all the events following, I am telling you them from the new, blinders off, perspective of how “God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them” (Romans 8:28 NLT). He has molded me and shaped me into who He has called me to be, just as the potter does with the clay to make a useful piece of pottery.

I want to be honest with you though. The retelling of these events are not all from my own recollections of my personal experiences, or my memory bank so to speak, but the combination of journals I kept growing up, friends who lived them with me, and family members who stayed by my side. All those things combined; have come together to create what I know to be my memory of how things happened. Actually, I don’t consider them memories at all, more like recalling scenes from a movie I have watched.

If I haven’t scared you off by now, you will see that my life is a real redemption story, a personified new creation, one with I aim to please God with by the power of the testimony He has given. One though I wish on no other person but am finally in a place where I can say, to God be the glory, I am glad it happened because it had to happen.

May 28, 2016

"Good morning! Good morning! It's great to be awake!" I sprung out of my bed singing. Not really, but I was definitely dancing around as if I was waking up the whole neighborhood on Christmas Day. Except, it's not Christmas time and it's just me that needs to get ready for church. I found the best outfit for the best day. It's Sunday and I woke up in plenty of time today. After I got dressed, I told my mom bye and that I'd see her later, I was going to church.

Once I got to church, I parked the car and put on my biggest smile. I walked through the front building just to say hello to the door greetings. My destination was Sunday school, well youth group, and it's in the second building behind the first. This walk is usually filled with joy and singing, and today was no different. Until suddenly, I feel my phone vibrating in my pocket. No big deal, it's just a call from a girl from school, Em. We are on Drumline together and sometimes she wants to come to church with me, however it's been a while since she has come with me, so I'm perplexed as to why she is calling me.

I answer the phone, "good morning!" I say just a chipper as kid in a candy store.  
"Good morning. I need to tell you something, where are you?" Em asked, sounding worried.  
"I'm at church, what's up?" Now I'm more confused than before.

"It's Ash, she uh...um... well she was found this morning." Em tried to get the words to come out, but I could hear tears falling from her eyes. "Ash killed herself, she's dead." Em bluntly blurted out.

Tears started flowing from my eyes and I didn't know what to do. I had just talked to Ash days before, everything was fine. As I slipped down the brick wall outside the second building I couldn’t say a word. It wasn’t expected. Ash always had the giddiest laugh and brightest smile. She was always cracking jokes. I couldn’t believe it.

I cleared my throat and blurted out, “Thank you for the call I’ve gotta go.” I hung up the phone and walked into Sunday School to find my best friend, crying, almost as if she already knew.

“I was going to call you,” Mae said sincerely. “I just found out from my mom.”

“Em called me.” I managed to speak.

I ran to Mae; we hugged for longer than socially acceptable. The news spread quickly. By the end of the day all of drumline met at the local park to grieve together. We talked about our favorite memories with Ash and relived the glory days with her on drumline. When we all left we had a game plan for a memorial service for her at my church. It was nearing the end of the our Junior year of High School.

The memorial service took place not too long after the day in the park. Three of us from drumline were chosen to give a speech, Mae, Jac, and me. I went last. Honestly I didn’t know if I was going to make it through without crying. At least by me going last it just appeared as though I was touched by the other speeches instead of like I couldn’t control my emotions about the whole situation.

“Ash had the brightest smile, and the most contagious laugh,” I began to speak. Tears seemed to stain my face and the words I had written on a page were getting harder to see. I don’t remember what the rest of the eulogy said, but I know that Ash was a beautiful soul and we had a lot of great times together in the five years we knew each other.

The memorial was beautiful, but we weren’t ready to say goodbye forever. On the last day of school, we had our annual band picnic. This was a time to eat junk food, play games, and celebrate all we had accomplished during the year. This year’s picnic was different though. We all dearly missed our band mate. After we ate and played games, everyone went outside and grabbed an orange balloon. With a black sharpie in hand, we wrote notes to Ash on each of the balloons. On the count of three we all released them into the air.

“Heavens gained another angel,” echoed throughout the church parking lot as the balloons released into the air. I know we don’t become angels when we die, but I couldn’t help but wonder where her soul went. Sure, we had serval conversations about God; she seemed to always enjoy them. However, she never said rather she believed or not. My curiosity wasn’t too focused on her belief or not, it was more focused on the way she died. I guess I wasn’t the only one because her suicide brought up a lot of questions amongst all our friends. It even affected conversations in my home. However, now was not a time to question my own beliefs. It was a time to be there for our friends, to encourage and comfort them.

My mom didn’t feel the same way. “Your nana is going to California, to stay with your sister, for 6 months while her husband is deployed. I think it would be best if you took this time to get away from this town and all the drama going on. You are going to live with your sister and nana for the summer.”

“But mom! I have plans with my friends!”

“This is not negotiable Hannah!”

By that tone, I knew my mom was not playing! She had already planned for me to ride to California with Nana and my sister as we went back for the summer.

We traveled in a white 2008 Toyota Matrix, filled with my sister and her Boxer, my nana and her Palmerian, me and all of our suitcases. To say the least we were beyond cramped. The drive was long and not filled with many stops. We may have stopped four times, each time swapping drivers. It was a 24 hour road trip. Driving through Texas was half the trip and once we passed El Passo the AC in the car could not keep up with the sunny blazing hot temperatures outside.

After finally arriving to California on base, I didn’t want to tell anyone I made it safely, there was no one in that moment I cared to talk to. I thought that feeling would go away, but it turned out I was just putting into practice what I had always been good at, pushing people away. Sure after a few weeks of being there the text came in from my so called friends, I never answered them. I was too busy being wrapped in my own head. My mom had goals for me this summer and they didn’t exactly include talking to my friends from back home everyday.

I came to the realization that I am really good at pushing people away. For so long I didn’t recognize that I did all the reaching out. That’s not to say my friends never reached out it’s simply to say, I know how to put myself out of sight and out of mind.

Throughout the summer my sister and I decided we needed to be healthier. Our plan was to eat better and exercise more. We took turns cooking and lugging the laundry up the hill. During the day we swam in the pool and went to a different beach every weekend. In the evenings we went on runs. Well, we would try to run but it soon turned into jogging which eventually led to walks. It’s the last week of summer and my attitude has become prideful. I started pushing my sister and nana away since I knew it would be a long time till I saw them again. My sister had been inviting a friend on our walks, and I became jealous that she wasn’t spending as much time with me. On our last walk of the summer, I decided to run up the hill and that’s when I decided to body slam the ground. It wasn’t a purposeful discission, but my feet sure thought it was. After an ER visit and some x-rays, the doctor told us I had severely sprained it. This was a relief, since the instant swelling and already dark green and purple indicated to us it was broken. The doctor decided a brace and crunches for a few weeks would be just the thing it needed to heal.

A week later I was headed back to Texas to start my senior year of High school. All seemed to be alright in the world. Both of my sisters moved out, my mom is remarried, and I have a part-time job. Health wise, I could be doing better. My relationship with God, kind of just exists. My friends and I started a new bible study group last year, since most of them graduated I will be taking over. I am also a second-year business manager for the yearbook, section leader in band, and have great plans to take five advance placement class as well as three dual credit classes. Life was good, so my pride tried to tell my depression.

December 9, 2016

At 17 years old I thought I had life all figured out. I was on top. I had straight As and Bs in all of my classes, I was Business Manager for our high school yearbook, I was a section leader in band, and I had a part time job.

Mornings come early with a schedule like that, but this day started off just like every other day of the school year.

It’s a Friday, December 9, 2016. There is a football game tonight, an essay due in more than one class today, a test in college algebra, and don't forget finals are next week and my last chance to take the ACT for college acceptance is tomorrow. I went to band rehearsal early this morning. We made it to the playoff season. "It's going to be a shorter show since competitions are over." A band director probably announced. "A show a show no matter how short it goes," I most likely annoyingly reminded my section.

*It’s audition day for band. When I start sixth grade I will be playing the saxophone, so I think. My dad surprisingly took me to auditions. Maybe because he was finally in town for a bit before leaving again, or maybe because the other girls had nana and mom busy. Whatever the reason I was happy my dad finally took interest in me.*

*I had taken violin in elementary school most likely to bond with the middle child, however she quickly learned it wasn’t her thing. She had to stay with it for the whole year though. When she went to middle school she decided to follow our mom’s footsteps and play trumpet, however that wasn’t her thing either. She really enjoyed sports. By the time I was starting middle school she decided shed only do sports and I could do the whole music thing. I really did enjoy violin but was wanting to venture into the saxophone. I loved the way it sounded and looked. As we walked into the band hall I told the teacher I’d like to try out saxophone. She calmly asked, “Are you sure? You look like a tuba player.” She paused for a minute, “Or maybe a baritone player?” second guessing her gut intuition.*

*“She said saxophone, whatever that is.” My dad took up for me, probably the only time in my life. “Uhh yes sir. However there is someone currttly trying out the woodwinds. Would you like to try the Brass instruments while you wait?” She boldly responded. “Yes ma’am thatll be fine.” I quietly agreed.*

*Im going to save myself some embarrassment and put it plainly, none of the brass instruments worked in my favor. Once it was my turn to tryout the woodwinds, the teachers came to the same conclusion, I didn’t have enough air in my lungs to fill any instrument that required air to fill them. Right about that time the Percussion teacher stepped out of the percussion room and gave me a look. One that I just knew in that moment we were going to spending a lot of time together and he was going to have great influence in my life. He walked over and asked my dad what I was there for. By the end of the conversation, I was trying out for percussion and by the end of the day I was walking out of the school with an equipment list for sixth grade percussion. “You have rhythm, that I can tell. Your coordination could use some work, but you’re a fast learner. I look forward to having you!” the percussion instructor told me before we left.*

*From sixth grade all the way to my senior year in high school it seemed like I always had to work harder then everyone else to get where I was. Honestly, it felt like I was always held to higher standards too. However, that work ethic, and drive to always be great and do my best that Mr. D instilled in me, is something I still carry today.*

Band went by fast and now it was time for second period. Honestly, I don’t remember what class this was.

Second period, check!

Now to enrichment. I mean UIL (Universal Interscholastic Leage) practice. My mom is my coach and this time being in her class has been a lot easier than the first go around, when I was a freshman in her English class.

*"Get up girls! Come to the living room, we need to talk," yelled my absentee father down the hallway, the same morning his mother was pronounced dead. Dad never wakes us up for school, and plus I thought we weren't going to school today because we had just said our last goodbyes to Grandma, my dad’s mom, 3 hours prior. What could this possibly be about? I pondered.*

*"Girls! Living room now!" Dad shouted down the hallway, as if there was an emergency. Once we all sat on the coffee table my dad stared at us and without hesitation said, "I've asked y'all's mother for a divorce."*

*The man that looked like my dad but could have never said those words, spoke the very thing, the only thing that could crush my world.*

*That's when it happened. My perfect normal life wasn't so perfect anymore, but funny enough it became normal. Almost all of my friends' parents were divorced, I had been the odd ball out all this time. And I was completely fine with that. In fact, it was a big thing that contributed to my perfect life! I prided myself on having loving parents. Who not only loved me but loved each other. They were going to grow old together. I mean sure, I never saw my dad due to whatever job he chose to take that would put him on the road or overseas at the time but still. They were perfect. So only pretty much I thought.*

*"Your mom has already called the school and told them y'all's grandma died early this morning and has alerted them that she won't be there and most likely neither will y’all. But I told her it's y'all's choice. Your mom is going to our hometown today to plan y'all's grandma's funeral. You can go with her or go to school. It's up to you." My dad explained with little care as if he didn't just drop a whole bomb on my life.*

*"I'll go with mom!" The oldest strunely stated. I got the feeling she knew this was coming.*

*"I'm going to school." The middle child said, as if that's the better option. I think she just wanted to avoid all things death talk.*

*"I'm going..... I'm going..... I'm going to band practice." I said as I stumbled across every word. I wasn't processing anything. I just knew I couldn't handle much talking about anything with my mom.*

*"That's it then. Love y'all see ya later." Without a hug or kiss goodbye, Dad was already out of the door.*

*Mom took me and the middle child to school. "Try to have a good day," she exclaimed, trying not to hold up the car rider drop off line, with tears streaming down her face.*

*"Love y'all!" Me and the middle child yelled in unison. I'm not sure where the middle child went that day, but I walked right into the band hall, straight to a practice room, sat on the floor with my knees as tightly held to my chest as I possibly could hold them, bent my face down into my knees and cried.*

*That was the whole school day. A few of my friends checked in on me throughout the day. But I didn't move. I didn't eat lunch. I didn't go to geometry, or whatever science class I was supposed to be in. I just sat. And cried. I didn't know if it was an A Day or a B Day and it didn't matter. I just sat and cried. I was already counted absent, since my mom called the school that morning, so it didn't matter and therefore I didn't care. I just didn't want to be with anyone, or do anything. I wanted a safe haven.*

*Things were bad enough with Grandma’s death and the divorce, but to top it all off two weeks later, my papa (my mom’s stepdad) died, and 40 days later my grandpa (my dad’s dad) died.*

*This may have been the sprouting moment of what had always been going on chemically in my head. The weeks following were miserable. My mom couldn't hold back her tears when I walked into her classroom. She'd hug me and sob, she couldn’t hold it together, as if I was her reminder of everything going on.*

*Thankfully I always knew what we were going to do in her class. She'd run it by me when she made lesson plans, always asking, "you think y'all can do that?" I'd always respond, "yes of course mom, you're a good teacher."*

*And so it was, I'd stand in front of all my friends and classmates, make an excuse as to why my mom was sobbing at her desk, and proceed to give instructions for the day.*

*I couldn't be sad. I couldn't be the one who was crying at their desk. Someone had to be strong, and it wasn't my mom.*

*By now my oldest sister was engaged and practically lived at her future in-law's house since my future brother-in-law was at boot camp. The middle child was nowhere to be found anytime I needed her so there it was, just me and my mom. Both of us sad. Both of our worlds were falling apart. And yet when you looked at us, only one of our faces showed the signs of the bomb that blew up our whole world.*

UIL practice went normal as usual. I hug my mom bye and tell her of my afterschool plans, which consist of getting on a bus and traveling to the playoff game. The bell rings, and I am excited because it is lunch time, my favorite time of the day. At lunch I get to sit with my friends and talk as much as I want to. What I have never looked forward to is the food that probably tastes like plastic, but it hits the spot. A short thirty minutes pass and the bell rings, it is time to start walking to my favorite class, College Algebra. Just as I stand up to start my trek to the class, my head starts pounding. Instead of walking to the nurse I continue the course to get to my class. As I march up the stairs in the math and science building I start thinking I am going to faint, but nevertheless I push through and go to class. Upon arrival I sit my bag at my desk and approach my favorite teacher's desk.

"My head is pounding." I say while holding my head in my hand.

"What would you like to do Miss. Terry?" My teacher asks in frustration.

"What are my options?" I question, slowly remembering we have a major test today.

"Lay your head down and get a zero for the possibility of cheating, go to your mom’s room and get counted absent, but you can take your test later, or take your test now and lay your head down after you turn it in." My teacher calmly explains.

I stand there and stare as I carefully but quickly think through each option. I have perfect attendance and it's my senior year; I don't want to ruin that. Why would I lay my head down and get a zero on a major test when I know for a fact, I could ace it in my sleep! I was coming up with an excuse for all of them except for taking my test. There isn’t actually a choice to make here, I actually only have one option.

"I'll take the test." I say in a moan, knowing all I can hear is the pounding of my head.

She hands me the test and I go down. I start by putting my name on the front page then I carefully answer every problem. Finally! I think to myself, it’s done. I turned it in and as I am returning to my seat to put my head down, I glance at the clock and notice there are twenty minutes left of class. My head is still throbbing! I feel like it can explode at any moment. I had high hopes a twenty-minute nap would cure the ache, when all of a sudden, a loud noise echoes throughout the room, as if it was set off right next to my ears. I finally acknowledge that the resounding sound is the bell, so I stand up to start my venture to my next class.

I always take the long way around to avoid major social interactions with the big crowds, and plus it is a Friday, I don’t want to be caught in the middle of yet another stupid fight. Much to my dismay, not from lack of trying though, I ran into one of my mom’s students who also happens to be one of my classmates' little brother, we call him Little Fun-Chips.

"Hey Hannah! Your mom said you signed to a college, but didn't say where. Where will you be in the fall?" Fun-Chips asks with eagerness to learn of my college choice.

As much as I want to tell him I signed to Ouachita Baptist University with a music and academic scholarship offer, I can’t speak. Instead, I just stare at him, as if I should know him, but my brain tells me he's a stranger. I start shouting and trying to run away. It was at this moment when my feet don’t move the way I want them to and my face heads straight towards the ground, when suddenly Little Fun-Chips hurries in my direction, stretches out his scrawny arms and catches me. The Lord has perfectly placed us to be right behind the freshmen building, the exact stairs that lead right to my mom's class, though no one was allowed to use those stairs as an entrance, Little Fun-Chips, carried me up those steps and banged on the back door. To his surprise my mom was the one who hears the banging and comes running.

"What are you.... HANNAH! Little Fun-Chips, what's wrong?" Her voice slowly rises as she hears nothing but screams coming from my mouth.

"Something's wrong with Hannah! I'm not sure what. One minute we are talking, the next she is running and screaming, she almost fell, I caught her, I didn't know what to do so I brought her to you." Fun-chips went on and on trying to describe the indescribable event that had just taken place moments earlier, as he helped my mom drag me to her classroom.

"Alright, thank you fun-chips, I'll take care of her. Here's a note for class." My mom, somewhat confused and scared, manages to blurt out.

She finally sat me in a chair that was right in front of her desk. She tried to make conversation and figure out what was wrong, but my gaze was transfixed on the things of her classroom walls. A cowboy with a gun, Romeo and Juliet, The Raven, and other English literature characters. They were moving.

As I looked over to the cowboy, I can tell that He was getting ready to charge after me. Then within seconds he is running towards me as if I am his opponent in a duel, I am unaware I signed up for. He has his Gun ready to pull the trigger.

"Stop! Help! Stop!" I yell in agony catching my breath in between crying and screaming.

"What's wrong Hannah? What's happening?" my mom questions me in confusion.

"They're trying to kill me!"

"Who? Nobody's here but me and you. You are safe."

"Them!" I raise my pointer finger in the direction of the cowboy. "Ahhhhh! It hurts! Make it stop!" I scream holding my shoulder believing I have been shot. “He’s going to kill me!”

The yelling turns into sobs and indistinct chatter.

"What's happening now?"

As I hold my arms and rock back and forth, I yell out, "The birds! They hurt," tears continuously flow down my face. And the gaze is not broken.

"Hannah, there are no birds in here! What is happening?” my mom is frantically thinking through all her options and responsibilities. She knows I need to go to the hospital, but she has to get her class covered first.

“Ahhhhhhhh!!!” The screams continue without stopping.

“We’ve got to get you to the hospital, to see what's wrong.” My supposed mom tells me.

At this point I have regreased so much so I have no idea who she is, where I am, or who I am. She begins to ask me questions about my schedule, as she tries to figure out which of my teachers she needs to call to let them know what's happening. She starts to dial for her principal first but it's too late. He heard the screams down the hallway and came to the door.

“Mrs. Terry, what is… why is Hannah not in class? Why is she screaming? What is…”

My mom interrupts him, “something's wrong with Hannah. She's hallucinating and Little Fun-Chips brought her to me. She can barely walk and she is not talking in full sentences, just a word here or there. I need to take her to the hospital.”

“I'll take care of things here for you, go. Take her to the hospital now.”

“Thank you!” My mom gathers what she needs to take me to the hospital.

It takes a little convincing and some restraint, but something in me decids to trust her. She hoists me out of the chair and hangs my arm around her neck, tucked her arm around my stomach and begins to carry me to the car.

Streams of screams follows me wherever we went. Once we got to the car I screamed for my nana, so my mom went to get her and then we went to the hospital. When we arrive at the local Emergency Room, my mom doesn’t park the car in the parking lot, she just pulls up to the door and gets out. She runs and gets a nurse; they bring out a wheelchair and take me inside. Then mom moves the car. Everyone is frantic. Even the hospital nurses seem scared, to the point that they take me directly into an ER room.

The level 2 trauma crash room is not lonely. It’s anything but. It’s confusing, and overwhelming, and a bit much for someone who has no clue who they are or where they are. It was terrifying.

So many people rally around. A sister and brother-in-law whom I have forgotten. A father and his nurse of a girlfriend or whatever she is to him now. A mother, whose face is as serious as a momma bear protecting its cub from their prey. And a nana, whose tears next to mine could fill the whole room. Of course that is what I've been told.

The doctor comes into the room to tell my mom all the tests they are going to run and had already ran. He tells my mom to ask me a series of questions, ranging from the answer has always been the same to recently new things, just to see where my mental state really was. I think he wanted to know if I wasn’t faking it.

She began, “Who’s your best friend?” only screams and cry’s for a response. “What’s your favorite color? What’s your sister’s name? What instrument do you play? Who’s your percussion teacher? Where do you go to school?” Her voice starts buffering as she tries to hold in her tears, “What’s your favorite subject? Where do you go to church?”

It feels like the questions are continuing forever while I hear them, do not process them, and only respond to them with crying and screaming. By now I am rocking back and forth in the corner of my hospital bed with my knees crunched up to my chest and arms wrapped around them.

The doctor calmly explains, “That’s enough, maybe some of those blood test results are back. It’s obvious there’s nothing going on in her mind.

“Wait! Wait! Wait!!! Hannah, do you know who Jesus is?" Shouts my supposed mom in anticipation, and hope that I know the answer.

Popping up from a nervous ball and having paused from screaming, I turned to her with a blank gaze on my face and no personality in my voice and stated, "Jesus is my Lord and Savior."

"Hannah, do you know who I am?" My supposed mom responds in desperate hopes that since I remember who Jesus is then I have all of sudden just remembered her. Much to her dismay, I return to my previous state. Scrunched in a ball, rocking back and forth, releasing nothing but screams, at the top of my hospital bed.

I say supposed mom because that's who they say she is. At this point I still don't know who she is, honestly, I don't even know what a mom is. And who is this Hannah they keep asking me about.

A few hours pass and the doctor returns to explain what he has found out. “Your daughter’s test all come back normal with a few exceptions. She is chronically depressed and anxious. Her brain scans show chemical imbalances causing depression and anxiety. Her blood tests show she has little to no iron, little to no vitamin C, D3, and B12, most likely due to her being in her menstrual cycle the past 36 weeks. All these things mixed together has led us to believe she is having a…” before the doctor can finish my mom interrupts, “No! NO! NO! She can’t be depressed, she has everything she could ever need, she has nothing to worry about! I want a second opinion!”

“Yes ma’am, we can fly her to Dallas or Little Rock children’s. Which would like?

“We can go to Little Rock; we took my other daughter there when she was having black outs. We will go there.”

“Yes, ma’am I’ll put the call in right away.”

As time passed, we learned the helicopter was not the best choice as an ambulance would be here sooner. As I was being rolled out for the ambulance, a friend of mine from school, Zynmari, walks up to me. My mom interrogates her to see if she knew if I had been drugged at school. Zymari has no idea what she is talking about. She just wants to see me and check to see if I am okay. She finally reached out to hold my hand and tells me she loves me and is praying for me.

After she left, they put me in a strait jacket and strapped me in so tight, I can only wiggly my toes. I can’t move my head, and my breathing is questionable. They’re treating me like a psych patient. Of course there is no talking, however, I feel the safest and most scared I have felt all day. No one tries to talk to me or make me think. In the same breath, I can’t move or see where we are going. I fade into oblivion to escape. Before I know it, we are in Little Rock and I am being unloaded at the Children’s Hospital.

Upon arrival I am sent to a holding room to be evaluated. When the Psychiatrist comes in my mom and nana exclaim the situation and get her caught up. By now my mom has posted some of what was going on, on Facebook and has thousands of people praying for me. Their prayers have to of been working, since by the power of the Holy spirit and the grace of God I am able to answer the Psychiatrist’s questions. Well, to some extent. The answers come out robotic and consists of one answer mainly, “I cry.” Whatever the question is, that’s the response I was able to give out. The diagnosis from her is pretty much the same answer my mom received back at our local hospital, “She is suffering from severe untreated depression and anxiety. She needs to go to a counselor for 6 months at least. If we hear back, she is not in counseling, we will court mandate her to be admitted to a psych ward for 6 months. In addition, we’d like to give her a blanket what’s her favorite color and thing to do?”

“She loves music and the color pink,” my mom responds while still in shock and realization that there is something extremely internally wrong with me. The lady comes back with a small lap quilt that is hot pink with guitars all over it. After handing over the blanket she escorts us to my room for the night, or should I say morning, by now it is at least 3am.

Following all the excitement of the day, I finally lay down and go to sleep.

When I wake up, if I had thought it was a dream, my reality surely crushes it. There in front of me stands at least 34 neurologists and 8 brain surgeons all shrugging their shoulders in complete shock that they couldn’t figure out exactly what was going on. However, they feel confident enough to discharge me with this diagnosis that they have all agreed upon.

“Your daughter has suffered a severe nervous breakdown with severe altered mental state (AMS). Which has led to amnesia. Most amnesia patients regain full memory within 90-150 days. Just as well she has hardly any iron, vitamin D3, C, and B12. Theres’s barley any blood and oxygen flow to her brain. This is all due untreated clinical depression and anxiety as well as her being in her menstrual cycle for over 36 weeks.” My mother listens intently, like somehow this was all new profound information and not the same exact thing she heard at our local hospital. Continuing to talk as though I am not in the room, the doctor continues, “There are some things she can do to help regain memory and restore lost vitamins. We recommend going on gluten free, sugar free, dairy free, no red meat diet to help restore memory as well as take daily iron supplements and multivitamins. Her follow up should be with an OBGYN, to see if they can’t fix that problem as well.”

Before I was discharged, I relearned to walk and how to use the bathroom. It was as though my muscles and bones didn’t forget what to do or how to do it, but my brain did. My brain wasn’t sending signals to the rest of my body. However, once my body was forced to go through the motions my brain picked up on the signals and fell back in line.

The nurses wheel me out of Little Rock Children’s hospital and load me into a car with my so-called nana, mom and stepdad. I am completely lost, in my mind and in my life. I have no clue as to what is going on. I don’t know anybody or anything. The only thing I know is that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. Though this truth is comforting, I feel scared. I’m being sent home with complete strangers, that’s who they are to me at best, though the doctors told me they were my family, I don’t remember anything about them. Therefore, I don’t know them. This drive back to my so called hometown feels a lot longer than the actual two hours that it takes. My mom and stepdad sit in the front and my nana is in the backset with me. As we drive past all the city lights and the trees empty of leaves that follow, my thought process is nonexistent, all I hear is the echoing sounds of the one thing I know to be true; Jesus is my Lord and Savior.

Two sleepless nights follow, before I am thrown back into the whirlpool known as high school. As I lay in bed, I just stare at the celling repeating those words, “Jesus is my Lord and Savior”, with each breathe drifting into the arms of Jesus.

I didn’t know it then, but the Lord was calling me back to Him. He was allowing me to experience his presence like never before. Deuteronomy 31:6 was being displayed in my life. The Lord never left me nor forsaken me, not before this day and defiantly not after.