

I am Because She Was: Intimate Portraits of Mom Guidelines & Submission Dates

- **Maximum word count 2500**

I DO NOT want to know your mother's life history. I can gather that information from the questionnaire. The story is to center on a specific moment in your mother's life. A magical moment (meaning when something happened that changed the course of her life or yours as a result of an exchange between you two). Take the time to look back over and reflect on times shared with your mother, conversations you had with your mother, disagreements you had with your mother (the good, the bad the ugly) and see what you come up with. This is what I am looking for. Or is there a conversation you wished you had with your mother and for whatever the reason you didn't, well now is your opportunity. I want a different spin other than the norm. Search for stories that define who you are because of your mother. Example: I always tell people that as a kid I had a strong sense of self. Where did that come from? There are a number of variables that I can point to, but when I look back over my mother's life, I realize that she too had a VERY strong sense of self. At the tender age of fourteen, she did something that I don't think the average person would do. My story will be revealed in the BOOK!

- **1st draft due July 30**

Details are important. Before you start the writing process think about the details. You want people to know this person you're writing about.

I will review what you've written and give you feedback. I will advise you on changes and so forth that will bring your story to life. Example: My mother never sweated, literally, perspiration was not in her genetic code and that's not to say that she didn't get hot but sweat was never visible. That's an important detail! That could be the reason why she was always so cool, calm and collective in times of crisis. It is subtle but also very symbolic. Please be on the lookout for symbolism. That's an important thread in story-telling. We are an extension of our mother. Where are we headed? Do we pick-up where she left of? Explore these ideas before you write anything..

- **2nd draft due August 20**

The necessary revisions we discussed should be made. More follow-up conversation to refine your story will be given.

Your final draft will be due Sept. 1.

This will be a spectacular and life changing book. Contrary to popular belief, books capture the essence of life and living. Thank you all for joining with me to see this project through.