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BACK TO MY ROOTS

By Destiny Brown

Picture this: a blonde-haired, blue-eyed, five-year-old little girl playing soccer in her backyard with her first puppy—the same puppy that she had grown up with since she could remember and her best friend. She did not know many kids in the town because she had just recently moved. She was very excited to start school, but that changed as quickly as she could blink. Her first day of school was scary, and she did not want to leave her mother’s side. She was not used to being around so many other kids, as she was an only child. She hid from the other children, and her teacher would not let her take her favorite stuffed animal to class.

Fast forward three years and she is eight. School had gotten better for her, but it was getting harder and harder for her to learn. Her eyesight was not the best, and the teacher always sat her at the back of the classroom because she was a social butterfly that had a very hard time paying attention. A few weeks into the second semester of third grade, she got her first pair of glasses, and the world was an entirely different place! She could finally see! It helped her pay attention in class. Just a few short weeks after that, she won her first spelling bee.

Five years later, she is thirteen. She switched schools the summer before her eighth grade year, and she was scared. Society had a way of making teenagers feel as though they were not good enough. How could she be sure that the kids at her new school would like her? When the first day at her new school ended, she was relieved that so many of the classmates had made an effort to get to know her. Maybe she could come to like this place after all.

Her junior year, she started attending the Biomedical Academy at the nearby Career Technology Center. She was more than certain that she wanted her lifelong career to be helping society by working in the medical field. The classes there were more challenging than anything she had ever encountered—and that is exactly what she needed. All of the previous schooling seemed too easy and did not challenge her abilities; this was different. The everyday challenges she faced in the advanced placement carved her into the person she had only dreamt of becoming.

Her senior year was by far the most emotional, stressful, and enjoyable year than she had ever come across. She had been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society two years in a row, received several awards for her knowledge and community service, been accepted to her dream college, and was even going on to graduate with honors. Even though she had so many things going on for her future, she was scared. She was ready to leave the nest and be on her own to experience life, but was she ready for another terrifying “first”?

This little blonde-haired, blue-eyed, five-year-old girl was me. I had faced so many trials in my life, and they all took me on a journey that was unforgettable, in more ways than one. No matter where my life will take me, I will always remember where I came from and what I had to go through to get where I was going. Oklahoma is where my roots were planted, but the Sayre campus is where my roots grew into dreams bigger than the trees.