



SPECIAL FEATURE

Child
from Pamela Bitterman

Hush now...

You are enchanted like the sunrise. You are one, a special and miraculous creation.

Your life should be love and light and caring and goodness and learning and growing and happiness and faith and knowing.

This is what you deserve, because you were born and you are here. You welcome every truth of the universe. You know all that will someday be forgotten. You are meant to be kept safe and sound. But it isn't always so.

There may be cruelty and hurt and danger and pain and darkness and hunger and loneliness and fear. But these things do not know your name. They cannot reach your heart. They cannot see your light. Do not let them inside.

A parent or a relative or a friend or a teacher or a policeman or a president or a god may not be able to fix this sadness. Sometimes nothing else can. And it is not fair. And it is not your fault. And it will never be okay.

But you have a great wind behind you. You will leave the cave of nightmares and monsters. Hope will be your armor. Imagination will be your friend.

A warm glow will bathe you. Tender arms will rock you. Kind eyes will guide you. A gentle hand will find yours and it will not let go. Somewhere, a beautiful garden blooms just for you.

You are strong. Feel it. Believe that you can, and you can. Know that you can, and you will.

You will change. Change what you will be in this world. And you will change this world. This is your surprise gift.

You are a shooting star, a wish upon that star, a prayer answered, a dream come true. A bird with a broken wing who will soar, a frog who will be prince, a delicate flower waiting to open, a raindrop glistening on a leaf, a perfect snowflake, a brilliant flash in a stormy sky. You are one of a kind.

You are soft color and sweet lullaby, calm warmth and long deep breath. You are bursting spirit, beating heart, pulse, spark, fire. You are the power in the waves, the man on the moon, the fairy in the forest, the "poof" in the spell, the tinkle in the bell. You are supernova.

Feel it. Your strength. Your truth. Your dream. Your calm and your sureness. Yours, no one else's, no one can crush, deny, break or destroy this.

Trust your mighty spirit. Raise it to the heavens. Whisper its secrets. Smile its wonder.

Cherish it as you were meant to be cherished. Love it as you were meant to be loved. Know it as only you can know. Show it as only you can show. Become. Be.

Child, you are miracle. You are a whole undiscovered universe.

You are Jane, Pedro, Pierre, Mohammed, Jamar, Tanisha, Yusef, Tomas, Lars, Tao, Kumar, Ivan, Paolo,

Ailani, Ichiro, Marie, Jules. You are magic. I believe in you. Believe in you.

Things will become real because you will see them. See beauty.

See peace. See love. See joy.

See your greatness.

Dream your dream. Write your story. Paint your rainbow. Close your eyes. Open your heart. Lift your chin. Dance your dance. Sing your song. Sing it home.

I will hear you. You are heard. And you are loved.

Pam Bitterman is an explorer in every sense of the word, she has been a mediator, a teacher of maritime history and seamanship at the San Diego Maritime Museum, a devoted mother, and much more. She sailed for many years of her life. The incredible story of her first voyages, those on the tall ship Sofia, was burning inside her for nearly three decades, and as she raised her family, she pursued the writing of her first book, *Sailing To The Far Horizon; The Restless Journey and Tragic Sinking Of A Tall Ship*.

MUZUNGU; A-Frican Lost Soul's Reality Check is the author's personal account of her work and travel through Kenya as the epitome of Muzungu, the Swahili word for white man. Literally translated, Muzungu means "confused person wandering about."

And, "*When This Is Over, I Will Go To School, And I Will Learn To Read*" *A Story of Hope and Friendship for One Young Kenyan Orphan* is a story of one young boy and of the orphans with whom the author worked while in Africa. It is illustrated by photographs and by the drawings of the children Bitterman met in her work there.

Find out more at www.pamelasismanbitterman.com.