

# Embracing Small Beginnings

**Book Background:** This book tells my story. I came into the world as an underdog, and now my mission is to speak up for all the underdogs I can. If this book ruffles your feathers, I don't want you to imagine me pointing my finger at you and laughing. I want you to picture me extending my hand towards you in an invitation to wrestle. To wrestle with your past, your convictions, and the way you lead life, ultimately to discover why my words have an effect on your feathers in the first place. In my wrestling with Jesus lately, He often asks me this question that later appears in the book: "Why do you care so strongly about how other people carry themselves?" In Scripture, we are only told to control ourselves, never to control another. May His question be a breather for you rather than another burden to carry.

**Biography:** Michelle lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and son. She feels deeply and loves fiercely. Her mission is for others to know that they can have the courage to be the person God created them to be without fearing what others think.

**Endorsements:** Beautiful vulnerability! I celebrate Michelle and the realization of a dream to write this book. What an accomplishment! What a story! Deep and serious. Light and silly. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all shared our stories and were seen and known like Michelle by her dear friend, Mama, from The Land of Transformation? Michelle says, "This book isn't for everyone." I disagree.

*Jimm Derksen, Vice President of the Soul Care Institute*

In the tradition of Saint Augustine of Hippo's Confessions, Michelle Martin has made herself vulnerable and exposed through writing that is part memoir, prayer, psychology, and raw conversations with her own soul. She grapples with her "physical uniqueness" that at one time would have been characterized as a crippling handicap instead of marking her as "differently abled" with "super powers." Her journey of self-discovery follows both Road to Emmaus "ohs" and Road to Damascus "Ahhs." Traveling mercies, dear reader.

*John Helt, author of Lydia Hosto Niebuhr: The Buried History of an Evangelical Matriarch*

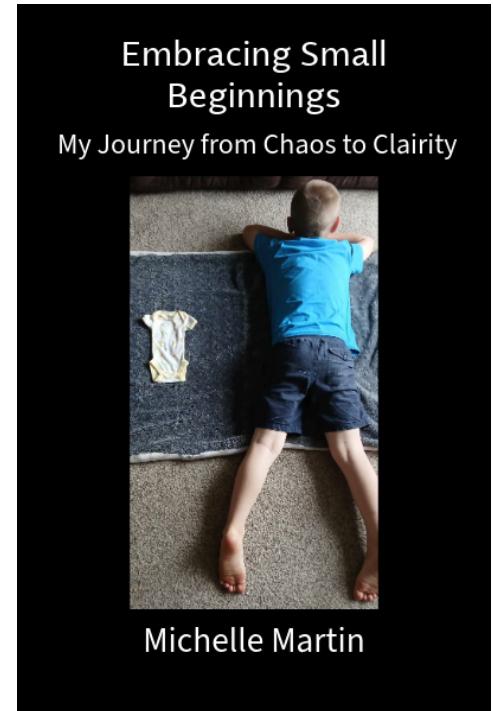
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