

it's all about
Dad & Me

it's all about
Dad & Me
-{Girls Crack the Case}-

Marilyn C. Hilton

REDEMPTION  PRESS

© 2006 by Marilyn C. Hilton. All rights reserved.

Published by Redemption Press PO Box 427, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

ISBN 978-1-63232-721-5

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any way by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise—without the prior permission of the copyright holder, except as provided by USA copyright law.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. The “NIV” and “New International Version” trademarks are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by International Bible Society.

Interior illustrations by Julia K. Hilton.

All characters in this book are fictitious. Any resemblance to people living or dead is coincidence.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 2005901505



Dedication

For Leon—the best dad I’ve ever known.

—mch

To my family and my friends.

—jkh

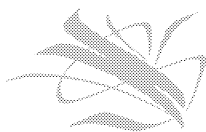
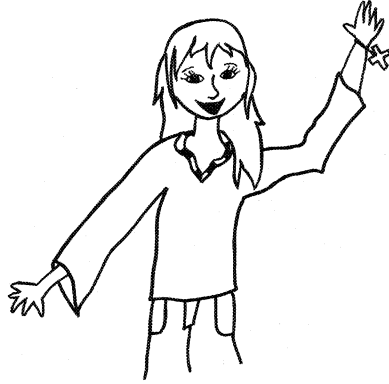


Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Hello, Girl! | ix |
| Clue One: He's My Alpha Guy | 11 |
| Clue Two: Dad Gives Me What's His | 27 |
| Clue Three: Dad Can Be Firm AND Gentle | 35 |
| Clue Four: I Can Be Honest with Dad (and he with me)..... | 45 |
| Clue Five: Dad Guides and Protects Me | 55 |
| Clue Six: Dad is Committed to Me | 65 |
| Clue Seven: I Have a Grati-tude for Dad..... | 77 |
| Clue Eight: Dad is My Coach and Cheerleader..... | 87 |
| Clue Nine: Dad Wants to Know Me Better | 97 |
| Clue Ten: I Bring Out Dad's Best..... | 107 |
| Clue Eleven: Dad and I Can Stay Close When He's Away | 117 |
| Wrapping It Up | 127 |

We love because he first loved us.

—1 John 4:19



Hello, Girl!

It's no secret: one of your most important and precious relationships is the one with your dad. Right now—when you're no longer a child and almost a teen—is an amazing time to make that relationship stronger and richer between you two.

But how well do you really know Dad? How well do you understand him? And how well does he know you? This book—which you can do by yourself or with Dad—will help you both answer these questions. And solve some mysteries about each other! You'll do lots of talking, reading, thinking, praying, making crafts, and writing. (Keep a notebook or journal handy to jot down your thoughts.)

You'll also discover new things about your relationship with God—and how He's all about you & Dad. After all, you're His precious daughter, too!

BTW: Although the stories and quotations from girls in this book are made up, their situations can help you.



CLUE ONE

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”
—Revelation 22:13

He's My Alpha Guy

My evidence . . .

- Dad says the blessing at meals or asks one of us to.
- Whenever I ask him for advice, he gives it to me.
- He says he'd lay down his life for me.
- He's the best-looking, nicest, and best-dressed (older) guy I know!

Dads come in all shapes and sizes. They do all kinds of jobs—including staying at home to take care of you. They live with their daughters or away from them. And no matter whether he's your bio dad, stepdad, or adoptive dad, he cherishes and treasures you. It's the way God made him!

When some types of animals live together—such as a pack of wolves or a pride of lions—one male is always stronger, smarter, and bigger than all the others in the group. (Sometimes, he's the **ONLY** male in the group.) In the animal world, he's called the “Alpha male.”

In a family there is always one leader, one head of the household, or one captain of the ship. Even when a family acts as a team, there's always one leader. This person is usually Dad. He's the one who provides, protects, steers, and guides the family.



THE STORY OF YOU & DAD

Let's back up a few years...to when you were born.

The light in this place is so bright that you have to squeeze your eyes shut. You've left that warm cocoon where you'd been living for nine months, and this place is bright, noisy, and chilly. You hear voices and harsh sounds. Something warm and rough rubs your skin, and then you feel something soft and warm (a blanket) wrapped around you. This is certainly a strange, scary place, and you want to go back to where you were. But something tells you that you never can.

You hear a soft voice near you. You know that one so well—it's Mom. You hear another familiar voice, only this one is deeper. Something soft and gentle (your parents' fingertips) caresses your ears and eyebrows.

Slowly and gently, two large, strong hands pick you up and cradle you, enveloping your tiny head and body. It feels so safe here. That deep voice in your ear is still talking, saying familiar words. You open one eye just enough to see a large face with loving eyes gazing at you.

"Hello, my darling girl," he says. "You're the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. Do you know who I am? I'm your dad, and I'm going to love you for the rest of your life—no matter what."

And he will. No matter where *you* are or where *he* is, your dad will love you forever.

He couldn't believe that anything so peaceful and pure could be part of his life. When you came home from the hospital, he gazed at you in disbelief that anything so perfect, so beautiful, and so precious could exist on this earth. To him, you're an angel! And as you've grown through the years, his love for you has blossomed and deepened.

You have felt the same about him. You grew to know and love his face, his voice, and his heart. As a toddler, your ears listened for his footsteps at the end of the day, knowing that Dad would soon open the door and greet you with a hug, a kiss, and an "uppie." He picked you up, swung you high into the air, and carried you on his shoulders to make you taller than he.

Dad listens to all your jokes, worries, and stories. You think he knows just about everything, and you ask him lots of questions. Lately, he has treated you more like a grownup, answering every question and taking every concern of yours seriously and thoughtfully. He:

- Tells you how a computer works and how to recover it from a crash
- Explains the rules of football, baseball, and basketball and why the coaches yell so much
- Explains how someone can sell a house when the bank still owns it
- Knows when someone isn't being honest with you
- Explains why your church does things differently than your friend's church, but assures you that you both worship the same Lord
- Knows exactly how fast he can drive without breaking the speed limit and listens when you tell him to slow down

Mom can certainly do these things, too (and in many families she does). But usually she works alongside Dad and looks to him for the ultimate provision, protection, and leadership of the family. (Mom and Dad aren't "less than" or "better than" each other. God made them equally valuable and gave them both very important jobs to do in your family.)

Your dad was the very first man you ever loved. He knows how important he is to you. He knows that what he says and does for, to, and around you—and how he treats your mom and other women—will influence how you expect to be treated by other guys as you get older.

Dad isn't perfect. He makes mistakes just like all humans do. But, having a daughter like you helps him become more of an Alpha guy every day.

~ THE MO ~

“MO” is short for *modus operandi*—which is the way a person does things. Detectives often try to figure out a suspect’s MO, so they can then predict what that person will do next.

By knowing Dad’s MO, you can also understand *why* he does certain things. These girls are trying to figure out their dad’s MO.

Q: My dad is great. But sometimes he treats me like I’m still a little girl and won’t let me do the things I want to unless he either knows all about it or goes with me. What can I do?

A: Dad protects you more than anyone else in your life. He knows how difficult the world is. At the same time, he knows he can’t protect you as much or as often as when you were little. And that thought can scare even the toughest man! You can help him feel better about giving you more freedom by making sure he knows your friends (introduce each other at the first opportunity) and their parents, and telling him about what’s happening in your life. That way, where you are and what you do won’t be such a mystery. Also, if he wants to drive you to events and activities, welcome him and be glad he wants to do those things for you.

Q: My dad always used to do everything with me, but now he doesn’t seem to be interested. What’s going on? What did I do?

A: Your dad senses that you’re growing up and are becoming interested in things he can’t do with you. He’s also sensitive to your need for privacy. If you want him to keep doing things with you, tell him so. Let him know that you’re basically the same girl you always were—only older and wiser. Ask him questions about things that confuse or interest you, or make a date with him to do something fun together. (For ideas, see the “Dad Wants to Know Me Better” chapter, later in this book.)

Q: I have no idea what my dad thinks of me. He never tells me. I want him to think I’m special—or think *something* of me. Am I wrong?

A: If your dad truly understood how important his influence is on you at this time in your life, it’s a good bet he’d try harder to give you the attention and feedback you crave. But, for many men, talking about their feelings is hard—even uncomfortable. Many dads assume their actions are more important than their words. This does not mean he loves you any less than if he lavished you with praise everyday (which you might grow tired and skeptical of, if it’s overdone).

You can make a game of getting him to talk more. Write some statements about yourself on a piece of paper, along with three or four possible short answers. Then ask him to circle the one he'd use to describe you. (For examples, look at the "Pop Quiz" section, later in this chapter.) His answers might spark a conversation between you. You can also write a note to him, telling him about your feelings and how he can help you. If he doesn't respond right away, be patient. You can be certain that he'll think about it and answer in his own way when he's ready.

GOD LOVES ME—FROM A TO Z

Dad was the first human man to love you, but God loved you first. He loved you long before you were born—since the time He created the world. And He will love you long after the world ends. He loves you 24/7, always and forever.

God has called Himself many things. Among them is "the Alpha and the Omega." Do you know why?

Alpha and Omega are two letters in the Greek alphabet. Much of the Bible was written in Greek. Because God always speaks to us in a way we can understand, it made sense for Him to use examples about Himself from the Greek language.

The first letter in the Latin alphabet (the one that goes A-B-C...) is *a*. But in Greek, the first letter is called *Alpha*, and it looks like this:

A or α

The last letter in the Latin alphabet is *z*. But the last letter in the Greek alphabet is called *Omega*. It looks like this:

Ω or ω

When God says that He's the Alpha and Omega, it's another way of saying He is *everything*—first to last, beginning to end, least to greatest. With God, nothing is left out, nothing can be added to, or taken away from Him. He is all, A to Z. And He is all you'll ever need!

BIBLE BIO: ABRAM/ABRAHAM

His name means: Exalted father/Father of a multitude

Born: About 4,000 years ago in Ur of the Chaldeans (a city in Babylon)

Husband of: Sarai/Sarah

Father of: Ishmael and Isaac, father-in-law of Rebekah

Occupation: Farmer, herder, and father of a nation