

*That First Kiss and Other Stories*  
*My Wish List and Other Stories*  
*Better than Natural and Other Stories*  
*Straight from the Heart and Other Stories*  
*Meeting Frankenstein and Other Stories*

***Straight from  
the Heart  
and Other Stories***

**Lisa Calderone-Stewart  
Ed Kunzman**

**Saint Mary's Press  
Christian Brothers Publications  
Winona, Minnesota**

We dedicate this book to the next generation:

Emily Jean Banset	Paige Denise Kunzman
Rebecca Ann Banset	Rahne Lane Kunzman
Thomas Joseph Banset	Ri Albert Kunzman
Nicholas Robert Bidroski	Conor Patrick McGhehey
Scott Jeffrey Bidroski	Jill Renee McGhehey
Andrea Elaine Bottger	Molly Maureen McGhehey
Kristin Marie Bottger	Tate David McGhehey
Sean Norman Bottger	Casey (KC) John Moscrip
Barbara Ann Calderone	Hilary Ann Moscrip
Bernadette Rose Calderone	Jared Paul Moscrip
Elizabeth Constance Calderone	Brian James Stewart
Elizabeth Katherine Grubb	Jill Elizabeth Stewart
Sarah Irene Grubb	Kelsey Lynn Stewart
Eric Michael Hagan	Kerry Jean Stewart
Kelly Suzanne Hagan	Michael James Stewart
Mary Elizabeth Hagan	Ralph Pierre Stewart
Christine Michelle Hladik	Brianna Lynn Thompson
Gregory Stewart Hladik	David Edward Towey
Jennifer Susan Hladik	Elizabeth Susan Towey
Robert Joseph Hladik	Aaron Thomas Willey
Adam Franklin Jacobs	Gretchen Michelle Willey
Billie Lee Kunzman	Richard Paul Willey

The precious gift of faith that we were given we now happily hand on to you—in fulfillment of Jesus' desire: "The gift you have received, give as a gift" (Matthew 10:8).



Genuine recycled paper with 10% post-consumer waste.  
Printed with soy-based ink.

The publishing team included Brian Singer-Towns, development editor; Cheryl Drivdahl, copy editor; Alan S. Hanson, production editor and typesetter; Stephan Nagel, cover designer; Click Art, T/Maker Company, cover image; pre-press, printing, and binding by the graphics division of Saint Mary's Press.

The acknowledgments continue on page 70.

Copyright © 1999 by Saint Mary's Press, 702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1320. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

Printing: 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Year: 2007 06 05 04 03 02 01 00 99

ISBN 0-88489-592-0

## ***Contents***

<b>Preface</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Straight from the Heart</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Taking a Cookie Break</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Ice Cream, TV, and Baby-Sitting</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>The Guy in the Tie</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>A Real Man</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>It's Wrong No Matter Who Does It</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Chris and Lee in Action</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>More Money Than God</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Pushing the Limits of Honesty</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Two Opposite Conversations</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Appendix A:</b>	
<b>In Case You Want to Know More</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Appendix B: Series Chart</b>	<b>64</b>

## *Preface*

Life is filled with opportunities for sharing stories. We share stories with classmates at school, with friends at parties, and with relatives at family gatherings. We read stories in books, watch stories on television and in movies, and write stories for English class. We even read stories in chat rooms on the Internet and swap stories by e-mail.

Whenever we listen to good stories, we find ourselves responding in a variety of ways: we laugh and we cry, we tremble in fear and we sigh in relief, we shake our head in disbelief and we nod in agreement. We respond in these ways because good stories are like mirrors: they give us a reflection of ourselves. The joys and sorrows of the stories' characters reflect our own joys and sorrows: we laugh and we cry from the heart because we recognize ourselves in the tales being told.

Some of the most meaningful stories that people share focus on growing up. These are stories of going to school and playing sports, of losing friends and finding new ones, of falling in love and breaking up. These are also stories that try to deal with the big questions of life: What kind of person do I want to be?

Where is my life going? How do I relate to my family? What kinds of people do I want for friends? How do I make difficult decisions? What do I really believe in? Who is God?

This book is a collection of stories about young people. The characters in these stories experience wonder and struggle, hurt and forgiveness, failure and success, tears and laughter, learning and relearning. In other words, these stories are very much like your own. You are invited to use them as mirrors for looking at your own life.

After every story in this book, you will find a set of questions to help you take a deeper look at yourself. The title of this set of questions is "Seeing Your Own Story." When you think about the issues and events in your own life that the stories reflect back to you, you can begin to see yourself in a new light and learn more about the unique person you are.

After the reflection questions is a section called "Seeing the Faith Story." This section is designed to help you make connections between what you are discovering about yourself and what it means to be a believer in God, a Christian, and a Catholic. The questions at the end of this section can help you view your own life through the eyes of faith.

This book is one in a series of five. The other books in the series are entitled *That First Kiss and Other Stories*, *My Wish List and Other Stories*, *Better than Natural and Other*

*Stories*, and *Meeting Frankenstein and Other Stories*. Each book in the series presents several opportunities for you to discover more about your own story, to examine your own issues, and to search for your own answers about life, God, and faith.

It is our hope that once you see your deeper self through the mirrors of these stories, you will continue to reflect on the important matters of life. We believe that life becomes happier and more meaningful when we take the time to be reflective. A word of caution: Looking into the mirror of a story may become an exciting, lifelong habit!

## *Straight from the Heart*

Dear Gabby,

I am a seventeen-year-old who works at a fast-food restaurant on weekends. Last Saturday when I was grilling hamburgers with three other guys, one of them remarked how pretty his girlfriend was. A second one—let's call him Hank—said: "Well, nothing's as pretty as 'Hilary' over there when she bends over. I can't wait for her to drop another dollar."

Because Hank has a big mouth, most of the employees heard what he said, including Hilary, who turned around from the cash register and blushed. Her face turned redder when the four of us began to laugh. Later that night, we were called to the manager's office and told that we had to refrain from making further sexual comments. "There are laws against sexual harassment, guys," the manager told us, "and whether you like it or not, you've got to obey them if you want a job here. Besides, Hilary was crying when she told me what happened. I don't think she should have to come to work and worry about being offended by your crass remarks."

I can't believe there are laws against having fun at work! Hank didn't pinch Hilary or try to kiss her or call her a foul name. He just complimented her on her good looks. If I were Hilary, I would be flattered. Instead, she cried and made a big issue of a harmless joke. What don't I understand? Have I missed out on something? Was I dozing in class when the teacher told us that girls don't like to be complimented anymore?

Sleeping in Seattle

» » » « « «

Dear Sleeping,

There's a world of difference between a genuine compliment and sexual harassment. First off, compliments are offered not in jest, but very openly and honestly. Second, compliments make one feel not smaller, but bigger, because unlike sexual harassment, they do not reduce a person to a bodily function or part, but respect the whole person. Third, true compliments come straight from the heart, not from the groin. Yes, women still enjoy sincere compliments, but few of us enjoy being harassed.

Why are there laws against sexual harassment? For the same reason that there are laws against speeding and stealing: because people would get hurt if there weren't. If we lived in a perfect world, we would not

need any laws because everyone would always choose what is good and avoid what is bad. However, the world is far from perfect, and therefore, laws are necessary. How many people would drive sixty miles per hour on city streets if there were no speed limit? How many people would take things that didn't belong to them if stealing were not illegal? How many people would let their sexual energy run wild at work or at school if there were no laws against sexual harassment? You see, we need laws both to protect us and to guide us.

I realize that this response is already too long, but I want to tell you a short story before I conclude. One day, two men were walking to their cars after work when one of them pointed across the street and cried: "Wow! What a beautiful babe!" The other man looked to where his coworker was pointing and said: "Oh, really? I don't even know her, Steve." "Are you blind?" Steve asked in disbelief. "Just look at that face, Joe!" "Oh, I can see her face all right," Joe responded, "but I can't see her heart." "What?" Steve exclaimed, hardly believing his ears. "Well, you see," Joe tried to explain, "the girl I took to my senior prom was considered the plainest Jane in the class, but I fell in love with her and married her. She's beautiful, Steve, all the way to the bottom of her heart."

When you finally wake up in Seattle, try to learn a lesson from Joe about respect for others. Until you and your coworkers learn that lesson, I, for one, will be glad that there are laws against sexual harassment.

Gabby

### *Seeing Your Own Story*

- Did Hilary overreact to Hank's remark and his friends' laughter? In your opinion, was she really the victim of sexual harassment?
- Think of two commandments or laws that young people have difficulty understanding. What are the values that these commandments or laws try to safeguard? Why are these values important?

### *Seeing the Faith Story*

Of the many lists of laws in the Bible, the Ten Commandments—"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God," "Honor your father and your mother," "You shall not murder," and the rest (Exodus 20:2-17)—are the most famous. These Commandments point to certain clear values and insist on their importance in human life: for example, love of God, respect for parents, and respect for the lives of others.

Unlike the virtues, which guide a person from *the inside*, the Commandments guide a person from *the outside*. Because there is sin

in the world, because people are at different stages of moral development, and because people don't always understand what is truly good, the commandments and laws are necessary to preserve order and peace in the human community. In this story, Gabby insisted on the importance of laws both as protectors of people and as guideposts for making good decisions.

The stories in this book focus on the Ten Commandments and what they teach us about ourselves in our relationships with God and one another. By familiarizing ourselves with the Commandments, we come to recognize the values they highlight, and we learn to choose those values every day—not because we have to, but because we want to.

- Think about a situation in which you chose to do the right thing only because you knew that you would get into trouble if you didn't. Now think about a situation in which you chose to do the right thing because you knew it was the right thing to do.

***Moses . . . said . . . : Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today. (Deuteronomy 5:1)***



## ***Appendix A: In Case You Want to Know More***

*Straight from the Heart and Other Stories* is one of five books in a series based on the principal topics of the Catholic faith. You may have noticed the italicized phrase at the end of each story. This phrase, which may be familiar to you, points to the particular topic highlighted in the story.

The first story of this book, “Straight from the Heart,” has a concluding sentence that reads, “Moses . . . said . . . : Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today.” This sentence is from the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 5, verse 1. Here, Moses proclaims the Law of God to the Chosen People, beginning with the most famous list of law in human history: the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are a kind of summary of the moral attitudes and principles that Jews and Christians live by.

Each story in this book is a mirror for understanding at least one of the Ten Commandments (the ninth and tenth commandments are combined in the final story). If you want

to know more about how the Commandments are to be lived today, you can consult the following table. In this table, four sections appear for each story except the introductory story:

1. the commandment or commandments the story is connected to, as quoted in the Bible
2. a short summary of the concept emphasized in the story
3. a relevant citation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
4. a notation of paragraphs from the *Catechism* that provide background on the commandment or commandments

### ***“Straight from the Heart”***

This story introduces the book and discusses the importance of laws and the Commandments.

### ***“Taking a Cookie Break”***

1. “I am the LORD your God . . . ; you shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:2-3).
2. Hold God as number one.
3. “When we say “God” we confess a constant, unchangeable being, always the same, faithful and just, without any evil” (*Catechism*, number 2086).
4. *Catechism*, numbers 2084 to 2132

### ***“Ice Cream, TV, and Baby-Sitting”***

1. “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God” (Exodus 20:7).
2. Respect God’s name.
3. “The second commandment forbids the abuse of God’s name” (*Catechism*, number 2146).
4. *Catechism*, numbers 2142 to 2159

### ***“The Guy in the Tie”***

1. “Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8).
2. Value sacred time and space.
3. “God entrusted the sabbath to Israel to keep as a sign of the irrevocable covenant” (*Catechism*, number 2171).
4. *Catechism*, numbers 2168 to 2188

### ***“A Real Man”***

1. “Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12).
2. Respect your parents.
3. “We should honor our parents to whom we owe life and who have handed on to us the knowledge of God” (*Catechism*, number 2197).
4. *Catechism*, numbers 2197 to 2246

### ***“It’s Wrong No Matter Who Does It”***

1. “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13).
2. Hold all human life sacred.

3. “Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end” (*Catechism*, number 2258).
4. *Catechism*, numbers 2258 to 2317

***“Chris and Lee in Action”***

1. “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).
2. Be faithful in marriage.
3. “Sexuality affects all aspects of the human person” (*Catechism*, number 2332).
4. *Catechism*, numbers 2331 to 2391

***“More Money Than God”***

1. “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).
2. Respect the possessions of others.
3. “Even if it does not contradict the provisions of civil law, any form of unjustly taking and keeping the property of others is against the seventh commandment” (*Catechism*, number 2409).
4. *Catechism*, numbers 2401 to 2449

***“Pushing the Limits of Honesty”***

1. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).
2. Be truthful.
3. “Lying consists in saying what is false with the intention of deceiving the neighbor

who has the right to the truth” (*Catechism*, number 2508).

4. *Catechism*, numbers 2464 to 2503

***“Two Opposite Conversations”***

1. “You shall not covet . . .” (Exodus 20:17).
2. Be grateful and detached from possessions.
3. “Envy is a capital sin. It refers to the sadness at the sight of another’s goods and the immoderate desire to acquire them for oneself, even unjustly” (*Catechism*, number 2539).
4. *Catechism*, numbers 2514 to 2527, and 2534 to 2550