



CHAPTER 11

Final Blessing

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AFTER THE FINAL VOWS CEREMONIES, I flew to a spiritual community in South India to meet my new husband for Christmas. One month later he flew back to Atlanta, and I decided to make a last journey to Calcutta for what would become Mother Teresa's final blessing.

I was very nauseous when I boarded the plane for this third trip to Calcutta. Within a few days I discovered that I was pregnant. When I received the joyous news in a small medical clinic, I knew that God had intervened. "Finally," I thought, "I'm going to have a baby."

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I quickly made preparations to return to the United States. The night before my departure, I took my last rickshaw ride to Motherhouse for the Hour of Adoration. I prayed that I would be able to personally say good-bye to Mother Teresa.

129

She was seated in her usual position on her mat near the door. I looked at her and silently asked her not to disappear after the rosary. However, before the hour was over, Mother Teresa got up and walked out the door. I looked at the statue of the Virgin Mary and thanked her for this memorable time in my life.

When I walked out into the corridor, Mother Teresa was leaning on the verandah wall. I was so relieved to see her and immediately walked up to her. She looked at me with a knowing glance and placed her hand over my head. I felt the radiance of her touch traveling to my womb. I told her that I was going home. "Oh, to New York?" she asked me. "No, to Atlanta," I responded. "Please give my Sisters there my love." Those were her final words to me. She seemed so frail, yet so strong as I gazed one last time into those eyes that reflected wisdom and kindness

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