



Call me JZ...A farmgirl story
Jennifer Zellet's Story



I was born in Modesto, CA, then moved to Farmtown USA, Hughson...the third of four kids (with just enough time between me and my older brother to act kind of like an oldest child), I'm the worlds worst nightmare. I'm the invisible/quiet (middle child) boss (oldest child). For those of you who know me, you're saying "You're QUIET???" In my family, Yes. Ponder that in fear...

I always loved singing, playing instruments, reading, writing, and imagining different worlds. I remember the day I realized that my brain travels different roads than everyone else...Mrs. Johnson was reading to us after lunch, and she gave a coloring sheet of a Robin and said (verbatim) "Color the most beautiful bird you can imagine." I was on FIRE! I think I used all 94 of the crayons in my box, and even added some glitter. She was Fabulous. But when the papers were collected and I saw Brown Bird, Red Chest...Brown Bird, Red Chest...Brown Bird, Red Chest...I realized I was thinking *differently*. I kind of wanted a do-over, but not really. When I began teaching, I wanted many times to go back and hug that little girl and tell her DON'T GIVE AWAY YOUR EDGE!



I've lived a lot of places in the States and overseas, and all of the experiences have added to my treasure box of experiences. Through it all, I've been blessed beyond imagination to take my Olivia and Lucas with me. Olivia is my firstborn, and a gift from above. She should have been a bohemian 60s child, for she's a musician (bassist, piano, all things guitar and vocalist) in Seattle, she spins, weaves, sews, is an herbalist, and the best, most genuine Human I know (that's 100% objective). Lucas is, and always will be, my BUDDY! He's an Anthropologist/Archaeologist, and I recently learned...A STANDUP COMIC! Our collage is from the 2016 Giants World Series parade; he said the trophy tasted of aluminum and victory! Olivia and Lucas have been my greatest joy, challenge, and opportunity for personal growth.



Living a musician's life is not conducive to children, so Ezio and Cassandra are my Grandkittens. As you can tell, they are very camera shy...we're working on it. Olivia's fur-babies are definitely full of love and personality!

Moving home to California in 2008, my life took on some good changes...I met and married my best Friend



and we immediately added diversity to Stanislaus County. When we went to get our Marriage license, they had to add Central African Republic to the County Database when entering his information! He's a brilliant man, with impeccable taste in partners 😊 Together, we are building a farm business: Wanzham Farms. We purchased the property from my family, and are expanding our livestock to chickens and Goats, in addition to a small orchard.



Meet Marty McFly, Red Leader, Shelly, Camilla, Henny from the Flock, and George McFly...and now I have 8 new chicks (all hens!).

I mentioned that I love to write...and I've published some pop-culture analysis of the TV Series *Angel*, an article on the Superbowl Halftime Show following 9/11, poems in various publications. One of my favorite poems I've written is for my Dad:

Old Boots

Tough as old boots
Caked in pasture mud
The kind that clumps with grass bits

A rip and tear
slight poke where
irrigation water seeps
soaking cotton sock
pruning toes

A chip in the red sole
where barbed wire
caught mid leap
hanging on the heel
tug-o-warring gravity

Tough old boots
experienced
worn
ready
...here
jlhz 25 Feb 2007

In Summary, I'm a girl from a farm who has had a sometimes cool, sometimes tragic, always blessed ride through this life. If you would have told 17-year-old me when I graduated High School that I'd complete a PhD from a Scottish University and be VP at a College, I'd have looked around and responded, "Are you talking to me!?!". I never have pursued positions. I have always pursued my passions: education, service, and social justice.

While being far from perfect, born with a Sagittarius mouth that often speaks too frankly, I have learned the true value of *I'm sorry*. I've learned the greater value of changing me rather than others, for the former is in my control and the latter is an illusion.

My Olivia and Lucas are the best contribution I will make to this world, and I will count my life a success if people can honestly say: *She left things better than she found them.*

Peace, JZ