

FLYING CHEESE



STORIES FROM AN ORDINARY LIFE

REBECCA K. GROSENBACH

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STORIES FROM AN ORDINARY LIFE

By Rebecca K. Grosenbach

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To Hubby

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Cast of Characters

Many of these essays tell stories from my life, and many of them include my husband, Doug, and our children, Abby, Kate, and Eric. In these stories, I don't always say "my husband, Doug," or "my son, Eric." Pretend like you already know them. By the end of the book, you will.

Also, the kids have always called Doug "Papa." Or "O Captain My Captain." A lot of families call the grandfather "Papa," but for us, Papa is "Dad."

I'm blessed beyond words to be able to call these people my family. And for me to be "beyond words" is saying something.

Flying Cheese

Twenty years ago or so, before we had children, Doug and I were doing some after-work grocery shopping. It was a cold, Illinois-winter day, and I remember being bundled up in my long coat, scarf, and ear muffs, even inside the store. My glasses fogged up from the change in temperature.

I grabbed a cart and my dear husband and I headed down the dairy aisle. We needed sandwich cheese, and my mathematician mate bent over the cooler to calculate which package offered the cheapest slice. Knowing he had that under control, I left him to go across the aisle to get a carton of milk.

About that time, Doug decided he needed to say his figures out loud in order to complete the calculation. He turned to the woman next to him, thinking it was me, and said, “This is 16 slices for \$2.65,”—or whatever it was—and then he said, “You’re not my wife.” He stood up to locate the real Mrs. G and spotted me about 15 feet away.

“Becky,” he called, at which point I dutifully raised my head and turned my face in his direction. Almost simultaneously with calling my name he launched a package of sandwich cheese, allegedly

hoping it would land in the cart.

I didn't have time to raise my mittened hands to deflect the dairy projectile, so it hit me right between the eyes. It busted my glasses across the bridge of my nose so now they were dangling from my ears, held there by my ear muffs.

Trying really hard not to laugh, Doug came over to make sure I was okay. The woman he had addressed in the cheese section followed a step behind and said, "Are you okay, dear? I'm sorry I wasn't his wife." She wasn't the only one.

What words could have described my emotions at that moment? Livid? Humiliated? Considering the context maybe "curdled" would have worked. But within a couple more rows of shopping I started to laugh. I pictured myself with my glasses dangling from my ear muffs . . . I pictured myself at work the next day—one of those days when I had to make a presentation to a room full of board members—with my glasses taped together like a classic "nerd."

There's a popular saying, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade." What can we say about cheese? "When stuff hits you in the face like a pound of cheese, tape up your glasses and keep rolling."

And keep laughing.

What do you do when life comes at you like a brick of cheese, flying across the grocery store aisle?

You tape up your glasses and keep laughing.

That's the thinking behind *Flying Cheese*, a collection of humorous and inspirational stories from writer Becky Grosenbach.

You'll identify with Becky's stories about

- ▶ The fun of raking leaves with her kids
- ▶ Making a mess of a text message (and getting a call from a homicide detective as a result)
- ▶ Finding a way to be thankful when both cars, the furnace, and her cell phone all break down in one week
- ▶ Discovering a \$23 prom dress

These real stories from real life will help you face tomorrow with faith, hope, and thanksgiving. You'll see how it's possible to experience the presence of God at every turn.



A former managing editor for *Today's Christian Woman*, Rebecca K. (Becky) Grosenbach has been writing and speaking professionally for more than 30 years. She's been married to Doug since 1981, and, after a 10-year wait, they had three children: Abby, Kate, and Eric.

Becky is available to address your group at retreats and special occasions. Visit her website for more info:

www.beckygrosenbach.com