



Episode 56 - September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1998, My 28<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Paul:

Mieke had returned to her home and life in Belgium and she had taken a piece of my heart with her. I returned to my jobs and the task of raising for three young children.

The custody battle with Paula was almost over. I would have legal custody of all three children and Paula would have them for some weekends and part of each school vacation and Holidays. Paula was required to pay for a portion of their living expenses and I would cover the rest. The court required a period of one year for the divorce to become final.

The four of us lived in a small farm house owned by my sister and her husband. The rent was low and the environment was ideal. The house was on a rural road and

surrounded by orchards and a pasture and barn for Cathy's three horses. Schools and Day Care were close. I was able to manage the schedule of rides, meals, shopping and work.

I was still attending The Practical School of Wisdom and Compassion one night a week in Portland. This was feeding my spirit and desire to learn more about my humanity.

My biggest challenge was how to manage my feelings and new found friendship until the direction my life was taking could become clear. Mieke and I maintained a connection through our frequent phone calls which sometimes lasted for the greater part of an hour and beautiful cards and letters. I looked forward to those cards and calls during which we came to know each other better.

Mieke's Birthday was coming up on the 3rd of September. I wanted to do something to show my appreciation of our friendship. I thought a bouquet of flowers would be appropriate. When I checked with the FTD Florists, (world wide florist service), I found out it was \$25 to deliver flowers. So I thought that the flowers should be more then the delivery service, so I asked if a bouquet of flowers for \$50 would be possible? I was assured it would be. They connected me with a florist in Deince, where Mieke lives and I placed the order.

Mieke:

I woke up and opened my eyes. Here it is, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, I reminded myself. The most fun for me was that my dad and I shared a birthday! I loved that special connection it gave us. Happy Birthday dad and myself I smiled! I wonder what the day will bring, I thought while walking down the stairs. I had taken the day off from work as a gift to self.

Just as I entered my livingroom, I heard a knock on the door. Who could that be so early in the morning, I wondered? As I opened the front door, I witnessed a HUGE bouquet of flowers. It was so immense that I could not see who was holding it. “Flower delivery for you Mieke” I heard a man’s voice saying.

I had never seen such a large and beautiful bouquet. This is for me, I wondered? This was the first time I was flowers delivered. The invisible man handed me the large vase with beautiful flowers. Then I recognized the delivery person, it was the owner of the flower shop ‘Arno’ across our bookstore in Deinze. I knew him well, a very sweet man.

Who is it from I asked? I received a call and a fax from America he answered. I looked at the attached note and it read “ Happy Birthday Starshower! From “Sound of

the Divine”. Our names Paul and I received in a ceremony at Breitenbush.

What a wonderful surprise! A magnificent bouquet of flowers from Paul in America. I had no idea it was even possible to deliver flowers between continents. I decided to call Paul immediately to thank him and to let him know I received his heartfelt gift.

Paul was glad to hear my enthusiastic response. He had no idea how big this bouquet turned out to be. I told him I would send him a picture of the bouquet by mail. To this day, 22 years later, I still enjoy those flowers when I look at that picture.

