

THE TOGETHER PAGES

# I WANT YOU TO KNOW ME

A shared keepsake journal  
for a child and their grown-up.

Soren Kirkley

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## *What This Book Is*

### **This book is...**

A place for honest answers  
A tool for connection  
A shared experience  
A gentle invitation to be present  
A place to know each other better

### **This book is not...**

A test  
Therapy  
A school assignment  
A parenting performance  
A place for perfect answers

This book is a place for connection.

## *What This Book Can Become*

If used with patience and openness, this book can become:

- A record of the child's world at this age
- A place for the memories of the grown-up
- A source of laughter
- A source of conversations
- A place where differences become easier to understand
- A place where similarities become easier to notice
- A book the family may open again years from now

The finished book is not just filled pages.

It is a keepsake:

answers, stories, memories, and small discoveries  
that did not disappear into the noise of ordinary days.

## Chapter 1: Things We Like

### Part I: Let's Start With Some Fun Stuff

There are many ways to get to know someone.

We can begin with big questions.

We can begin with serious questions.

But today, let's begin with something easier:

Things we like.

The food we enjoy.

The games we play.

The animals we imagine.

The places we love.

The small things that make us smile.

Some answers will be easy.

Some will be surprising.

Some will make us say:

"Me too!"

And some will make us say:

"I never knew that about you."

One of these answers will become the first little treasure of this book.

Let's go and find it.

US

#### We Opened This Chapter

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Our favorite snacks to eat while we work on this book:

\_\_\_\_\_

## What Do You Think I Like?

Before I answer, try to guess.

### YOU Your Guess

I think your favorite food is: \_\_\_\_\_

I think you like it best when: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ME My Answer

My favorite food is: \_\_\_\_\_

The exact way I like it is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*(With extra sauce? No onions? The corner piece? Every detail counts.)*

### US About Us

Was the guess right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Almost
- ☐ Not this time

What surprised us? \_\_\_\_\_

Should we eat this food together one day?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ We already do

## *Tell Me a Funny Story*

Some funny moments disappear quickly.  
Some become stories we tell again and again.

### **ME About Me**

A funny thing that happened to me was: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was there? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was it funny? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **YOU About You**

A funny thing that happened when you were my age: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was with you? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you still remember it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **US Name Our Stories**

Every great story deserves a title.

My story's title: "The Day \_\_\_\_\_"

Your story's title: "The Day \_\_\_\_\_"

### **US About Us**

Who should we tell one of these stories to? \_\_\_\_\_

## *My Best Guess*

Before you tell me anything, let me guess.

### **ME My Guess**

When you were my age, I think your favorite toy was: \_\_\_\_\_

I think you played mostly:

- ☐ Inside
- ☐ Outside
- ☐ Both

I think you wanted to become: \_\_\_\_\_

### **YOU Your Reaction**

How close was the guess?

- ☐ Very close
- ☐ A little close
- ☐ Wonderfully wrong

*Ready for school? Go to the next page.*

## School, Then and Now

### **YOU** You, at My Age

Your best friend's name was: \_\_\_\_\_

What you played at recess: \_\_\_\_\_

A teacher you still remember, and why: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your favorite classes were: \_\_\_\_\_

A good thing that happened to you at school: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **ME** Me, Right Now

My best friend is: \_\_\_\_\_

What we play: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite classes are: \_\_\_\_\_

The classes I like the least: \_\_\_\_\_

### **US** About Us

If we had been in the same class, would we have been friends?

- ☐ Definitely
- ☐ Probably
- ☐ We are friends anyway

## The Time Capsule Inventory

Short answers. True today.

### ME Me, Right Now

Favorite book: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite show or movie: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite game: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite song: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite snack: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite color: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite restaurant: \_\_\_\_\_

My hero: \_\_\_\_\_

A word everyone says these days: \_\_\_\_\_

My shoe size: \_\_\_\_\_ How tall I am: \_\_\_\_\_

What I want to be: \_\_\_\_\_

### YOU What Things Cost Today

A scoop of ice cream: \_\_\_\_\_

A movie ticket: \_\_\_\_\_

A comic book: \_\_\_\_\_

A gallon of juice: \_\_\_\_\_

### US Filled In On

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *The Happiness Mission*

### US **Tiny Action**

This week, we will make one small happiness for someone.

Our target: \_\_\_\_\_

Our idea: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When: \_\_\_\_\_

### US **After the Mission**

What we did: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How they reacted: \_\_\_\_\_

How it felt to be the ones who did it: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *The One Thing I Would Borrow*

We become who we are partly by borrowing from people we admire.

### **ME About Me**

Someone I think is very special: \_\_\_\_\_

One thing I would borrow from them: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

One thing I would borrow from you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **YOU About You**

Someone you would like to be more like, even now: \_\_\_\_\_

One thing you would borrow from them: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

One thing you would borrow from me: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **US Me Too!**

A quality we both want to have: \_\_\_\_\_

What can we do to have it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Draw Me, Grown

On the next page, draw yourself grown up.

Pick the age: \_\_\_\_\_

What are you doing? Where are you? Who is with you? How are you feeling?

### **ME Tell Me About It**

In this picture, I am: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where I am, and who is with me: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **YOU Your Turn**

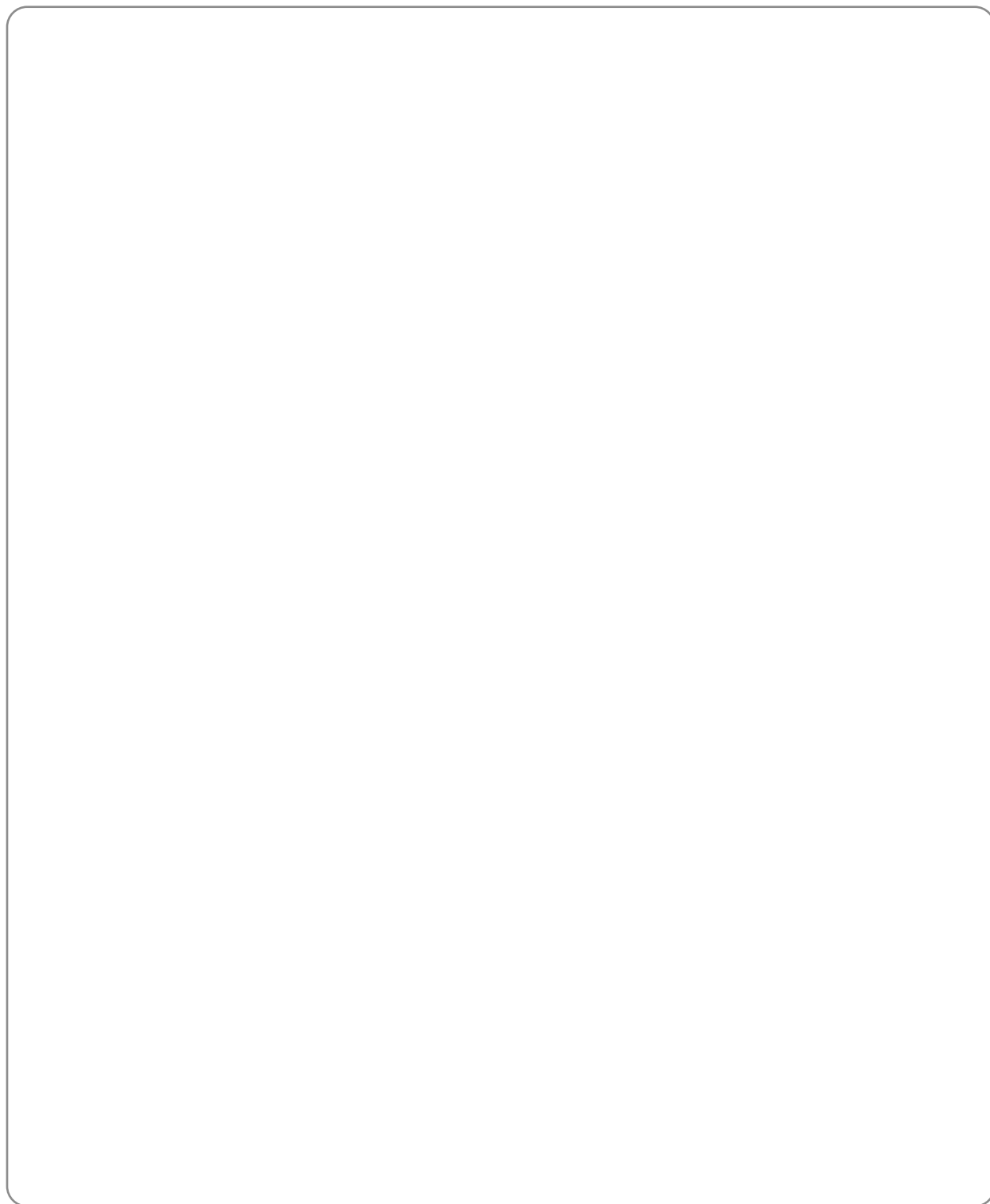
Things from today-you I hope grown-you keeps: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## *Draw Me, Grown*



## Which One Do You Like More?

In each pair, mark the one you like more.

Fold the page along the line. No peeking.

When both of you are finished, unfold.

Then read both lists out loud.

Matches are fun. So are the differences.

Ask why. Be prepared for funny answers.

### ME

- moon ☐ ☐ sun
- sand ☐ ☐ snow
- sweet ☐ ☐ salty
- play ☐ ☐ rest
- barefoot ☐ ☐ shoes on
- beach ☐ ☐ mountain
- cat ☐ ☐ dog
- hide ☐ ☐ seek
- shout ☐ ☐ whisper
- speak ☐ ☐ listen
- on foot ☐ ☐ by car
- shorts ☐ ☐ pants
- draw ☐ ☐ paint
- cook ☐ ☐ eat
- juice ☐ ☐ milk
- dance ☐ ☐ sing
- alone ☐ ☐ together
- read ☐ ☐ write
- numbers ☐ ☐ letters
- run ☐ ☐ walk
- spin ☐ ☐ jump
- fruits ☐ ☐ vegetables
- win ☐ ☐ lose
- laugh ☐ ☐ cry
- family ☒ ☒ family

### YOU

- moon ☐ ☐ sun
- sand ☐ ☐ snow
- sweet ☐ ☐ salty
- play ☐ ☐ rest
- barefoot ☐ ☐ shoes on
- beach ☐ ☐ mountain
- cat ☐ ☐ dog
- hide ☐ ☐ seek
- shout ☐ ☐ whisper
- speak ☐ ☐ listen
- on foot ☐ ☐ by car
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- draw ☐ ☐ paint
- cook ☐ ☐ eat
- juice ☐ ☐ milk
- dance ☐ ☐ sing
- alone ☐ ☐ together
- read ☐ ☐ write
- numbers ☐ ☐ letters
- run ☐ ☐ walk
- spin ☐ ☐ jump
- fruits ☐ ☐ vegetables
- win ☐ ☐ lose
- laugh ☐ ☐ cry
- family ☒ ☒ family

*We marked the last one for you,  
sure that we guessed it right.  
Right?*

## About the Author

Soren Kirkley writes books that give two people a reason to sit down together.

He is the son of a schoolteacher and a professor, a brother, an uncle, the father of twin daughters, and a Christian, like his whole family.

He has been a bookworm since he was seven. When he was ten, his teacher called a meeting with his mother. The other children were handing in compositions of a page or two; his ran to six or eight, and they were stories. She had been reading them aloud in class. She wanted him to write a book. It took a while.

He has been a guest in family homes on four continents — with relatives, and with friends close enough to count as family. What he noticed, house after house, was how much goes unasked between people who live under the same roof. He also saw the opposite: parents and children deep in conversation, plainly wanting to know each other better, growing closer through questions that started like nothing at all.

He wrote the first version of *I Want You to Know Me* for his own daughters. They had endless questions about the world and not so many about him — not because they did not care, but because nobody had ever handed them the questions. So he built a book where both of them answer. Every page, two voices, one pen.

*I have never met anyone who was ready to be a parent. We learn on the job. And somewhere in it we get the feeling that we could be closer to our children, that we could know them better — and we start wondering what to do about it, and who could help. What many of us miss is that some of that help is already in the house. It comes from our own children, and from what we make with them.*

*The Together Pages* is his series for families who would rather ask and listen than assume. More of them are coming.