

# 3 Choices, 1 Identity

## Chapter 1: Summary

Inhabiting in a home with three different cultures was hard. Being pulled in three different ways while learning about all three cultures was also very educational. My mother was from a very proper family. There were strict rules, you had to have amazing talents. In general, strive for greatness. On the other hand, my dad came from a family that was kind of carefree, they already had it all, wealthy and happy, but still a little discipline. Then my aunt (my father's sister) was on a whole different mindset, she was more of a hippie, laid back, meditation, crystals, self-care, and the whole package. Learning about the ways all three of these people live was very fascinating especially in the same house.

## Chapter 2: Mother

To start, my mother. I grew up with my mother's side of the family for the start of my life. My cousins, aunts, grandparents, everyone was apart of some form of art. My grandpa made posters for companies and art for murals. My aunt wrote songs and stories. My grandmother did almost all. My mother and cousins were particularly good at visual arts, painting, drawing, etc. I grew up playing with my cousins the most so I would watch them draw and try to imitate them, or color their drawings when they were finished. At the time I lived with them I was in pre-k to 4th grade. My grandma would do math problems with us during the weekends and make us do reading logs, me and my cousins found it fun. Learning all of that at a young age benefited a lot in school. After study time we'd go outside or to the water park and jump rope or play tag so we were pretty active. In our free time, we would draw, practice making food, and watch one particular scary game/book called Five Nights At Freddy's (FNAF). It was and still is a big thing, so we learned how to draw the animatronics and sing the songs it, was fun.

## Chapter 3: Father

My father was always a pretty chill person, the time I lived with his side of the family was pretty fun as well. They were from New Orleans where the doors were always open. So people like distant cousins, friends, and such would come in the house and wed hang out, have cookouts all the time. Play video games together like mortal combat. Sports was a BIG thing with them so on sports nights. EVERYONE came over and we cooked and ate while watching the game. Cooking on that side of the family was also big. For some time my dad and I worked

at this restaurant where he taught me how to cook. My uncles would always play basketball all the time so I would join even tho I wasn't tall enough to shoot the ball.

## Chapter 4: Aunt

My aunt was very simple, she was chill and calm. Didn't have any problems with people so a lot of people liked her. She was the easiest person to talk to and discriminate but also didn't sugar coat things. She also meditates a lot and does a lot of spiritual healing with crystals and such. She was also the reason why I started thinking about my identity. He talked about crystals and how different ones affect a person differently. I thought about my mom, dad, and aunt for a while. All three had a unique lifestyle but which would affect me negatively and positively. There is my mom's side who strives for the best all the time and doesn't stop working. My dads are all chill laid back and calm. Then my aunt who was her own person and went with the flow of the universe.

## Chapter 5: Realization

After years of thinking and thinking, I realized ALL of them could affect me in a good and bad way. If I work too hard I might tire myself, or be too independent to the point no one would WANT to work with me. I could be played back and people would think something is wrong with me or think I'm lazy. Then I thought about my aunt and how she lives. What others think and say does not affect her. It isn't about what other people think of me it's what I think of me and if I am happy with it. So I did what I never thought of, combined all three of the lifestyles. I work hard when I need to accomplish things that will contribute to my life in the future. I am calm when needed which causes me to be less stressed when working hard. And I meditate a lot and calm my spirit which helps me live better without too many problems on my shoulder and around me. Life isn't about what you think other people will be happy with, it's about what you do that makes you happy.