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***Dedication***

I dedicate this work to an amazing woman, my mother, Jessie Lankford. Her unwavering love, deep commitment and assiduous sacrifice on behalf of those she loved, paved the way for opportunities she could only imagine for herself. It is because she loved so ***hard*** and so ***fiercely*** that I am able to stand tall, resilient and strong; a woman armed with hope and the resources to carry forward the message of healing through ***loving fiercely***. As she looks upon this accomplishment, I know beyond a shadow of doubt, that she is *‘So Very, Very Proud of Me!’*

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