

Preface

My guardian angel Nathaniel was the only one in my whole life who truly understood me. He stuck with me as I wandered through life—the good, the bad, and what you will read about—the unbelievable. Reading this book will be your unique experience. Awakening is a unique individual experience. I pray that in your own life journey, you will find your purpose, your healing, and your light to create alignment with your soul's highest good—*with fewer challenges than I experienced in my life as I wandered with Nathaniel.*

Chapter 1: Soul Searching—A Spiritual Perspective on Soul-Based Identity

I felt like a stranger in my own skin—a mystery to myself. This prompted me, an eight-year-old confused boy, to search for answers about religion and whether my soul was separate from my body. And God answered.

I follow this story with my perspective that our present-day society has created *soul-blindness*—the inability to perceive souls inside the physical bodies of our fellow human beings, therefore, creating a damaging separation. I use a metaphor about Crayola crayons to illustrate this concept.

Chapter 2: My Fourth-Grade Teacher—A Spiritual Perspective on Miracles

I was living my ninth and tenth years on this planet comforted to know God was available to an eight-year-old kid in a green farmhouse in Red Oaks Mill, New York. This story recounts how my fourth-grade teacher—and one act of bravery on my part—changed me forever. I was a better person because she took the time to reach me, touch my heart, and change my life. It was a miracle of love.

I follow this story with my perspective that miracles are sown by acts of love ruled by our hearts, and how they weave ripples through the time and space of human existence. I reveal that miracles are loving ripples that flow through a sea of vibrational energy—*to which we are all connected.*

Chapter 3: A Yellow Rocking Chair—A Spiritual Perspective on Unconditional Love

Our family had a routine most every Saturday as my cousin, sisters, and I invaded Nan and Pop's house to spend the night. For me, it was the only place on Earth where I could just be a 10-year-

old kid. It also was the year my Great-Grandmother Schrauth died in their house on Mitchell Avenue. As I slept in her bed next to her yellow rocking chair—the week after she passed—it was the first time in my life that I had been touched by an angel, but it would not be the last. An angel came into my life that night, and I started to understand unconditional love.

I follow this story with my perspective that people exhibit, receive, and process unconditional love differently.

Chapter 4: Baseball and Guardian Angels—A Spiritual Perspective on Coincidences

My love of baseball played an important role in my early life. Luckily, my appreciation of—and *faith in*—unseen, energetic forces around me also continued into my twelfth year. This is the story of how my cousin Jack, my friend Keith, and I ended up hiding out in our third-base dugout from a serious summer thunderstorm. And how one of my guardian angels saved our lives that day.

I follow this story with my perspective about coincidences in our lives, how to perceive them and create a more connected life to Spirit. We rely on our physical senses to inform us about the world around us, but this thought process only encourages a sense that “*seeing is believing*.” I suggest even *slight* mindfulness will bring into our lives a renewed awareness of coincidences—a belief in divine manifestation—revealing the beginning of a journey where “*believing is seeing*,” and mindful seeing is choosing, and self-aware choosing creates life’s destiny.

Chapter 5: An Angel, an Ant, and Me—A Spiritual Perspective on Connectedness

It was 1971. Carole King, the Carpenters, and the Bee Gees played on my transistor radio. I didn’t know it yet, but that was the last summer my family would be camping together at Wilcox Park. I bring to life the story of how I ended up sitting on a log over a stream—with an ant—in a conversation with God. From my questions about my “first kiss” that never occurred up to and including the nature of our universe. On that log is where I discovered that God is only love.

I follow this story with my perspective about how people can recognize spiritual disconnectedness—from God, from love, from forgiveness, from closeness—and how they can reconnect with Spirit’s loving energy. Once realized, there is peace in knowing that every one of us is connected to the energy of Oneness enhancing our lives on Earth. I use a fish metaphor to shed light on this concept.

Chapter 6: Our Creek—A Spiritual Perspective on Choice

Growing up as “river rats” across the street from Wappinger Creek is where I realized I loved water. Our adventures would have made Huck Finn envious. Although on one fateful day, the flowing water I loved so much was about to swallow up my life. As I was drowning, I was given a choice to stay on Earth or to cross the veil with “them.” I was glad I chose to stay on Earth, even if for only one more day or for 30,000 more days. Because what I did not know is that choice would begin a career journey that was not to be completed for more than 25 years.

I follow this story with my perspective on our life-path options—those separate branches on our tree of life. Those moments where the Universe presents alternate choices, alternate journeys, alternate realities on an individual’s life path. I describe how we can make our intentions crystal clear to the loving, guiding, and helping hand of Spirit.

Chapter 7: Riding Shotgun—A Spiritual Perspective on Intuition

I hid my pain as everything in my life fell apart after my parents’ divorce. I lived a double life—honors nerd by day in high school and long-haired, pot-smoking hippie by night and on weekends. This story recounts how my guardian angel, Nathaniel, watched over me as I tried to navigate—really, just wander through—all the pitfalls and dangers of that teenage duality.

I follow this story with my perspective that our guardian angels want us to experience the life circumstances and lessons that we came here for—even if at the time those experiences could be perceived as challenging. Thank the Universe, or the Holy Spirit, or your God—for your life experiences—they are blessings. I end this chapter with a phrase I coined: “*Be grateful—and full of great!*”

Chapter 8: Lost and Found—A Spiritual Perspective on Prayer

“*What is going on?*” I screamed in my head, as someone was grabbing at my t-shirt collar and shaking me out of a groggy Saturday morning sleep-in after a late Friday night of college partying. “*David, wake up! This is not your life. Wake up!*” The pain of a dysfunctional homelife, breakup with my first college sweetheart, and the sudden death of my best friend was too much for my soul. I fell hard—from a thriving college student to wandering through my drug-addled life—until that fateful day when an angel woke me up with the warning “*This is not your life.*”

I follow this story with my perspective about prayer. At its core, prayer is a soul-level

communication that travels into the universe at the speed of light. And words have meaning. I clarify that all prayer be initiated from your deepest core—resonating in your heart and soul.

Chapter 9: The Train to Susquehanna—*A Spiritual Perspective on Perception*

It was an adventure filled with misperceptions, processed through my own personal filters. My friend, Twig, and I thought we were safe as we jumped up into that red B&O boxcar heading south out of the Oneonta railyard on that sunny spring morning. I think everyone has a fantasy of hopping the rails and traveling throughout this beautiful country. Even if for a little while, Twig and I were doing just that. As the sun set on that day, I was relieved that we weren't laying in some backroad field bloodied and beaten. I was grateful for having Nathaniel in my life.

I follow this story with the thought that an individual's perspective impacts their unique perceptions—including my own throughout this book. Our perspectives create a filtered viewpoint—a filtered perception—of the world around us through the lens of our own personal journey. Our awareness of this concept creates the opportunity to acknowledge and accept that people can view the exact same experience in very different ways.

Chapter 10: A Glimpse of the Hereafter—*A Spiritual Perspective on Death*

Along the way, I have been blessed to receive many glimpses of the hereafter from deceased loved ones. Here I share stories of the passing of three of my relatives—an atheist, a Jew, and a devout Protestant—and how each of their own transitions strengthened my awareness of love communicated across the veil of the Hereafter.

I follow this story with my perspective that long-held beliefs can hold us in patterns that do not support our growth as spiritual beings of light. We all exist in a free-will universe where we are fully able to create any self-fulfilling prophecy our hearts desire—even the ability to be temporarily detached from the outreach and support of deceased loved ones, spirit guides, guardian angels, and God. More importantly, I offer the thought that we are all empowered to create our own transition experience as we exit the physicality of this time-space existence.

Chapter 11: Lost and Found Redux—*A Spiritual Perspective on Ego*

The day I realized I was losing my multimillion-dollar environmental cleanup company—everything that I had worked so hard for—Nathaniel stopped me from driving off the bridge into

the waters below. I was on a journey that I didn't understand. My ego wouldn't let me. Luckily, Nathaniel knew. Ultimately, I lost the business, saved my marriage, re-established a relationship with my guardian angel, Nathaniel, and found God again ... a trade I would make every time.

I follow this story with my perspective about the hardest lesson ever—to overcome ego. We each have been imbued with the free will to play the victim, to allow abuse, to stew in anger over being mistreated, to continue addiction, or to choose to change our life. We can change our mind, heal, forgive, reach out to each other, and reach out to God. We are empowered to invite healing energy into our lives as part of our own healing journey.

Chapter 12: The Orb of White Light—*A Spiritual Perspective on Soul Groups*

In each of our individual lives, events occur that offer us an option to change course if we so choose. You can see these types of events in my life throughout this book, but none were as perplexing as the orb of white light floating above her head. Like a virtual reality headset over my eyes, I experienced that we had already lived many lives together. How could I ever tell her?

Many months later, I stood by myself on the edge of the mesa looking in the distance trying to catch a glimpse of the last Pink Jeep driving up the bumpy, dusty road. I could hardly believe the beauty of the vast red rock scenery of Sedona, Arizona. I reached over to steady myself on the twisted juniper tree branch that also stood at the edge of this cliff. At that moment, I felt Nathaniel nearby. He had always been nearby. He had always helped me navigate my ups and downs as I wandered through my life. And I realized in that moment, that I had not been wandering at all.

Epilogue

One summer day, while I was attempting to finish the initial manuscript for this book, I looked up from my MacBook Pro to see a gathering of angels underneath a group of large oak trees that guard my backyard like ancient sentinels. Momentarily, I lost my breath—not because I hadn't experienced angels, but because this large gathering took me by surprise and made my heart beat faster in anticipation of what wisdom I was to receive on this day. They dictated—as I typed this prayer—*A Prayer for the Awakening of Humanity*. It appears on the last page of *Wandering with Nathaniel*. I am blessed to live this life, and to tell these stories—even if just to bring one special moment toward our awakening together.