



A HOE IN MY HAND MAGAZINE

Becoming a Servant of God



He gives snow like wool;

He scatters the frost like ashes;

He casts out His hail like morsels;

Who can stand before His cold?

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MEET THE EDITORS

Dani, age 16



Dani is the *slavedriver* mastermind behind A Hoe In My Hand. She enjoys feeding the family, especially when it's baking. She loves music, playing several instruments including piano and violin. In the near future, she hopes to begin studying midwifery, and she loves science! Whatever she does, she throws all five-foot-three into it. She enjoys capturing people on camera, and is super excited to begin learning videography. Dani is filling in for... whatever doesn't get done.

Rachel, age 14



Rachel is Dani's younger sister, and has just passed both Dani and Mom up in height! She enjoys music and plays piano, violin, and just picked up the Irish Tin Whistle. Her favorite thing to do in her spare time is to drag out her sketch book draw and draw and draw! She hopes to begin working toward becoming a Conceptual Art Designer and ultimately using that skill to help in Christian filmmaking.

She loves all animals, particularly cats and horses, spending time with friends and siblings, reading, chocolate, cooking, baking, playing and working outside, participating in the National Bible Bee, the Lord of the Rings, Narnia, and much, much more! She writes for the art column.

Laura, age 18



Laura is a writer and aspiring author. She has finished several short stories, and is in the process of writing her first official novel. She loves to explore her creative side: creating characters, worlds; always bursting at the seams with new story ideas. She loves photography, and especially being a photographer of thoughts. She desires to create pictures on the page, allowing her readers to see, feel and live the stories she writes. Laura is graciously penning the writing column for this magazine.

Elizabeth, age 19



Elizabeth is a college-age young lady, pursuing life as a missionary here in the United States. She's worked for Cafe Barnabas, a Christian owned non-profit business that her youth pastor started, since its beginning in 2012. She devotes most of her time to steeping and selling tea, and also drinks a good amount of tea everyday as a result. Through tea, she has some neat ministry opportunities in her hometown of Topeka, KS, and enjoys very much what she does. Lizzy heads up the tea column!



Jessie, age 17



Well, well, well, where do we start with this one...? Jessie resides in North Pole, AK. To give you a bit of an idea about her, she first and foremost loves her Savior and her family, consisting of her mom and dad; her horse, Cochise (who's also her best friend); and their Great Dane, Duke. She has a big appetite for adventure, and a lot of - shall we say - spunk! Some of her biggest interests are ANYTHING involving horses: particularly training and trying new things riding them; music, hair, knives (especially throwing knives), photography, natural medicine, making her friends laugh, and also outdoor activities, such as historic reenacting, four-wheeling, fishing, and canoeing. She currently is volunteering at a horse Bible camp, and will (Lord-willing) graduate from home-high school this spring. She

is striving towards receiving an international riding instructor's certification this fall, and is super stoked to see where the Lord is going to lead her! You will see her here in her capacity as the Hair Ninja, writing hair tutorial and tip articles.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well, as you can see, there are some big changes. We have expanded our magazine to full pages and a new design. We have more goodies included and have welcomed Laura, Elizabeth, and Jessie to our team! *rounds of applause* We hope you'll enjoy all the new features and will find something to which you would like to contribute.

Congratulations to the Bible Bee Game Show contestants! We enjoyed seeing you all there. For the rest of you ladies, keep your eye on the National Religious Broadcast; the Game Show should start airing this summer, and it is streamable online from NRB.

On that note, Bible Bee host registration opens in February.

Team Birthdays: Rachel on November 30

Unless otherwise noted within an individual column, please send submissions to: thimblerosecottage@gmail.com

A BIT ABOUT LADIES



how Snow White Got Romance Right

Disney? Romance? Got it right? Is this an oxymoron?

So, I was listening to Snow White's wishing well song a couple weeks ago. Rather, I was listening to Christa singing it in an old movie that we made. Long story. ☺

But I noticed something. Snow White did not sing, "I hope I meet a guy I can fall in love with." She didn't dream about just any guy. She was waiting for her prince to come find her. She loved her husband already, which she stated clearly in her song. She sang that she loved him, but didn't know who he was.

Okay, so the fallen princess did get swept away by a real prince who wasn't supposed to marry her, since he didn't know she was actually royalty. It turns into a fairy tale- a story fully out of reality.

But the truth in the song still remains. Wait for your husband. By the way, he will find you. Don't go pursuing a relationship- when a girl initiates the relationship it rarely goes right.

So, I'll say the oft-repeated words: Guard your heart, and don't jump into any relationship without considerable prayer and consultation with your parents and other more experienced people than yourself.

*She loved her
husband already,
even though she
didn't know who
he was.*



Dani lives off the grid with her four younger siblings and her parents (she's holding her youngest brother in the picture). She's learned a lot about what it means to be a young lady in the past year or so, and likes to help others in that way. She loves music, playing several instruments including piano and violin. In the near future, she hopes to begin studying midwifery, and she loves science! She enjoys capturing people on camera, and is super excited to begin learning videography.

MY CUP OF TEA

Tea is the most widely-consumed beverage in the world next to water. 160 MILLION Americans are drinking tea on any given day; I am proud to be one of that enormous number! 80% of households in the US have tea in their kitchens. 85% of tea consumed in America is iced.

In 2011, Americans consumed over 65 billion servings of tea.

Benefits of drinking tea:

1 cup of black tea may improve blood vessel function, lower blood pressure, and reduce the incidence of stroke, heart attack, and other cardiovascular diseases by 10%.

Tea has anti-cancer properties: men who drank more than 1.5 cups of green tea per day had a 70% lower colon cancer risk.

Drinking tea may help mitigate the negative effects of high-fat meals on blood vessel function.

Tea has anti-cancer properties Just one cup of may boost one's ability to solve difficult language/mathematical problems.

anti-cancer properties Drinking several cups of green tea daily may help burn 100 calories a day.

properties Drinking two cups of black tea may help raise alertness and attention span.

Drinking green tea along with a weight-bearing exercise are an effective way to improve muscle strength, reduce inflammation and improve low bone mass, which may help to reduce the risk for osteoporosis and fractures, especially among older Americans.

Black tea may also help to improve cognitive functioning - in particular, alertness.

It helps prevent the development of type one diabetes and slow the progression once it has developed.

Drinking 3 to 4 cups a day can cut the chance of a heart attack.

Tea contains fluoride, which prevents tooth decay.

Those who drink more than 10 cups per day are less likely to develop disorders of the liver...though they may need to use the facilities more often.:P

Tea protects against heart disease and some cancers.

People who drink black tea 4 times a day for 6 weeks are found to have lower levels of the stress hormone *cortisol*.

Green tea offers protection from lung cancer, according to studies.

Opposite of the common conception that the caffeine in tea dehydrates, it actually hydrates (like you wouldn't believe).

I enjoy tea at all times of day. It doesn't matter where I am or what I'm doing, a good cup of tea automatically makes it better. But I must say, my all-time favorite time for tea is when I'm sitting down with a good book.

Tea protects against heart disease



Elizabeth Lindsay is a college-age young lady, pursuing life as a missionary here in the United States. She's worked for Cafe Barnabas, a Christian owned non-profit business that her youth pastor started, since its beginning in 2012. She devotes most of her time to steeping and selling tea, and also drinks a good amount of tea everyday as a result. Through tea, she has some neat ministry opportunities in her hometown of Topeka, KS, and enjoys very much what she does.

A Fine Tea Party for Your Enjoyment

Early in October, ten young ladies and several moms and grandmothers gathered to enjoy a fine winter tea in a beautiful Alaskan setting. The following pages will provide you with pictures, recipes, and ideas to help inspire your own winter tea.



Table setting: We began with two large white doilies spread over an ecru-colored lace tablecloth. We put the food in a line down the center so that everyone could sit at the table, and lit candles at the ends and in the center. Our tea cups were neatly set on a smaller table so that everyone could choose the one she liked best.



The food: In the center of the table was a stand of muffins (sprinkled with blue sugar) and a blueberry trifle.



Snowflake-shaped sugar cookies and peppermint cookie brittle (pictured on next page) flanked the center stands. And on one end of the table was a smoked salmon and cream cheese dip, goat chevre, and crackers. On the other end was bright blue Turkish Delight (pictured in the background) coated in sugar crystals- something I had never tried on Turkish Delight before, so I was very pleased that it turned out so lovely!



Tea has run its course in Dani's life right alongside her involvement in the National Bible Bee. She drank her first cup of Earl Grey (from a teabag!) at Nationals in 2009, and began drinking on a regular basis. Then, during a Bible Bee study session in 2013, she had her first cup of loose leaf Earl Grey- and never looked back.

Now, on to the fun stuff:

THE RECIPES

Peppermint Brittle:

Ingredients: 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour ~ 1/2 tsp. baking soda ~ 1/4 tsp. salt ~ 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted, cooled slightly ~ 1/2 cup sugar ~ 1/3 cup (packed) brown sugar ~ 1 tsp. vanilla extract ~ 10 oz. high-quality white chocolate, chopped into 1/3-inch pieces, divided (or you can use chips) ~ 3/4 cup coarsely crushed red-and-white-striped hard peppermint candies (about 6 oz., divided) ~ Blue sugar crystals

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

Whisk flour, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl. Whisk melted butter, both sugars, and vanilla in a large bowl until smooth. (The sugar doesn't need to be dissolved; just well blended.) Stir in flour mixture until just blended. Stir in 1 cup chopped white chocolate and 1/2 cup crushed peppermint candy. Transfer dough to prepared sheet.

Press dough into about 14x8 inch rectangle, about 3/8 inch thick. Bake cookie until top is firm and dark golden, about 30 minutes. Cool on sheet 10 minutes. Transfer to rack; cool *completely*.

Stir remaining white chocolate in top of double boiler over barely simmering water (not necessary; you can do it in a regular pot over low heat) until melted and smooth.

Using small spoon (or fork), drizzle chocolate in thin lines over cooled cookie. Sprinkle blue sugar over chocolate. Let stand until white chocolate sets, about 1 hour. (Or stick it outside for about 2 minutes if it's 5 degrees. :D) Break cookie into irregular pieces, however big or small you want. Store in airtight container at room temperature.

Turkish Delight:

Slightly adapted and Americanized from [Beela Bakes](#).

375g sugar ~ Juice of half lemon ~ 25g gelatin powder ~ 100g cornstarch ~ 25g powdered sugar ~ 4 teaspoons rosewater ~ Blue! Liquid food coloring ~ Coconut oil, for brushing tin

Add the sugar and lemon juice with 300ml of water in a medium-sized pan. Stir over low heat until sugar has dissolved, then bring gently to the boil. Mix the gelatin with 75g of the cornstarch and 200ml water and add to the pan. Stir constantly until the gelatin has dissolved, then continue to simmer very gently for 20 minutes until thickened. Meanwhile mix together the remaining cornstarch and the powdered sugar. Lightly oil an 8x8 square baking tin and line it with plastic wrap. Lightly dust the plastic wrap with some of the cornstarch mixture. Remove the pan from the heat and set aside to cool. Add the rosewater and food coloring and pour the mixture into the tin. Spread level and leave to cool for at least 4-6 hours or until completely set. Cut into squares and dust with the rest of the powdered sugar and cornstarch mixture. Store in an airtight container for up to a week.

Recommended tea selections:

- Earl Grey - because no tea is complete without it!
- Snowdrop tea - sold by [Adagio Teas](#), or another white tea.
- Chocolate tea - a flavored black tea also sold by Adagio. I made my own.

FINDING TIME TO WRITE DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

Finding time to write during the holidays is difficult. **Here are four things** that I generally do during this crazy time of life.

1. I never stop thinking about my WIP.

I always let my mind work the problems out, plan the scenes and continue building my characters. Even if I'm not physically writing it.

Practice

2. I Write. Write. Write.

writing with Writing is like a muscle. If you don't use it, it'll get weak and lazy. That doesn't mean I overwhelm myself with projects. Just short things. Like the Short Story Picture Prompts that go out every week from [Kingdom Pen](#). They're great *small, short* practices for writing. I find it's a good practice to learn how to get to the point, and cut what isn't vital. Pick something small. Even journal entries would do.

projects

3. Let myself be inspired.

Holidays are filled with memories. The smells, the music, the activities. All of it. I find myself, every Christmas season, wanting to write a Christmas story. I find that the lyrics in our terribly familiar and beloved Christmas songs inspire me. Simple phrases like "all I want for Christmas is you", or "mistletoe hung where you can see, every couple trying to stop." Take a small phrase like that, or anything that inspires you, and run with it. It's only one month out of the year. Take the time to rest and write something fun.

4. Taking the time to learn more about the art.

I love to read articles on writing. Even if I don't have the energy to write and be putting things out myself, I can take the time to learn more about it. Reading articles is a wonderful way to do that, or just reading in general.

These are some of the things I do during the holidays. I find myself not getting stressed over my writing, but still being productive and learning.



Laura is a writer and aspiring author. She has finished several short stories, and is in the process of writing her first official novel. She loves to explore her creative side, creating characters, worlds, and always bursting at the seams with new story ideas. She loves photography, and especially being a photographer of thoughts. She desires to create pictures on the page, allowing her readers to see, feel and live the stories she writes.



A CRAFTER'S

Yarn

This page is currently under construction.... I promise it'll be in here next time, along with a free pattern!

The Physics of Santa

I came across this amusing article floating around the cyber-world and thought it was pretty funny:

No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer which only Santa has ever seen.

There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear to) handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total - 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes.

One presumes there's at least one good child in each.

Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth,

**Santa Has to
Make 822.6
Visits PER
SECOND.**

assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house.

Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth

(which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75-1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding etc.

This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.

The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison - this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth.

353,000 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecrafcts re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

In conclusion -- If Santa ever DID deliver presents on Christmas Eve, he's dead now.

THE PHOTOBUCKET

With four avid photographers on the team, it's inevitable that we would have a photography column. So, without further ado, I present to you shooting in the snow.



This was our first snow of the year, toward the end of September. At the end of the first day, it was over my boots. Fun fact. ☺



On to the more technical side. White balance is essential when shooting in the snow. These pictures were taken under the same conditions, but the picture on the left was taken with a 'cloudy' WB, about 6000 degrees Kelvin, while the picture to the right was taken with a 'shade' WB, 7000 degrees Kelvin. If you want a blue tinge to your picture, great. But 7000 degrees is a lot closer to reality, even though the day was cloudy.



I'm sorry to say that at the time in my photography experience that these were taken, I did not know much about using shutter speed, aperture, and ISO properly, so I can't say what they were at. I need to get out and shoot some more, so I can give you pointers.



Snow and sky can be really difficult to balance. If the sky is right, the snow tends to be dark, and if the snow is right, the sky is waaaay overexposed! My WB on this picture was shade, even though it was broad daylight. In my limited experience, the higher Kelvin you can get for snow, the better. I did have to bring up the highlights slightly when I edited this picture, but that was all the editing I did.

Hopefully, this gave you some guidelines to keep in mind. Remember, in the snow, white balance is everything!

If you have a question you'd like to see answered, shoot me an email at thimblerosecottage@gmail.com. One of us might actually be able to answer it!



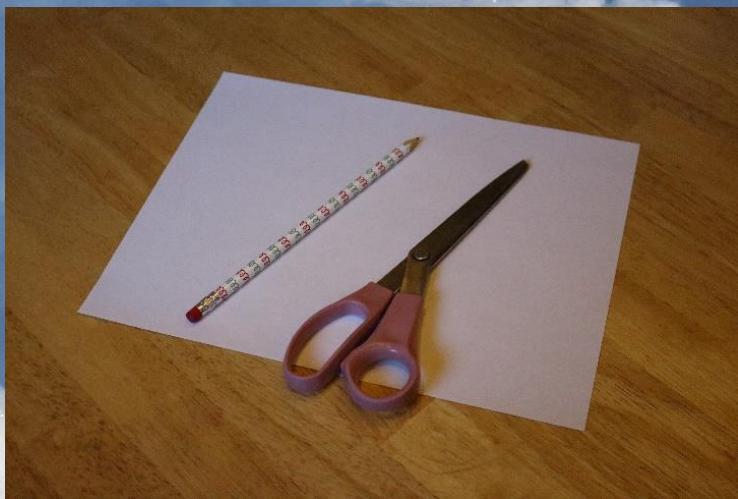
Dani lives off the grid with her four younger siblings and her parents. She loves music, playing several instruments including piano and violin. In the near future, she hopes to begin studying midwifery, and she loves science! She recently obtained a DSLR and has enjoyed learning the ropes to becoming a better photographer. She especially likes capturing people on camera, and is super excited to begin learning videography.

THE ARTIST'S CORNER

I suppose it's my opportunity to make myself known on the magazine, isn't it? Well, I was supposed to do this article a long, long, long time ago...and let's just say that I never did. But, here it is anyway, and I hope you enjoy. (Please excuse the poor angles on some of the pictures; I was trying to hurry with this one and just did it as quickly as I could.)

Now, most of you probably know how to make paper snowflakes, but some of you don't. Do not worry, my friends; it took me many years to get around to learning, and it was actually a 7-year-old girl who taught me!

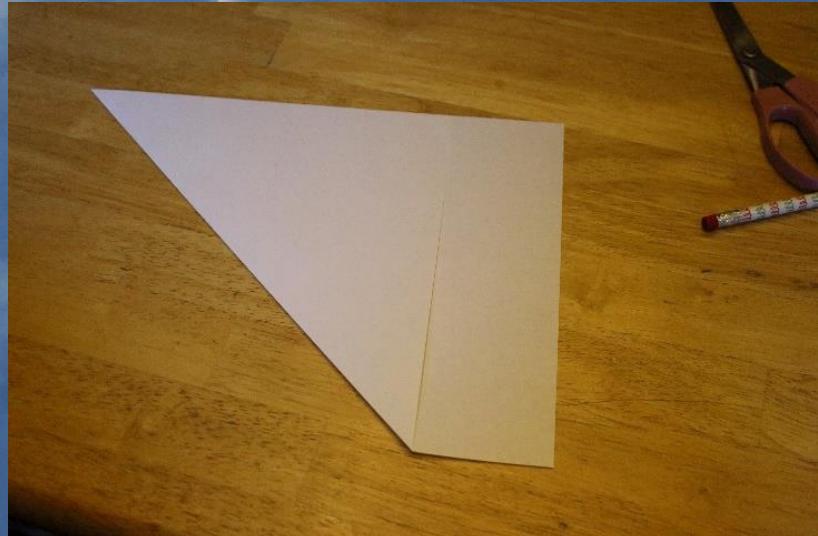
Enough talk, though; *on to the...uh...well, I guess... on to the snowflake factory!*



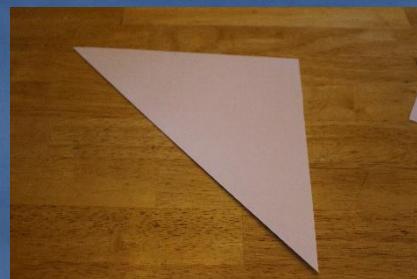
For this project, you will need:

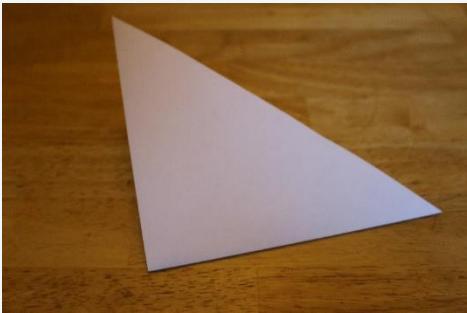
- Plain white printer paper
- Reasonably sharp scissors with longer blades (not the $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch bladed ones that you used when you were 3 is what I'm saying)
- Pencil (only if you want to draw your design first, though. I rarely use one.)

To start off, you will need your paper in a square. You can either do it with a ruler or the way I will show you. The way I do it is to fold one of the top corners down until it's about 3 inches away from the bottom edge of the paper. Then check up the side of the paper to the corner that is (or should be) the only top corner now to see if the corner is even with itself (basically making sure that you didn't over-fold it so the edge is overhanging.) After it looks all even, cut off the extra bottom 3 or so inches. You can either throw the leftover strip away or save it to make a mini snowflake, which I do a lot.

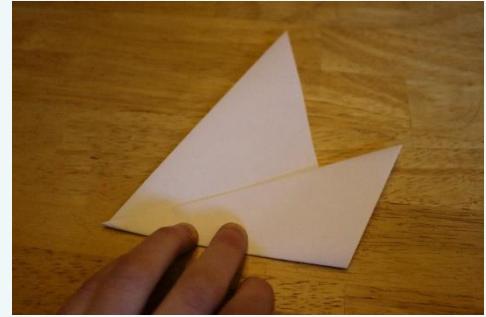


Now your paper should look like this:



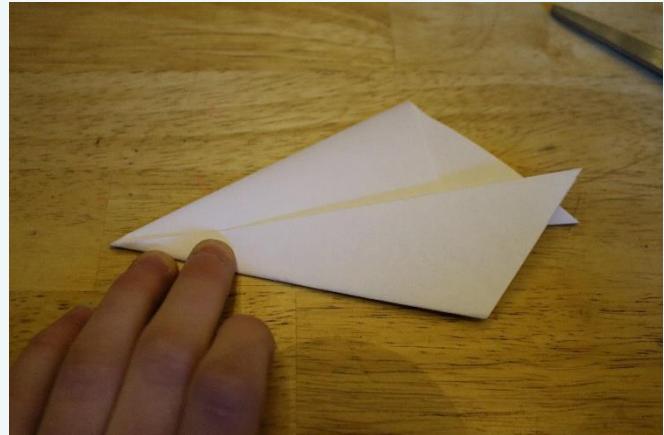
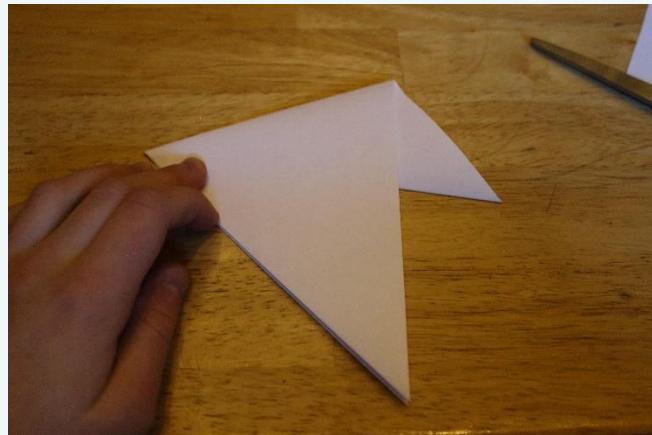


Next, make a smaller triangle by folding the bottom two corners of the long side together.



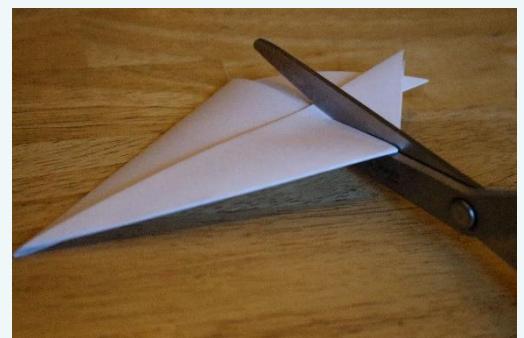
Now comes the part that's a little harder to explain in just words (and pictures, of course). Turn your triangle so the long (bottom) side is facing to your **right**. Take the corner of the triangle that is closest to you and fold it **up** to where the edge is halfway up the long side (that is facing to your right, of course) and the point is not changed (no overlaps or anything). To see what I am saying, look at the picture above.

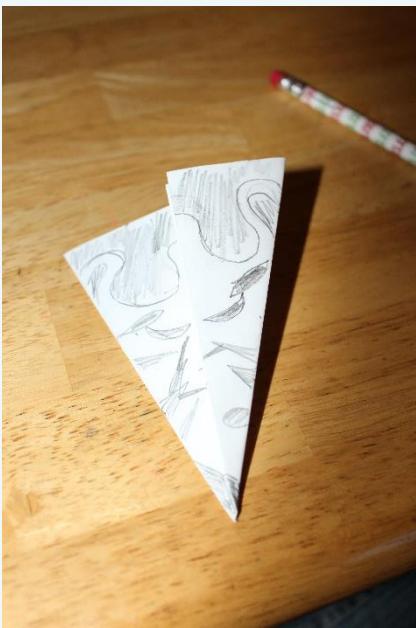
Now turn your lopsided triangle upside-down so it looks like this: (left picture)



Then fold the new bottom corner up the same way as you did before so it looks like that (right picture).

When you turn it over, you should have a nice tall, thin triangle with weird flaps at the bottom. You may cut the weird flaps off.





Once those weird flaps are off, you are ready to design! Normally I don't draw my design on my snowflake unless I'm following a template, but you can. I usually just cut out random shapes and when there is less paper showing than holes, I unfold it. This time I went simple and with thicker lines than usual, and I drew my normal random shapes on it just to illustrate. (The darkened parts are the places that you cut out.) Once your pattern is drawn on, cut away!

When you're satisfied with the number of holes in your snowflake, unfold and look at your beautiful creation!



Tips and tricks:

- To more easily get delicate designs, use a thinner paper, such as origami or wrapping paper, and use the sharpest scissors you can find.
- For more accurate symmetry, make sure you crease each fold you make very well.
- Remember that the smallest part of your last triangle will be the middle of the snowflake, and if you cut too much off you will have a gaping hole in the middle. Feel free to trim as much as you want off the top, though!
- Make sure you don't cut all the way across the triangle when you are designing; it will make your whole thing smaller.
- If you want a particular shape in your flake, remember only to cut out half of that shape if you are doing it on an edge. (e.g. half a heart for a whole heart, half a circle for a whole circle, and so on.)
- NOTE: This is only one of several ways to fold the paper for your snowflake; don't get confused if you see someone doing it another way!
- ANOTHER NOTE: A true snowflake is six-sided; the eight-sided one that I showed you is the easiest version I know; the six-sided

one I am still trying to figure out myself!



Rachel has always enjoyed artsy things and just a couple of years ago learned to make paper snowflakes! She has loved figuring out designs and teaching other people how to do it.

Easy Rosette half-up hairstyle

(Well, isn't that just a mouthful!)



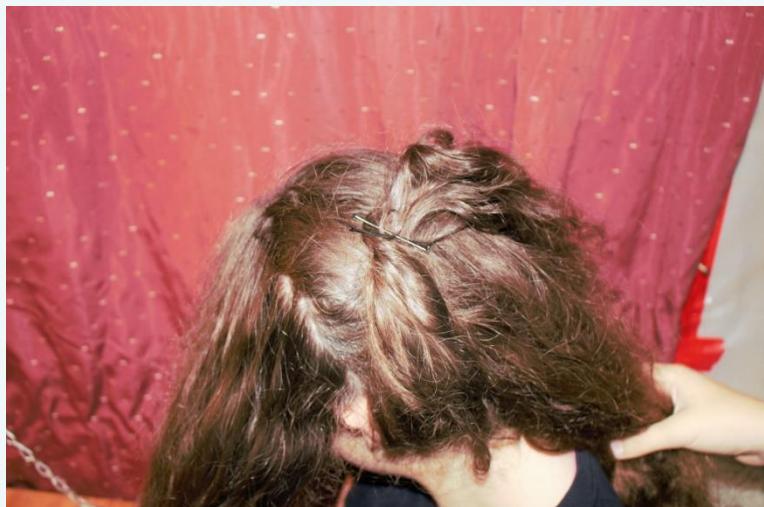
This will be a very simple tutorial (I hope) on how to do a quick half-up half-down style. If you don't have naturally curly hair, I recommend you curl it in your preferred method, as the added texture will not only make the hairstyle look nicer, but also will help it stay in longer.

You will need:

- A brush (no duh)
- Something for sectioning the hair, such as a rat-tail comb
- Small elastics
- Bobby pins, and whatever other pins you like to use for buns, i.e. screw or u-pins...

1. Start by sectioning your hair into the top half that you want to end up being in the bun, and the bottom half you wish to leave loose. Secure the bottom half with a hair tie to keep it out of the way.

2. Split the top half along your natural part, and secure one side out of the way, we'll get to it soon... Now take the side you are currently working with, and split it into 3 sections.



3. Take the section furthest toward the back, fold it up toward the center back of your head, half twist it, and pin into place. This will be the base of your rosette, with all the ends of the curls 'spilling' out of the center. See side image...

4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 using the other half of your top portion we sectioned of earlier... the one I said we'd get to in a bit... Then take the ends of the hair, and fold them out in a way that covers your bobby pins, and make it look like a fountain of hair flowing out of the back of your head... Sorry, couldn't think of a more elegant way to state that... You'll see what I mean in the next picture!



5. Now take the middle section of the two you have left over ~~one~~ on each side, and proceed to make a rope twist, basically just split it into two pieces, and twist them, giving each strand a counter-twist before crossing over, so that instead of blending together as they twist, they stand out apart from each other, giving a more 'rope-like' appearance. Secure with elastic if desired, but still keep a tight hold on the section, even if you tie it off; it might untwist a bit if you just let go...





6. Now bring that piece over the top of the fountain, or across the bottom of what you want to be the center, and pin... From here on out, this is going to be you twisting and pinning according to taste...

7. Repeat with the front section, and then proceed to do it all over again on the other side... Like I said, you can pin the strands around however you would like... But the end goal is for the twists to be coiled around a little bundle of curls... I ended up trying it 2 different ways before getting it how I liked it, so explore the variety you can have with it... Then once everything is pinned securely, gently tug some of your stitches to create a more 'petal' like appearance.

Hope you guys (well, gals) enjoy, and I apologize for the lack of clarity I know abounds throughout this entire guide; this was our first attempt at something like this, and I believe the next one will prove clearer and more concise! Have fun, and

Happy Hairstyling!



MORNING GLORY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



Morning Glory began back in the February of 2014 as a daily devotional sent out through email. The goal behind Morning Glory is to encourage girls to pursue Jesus with their whole hearts and to use their single years to grow in God's grace. Recently, Morning Glory launched its new blog! Hop over to morningglorypursuingjesus.blogspot.com to follow the blog or subscribe to the Daily Devotional!

Crowning Glory Q+A

Hello lovely ladies! This is a new addition to the magazine, and will be appearing in each issue. I will be giving out a hair tip or two, and also answering any questions you submit! This can be about how to tame static, how to get bobby-pins to stay in, matching hair styles to hair types, and absolutely ANY hair related questions! This issue, I'll start out with a few helpful tips, and from here on out, I will respond to the questions submitted, and also throw in some tips if there were not very many submissions. PLEASE!!! Feel free to ask ANYTHING regarding hair, and if I don't know the answer, I will sniff one out for you!

Tip #1. Face Fly-aways: If you are having trouble with pesky little wisps in your face, take an old toothbrush (clean please!), spritz a bit of hairspray on it, and gently comb the fly-aways back where they belong!

Tip #2. Damage Control: If you have problems with hair that gets split ends, or breaks easily, put it in a pineapple! You heard me right! A 'pineapple' is a loose bun that sits on top of your head... You can also do this if you curled your hair, and want to save the curls for tomorrow! Simply flip your head upside-down, and gather all the hair into a little nest on top of your scalp, but DON'T twist it around tightly like you normally would! Just basically pile it up, twisting and folding a bit here and there, and then secure gently with a non-damaging hair tie/scrunchie or some screw pins. I would NOT recommend bobby-pins for this! They are more damaging for over-night wear, and will also scoot out and get lost.

Tip #3. To Break, or Not to Break: What fasteners damage your hair, and which ones don't? Well, let's start with the EVIL (!) metal plated hair-tie... if you can avoid hair-ties with metal on them, DO! Also, the best thing for your hair when you're just throwing it up to get it out of the way, or whenever you can, is a scrunchie... the big puffy hair-ties that are a lingering by-product of the 70's... They may not be 'in' anymore, but they won't damage your hair like a tight 'normal' hair-tie will. Also: procedure for removing rubber bands from hair! We all use them at times; those little bitty rubber hair-ties that look like braces bands. Well, they are WONDERFUL when used in their right place, but even the most cautious of wearers can get them tangled in their hair. The solution: DON'T TUG!!! This is not a 4th of July old fashioned tug-of-war game!!! We all do it at times - including me - but being stubborn and just wrenching on them until both the band and our hair snaps is not the answer. And if you are going to have to rip or break your hair to get it out... JUST CUT IT! And if you are unsure if it will just slide off when you first go to remove it... JUST CUT IT! You can pick them up in a box of about 150 for \$0.99-2.99... but started breaks of your hair that result in nasty split ends... Well, you assign your own price tag to that! ;-)

Don't tug-

JUST CUT IT!



Jessie is a 17 (and a half) year old Christian girl, who resides in North Pole AK. To give you a bit of an idea about her, she first and foremost loves her Savior, and her family; consisting of her mom and dad; her horse, Cochise (who's also her best friend); and their Great Dane, Duke. You will see her here in her capacity as the Hair Ninja, writing hair tutorial and tip articles.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In the winter season, I have huge problems with dry skin and acne. So, I've decided to share with you my methods of curing and warding off both afflictions.

Dry Skin

I often just slather myself with coconut oil, but when I have cuts or rawness on my skin, I like to put a comfrey salve on them. I like to use [this salve recipe](#) for guidance, but I do not use coconut oil, because in Alaska, it's actually cold, so the oil is solid! I use olive oil, and I usually do not use the crockpot method- I simply set the herb/oil mixture in the warmest area of the house for two weeks, and then continue following the instructions.

I always carry chapstick with me, and there's usually a lotion in the car, but I need to start carrying comfrey, too. The chapsticks I've had the best success with are a homemade chapstick from a local farmer's beeswax, and also [Country Comfort's Lip Creme](#) - I've used the cherry. Rachel's favorite is Alba Botanica's Un-petroleum Lipcare ([available from Amazon.com](#)).

Acne

Back in 2013, we were staying in southern California. Laura was using some [facial cleansing wipes](#) from Desert Essence, and after looking at the ingredients, I thought, *I could make something like that.* Shortly after, I began washing my face with witch hazel, but never was amazing results, just acceptable ones.

Finally, this summer, I roused myself from laziness enough to make some acne wipes with essential oils- and it was AMAZING!!! So I'll give you my recipe.

I combine in a cup sized canning jar 5 drops of each of the following oils:

- Lemongrass
- Geranium
- Rosemary
- Cedarwood
- Sage
- Peppermint
- Eucalyptus
- Tea Tree
- Lavender
- Frankincense

Add about a tablespoon of sweet almond oil, two tablespoons of witch hazel, and a splash of hydrogen peroxide. Screw the lid on and shake, then press cotton rounds down into the liquid.

I use one every morning, and it really makes a difference! Note that this doesn't heal acne sores miraculously, but it does prevent them from forming.



Dani's natural health life began ten years ago when her mom discovered herbs in fighting MRSA. Almost nine years ago, they changed their diet after reading Nourishing Traditions. In the last couple of years, Dani has really gotten into using herbs and essential oils independently, and she is planning to study midwifery in the next few years.

TOP BLOGS OF THE SEASON

1. Boyer Family Singers

The Boyer Sisters sing as a trio, particularly the music of the 40s and 50s. They try to imitate that era in their everyday dress, and this blog follows their adventures in making their own clothes, their spiritual journeys, and their travels. Also, they have the bestest giveaways, and their writing styles are so fun to read!

2. A Lovely Calling

This blog is a very deep and thought-provoking blog directed at single young ladies. I found this on an afternoon at home alone, and spent a good part of the day reading and crying through it. It is written by a group of young ladies in various relationship statuses from all over the country. It is inspiring and encouraging.

3. The Storymonger

Okay, so it's written by a guy. Oh well. He has great advice on writing, and his style is so hilarious to read! I often find myself in stitches when I read his posts. He is affiliated with Kingdom Pen, which is another good writing website to check out.

4. The Challah Blog

Seriously one of my very favorites. Amanda is a Jewish mother, and she has many fantabulous challah recipes. She has very clear, illustrated, step-by-step instructions on how to braid challah. I use it a lot, because we like to make challah for every occasion!

BOOK REVIEW

With Every Breath by Elizabeth Camden

I, Dani, acquired this book a couple of months ago through a Kindle giveaway. I hadn't read much in the way of romance novels before, so I wasn't sure just what I should expect.

Well, whatever I was expecting, I was wrong. It is an incredibly well-written book, historically accurate, and engaging in its style. The romance was well developed and played out, while still being appropriate. And I especially appreciated the relationship between Kate and her younger brother, because I am experiencing the same thing with Timothy!

It is set in the late 1800s, in a time when women still weren't quite accepted as being as smart as men. Kate is a young widow and talented mathematician, struggling to help her parents make ends meet, and throwing herself into her work to dull the pain of her husband's death. So when she gets offered a job as a statistician in an experiment to treat tuberculosis, she jumps at the high-paying opportunity. But then she meets her employer...

You can purchase *With Every Breath* on Kindle for \$9.99 from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/With-Every-Breath-Elizabeth-Camden/dp/B00KJL9JLQ).

Purge me with
hyssop,

And I shall be
Clean,

Wash me,
And I shall be

Whiter than SNOW.

