

Elizabethtown Public Library Reading

October 11, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

### **Introduction**

I will talk about the **impetus** for putting *They Were Still Born: Personal Stories about Stillbirth* together. After my daughter was stillborn at 36 weeks in early 2006, I was desperate for information, but just as much as medical information, I craved stories by others who had been through similar losses. I knew, however, when I started searching for a publisher, that this topic would probably be rejected by many editors. It's heartbreaking and still somewhat taboo (though that's changing!). Would I be able to find a publishing house willing to take on such a project? I sent out the proposal for my book, just praying that it would land on the desk of an editor who would see how important such a collection would be for grieving families.

Seventeen rejection letters later, I received a letter from Rowman & Littlefield Publishers; they wanted me to write the book. I later discovered that the acquisitions editor who offered me the contract had a stillborn son a decade ago.

Over the next few months after signing the contract, my husband and I sold our house, bought a house, and decided to have another baby. Newly pregnant with my fourth child, I worked with the 20 other contributors on their essays and was, quite simply, overwhelmed with gratitude for their incredible bravery and commitment to sharing the stories of their babies.

I will then **read my essay** ("The Shadow of Grief"). Jenell Williams Paris will **read her essay** ("Just One Family"). Angie Yingst will **read her essay** ("Mothering Grief").

Last, I will thank everyone for coming and open the room for **questions/comments**. On display will be **copies of the book for sale** (\$30 each, cash or check), Angie's **Traveling Journal**, and Jenell's **bereavement/grief cards and stationary**.