

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

a *Conversations with an Angel* “web extra”

by Randy Schuneman

Every parent awaits anxiously those first words their child speaks. Will they say, “Momma” or “Dada” first? It is actually fun until a child reaches the two-year mark. Then, they seem to focus on only one word...No! That is because at two, a child is finally able to verbalize what they have been trying to communicate all the time before, “I want MY way and will not settle for anything less!”



At the time Jennie was learning to talk, Mattel had a toy where you pulled a string and the toy would make animal sounds. Bonnie and I enjoyed listening as Jennie picked up a new sound. That girl did the best cow “Moo!” you have ever heard. Her “Meow!” blew every other attempt away. We had a tape recorder that we used to record Jennie’s first words. We still have those tapes! Although it is still too early to listen to them, I am glad that we have them.

This is an extra chapter post-scripted to *Conversations with an Angel*, provided courtesy of Sonpowered Press. Please visit www.JennieShoe.com for more information.

It was fun to listen to Jennie's speech begin to develop and her vocabulary to increase. By the time she was four, Jennie was reading very fluently. When Jennie was two, I was washing our car out in the driveway. Jennie was out with me. I forgot that Jennie could communicate so well. I do not know what came over me, but I decided to spray a little water towards Jennie. It came out a little stronger than I expected, but then what could such a young child do? Jennie ran towards the house screaming, "Daddy, spray me! Daddy, spray me!" Oops!

Once, when we were visiting Bonnie's parents, we could not find Jennie anywhere. We frantically started a search for her. We found her coming towards us from a small pasture near the house. We are still not exactly sure of what happened. All we know is that Jennie explained, "Cow jump over me!"

She was out checking cattle with Baba once. In the middle of acres of nothing but prairie grass and cattle, Jennie asked, "Is there a McDonald's out here?"

Our conversations began early in Jennie's life. I enjoyed trying to answer those childlike questions like, "Where do stars come from?" and "What makes blue, blue?" Our conversations began when Jennie was two. Bonnie and Jennie talked to each other more than I did, but I always enjoyed listening to what was on Jennie's mind...and on her heart!