Random Bio Bits (Just in Case You Wondered)

* I’m 6’ tall. I was measured in my doctor’s office as 5’11. I did request they remeasure me three times and all three times it was the same. But you can’t believe those doctors. Not their measuring tapes OR their scales.
* I’ve flown in a hot air balloon twice (different states, different balloons, different pilots if that matters to you. I’d go again.).
* My top ten favorite songs, in no particular order are: *100 Years* by Five for Fighting, *Bridge Over Troubled Water* by Simon and Garfunkel*, Is He Worthy* by Chris Tomlin (words by Andrew Peterson), *Thunder* by Imagine Dragon (I don’t know the words, I just like the way it sounds. I hope the lyrics are okay. I don’t feel like googling them to find out), *Wonder* by Natalie Merchant, something by ELO…something by the Beach Boys…Linda Ronstadt…And what about all those great hymns? Okay, never mind. You’re going to have to be satisfied with my top five. This is too hard.
* *Some* of my all-time favorite books, in no particular order, are: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith*, To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger, *Ordinary Grace* and *This Tender Land* both by William Kent Krueger, *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah, *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee, *A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout, *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett, and *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson, *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver… I could go on ad nauseum. But I won’t.
* I’m a mixture of English, Irish, Danish, and Native American (Cherokee).
* I cannot yodel and don’t whistle very well.
* I attended a professional whistler’s performance when I was in the seventh grade. It was one of only two school assemblies I remember. He was amazing. (The other assembly I remember was part of a ballet, which was also quite impressive, but I remember it more because of the boy I was sitting with.)
* I took karate, skeet shooting, square-dancing, and sailing for my P.E. credits in college. Today, I would fall over if I tried to front kick, can’t hit the broad side of a barn when shooting, am the person who messes up everyone in the do-si-do, and would capsize any sailboat post-haste. But I’ve got to give those college professors kudos. They gave it their best shot.
* I can’t tell a joke.
* I once had a broken neck. (I know! That’s not funny.)
* I met Art Linkletter at the Paducah airport (yes, we have an airport) just hours before giving birth to our firstborn.

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Frequently-Asked Questions

1. How long did it take you to write *Toward the Corner of Mercy and Peace*?
2. Is Minerva based on anyone?
3. Where did you do your research and do you like researching?
4. How do you pronounce that town where you’re from and where is it?
5. Why did your mother spell your name with an E?
6. Will there be a sequel to *Toward the Corner of Mercy and Peace*?
7. Did you spend much time at Oak Grove Cemetery and have you fallen in any graves?
8. How did you get the idea for *Toward the Corner of Mercy and Peace*?
9. What’s your dog’s name?
10. Were you really a twirler in high school?

Sorry, but you’ll have to invite me to your book club for me to answer those questions. And please do! If it’s possible for me to attend in person, I will. If not, I’m happy to meet via Zoom.

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