

**The Not So Little Missing Piece**

**~Fiction~**

*Lillian - Age: 13*

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Chain reactions happen every day in our lives, like what occurs at a traffic light. But many reactions are so minuscule we don't even notice them at times. Bethany Herlock is a 26-year-old working mother. Bethany and her husband, Jake, have two daughters named Cora and Regina. The Herlock family lost their youngest child and only son, Benjamin, in a miscarriage. A funeral was held for him, in which the Herlock family and friends gathered in a touching service in memory of Benjamin. Bethany lived her life knowing she did all she could to bring him into the world. Bethany's best friend is Lynn. Bethany met Lynn when they were both 14 and Lynn was going through a tough time in family life. Bethany reached out, and the two became instant friends, which had a profound impact on Lynn's life. Lynn is a depression counselor for youth and brightens hundreds of children with the light that Bethany brings out in her through their friendship.

Bethany's birth mother, Lisa, gave birth to her at 17. Lisa struggled in her pregnancy, being so young and pressured towards abortion by her boyfriend. But Lisa didn't give in, she left him and sought out help. Bethany never met her father, and Lisa never saw him after the breakup. After Bethany was born, Lisa knew her capabilities didn't meet the needs of her daughter so she found a kind family who was willing to adopt Bethany and still allow her to keep in touch with her birth mother. The adoptive family knew how hard it was for Lisa to give away her child so they allowed Lisa to stay with them until she was able to afford her own home nearby. Bethany grew up knowing that Lisa was her birth mom. Every day Bethany gave Lisa a flower, to remind her of how thankful she was that her mom chose life. At an early age, Bethany realized there were more teens like her birth mom who needed support. So, Bethany began working with her birth mom to help pregnant teen girls choose life, and save the lives of children

like herself. Bethany also works a part-time job as a midwife to assist these young girls during their pregnancy, labor and delivery, and recovery.

Bethany's life left a small footprint, but a powerful impact. She brought life into the world with her life. Even simply smiling at the people she walked by on the streets saved several lives. No, Bethany's life wasn't perfect, it had flaws and quirks, but even a flawed life is a life worth living.

But Bethany Herlock never was able to do any of this. After Bethany grew and developed for three months in her mother's womb, she was aborted, as Lisa gave into the pressure her boyfriend put on her. Without Bethany, the world shifted and was more broken, even though it was imperceptible to the naked eye. When Lynn was 14, she fell into depression. Lynn didn't go after any of her goals or dreams and allowed them to be snuffed out by her depression. Lynn's important work as a depression counselor never blossomed, since the light that allowed her to help kids never entered the world. Jake wasn't able to meet anyone who made him happy as a partner in life. Cora and Regina were never born. Benjamin never was able to be buried, remembered, honored, or loved beyond the grave. Lisa suffered innumerable amounts of mental, emotional, and physical pain after the abortion--never feeling happy after the abortion of her daughter, Bethany Herlock. Even the people Bethany smiled at were affected by this change. Even though going through with an abortion seemed like nothing to Lisa's boyfriend, it had a huge chain reaction for the world that no one ever knew was possible. To Lisa's boyfriend, Bethany's life would've been poor, so why would it matter if Bethany never existed? But little did he know that Bethany's life was such a spark of sunshine for the world. We need to be aware of the "if" factors in life--the possibility of a cloud clearing and sunshine showing.