

Chapters 1-3 (My Adventure in Odyssey-My Thirteen-Year-Old Vow to Purity)

In the opening chapters, Amber Cantorna describes her childhood and strong connection to Christianity. Amber grew up in a household where values strictly came from Christianity and the group *Focus on the Family*. In doing so, Amber's feelings were not recognized as appearance was more important than anything. Additionally, Amber describes the group of eight home schooled girls that hung out together reading and doing faith-based activities. Lastly, Amber talks about her vow of purity at thirteen years old. In this vow, Amber essentially promised that she would keep her mind, body, and heart pure for the man who would be her future husband. When describing this, Amber discusses the positives and negatives of abstinence and purity pledges from her perspective.

Chapters 4-6 (Breaking the Mold-Growing in The Furnace)

Amber discusses her evolution of faith in her teenage years. Specifically, Amber joined a second church that felt like a second home, New Life Church. At New Life, Amber met fellow musician and soon friend Lena. The two were able to form a friendship where the two felt comfortable to be open and honest with one another. However, the friendship did not last and was ended suddenly by Lena, essentially overnight. Additionally, Amber disclosed her experiences and battles with Trichotillomania (TTM) and self-harm. Lastly, Amber talks about her journey with PTSD and anxiety which led her to become an activist and advocate at her new job at *Focus on the Family*.

Chapters 7-9 (Unexpected Scandal-The Aftermath)

Amber disclosed her further struggle with PTSD as the New Life Church had a scandal and homicide occur within a year of each other. Additionally, Amber described her growing feelings and relationship with her mentee, Brooke. As her feelings and co-dependency grew with

Brooke, Amber and Brooke shared their first kiss leading to inner turmoil. Afterwards, Brooke left for an internship in Michigan, leaving Amber behind. A few months later, Brooke and Amber met up and had sex. Brooke then proceeded to out Amber to her parents who were extremely disappointed and angry. Amber in response relapsed hard with self-harm.

Chapters 10-12 (Wrestling with G-d- Riding the Tightrope)

Throughout the chunk of chapters, Amber describes her journey into finding a therapist who she felt comfortable with. Morgan, allowed her to feel like she was in a space to feel, process, and understand her emotions. Furthermore, Amber finds the Highlands Church which is affirming of all people. This allowed her to rekindle her relationship with G-d and explore her identity. Lastly, Amber took steps to come out to those closest to her, starting with her friends. After a few positive responses, Amber made the decision to come out to her parents.

Chapters 13-15 (Orphan Amber- The Turning Point)

Amber discusses the many times her parents and former friends have shared harmful, hateful words with her in respect to her sexuality. Additionally, Amber discloses her father's health scare as well as her grandfather's passing. Amber also attended a Gay Christian Network (GCN) where she had an experience that changed her life for the better. Lastly, Amber shared her life story at Community Hour at Highlands Church. That day, Amber met her future wife, Clara.

Chapters 16-18 (Love Lost, Love Gained- Refocusing My Family)

Amber closed her memoir showing the beginning of her new journey. She described that once her parents found out she was engaged to Clara contact was extremely limited. However, after they found out they were getting married, contact was seized. Amber talks about her loss of her family but the fact that she gained chosen family who showed her unconditional love. Amber

also explained that she believes her purpose in live is to show youth that there is a bridge between Christianity and the LGBTQ+ community.