

## Every Girl Wants to be a Princess

Girls grow up with Cinderella, Snow White, Belle, Jasmine, countless images of beauty being swept off her precious feet by the perfect, handsome, Prince of life. What a beautiful fantasy backed by convincing words of parents spectacular dreams for their children.

As my fifteen year old daughter is “fishing” for my plans to try to convince me that there is time for her to spend with her boyfriend, I wonder if she feels like a princess in his arms. I automatically freeze up at that thought. I am aware of this....my heart beats faster, my throat gets tight, my stomach clinches, and all of a sudden I can't think. My hands are cold, and I can feel my eyes burning from being so still.

I am getting better at working myself out of my own shock. As Kana grows in her relationship, these questions come much more often. The funniest thing, Kana can feel this happening to me! Sometimes when the mood is light, and we are connected with one another, we can laugh about it together. She says it reminds her of my mom sometimes.

In the midst of my frozen state, I have vigilant visions of my unplanned pregnancy at the age of 17. I remember clearly how my prince charming turned into the nightmare on elm street! What could these two children possibly know about relationship? Here they are texting about love and life, and I'm in my corner overwhelmed with fear, translating in rage! They have no clue. They are just babies. Oh, and look, my other children are watching her every move! What kind of role model is she! What kind of mother am I for not taking her phone and telling her that she will not have a boyfriend until she is out of college and ready for marriage! I have to do something. The what ifs flood my mind, and I begin to tremble.

Ok, Melissa, wait a minute, “Who am I”, is the question that triggers my regulation response. Now, I can breathe. Breathe. Where am I, and where is my relationship with Kana? The decision has already been made. Kana has a boyfriend. I know that I cringe when I hear the other kids talking about “such and such has a boyfriend”, “oh, but don't say anything, her parents will ground her forever!” So, what can I do right now to build my relationship with Kana? I need to be sure that I am safe for her.

This is a scenario of a common place in our home. Through months and months of my own processing this is where I am. I'm thankful for that. Kana needs me to keep her safe, keep her boundaries clear, and make sound decisions in situations like this. There is no more room for me to get stuck in my own stuff. This is the age when my influence becomes mandatory. Control will no longer be effective. Everyday I wake up with a purpose to be present. Be mindful of where she's at, and where I can fit in. Though I am far far from perfect, and will not always make the right choices, I give her all of me. Most importantly I can handle all of her.

Kana is not mine to keep, or to inflict my life onto hers. Kana is my butterfly. I am to nurture, love, and create an environment for healing. So, when she bursts from her

cocoon, she soars with the most inner strength and power. I pray that the two princesses that I have been chosen to love, will find that in the arms of Jesus is where they are crowned Queen. "As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you." ~Isaiah 62:5

The question that I had asked, "what do they know about relationship?" Well, clearly the answer is, everything that we teach them.