

BEAUTY for ASHES

Kyra Lanae's testimony

As a child, Kyra Lanae grew up in church. For over twenty years, she knew about God but didn't really know God personally. Over the years she lived with one foot in the church and one foot out. She always believed in God, prayed to God and even read His Word but also believed that she could live life on her terms, following her own passions and desires.

For the majority of her life, Kyra Lanae suffered from low self-esteem which contributed to a myriad of destructive decisions. Due to her lack of self-worth, she entertained and perpetuated destructive relationships and behaviors. As a result, she contemplated taking her own life on several occasions. A foundation in Christ and the belief that she would spend eternity in hell if she pursued her desire to end her life were the only things that kept her safe.

After twenty years of dancing with the world while trying to pursue God on a casual basis, Kyra Lanae decided that enough was enough. No longer would she have one foot in the world and one foot out. She wanted to be all in and pursue a genuine relationship with God, wholeheartedly. She wanted God to be her everything and allow every decision that she made to be governed by God and reflect glory back to Him. The words that were written down in the Bible needed to become real and true to her. Her desire was no longer to simply read the Word of God. She yearned to live it and apply it. And this began her journey to oneness with Jesus Christ.

It was during those early months that God began to peel back the layers of filth, guilt and shame in her life. God began to reveal His perspective and love for Kyra Lanae and for the first time in her life she began to feel



For more information about
Kyra Lanae or purchase her
book please visit her website:
<https://www.kyralanae.com/>
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valuable, special, loved and wanted. Everything that she was searching for in her life—love, value, acceptance, satisfaction and purpose—was found in Christ.

Two of the scriptures that became ingrained in her were:

Song of Songs 4:7, *"You are altogether beautiful, my darling, beautiful in every way"* (NLT) and

Colossians 2:9-10, *"For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority"* (NLT).

These scriptures became her anchor, reminding her of how God viewed her and her identity in Christ. While Kyra Lanae began to bask in that reality, God pressed upon her heart to write a book about her testimony and His greatness. Still influenced by some of her self-perceived inadequacies, she resolved to one day compile a book of several women's testimonies. In her mind, her insignificant testimony would merely fill a few pages. She thought that in order to fulfill what God put on her heart she would need

a dozen other contributors to fill a book. As years went by, Kyra Lanae kept looking at the note she made to herself on her phone to write a book, but never put it into action.

Fast forward about three years. While on assignment by God at her former place of employment, God began to transition Kyra Lanae. The crisis of her suicidal eight-year-old son, summoned her attention. While digesting the fact that her son needed help and she was dealing with a devastating situation, she was convinced that even in this dark situation, God would do something amazing through. In order to give her son the care and attention that was vital to his safety, Kyra Lanae resigned her job since they were unable to accommodate her scheduling needs. Knowing that her loss of employment would bring on financial challenges, she began to share her situation and request help from others.

Soon after, Kyra Lanae started a "Beauty for Ashes" campaign, explaining that while her situation seemed grim, God would create something beautiful out of it. It was that train of thought that caused Kyra Lanae to reflect back on the many

dark situations in her life that God turned around. As several things came to mind, she began to write them down. It was in that moment that God resurrected the notion for Kyra Lanae to write a book that would reflect her testimony of His transforming power in her life. And thus, *Beauty for Ashes: The Transformation of my Life's Darkest Moments* was born.

Beauty for Ashes is a compilation of memoirs of how God transformed some of the darkest moments in Kyra Lanae's life into something beautiful and life-giving. In this transparent and authentic view of her experiences of rape, addictions, divorce and suicidal thoughts, just to name a few, the reader is able to witness the love, power, forgiveness and restoration that only come from God. God doesn't bring the hurt and pain into our lives but He certainly uses it for His glory. Beauty for Ashes walks

mature girls and women through the process of taking every destructive, abusive and unfavorable situation in their lives and giving it over to God as they bask in His love and His Word. Women of all ages will be able to walk with the author down the path of finding her identity in Christ and pursuing God's purposes for her life. Kyra Lanae encourages readers to follow her example, as she follows Christ, receiving Beauty for Ashes.

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them Beauty for Ashes. Isaiah 61:1-3a KJV

