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## Booklet of My Life

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Vincentzen

gabby

## Where I'm From Poem

I am from cowboy boots,  
from big Peterbilt's and Chevy pickups.  
I am from the swamp out back  
surrounded by thick trees.

I am from random blackberry bushes  
that reside on the edge of the woods,  
from the Maple trees  
whose leaves turn a fiery red in Fall.

I am from Sunday dinners, and blue eyes  
from diesel fuel and sawdust.

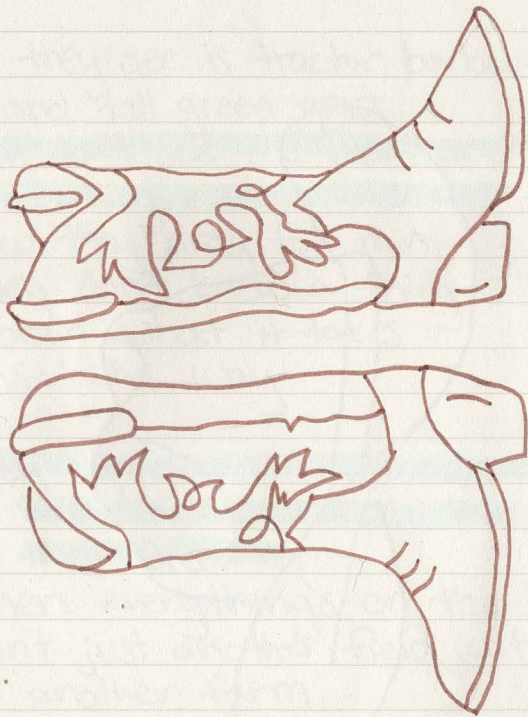
I am from the rednecks and the  
smarty pants,  
from no screentime and moonburns.

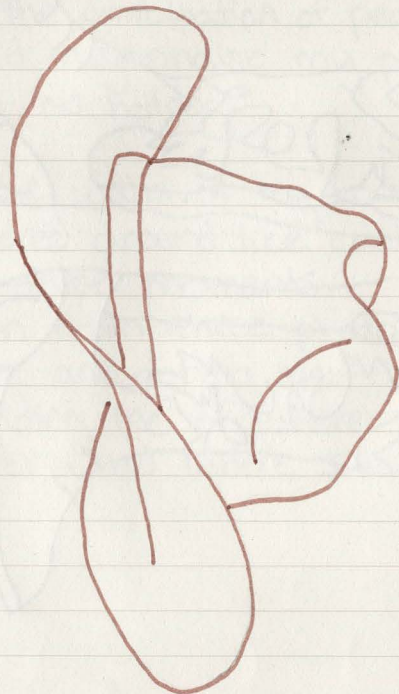
I'm from Congregationalists  
from Norwegian grace before dinner  
and God is always guiding you.

I'm from "It's a Great Day to be  
Alive" by Travis Tritt and  
"Rockstar" by Nickelback,

from Julekake and deer steak.  
From the muddy lifted lawn mower  
my dad couldn't drive properly,  
and the combination of peanut butter  
and mayonnaise my papa puts  
on his hotdog.

On the walls of my room.  
Scattered around like cattle,  
rest these moments,  
I am from these photos -  
before and during me -  
reminding me of where I'm  
from and where I'm going.





## They Don't Know ~ Jason Aldean

"All they see is tractor, barbwire  
and tall green grass  
They don't see the years spent  
working, busting their ass  
How they pray for rain  
They don't know a thing  
About what it takes  
Livin' this way

They ain't seen the blood, sweat,  
and tears it took to live  
their dreams

When everything's on the line  
Aint just another field just  
another farm

No, it's the ground we grew up on  
They think it's a middle of  
nowhere place where we take  
it slow

Aw, but they don't know."

## They Don't Know

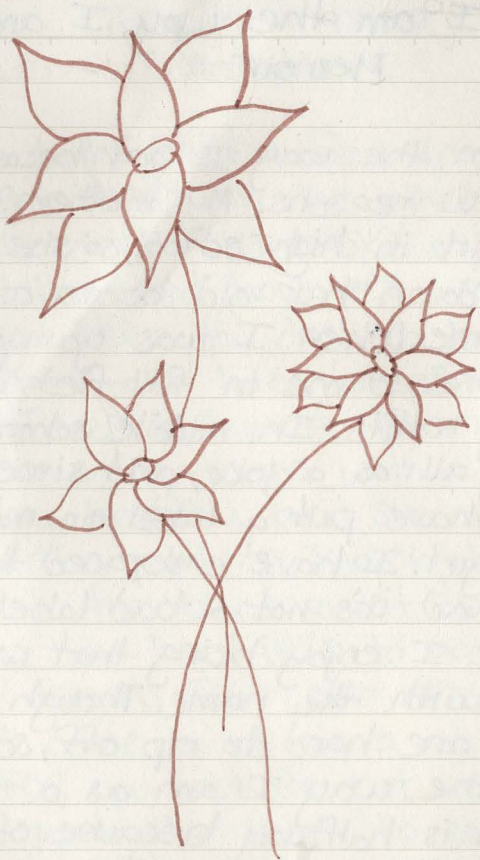
### Analysis

I highlighted a few key points in this song on the other page. People don't understand my way of living and how we'll work from dawn to dusk to help support our loved ones. It sucks sometimes but we're committed to providing them with a good, happy, healthy and successful life. The part I highlighted about the blood sweat and tears show how hard it is to achieve our dreams. But our dreams don't come to us on a silver platter, you have to put in the hard work for them to come true. And the last part I highlighted is true. It's the ground we grew up on so it's all we know but honestly I wouldn't prefer anything else.

## Why I am the way I am

### Memoir

I am the way I am because of a few reasons. My mother was a cowgirl in high school, so she passed down her old boots and hat to me. When I was younger my mom dressed me in full-fledged cowgirl outfits. In middle school, I said y'all as a joke, and since then people have put a label on me as a cowgirl. I have embraced the label, and it's not a bad label because I enjoy being that way along with the name. Though labels are hard to rip off, so being the way I am as a cowgirl is halfway because of the labels that were thrown at me and halfway because that's how my family influenced me. I live the lifestyle as one and I ~~believe~~ believe the same beliefs.



I'm from the Country  
~ Tracy Byrd

"Way back up in the country, back  
in the hills  
Down in the hollows where  
the folks are real  
Living with the crazies and the  
old wildcats  
Sawed off shotguns and coon  
skin caps  
That's where I'm from and I'm  
proud to say  
I'm from the country and I  
like it that way"

Everybody knows everybody  
Everybody calls you friend  
You don't need an invitation  
Oh, kick off your shoes, come  
on in  
Yeah, we know how to work  
and we know how to play

We're from the country and we  
like it that way

All day long we work in the  
fields

And bring it on home to a  
home cooked meal

We love you like a Sunday and  
treat you like a Saturday night

And when the beds get full we  
can sleep in the hay (hey)

We're from the country and we  
like it that way."

## Born and Raised Memoir

I was born and raised on country  
everything. From getting my first  
pair of cowboy boots, getting  
rides in the excavator, creating  
a seesaw out of staging (I advise  
you not to do that at home), my  
need to wear mud boots with  
every outfit, and my obsession  
with the lawn mower, all I remember  
is this lifestyle. We don't have  
four-wheelers or dirt bikes, so my  
brother and I use the lawnmower  
and bikes in place of that. I was  
never allowed to watch television  
or have any sort of electronic  
device growing up. In the  
summer my type of fun was  
hanging out with the neighbors  
under the big Maple tree out  
front, riding bikes, and racing



lawn mowers up and down the road. I've caught more fish than I can count since I've been old enough to hold a fishing rod. To this day I still hold the record of catching the biggest fish in my family.

I resonate and live on country music because I relate to the songs. There is just something about country music that makes me think of home when I hear it. I was raised in a small town and I plan on living in one for the rest of my life. The community of a small town is just a group of people that I want to live amongst for the rest of my life.

Try that in a Small Town  
~ Jason Aldean

"Sucker punch somebody on a sidewalk  
Carjack an old lady at a red light  
Pull a gun on an owner of a liquor store  
Ya think it's cool, well, act a fool if ya like

Cuss out a cop, spit in his face  
Stamp on the flag and light it up  
Yeah, ya think you're tough

Well, try that in a small town  
See how far ya make it down the road

Around here, we take care of our own

You cross that line, it won't take long  
For you to find out, I recommend you don't

Try that in a small town.<sup>13</sup>

### Analysis:

This song is relatable to small town life. I'm from a town where everyone may not get along but people will have your back if needed. We respect our cops, our small town business owners, our firefighters, and our veterans. Everyone is treated with respect even if we have beef with them. But at the end of the day we have each others backs and we'll do whatever it takes to protect our own. That doesn't happen in a city, and that's what I love about living in a small town in the USA.

## Diesel Memoir

There is just something about the smell of diesel fuel that makes me smile and my head turn. My grandfather used to be a dirt digger and owned his own business that was very successful in our area. Everyone in the town knew his name and he knew everything about everyone. From being a dirt digger he drove all different types of diesels. So that smell brings me back to my childhood from when I got to drive the excavators and watch him from the playhouse work on his equipment.

These days I get excited when I see a nice truck, especially a nice duramax, (which is a chevy or GMC that has a diesel engine). It sometimes gets to the point

where i'm riding with my family  
or my friends and I yell  
"truck" and they just shake their  
head with a smite on their face.  
Or they will say, "Gabby look at  
that truck," and my head whips  
around. I can tell who is who in  
my town by what the truck  
looks like and what it sounds like.

Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue  
~ Toby Keith

"American girls and American guys  
We'll always stand up and salute  
We'll always recognize  
When we see old Glory flying  
There's a lot of men dead  
So we can sleep in peace at  
night when we lay down our  
head!

My daddy served in the Army  
where he lost his right eye but  
he flew a flag out in our yard  
Until the day that he died  
He wanted my mother, my brother,  
my sister and me  
To grow up and live happy  
In the land of the free

Now this nation that I love has  
fallen under attack

A mighty sucker punch came  
flyin' in from somewhere in the  
back

Soon as we could see clearly  
Through our big black eye  
Man, we lit up your world  
Like the fourth of July

Hey Uncle Sam, put your name  
at the top of his list

And the Statue of Liberty  
started shakin' her fist

And the eagle will fly man, it's  
gonna be Hell

When you hear mother freedom  
start ringin' her bell

And it feels like the whole wide  
world is raining down on you  
Brought to you courtesy of the  
red, white and blue

Justice will be served and the

battle will rage  
This big dog will fight when you  
rattle his cage

And you'll be sorry that you  
messed with'

The U.S. of A.

'Cause we'll put a boot in your  
ass'

It's the American way"

### Analysis

I've always been a proud  
American. My family and summer  
family have enough Patriotism for  
the whole world. I am always  
giving thanks to those who  
serve our country to keep us all  
safe and free. They put their  
lives on the line to keep us safe  
and I appreciate and look up to  
them all for it. Especially the  
women because it takes more

than blood sweat and tears to go through all of the training. The women who stick out the training are badassess. I would never be able to serve for my country because i'm not physically nor mentally strong enough for it. This song always gives me so much love for my country. It reminds me on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July of how lucky I am to live here.

## I'm From the Country Analysis

Home for me is a town with 2,000 people in it which are mostly old people. Home is called Bristol Maine which is located on the coast. Lots of new people that I meet ask where i'm from and I have to explain where it is located. It's a small town full of lobstermen, blue collar workers, teachers, old retired people and veterans. I'm proud to say I live amongst these people and I like it that way. Since my town is so small, everyone knows everyone's dirt. Which is a good and a bad thing. Everyone calls you friend even if they don't mean it because you're supposed to kill everyone with kindness. The lyrics, "You don't need an invitation. Kick off your

shoes come on in" is so true for me. In the summer I live at a lakehouse which is in another small town but everyone on our road is so welcoming. They'll scold me for knocking when I come over because they say I am always welcome and i'm a part of the family so no need to be professional with knocking. I love living this way and I will live in the country for the rest of my life because of it.

## Cowboy Boots Memoir

I may live in a small town but I was one of 3 girls that actually wore cowgirl boots at my highschool. My teachers would hear me coming down the hall, poke their heads out, see it was in fact me, and then laugh. They knew it was me just by the sound of the boots.

## Humble and Kind ~ Tim McGraw

"Hold the door, say "please", say  
"thank you"

Don't steal, don't cheat, and don't  
lie

I know you got mountains to  
climb

But always stay humble and  
kind

When the dreams you're dreamin'  
come to you

When the work you put in is  
realized

Let yourself feel the pride  
But always stay humble and  
kind

Don't expect a free ride from  
no one.

Don't hold a grudge or a chip  
and here's why

Bitterness keeps you from flyin'  
Always stay humble and kind"

## Humble and Kind Analysis

I was raised on proper manners saying my pleases, and my thank you's with a big smile. I was always expected to use my fork and knife the right way, and to never use my fingers unless the meal required it. Growing up, all my friends parents loved me because I would pick up after myself, and I was just overall very polite. This relates to this song because of the main idea, "Humble and kind." I use my ability to be very polite all of the time even

if I want to be mean I  
don't. I know that if I do  
I will not only regret it  
later, it will also have an  
impact on that person's day.  
I was raised to be very  
VERY humble to the point  
where I now hate bragging  
or flaunting when I do great  
because it makes me feel  
guilty. The reason why I feel  
this way is because I know  
someone else worked hard for it  
too, but didn't receive the  
recognition they should have.  
Staying "humble and kind" is  
an important piece of my  
life and my upbringing and  
I wish it was a part of  
everyone's.