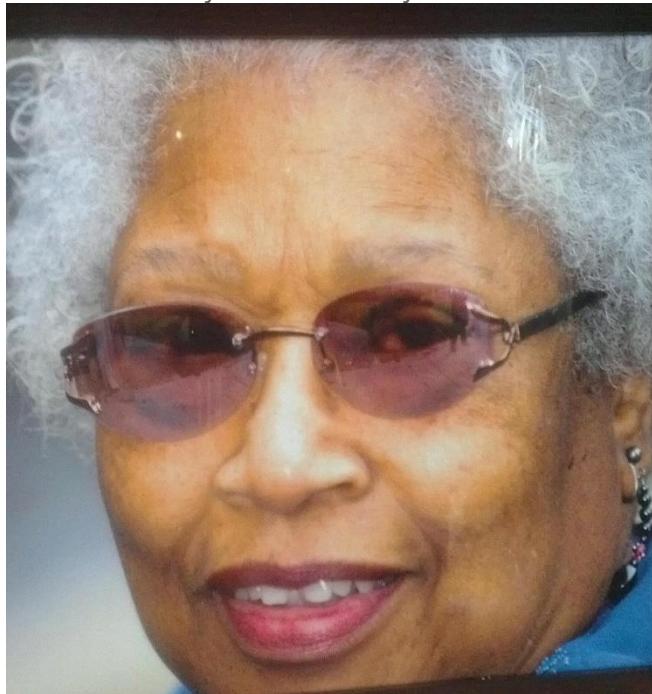




Debbie Ferrell & SissyMarySue Barnes & Noble, Anchorage, Alaska. The images in this book are a tribute to a group of extremely precious people in my life. The positive influences they all had on my life is undeniable. I'm grateful for their love!



Many of them are among my extended family from Anchorage, Alaska, where I grew up. [Deborah Ferrell](#) (whose mom Myrtle, I honor) is still in Anchorage, Alaska! Debbie and I have been friends since Middle School. We were Varsity Cheerleaders at Dimond High School together. [MORE>>>](#)

It is with great respect, I share that the image of the teacher in this book about the power of LOVE and EMPATHY is meant to honor my friend's mother, who was a wonderful teacher. My dear friend Deborah Ferrell, sadly lost her mother Myrtle, recently. Although, I never met her mother personally, I had learned how very special she was. I was moved by how loved and missed she was by my friend. I asked my friend's permission to honor her mom, by using her likeness for the teacher in my book. I was thrilled she agreed, understanding my heart and desire to offer her mom as a role model! I had explained that I had decided, to celebrate the fact that minority teachers are, actually more preferred by students, it was revealed in studies than white teachers. This is the case even though there still remains a serious disparity in regard to the number of minority teachers who serve in schools in our country! I felt called to action when I learned this in an education class taught by Dr. Kitty Kelly Epstein, in my doctoral program through Fielding Graduate University in Education-(Leadership For Change). Dr. Epstein asked we students, to decide what we could do to help this unfortunate phenomenon. As an Author, I was already using character and story to offer positive minority role models. For example, there is a Black female pilot and an Asian male co-pilot in "Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope-EMPATHY AIRLINES." So, I decided to use story and character to communicate this disparity too.

I altered the original plan of a White teacher (Mrs. Ellison) with a Black principal for the "Tristy Sparkles" series. Whitney Ellison (mom of the real Tristy) was a teacher, so I had planned to use her name and image. Now it is only her name I use, while Deborah's mom Myrtle's image is the teacher. As a result, of the enlightenment by my Professor, Dr. Kitty Kelly Epstein, I had decided the image of the teacher would be a beautifully effective Black woman.

My dear Debbie you have the most beautiful heart of empathy no doubt from your mother! I am so grateful for the unique bond we have regarding our losses in life of those we loved. I can't thank you enough for your empathy! THANK YOU, dear friend! Your smile lights up a room, my heart and so many others lives, similar to how your moms did too I am sure!

Sending Great Appreciation, JOY, HOPE, LOVE and EMPATHY for all in our human/world FAMILY! SissyMarySue