

On Friday, June 9th, I received a phone call and immediately smiled from ear to ear. It was Mary, the one I wrote my final story about.

“When is your book coming out?” she said.

A short conversation later she says, “Where can we meet? I want a copy!” Two hours later we’ve coordinated a meetup and she’s on cloud nine.

She tells me all about her last couple of weeks and how she’s just been through the ringer. She said she was taking one of her pit-bulls out for a walk (mind you, she’s only about seventy-five pounds and four and a half feet tall) when another dog came out of nowhere.

It didn’t take long for her dog to protect Ms. Mary by heading it off, but in doing so she was thrown to the ground and dragged for a bit.

The skirmish was short, but her injuries were long.

A broken pinky (see pic), a broken nose, some broken ribs, some torn skin that she had to have glued, some bruising all over her body and a black eye (you’ll have to look close at the pic).

She shared about all of her appointments and what all she’s had to have done.

Mind you, she’s ninety-two.

My youngest daughter (Kelbie) was there and got to witness just how sweet Ms. Mary is. Kelbie even refreshed herself by re-reading chapter 75 before she got there.

Kelbie said, “She’s just like you described in the book! I love how she covers her face and laughs at herself when telling stories.”

And, Kelbie got one of her hugs. So did another guy that was there and so did I. Ms. Mary gives “the best” hugs!

Anyway, back to the beginning. She was on cloud nine. She kept saying, “I can’t believe I’m in a book!” and then she’d flip through the chapter and smile all over again... and again... and again!

Then, she told me about her friend down the street that she’s going to see that night and how she’s going to have to get herself a copy. And, the ladies over at Bob Evans - they’ve been asking about the book and are now going to get to see that it really happened.

About that time she says, “How do people get the book if they don’t know you?”

I said, “The best way is on Amazon... this way they can do a review as well. Do you have an account on Amazon?”

The short answer is no. The longer answer is she doesn’t have any accounts online at all. So cool. And yes, I’m SO envious.

Unfazed, she tells me about all the phone calls she’s going to make this weekend and how all her family in Alabama and around the U.S. are going to have to get their own copies. And how the ladies at the Cracker Barrel where we met are going to need theirs and how she’ll have to go show them for herself.

Did I mention she’s ninety-two?

Then she tells me how, just before her dog-walking accident, she drove to Alabama to see her family. By herself. Again. She does it every year she says. And then she brags on the fact that today’s her first day back driving by herself since her little “accident” and that she’s not going to tell her family that she did it because they’d fuss at her.

She’s so stinkin’ cute.

Anyways, it turns out I now have an old-school promoter and I couldn’t be happier.

She probably won’t be doing a review on Amazon, but you might find her driving down Main Street with a megaphone and an order pad. She’s so proud to be a part of the book and I’m proud to have her as one of my “best” friends (some of you will get that). Wait, does that make her a “Proud Mary?”

I told her I’d share this story with you guys and say hello for her. I’ll also attach two pictures of her - one with the book and the other with her pointing to Chapter 75 as it’s a reminder that it’s the chapter all about her.