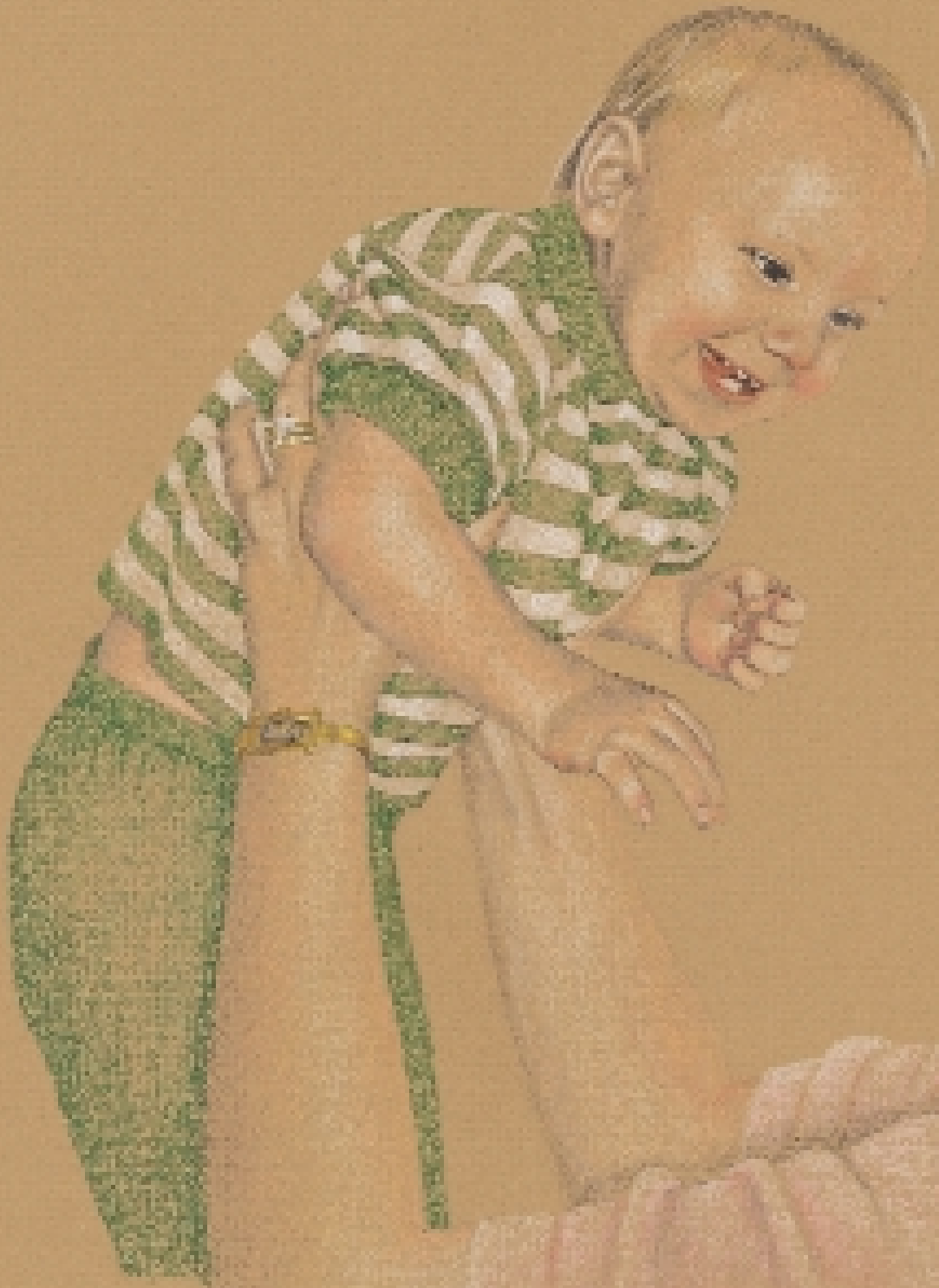


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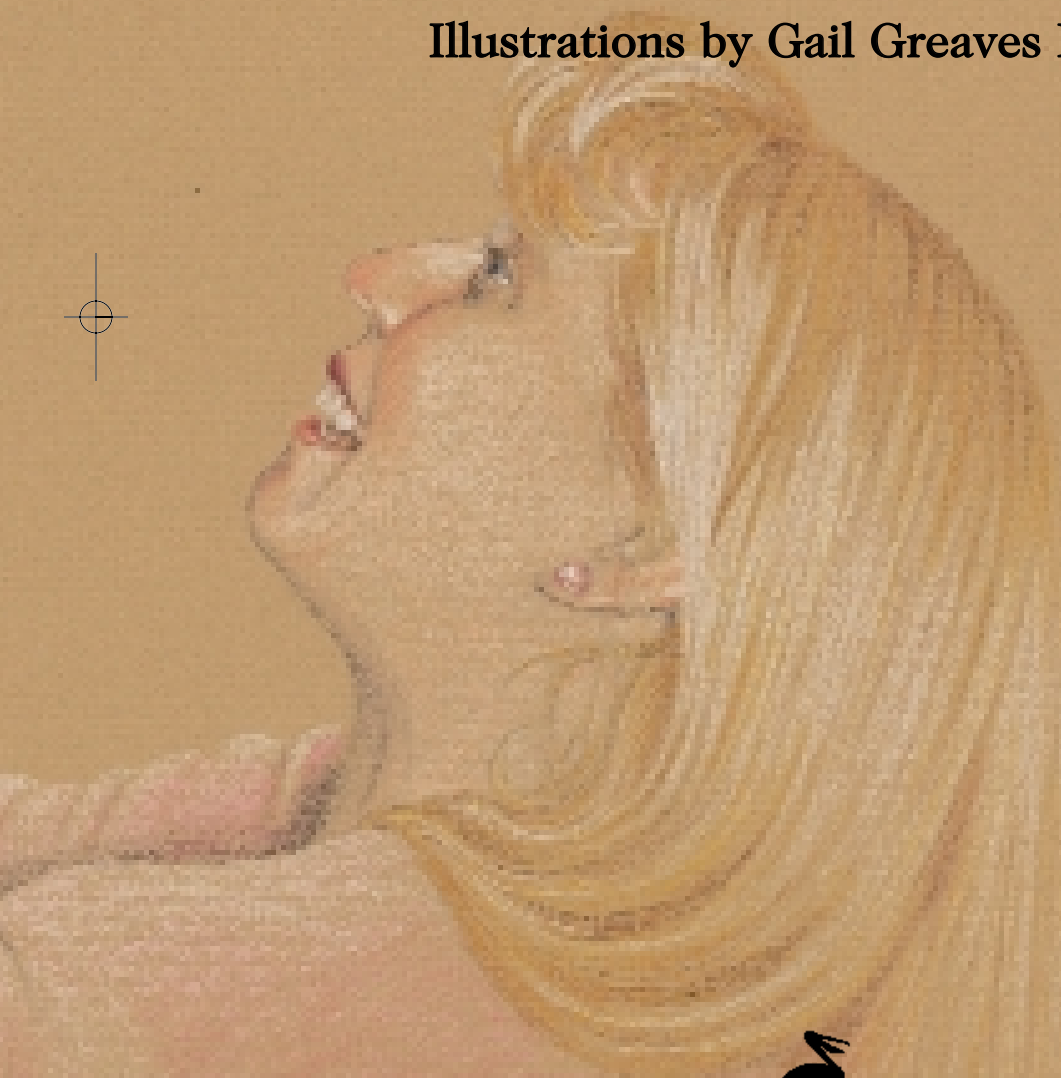




VERSES *for* MOM'S HEART

By Steven L. Layne

Illustrations by Gail Greaves Klinger



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For my mother Suzie, who embodies so many of these verses, and for my mother-in-law Gail, who I know will read between the lines. I love you both so very much.—S. L. L.

To my mother Darlene Greaves, for her hopes, dreams, and heart for others.—G. G. K.

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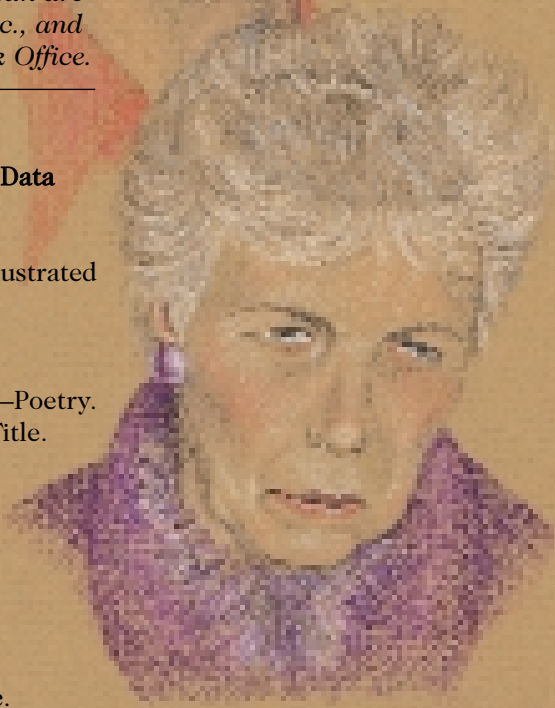
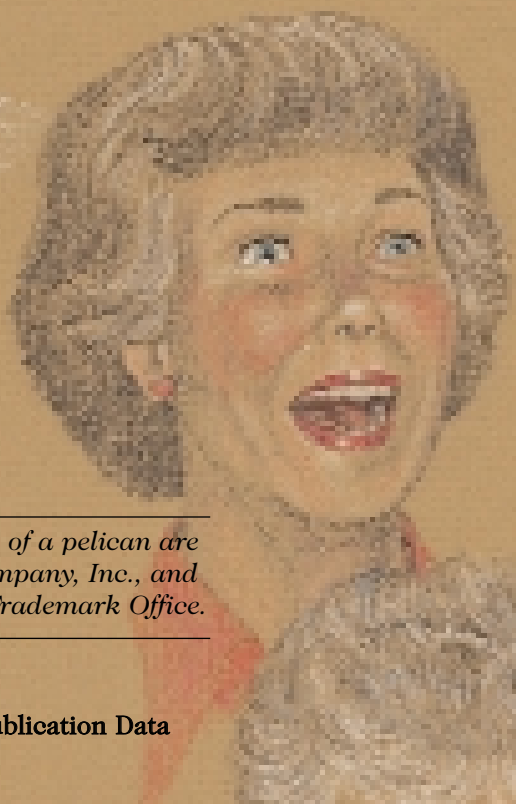
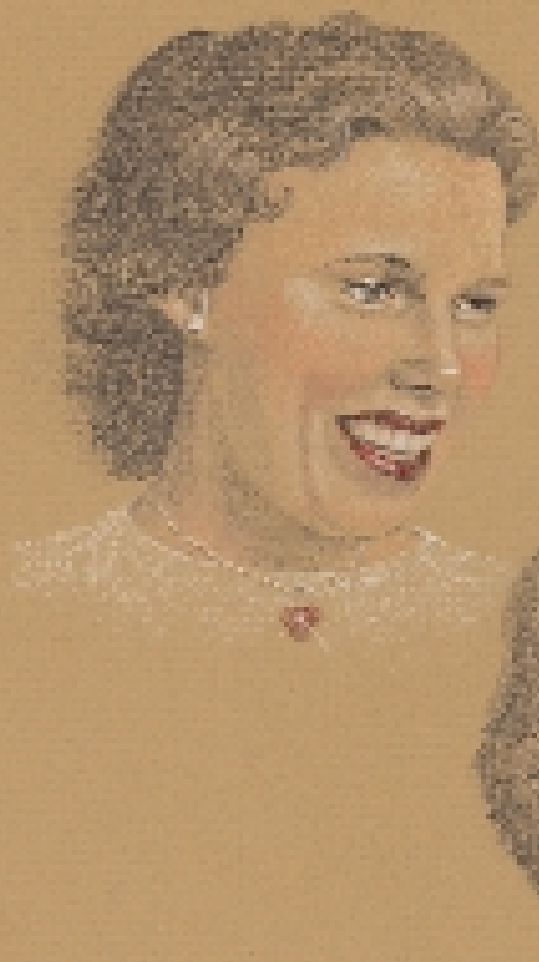
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My Mother's Love

My mother's love
Has seen me through the best and worst of times.

When Sadie Abernathy laughed and said my ears were funny,
And I got picked last for kickball again,
And I forgot my *only* line in the second-grade pageant,

My mother's love enfolded me.

When I built a house of cards that stood for twelve minutes,
And I was elected sixth-grade class president,
And I put an airplane model together all by myself,

My mother's love celebrated with me.

When Danielle O'Connor broke my heart,
And I missed the basket that would have clinched the finals,
And our dog Tiger didn't wake up one morning,

My mother's love grieved with me.

They say that cries for *Mother*
Can be heard on the battlefield
Long after a war has ended.

And I ask you . . .

Is it any wonder?

