

## Those Four Magic Words

*by Liz Gibbons*

Our mother would regularly read to my brother and me. When a story began with those four magic words "Once upon a time," I would snuggle up against her in anticipation that we were embarking on a great adventure to who knows where. These stories were usually fairy tales and fables. In some ways the stories were predictable, as moral instruction and magic were intertwined to teach a lesson. I did not catch many of the lessons, but I enjoyed the fantasy.

However, the stories I remember most are from *Winnie-the-Pooh*. I enjoyed Christopher Robin, Winnie, Eeyore, Piglet, Tigger, Owl, and all their adventures. Winnie-the-Pooh taught me the importance of friends, I am braver than I believe, and there's no need to hurry, we will get there someday. Celebrate and focus on today, forget about yesterday or tomorrow, and I am okay just the way I am. When Piglet asked Pooh "How do you spell love?" Pooh's sage reply was, "You don't spell it, you feel it." All this from a teddy bear and his friends! Can life get much better than that?