

In My Next Life

By Marilyn Reeves

To Whoever Is In Charge Up There:

Okay, I have a few bones to pick with you. While I was out there floating around in the ether waiting to get born, I remember specifically requesting the following items:

Big blue eyes with long, curly eyelashes; thick, rich, golden blonde hair; a nice oval face and pouty looking lips. I also asked for a more shapely looking figure. So what did I get? Small, brownish-green eyes; no eyelashes; thin, limp, sandy-colored hair and a wide face with a prominent chin. And the only time my lips look pouty is when I'm actually pouting ... which I do a lot because I'm disappointed about not having pouty looking lips.

But that's not all! That shapely figure I was talking about? Nobody ever told me I had to *exercise*. Exercise? You never saw Elizabeth Taylor or Kim Novak pumping iron or jogging around a track. They just sort of lounged around looking glamorous, with a cocktail in one hand and a cigarette in the other. So how come they always looked so good? I don't think that's very fair, do you?

I guess I should thank you, however, for giving me good parents and a couple of lovely sisters. My family members may have been a bit eccentric (myself notwithstanding), but our family was only slightly dysfunctional compared to some others I've seen. So I guess I shouldn't complain. I just hope that the next time around you'll get those other things right, too.

Plus, I have another request. It would be nice if you'd let me know early on what the heck it is I'm supposed to DO with my life. It's like all my life I could hear a voice calling my name, but I could never pinpoint which direction that voice was coming from. So I've spent a lot of years sort of stumbling around and wasting a lot of energy but not achieving anything significant or memorable. I would have liked to have done something that mattered. Made a difference. Left a legacy. Helped to make this world a better place.

So if Anybody Up There is listening, perhaps you could give me a better sense of direction ... the next time around?

(And please don't forget the long, curly eyelashes!)