


A thick red rope enters from the top right, curves across the top, and then forms a large bow in the center of the page.

Jonty  
Allcock

THE  
CHRISTMAS  
THREAD

Finding *Joy*  
When Life Feels  
*Frayed*

A thick red rope enters from the bottom left, curves across the bottom, and ends with a frayed tip on the right side.




Jonty  
Allcock

*THE*  
**CHRISTMAS**



**THREAD**

Finding *JOY*  
When Life Feels  
*Frayed*





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Imagine your life as a single  
piece of thread...

Everyone has one.

Everyone has

***ONLY ONE.***

I wonder how you  
feel about yours?

Most of us would instinctively say that this thread of life is...

***PRECIOUS.***

I didn't choose it.

I didn't earn it.

I didn't create it.

My life was a gift to me.

Every person has been given one life.  
One thread. One chance.

We have equal dignity and worth.  
Each thread is precious.  
Something to be valued.  
Something sacred.  
Something to be lived to the full.

But isn't there also a part of you that  
finds this...



... a burden?

Maybe you find yourself thinking,  
*What if I waste it? What if I  
mess it up? What if my life is a  
disappointment?*

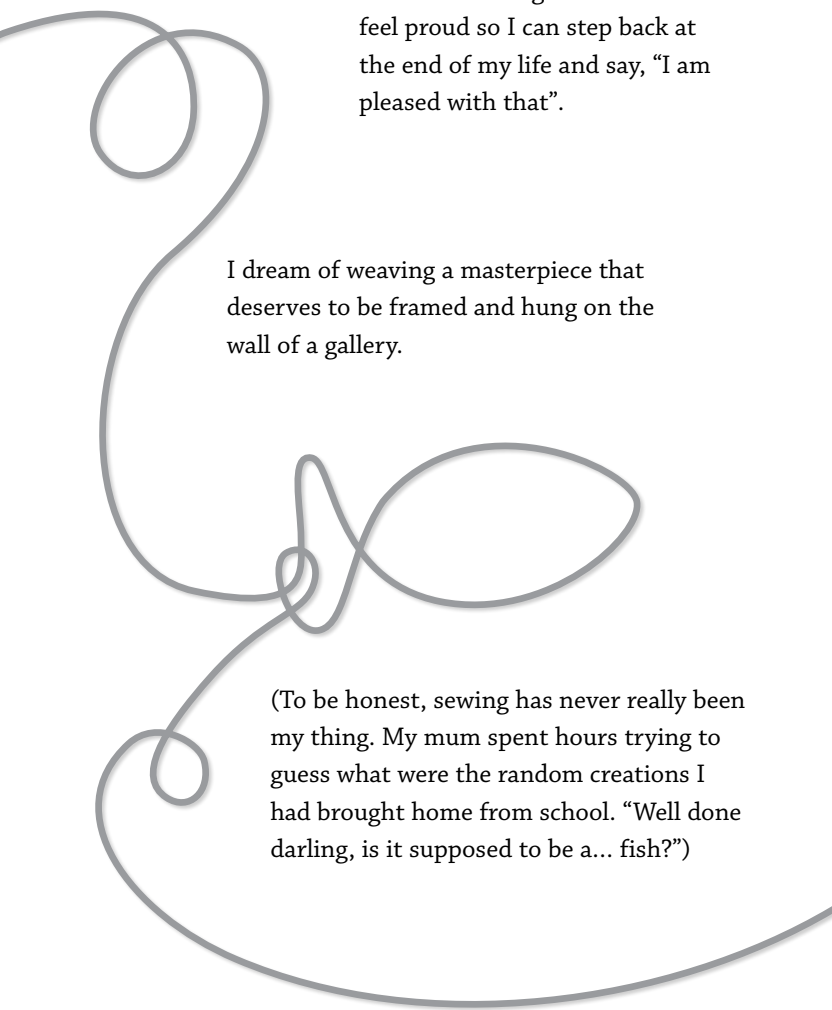
Suddenly we find that  
this precious gift begins  
to place a crushing weight  
of expectation on our  
shoulders. And so...

...we strive

and we try

and we attempt to  
achieve great things so  
that at the end of our  
lives we can say,

***“I DID IT.  
I MADE THE  
MOST OF IT.”***



I want to take my thread and stitch something that makes me feel proud so I can step back at the end of my life and say, “I am pleased with that”.

I dream of weaving a masterpiece that deserves to be framed and hung on the wall of a gallery.

(To be honest, sewing has never really been my thing. My mum spent hours trying to guess what were the random creations I had brought home from school. “Well done darling, is it supposed to be a... fish?”)

Of course there are some people who manage to take their lives and weave something spectacular. People like...



*ALBERT  
EINSTEIN.*

*OR USAIN  
BOLT.*



OR TAYLOR  
SWIFT.

By all human accounts,  
Taylor Swift is doing  
more than all right.

She's taken her thread  
and maxed it out.

She's been TIME  
Magazine's Person  
of the Year. Twice.

She's broken 117  
world records.

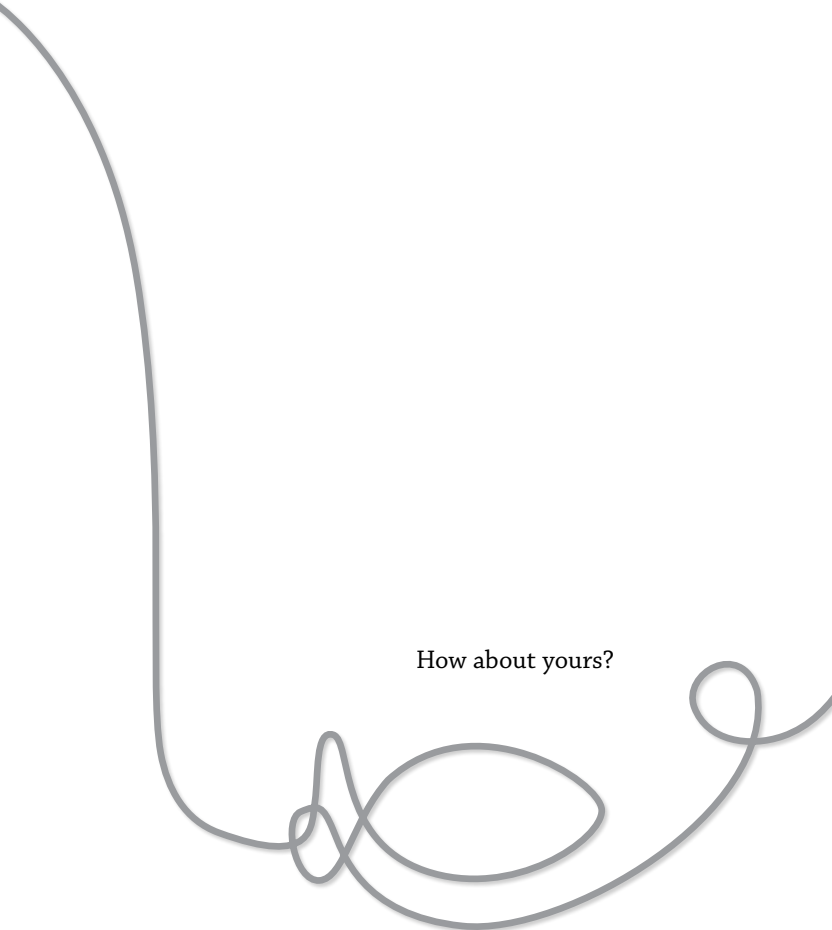
She has written  
or co-written over  
200 hit songs.

She has over 281  
million followers  
on Instagram.

She's worth an  
estimated \$2 billion.

Her cross-stitch is pretty impressive.

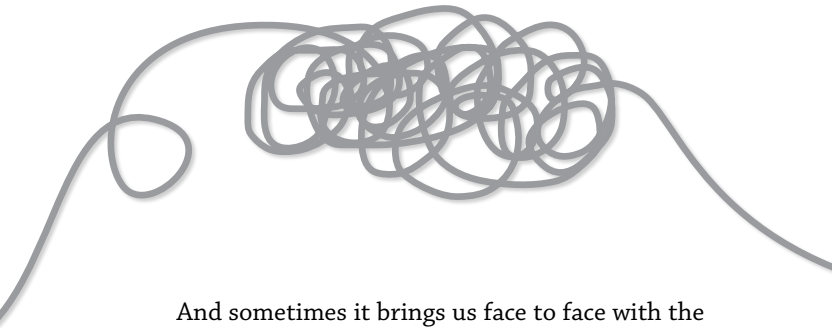
How about yours?



At Christmas, we often reflect on how our picture is looking.

Maybe it's because we catch up with friends and family we haven't seen for a while, and we can't help but compare our life with theirs. Or maybe this season reminds us that our thread is unravelling so quickly—we can't believe it's December again already.

What have we achieved with our single thread?



And sometimes it brings us face to face with the messes we've made—the knots in our picture that we can't untangle. People we've hurt. Patterns we're trapped in. Relationships we've lost. Risks we lack the courage to take.

But Christmas is good news for  
people who feel ordinary.

And it's good news for people  
who've got life tied up in knots...

because the real Christmas we  
read about in the Bible—the story  
of Jesus' birth 2,000 years ago—  
begins with ordinary people.  
It all starts with his mother,

Mary

She too had one life.  
A single thread.