

# Dominique's THRIFTED TREASURES



**Margarett McBride**  
illustrated by  
**Ryan Middaugh**

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free spirit  
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To Pawpaw Bill, the man who constantly  
showered me with love and always brought me  
along for the ride.

—with love, your grandbaby **Margarett**

And to Janae, my stylish friend.

—with love, **Margarett**

Thank you to Meredith, Clementine, and Elliott  
for all of your love and encouragement, and  
to Christie for all of your support.

—**Ryan**

Dominique could faintly hear Pawpaw rummaging around. "Ah," Pawpaw whispered. Then his booming, rhythmic voice rang out.

"Graaandbabyyy!"

Dominique ducked and dodged the jungle of clothes that had taken over the house since Pawpaw moved in. "Over here!" Dominique waved as they emerged from a mountain of boxes.



“Look what I found!” Pawpaw cheered as he pulled out a worn leather jacket. “It’s my old biker jacket! My buddies from the plant and I used to ride in these. With patches from the states we rode through. A lot of them guys are gone now. And this thing’s about twenty years too slim for me—but you should keep it. I want those memories of friendship and freedom to live on long after me.”



“Thanks, Pawpaw,” Dominique said with a faint smile. But as they took the jacket to their room, their smile faded.



“Another hand-me-down,” Dominique mumbled. “I thought I only got them from Alex, who got them from Jessie, who got them from Traci. Now I’m getting Pawpaw’s things too. But I want clothes of my own. New clothes. I want to make my own memories.”

## A Personal Note from the Author

When I was a kid, my family and community showed me the truth of the phrase, “It takes a village to raise a child.” They took this concept seriously and lived it out with joy. As a child, riding with my cousins around our neighborhood in a go-kart my uncle bought, I never took for granted how blessed I was to be surrounded by family. I have distinct memories of thirteen grandparents, including my great-great-grandmother. My mother must have known family would be important to me when she handed me to my great-grandmother Margaret and said I was her namesake.

This story is a love letter to all my grandparents. They saw so many changes, losses, and gains over the years, and still took every opportunity to pour love into me when I was growing up. I included little aspects of them in this story, from my own Pawpaw’s famously handsome haircut to my grandmother’s love of butter pecan ice cream—and her distaste for blue moon ice cream! (Blue moon and Superman ice cream are summer favorites in Michigan, where I grew up.) My grandparents taught me to care about others, value education, and prepare for the future. They

taught me the benefits of knowing the people in my community and leaning on each other when things get hard. Lastly, they taught me the importance of being who I am and sharing that light with others. Whether through a phone call or visit with one of my five living grandparents, or through hearing a story about the others who have now passed, I learn from them every day.

I hope this story sparks or renews your interest in spending more time with family members, especially across generations. The time spent together becomes memories that will be treasured for a lifetime. I also hope this story encourages you to get to know the people around you, like your neighbors, barbers, shopkeepers, and other folks you might see in the course of your day. You may find that you have been connected all along. And

I hope Dominique’s story inspires you to try shifting your perspective to something more positive when you feel down. While something like hand-me-down clothes can feel like a drag, the treasured memories and meaning behind those clothes can transform them into lift-me-up stories instead.

—Margarett



## Talking and Thinking About the Story

Share this book with a teacher, friend, family member, or other person you know. After reading the story, talk with them about the following questions—or you can think about them on your own.

- 🕒 Dominique loves spending time with their Pawpaw and learning about treasured memories. What are your favorite memories with your grandparents or other family members? Why do you treasure these memories?
- 🕒 Fashion is all about storytelling through clothes and accessories. By wearing unique combinations of colors, patterns, or funky fabrics, people can share a little about



themselves. Think about an outfit that represents who you are or some part of your personality, style, or interests. Describe or draw the clothing and accessories. How and why do they represent you?

- 🕒 Reduce, reuse, recycle! Using secondhand items like Pawpaw’s old jacket is a great way to help the earth and our environment. Think about something in your home or classroom that can be reused for a new purpose. What is it and what are old and new ways it can be used? For example, you might turn a coffee can into a pot for a plant.
- 🕒 What might Dominique be thinking about when Mama gives them a bag of thrifted clothes? What was Mama thinking about when she bought the clothes for Dominique?
- 🕒 Many people in Dominique’s community have a special connection to their old clothes and enjoy sharing their memories of them. Name something of yours that brings you fond memories.