



Mary Lester
Storyteller

MEDIA KIT

Mary Lester, Storyteller -- Bio

Her Sweet Mama Dayle's encouraging words still blow in Mary's storyteller sails. And those encouraging words will do for you what they did for the students she taught. Help you catch the wind of your dreams! Your quest, like her students' and all of ours, is to find your gifts and gather the strength to share them with the world with the help of a little joy mining!

Mary is also a professional actor. She has acted on stage, in commercials, and in films. She once had the privilege of being directed by Francis Ford Coppola—yes, star on the door—in “The Rainmaker,” based on John Grisham's novel.



Matt Damon and Claire Danes were also on set. Checks from Paramount still appear in her mailbox every few months—reminding her dreams really do come true! Because of her performance background, she considers herself a writer and a storyteller. Sharing her own words “live” has been one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable experiences of her life. Mary has performed five of her stories on Tales from the South, a local radio show, syndicated by NPR, then nationally and internationally from Paris to Africa. So, her Mary Voice has traveled the world and maybe heard my millions.

Mary has the heart of an artist and the mind of a mathematician. Not that long ago, she retired from her rewarding math teaching career. She loved teaching mathematics and making a difference in students' lives. One of her many special students, Lilac, sent this warm-fuzzy email: “Ms. Lester, it was something you said yesterday. I'm not sure what it was, but I will look on the bright side now.” As she shares her Mary Voice, she hopes you, too, will look on the bright side now!



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Awards:

2022 WriterCon - Oklahoma City

"Breaking through Porcelain"

Honorable Mention, Poetry

2023 WriterCon - Oklahoma City

"The Due Season Doctor"

Honorable Mention, Inspirational Story



AS SEEN IN:



Published In:

- **Guideposts Magazine** Oct/Nov 2023 "The Memory Box" (circ. 2,000,000)
- **Mature Living Magazine** (Lifeway's National Publication)
- **Maumelle Magazine** (local contributing writer 2006-2008)
- **Arkansas State University Review of Hemingway-Pfieffer Museum** 15-year celebration, included Mary's story: "The Good-bye Season"

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Film/Theater:

- **The Rainmaker**
 - Directed by Francis Ford Coppola
 - Murder Scene Bystander
- **The Christmas Carol**
 - Arkansas Repertory Theater
 - Mrs. Cratchit

Radio:

- **Tales from the South** (radio show recorded locally and rebroadcast on NPR stations)
 - (Mary performed original stories)
 - The Bountiful Backyard
 - Losing and Finding Beauty
 - Joan of Art
 - He Loves Her
 - Alzheimer's Doesn't Have to be All Bad



Narration/Voiceover:

- Mary also narrated educational short films for the Arkansas Department of Education including a cartoon where she played her favorite character---a flirty, flamingo named Flo!

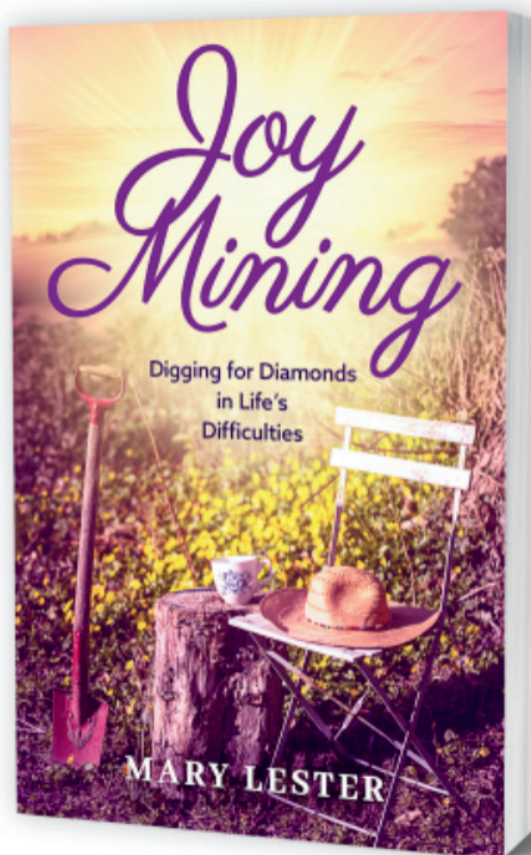


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Legacy Press

Joy Mining: Digging for Diamonds in Life's Difficulties, demonstrates in its twenty-one personal stories how painful circumstances can be reframed with courage and a little perspective. Some stories are just for fun! Remember your own wonderful moments again through Joy Mining's stories. Make a new memory book of *your* life. Reboot and reconcile. Dig for diamonds as you journey through Joy Mining gathering insight and determination for your own journey...

**Purchase Joy Mining
on Amazon:**



Endorsements

“Within seconds of meeting Mary, she draws you in with her genteel southern nature, and then, as her stories flow with the same fervor, the beauty of their meaning holds you captivated long after you’ve turned the page. Her uncanny ability to capture deeper meaning from everyday experiences and to draw joy from them inspires her audience to take a second look at their own lives and so do a little joy mining, as Mary has!

--Amanda West,
contributing author for LifeWay
and The Exchange Media Group

“Mary Lester is among the most gifted storytellers I know. Her narratives are a rollercoaster of emotions, making me laugh, cry, and view the world from a fresh perspective. Through her compelling writing in Joy Mining, I’ve learned that joy is a daily treasure waiting to be unearthed, reminding me to pause and delve into the beauty of the present.

--Tricia Goyer,
USA TODAY bestselling author
of 90 books, Including Plain Faith



Contact Me

I have enjoyed wearing lots of hats that fit well and have gifted me such great joy---teacher, storyteller, actress, singer, stage and screen performer---and I am believing that in Joy Mining there will be a “just the right fit for you!” That you will find a sparkle that may have been lost or forgotten along the way.

Joy Mining is definitely a journey worth taking, but remember it is NOT homework. Take the journey at your own pace! Watching a sunset, not your watch...There is something for everyone within its pages. That something can be short: Quotes. Pictures. Poetry. There are short stories and longer stories. Challenging stories and hilarious stories. My hope is that you find within Joy Mining’s pages the fuel for the dream that has been collecting dust, or the hope for a heartache that hasn’t healed, or simply a forgotten smile...there is a little wonder for everyone.

Sparkle On!
Mary Lester, Storyteller

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