

Diana Story

Born Nov 5, 1979

Dad (Jonathon Boyd Vanderbilt) was killed in a plane crash while traveling to D.C. for a meeting with a senate subcommittee before Diana was born.

Diana was unnaturally precocious... she walked at 7 mos, and climbed out of her crib at 10 months.

She was speaking in sentences by the time she was 15 months

Her mom tried to get her interested in dancing, gymnastics, and other activities for young children, but Diana was drawn first to books and then to computers.

She did enjoy playing with two of her cousins Jan and Susan who were about her age, but a little older.

The mothers of these girls were nature lovers and, along with another woman relative named Miriam -- Louise and Regina often greeted the sunrise with a primitive, chanting ceremony on the beach. They wore dark black and dark red robes with hoods that stayed in place until after the sun had risen.

The three women -- all cousins to Diana's father -- maintained that they were responsible for Diana being such a bright child...having encouraged Gaea to guide the development of Diana in her Mother's womb.

They found a seashell in the shape of a golden spiral on the beach at their morning sunrise greeting on the day Diana was born and promised Gaea they would educate Diana in the ways of the faith. They took the perfect seashell as a sign that Diana was particularly attuned to phi and to Nature.

Diana was reading by the age of 2 and writing well enough to be really good on computers by the age of 3.

She loved the water and learned to swim at 3 along with both of her 4 year old cousins.

Her Mom frequently took her to Dauphin Island and Perdido Beach and occasionally for educational forays into the delta.

She has fond memories of walking along the seashore with her Mom. Her Mom staying above the high water mark while Diana would chase the waves as they receded from the beach...only to squeal in delight as the next wave chased her back. Sometimes she would get caught and the wave would break around her soaking her completely.

She started first grade at the age of 5 and at the age of 9 was already in the 8th grade in a school for the gifted.

She loved music and played almost anything with strings-ukulele, guitar, banjo, mandolin...although the guitar was her favorite. She loved to sing but could barely carry a tune in a bucket. But that didn't keep her from trying.

After school, she and her cousins used to pretend they were a rock band and would make a terrific racket while gyrating like only little girls can.

When she graduated from the 8th grade, her Mom decided to give her a graduation present and take her on a trip to the Bahamas...she was nine years old...

...and tragedy struck. Her Mom was stung by a man-o-war, had an allergic reaction and died before she made it to the hospital.

Diana was devastated. Her three aunts wanted to take her in but her Grandmother Nana –Diana's Dad's Mom would have none of it. She insisted that Diana live with her, and she proceeded to raise Diana.

The trauma of the death of her Mom destroyed Diana's academic ardor and she proceeded to perform very poorly at school for the next two years.

During those troubled times the aunts frequently came to Nana's house to involve Diana in rituals asking Gaea to cleanse her spirit and return her status to that of a Golden Child -- dedicated to the Golden Ratio and to the Golden Spiral. Diana was terrorized by these rituals, and Nana frequently argued with her three Gaea-loving nieces.

After much soul-searching, her Grandmother made the decision to have Diana repeat two grades in a normal school setting. This put her in the same class as her two favorite cousins and that did the trick. Diana flourished anew.

High school became a breeze, and while Diana did well in every subject, biology became her burning passion. She loved the mysteries of life, of DNA, of fetal development. She wondered about brain sizes in mammals, and body size as it relates to longevity. She wondered why some cells die and others don't. She marveled at genetics, and wanted to cure every inherited disease.

But while Diana was emerging anew as a butterfly in the academic arena, socially she was still in the cocoon. The few dates she had usually ended in catastrophe -- with Diana amazed at the stupidity of boys. The biology that interested her was of a totally different nature from the biology that interested her dates.

Since she was becoming a particularly beautiful young woman, she had many opportunities through her junior year, but by the time she was a senior, her reputation terrorized even the bravest of young men.

Her cousins tried to coach her in how to “act dumb” but Diana was either too smart... or too dumb to pull it off. She received no invitations to her senior prom, and too proud to go alone, Diana spent the evening reading poetry.

Diana made perfect scores on both the ACT and National Merit Scholarship Exams, and when she graduated from high school, she accepted a partial scholarship at the University of Kentucky.

When she was a senior undergraduate at the age of 20, the whole world was preparing for the catastrophe that would arrive with the Millennium. Computers were supposed to stop working, power grids were expected to go off line, Aquarius was arriving in a technological world and creating havoc.

Amazingly nothing happened – other than some of the greatest fireworks displays around the globe that have ever been staged.

Diana stayed at Kentucky for her graduate work in Biology, and fell in love for the first time in her life. He was a grad student in Nano-Technology. They dated for about six months, but there was no Biology in the heart of this nano-ninnie. Diana got a glimpse of herself in high school as her guy had no interest in anything but his own interest. Diana resolved to make herself presentable to the right guy should he ever come along. She opened her narrow focus and became unusually diverse in her interests.

She was always athletic but now she became an athlete. She jogged and played tennis and racquetball. She became an adequate golfer. She subscribed to Popular Mechanics and learned about cars and trucks.

She also expanded her already diverse intellectual pursuits. She read voraciously and poetry became a passion.

She learned how to apply makeup and how to walk with grace and sensuality. She became aware of herself as a sexual being and learned to notice the effect she had on others.

She learned that she could gain extraordinary insights to people by paying attention to their faces and hands. She called it intuition, but she realized it was simply the science of bio-informatics.

During graduate school after her first love and after her makeover, she dated many men and learned to enjoy each for what he had to offer – but she knew

well that her white knight would have to be her equal or better in many ways – she would not “settle”.

When she graduated, she spotted a fast-track course at the University of Florida that would lead to an MD in two years for applicants with a PhD in a biological science. Having promised herself to get an MD when her Mom died, she signed up and obtained that degree as well.

Returning home, she decided to move back in with her grandmother, Nana, who was at the front end of a long bout with failing health. Diana dedicated herself to her grandmother’s care and worked part time as an instructor at a local junior college.

While at home, she also did extensive research in the various sub-fields of biology that interested her. She wrote and published several papers dealing with mathematics in nature.

During this time she renewed her friendship with her cousins Jan and Susan, though she resisted becoming friendly with her aunts who continually wanted to subject Nana to a variety of rituals to make her better or ease her pain or help her sleep.

Nana died peacefully with Diana at her side when Diana was 30.

Nana’s will left most of her estate to Diana, including the old house that Diana loved so much.

Suddenly ready to join the world, Diana joined several book clubs, music groups, and volunteer organizations. And she began volunteering at the hospital as a physician’s assistant two nights a week.

This was an exciting time for a biologist, the human genome was slowly but surely revealing its secrets. Genes were mapped to proteins, and sections of DNA long thought to have no function were revealing themselves to be important reservoirs of control functions.

Her successes in biology and her not too shabby estate, allowed Diana to pander to her other passion...cars! Over the course of 6 months, she searched for and found two of the most satisfying cars she had ever imagined. They were her pride and joy. She hand-washed each of them every Saturday, and kept them running like the well-oiled machines they were.

But her romantic prospects were considerably less exciting. She could still attract as many suitors as the law allowed, but she became less and less interested in the short-term relationships that followed. She was beginning to wonder if she should resign herself to being an Old Maid like her aunt Miriam.

Then one night while returning home a bit early from her volunteer stint at the hospital, she was startled to see that her garage door was open and her other car was gone. She quickly went inside and turned on all the lights, but could find no one inside. She was thinking about calling the police when her car and its two incredible occupants pulled into her driveway...