

# The STORY OF MY LIFE



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## CHAPTER THREE

IN WHICH MY PARENTS DIVORCE; AND MY WORLD FALLS APART!



I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD when this photo was taken and my nickname was "Smilin' Sam!"

Hello there again! It's funny, but since I finished the last chapter, I've been really eager to write the next one. It's like I've just met a friend I like very much, and now I've been separated from him (or her) for longer than I want to be! I guess it's just talking to you this way that I enjoy so much!

Anyway, you'll be pleased to know that I'm actually writing this a whole *week* early, sitting here at about twelve-thirty in the morning. I *should* be studying my lines, or getting some sleep (no bags are allowed under your eyes when you're on a set, you know) but I am really eager to write this, and I couldn't get to sleep! Who knows, maybe I'll wind up being a writer!

### SOMETIMES HAD DIFFERENT NAMES

At the end of the last chapter, I was about five years old, right? I was living with my parents in New Jersey, just growing up in as normal a way as was possible for a little kid whose parents are both in show business. I was a pretty nice little kid (if I do say so myself) and I never beat anybody up or anything like that, although I was the target of not-so-nice little kids who *did* beat people up from time to time. All in all, I guess it was pretty normal and average.

I should tell you, though, that at the time I had a different name. I guess I've had as many names in my lifetime as anybody, because my Mom has a great knack for nicknames.

Anyway, I was really happy at this time, and my name around the house was "Smiling Sam." My Mom used to say that I could light up a whole room just by smiling when I was little! Well, I can remember how happy I was then, and I liked my name just fine! I felt like it suited me—happy, grinning me!

### WHOLE WORLD FELL APART

I didn't know at the time that something was about to happen that would break my whole world apart and take away almost all of the warm security and trust that I had come to accept as just the normal way of things! It was some time after the terrible thing had actually happened until I actually found out about it, and that made it even harder to take!

Of course, I was used to my Dad's being gone a whole