

---

## *Personal Autobiography*

---

My name is Amanda L. Winter. I was born on 17 March, 1983 in Lexington, Kentucky, where I lived until the time I went to college in another state. I'm the fourth child and the only girl in a family of five. My father, Mr. Paul Winter is a retired physician and he currently runs a drug store within the city.

My mother, Mrs. Beverly Winter was a registered nurse working for various medical institutions across the state, until she decided to retire in 2010. Nowadays, she helps dad run the drug store. I went to school in Dixie School and Paul Laurence, where I completed my elementary and high school education respectively. Then, I went to Kansas University, where I did my under graduate degree in Journalism.

Growing up around four brothers was not easy, considering the fact that I am a girl. With all the masculinity in the house, there was a lot of competition and rivalry. I had to be tough as my brothers or I would have been toppled by their naturally aggressive nature. Not that we were a dysfunctional family, it was just normal sibling rivalry and it turned to be of benefit to me.

Since I was the youngest and a girl, I was bound to be at the bottom of the totem pole in everything. So, I had to be equally tough to fight for whatever was rightfully mine. As a result, I turned out to be a tomboy and also built a reputation as a no-nonsense girl. Furthermore, I had older brothers to protect me in case of a dispute.

I believe I adopted both my parents' brilliant brains, because I was always the best students academically. However, my abilities were not limited to the classroom alone. I also excelled in sports. In high school, I was arguably the best female sportsperson in outdoor games, especially in athletics and volleyball.

I have many accolades to my name, however the one that stands out was in my second year in high school. Representing our school in short races, I went to the state competition where I emerged third overall. I was not fortunate enough to win it, but it was an eye opener for me to strive for greatness in life. Fortunate for me, I won the best sportsperson award that year at our school's award giving ceremony.

While I was forging a name for myself in the academic and sports circles, my social life was in a really bad state. My tomboy look was making it hard for me to coexist well with either of the sexes. The girls were scared of my tough persona, while the boys felt intimidated by my confidence and competitive nature.

My wardrobe was full of my brothers' clothes that they had outgrown. All the girlish clothes my mother bought for me, I had them piled in the closet and completely forgot about them. When we went to the stores to buy clothes, I would be with my brothers at the boys' section. This disheartened my mother and she tried to advise me out of it, but I was just too adamant. Eventually, she accepted the way I was.

However, something happened in my life that sent me reeling back to the foundations of my femininity. It happened during my senior year in high school. It was the prom week and everyone was geared towards

the most important night of their high school life. Love was in the air. Young men were gathering courage to approach girls they liked, while girls were torn apart whether to accept or reject their proposals.

All the girls had prom dates, except me. No one approached me or even mastered the courage to look my way. It was one of the worst days of my life. I spent the night with my mother watching my favorite movie to raise my spirits up. As a result, I decided to embrace my feminine side. I got rid of all the male clothes, started wearing dresses and released my hair. My mum really came to my aid at this point in my life and although it was hard at first, I got used to the idea of wearing dresses and heels.

So, I began my college studies with a new form of rejuvenation in life. I decided to pursue my college education far away from my hometown, because of the misconceptions that I had been associated with for so long. I wanted to pursue journalism as a career, because I understood the challenges and opportunities it would expose me to and I love challenges.

I have always wanted to travel the world and I knew a career in journalism would offer me that. With a 3.5 GPA, I secured a spot at Kansas University. During the first year of study, I met the love of my life Ken Rodgers (not the singer, although he has the same deep baritone voice) and everything as they say is history.

After graduation in 2006, I interned with the Kansas City Star for six months. I then worked as a correspondent journalist with the Kansas City Globe Newspaper for a year. We moved to Atlanta with my husband, after I secured a writing job with the Daily Report for a year. At the time, he had a fitness vlog, where he gave daily workout routines and healthy recipes to his clients. Therefore, moving from state to state did not interfere with his line of work.

All he needed was a camera and an internet connection. My biggest break came when I was hired by the LA Times. The pay was good, I travelled around the world and each day was exciting in its own unique way and offered new opportunities. Unfortunately, the job was too demanding and more times than not I was away from my husband. I quit in 2011, after two years with the newspaper giants.

I had not quite decided what I wanted to do with my life, so I worked as a freelance journalist for a Canadian media firm. My job was basically to capture hot showbiz news in Hollywood. It was an exciting job checking into the fabulous lives of celebrities. I had no alternative, but to quit this job also when my first pregnancy was due. It marked the last job of my professional career.

I decided to be a fulltime mum to my three lovely kids, Mathew, Sally and Luke. To put my writing abilities into use, I became a permanent freelancer for various blogs and websites. I have always thought of writing a book and I believe this is the right time. The kids spend all the day at school and I have all the day by myself. I have not decided which way to go with the book, however I'm thinking in the lines of romance and a bit of suspense and action.