

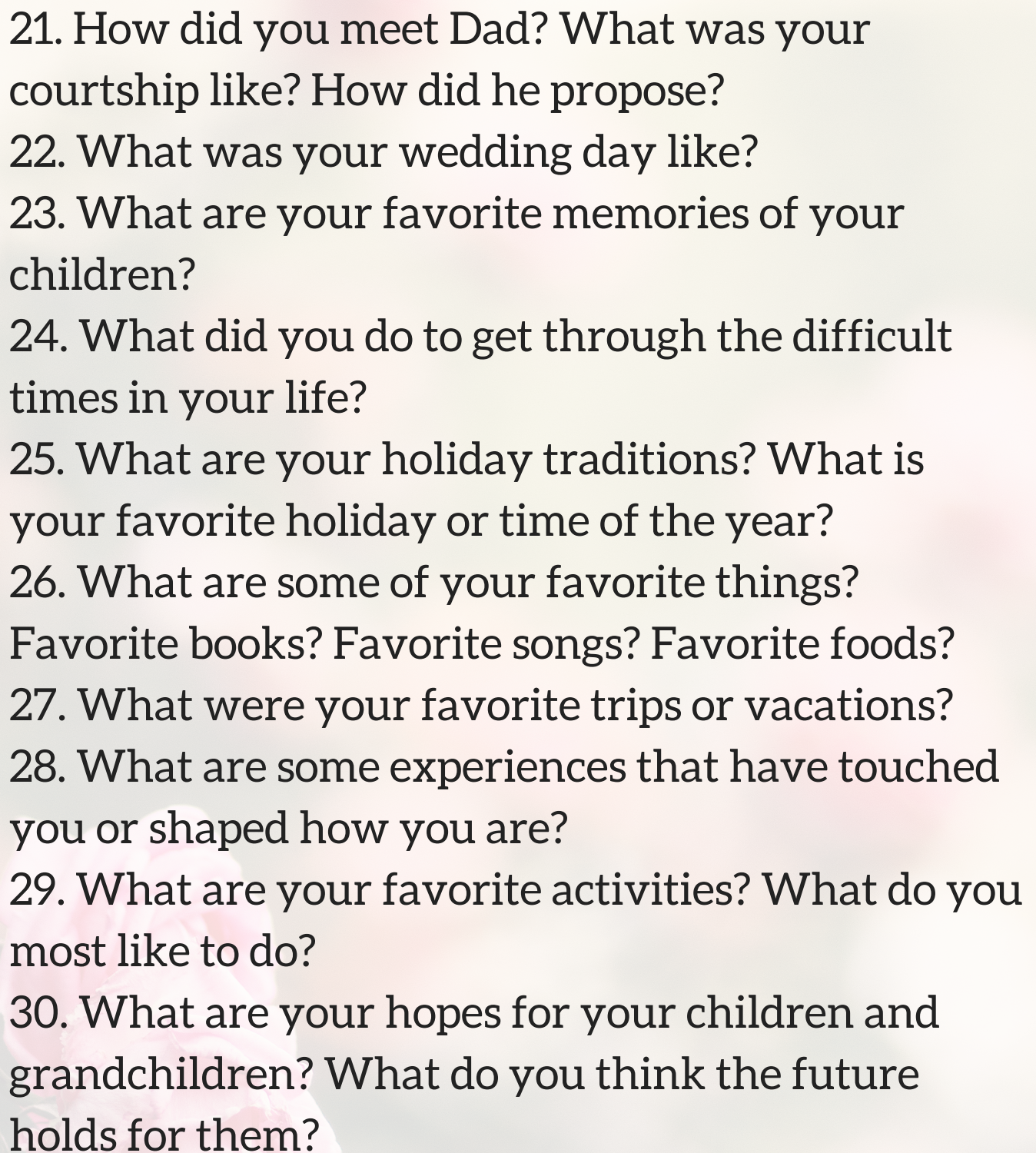
# 40 Questions to Ask Your Mother

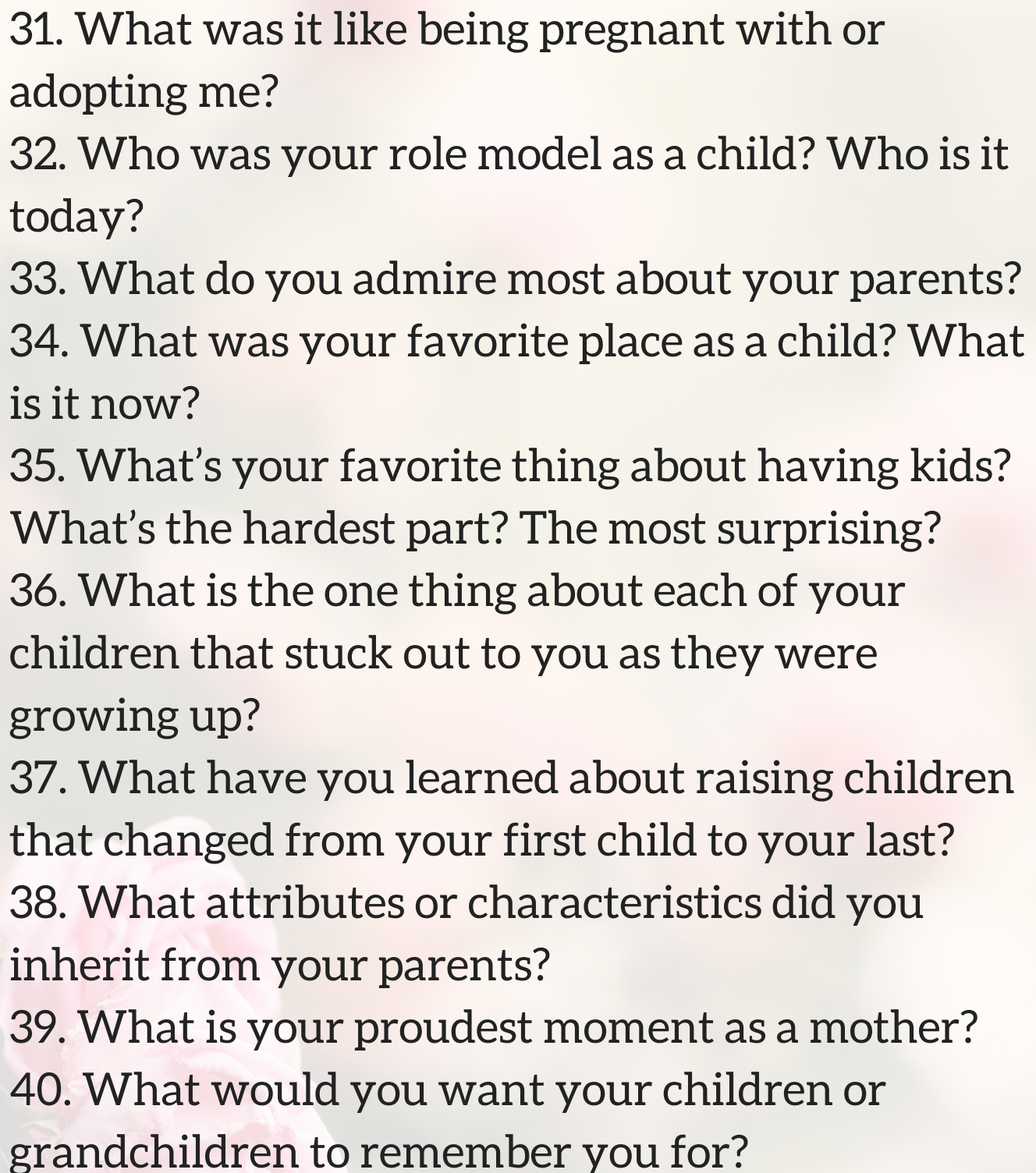
by Margot Note, Author of *Creating Family Archives*

[www.margotnote.com/creatingfamilyarchives](http://www.margotnote.com/creatingfamilyarchives)

1. When and where were you born? What stories did you hear about your birth story?
2. When and where were your parents and siblings born?
3. How did your parents choose your name? Does it have a special meaning?
4. What nicknames did you have throughout your life?
5. What is the origin of your maiden name?
6. What is your earliest memory?
7. Where did you grow up? Where have you lived throughout your life?
8. What were you like as a child? What was your childhood like?
9. What would you have changed in your childhood? Why?
10. Do you belong to a religion? If so, how has it affected your life? Has your religious views changed throughout your life?

11. What were some positive and negative qualities of your mother?
12. How did your parents meet?
13. What is your best memory of your mother or grandmother?
14. What do you remember how your mother or grandmother looked?
15. Did your mom or grandma have nicknames? What did you call her?
16. What activities did your family do together?
17. Who were your friends throughout your life? What did you do with them?
18. What schools did you attend? What were your favorite subjects? Who were your favorite teachers?
19. What important historical events did you live through? What do you remember about them? How did you feel at the time? How do you feel about them now?
20. Have you had jobs? Who did you work for and what did you do?

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21. How did you meet Dad? What was your courtship like? How did he propose?
  22. What was your wedding day like?
  23. What are your favorite memories of your children?
  24. What did you do to get through the difficult times in your life?
  25. What are your holiday traditions? What is your favorite holiday or time of the year?
  26. What are some of your favorite things?  
Favorite books? Favorite songs? Favorite foods?
  27. What were your favorite trips or vacations?
  28. What are some experiences that have touched you or shaped how you are?
  29. What are your favorite activities? What do you most like to do?
  30. What are your hopes for your children and grandchildren? What do you think the future holds for them?

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31. What was it like being pregnant with or adopting me?
  32. Who was your role model as a child? Who is it today?
  33. What do you admire most about your parents?
  34. What was your favorite place as a child? What is it now?
  35. What's your favorite thing about having kids? What's the hardest part? The most surprising?
  36. What is the one thing about each of your children that stuck out to you as they were growing up?
  37. What have you learned about raising children that changed from your first child to your last?
  38. What attributes or characteristics did you inherit from your parents?
  39. What is your proudest moment as a mother?
  40. What would you want your children or grandchildren to remember you for?

