

## History:

2016 – A serendipitous event occurred when Russ met a woman on a train to San Diego where he learned her mother wrote a book about the family's struggle with Dyslexia. Russ found the topic of a heroic woman's fight against severe challenges compelling material for a dramatic film. He was honored to meet the Fleming's and obtain their generous support to tell this inspiring story.

## Story:

*La Jolla, California, 1935*

Age nine - **Elizabeth Fleming** resides in a world of scrambled words, unable to read. Determined to overcome the deficit, Elizabeth creates unique methods, unaware she will later employ them to aid her Dyslexic children to remain in school.

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*Sewickley, Pennsylvania, 1962*

A private school requires students to achieve a minimum reading score or be remanded to a vocational program. Determined to protect **Liz**, age ten, and **Thomas**, age eight, from potential removal, Elizabeth must complete the task in five short months. Facing the challenge, she meets the demands of an unfaithful husband while caring for two infant children with a fifth soon-to-be-born.

During the tumultuous period, Elizabeth discovers husband, **George**, plots to divorce her and marry a nearby lover. Shocked and shattered by the disillusion of her marriage, Elizabeth suffers an emotional breakdown and is committed to a psychiatric facility for an undetermined duration. Later, Elizabeth discovers **George** uses her small trust to pay for the unwarranted extended treatment.

Confined for eight weeks and desperate to return to the children, Elizabeth attempts a failed escape. However, a visiting physician helps her return home only to discover George closing in on the sale of their property.

Outraged, Elizabeth divorces George and races to keep Liz and Thomas in school. Her grit and determination pay off when, in the nick of time, the children pass their exams and successfully graduate to higher grades. Once told they would not amount to anything, Liz and Thomas Fleming later earned postgraduate degrees with longevity in successful professional careers.

Encouraged to write a story about the trials of her life, Elizabeth penned an autobiography, "*Believe the Heart; Our Dyslexic Days*," Although not widely published, the gripping and heartwarming account serves as inspiration for a film entitled in her name.

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**Footnote:**

Elizabeth warmly thanks school friend **Muriel**, who etched early in her mind Churchill's inspired words, "*Never give in.*" Years later, she recalls Winston's sage advice with an enflamed spirit to win over adversity and achieve what she believed to be an improbable task.

*She never gave in.*