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# Linda Shipp

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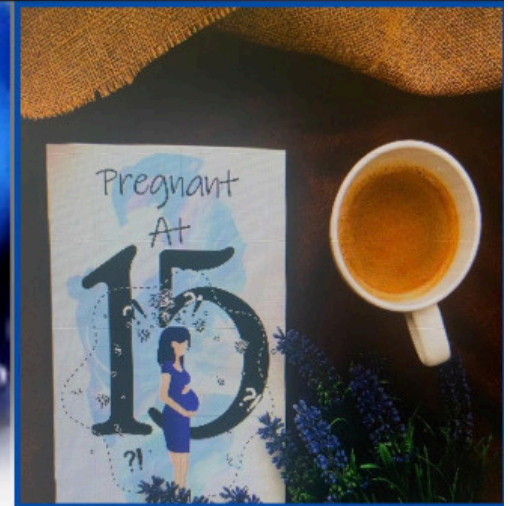


## PREGNANT AT 15

BY FIRST TIME AUTHOR

*Linda Shipp*

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I am Linda Shipp, a proud native of Meridian, Mississippi. I now reside in Memphis, Tennessee. For the past 25 years, I have lived and worked as a social worker. I am now retired, and I thought I was done with work. My plan was to move to California and enjoy life with my best friend Nancy. We have been friends since the fifth grade. However, it was not God's plan for me to move there.

Even though, I helped my daughter write all of her papers in college becoming a published author is a gift I never realized I had. Moreover, God kept speaking to my spirit, but I fought it for several years. I even wrote a children's book in the beginning, but it went nowhere. The children's book has been in the illustration phase for the past two years. I tried everything not to tell my story. Similarly, I did not want to face the trauma of my past. Despite my resistance, and concern about what people would say or think.

Nevertheless, the Pandemic of 2020 hit me like a brick in my face, it was during this time that "*Pregnant at 15*" was born. "*Pregnant at 15*" was a very challenging task for me. Because the places I thought were healed revealed to me I wasn't fully healed. At a certain point while writing, I would need to stop and cry. Especially, when I talked about the abuse, however I got it done. Once, someone shared with me, "Done is better than perfect." After hearing this, it felt as though everything started to flow. Conversely, being pregnant and unmarried in the 21st century is no big deal. The pregnant teen mother is celebrated with both a baby shower and gender reveal party.

There is no comparison to how a young girl was treated in the 60s. When a school-age girl became pregnant, she was sent home and told "if she wanted to attend school, she would have to take night classes." There is no celebration, no acceptance she was even ostracized by the church.