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Introduction

The letter hit my desk on June 10, 2003. I opened it to see a short, handwritten note attached to a single sheet of paper. The note was from Anna Lee Wilson, a Successories franchisee from Evansville, Indiana. She thanked me for speaking the week before at the grand opening of her new restaurant, and at the bottom of the note was a post script that read: "I know you have inspirational poems, and this is my all-time favorite. It's titled, *The Dash*, by Linda Ellis." Well, first of all, when Anna Lee speaks, I listen, because she is one of the kindest, most caring people I've ever met. I knew if it was her favorite, it had to be good.

I can count on one hand how many times I've read something that stopped me in my tracks...words that bypassed the brain and went straight to the heart. This was one of those moments. It was one of those times when I immediately thought...how could I use my talents to share these powerful, thought-provoking words with the rest of the world?

The first step was to contact the author, Linda Ellis. She answered the phone, and I introduced myself, and told her how much I loved her poem. She then told me her story about how, in one afternoon in 1996, she was inspired to write *The Dash*. Her life, she said, has not been the same since then.

