

# Jai's Homeschool Story



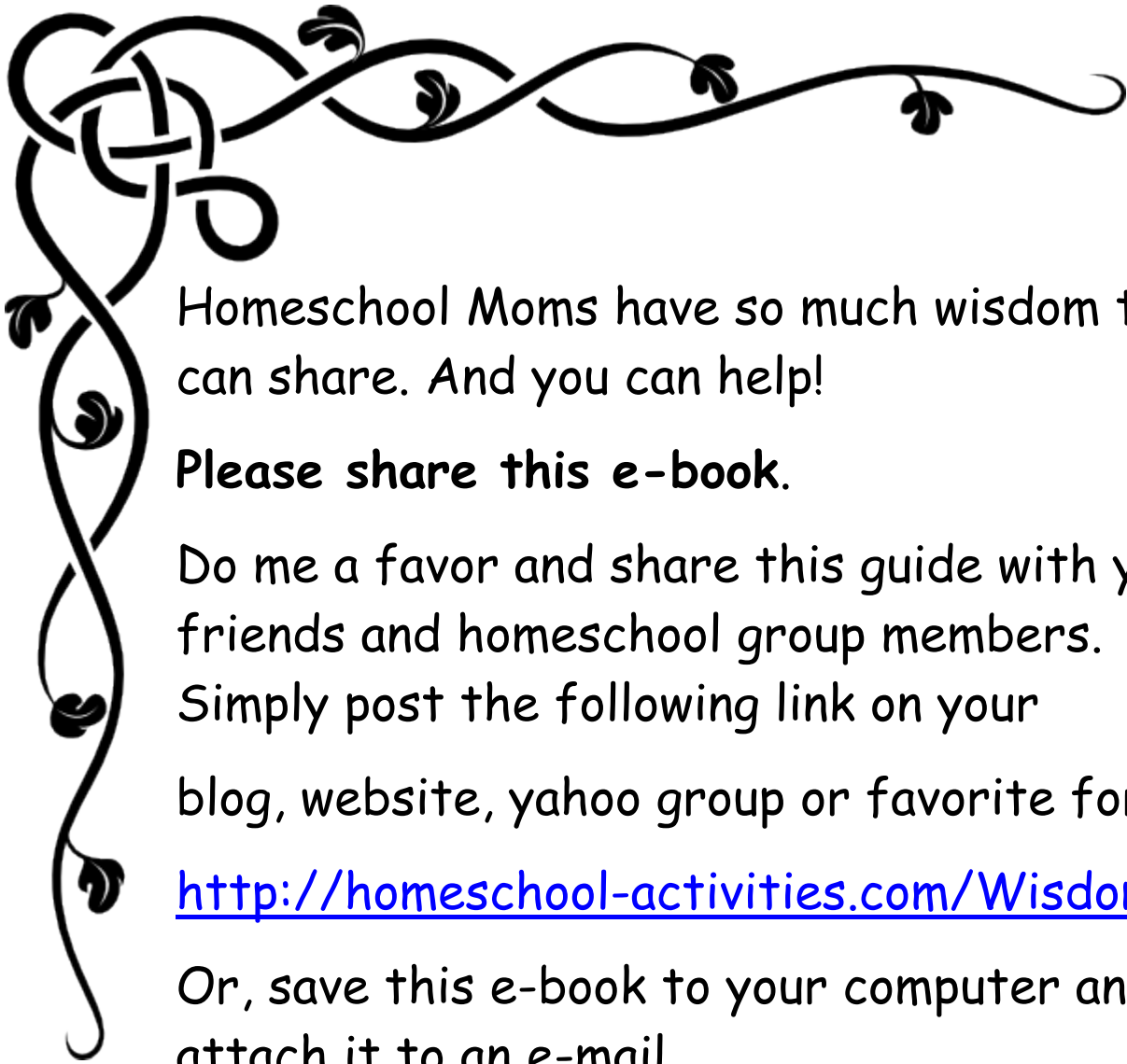
Paths of Homeschool Wisdom  
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If you have a story for my Homeschool Moms Wisdom series, then come to over to:

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and share what you have learned with other Moms.

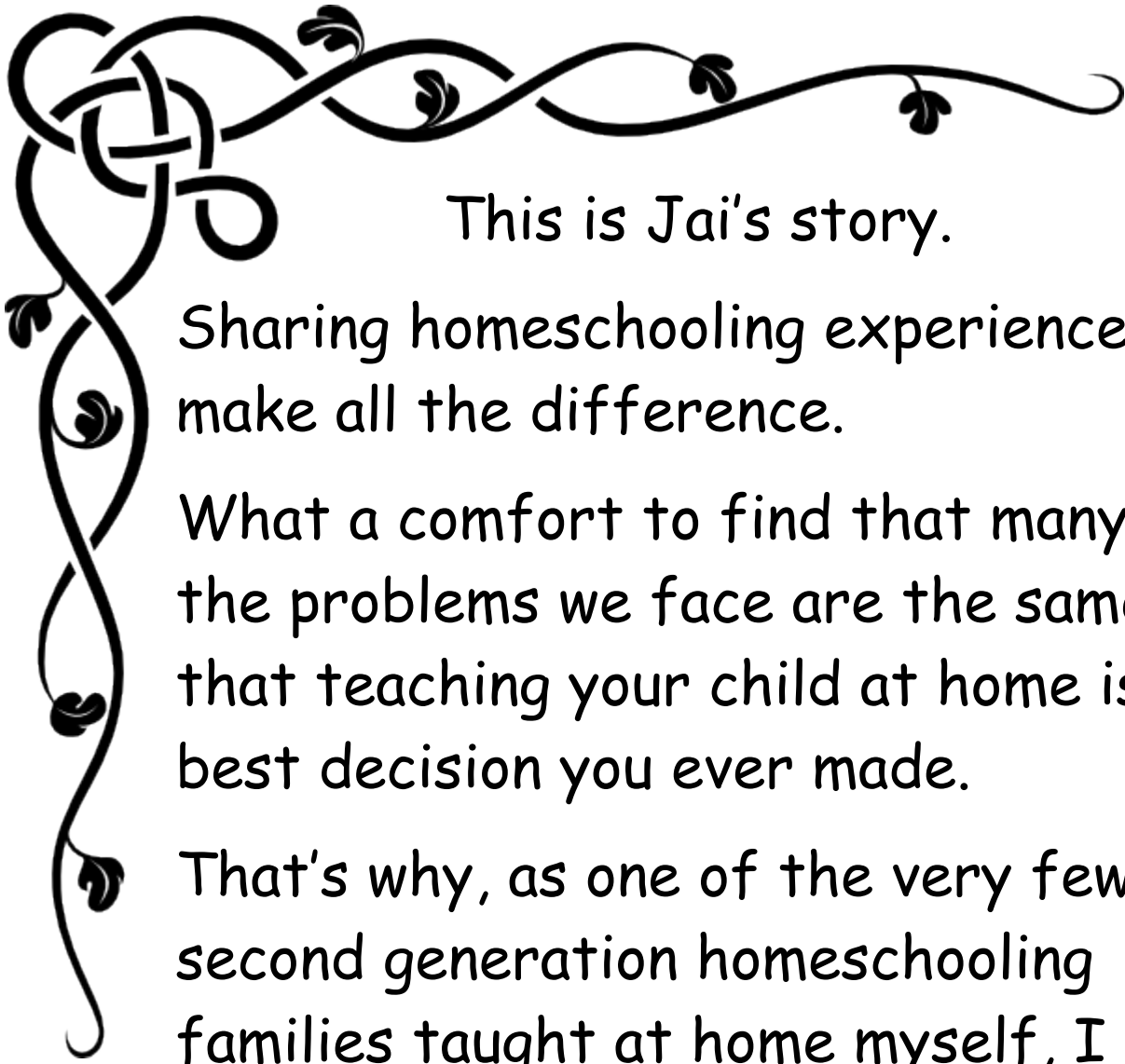
Thanks and best wishes,  
Sonya

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This is Jai's story.

Sharing homeschooling experiences can make all the difference.

What a comfort to find that many of the problems we face are the same but that teaching your child at home is the best decision you ever made.

That's why, as one of the very few second generation homeschooling families taught at home myself, I wrote my Free Guide to Start Homeschooling.

Jai has her own story to tell.

I hope you will find it equally inspirational.

Best wishes,

Sonya

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## Jai's Story

There is something to this homeschooling lark you know - something quite special. Nothing in life is perfect, no one has everything they could ever desire, but there is a growing feeling of harmony in this household as the boys grow up and a certain wonderful sense of certainty.

The harmony comes from the fact that we live together, every day for all of the day, doing our own things, living our own lives, but together, often in the same room. There is an ease and a loveliness in that.

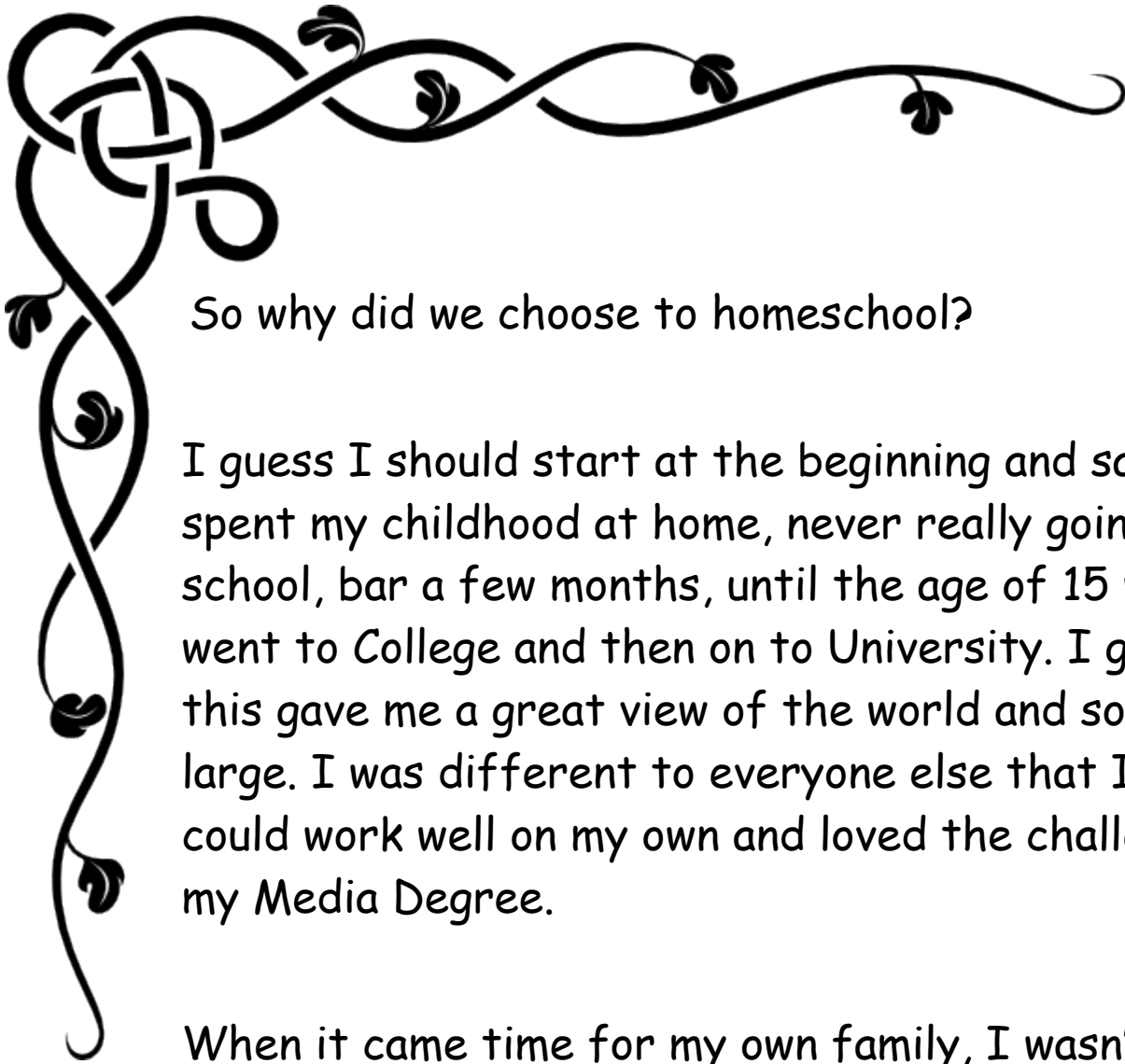
The certainty comes from the fact that life is under our control, as much as it can be, and by that I mean that we, as a family, choose who we spend time with and share our home with. We do not run on anyone else's timetable unless we want to, we are not praying that the bullies don't do anything today, or worrying about what exams and test results our children will get. We can take everything at our own pace, in our own time.

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So why did we choose to homeschool?

I guess I should start at the beginning and say that I spent my childhood at home, never really going to school, bar a few months, until the age of 15 when I went to College and then on to University. I guess this gave me a great view of the world and society at large. I was different to everyone else that I knew, could work well on my own and loved the challenge of my Media Degree.

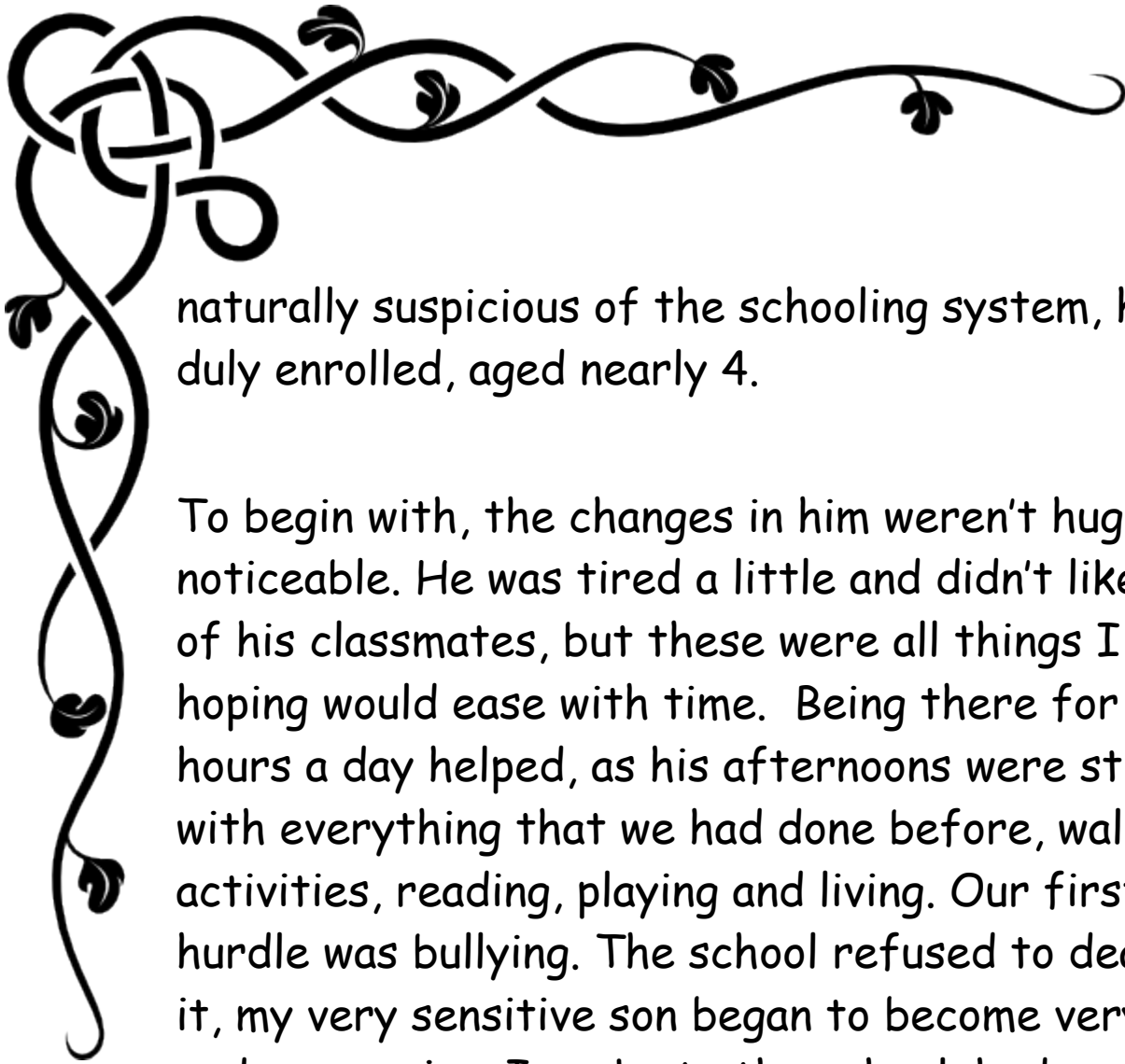
When it came time for my own family, I wasn't sure that I could do it. I had two boys, 20 months apart in age, post-natal depression and an ill husband (leukaemia now managed but not cured) and no idea how to do it. I knew that I didn't want my children to be institutionalized, I knew that I didn't ever want them to lose their individuality and their passion for life, but I didn't have the courage to move forward and commit to homeschooling. So when my eldest son asked to go to school, in some ways I felt it a blessing in disguise. Although very hesitant and

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naturally suspicious of the schooling system, he was duly enrolled, aged nearly 4.

To begin with, the changes in him weren't hugely noticeable. He was tired a little and didn't like many of his classmates, but these were all things I was hoping would ease with time. Being there for only 3 hours a day helped, as his afternoons were still filled with everything that we had done before, walks, activities, reading, playing and living. Our first real hurdle was bullying. The school refused to deal with it, my very sensitive son began to become very angry and aggressive. I spoke to the school, had meetings with the school, pleaded with them to handle the situation in my absence from his day, but to no avail. My son was adamant he did not want to leave, although he was always given this option.

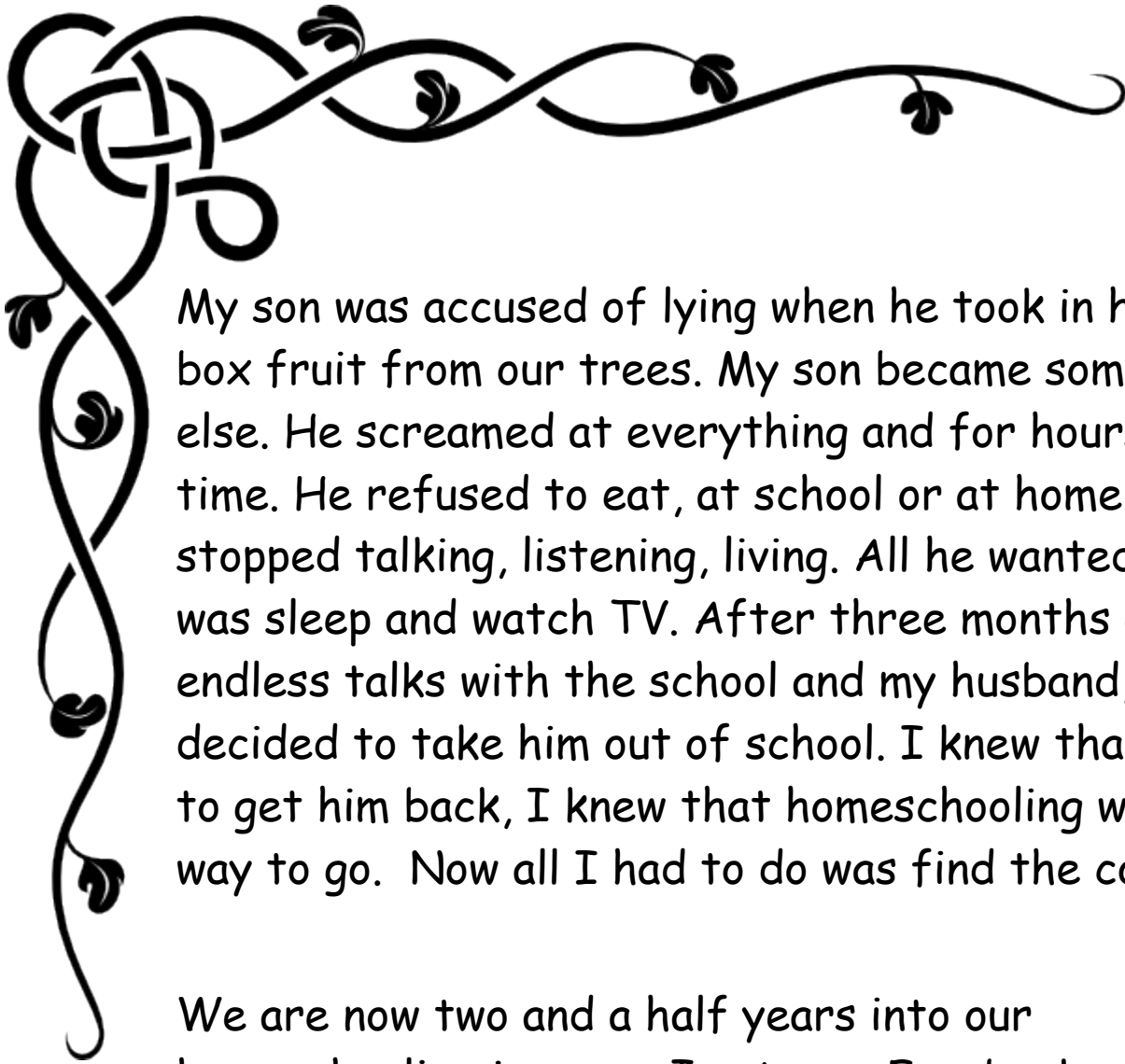
When he moved to his first year as a full time school student, aged nearly 5, the changes in him became very noticeable and catastrophic. The bullies were still there, despite my pleas that they be separated.

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My son was accused of lying when he took in his lunch box fruit from our trees. My son became someone else. He screamed at everything and for hours at a time. He refused to eat, at school or at home. He stopped talking, listening, living. All he wanted to do was sleep and watch TV. After three months and endless talks with the school and my husband, we decided to take him out of school. I knew that I had to get him back, I knew that homeschooling was the way to go. Now all I had to do was find the courage.

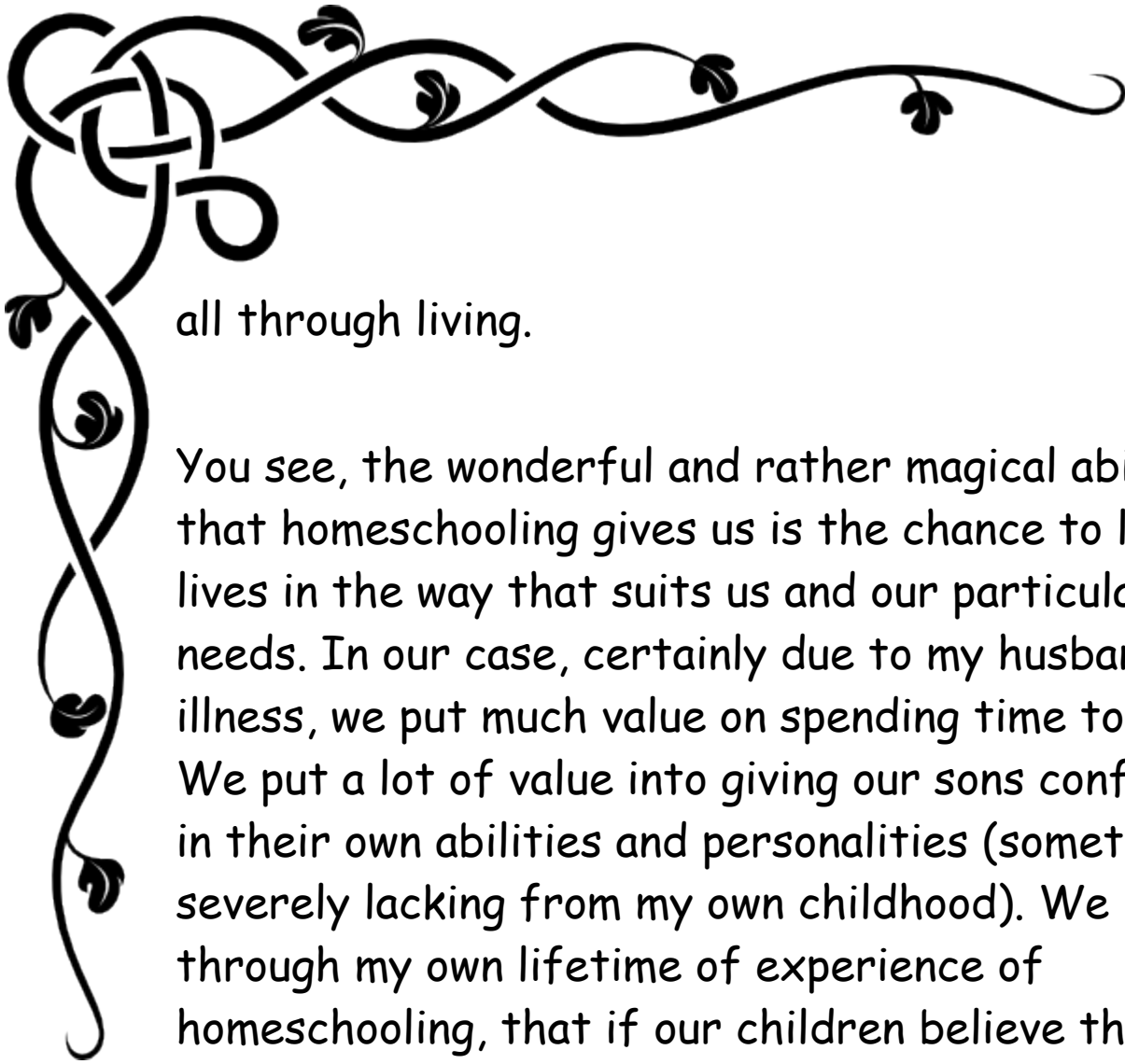
We are now two and a half years into our homeschooling journey. I set up a Facebook group called The Freedom Journey, in desperate hope for support. We found it! We have made some wonderful friends, my group is a thriving homeschooling and Alternative Parenting community, and I have my son back. For the first two years, he wanted to learn nothing. He wanted to play. We played, we still read to him, we hugged him (even when he told us he didn't want anyone), we gently helped him to stop hating himself and begin to live both himself and life again,

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all through living.

You see, the wonderful and rather magical ability that homeschooling gives us is the chance to live our lives in the way that suits us and our particular needs. In our case, certainly due to my husband's illness, we put much value on spending time together. We put a lot of value into giving our sons confidence in their own abilities and personalities (something severely lacking from my own childhood). We know, through my own lifetime of experience of homeschooling, that if our children believe they can fly and anything is possible, then they can achieve it.

It is hard work and there are days when I still feel lost and wonder why. I think this is the natural state of many parents who truly care about their children. But there are also days when I can see the growth in my sons, appreciate the fact that we can share our lives and passions. There are days when I am so happy that we all have so much time together, despite other circumstances, we are a strong team and family unit,

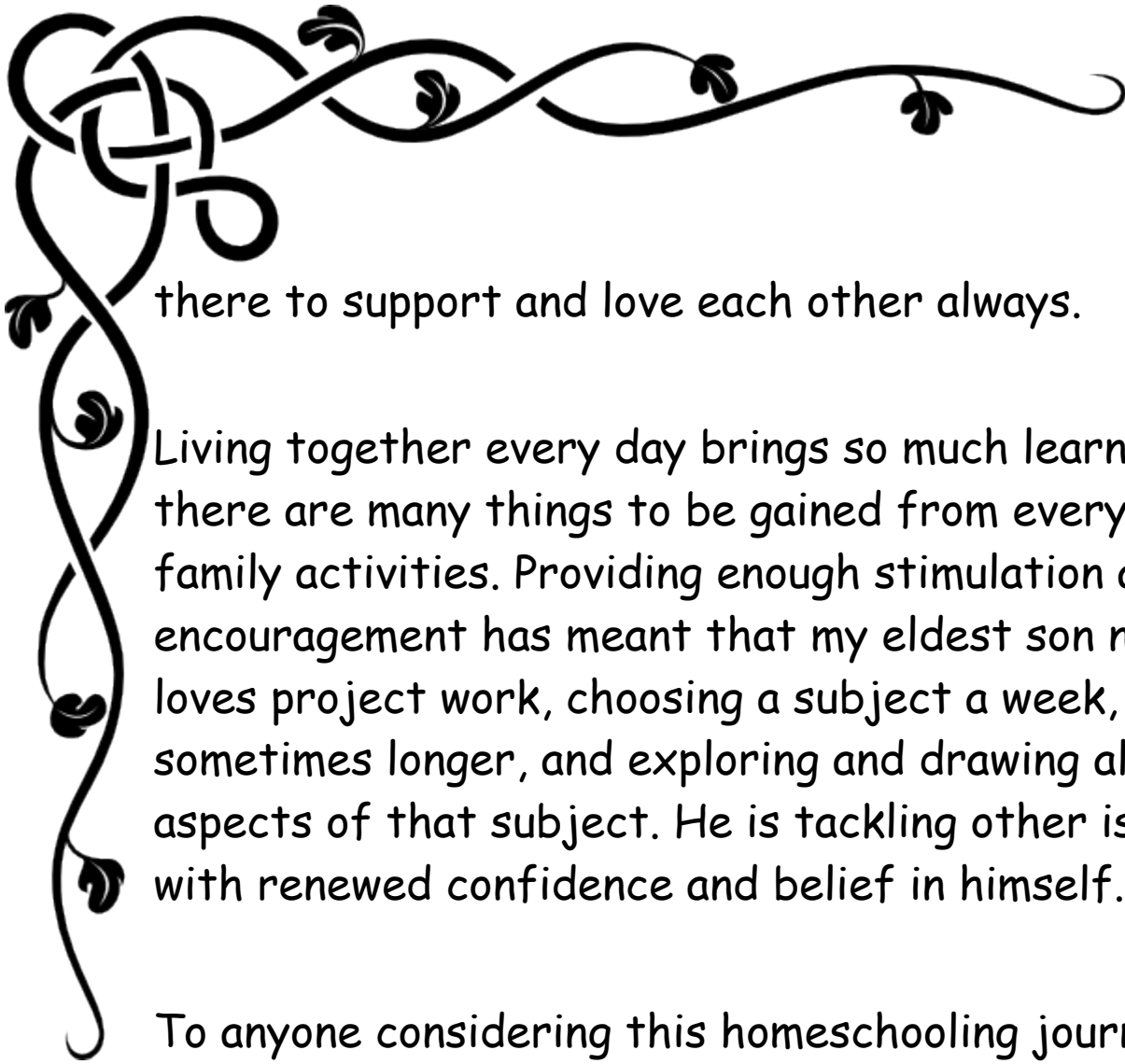
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there to support and love each other always.

Living together every day brings so much learning and there are many things to be gained from everyday family activities. Providing enough stimulation and encouragement has meant that my eldest son now loves project work, choosing a subject a week, sometimes longer, and exploring and drawing all aspects of that subject. He is tackling other issues with renewed confidence and belief in himself.

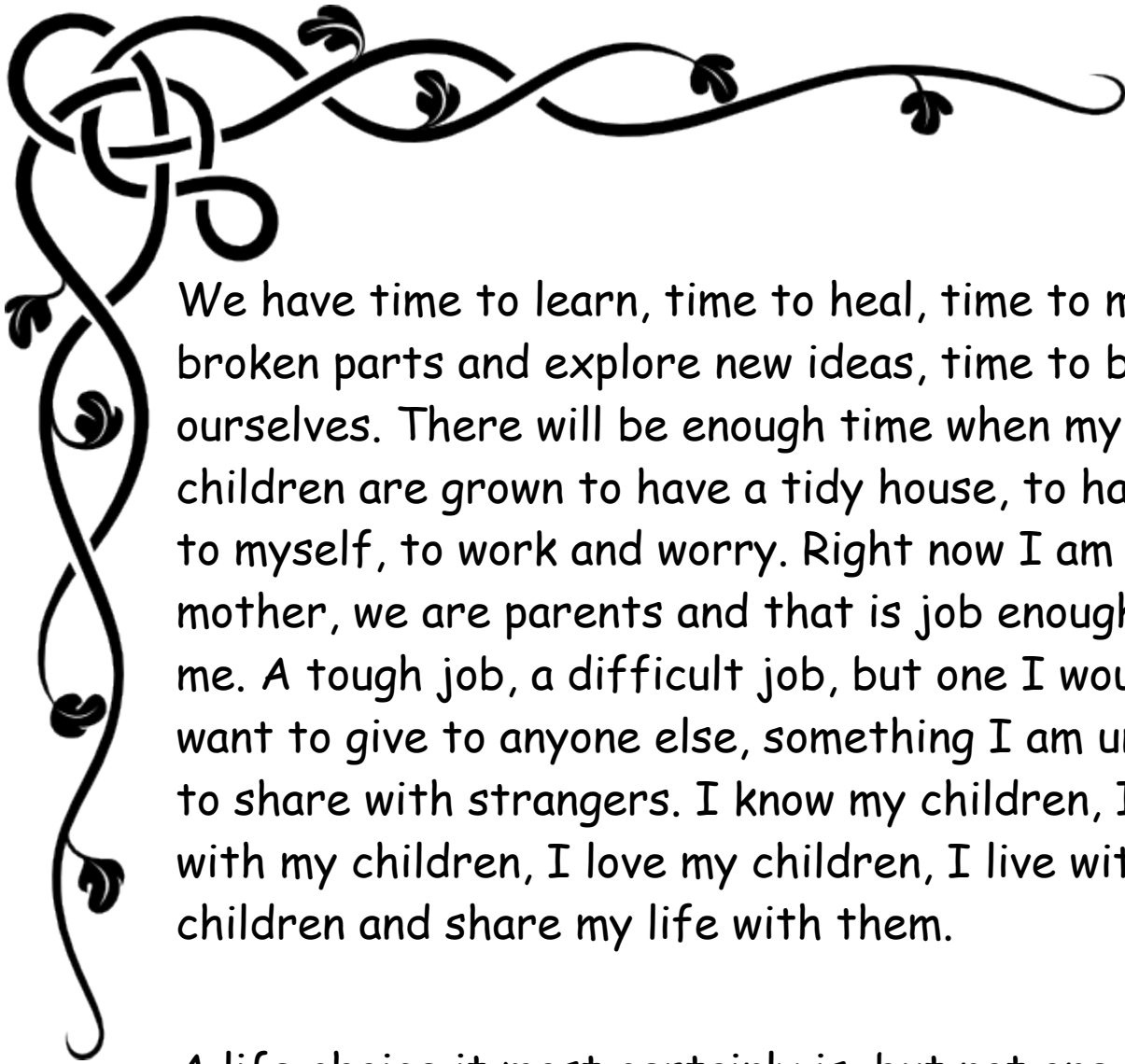
To anyone considering this homeschooling journey, I would say do it! It will challenge you, make you question yourself, doubt yourself, there are days when you will be scared. There will also be days when you achieve something you never thought you would, when you find yourself growing and learning beside your children, when you realize that your family has gained so much strength. There will be the day that you understand that children are always learning, always changing and always growing and that our job is to stimulate this and guide this fantastic process.

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We have time to learn, time to heal, time to mend our broken parts and explore new ideas, time to be ourselves. There will be enough time when my children are grown to have a tidy house, to have time to myself, to work and worry. Right now I am a mother, we are parents and that is job enough for me. A tough job, a difficult job, but one I would not want to give to anyone else, something I am unwilling to share with strangers. I know my children, I grow with my children, I love my children, I live with my children and share my life with them.

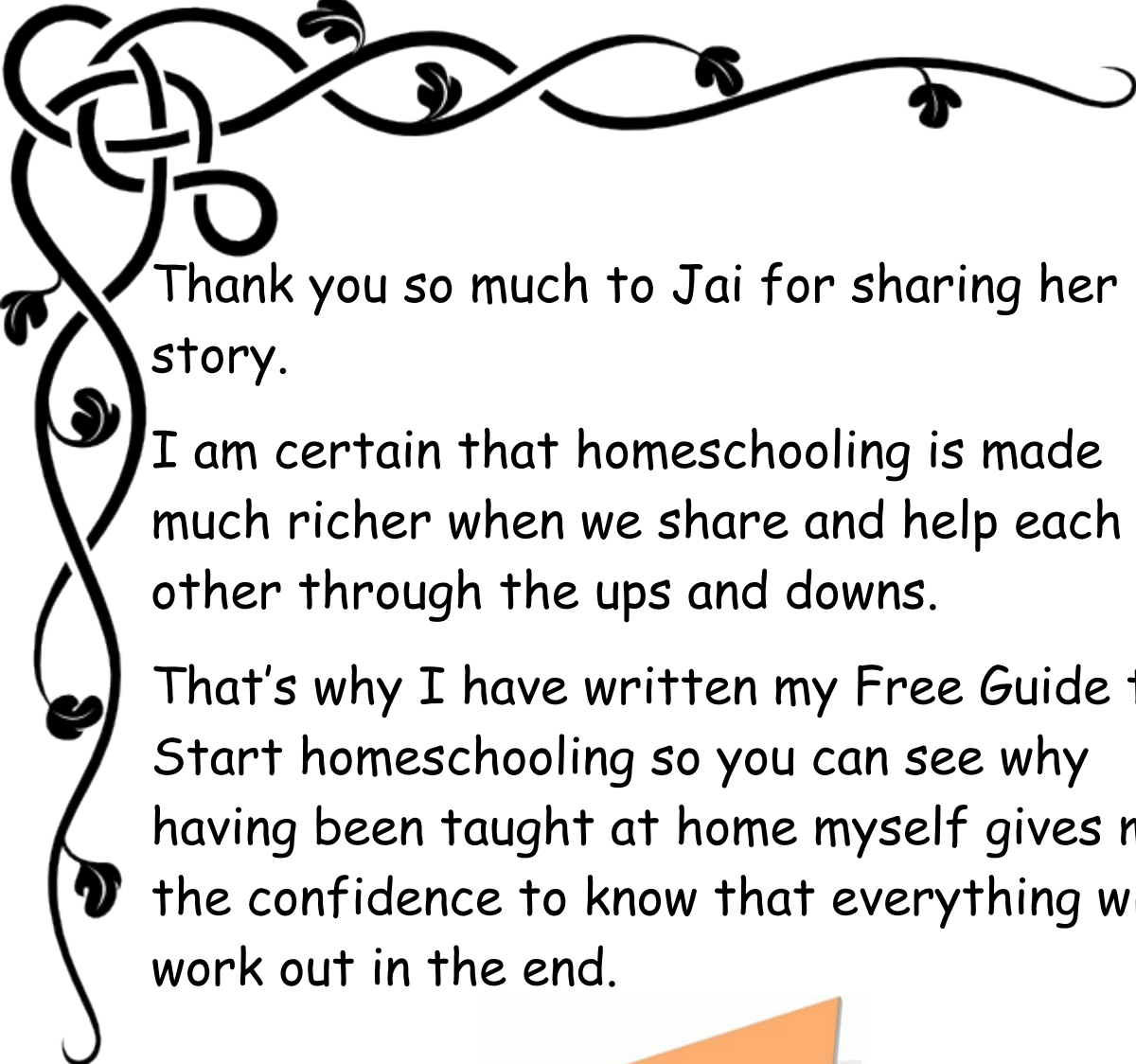
A life choice it most certainly is, but not one I will give up without a fight, a life choice I am grateful to have and one that I love.

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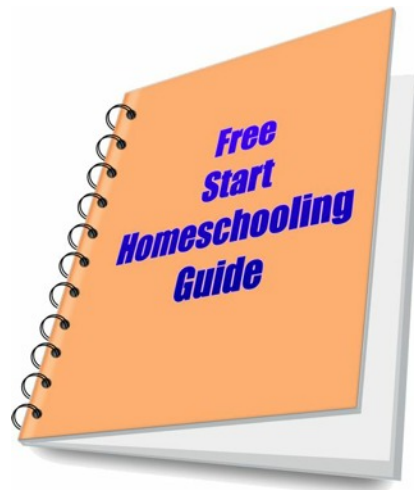
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Thank you so much to Jai for sharing her story.

I am certain that homeschooling is made much richer when we share and help each other through the ups and downs.

That's why I have written my *Free Guide to Start homeschooling* so you can see why having been taught at home myself gives me the confidence to know that everything will work out in the end.



Sign Up for your Free Guide here:

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Best wishes and good luck on your journey!

Sonya

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