Peg's Story: Detours, by Sheri McGuinn

Chapter 1: Detours

When I started high school in 1971, my plans for the future were not clear, but they included an exciting career that would take me all over the world, far from the boring small town of my parents. Instead, a series of detours became my life.

Telephones were all land lines and long distance calls were expensive. No one had a personal computer, the World Wide Web didn't exist, and it was still considered scandalous for TV to show a married couple sharing a bed – in pajamas, of course. Nice girls guarded their innocence; only bad girls were careless with theirs. Pregnant girls were forced to leave school in shame. Abortion was illegal. There was little coordination among police of different states and missing children couldn't be put into the FBI's database.

That Christmas I missed the first sign my world was about to be shattered. By June I would run away; by August I would be running again, from far worse, convinced I could never go home.

It was easy for me to disappear for ten years.