

# *Southern Fried Women*



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*Stories*

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*For Michael*



## *Acknowledgments*

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I originally wrote NO TIME FOR LAURA in 1985. Based, in part, on a true story, Laura was my best childhood friend. Sweet memories of her are now immortalized in words and a few old snapshots.

After a couple of rewrites, the story won an award at the Burlington Writers Club Awards in April 2004. The judge's comment on the manuscript stated, ". . . you have a way of touching the hearts of your readers." As a writer, I want to inform and enlighten a reader's mind — what I wish for even more is to jolt the reader's heart.

In this story, my desire to find the true meaning of friendship begged the question—how far will a person go for the love of a best friend? For the past twenty-five years, Tina has been my best friend. We've been through tough times — together and apart — but one thing remained constant — her love for me never lessened, no matter what I did. She loved me unconditionally. That's how it is with best friends. They never leave you.

As I edited this piece for *Southern Fried Women*, the character of Laura remained steadfast in her appearance and personality. She refused to let me change her. I gave in. Laura will always have a special place in my heart. This story is dedicated to her.

