

**If I Had All the Time in the World**  
**Laura Jameison**

She asked me to write starting with, "*if I had all the time in the world.*" If I had all the time in the world? Lately, I have been thinking who knows how much time, or how many healthy days I have, and I've been feeling a bit of urgency to get things done. I haven't thought about this other idea. Suddenly I realized if I had all the time in the world I would do the same things I am trying to do now. What irony.

*If I had all the time in the world,* I would take my daughter camping as much as possible. I have not been able to take her camping all these years. I took her for the first time this Spring Break. We heard hundreds of frogs and dozens of coyotes vocalizing as the sun went down. We listened to a countless number of birds singing as the sun came up. Sparkling, chilled dew was on everything and our simple breakfast tasted great. I may not have that much time so I will take my daughter camping as much as possible.

*If I had all the time in the world,* I would lavish my children and grandchildren with small gifts of favorite things, with unconditional love and with endless kisses. I may not have that much time and so I will gift them with these small expressions of love every moment that they let me.

*If I had all the time in the world,* I would stand in a warm grassy meadow or a forest glade with fingers of sunlight reaching through the branches and listen to bird song, clutching my field guide, finding each species, learning each melody and every harmony. I may not have that much time so I will stop and listen to bird song each day.

*If I had all the time in the world,* I would fearlessly enter into and help build community around me. I always said "friends make better family than blood relatives." I may not have that much time so I will nurture that chosen family, and attend every gathering.

*If I had all the time in the world* I would do all I could to be a support to those in community who are struggling with issues I once struggled with. One survives oppression all the better when one gives support to others who struggle against that same oppression. I may not have that much time, so I will do what I can to help these sisters and brothers.

*If I had all the time in the world* I would sit down and write every time inspired words came to mind. There would be no struggle to sort out each imagined project, and I would complete each project and fearlessly submit them for publishing. I may not have that much time, so I will write every chance I get and boldly submit the finished projects.

I may not have much time before the lack of mobility and the struggles to think clearly agonizingly slows time down. And so, I will do all I can to live every moment as *if I had all the time in world.*