

Elee Barber

Ms. Rivera

15 November 2011

Composition I

Hidden Heart

With cinnamon colored skin and wavy, brown hair, Amber Dixon presented herself as a very beautiful girl with a strong, independent nature. When I first met Amber, I honestly thought that she had an attitude. Amber had a very serious face, and her raised eyebrows yelled, "Watch out." I did not know quite what to think of her. By the way she pursed her lips, someone would think that she did not want to be associated with them, but I was to find out differently later. When I found out that Amber was my partner, I was intrigued. She seemed like an interesting person to have a conversation with, and I saw a deeper nature beneath her glaring eyes. Because of Amber's humble spirit, outspoken personality, and honest heart, she stands apart from her peers.

After our first conversation, I was entirely shocked that Amber possessed strong Christian beliefs. She told me of a time when she was eating at a Jack in the Box and observed a homeless man waiting outside. All Amber had was five dollars that her parents had given to her for expenses during the trip. With her mom's permission, Amber happily gifted this man with the five dollars, not fully realizing how much she had helped him. Once noticing her kind nature and gentle spirit, I realized that I was mistaken by my first impression. Also, I was stunned beyond belief when she told me about her family life. Amber's mom was a single parent, so life was not easy for them. Amber wanted her mom to be happy, and she could see that things were not going too well with her mom's personal life. One day Amber went to the laundry room in their house and prayed desperately that God would give a husband and a son to her mother. Two years later, Amber had a half brother and a stepfather. She said, "I do not know how people do not believe in God." If I were not already a Christian, she would have convinced

me with her words of wisdom.

Although Amber possesses a kind heart, she also exhibits a spunky personality. She has that, “I’ll dance in the rain,” kind of silly characteristic. Amber is the type of girl who considers herself a girly girl and a tomboy, at the equator of fashion and “forget-about-it.” She specifically told me that if she heard a favorite song of hers playing in a grocery store, or at Starbucks, she would randomly start dancing crazily. Not only is she extremely goofy, but she is a friend to all, rich or poor, weak or strong. While interviewing Amber on a frigid night a few weeks ago in the Student Union Building, we discussed our ideas about the purpose of our lives while dealing with trials and tribulations that restrict who we want to be. After talking awhile, we began to get continuously interrupted by several of her friends. I realized that she knew practically everyone on campus, and a part of me was envious. In that moment, I was amazed of her social skills because my friendliness seemed lacking in comparison to hers. Amber was just hugging them and asking them how they were and calling a majority of them by the nicknames she had given them. I suddenly realized that Amber is everything that I’ve been looking for in a friend here at ULM. She was not ashamed to shout their names across the room, and like a magnet they stopped, turned around, and rushed to Amber as if they had not seen her bright, brown eyes in years.

If anyone wants “the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,” consult Amber Marie Dixon. She is not scared of telling people if they are wrong, or standing up for her convictions. Amber is one of those brutally honest people that someone can always depend on to straighten them out when if they are found down a long winding road at night. While we were chatting in the SUB, I saw Amber’s honest heart first hand. A girl she knew happened to be using the ATM behind the table where we were sitting. After the girl gathered her money and left, the machine begin to make an obnoxiously loud buzzing noise. After noticing it, Amber went over to the machine, and then raced after the girl. At the time, I did not know where she was going or what had happened. When she came back to the table, I

was perplexed, so I asked her, “Amber, where did you go?” She told me, “Oh, Jazymn left her card in the ATM, so I gave it back to her.” So much love flooded my soul as Amber told me this. She convinced me that night that empathetic people still existed, and that if I ever lost anything, she would seek me until the item was returned. Amber's eyes are saturated with love and experience that dwell within the depths of her soul. If truth is not in her, it surely does not live within me.

When Amber was a little girl, her grandmother planted a tree in her name and a tree in her cousin's name. As days became years, Amber began to notice that her tree was flourishing and thriving, becoming more beautiful with each passing day. On the other hand, she noticed that her cousin's tree was withering away and dying. Her cousin had recently been incarcerated and was not acting the way he should. Amber took this as a message from her grandmother telling her never to lose faith, and that the good she has done will be rewarded in the end. Amber is a humble, headstrong woman who is often underestimated. After conducting this interview, I realized how easy it is to misjudge a person. From Amber's confidence in herself, she taught me that when I look in the mirror, I need to see a beautiful woman that will never back down from a fight.