

CHAPTER 2: MY CHILDHOOD

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

Kindergarten

When I started kindergarten we had just moved to a new house in the country which meant we had to take a bus to school. School buses are quite traumatizing for shy children. My first day of school was later than the rest of the class because we had moved in the early fall after school already started. I remember it well because I was embarrassed to be singled out to the whole class. My mother took me in and introduced me to my teacher. "This is Ricky LaFountain." That was my name, Ricky, as in Ricky Ricardo from the *I Love Lucy* show. When my mother finally slipped out of the room the teacher introduced me to the whole class as Dickie LaFountain. The name stuck and I was ever after Dick or Dickie, except when my mother was angry, then I was Richard William LaFountain.

