

Chef Thomas Keller

with Elizabeth

chapter five

Everyone, Both Big and Small, has Dreams

Chef Keller is a world-renown chef and celebrities such as Gwen Stefani appreciate his cooking. Thomas Keller is a celebrity chef that even the French would sharpen their own knives for. When first approaching him about being in my book, he was very humble. Thomas was ready to prepare one of my recipes. However, when I asked if he would please consider sharing one of my favorite recipes from his book *Bouchon*, he, gracious as always, agreed to prepare his Herbed Gnocchi with Summer Vegetables – Gnocchi à la Niçoise. Thomas had a beautiful and talented niece named Elizabeth LeRoux. She was a young teenager who was very bright, creative, and witty. I could not get over how much they resembled each other. I also realized that Thomas and I actually had some similarities. We both grew up with families in the restaurant business and began cooking at a very young age. The additional blessing that I had growing up was that my mother would make sure that I had opportunities to go out to restaurants to experience different types of foods and learn about their cultures. This has helped me today in my own cooking and has helped me create new foods to enjoy and teach my own daughters. Thomas's restaurants are exceptional. When going to his restaurant, *The French Laundry*, I tried one of his signature dishes which he provides for all of his guests to try. It was Salmon Tartare Cornets which were like miniature ice cream cones. This was both outstanding

