

{sounds of birds chirping}

A bottle of Mrs. Meyers Clean Day Basil scent next to a blue painted aluminum beverage can with flowers in the open pull tab. Needle point embroidery of Thelma A. Meyer with the words “our inspiration, Thelma A. Meyer on perfection” stitched around her image.

THELMA: Perfection is boring.

Pink frosted sugar cookies on a cooling rack spell out the words “perfect is boring.” A hand knocks over a glass of milk which spills over the cookies and rack, then she picks up the letter ‘e’ cookie.

THELMA: Sometimes when you sew up something it doesn’t look like you wanted it to. Turn around and try it again.

Two people wearing red knit sweaters, one with the word “try” and the other “again.” The sweater with the word “try,” the letter ‘Y’ in “try” is not lined up with the ‘T’ and ‘R,’ and one sleeve is much too short while the other covers the person’s hand. The girl wearing the “again” sweater pulls on the very short body of the sweater to stretch it longer. The two people pose together. {a camera clicks}

THELMA: Every day I do embroidery. And maybe three times a week I play bridge. I’ve been playing for 60 years and I’m still learning something.

Cards are placed on a table and a box with decks of cards is opened. The inside lid of the box reads, “still learning.”

THELMA: I don’t look at my neighbors to see what they’re doing. I just do my own thing.

A plain white mailbox with the number 137, then the same white mailbox with the number 139, but with a wood block cutout of a bulldog’s head on the mailbox flap, two wooden legs underneath it, and a tail and legs on the back. {sound of a dog barking}

THELMA: I try to keep it as best I can.

A square slotted shelf has 6 of the 15 shelves filled with knickknacks - spools of thread, empty glass bottles, an Iowa license plate, a slice from a tree trunk, people cast in metal. The focus is on a trophy with the words “best I can.”

THELMA: But not perfect because it can drive you crazy. You know, being a perfectionist.

A purple frosted circular cake with the word “perfectionist” being written in icing. The word does not fit all the way across the cake, so the letters “N I S T” are turned at a right angle to the rest of the word. {sounds of a timer ticking, then it dings}

THELMA: I remember this story. The house was kind of disarray and I said, “Help me clean this house.”

A brown and white bulldog walks across a table full of blue paper triangles, yellow paper letters, colored pencils, string, and glitter. The dog knocks over the full bottle of gold glitter.

THELMA: And my one son said, “Mom, this looks lived in. We have to have our houses lived in.”

A man approaches a gold framed painting of a large waterfall on the wall with the words “lived in” printed across it. He takes it down, and a rectangular spot behind the picture shows a bright patch of wallpaper that stands out next to the faded wallpaper.

THELMA: I love to cook when I got somebody to eat it.

A plate of rolls is placed on the table, several hands grab the rolls leaving the words, “love to cook” on the nearly empty plate.

THELMA: I like putting things together, making them.

A wind chime made from a small metal teapot and table utensils is hanging from a tree, the utensils jangle in the wind.

THELMA: I like planting and then watching it grow.

Two miniature figurines sit on a tiny park bench in the dirt next to a plant stalk. The handle of a yellow painted spoon with the word “lettuce” is inserted into the ground next to the bench. Other painted spoons show “Basil” and “Chives.” Clippers snip the chives.

THELMA: I cook everything from scratch, so I love that stuff that comes from a garden.

Chives are placed on deviled eggs. A record player is turned on and the needle is placed on a vinyl record that has the words “from scratch” written on it.

THELMA: Oh yeah, everything doesn’t turn out like you think it’s going to.

Hands shape clay on a pottery wheel into a tall vase. Water is poured into a finished, but lopsided vase full of herbs.

THELMA: {she laughs} You gotta keep trying.

Other evenly shaped clay pots filled with plants stand next to the lopsided vase.

THELMA: Keep improving.

Hung across the knickknack shelf, now completely full of awards, medals, and trophies, is a homemade blue and yellow glitter pennant banner with the letters spelling out the word “improving.” {sound from a party horn} Pink and white paper confetti flies around.

THELMA: Keep at it, and don’t give up the ship.

Hands place a cork on a ship in a bottle. It is sitting on a pedestal with the words, “just keep making.”

THELMA: Just keep making.

A large white cloth with words written on it in blue dye hanging from clothes pins on a clothes line. The words (with a few smudged letters) read, “Share your perfectly imperfect creations at #MakeAndTell.”

THELMA: {she laughs}

A woman in a jean jacket walks up to the clothes line. Stitched on the back of her jacket are outlines of flowers, a person pouring water from a watering can onto a flower, and the words, “Mrs Meyer’s ® clean day | Just keep making.” {sounds of a sprinkler, birds chirping, and a dog barking}