

CHAPTER
2

THE 100 GOLD RINGS OF TUYET NGUYET

Don't Wing It

*It usually takes me more than three weeks
to prepare a good impromptu speech.*

—MARK TWAIN

*It's better to look ahead and prepare,
than to look back and regret.*

—JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE

Boy, I took *a lot* of electives in college. I enjoyed learning about many topics. Too bad there was never a class offered called Life Preparation 101. That would have been an ideal course for me, because, by the end of my fifth and final year of college, I was barely more prepared for life beyond university than when I graduated high school. While many fellow students took targeted prerequisites for business degrees or graduate programs, I enrolled in classes like classical music history, comparative literature of the Renaissance, and philosophy. In the summers, my friends worked internships at companies that hired them later. I mowed grass and played in a local rock band. While other kids attended job fairs and went on job interviews, I wrote poetry and delivered pies for Pizza Hut.

One late spring day, only weeks before my graduation, the question of what I might do after college finally wormed its way inside my skull. Since I

(Opposite Page)
Shown here are four rings
in our treasure from Tuyet
Nguyet's collection.
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