

On the weekly news,

I heard that a man had walked into a convenience store with a three-month old baby and tried to trade that precious infant for a six-pack of beer.

This man has a baby, and I don't? I will ask God questions like this one someday.

“Every day there's a horrible story in the news involving innocent children.”

How can I wrap my mind around situations like this?

One day I was standing with a group of coworkers. We were talking about the upcoming weekend and what each of us had planned. Two of the women were mothers, and they told me how excited they were to “get rid” of their children for a sleep-over. When I told them how much I long to have a child to be able to spend time with on the weekends, they laughed and rolled their eyes and said, “You just wait!” Well, what they don't know is I have been waiting...and waiting and waiting for years to become a mother.

These types of verbal punches hit me daily. They are harsh, and they knock the wind out of my lungs and double me over with emotional pain. There are always constant reminders that undeserving people have children and I don't.

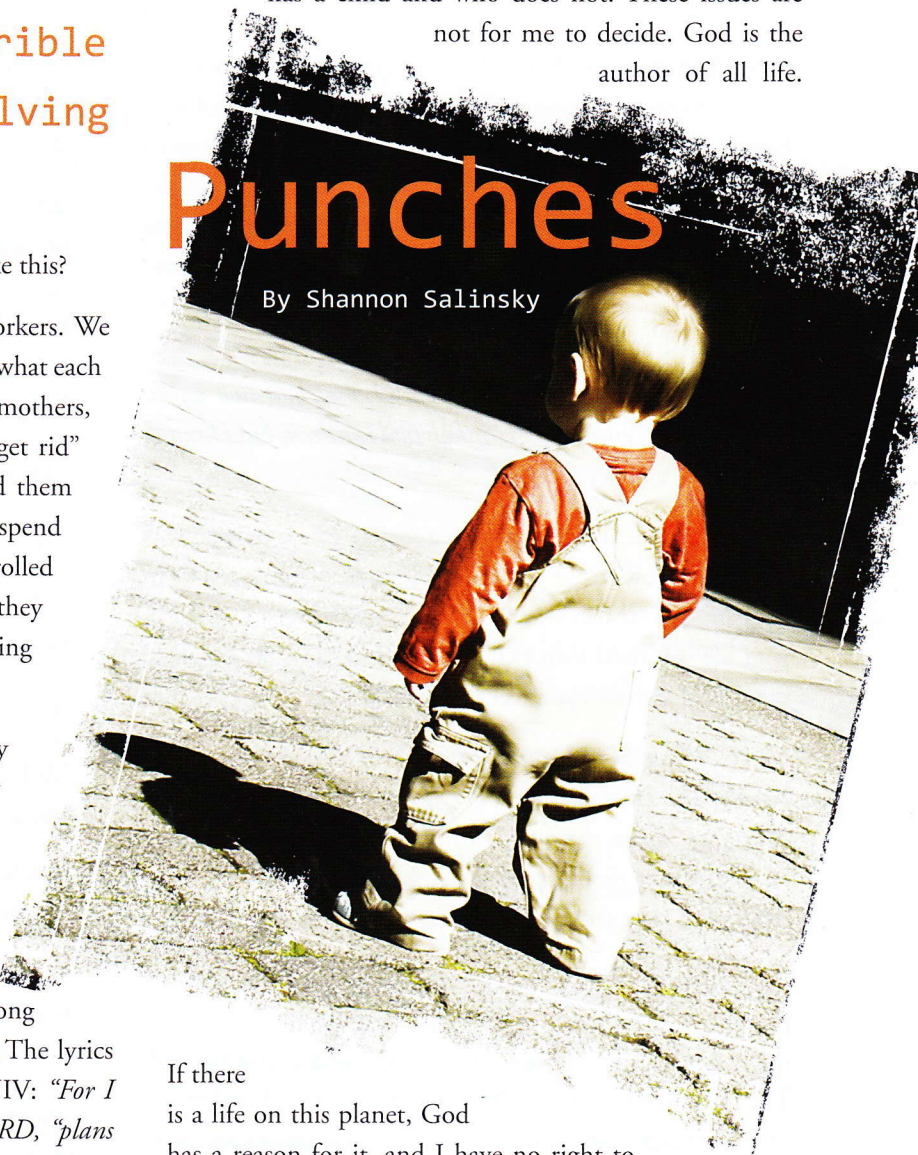
On the drive home that evening, I heard a song on Christian radio that I'd never heard before. The lyrics were based on the scripture Jeremiah 29:11 NIV: “*For I know the plans I have for you,*” declares the LORD, “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*”

The punches are always followed by hope and subtle reminders from God that He has not forgotten me. He is the God of the universe, and I am only one tiny microscopic fiber on His planet. He has not forgotten how badly I desire to be a mother. He is not punishing me or trying to bring me pain.

He knows the master plan, and I can only see my tiny piece of it. He reminds me that I have no right to question who has a child and who does not. These issues are not for me to decide. God is the author of all life.

## Punches

By Shannon Salinsky



If there is a life on this planet, God has a reason for it, and I have no right to question it.

I will take this knowledge with me as I brace myself for the impact of the next punch. It will come in the form of a Facebook posting and someone reporting the happy news of a new pregnancy or the news story of a woman who sold her child for drugs. Yes, I am braced for the next punch, but following it will be God's sweet grace.