

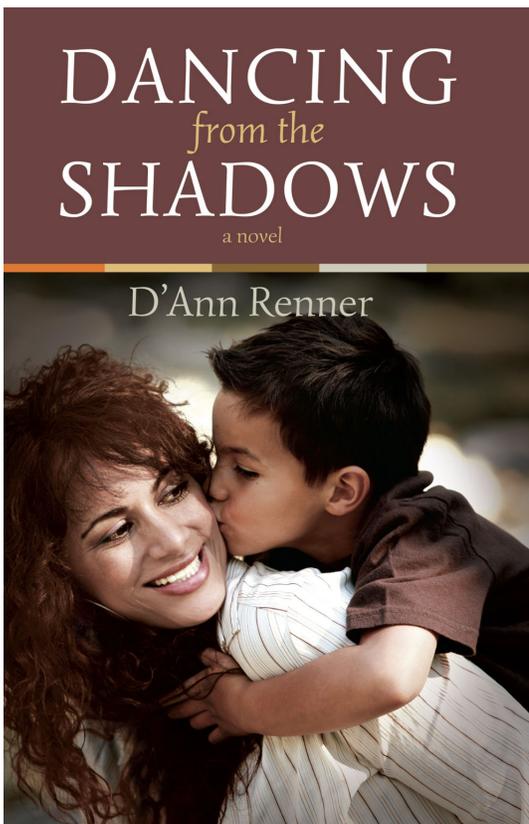


news release

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LIFE IN THE SPECIAL NEEDS WORLD THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF NEW NOVEL AUTHOR DRAWS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH AUTISTIC SON



RELEASE DATE: October 2012
TRADE Paperback
PAGES: 352
PRICE: \$14.99
ISBN: 9781620201619

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the world, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, impacting 1 in 88 children. Author D'Ann Renner intimately knows the struggles associated with this disorder. Renner pulls from her own personal experiences as well as those of others to write about the love, fear, stress and joy that accompanies life with a special needs child in her new novel *Dancing From the Shadows* (Ambassador International; October 2012; \$14.99, paperback). Early reviews from professionals and parents praise the book as accurate, painful, funny and encouraging.

Renner left a successful career in marketing to follow God's call to adopt a sibling pair of third-world orphans. A year later her son Luke was diagnosed with autism. "For a long time I was angry at God for putting this burden on me and my family," explains Renner. "But eventually I discovered that from adversity comes remarkable growth. That, plus acceptance of special needs as a gift are themes I carried through *Dancing From the Shadows*."

Dancing From the Shadows follows successful businesswoman Tori St. John who adopts two children from a third-world orphanage. When Tori's son Gabe is diagnosed with autism, she becomes obsessed with finding a cure, a fixation that threatens to unravel her family. Tori must learn how to balance a life she can't control and embrace a different concept of normal.

Renner lives in John's Creek, Georgia, with her husband Bruce, and teenagers Sophia and Luke. When not busy as a Home Front Manager, Renner delivers humor-dipped truth to groups across the country as a public speaker. She also facilitates her church's Guatemala Child Sponsorship Program. For more information visit the author's website at dannrenner.com. To connect with the author please contact Ambassador International publicist Alison Storm via email at media@emeraldhouse.com.

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ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out [Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl](https://www.facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl).

Suggested Interview Questions for the author:

1. What led you to write *Dancing From the Shadows*?
2. How much of this book is based on your own life?
3. What was it like when your son was diagnosed with autism?
4. When did you realize your obsession to help your son had become toxic to your family?
5. At what point were you able to rebuild your relationship with God?
6. Is this book just for those with experience in the special needs world?
7. Do you plan to write any more novels?

Endorsements

“D’Ann Renner has given us a glimpse into the struggles of a family coping with raising an autistic child. Having worked with many families with such struggles, the story awakens not only the stark realities of the emotional rollercoaster that families go through but also a true sense of the hope that comes with understanding, patience, and love.”

—Dr. David S. Cantor, Ph.D.

President, Psychological Sciences Institute, PC
www.psycscienceinst.com

President, Innovative Health Foundation, Inc.
www.innovativehealthfoundation.org

“I love It! *Dancing From the Shadows* is a compelling glimpse into the real world of parents who are raising children with special needs—the love, the fear, the struggles, the joy. Inspirational and delightful, a good read.”

—Lucy Cusick

Co-founder & Executive Director
FOCUS, Families of Children Under Stress
www.Focus-ga.org

“I intended to read just a chapter or two of D’Ann Renner’s novel but the story sucked me in, compelling me to read long past the time I should have put it down. Renner portrays the heartaches and triumphs of raising a special needs child with humor and amazing accuracy. I found myself laughing and crying along with the St. John family as they dealt with the extreme stress experienced by families with disabilities. I would recommend *Dancing From The Shadows*, not just to the autism world, but to anyone interested in turning denial into dancing, adversity into adventure.”

—Jacline Moore,

Georgia TACA (Talk about Curing Autism) Coordinator
www.tacanow.org

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D'ANN RENNER *Author of "Dancing From the Shadows"*



D'Ann had been selected to enter her company's fast-track program when she and her husband felt God's call to adopt a sibling pair of older, third-world children. Her "Home Front Management" career became more challenging when her son was diagnosed with autism. She is active in the special needs world and speaks to local women's and special needs' groups. Her first novel, *Dancing from the Shadows*, is a fictionalized composite of situations encountered by real families. D'Ann and Bruce, her husband of 28 years, live in Johns Creek, Georgia with two teenagers, a dog and two cats. When not engrossed in writing and Home Front Management, Management, D'Ann advocates for special needs and directs a child sponsorship program for her church.

Connect with D'Ann Renner



<http://dannrenner.com/>



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