
Riding The Bus With My Sister

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Riding the Bus with My Sister

A True Life Journey *HMH*

A "heartwarming, life-affirming" memoir of a relationship with an intellectually disabled sibling: "Read this book. It might just change your life" (Boston Herald). Beth is a spirited woman with an intellectual disability who lives intensely and often joyfully, and spends most of her days riding the buses in Pennsylvania. The drivers, a lively group, are her mentors; her fellow passengers, her community—though some display less patience or kindness than others. Her sister, Rachel, a teacher and writer, camouflages her emotional isolation by leading a hyperbusy life. But one day, Beth asks Rachel to accompany her on public transportation for an entire year—and Rachel accepts. This wise, funny, deeply affecting book is the chronicle of that remarkable time, as Rachel learns how to live in the moment, how to pay attention to what really matters, how to change, how to love—and how to slow down and enjoy the ride. Weaving in anecdotes and memories of terrifying maternal abandonment, fierce sisterly loyalty, and astonishing forgiveness, Rachel Simon brings to light a world that is almost

invisible to many people, finds unlikely heroes in everyday life, and, without sentimentality, wrestles with her own limitations and portrays Beth as the endearing, feisty, independent person she is. "With tenderness and fury, heartbreak and acceptance . . . Simon comes to the inescapable conclusion that we are all riders on the bus, and on the bus we are all the same." —Jacquelyn Mitchard, author of *The Deep End of the Ocean*

Riding the Bus with My Sister

A True Life Journey *Grand Central Publishing*

In the ten years since Rachel Simon first invited the world to board the bus with her and her sister, Cool Beth, readers across the globe have been moved by their story. Now, in an updated edition with fifty pages of new content, Rachel Simon reflects on changes in her life, Beth's life, and the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The highlight is Beth's update, which is in her own words. A new Reader's Guide is also included. Join these two unforgettable sisters on their journey, this time in an even deeper and richer way. Rachel Simon's sister Beth is a spirited woman who lives intensely and often joyfully. Beth, who has an intellectual disability, spends her days riding the buses in her unnamed Pennsylvania city. The drivers, a lively group, are her mentors; her fellow passengers are her community. One day, Beth asks Rachel to accompany her on the buses for an entire year. This wise, funny, deeply affecting true story is the chronicle of that remarkable time. Rachel, a writer and college teacher whose hyperbusy life camouflaged her emotional isolation, had much to learn in

her sister's extraordinary world. Full of life lessons from which any reader will profit, *Riding the Bus with My Sister* is "a heartwarming, life-affirming journey through both the present and the past...[that] might just change your life" (Boston Herald). Elegantly woven throughout the odyssey are riveting memories of terrifying maternal abandonment, fierce sisterly loyalty, and astonishing forgiveness. Rachel Simon brings to light the almost invisible world of adults with developmental disabilities, finds unlikely heroes in everyday life, and, without sentimentality, portrays Beth as the endearing, feisty, independent person she is. This heartwarming memoir about the unbreakable bond between two very different sisters takes the reader on an inspirational journey at once unique and universal. *Riding the Bus with My Sister* was made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie starring Rosie O'Donnell and Andie McDowell, and directed by Anjelica Huston.

The Story of Beautiful Girl *Grand Central Publishing*

"The most compelling, resonating novel I've read in years... A breathtakingly beautiful, yet heart-wrenchingly aching story that, despite its cruelty and humanity, uplifts the reader." - Omaha World-Herald
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER It is 1968. Linnie, a young white woman with a developmental disability, and Homan, an African American deaf man, are locked away in an institution, the School for the Incurable and Feeble-minded, and have been left to languish, forgotten. Deeply in love, they escape, and find refuge in the farmhouse of Martha, a retired schoolteacher and widow. But the couple is not alone—Linnie has just given birth

to a baby girl. When the authorities catch up to them that same night, Homan escapes into the darkness, and Linnie is caught. But before she is forced back into the institution, she whispers two words to Martha: "Hide her." And so begins the 40-year epic journey of Linnie, Homan, Martha, and baby Julia—lives divided by seemingly insurmountable obstacles, yet drawn together by a secret pact and extraordinary love.

Little Nightmares, Little Dreams

Short Stories *Open Road Media*

Rachel Simon's debut, originally published in 1990, is a collection of stories about the struggle for love and intimacy, told from the point of view of adolescent girls, young mothers, and elderly women. Some are rooted in reality, others in magical realism, with tones ranging from serious to comic, sunny to dark. Throughout, Simon employs such a wide range of voices—sweet, shrewd, wistful, irascible, vulnerable, sensual—the Philadelphia Inquirer hailed her as "a literary ventriloquist." Among the highlights are "Little Nightmares, Little Dreams," in which an elderly couple enters the unknown by trying to dream the same dream; "Paint," in which a runaway-turned-artist's-model provokes protests after her naked body becomes the canvas; "Afterglow," in which a plucky thirteen-year-old playing hooky is held hostage by an escaped convict; "Grandma Death," in which an overbearing grandmother can't seem to go anywhere without someone dropping dead; and "Better Than A Box of Dreams," in which a maid irritated by her boss's dream therapy sessions dreams her own fondest wish back to

life. *Little Nightmares, Little Dreams* was presented on NPR's Selected Shorts and the Lifetime program *The Hidden Room*. "Paint" and "The Speed of Love" were adapted by the Arden Theatre Company, and "Better Than A Box of Dreams" for InterAct Theatre, both in Philadelphia. This 2014 ebook rerelease includes four previously uncollected stories. It also includes a new introduction that tells the story of the book's astonishing path to publication, reveals the inspiration behind several stories, and offers wisdom from a seasoned writing friend that writers everywhere will treasure.

The House on Teacher's Lane

A Memoir of Home, Healing, and Love's Hardest Questions *Penguin*

The bestselling author of *Riding the Bus with My Sister* shares an illuminating and beautifully woven memoir about the unexpected ways a home renovation can repair a heart. When Rachel Simon and her architect husband begin to renovate their house on Teacher's Lane, she braces herself for the ups and downs that often accompany such projects. But to her surprise, as the old walls fall and new paint appears, she is propelled into a transformative journey as she confronts forgotten memories and repairs fractured bonds with those closest to her. This compassionate and humorous book shimmers with insights into the healing power of forgiveness, the struggle to find meaning and purpose, the compatibility of imperfection and happiness, and the ways that lost relationships—with friends, parents, siblings, spouse, and even self—can be rekindled. Fans of *Riding the Bus with My Sister* and new readers alike will be drawn to Simon's masterful storytelling and profoundly

life-affirming tale. Her story will resonate with anyone who's ever experienced the most universal human emotion—love, in its many forms—and wrestled with its hardest questions.

The 57 Bus

A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR)

One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both of their lives forever. If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. *The 57 Bus* is Dashka Slater's true account of the case that garnered international attention and thrust both teenagers into the spotlight.

The Energy Bus

10 Rules to Fuel Your Life, Work, and Team with Positive Energy *John Wiley & Sons*

Wiley & Sons

Enjoy the ride of your life with the Wall Street Journal bestseller *None of us can expect to get through life without any challenges*. Life isn't always a constant daydream of unbridled pleasure and happiness. But that doesn't mean you

can't approach everything with some zing - a big dose of positive energy is what you need to feel great, be successful and love life! And the international bestselling *The Energy Bus* can help you live your life in a positive, forward-thinking way. Learn the 10 secrets that will help you overcome adversity and harness the power of positive, infectious energy, so that you can create your own success. International bestselling author Jon Gordon draws on his experience of working with thousands of leaders and teams to provide insights, actionable strategies and positive energy. *The Energy Bus*: Shows you how to ditch negativity and infuse your life with positive energy Provides tools to build a positive team and culture Contains insights from working with some of the world's largest companies Foreword by Ken Blanchard, co-author of *The One Minute Manager*

Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus *Random House Books for Young Readers*

In her own words, a young girl describes her feelings about starting kindergarten and what she does when she decides not to ride the bus home.

Bus ride to hell *Wally Miller*

Riding the Bus with My Sister

A True Life Journey

Rachel Simon, a career-driven woman, is living a hyper-busy life when, out of the blue, her sister Beth asks her to ride buses with her for a year. Rachel is reluctant at first. Not only is she busy, but her relationship with Beth has never been easy. Beth has mental retardation and, although she can look after herself,

she can still be a handful. She ends up agreeing to Beth's request...and the journey begins. *Riding the Bus with My Sister* is a beautifully written chronicle of the life-changing year Rachel spent riding the buses with Beth. In Beth's world she finds unlikely heroes in the bus drivers and learns to live in the moment. Most importantly, she starts to heal the wounds of the past and reach a new, sisterly understanding with Beth. This is a heart-warming story that tells of an inspirational journey, at once unique and universal.

The Short Bus

A Journey Beyond Normal *Macmillan*

Once labeled profoundly learning disabled, an honors graduate from Brown University describes his cross-country odyssey to meet other individuals who had found unique and magical ways to overcome the obstacles that separated them from the "normal" world, in an irreverent, profound, and poignant account. Reprint.

Riding to School in My Little Yellow School Bus *Capstone*

Presents a traditional song in which children travel in such vehicles as a school bus, train, and airplane.

On the Bus with Rosa Parks: Poems *W. W. Norton & Company*

A dazzling new collection by the former Poet Laureate of the United States. In these brilliant poems, Rita Dove treats us to a panoply of human endeavor, shot through with the electrifying jazz of her lyric elegance. From the opening sequence, "Cameos", to the civil rights struggle of the final sequence, she explores the intersection of individual fate and history.

Riding the Bus with My Sister

A True Life Journey

Beth, a spirited woman with an intellectual disability, rides buses in her Pennsylvania city for the chance to be with people. When she asks her career-minded sister Rachel to ride with her, Rachel re-examines her own life, their upbringing and their relationship.

No. 91/92

A Diary of a Year on the Bus *MIT Press*

A love letter to Paris and a meditation on how it has changed in two decades, evolving from the twentieth century into the twenty-first, from analog to digital. Your telephone is precious. It may be envied. We recommend vigilance when using it in public. --Paris bus public notice In fall 2014 Lauren Elkin began keeping a diary of her bus commutes in the Notes app on her iPhone 5c, writing down the interesting things and people she saw in a Perecquian homage to Bus Lines 91 and 92, which she took from her apartment in the 5th Arrondissement to her teaching job in the 7th. Reading the notice, she decided to be vigilant when using her phone: she would carry out a public transport vigil, using it to take in the world around her and notice all the things she would miss if she continued using it the way she had been, the way everyone does--to surf the web, check social media, maintain her daily sense of self through digital interaction. Her goal became to observe the world through the screen of her phone, rather than using her phone to distract from the world. During the course of that academic year, the Charlie Hebdo attacks occurred and Elkin had an ectopic pregnancy, requiring emergency

surgery. At that point, her diary of dailiness became a study of the counterpoint between the everyday and the Event, mediated through early twenty-first century technology, and observed from the height of a bus seat. No. 91/92 is a love letter to Paris, and a meditation on how it has changed in the two decades the author has lived there, evolving from the twentieth century into the twenty-first, from analog to digital.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

When a bus driver takes a break in this hilarious Caldecott Honor-winning picture book, he gives the reader just one instruction: "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus!" But, boy, that pigeon tries every trick in the book to get in that driving seat: he whines, wheedles, fibs and flatters. Will you let him drive? Told entirely in speech bubbles, this brilliantly original and funny picture book demands audience participation!

Back of the Bus *Puffin Books*

From the back of the bus, an African American child watches the arrest of Rosa Parks.

Dog on Board

The True Story of Eclipse, the Bus-Riding Dog *Crown Books For Young Readers*

A "photo-essay about Eclipse, a dog who rides the bus to the dog park herself, became a viral sensation on social media and TV, and has become the mascot for the Seattle Transit Authority"--

Move Your Bus

An Extraordinary New Approach to Accelerating Success in Work and Life *Simon and Schuster*

New York Times bestselling author and award-winning educator Ron Clark applies his successful leadership principles to the business world in this effective and accessible guidebook, perfect for any manager looking to inspire and motivate his or her team. Includes a foreword by bestselling author and FranklinCovey executive Sean Covey. Teamwork is crucial to the success of any business, and as acclaimed author and speaker Ron Clark illustrates, the members of any team are the key to unlocking success. Imagine a company as a bus filled with people who either help or hinder a team's ability to move it forward: drivers (who steer the organization), runners (who consistently go above and beyond for the good of the organization), joggers (who do their jobs without pushing themselves), walkers (who are just getting pulled along), and riders (who hinder success and drag the team down). It's the team leader's job to recognize how members fall into these categories, encourage them to keep the "bus" moving by working together, and know when it's time to kick the riders off. In the tradition of *Who Moved My Cheese?* and *Fish!, Move Your Bus* is an accessible and uplifting business parable that illustrates Clark's expert strategies to maximize the performance of each member of a team. These easy to implement techniques will inspire employees and team leaders alike to work harder and smarter and drive the organization to succeed.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry *Penguin*
Young Cassie Logan endures humiliation and witnesses the racism of the KKK as they embark on a cross-burning rampage, before she fully understands the importance her family attributes to having land of their own.

Riding to Washington *Sleeping Bear Press*

Janie is not exactly sure why her daddy is riding a bus from Indianapolis to Washington, D.C. She knows why she has to go-to stay out of her mother's way, especially with the twins now teething. But Daddy wants to hear a man named Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak and, to keep out of trouble, Janie is sent along. Riding the bus with them is a mishmash of people, black and white, young and old. They seem very different from Janie. As the bus travels across cities and farm fields to its historic destination, Janie sees firsthand the injustices that many others are made to endure. She begins to realize that she's not so different from the other riders and that, as young as she is, her actions can affect change. Though fiction, *Riding to Washington* is a very personal story for Gwennyth Swain as both her father and grandfather rode to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 1963 civil rights march on the nation's capital. Ms. Swain's other books include *Chig* and *the Second Spread* and *I Wonder As I Wander*. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. Artist David Geister has entertained audiences for years with his costumed portrayals of historic characters from the nineteenth century, and his artwork reflects his interest in history and dramatic storytelling. *Riding to Washington* is his third title with *Sleeping Bear Press*. David lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Last Stop on Market Street *Penguin*

A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things. By the author of the celebrated picture book *A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis*.

Caillou: The School Bus *Chouette Publishing, Inc.*

Caillou's friend, Sarah, gets on the big, yellow school bus every morning, but Caillou has to wait a little longer before he goes to school. He just can't wait to ride the school bus.

Building a Home with My Husband

A Journey Through the Renovation of Love *Penguin*

The new memoir from the author of *Riding the Bus with My Sister* describes the unexpected emotional journey resulting from her and her husband's decision to renovate their small, historic home.

The Bus for Us *Astra Publishing House*

A perfect picture book to share with children starting school or those riding the school bus for the first time. It's the first day of school for Tess, and it's also her very first ride on a school bus. Waiting at the bus stop with her older friend Gus, Tess eagerly asks, "Is this the bus for us, Gus?" as each vehicle passes by. Award-winning author and illustrator Suzanne Bloom introduces young readers to a diverse cast of characters and a variety of vehicles in this charming book that makes a great gift for any child about to start school.

Last Bus to Wisdom

A Novel *Penguin*

Named a Best Book of the Year by the *Seattle Times* and *Kirkus Review* The final novel from a great American storyteller. Donal Cameron is being raised by his grandmother, the cook at the legendary Double W ranch in Ivan Doig's beloved Two Medicine Country of the Montana Rockies, a landscape that

gives full rein to an eleven-year-old's imagination. But when Gram has to have surgery for "female trouble" in the summer of 1951, all she can think to do is to ship Donal off to her sister in faraway Manitowoc, Wisconsin. There Donal is in for a rude surprise: Aunt Kate—bossy, opinionated, argumentative, and tyrannical—is nothing like her sister. She henpecks her good-natured husband, Herman the German, and Donal can't seem to get on her good side either. After one contretemps too many, Kate packs him back to the authorities in Montana on the next Greyhound. But as it turns out, Donal isn't traveling solo: Herman the German has decided to fly the coop with him. In the immortal American tradition, the pair light out for the territory together, meeting a classic Doigian ensemble of characters and having rollicking misadventures along the way. Charming, wise, and slyly funny, *Last Bus to Wisdom* is a last sweet gift from a writer whose books have bestowed untold pleasure on countless readers.

This Is My South

The Essential Travel Guide to the Southern States *Rowman & Littlefield*

You may think you know the South for its food, its people, its past, and its stories, but if there's one thing that's certain, it's that the region tells far more than one tale. It is ever-evolving, open to interpretation, steeped in history and tradition, yet defined differently based on who you ask. *This Is My South* inspires the reader to explore the Southern States—Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia—like never before. No other guide pulls together these states into one book in

quite this way with a fresh perspective on can't-miss landmarks, off the beaten path gems, tours for every interest, unique places to sleep, and classic restaurants. So come see for yourself and create your own experiences along the way!

The Bus Is for Us *Candlewick Press (MA)*

In rhyming text, an exuberant cast of kids express their travel preferences while ultimately agreeing that the bus is the best ride of all because it's designed for everyone to share.

Will College Pay Off?

A Guide to the Most Important Financial Decision You'll Ever Make *PublicAffairs*

The decision of whether to go to college, or where, is hampered by poor information and inadequate understanding of the financial risk involved. Adding to the confusion, the same degree can cost dramatically different amounts for different people. A barrage of advertising offers new degrees designed to lead to specific jobs, but we see no information on whether graduates ever get those jobs. Mix in a frenzied applications process, and pressure from politicians for "relevant" programs, and there is an urgent need to separate myth from reality. Peter Cappelli, an acclaimed expert in employment trends, the workforce, and education, provides hard evidence that counters conventional wisdom and helps us make cost-effective choices. Among the issues Cappelli analyzes are: What is the real link between a college degree and a job that enables you to pay off the cost of college, especially in a market that is in

constant change? Why it may be a mistake to pursue degrees that will land you the hottest jobs because what is hot today is unlikely to be so by the time you graduate. Why the most expensive colleges may actually be the cheapest because of their ability to graduate students on time. How parents and students can find out what different colleges actually deliver to students and whether it is something that employers really want. College is the biggest expense for many families, larger even than the cost of the family home, and one that can bankrupt students and their parents if it works out poorly. Peter Cappelli offers vital insight for parents and students to make decisions that both make sense financially and provide the foundation that will help students make their way in the world.

Reading 2007 Big Book Grade K Unit 1 Week 1 the Little School Bus *Pearson Scott Foresman*

An assortment of animals, including a goat in a coat, a quick chick, and a hairy bear, ride the bus to and from school.

Good to Great

Why Some Companies Make the Leap ... and Others Don't *Random House*

Can a good company become a great one and, if so, how? After a five-year research project, Collins concludes that good to great can and does happen. In this book, he uncovers the underlying variables that enable any type of organization to

The Bus Ride *Turtleback*

An African American child protests an unjust law in this story loosely based on Rosa Parks' historic decision not to give

up her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955.

Strangers on a Bus *CreateSpace*

If you liked *When Harry Met Sally*, you'll fall in love with Robb and Gertrude from *Strangers on a Bus*... Robb is crushed by a failed relationship with the love of his life and finds himself unexpectedly on a long bus trip from his adopted home in the U.S. back to his native Canada. At the first stop in NYC, a girl gets on and so begins a contemplation of life, love, and strange events that will bring tears of laughter and heartache streaming down your face. Is this girl Robb's real true love or just a rebound? How far can they get on a bus ride anyway? This is a true story.

Baby's Very First Bus Book

Young children will love following the bus route as the animals climb on along the way to go to the funfair. Not only does it have bright and colourful illustrations, but it also has thick cardboard wheels that really turn! Perfect for pushing it along the floor, tables and other surfaces.

The Magic Touch

A Novel *Open Road Media*

This wild, magic-realist ride of a novel, originally published in 1994, is funny, sexy, satirical, linguistically exuberant, and utterly unique. Written as a fictional biography, it tells the life story of a woman with magical sexual powers that she uses to heal people. The story follows our heroine from her miraculous birth through her childhood in a magical orphanage to adulthood, when she uncovers sinister conspiracies among political and well-hidden foes. Woven into *The Magic Touch* is that of her

grandmother, whose mysterious background propels the story forward in ways that begin as Faustian and end up as spiritual. The story culminates in a spectacular—and hilarious—showdown between the forces of good and evil. This ebook re-release of *The Magic Touch* includes a new introduction that should be a must-read for fans of this book and aspiring writers everywhere. It reveals how Rachel stumbled on the idea for the heart of the story, the long journey she took in producing the book, and the kind words given by a respected professor that inspired her, at her lowest moment, to pick herself up and keep going. *The Magic Touch* was Rachel Simon's second book and first novel. It was a 1994 selection of the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers program, which highlights books of exceptional literary quality from authors at the starts of their careers.

My View from the Back of the Bus

An Inspirational Memoir *My View LLC*

Through his lens as a "colored" child, "Negro" teenager, "Black" young man, and finally successful African American state official, this book reveals how Merritt D. Long was shaped by - and helped to shape - American history. Jim Crow laws, segregation and the civil rights movement are the backdrop to Long's childhood and youth in Alabama in the 1950's and 1960's. As a child, the color of Long's skin dictated what doors he could walk through, where he could sit on the bus, where he could eat, and what water fountains he could use. But like many other southern Black people, the powerful pride of his family and community steeled him against the incessant insults of racism. And the civil rights movement help fuel his

determination to become an educated, successful professional. Along the way, including a Morehouse College education in Atlanta, he met and was inspired by Muhammed Ali, Rosa Parks, and Julian Bond. But even at the pinnacle of his professional success as the head of several major state agencies, he continued to experience racist reactions to his authority and leadership. His journey led him to become a widely admired community leader, a loving husband and father, and a mentor and benefactor to the next generation of young people who struggle to overcome economic hardship and the still-present barriers of entrenched, systemic racism.

Stop Driving, Start Riding

A Public Transit Memoir

While the Midwest isn't known for public transit, Brandon Clark's daily commute delivers endless stories filled with laughter, friendship, sadness and everything in between.

Making Waves *Capstone*

Annie's plans for having fun at the Seahorse Stables don't work out as expected when she and her best friend argue and, after several of the horses escape during a storm, she and another rider, Jessica, find the horses stranded dangerously on a ledge.

The Future of Disability in America *National Academies Press*

The future of disability in America will depend on how well the U.S. prepares for and manages the demographic, fiscal, and technological developments that will unfold during the next two to three decades. Building upon two prior studies from the Institute of Medicine (the 1991 Institute of Medicine's report

Disability in America and the 1997 report Enabling America), *The Future of Disability in America* examines both progress and concerns about continuing barriers that limit the independence, productivity, and participation in community life of people with disabilities. This book offers a comprehensive look at a wide range of issues, including the prevalence of disability across the lifespan; disability trends the role of assistive technology; barriers posed by health care and other facilities with inaccessible buildings, equipment, and information formats; the needs of young people moving from pediatric to adult health care and of adults experiencing premature aging and secondary health problems; selected issues in health care financing (e.g., risk adjusting payments to health plans, coverage of assistive technology); and the organizing and financing of disability-related research. *The Future of Disability in America* is an assessment of both principles and scientific evidence for disability policies and services. This book's recommendations propose steps to eliminate barriers and strengthen the evidence base for future public and private actions to reduce the impact of disability on individuals, families, and society.

My Picture Perfect Family

What Happens When One Twin Has Autism

On December 26th, 1990 Marguerite Elisofon gave birth to premature twins: Samantha and Matthew. Marguerite and her husband soon noticed their daughter lagged behind her brother in ways that scared them. Samantha, they learned, was on the autistic spectrum. Most "experts" weren't optimistic about her

chances for leading a normal life and prepared the Elisofons for the worst. But Marguerite and her family refused to accept these limitations. Twenty-three challenging years later, Samantha graduated from Pace University . . . cum laude! In *My Picture Perfect Family*, Marguerite tells her family's courageous story. At the end of the twentieth century, when the current supports for children on the autistic spectrum did not exist, Marguerite and her family pioneered their own path. They encountered "special" schools with questionable methods, naysayers telling them to lower their expectations, as well as their own worst fears of what Samantha --and their family--might become. But nothing could shake Marguerite's determination to hold her family together, and nothing could deter Samantha's tremendous persistence, boundless energy and drive to succeed. Addressing not only her disabilities but

also her talents, the Elisofons discovered Samantha was a lyrical soprano with perfect pitch. They encouraged Samantha to take singing lessons at age ten, and she gradually developed a strong enough voice to perform the national anthem at Pace University's 2014 freshman convocation. When you hear about autism, it's often the extreme cases. But the vast majority of individuals lie somewhere in the middle of the spectrum. Marguerite's memoir is an inspiring account of how an "ordinary" family faced the challenges of raising a child with disabilities and achieved extraordinary results. *My Picture Perfect Family* is a universal story about the struggles and successes of a family determined to leave no child behind. It's a tale of unconditional love, a portrait of authentic parenthood, and a message of hope to all families. Most of all, it's a true story about never giving up on your child, or your famil.