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New Book Explores Life on the Margins of American Healthcare
Debut Collection Illuminates the Human Experience in America's Nursing Homes

[ROCKVILLE, MD] — Chasing Words Press announces the release of a debut book of short stories by Andrea Durbin, a speech-language pathologist and nonfiction writer. In *Beyond the Words: Exploring the Edges of Language and Life*, Durbin offers poignant glimpses into the daily life of a speech-language pathologist working in a skilled nursing facility.

In *Beyond the Words*, Durbin deftly explores the humanity in these often-overlooked places through stories of residents living with conditions like aphasia, dysphagia, dementia, and more, as well as family members caring for their loved ones during this difficult phase of life. Her writing is infused with insight and compassion as she describes encounters with her patients as they struggle to find meaning and connection through communication.

With a master's degree in speech-language pathology and a background in writing and editing, Durbin is uniquely positioned to share these stories. "I started writing these stories as a way to process the intensity of this work environment," said Durbin. "They grew into a book that chronicles my growth as a clinician in the first two years my new career. I hope they shine a light on this corner of healthcare that remains mostly hidden from public view."

"This book is for those who chose the field of caregiving and for those who suddenly find themselves in the role of caregiver," said Andrea Atticks, M.A., CCC-SLP, Division Director, Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, Loyola University Maryland. "These stories take only a moment to read but stay in your heart and mind for much longer."

Beyond the Words is available for purchase on May 8, 2024 in paperback and e-book formats. For more information, visit www.beyondthewordsbook.com.

About the Author

Andrea Durbin is a speech-language pathologist and former writer and editor for arts and culture magazines, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. Andrea earned a master of arts degree in communication from Marist College in 2009 and a master of science in speech-language pathology at Loyola University Maryland in 2021. Hailing from the Hudson Valley in New York, she now lives in Rockville, Maryland.

Media review copies available upon request. Author available for interview.

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