

"At once heartbreaking and powerfully inspirational."
—TOM BROKAW

I Am in Here is the spiritual journey of a mother and daughter who refuse to give up hope, who celebrate their victories, and who keep trying to move forward despite the obstacles. Although she cannot speak, Elizabeth writes poetry that shines a light on the inner world of autism and the world around us. That poetry and her mother's stirring story-telling combine in this inspirational book to proclaim that there is always a reason to move forward – with hope.

The Journey of a Child with Autism Who Cannot Speak but Finds Her Voice
Elizabeth M. Bonker & Virginia G. Breen

A portion of book proceeds will be donated to autism organizations.

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Praise for *I Am In Here*

"Elizabeth has such a strong voice even without the ability to speak. She is a true inspiration, and her beautiful poetry allows her to embrace and share her message so people notice her for who she is and not what people expect her to be."—**Jenny McCarthy**, president of Generation Rescue and *New York Times* bestselling author

"*I Am in Here* is at once heartbreaking and powerfully inspirational. Elizabeth and Virginia together find their way down the mystifying corridors of autism and arrive in a place of communication through poignant and memorable poetry. It is a lesson in life, love, determination, and awe."—**Tom Brokaw**, NBC News

"Elizabeth's beautiful poetry clearly shows that even though she is nonverbal, she has a good mind and is able to type independently. Her writings show that some individuals with autism who appear to be low functioning have real abilities. Both parents and educators should teach independent typing to children with autism who remain nonverbal. Elizabeth's first words when she was able to type were 'Agony I need to talk.'"
—**Temple Grandin**, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Elizabeth's story is one that so many families confront. Many people underestimate the capacity for learning and growing in children with autism. Elizabeth was determined to communicate and express what she held deep inside. And Virginia never lost hope that her daughter would one day find her voice."
—**Suzanne Wright**, cofounder of Autism Speaks



Me

I sometimes fear
That people cannot understand
That I hear
And I know
They don't believe I go
To every extreme
To try to express
My need to talk.
If only they could walk
In my shoes
They would know my news:
I AM IN HERE
And trying to speak everyday
In some kind of way.

Praise for *I Am In Here*

"*I Am in Here* is a powerful reminder that we all face battles in life, and together we can triumph. Elizabeth's poignant poetry is a victory over autism. Her story and those of other 'How People' in this book will inspire you to be victorious in your own battle, whatever it may be."—**Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**, environmentalist and founder of Waterkeeper Alliance; author of *Crimes Against Nature* and *Saint Francis of Assisi*

"'See me. I am in here!' Elizabeth's words give voice to the need we all have to be seen by our quiddities and strengths—not by our label. No label is more blinding than the gaze-averting strangeness of autism's silence. In this book Elizabeth and her mom give us a brilliant look inside a brilliant child whose illuminating story will entertain and inform all of us who seek to grasp the dimensions of human intelligence and perseverance."
—**Sidney M. Baker, MD**, founder of Autism360.org and Defeat Autism Now!

"*I Am in Here* is a wonderful meeting of voices. They are the voices of Elizabeth and her mother, Virginia, voices in poetry and prose, feelings and reality that stand up side by side to move the reader. Elizabeth reminds us of the loneliness that is felt when one is constantly fighting one's own sensory challenges alone. Virginia's concerns remind us of the continuous worry that a parent of an autistic person has to endure. This book is a great eye-opener, helping all of us to realize how autism impacts not only the autistic but also their loved ones."
—**Soma Mukhopadhyay**, international authority on autism communication; founder of Helping Autism through Learning and Outreach; founder of Academy of Excellence for Autism

