

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 above the total to the "Theoretic Counting" to Wash of the properties of the "Theoretic Counting" to be seen allow and to be seen allow and to the "Theoretic Counting" to the "Theoretic Counting" to be seen allow and to be seen allow and to the "Theoretic Counting" to the seen allow and the seen allowed the seen allowed to the "Theoretic Counting" to the seen allowed the seen allowed to the seen allowed

"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 Autism260 org and Defeat Autism Now!

"I Am in Here is a wonderful meeting of voices. They are the voices of Elizabeth and her mother. Virgin 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 lighting 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



"Every professional working with people with autism and their families should read this book. Within it, we can find the inspiration to rededicate ourselves to putting forth our utmost effort to help people with autism access the best of what life has to offer. But it is also a brilliant reminder that through our work, we have the privilege of seeing some of the most profound examples of courage, determination, and the depth of human potential."—Dr. Theodosia Paclawskyj, PhD, BCBA, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Kennedy Krieger Institute and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine "For any parent who has stared into the abyss, this story of a mother's agonizing but uplifting spiritual journey—and an autistic daughter's equally remarkable quest to communicate through poetry—is a must-read."—Robert Faw, PBS correspondent "Stories like Virginia's and Elizabeth's need to be told. They have produced an incredibly poignant and stirring portrait of a mother and daughter battling autism together and achieving something truly beautiful along the way."—Katie Wright, board member of National Autism Association, SafeMinds, and Generation Rescue "Elizabeth shatters the myth that our children are content in their silence and have little to say. To the contrary, they are bright and articulate but need their parents and providers to find the pathway out of their autism so they can express themselves. The results are worth the Herculean effort Mainstream medicine tells us to 'face facts,' 'accept the diagnosis,' even 'cut your losses.' Never. Virginia and Elizabeth prove that autism is what a child has, not who she is—and they do so with grace and

