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CONTACT: Rusty Shelton (512) 785-4469

Real families in all their “dysfunctional” glory

Chicken Soup for the Soul offers candid accounts of holiday meltdowns, funny foibles, wacky relatives and why we really love them

COS COB, Conn. – One of Norman Rockwell’s most popular paintings, “Freedom from Want,” shows the perfect family gathered for a holiday meal. And while Chicken Soup for the Soul’s new book about wacky relatives and dysfunctional families shows that painting on the back cover, the front of the book may look more like your own family, as Chicken Soup for the Soul commissioned a painter to create a loving spoof of the famous Rockwell painting on the front cover.

We all think that we have dysfunctional families, or at least some wacky relatives, and *Chicken Soup for the Soul: All in the Family* (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, 978-1-935096-39-9, October 2009, \$14.95) offers 101 candid and often hilarious stories about real families in all their dysfunctional glory. With chapters about eccentrics, in-laws, family vacations, holiday meltdowns, sibling issues, family secrets, forgiveness, and many other issues, everyone will recognize their own families in some stories or discover a new respect for their relative normalcy.

Who wouldn’t think their family was relatively normal after reading about the Thanksgiving dinner in the more liberal 1970s when Anastasia Ashman’s father baked marijuana into the stuffing and turned his in-laws into unusually happy and hungry guests? And how do your relatives look after reading about Tolly Moseley’s beloved aunt, who broke into her house to redecorate her Christmas tree? Your Christmas might seem a little saner after reading about Anne Crawley’s mother-in-law who “guilted” her family into driving through waist-high snow on Christmas Day to eat her pasta, and then complained that it was getting cold after they almost killed themselves getting there.

Theresa Hupp recounts how she learned from her adult daughter that the girl had thought she was adopted for years because her older brother told her so. And the book contains more serious stories too, such as June Waters’ tale of visiting her paranoid, mentally ill sister, reluctantly wearing tin foil around her head so “they” couldn’t listen, and finally escaping in the middle of the night, fearing for her safety. Numerous stories explore abandonment, forgiveness, and reunions, such as Robynn Ashwood’s discovery of numerous unknown half-siblings from the four marriages of her father, who had walked out on her family (his second) four decades earlier.

Family secrets and personal confessions – hilarious anecdotes and poignant reflections – quirky yet lovable relatives and real nightmares – *Chicken Soup for the Soul: All in the Family* has it all.

Chicken Soup for the Soul: All in the Family (Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Amy Newmark and Susan Heim) released in October 2009. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes all the latest titles in the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series which are distributed through Simon and Schuster, Inc. Since 1993, books in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series have sold more than 112 million copies, with titles translated into more than 40 languages. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous trademark to high quality licensees through IMG, the world’s premier licensing agent. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media, is working with TV networks on several TV shows and is developing a major Internet presence dedicated to life improvement, emotional support and inspiration. In 2007, *USA Today* named *Chicken Soup for the Soul* one of the five most memorable and impactful books in the last quarter century. For more information visit: www.chickensoup.com.

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For a review copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: All in the Family* or to schedule an interview with one of the coauthors, please contact Rusty Shelton at (512) 785-4469 or rusty@sheltoninteractive.com.