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CONTACT: Beth Gwazdosky (512) 921-8148

The day that Dad shot Conan O'Brien

Chicken Soup for the Soul shares quirky and unforgettable family stories

COS COB, Conn. – “We’ve got a problem. Can you come over?” Carol Huff’s brother asked. “Dad just tried to shoot Conan.” Carol’s father, whose Alzheimer’s was nearly getting out of control, had been watching TV and disliked the way Conan O’Brien laughed. So, he got out of his recliner, found and loaded a shotgun and fired the gun at the TV, but shot a hole through the den floor instead. Or how about May Sonnenfeld’s grandmother, who forced family members to pose for photos in various configurations, sitting *on* their grandfather’s casket before it was lowered into the grave? Perhaps you recognize the behavior of Gretchen Bauer’s mother-in-law, the “Queen of Stealth Insults,” who calls her every year before Christmas shopping and asks, “What size are you wearing now?”

Nearly everyone thinks their own family is “nutty” or has at least one or two members who stand out from the crowd in a unique way. With 101 stories of wacky, yet lovable relatives, funny foibles, holiday meltdowns, funeral antics, and everyday outrageous behavior, *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Family Matters* (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, October 19, 2010, 978-1935096559, \$14.95), is always unforgettable, usually hilarious and occasionally poignant.

In his foreword for the book, Bruce Jenner, former Olympic decathlon gold medalist and current star of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* on E! Entertainment Network, says, “Every family seems a bit dysfunctional when you get to know it well. So if we are all a bit abnormal, then that becomes the new normal.” Jenner goes on to say, “The most exciting thing in life and the most difficult thing in life is family. We love each other, fight with each other, and stick up for each other. The bottom line is we all love and respect each other.” His foreword then reviews his life in detail as well as providing an update on the activities of each of his ten children and stepchildren.

While readers will love stories involving celebrities like Conan and the Kardashians, some of the funniest stories involve families readers will meet for the first time. Kenneth C. Lynch shares the story of how his not-so-handy father carpets the house in second-hand shag carpeting... including the bathtub and toilet. Kristine Byron, a new bride, hosts a funeral reception for her sister-in-law, bringing together both sides of her husband’s divorced family -- one with mob ties and the other in law enforcement. A 30-year-old woman, Janeen Lewis, brings her boyfriend to her odd-habit parents’ home for dinner and her mom vacuums cat hair off her with a Dustbuster. Maddie Sohn tells of her eccentric Aunt Beadie who gave unusual but well-meaning gifts, including the time she gave her family all matching terry cloth shower wraps that were monogrammed with initials, just not *their* initials.

Readers will feel comforted, amused and encouraged by these unforgettable stories about “nutty” families just like their own. As Jenner says, “Family matters. And there are always lots of family matters to discuss in any modern family. This book really resonates with me -- the stories are so funny, so outrageous, and so real. They certainly rival the ones I live every day.”

With stories from contributors like award-winning columnist/novelist, Saralee Perel, novelist Judith Marks-White and bestselling author Dary Matera, readers will feel comforted, amused and encouraged by “nutty” families just like their own. This book shows readers that we all have family matters, but what ultimately matters are our families.

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Family Matters (Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Susan Heim, and Amy Newmark; foreword by Bruce Jenner) will be released on October 19, 2010. 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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To receive a review copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Family Matters*, or to request an interview, please contact Beth Gwazdosky at (512) 921-8148 or beth@sheltoninteractive.com.