

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**BRAIN TUMOR SURVIVOR PUBLISHES NOVEL EXPLORING THE TRAGEDY OF
DEMENTIA FROM INSIDE A PATIENT'S MIND**

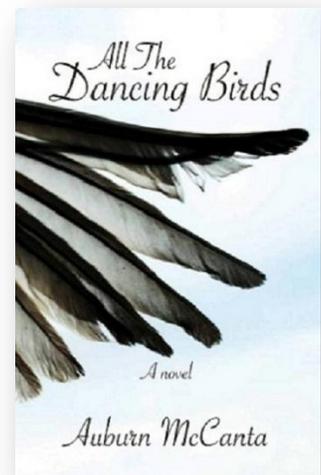
Phoenix, Arizona – August 2012 – A daring new novel is garnering positive reviews for its deeply personal perspective on a dreaded, but all-too-familiar, disease.

All the Dancing Birds (Marcanti Clarke Literary Press, 2012) is the debut literary work from former *Huffington Post* blogger Auburn McCanta. The novel provides readers with a first-hand look into the mind of a woman with Alzheimer's disease.

McCanta, who lives in Phoenix, got the idea for the book after suffering from an almost-fatal brain tumor eighteen years ago. After a surgeon successfully removed the tumor, she went through months of rehabilitation, learning to walk and talk again.

"It seemed only natural, after all that, that I would develop an interest in brain diseases," McCanta says.

Although her writer's group and literary experts warned her it couldn't be done, McCanta started to write from the perspective of fifty-something mother, Lillie Claire Glidden, who is diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's. *All the Dancing Birds* follows Lillie Claire as the disease progresses through her body and mind, all the way to her eventual death. "Those were difficult scenes to write," says McCanta. "But the character made it clear what she wanted me to say. Even when she was silent, or had thoughts that didn't exactly capture reality, or when she appeared not to have thoughts at all, she was still able to feel pain and joy."



McCanta has become active as an advocate for Alzheimer's patients and families. She currently serves on the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force and maintains a blog with research and news at <http://auburnmccanta.com>. She speaks to local and national groups about the challenges facing caregivers, family members, and patients.

There are currently an estimated 5.4 million Alzheimer's patients in the U.S. Nearly 15 million caregivers provide 17 billion hours of unpaid care, and the population is expected to explode over the coming years, as Baby Boomers age.

Marcanti Clarke Literary Press is a small, independent press based in Phoenix and distributed to retailers via the Ingram Book Company.

For more information, to request a review copy, or to schedule an interview, contact:

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About Auburn McCanta

Auburn McCanta is an award-winning writer, poet, journalist, and advocate. Raised in Portland, Oregon, she remembers thinking her mother's garden was a place so green, petals fell from the sky and flowers grew in every pathway. Today, she calls the Sonoran Desert of Phoenix, Arizona, home. She is the mom of six grown children and the wife of a golf-loving husband. Auburn is a former blogger for *The Huffington Post*, and she currently serves on the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force and speaks to national and community groups about the effects of Alzheimer's on patients and families.

All the Dancing Birds is her debut novel.

Interview Questions

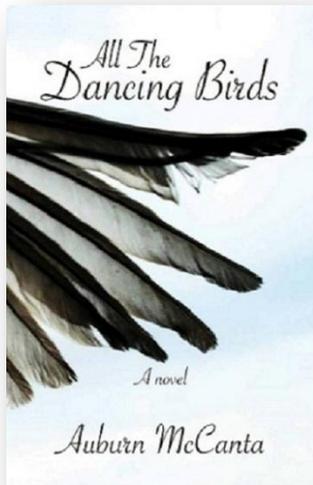
1. Your book takes a risky perspective, trying to get inside the mind of a woman with Alzheimer's who has lost the ability to speak or communicate. How did you research for this?
2. How much of your own experience as a brain tumor survivor reflects in this story?
3. The two adult children of your protagonist have very different reactions to their mother's illness. How accurate is that to what you see among families of Alzheimer's patients?
4. You've become an advocate and "lay expert" in issues related to Alzheimer's Disease. What is one of the most surprising things you've learned?
5. What's next for you as a writer? Any other projects planned or underway?

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:
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All the Dancing Birds

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What Readers Are Saying About *All the Dancing Birds*



“Touching and informative, *All the Dancing Birds* offers valuable insights into the subjective experience of Alzheimer’s disease.”

Daniel Kuhn, author of Alzheimer’s Early Stages: First Steps for Families, Friends, and Caregivers

“In this perceptive novel, author Auburn McCanta renders a fictional tale with factual punch as she shines light on the ways this tragic illness touches friends, family and the critical ‘second family’ of nurses and caregivers. Alzheimer’s eventually robs Lillie Claire, a poet, of her treasured words. But her story, so lovingly tendered with clarity and wit, demonstrates the triumph of love. *All the Dancing Birds* offers great insight to, and love for, those touched—and ultimately changed—by the mystery of a mean disease.”

Drew Myron, poet, Beyond Forgetting: Poetry and Prose about Alzheimer’s Disease

“If your life is touched by Alzheimer’s, you need this book. It will help you understand the experience of having Alzheimer’s—and inspire you to interact with loved ones touched by it in more meaningful ways.

Cynthia D’Amour, bestselling author, national speaker, advocate

“In *All the Dancing Birds*, Auburn McCanta accomplishes the near impossible. By allowing Lillie Claire to tell her own story, McCanta gives us an amazing inside glimpse into a disintegrating memory. Truly a touching, disturbing story—wonderfully told.”

Susan Springer Butler, author

“Rarely is there a writer with the combination of talent, life experience, true compassion, and raw nerve able to tackle a topic so shrouded in mystery and bathed in fear as Alzheimer’s disease. For the many who have, or will be affected by this robber of those things that make us who we are, Auburn McCanta is just that rare individual. Having lost loved ones to Alzheimer’s and being a statistically miraculous survivor of brain cancer herself, she is uniquely qualified to speak for Lillie Claire, while bathing her story in the compassion and truth that is McCanta’s own heart song.”

Lisa Nicholson, special needs and brain illness advocate

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