

ENDORSEMENTS FOR DIFFERENT:

The story of an Outside-the-Box Kid and the Mom Who Loved Him



I have watched the ministries of Sally and Nathan over the years, and I'm thrilled to see how God has used a "different" boy to bless so many. This is a book of hope and inspiration told through the eyes of a mom who, like so many parents today, must deal with the day-to-day challenges of working with a unique and special child.

Dr. Scott Turansky

Cofounder of the National Center for Biblical Parenting; author of *Parenting Is Heart Work*

As a mother of two outside-the-box children, I found myself tearing up and nodding my head in agreement as I read *Different*. In the end, I felt so very grateful for this book. Sally and Nathan are both vulnerable and real as they describe the day-to-day life of a "different" child. Reading the unique perspectives of both mother and child is powerful. Moreover, the love that flows throughout this book makes even the most difficult experiences hope-filled and encouraging. I cannot recommend *Different* enough!

Shawna Wingert

Author of *Everyday Autism* and *Special Education at Home*; writer at www.nottheformerthings.com

For decades, Sally Clarkson has been a strong, wise guide for families. In *Different*, she is more vulnerable than ever before, recording a memoir of moving through a refining experience and sharing her notes from the journey. She and her son Nathan recount this ongoing struggle with faith-affirming honesty, offering insight and hope for families who face similarly bewildering battles. An at-times-painful story, *Different* is honest about Sally's and Nathan's progress without ending in a neat and tidy total victory. Instead, the book invites us into a faithful, resolved embrace of the story God is weaving even through the most painful and perplexing of our weaknesses.

S. D. Smith

Author of *The Green Ember*; cofounder of www.storywarren.com

In *Different*, Sally Clarkson invited me to pursue God's heart for my own outside-the-box child. Her seasoned and experienced words lifted this mama's eyes off *What could be wrong with my child?* or *What could be wrong with me?* and on to Christ and all the possibilities of His beauty and power in the life of a person. This is a message for every parent's heart. I recommend these pages both to those who feel like they have outside-the-box children and to those whose children color within the lines.

Sara Hagerty

Author of *Every Bitter Thing Is Sweet*

Sally's and Nathan's voices are needed in this day and age of parenting. This book was an encouragement for me on so many levels, as a mama, friend, and woman in ministry. Both Sally and Nathan display the love and grace of

Jesus toward each other, and that is a message that transfers to people all over the world.

Jamie Ivey

Host of *The Happy Hour with Jamie Ivey* podcast

Sally and Nathan have given us hope by giving us the gift of sight. They have pulled back the curtain and helped us see the tender struggle of raising a child who breaks out of the boxes we try to fit people in. As a result, we learn to see challenge as a gift in disguise. This book makes visible what has been in plain sight to our family for years now: The Clarksons wholeheartedly love God and one another through the mess and the mystery of life and faith.

Glenn Packiam

Pastor; author of *Discover the Mystery of Faith, Lucky, and Secondhand Jesus*

Sally and Nathan Clarkson's *Different* is a breath of fresh air for parents of different kids. While many books for outside-the-box kids focus on best practices, *Different* is . . . well . . . *different*. As you read the journey of this mother and son, you will smile, you will cry, and you will realize that you are *never* alone. And really, isn't that what we all want to know?

Caitlin Fitzpatrick Curley

School psychologist, homeschooler, and founder of My-Little-Poppies.com

I'm a mom with an outside-the-box kid—a child I love dearly but who brings me to my knees on a daily (sometimes hourly) basis. The wisdom from this book gives me the confidence and perspective I yearn for in parenting my quirky, beloved child. I'm beyond grateful that both Sally and Nathan have shared their story with us. It fills me with hope.

Tsh Oxenreider

Author of *At Home in the World* and *Notes from a Blue Bike*

I loved this book. Sally comes alongside parents raising difficult children and offers support, encouragement, and community. We get to see inside our kids through Nathan's words. It's a beautiful, deeply moving memoir that sends a clear and important message to our culture: Being different is more than okay. It's a gift.

Kristen Welch

Author of *Raising Grateful Kids in an Entitled World*

Mental illnesses are not casserole diseases. Well-meaning folks don't show up on your porch with a covered dish and a shoulder to cry on when your child is struggling with mental illness. But you wish they would. With this book, Sally Clarkson offers weary moms the nourishing feast for which they are starved. With equal parts empathy and wisdom, she breathes hope into the lives of parents who daily labor to lovingly raise outside-the-box children. Nathan grants us unprecedented, invaluable insight into the mind of the child as he grows. Sally assures us that though we will certainly be challenged, humbled, and humiliated, this story is not about us, but about being faithful to God to raise a uniquely challenged and challenging child. With warm understanding, she gives us tangible tools and healthy, hearty food for the journey.

Elizabeth Foss

Mother of nine; author of *Small Steps for Catholic Moms*

God has used each of Sally Clarkson's books in a powerful way in my life as I travel down the ever-curving road of motherhood. I've loved them all, but *Different* is one of my new favorites. Sally's and Nathan's testimonies of God's faithfulness will increase your faith as you witness their doubt, heartbreak, and struggle, and as you come to see that you are not alone. Sally and Nathan speak right into your pain and uncertainty. In the rawness of each story, you will find strength, beauty, and hope.

Angela Perritt

Founder and director of Love God Greatly; coauthor of *You Are Loved* and *You Are Forgiven*

Reading *Different* lifted a huge burden off my chest, letting me breathe easy again. I can't thank Nathan and Sally enough for having the courage to share their story in detail. Just knowing there are other parents who have lovingly raised "different" kids gives me hope and helps me feel less alone as a mother.

Jamie C. Martin

Editor of SimpleHomeschool.net; author of *Give Your Child the World*

Sally has protected her family by keeping certain stories hidden from the public sphere until now. In *Different*, we are offered a vulnerable look behind the curtain into the story of a son with mental illness and a mother who fought to love well even when it felt impossible. The stories and truths in *Different* have not been shared before, and they will absolutely bring hope and freedom to those who struggle with their "different" children and think, *I can't do this; it's just too hard*. If you have an outside-the-box child, this is a must-read.

Sarah Mae

Coauthor with Sally Clarkson of *Desperate: Hope for the Mom Who Needs to Breathe*