

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Interviews: Angela Hayes, Goldberg McDuffie Communications
212-446-5104, ahayes@goldbergmcduffie.com

Review copies: Shanon Stowe, Hachette Book Group
615-371-7784, Shanon.Stowe@hbgusa.com

The touching true story of how one little dog turned five neighbors into a family

KATIE:
UP AND DOWN THE HALL

By Glenn Plaskin

“Some of the best things that happen in life are purely accidental.”



When journalist and bestselling author Glenn Plaskin decided to get a dog, he never imagined that his cocker spaniel would so dramatically change his life. He named the somewhat homely runt of the litter Katie, after one of his favorite interview subjects, Katharine Hepburn. But on the day he brought the blond ball of fur home, he realized he needed help, not knowing a whole lot about raising a puppy.

So he walked down the hall of his New York City apartment building and impulsively knocked on the door of Pearl, his octogenarian neighbor, who had raised cocker spaniels in the past. When that door opened, Katie plopped into Pearl’s lap—and what followed was a series of events that would forever change the course of all their lives.

For families and animal lovers everywhere, ***KATIE: Up & Down The Hall*** (Center Street, September 2010, Hardcover) is the heartwarming story of how five neighbors are brought together by the presence of a remarkable dog. In an increasingly frenetic culture where “real” families are often scattered and relationships strained, this uplifting tale dramatically demonstrates how a surrogate family can become just as close as a biological one.

Plaskin, Pearl, and Pearl's husband of fifty years, Arthur, form a profound familial bond that soon blesses all in its sphere, including a three-year-old boy, Ryan, and his single dad, John, who live down the same long hallway. Together, they create a blended family of three generations, each of its members finding the love and connection they're searching for. The motherless boy finds a "Granny" in Pearl; his dad, with no parents of his own, inherits a mother; the author discovers a confidante; and Pearl, childless, adopts everyone.-

At the center of it all is Katie, an astutely intelligent (and mischievous) spaniel with an unforgettable face who becomes a celebrity in her downtown New York neighborhood—making friends with seniors, fellow dogs, even a police horse named Walter. Through her soulful eyes, we witness nearly fifteen years of antics and family adventures spanning everything from Hollywood high times to the terrors of 9/11.

Dignified, almost regal in demeanor, Katie's canine antics include fashion modeling, using the TV's remote control, "typing" at a keyboard, sitting posture-perfect at the dining table, and charming celebrities (Katharine Hepburn, Peter Jennings, Bette Midler, and Ivana Trump among them). But her greatest pleasures are racing up and down the hallway, chasing soccer balls with Ryan, pushing open doors with her paws, and trotting from one apartment to another, and herding her family together.

After years of happy times, though, the family begins to unravel. First, Pearl's husband Arthur dies; then John and Ryan move out of the building. Katie is despondent without them. The author, seriously injured in an accident, battles and conquers a disability. Then comes 9/11. Living in the shadow of the World Trade Center in Manhattan's Battery Park City, Plaskin, Pearl, and Katie are caught outside as the Twin Towers collapse. The events of that day are relayed here in chilling detail.

Profoundly affected by the devastation, Plaskin and his neighbors adjust to a new life downtown, and try to move forward. But neither Katie nor Pearl ever really recover from their experiences that day, and we witness their final harrowing days depicted with love and dignity.

Plaskin is now left alone, the long hallway eerily empty. But a rebirth takes place: he makes new neighborhood friends, building new bonds in his neighborhood while remembering not what he had lost, but the gifts that had been given to him.

An inspirational story of love and loss that strikes a universal chord, **KATIE: Up and Down the Hall** is a deeply moving testament to the most important lesson of all—*Love Remains*.

###

About the Author

Plaskin is a best-selling author specializing in in-depth celebrity interviews and human development stories. His published work includes two books: *Horowitz: The Biography of Vladimir Horowitz* and *Turning Point: Pivotal Moments in the Lives of America's Celebrities*, based on the syndicated column he wrote for the *New York Daily News*. A native of Buffalo, NY, and trained as a classical pianist, Plaskin began writing culture profiles for the *New York Times* in his mid-20's. His features have appeared in *Family Circle*, *Playboy*, *Us*, *W*, *Redbook*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Ladies' Home Journal* and in hundreds of U.S. and foreign newspapers.

KATIE: UP AND DOWN THE HALL

By Glenn Plaskin

Center Street

On-sale: September 2010

Hardcover / 272 pages / \$19.99

ISBN 978-1-59995-254-3