

NEWS RELEASE

Plexus Publishing, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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Welcome to the Motherhood: Grime & Punishment

New Book Takes a Whimsical Look at Modern Family Life

October 15, 2004, Medford, NJ—Plexus Publishing, Inc. announced today the publication of *Welcome to the Motherhood: Grime & Punishment*, by popular “Family Album” columnist Melissa Jarvis (*Courier-Post/Gannett*).

The book—Jarvis’ first—offers a warm and funny look at motherhood in the Erma Bombeck tradition, celebrating the hilarity of modern family life and the daily battle of wits that *is* motherhood. The material is based on the author’s experiences and observations as a 30-something wife and mother of three young children.

Each of the 24 vignettes featured in *Welcome to the Motherhood* covers a different aspect of motherhood as seen through Melissa Jarvis’ whimsical lens. With the kids finally of school age, her plan is to rejoin the ranks of productive, working adults. But she’s thwarted at every turn by labyrinthine school pick-up and drop-off schemes and elaborate homework projects designed to “bring the family together.” She discovers the terrors of crafting, volunteerism, and the Girl Scout cookie business. She deals with parenting experts, the babysitting dilemma, driving with children, foul smells of unknown origin, and—most insidious of all—a horde of “magazine moms” with their flawless teeth, overachieving kids, and subtly demeaning observations.

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Welcome to the Motherhood: Grime & Punishment is published by Plexus Publishing, Inc. and is available in better bookstores everywhere and by contacting the publisher directly at (609) 654-6500, ext. 144; fax: (609) 654-4309; e-mail: info@plexuspublishing.com; or on the Web at www.plexuspublishing.com.

About the Author

Melissa Jarvis' humor column, "Family Album," appears every Sunday in southern New Jersey's *Courier-Post* (<http://www.courierpostonline.com>) and occasionally in other Gannett newspapers nationwide. She is a natural writer who is quite content with her lack of formal education. When she realized at a young age that her parents forgot to give her a middle name, she knew she'd never get anywhere as a scholar. Thankfully, this left her time to sit around and observe the absurdities of life. She lectures each evening to a bored crowd at the dinner table who pretend to listen as they pour salad dressing over everything on their plates. Far from a paragon of motherly perfection, she freely admits to taping her daughters' hems. She does, however, take great pride in her boogie boarding skills, not to mention her wicked fastball and killer cheesecake.

Jarvis lives in southern New Jersey with her husband, three children, and assorted pets. *Welcome to the Motherhood* is her first book.

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