



## Searching for Normal

*Alison Neuman*

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## **Searching for Normal** Alison Neuman

Searching for Normal: A Memoir Following in the tradition of creative nonfiction, Alison Neuman details her life experience from the onset of a rare and painful illness at the age of three, recounting her personal journey as she comes to terms with an ever-shifting concept of 'normalcy.' The disease, dermatomyositis, shaped her life in ways most could never imagine; a carefree childhood quickly morphed into a blur of ongoing hospitalizations, increasingly reduced mobility, and overwhelming fatigue and pain. But, amidst her constant battles with her health, Alison emerges as a champion. Searching for Normal will leave readers awed by Alison's perseverance and strength of character; her story serves as a reminder that 'normal' lies in the eye of the beholder. "Searching For Normal is a memoir about one woman's attempts to define herself according to her skills and talents and passions, rather than the outward symbols of what others might consider disabilities. Neuman relates the story of the physical challenges she's endured, but what shines through in this book—and what leaves the reader inspired and grateful—is her depth of spirit. Her belief in the power of creativity and honesty is a gift to all of us. Alison Neuman is, thankfully, anything but normal." Curtis Gillespie, Author: Almost There: The Family Vacation Then and Now; Crown Shyness; Someone Like That; Playing Through; and, The Progress of an Object in Motion; Winner Danuta Gleed Literary Award. "Searching for Normal is a poignant and inspiring memoir of the power of the human spirit, the strength of dreams, and the importance of family. Alison Neuman may have been searching for normal but her achievements in the arts, including this memoir, are extraordinary. Anyone who has had a dream, struggled to overcome physical or psychological obstacles, or searched for his or her place in the world should read this book. Everyone should read Searching for Normal." Cassie Stocks, Author: Dance, Gladys, Dance. Winner of the 2013 Leacock Medal for Humour.

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