



*WALL STREET JOURNAL  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR*

# JenniferCook

*formerly  
Cook O'Toole*

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JenniferCook (formerly Cook O'Toole)

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# FullBio

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Smart. Lively. Cheeky. A global conversation-starter with a doppelganger Sesame Street muppet. That's Jennifer Cook (formerly Cook O'Toole), author of seven bestselling, award-winning books, which have been translated into six languages (and counting) and include the winner of the Autism Society of America's Book of the Year Award. Her "Asperkids" series and "Sisterhood of the Spectrum," comprise the best-selling autism-related book collection in the world, while her memoir, *Autism in Heels: The Untold Story of a Female Life on the Spectrum* is a Wall Street Journal Bestseller, chosen a "Best Book" title winner by Publishers Weekly, and named one of both the "Best Autism Books of AllTime" and "Best-Selling Autism Books of All Time" by BookAuthority. The audiobook version is the first ever recorded by someone on the autism spectrum.

Jennifer was born and raised in northern New Jersey, growing up an only child in what she describes as "Leave it to Beaver, USA." She began dance at age two, which became a lifelong passion, was inducted into Mensa at age seven, was cast as the lead in high school musicals and was chosen as an "All State" tennis player twice.

“I was that girl,” she recalls. “The one whose face you see everywhere and, while constantly looking around for what else I ought to be achieving, was probably making everyone else roll their eyes without my even knowing it.”

She attended Brown University, where she was an officer in Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, a football cheerleader, and a member of the university’s dance company. Following a traumatic junior year, Jennifer became the first undergraduate ever to be a member of a state coalition against domestic violence. She graduated in 1997, writing her honors thesis in American Civilization on “Barbie as a didactic tool of postmodern femininity.” Jennifer observes, “In hindsight, I basically turned my need to intellectualize what others intuit into academic fodder — I literally wrote a thesis on how to be a woman in late-twentieth century America — that is, on how I was supposed to be.”

Following two years as a domestic violence counselor for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in Charlotte, NC, Jennifer matriculated to the School of Social Work at Columbia University. She later returned to Charlotte, where she continued her academic work at the Graduate School of Education at Queens University while teaching, earning a nomination for “Disney’s American Teacher of the Year Award” in her first year.

Jennifer Cook (then O’Toole) stayed at home after the birth of her first child, a daughter, in 2003. She delivered sons in 2006 and 2009. And, in 2011, at the age of thirty-five, she was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome (autism), just after her three children and their father had been similarly identified.

Her first book, *Asperkids: An Insider’s Guide to Loving, Understanding, and Teaching Children with Asperger Syndrome*, was released by Jessica Kingsley Publishers less than a year later, in May of 2012. It garnered the Temple Grandin Award for Outstanding Global Contribution on the day it hit shelves, inspiring Dr. Grandin, herself, to write an entire article about the book and Jennifer’s innovative thinking, calling it “simply the best way to teach.”

The whirlwind had only just begun.

Jennifer wrote prolifically, to public and critical acclaim. The *Asperkids' (Secret) Book of Social Rules: A Handbook of Not-So-Obvious Guidelines for Teens and Tweens* was published in late 2012, and has never left top ten lists since. It subsequently was

named “Outstanding Literary Work of the Year” by the Autism Society of America, has been translated into four languages, and has earned the rank of best-selling book ever written by an author on the autism spectrum. Next came *The Asperkid's Launch Pad: Home Design That Empowers Everyday Superheroes* and *The Asperkid's Not-Your-Average-Coloring Book* in 2013, *The Asperkid's Game Plan: Purposeful Play, Extraordinary Minds.... Ordinary Stuff* in 2014, and *Sisterhood of the Spectrum: An Asperger Chick's Guide to Life* in 2015, (all Jessica Kingsley Publishers) every one topping charts and winning hearts.

“I don’t, for one second, think that these books have found success because I’m so fabulous,” Jennifer insists. “I think that the things I notice and the messages I offer are universal truths for everyone on the human spectrum — so they resonate with us all. I take my work seriously, but I don’t take myself too seriously, which readers and audiences seem to appreciate. The fact that in one moment, I’m willing to laugh at myself and in the next, I’m sharing something really vulnerable — that lets folks know they’re safe. That it’s ok to be real. It’s ok to be human — each of us different. Together.”

The creation of AK (Asperkids) -- a multimedia social re-education company took that message even bigger, sparking imaginations, changing minds, and rewriting the autism narrative.

Jennifer’s seventh book, *Autism in Heels: The Untold Story of A Female Life on the Spectrum*, smashes stereotypes of what it means to be autistic and female, and was named a “Top Feminist Books We Can’t Wait to Read” by BookRiot even before its release in December 2018 (Skyhorse Publishers). Only months later, *Heels* was honored at the National Institutes of Health and featured by NPR, hit *The Wall Street Journal* bestseller list, won a Booklist starred review, *Publisher’s Weekly* accolades, and, like *Asperkids* and *The (Secret) Book of Social Rules*, recognition by BookAuthority as one of the best and bestselling books on autism “of all time.”

The audiobook debut of *Autism in Heels*, April of 2020 (Dreamscape Media, LLC) a number one release for Audible and Amazon, marked an important milestone as the first narration of an autism memoir by an autistic person ever.

In addition to writing, Jennifer keynotes internationally in front of jumbotrons and in boardrooms, in schools and on stages, for kids and for Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Sophie of England and Princess Marie of Denmark. She is a beloved presenter, winning *AuKids’ Magazine’s* “Speaker of the Year” for very first talk (in Manchester, UK, 2012), appearing on magazine covers and on air, in corporate trainings for Cargill, on top of picnic

tables for the National Eating Disorders Association, and on fashion runways at Nordstrom and The Kinney Center.

Jennifer has keynoted at Society of America's National Conference, the USAAA World Conference, North American Montessori Teachers' Association, The National Inclusion Project, the UK's National Autistic Society, Ireland's SHINE, Denmark's Sikon, and many others. She was selected to address the United States' National Institutes of Health Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee regarding the unique issues surrounding women, girls, and autism. Jennifer has advised the President's Council on Disabilities and President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition at the White House in 2015, and even had a voice in the creation of Julia, the first autistic character on Sesame Street (who just happens to also have red hair and green eyes).

Jennifer was named one of North Carolina's "50 Most Influential Women" and Autism Newscast's "25 Most Amazing Women with Autism," the cover story of "hope, humor & positivity" for Zoom Autism Magazine, a mentor for Yale's Child Study Center where her books serve as foundational texts, and a member of The Global Montessori Alliance. She is a recipient of GRASP's Disting

uished Spectrumite Parenting Medal and the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Women Inspiring Hope and Strength Award, Kappa Alpha Theta's Leading Women, and has been celebrated by Disney's Babble, A Mighty Girl, Women That Soar Awards, and The Mighty.

She sits on the Autism Society of America's Panel of People on the Spectrum, is a columnist/expert panelist for Amy Poehler's Smart Girls at the Party, and is a contributor to the online Spectrum Women Magazine. Her personal story has been featured in The New York Post, The Guardian, by BBC World Service, NPR, and Fox News, and by scores of press outlets around the world.

In 2019, Jennifer became the inaugural Senior Directorial Consultant to CNN Hero, Dr. Wendy Ross, at Jefferson University Hospitals Jefferson Health Center for Autism and Neurodiversity in Philadelphia.

From her own struggles and self-discovery, Jennifer's celebrated insights have touched hearts, lightened spirits, and broadened minds around the world.

As one Irish reader shared, “There’s life before Jennifer’s work.  
And then there’s living.”

JenniferCook (formerly Cook O'Toole)

# Jennifer's Book Awards

THE ASPERKID'S GAME PLAN

JENNIFER COOK O'TOOLE



THE ASPERKID'S LAUNCH PAD

JENNIFER COOK O'TOOLE



Jennifer Cook O'Toole (Sekretna) księga asperdzieciaka



TAJNÁ KNIHA PRO ASPERGERY

JAK ZMÁKNOUT PRAVIDLA  
SPOLEČENSKÉHO CHOVÁNÍ

JENNIFER

万千心理

自闭症儿童社会规则训练

中国轻工业出版社

JENNIFER COOK O'TOOLE

ASPIENS HEMMELIGE BOG  
OM USKREVNE SOCIALE REGLER

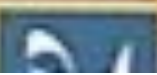


The Asperkid's (Secret) Book of Social Rules

Jennifer Cook O'Toole

JENNIFER COOK O'TOOLE

The Asperkid's





# Jennifer's Book Awards

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## **Asperkids series (Jessica Kingsley Publishers)**

### **Asperkids: An Insider's Guide to Loving, Understanding and Teaching Children with Asperger Syndrome (2012)**

- about.com "Reader's Choice Winner: Best Parent Resource"
- Autism Speaks "Top 10 Family Resources"
- AADigest "Top 10 Books to Read for Families"
- AADigest "Top 10 Books to Read for Teachers"

### **The Asperkids' (Secret) Book of Social Rules: The Handbook of Not-So- Obvious Guidelines for Teens and Tweens (2012)**

- Autism Society of America's "Temple Grandin Outstanding Literary Work of the Year"
- Bestselling Autism Books of All Time, BookAuthority
- Scholastic "Top 10 Must Read List"

- The Mighty "10 Best Autism Books"
- about.com "Reader's Choice Winner: Best Teen Resource"
- Autism Speaks "Top 10 Family Resources"
- AADigest "Top 10 Books to Read for Families"

### **The Asperkid's Launch Pad: Home Design That Empowers Everyday Superheroes (2013)**

- AADigest "Top 10 Books to Read for Families"
- Living Now "Readers' Choice Best Book Award"
- Autism Speaks "Top 10 Family Resources"

### **The Asperkid's Not-Your-Average-Coloring Book (2013)**

- The Art of Autism "Featured Favorite"
- Tectonic Theatre Award

**The Asperkid's Game Plan: Purposeful Play, Extraordinary Minds.... Ordinary Stuff (2014)**

- AADigest “Top 10 Books to Read for Families”
- SEN Magazine “Best Creative Learning”

**Sisterhood of the Spectrum: An Asperger Chick's Guide to Life (2015)**

- The Mighty “Top Books for Girls”
- Spectrum Women “Breakthrough Read”

**Memoir (Skyhorse Publishers)**

**Autism in Heels: The Untold Story of a Female Life on the Spectrum (2018)**

- *Wall Street Journal* bestseller
- BookAuthority: 74 Best Autism Books of All Time
- *Publishers Weekly*: Best Books List
- Booklist Book of Distinction Starred Review by the American Library Association
- 24 Amazing Feminist Books of 2018, Book Riot

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# Author's Honors

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# Author's Honors

- Woman of Honor, Sanctuary Magazine
- Women That Soar Award
- Honoree, National Institutes of Health
- 50 Most Influential Women in North Carolina
- 25 Most Amazing Autistic Women, Autistic Spectrum Digest
- Temple Grandin Award for Outstanding Global Contributions
- Women Inspiring Strength & Hope Award, Make-A-Wish
- GRASP Excellence in Parenting/Distinguished Spectrumite
- AuKids Speaker of the Year
- Leading Woman, Kappa Alpha Theta Leading Women Award
- Disney's Babble: Top 30 Autism Spectrum Blogs
- Disney's Babble: Top 30 Autism Facebook Fan Pages
- Disney's Babble: Top 30 Autism Websites
- Godiva's Woman of the Year, Nominee
- Amy Poehler's Smart Girls at the Party Honoree
- First autistic author to narrate audiobook
- Bestselling author of any single autism title

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# Media

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