



# **Dancing with Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free**

*Emily Colson*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Dancing with Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free

*Emily Colson*

## **Dancing with Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free** Emily Colson

Meet a remarkable young man. Max doesn't communicate like we do. But he communicates better than we do about the most important things. Max doesn't think like we do. But his actions reflect deep spiritual truths. With candor and wit, Emily Colson shares about her personal battles and heartbreak when, as a suddenly single mother, she discovers her only child has autism. Emily illuminates the page with imagery---making you laugh, making you cry, inspiring you to face your own challenges. Chuck Colson, in his most personal writing since *Born Again*, speaks as a father and grandfather. It is a tender side Max brings out of his grandfather, a side some haven't seen. As Emily recalls her experiences, we discover that Max's disability does not so much define who he is, but reveals who we are. *Dancing with Max* is not a fairy tale with a magical ending. It's a real life story of grace and second chances and fresh starts in spite of life's hardest problems. And Max? Max will make you fall in love with life all over again, leaving you dancing with joy.

## **Dancing with Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free Details**

Date : Published (first published August 10th 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Emily Colson

Format : Kindle Edition 208 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Biography, Christian, Autobiography, Memoir

 [Download Dancing with Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dancing with Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Dancing with Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free Emily Colson**

---

## **From Reader Review Dancing with Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free for online ebook**

### **Darlene says**

A wonderful read! I read it for two reasons, to gain insight and sensitivity to those with Autistic loved ones and because of my admiration for Chuck Colson, the author's father. He does a beautiful job on the prologue and epilogue. It is easy to see where his daughter, Emily, gets her story-telling skills. I highly recommend this book. A little sad in the beginning but lots of giggles in the second half.

---

### **Mary says**

Good book. The author read the version I listened to and it was a little intense at times because she really knew how she was feeling when she wrote it!

I can't imagine what her days are like. She sounds, when she reads, like she has boundless energy. She is an amazing woman. (As I'm sure all moms with special needs children are!)

---

### **Jim Dressner says**

This book is a gem. The author describes facing adversity without a sense of triumphalism or degrading into a tale of woe. The challenges are described realistically, and, unexpectedly, joy comes *through* the hardships, rather than by overcoming the hardships.

The author's friend, Patti, says early on: "It might not seem true now, ...but God works through these children. They are a *gift*. Max is a *gift*." I reacted skeptically, but by the end of the book, I was convinced that Max was indeed a gift.

---

### **Laurie Holcomb says**

A beautiful story of Max, who is autistic and his mother, Emily Colson, a single mother, sharing personal battles and heartbreak. Emily illuminates the page with imagery—making you laugh, making you cry, inspiring you to face your own challenges.

---

### **Kara Rull says**

Dancing with Max is one of the best books I have read in a long time. Living with an autistic child must be an unbelievable challenge. This book shows the realities and difficulties of raising an autistic child while still

showing the tremendous blessings God sends in these children that can be so difficult to understand. Your compassion for the struggles of others will increase greatly.

---

### **Karen says**

I enjoyed it; some of it was wonderful. I am glad that I read it. But I'm mixed about this book because I wanted more details about their experiences.

Emily's breakthrough with Max using Picture Talks to work through his traumatic experiences was genius. Something like this could help a lot of people who could use a healthy coping mechanism. Too bad the process was not elaborated on more fully.

Backwards church: the decision to go to the ending part of the church service where Max had successful experiences was a brilliant idea.

Giving Max responsibilities was a capital move. I know other special needs adults who struggle with self worth and related issues because well meaning people want to shelter them and/or do everything for them. Even many "healthy" children experience similar frustrations because they are considered to be too young to "work". Independence is healthy!

Max's obsession with The Chaplet of Divine Mercy broadcasts underscores the rather common need many people have for structure, schedule, and predictability. Dislike of change is everywhere and it intriguing to see how crippling it can be for some people. Insert more compassion and thinking of others here!

It is also astounding to see how some people look upon others' difficulties with disdain, while others look upon them with compassion - even if it is bewildered compassion. And, as illustrated repeatedly in this story, it's complicated. What works this time may not work next time, which is exactly why many good hearted people are afraid to try to help or make bumbling, even offensive, attempts to do something.

One of the best parts of the book is that Emily, and others, see how Max is a gift. Because of Max, they see things in a new way or see things they may not have ever seen had it not been for Max.

On the downside, this book is like a few other books I have read by authors who have an interesting story to tell. It seems that in their effort to recreate the events from memory and have enough material for a book, they fill in the blanks with other information that is not particularly pertinent to the story (i.e. I Will Always Write Back, A Long Way Home, An Invisible Thread). In my opinion, it detracts from the "real" story.

The battles between the educational "professionals" and Emily were terribly unfortunate. I'm glad that even though Emily did not have a instantaneous perfect solution, she did not allow those people to do with Max as they wished. We all know there are no perfect parents or educators or education systems. But it seems like "professionals" ought to be able to work with parents who are willingly involved with their children's education. We should all be on the same team. But, alas, that is another story in itself.

---

### **Amber says**

This book was so heartwarming and really touched me deeply. With having two kids with autism I could relate to a lot of what this woman went through. It was such a great personal story and I loved how she brought her faith into it. This book came at just the right time. I highly recommend it especially for those with special needs kids.

---

### **Tim Chavel says**

Emily Colson is the daughter of the late Chuck Colson of Watergate fame. Emily's son, Max, has autism. This is a story about Emily and her son Max and their life dealing with autism. It is also a great story of unconditional love a mother has for her son. A highly recommend this book for anyone who has an interest in autism, unconditional love, or Chuck Colson.

---

### **Wendy says**

I loved this book. It was an interesting and engaging story of a mother's sacrifices and efforts to reach her autistic son. Ms Colson's story reveals the depth of pain and even more, the isolation of a family suddenly thrust into the world of autism. Her path was made all the harder by Max's father, who abandoned the family in a familiar response to this kind of stress.

I was right there through the long, sleepless nights, feeling the despair but also the intense love. I marveled at her tenacity in finding the right help for her son. The book is meaningful for all parents and enlightening for those of us who have not known an autistic child. There is much more here than one mother's story. Colson makes it deeper than that, more universal, encouraging and challenging both.

---

### **Melissa (ladybug) says**

How would I feel if my child was born with Autism? I don't know how to answer that, but I know that took pioneers like Emily Colson and her son to show that coping with it is possible. I learned that people need to be understanding when they see a child throwing a rip roaring tantrum in a store or school and that we need to not stare. The child may not be a "spoiled rotten brat" they may just not understand how to handle emotions such as Autism.

---

### **Natalie Vellacott says**

This was a really great story about Max, a young boy with severe autism and the relationship his mother Emily develops with him after her husband leaves her. Max is actually the grandson of the late Charles Colson who has written the forward and epilogue.

I enjoyed this book because it was so real and gives an outsider a glimpse into the daily struggles of life with a child like Max. Emily tirelessly seeks to find ways to communicate with him and improve his quality of life. Her example is one of complete selflessness, she obviously adores him and has sacrificed her life that he might experience some joy here on earth. They are Christians.

This book is actually pretty funny--Emily uses a lot of amusing metaphors and similes to try and help people understand exactly how she felt and how other people responded to Max's behaviour. There were many people who sought to connect with Max, others who didn't know what to do and still others who really should be ashamed of themselves. Emily perseveres through the ups and downs. The writing style is creatively unique, it's difficult to explain but I haven't read a book quite like this before.

An ideal gift for someone dealing with a child with disabilities or just for those who enjoy true stories of Christian hope in the midst of trials. There is no bad language, sexual content or violence.

---

### **Tara M Burns says**

Just as Max himself is gift, this book is a gift to all who read it. It is a story of perseverance, patience, character and hope. Above all, it is a story of love -- a mother's unconditional, sacrificial, ever-present love for her son. Oh how wonderful it would be if a sequel was written someday - "Soaring with Mom" by Max -- from his perspective, on how his Mom changed his world for God's glory. Emily Colson, thank you for sharing your story so boldly, poignantly, and faithfully!

---

### **Sandy Menke says**

Admirable story by Emily Colson with introduction and prologue by her father, Charles. Charles discusses his relationship with Emily in her early years when he was very busy climbing the Washington ladder and ultimately snagged by Watergate and spent time in prison. Emily marries and has Max, soon diagnosed to have autism. Shortly after her husband divorces her and she is on her own to work her magic with her beautiful son. Emily was absolutely incredible in her determination and powerful ways to connect with Max and celebrate all his awkward moments with joy and laughter. This she has done only with the help of God and her unwavering faith. A true testimony of "being thankful in all things".

---

### **Cleo says**

Loved the metaphors and similes used. Very appropriate and carried the language image into a visual one. Learned a lot about autism and the effect on a parent's life. Emily kept calling Max's condition a gift. I can see why at the end of the book. Cudo's to the churches who put their arms around Max and Emily to see that both realized the love of God. A lesson for all of us in the pages of this book.

---

### **Ernie says**

A truly amazing, heartwarming story. I recommend this book not only to those with children and loved ones with autism, but to every person with a pulse.

