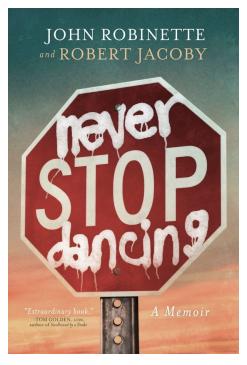
"This book sings and will entrance, and inform you on many levels. Yes, it's a book about grief, but it is also a book about deep male friendships, communities, and much more. Its song reveals surprising connections between death and living, pain and Spirituality, and simply getting the most out of life. Extraordinary book."

- Tom Golden, LCSW, author of Swallowed by a Snake

"...explores genuine friendship between two men as one supports the other on a wide-ranging journey from grief to transformation."

— IndieReader (IR Approved 4.7/5)



# **NEVER STOP DANCING**

#### A Memoir

By John Robinette and Robert Jacoby

In the spirit of the classic *Tuesdays with Morrie* with the immediacy and pathos of the recent bestseller *Two Kisses for Maddy*, *Never Stop Dancing* is a poignant meditation on the power of love and loss—and the equally vital power of resilience.

In the spring of 2010, John Robinette's wife, Amy, was killed in an accident on the streets of Washington, DC, leaving him alone to raise their two young sons. His world was shattered, and his friend, author Robert Jacoby, was shattered seeing

him grieve. Robert was at a loss as to what he could possibly do—what *anyone* could do—to help John in his miserable situation. Then the thought came: Just be with John; talk with him; listen to him. Robert proposed an unusual idea: he would interview John over the course of the first year after Amy's death. His hope was to meet John directly in his experience of sorrow, explore his grief with him, and discover what lessons might be learned.

Now, nine years later, a book is born of those candid conversations. **Never Stop Dancing** avoids clichéd takeaways about grief and healing to chart a deeper, thornier examination of loss and regret. Robert and John were transformed through their shared experience and emerged strengthened with an abiding male friendship that cuts against the grain of pop-culture trends of quick fixes and easy answers.

"What John lived through may be common to humanity," Robert Jacoby writes, "but the experience he and I shared in and from this book is unique, perhaps, especially for men."

# **Never Stop Dancing** explores such issues as:

- Male friendship, and what that means in our modern era
- How we look at life differently in the aftermath of a terrible tragedy
- How we understand the concepts of love, God, and religion in our lives, and what those things mean to people recovering from the death of a loved one
- Community, and how shared grief can bring communities together
- How to practice self-care in the aftermath of tragedy
- Dealing with a loved one's possessions and moving beyond the reminders of grief
- What it takes to get back into dating and open yourself to finding love again

"Our hope is that as you come along and engage in a conversation with someone who has endured the profoundest of losses, you'll incorporate John's story—and my story of being John's friend—into your own story and discover and rediscover love and its wondrous, mysterious reach," Jacoby writes. "And ultimately, like John, like me, find ways to unearth the treasures among the ruins."

Learn more at <a href="https://www.never-stop-dancing.com">www.never-stop-dancing.com</a>

# **About the Authors**



#### John Robinette

After the death of his wife Amy Polk, John began journaling on his blog Hole in the Sun about his journey and has contributed to Elephant Journal.

John has an M.S. in Management Science and spent the first 25 years of his career as a software engineer, IT professional, and project manager. After Amy's death, he shifted his focus towards helping people be more

successful and find more joy in their careers.

When he is not writing, John is an organizational development and leadership coach with the <u>Center for Leadership and Organizational Change</u> at the University of Maryland. He is also a principle at <u>V-Teamwork</u>, a company using immersive virtual game simulations to build trust and accelerate collaboration in teams. You can find him on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>. John is remarried and lives in Takoma Park, Maryland, with his sons Adam and Bryan, and three rescue pets.



### Robert Jacoby

Robert is the author of three books: <u>Dusk and Ember</u> (2019, novel); <u>There Are Reasons Noah Packed No Clothes</u> (2012, novel); and <u>Escaping from Reality Without Really Trying: 40 Years of High Seas Travels and Lowbrow Tales</u> (2011, nonfiction). His poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have appeared in more than 20 literary magazines.

During his career he has been an editor and writer for newspapers, healthcare magazines, health facilities, and health-related websites. In 2012 he received his Master of Information Management at the iSchool, University of Maryland, where he focused on developing the <a href="Website Governance Modeling Tool">Website Governance Modeling Tool</a>. His most recent position was as a web governance consultant with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy.

He is currently working on two new novels. Learn more at <u>robert-jacoby.com</u>. Read his blog at his <u>Goodreads author page</u>, and follow him on his <u>Facebook Author page</u> for events and publication activities. Robert lives in Eldersburg, Maryland with his partner Gina.

Never Stop Dancing: A Memoir By John Robinette and Robert Jacoby Inner Harbor House, LLC / October 10, 2019 / 233 pages

Full authors' Q&A is available at <a href="https://www.never-stop-dancing.com">www.never-stop-dancing.com</a>