

Almost Perfect: Disabled Pets And The People Who Love Them

Author Bio – Mary A. Shafer

Mary Shafer is a full time freelance writer and marketing consultant . From June to December, she lives and works in upper Bucks County, in her home state of Pennsylvania. The rest of the year, she enjoys following the warmer weather in her travel trailer, accompanied by her blind cat, Idgie.

Mary is the author of four nonfiction books, and contributor to two published nonfiction anthologies.

She co-parents five special needs cats. One of those, Idgie, is the subject of her essay in the anthology, *Almost Perfect: Disabled Pets and the People Who Love Them*. Idgie was born without eyes, a condition known as anophthalmia, which can occur when the mother cat is exposed to a virus in the early stages of pregnancy. At the time of her rescue, Idgie was also testing positive to Feline Leukemia, normally a death sentence for cats. But Mary believed in Idgie.

“After watching Idgie live life on her own terms, demanding the right to be and do all the things her sighted siblings enjoy, I realized the potential for Idgie’s story, and those of other critters like her, to inspire readers. I knew we had a great idea for a book,” she says.

Mary learned so many life lessons from the small, gray cat, that she believed others would benefit from learning about those whose lives had been positively transformed by living with special needs pets. So she acted as editor, building an anthology around her essay, and the result was *Almost Perfect*. The book was the first indie-published title to be featured in *Publishers Weekly* magazine, receiving a warm review from the venerable publication.



- 2010: Muse Medallion award, Cat Writers Association
- Supporter of Tabby’s Place, a sanctuary of last resort for cats who have nowhere else to go, in central New Jersey.

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