

Advance Praise for
Loving Lindsey: Raising a Daughter with Special Needs

“Ms. Atwell writes with clarity and contemplation through the triumphs and tragedies of raising someone with special needs. At times funny and always candid, *Loving Lindsey* is a book every woman should enjoy reading, no matter where they fall on its relationship spectrum.”

—Kathleen Cremonesi, author of *Love in the Elephant Tent: How Running Away with the Circus Brought me Home* and 2016 Gold Medal Independent Publisher Awards for Coming of Age/Family Legacy

“Told with astonishing honesty and candor, this is a story about the courage and bravery of daily life in a family bringing a ‘forever child’ into adulthood. It’s a story about real love in real life.”

—Corinne Tippett, author of *Just a Couple of Chickens* and *When No One Else Would Fly*

“Linda Atwell is a master storyteller, and does a phenomenal job of sharing the love and grievances that come with raising her daughter. The moments and years of joy and frustration every family feels are especially touching as she navigates life with her sweet, defiant girl. *Loving Lindsey* is an exquisitely told account of a mother’s protection, pride, frustration, and is, ultimately, a story about never giving up. I highly recommend *Loving Lindsey* to every parent.”

—Kristi Rieger Campbell, speaker, author, advocate, and Finding Ninee creator

“Atwell shines a light on the complicated issues involved in loving and living with someone with special needs. Whether you are a family member of someone with intellectual disabilities or just looking in from the outside, you will be moved.”

—Teresa Sullivan, author of *Mikey and Me: Life with My Exceptional Sister*

“The reader gets to see this family in a world we don’t usually get to share—raising a teenage daughter compounded by the difficulties of developmental disability. Told with clear-eyed empathy for her daughter and the other members of her family, Atwell’s memoir is unflinchingly honest, allowing us to drop midstream into this remarkable family’s life.”

—Diana Y. Paul, author of *Things Unsaid*

“This harrowing journey—a page-turner that’s every parent’s nightmare—will stay with you long after you have put down the book. Highly recommended.”

—Barbara Donsky, award-winning author of *Veronica’s Grave: A Daughter’s Memoir* (Canadian version: *Missing Mother*)

“Linda Atwell is a beacon of light in her book about the richness of raising a daughter with special needs. Lindsey’s stories are woven into the midst of Atwell’s own very full life, and

she truly tells it like it is. She shares her experiences through the lenses of love, humor, and the human condition.”

—Diana Dolan Mattick, special education teacher and learning specialist

“As the parent of a child with disabilities, I often wonder and worry about what the future holds for my son. Atwell’s tender, funny, real, and at times heart-wrenching memoir about her daughter—who as an adult woman still sleeps with a Cabbage Patch doll yet holds a job, gets a place of her own and falls in love, as doomed as it may be—portrays the self-sufficiency and experiences that I want my son to someday enjoy. *Loving Lindsey* shows that it is entirely possible to have intellectual disability and also have a good life.”

—Ellen Seidman, author of the award-winning blog Love That Max

“Atwell’s strong relationship with Lindsey, her special needs adult daughter, carries her (and us) through heartbreaking times that include fear, frustration, and disappointment that are always tempered by unwavering love and a determination to equip her daughter with skills for an independent life. A riveting narrative of mother-daughter struggles and rewards.”

—Matilda Butler, memoir coach and award-winning author of *Rosie’s Daughters: The “First Woman To” Generation Tells Its Story*

“*Loving Lindsey* is a mom’s heartbreakingly honest account of letting go of her daughter, Lindsey. The heroes of this book are Atwell’s fierce and imperfect love for her daughter and Lindsey’s determination to be as independent as possible. *Loving Lindsey* offers parents of children with special needs a glimpse of the challenges their children will face in adulthood and food for thought about how to prepare and navigate them.”

—Jolene Philo, author of *A Different Dream for My Child* and *Does My Child Have PTSD?*

“Atwell’s evocative descriptions provide added depth to the characters, particularly Lindsey, whose voice emanates from the pages. A brutally honest, affecting memoir of family resilience.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*