

# WALKING THE COVID TIGHTROPE

By Bodil Valero and Marion Verweij

COVID-19 united us across the world in ways we had never seen before. At the same time, it was very personal to each individual. Virus contagion reports per country, and how many had died seem to ignore that fact. This pandemic affects us all, one way or another, yet we all experience the stranger in our midst in different ways. Such things as the country, the family and employment is one aspect, but there is the individual, and how they faced the new situation on the other hand.

Walking the Covid Tightrope is a book of stories from different people sharing their inner experience with COVID: good things, bad things, if something in their life changed, if they felt something important happened with them.

## ORDINARY PEOPLE IN AN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE

Most were written in August through October, just as news of a second wave was reaching us. They are personal stories. Not stories about the country they live in, or what went on there. A bit about the politics or rules perhaps, but mostly about ordinary people in an extraordinary circumstance. Individual lives within the statistics, people finding their way to deal with the situation they found themselves in all of a sudden.

It contains contributions from all continents, from both genders, from various backgrounds and



professions. Whilst there are many countries and natures of people missing, it gives a kaleidoscope of experience, forming a rich tapestry of life going on inside this pandemic.

## WARMTH DESPITE EVERYTHING

Reading a person's personal account of their feelings gives a whole different flavour than reading the news. The honesty, the struggles, the ponders, the warmth despite everything. Even though they live in different situations, many miles apart, and mostly don't know each other, they have a lot of similarities.

COVID-19 was devastating. Being in a time of multimedia, it also brought us together around the world in ways nothing else has done before.

Within the nightmare, there were also positive things that came into people's lives. Many people write about great humanity, despite difficulties, or perhaps because of the problems they all faced. Another was the position-taking many felt urged to do. Each story offers its own reflection, its own questions to us all.



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