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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Vultures, Gingerbread, and Recovery: “Twisted: A Minneapolis Tornado Memoir”

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What do you do when your life is turned into a surreal nightmare by a tornado? If you're Marie Porter... you write a book about it.

Marie and her husband were two of the thousands of people devastated by the tornado that hit North Minneapolis on May 22, 2011.

“Twisted: A Minneapolis Tornado Memoir” recounts the Porters’ first 11 months, post tornado. Rebuilding their house, working around the challenges presented by severely inadequate insurance coverage. Frustration at repeated bouts of incompetence and greed from their city officials. Dealing with issues such as control, logistics, change, and over-stimulation, as two adults with Aspergers. Creative coping methods for dealing with stress, loss, and the “vultures” that descended on the area immediately after the tornado. (Hint: Water balloons and a bizarre gingerbread house are involved!)

With the help of social media – and the incredibly generous support of the geek community – the Porters were able to emerge from the recovery marathon without too much of a hit to their sanity levels. New friends were made, new skills learned, and a “new” house emerged from the destruction. “Twisted” is a roller coaster of emotion, personal observations, rants, humor, social commentary, set backs and triumphs.

Oh, and details on how to cook jambalaya for almost 300 people, in the parking lot of a funeral home... should you ever find yourself in the position to do so!

Author Marie Porter describes her motivation to write the memoir: “I’d never experienced a natural disaster, and we had no idea what to do. When we were floundering around those first few days, just trying to figure everything out ... I just wanted to read something from someone else who’d been there. I searched the internet for anything - books, blogs written by someone who’d chronicled their tornado recovery experience... and came up empty handed. We had so many weird, wonderful, awful, surreal, and funny things happen to us along our own recovery process. I wanted to have a permanent record of it, not only for us to look back on ... but also to help others along the way.”

Twisted: A Minneapolis Tornado Memoir was released on May 22, 2012 - the first anniversary of the North Minneapolis tornado.

Marie Porter is an award winning baker, and the author of two cookbooks. She has been residing in North Minneapolis since early 2011 - two months before the tornado - along with her husband and four cats. Marie is available for commentary on the tornado recovery experience, for any related stories.

For more information about “Twisted: A Minneapolis Tornado Memoir” (ISBN: 978-0-9846040-9-8, \$16.99), visit www.celebrationgeneration.com

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