Accordion Dreams: A Journey into Cajun and Creole Music
By Blair Kilpatrick
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Book News for Immediate Release

Cajun accordion becomes a life-changing obsession for psychotherapist

Blair Kilpatrick had settled into her life as a psychologist, wife, and mother when a chance encounter in New Orleans turned her world upside down. She returned home to Chicago with an unlikely new passion: Cajun music. ***Accordion Dreams: A Journey into Cajun and Creole Music*** (University Press of Mississippi) is an engaging and uplifting account of Kilpatrick's foray into a new culture.

Haunted by recurring dreams of playing the Cajun accordion, she set out to master the instrument—even though she was not a musician, was too self-conscious to dance, and didn't even sing in the shower. Kilpatrick describes her vivid dreams, recalling, "I played the accordion—completely at one with the instrument, the music gliding out of me with no effort at all. I'd wake up enchanted—and surprised—since it had never occurred to me that I could try to create this music myself."

Kilpatrick's obsession took her from the local Cajun dance scene to folk music camp in West Virginia, back and forth to south Louisiana, and even to a Cajun festival in France. As she followed her musical journey, the boundaries of her world expanded, and she was enlivened by the vibrant Louisiana French culture and the people, both Cajun and Creole, she came to know.

Kilpatrick and her family moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, home to the largest Louisiana French music scene outside the Gulf Coast. There she became a protégé of renowned accordionist Danny Poullard, a Louisiana-born Creole and the guiding spirit of the local music community. Kilpatrick slowly blossomed under his guidance and—with his encouragement—formed a band of her own. But she soon faced a new and painful challenge: the possible loss of her friend and mentor, when Poullard's health began to fail.

Accordion Dreams offers readers a deeply personal look into Kilpatrick's passion, risk-taking, and life-changing music obsession.

BLAIR KILPATRICK has an independent practice in psychotherapy in the San Francisco Bay Area. She also performs and records with Sauce Piquante, a traditional Cajun-Creole band she founded in the late 1990s. For updates, news and reviews visit www.blairkilpatrick.com.

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