

## MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### **By Mrs. Silvana Profetto Mother and Personal Advisor**

Jason is the second of four children, and as the mother of these four children, I believe each one to be special and gifted in his or her own way. But when family, friends, and total strangers go out of their way to tell you how your child has had a positive and sometimes life-changing impact on them, you are affirmed that this individual is indeed sharing his gifts of kindness, intelligence, empathy, and optimism.

Thirty-three years ago Jason tried to enter this world backwards; he was in a breech position, and as a result was delivered by Caesarean section. He was the only one delivered by this method and thus began our life journey with Jason. There were complications that resulted in double pneumothorases and a stay in the neonatal ward. Regardless, five days later we were discharged home with the paediatrician's promise that he would lead a normal, active life.

Well, I am constantly reminded of those words when I observe my son grabbing the world with both hands and enjoying life.

Jason has a thirst for knowledge, constantly reading, writing, and teaching. He loves to share new ideas and thoughts. I have watched Jason from JK to the present with the realization that he is not afraid of challenges, but is always true to himself in the process with loyalty to family and friends. His educational journey has been a self-directed, driven, and well-

rounded endeavour. Jason welcomes new adventures as an opportunity to grow.

My husband, Ralph, is a family physician, so Jason was exposed to the reality of a life in medicine very early on. I remember the day he sat at the kitchen table trying to come up with the quote for his high school graduation picture in the yearbook. He looked up with a knowing smile and said, "Papa, I follow you on the field and in school." They also share a passion, or should I say an addiction, for soccer. I reminded him that was a lofty ambition, but he was always adamant about going to medical school. From his first day in university Jason laid the foundation for a position in medical school. He maintained the grade point average needed to be considered for an interview, he was active in the community through volunteer work and athletics, and he constantly researched and got involved in the medical world, all the while being a member of the university soccer team. This was all second nature for him and he was eager and enthusiastic about all the experiences and encounters. It was truly a pleasure to watch as a mother, all the while hoping he wouldn't be disappointed. Jason learned and moved forward from any experience, positive or negative. His optimism and persistence still enable him to always see the silver lining.

As a husband and father, I am grateful to see that his family, wife Laura, and children, Valencia and Alessandro, are his most important priority. He loves them unconditionally and embraces his family with constant validation and nurturing. He is an awesome father. As a son he is a source of love, support, and humour. As a sibling he is inspirational to his brothers and

sister, sharing and celebrating their successes. He is their constant cheerleader and support. We see him in this same role with his extended family, friends, colleagues, and staff.

And now, after graduating from medical school and running his own family practice in Stoney Creek, he continues to grow professionally by also teaching at the medical school, supervising clerks and residents, enrolling in a Masters of Medical Education Program, and writing this book.

His father and I are proud of the wonderful young man Jason has become, an individual who happily reaches out to others, appreciates the beauty in simplicity, and is fearless of the future.