



For Immediate Release:

## **MOVING BEYOND GRIEF: Stronger Than Cleopatra**

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In June of 1994, Jacqueline Jules was 37 years old. She had just finished a satisfying year as a school librarian and was looking forward to the upcoming publication of her first children's book. Bill, her husband of 17 years, had just launched his own consulting business. Their sons, age 9 and 13, were good students, active in sports. Bill coached their basketball and baseball teams.

On Father's Day, the family attended a community picnic, complete with grilled hotdogs, ice cream, and softball. Jacqueline went to sleep tired, but happy. The next morning, this serenity was shattered as she frantically called an ambulance. It arrived too late to save Bill from sudden cardiac death. He died on their bathroom floor.

Poetry helped Jacqueline grieve. She began writing poems within days of the funeral—narrative poems in first person, addressed to Bill, the person she most wanted to talk to. “Love is far too complicated an emotion to end with death,” says Jules, who makes her home in Arlington, VA. “We continue our relationship with the deceased, willingly or unwillingly, for the rest of our lives.” Through poetry, Jacqueline tackled the unfinished business between the living and the dead, sharing her feelings of shock, grief, and finally, acceptance.

Twenty years later, ELJ Publications of Washingtonville, New York, has released *Stronger Than Cleopatra*, Jacqueline's collection of narrative poems. They share the journey of a young widow, coming to terms with loss and moving forward with a new love.

Praise for *Stronger Than Cleopatra* includes:

“Jacqueline Jules' visceral howl at the power of the seemingly random universe and passage through the five stages of grief will rattle your emotions and capture your heart. Here is a collection of poems as fragments of light amid the darkness. That she captures that light to share with us is the true marvel.” —Richard Peabody, editor *Gargoyle Magazine*

“Don't think of it as a poetry collection —this is a memoir, where the rawness of the situation can only exude in these small perfect bits of lyric. A journey you'll want to consume and then consume again. Magical.” —Hildie S. Block, editor of the anthology *Not What I Expected*

“If half of all marriages end in widowhood, *Stronger Than Cleopatra* is a manual for how to go on.” —Pamela Ehrenberg, author of *Ethan, Suspended* and *Tillmon County Fire*



**Jacqueline Jules** is the author of the poetry chapbook *Field Trip to the Museum*, published by Finishing Line Press, and two dozen books for young readers including the *Zapato Power* series, *Unite or Die: How Thirteen States Became a Nation*, and *Never Say a Mean Word Again*. An award-winning poet, her work has appeared in over 100 publications. Contact her at [jjules@jacquelinejules.com](mailto:jjules@jacquelinejules.com) and visit her online at [www.jacquelinejules.com](http://www.jacquelinejules.com)