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Successful Executive Shares Story of Family Tragedy and Extreme Hardship to Spark Hope in Others

Captivating rags-to-riches story gives hope to those who've faced extreme adversity and loss that healing and success are possible.

In the wake of the tragic passing of beloved actor Robin Williams, Ellore Press releases the compelling new paperback, *Until the Brighter Tomorrow: One Woman's Courageous Climb from the Projects to the Podium*, illuminating a new and heartening perspective on overcoming severe adversity and coping with the shattering loss of loved ones to suicide.

The author, Valerie Irick Rainford—named one of *Network Journal* magazine's 2007 "25 Influential Black Women in Business"—kept her family secret for years, afraid of what people's reaction might be, until she realized as a mentor the power her story had to help and inspire others who had experienced similar pain and difficulties.

One would likely not imagine that a senior executive with one of the world's largest financial services firms, with an array of impressive career firsts in her field, grew up with extreme hardship—not only changing schools multiple times in the elementary grades alone, surrounded by drugs, poverty, and teenage pregnancy, but losing both her mother and brother to suicide before barely out of her teens. But Rainford, refusing to become yet another urban statistic, embraced her generational current of strength passed down from her mother and grandmother and bravely took a different path.

Determined to inspire others that success can be achieved no matter where one begins in life or what one may be currently going through, Rainford chronicles her affecting journey from her challenging young life in the projects, through the devastating loss of her mother and dealing with her subsequent shame and guilt, to her rise in the corporate world.

"Women everywhere suffer through many of these same life challenges but often carry

the burdens of shame and guilt, sometimes losing their sense of self altogether. *Until the Brighter Tomorrow* is an inspiring must-read—a raw, authentic account that reminds us of the power of courage, strength, and perseverance.”

—Carol Evans
President, Working Mother Media

Rainford’s story is a beacon of light for anyone who has felt they “couldn’t catch a break” or faced seemingly insurmountable challenges. From the humblest of beginnings—and coping with profound grief—Valerie went on to graduate from Fordham University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics; she was later appointed as an officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York at the age of 29—the youngest ever at that time. By the age of 35, she was promoted to Senior Vice President, becoming the most senior African-American woman in the company’s history.

Says George C. Fraser, author of *Success Runs in Our Race* and *Click*: “The narrative, insights, and prescriptive dialogue will educate, inspire, and empower you. *Until the Brighter Tomorrow* is simply a book to love and a must-read for those who are serious about navigating life’s tragedies to lead a fulfilling life ... Don’t miss this important gem.”

Rainford has dedicated herself to helping others reach their full potential and live their brighter tomorrow—whether in the workplace or their personal lives—through her work as a motivational speaker, coach, and mentor, lending her life as an example for teens and adults alike.

To book Valerie as a speaker, or for a captivating glimpse into Valerie’s story, visit her website at www.valerierainford.com, where you can access a free download of the first chapter of *Until the Brighter Tomorrow*. The paperback is available at Amazon.com, B&N.com, and other bookstores and online retailers; the ebook is available through Kindle, Nook, and the iTunes bookstore.

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