

Motherhood gives birth to book ideas

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Jayne Jaudon Ferrer found herself pregnant with ideas while awaiting the birth of her first child.

A Mars Hill graduate with a degree in English, she began to weave the fresh emotions of motherhood into many a poem.

"I was just so overwhelmed by that whole miracle of creating a human being," said Ferrer, 48, of Greenville. "I was just mesmerized by nature unfolding. ... I was fascinated. I felt I had to capture every moment."

Her first and second books of poems, "A New Mother's Thoughts" and "I Am the Mother of Sons," were originally published in the late 1980s and mid-1990s by Pocket Books. Recently, those compilations of poems — with some new ones added — were rereleased as "A New Mother's Prayers" and "A Mother of Sons."

"After I had my first child, I just found this surge of creativity," Ferrer said. "And I never had any intentions whatsoever of publishing a book of poetry. I was an advertising copywriter and did magazine articles. I published some poems in college, but never looked at it as a career by any means."

Eventually, however, she presented a proposal to an agent. "She was not interested in that one, but wanted to know if I had anything else," Ferrer recalled. "She really liked my writing."

Ferrer's husband, Jose, reminded her of all of the poetry she'd written and encouraged her to compile them into a book.

Today, the mother of sons ages 20, 15 and 13, Ferrer has written three books of poetry. The latest, "Dancing With My Daughter," is a collection of poems about the bond that exists between mother and daughter.

With no daughters of her own, she drew from the experiences of other moms, her observances and later, her experience of caring for her own mom, who has Alzheimer's disease.

During the early stage of the disease, Ferrer's mother came to live with her family. Only then, when she experienced a role reversal, did she glimpse what it must be like to have a daughter, she said.

"I'd go to tuck Mother in bed, and she'd come rolling out the other side giggling like a little girl. Or she'd say, 'I don't want to do this. And I thought, you know... 'I got the experience.' And just started drawing on my own relationship.

"It was funny, because we had had a very adversarial relationship. ... There wasn't any of that tenderness," Ferrer said.

Life, love and motherhood, however, changed all of that.

"It took Mother being 90 years old and having Alzheimer's, and me growing up and having three sons,

before we really reached, I think, a complete appreciation of who the other is."