

A voice of optimism

It took Grace Cirocco, Arts '83, five years "to muster up the courage" to approach a publisher with the idea for a book that she wanted to write. When finally she called to pitch the idea to a potential publisher, she was surprised at the response. HarperCollins went for it.

As a result, Grace's dream became reality in September, when her first book appeared on bookstore shelves. *Take the Step: Inspiration and Guidance for Moving Your Life* (HarperCollins, \$30) is an inspirational self-help book that aims to tell people how to realize their potential and fulfill their dreams.



PHOTO: KEN CUTHBERTSON

Grace Cirocco

"My own experience is a perfect example of what can happen when you summon up the courage to take that first step," says Grace. "You never know what will happen until you try to do whatever it is that you want to do."

When you meet her, it's hard to believe that Grace could ever hesitate to try anything. The former CBC radio journalist-turned motivational speaker is a bundle of energy and enthusiasm. She radiates self-confidence.

Grace appeared in the Author's Corner at the Homecoming Weekend '01 registration tent on a sunlit Saturday morning that seemed less bright in the wake of September 11. "There's a lot of fear in the world. People are questioning their faith," says Grace. "If I can help them move forward and focus on the positives, I'll feel that I've done something worthwhile."

Take the Step is an extension of work Grace has been doing for eight years. Motivational speaking and helping people are her "calling in life," says Grace. "I've spoken to hundreds of thousands of people over the years, and I've made audio tapes. But people were always asking me why I didn't have a book. I've been a writer ever since I was a little girl growing up in Niagara-on-the-Lake [ON], and so the idea seemed like a good one." - K.C.