Dancing on a Razor’s Edge

A mother’s mission to rescue her meth-addicted son

by Mandy Whyte

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A mother decides to write the story of her son’s long-term methamphetamine addiction as a means to find out why he became an addict and how she can help him. Discovering the true extent of his use and the likely result: permanent psychosis, prison or death, she launches a rescue mission to save his life.

With the courage to follow her instincts, Whyte is able to get her malnourished and brain-damaged Kiwi-born son, Hemi, from his new home in Australia to hers in Indonesia, and provide home-based care that turns him around. This is a book about tenacity and love. It also explores the limits of care available for drug addicts in New Zealand and Australia and challenges the idea that it’s up to these people to find their own way to treatment, declaring this approach both socially negligent and a violation of human rights.

As our families, health services and courts try to come to grips with the scourge of crystal meth that is devastating so many lives, Dancing on a Razor’s Edge is a must-read.

Endorsed by Doug Sellman, Director of the National Addiction Centre at the Christchurch School of Medicine & Health Sciences and Professor at the University of Otago