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**New Children's Book by First-Time Author, Cancer Survivor, Explains Cancer in Uplifting Way,
Hailed by Medical Community**

MIAMI (October 10, 2016) -- *Hair to the Queen!*, a book aimed at helping young families understand cancer, is now available on [Amazon](#). Written by first-time author Tamara B. Rodriguez and illustrated by Carole A. Smith, the book empowers adults to discuss cancer with children in a simple and compassionate way.

Hair to the Queen! focuses on seven year-old Corazon as she prepares for a costume party, hosted by her mother, who is battling cancer and wears a wig after losing her hair. However, with the help of her father and sister, Corazon secretly uses the birthday celebration as an opportunity to plan a special surprise for her courageous mom.

Written in Corazon's voice, Ms. Rodriguez wrote *Hair to the Queen!* after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014. She wanted to talk about the disease with her two young daughters, but initially struggled to find the right words. This light-hearted book is her homage to helping other families start the conversation in a fearless way.

"From the perspective of a father, husband, and one who treats cancer as a radiation oncologist, I just loved this book. Written with such love and compassion, this is a must-read for anyone who wants to discuss cancer with their young children and grandchildren," said Dr. Jean-Philippe Austin, 21st Century Oncology. "*Hair to the Queen!* is absolutely essential for any child whose parent is being treated for cancer. Hopeful and uplifting, it provides just enough information to satisfy a child's curiosity about a potentially scary topic," said medical oncologist, Dr. Lauren Carcas, Florida Cancer Care.

Hair to the Queen! is dedicated to Ms. Rodriguez's husband, two young daughters, friends, and family, who served as her inspiration for the book. Finding positive ways to communicate openly about the disease has strengthened her family and helped empower her to help others.

Social responsibility has played a huge part throughout Ms. Rodriguez's life, especially her charitable work with nonprofit organization, [Haitian American Leadership Organization](#). As part of a team of volunteers, she helps present "A Day with Santa," an annual event during the holiday season that is designed to delight under-served children. More than 2,000 children from Miami and Haiti (Port-au-Prince, Thomazeau, and Cap-Haïtien) enjoy fun activities, food and drinks, entertainment, and, of course, new presents from Santa. Additionally, she has been deeply involved with [The Alfred Béliard Foundation](#), named after her grandfather, which focuses on cancer education, early prevention, and treatment. The Foundation serves as a conduit for accessing medical experts and other invaluable resources for Haitians living in Haiti.

Born and raised in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti, Ms. Rodriguez has more than a decade of corporate and philanthropic experience, most recently serving as Chief Financial Officer for [Fatima Group](#), a Miami-based corporate holding company. Among other businesses, Fatima has distinguished itself as a powerhouse in northern Haiti through the creation of unprecedented employment opportunities in Cap-Haïtien and beyond.

Ms. Rodriguez lives with her husband and two daughters in Florida, and already is working on her second children's book. Born and raised in Miami, Ms. Smith illustrated *Hair to the Queen!*, her first children's book, and also has contributed to two other books, *The Shadows of Nivia* and *The Garden of Enchantment*.

Recently, Ms. Rodriguez has been invited to debut her book at the Miami Book Fair International in November 2016, an annual weeklong literary festival hosted by Miami Dade College. Published by Fatima Group, *Hair to the Queen!* is available online at [Amazon.com](#) and [BooksandBooks.com](#), as well as at Books & Books locations in Miami Beach and in Coral Gables, FL. To learn more about book-signing events, kicking off with one at Books & Books in Coral Gables in January 2017, please visit [hairtothequeenbook.com](#) and follow *Hair to the Queen!* on Facebook ([facebook.com/HairtotheQueenBook/](#)), Instagram ([instagram.com/hairtothequeenbook](#)), and Twitter ([twitter.com/HairtoQueenBook](#)).

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