

Who Are Charles deAnne?

Charles deAnne is the shared pen name of Gary and Deanne Johnson.

The name began as a playful invention— "deAnne" with a small **d** and capital **A**, simply because it looked like the surname of an old French family.

Over time, it came to mean something much more.

Gary wrote the words.

Deanne helped write the life behind them.

Before there was a physics paper, there was a marriage.

Before there were books, there were children, airline schedules, military assignments, ordinary days, impossible days, laughter, arguments, forgiveness, and sixty years of growing older together.

The books were written by one pair of hands.

The stories were written by two lives.

Deanne has spent a lifetime quietly taking care of other people.

As the oldest child in her family, she learned early that protecting others was simply what older sisters did.

She never stopped.

Even today, when memory sometimes fails her, that instinct remains.

On a morning walk, Gary told her that he always walked on the street side because husbands are supposed to protect their wives.

She smiled.

"Because I was the oldest," she said. "I had to protect my brothers. They were just babies."

Gary suddenly realized something he had never fully understood.

People thought he had been protecting Deanne.

Much of the time...

Deanne had been protecting him.

If these books have a central character, it is not a Navy pilot, a physicist, or an airline captain.

It is courage.

The quiet kind.

The kind that doesn't announce itself.

The kind that gets up every morning, takes someone's hand, and keeps walking.

That courage has always belonged to Deanne.

The rest of us have simply been fortunate enough to walk beside her.

—Bob, sometimes called an invisible time-traveling monkey, but always called a friend.