

**ADVANCE PRAISE FOR
MARIA'S SCARF: A MEMOIR OF A MOTHER'S LOVE, A SON'S
PERSEVERANCE & DREAMING BIG**

Release date April 30, 2024 (Blackstone Publishing)

"I can't recall ever reading a book when I just wanted to stand up and cheer again and again, but that's how Zoro's memoir affected me. If I could, I would give this book to every young person in the United States. Besides being just a great story of a life well-led, it is also a manual on how to succeed against the greatest of odds."

~ Homer Hickam,

New York Times' bestselling author of *Rocket Boys/October Sky*

"With whip-smart prose and a talent for telling stories, Zoro catapults us into the world of music, but he also takes us on a journey of growing up and what it means to be a family. He captures his childhood as a dreamer that is authentic and pulses like a pattern of drum beats. Maria's Scarf is a generous and moving story of sacrifice, family, and hope. A memoir that is not only a tribute to a remarkable mother, but an exploration of courage and faith."

~ Melissa Cistaro,

award-winning author of the memoir, *Pieces of My Mother*

"Zoro's memoir will make you smile. The story captures what it means to love hard, stay true to a dream, overcome huge obstacles, and reach for the stars. Like the author himself, Maria's Scarf is triumphant in spirit, full of heart."

~ Marcus Brotherton,

New York Times bestselling author of *The Long March Home*

"Serving as a uniting force for an increasingly divided culture, this inspiring story will open hearts, fuel hopes, and restore faith for readers across multiple generations, backgrounds, and beliefs. Exploring everything from identity and relationships, to mental health, poverty, and the power of music, Maria's Scarf is the kind of uplifting story you'll want to read and discuss with everyone you know. The absolute must-read of the year."

~ Julie Cantrell,

New York Times and *USA Today* bestselling author of *Perennials*

"This is a book about trying when it's hard, failing when it was unexpected and persisting in between. These pages aren't just about how to live a beautiful life when it's easy, but how to press forward with tenacity and courage and love when life is hard. If you've got a pulse, you are going to be touched by this book."

~ Bob Goff,

Honorary Consul to the Republic of Uganda and *New York Times*' bestselling author of *Love Does, Everybody Always, and Dream Big*

“It’s no surprise that a musician of Zoro’s artistry, talent and reputation should create an autobiography as passionate, rhythmic, multi-layered and emotionally captivating as this one. But even more than that, Maria’s Scarf is the funny, touching and inspiring story of a mother whose unending love, devotion, humor and humanity in the face of countless hardships, gave her son the faith and courage to relentlessly pursue his impossible dream, and bring his gifts to the world.”

~ Michael Hauge,

Hollywood script consultant and business story advisor,
author of *Writing Screenplays That Sell* and *Storytelling Made Easy*

“Zoro’s coming-of-age memoir will strike a nostalgic chord in anyone who grew up in the ’60s, ’70s, and ’80s. Yet, the universality of his experience transcends any particular time and place. Filled with wit, wisdom, grit, and glory, Maria’s Scarf will leave you with a hopeful sense of possibility and the desire to rock the world in your own way!”

~ Alex Van Halen,

drummer and co-founder of the rock band Van Halen

“Engaging and evocative, Maria’s Scarf is a glorious portrayal of the poignancy of love, one that kept me turning each page. A magical story filled with surprise and delight, this unforgettable memoir serves as a testament to the power of a mother’s love and one boy’s sheer determination. Every mother who has dreams for her children needs to read this!”

~ Melissa Rivers,

actress, producer, and television host of *Fashion Police* on E!

“Belief is powerful. It can cause us to persevere against all odds and do great things. Zoro’s memoir is an extraordinary example of how a mother’s faith in God and steadfast belief in her son can make all the difference. It will restore your hope even in the hardest of times and make you believe anything is possible.”

~ Dave Ramsey,

bestselling author and radio host

“Although I make my living with words, I find myself at a loss for words to express how amazing Zoro’s story is. At times, it is hilarious; at other times, heartbreaking; at all times, deeply and beautifully human. I have never read anything like it.”

~ Ken Gire, author

“This book had me laughing and crying, sometimes on the same page, but is more than a memoir. With its cinematic splendor, Maria’s Scarf is a movie that calls to be made—one that will inspire millions.”

~ Jimmy Steinfeldt,

legendary rock photographer

“The descriptive way Maria’s Scarf takes you through the sights, sounds, and smells of a struggling family fighting to survive while taking you for an emotional roller coaster ride . . . you quickly fall in love with these characters. All the elements of a visual story leap off the page at you with every turn. It’s Whiplash meets Rocky meets Blindsight . . . with the heart of Forrest Gump. A must-read . . . and hopefully soon a must-see as well.”

~ Rick Eldridge,

CEO/producer at ReelWorks Studios (*Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius* and *The Ultimate Gift*)

“Much like his drumming, Zoro’s memoir is filled with heart and soul and captures the rhythm of a life filled with adversity, adventure, and ascension. Through his unforgettable journey, he shows us all how to become a shining star. A deeply affecting book about overcoming the odds that will make your heart sing.”

~ Verdine White,

founding member and bassist of Earth, Wind & Fire

“I’ve known Zoro as one of the great drummers, and I knew he had an interesting back story, but I was unprepared for the deeply personal revelations about his family and his incredible path to stardom. Maria’s Scarf is emotional and inspiring. I couldn’t put it down!”

~ Gary Bryan,

KEARTH 101 Radio, Los Angeles

“After reading this beautiful memoir, I am left with many emotions from different perspectives. As a mother, I know the other-worldly bond between mother and son and how we would walk through fire for them. As a performer, I know the heartache and absolute joy we go through with every rejection and success. As a daughter, I can’t imagine not having had a deep and loving relationship with my father. Zoro’s story is one of triumph through adversity on every level. It is a must-read for anyone who has lived, loved, lost, and knew there was something greater waiting for them.”

~ Cathy Rich,

vocalist, producer, and daughter of Buddy Rich, the world’s greatest drummer

“We all have a destiny that is greater than the circumstances we face. But sometimes, we need to see how someone overcomes the obstacles in their life to muster up the courage necessary to meet our own. Maria’s Scarf is a portrait of courage that will inspire dreamers, both young and old. A timely immigrant story of a family pursuing the American dream. You’ll be thinking about these heart-breaking, hilarious, and harrowing adventures long after you put the book down!”

~ Joyce Meyer,

Bible teacher and bestselling author

*“Captivating . . . exhilarating . . . inspiring . . . riveting . . . An eight-course meal with dessert!!!
Bravo, Zoro!!”*

~ Dyan Cannon,

three-time Academy Award-nominated actress

“Maria’s Scarf proves how becoming one of the world’s greatest drummers is not only about technique, but it’s also about the forging of a man’s soul so that each time he lays down a beat, you can feel the pain, joy, and love of Zoro’s improbable and incredible story.”

~ Tony R. Abrams,
screenwriter/director