

Sam Perez



AUTHOR & JOURNALIST

ABOUT ME

I am a television news reporter who loves telling stories. This passion led me to the University of Georgia, where I graduated with degrees in journalism and Spanish.

When I'm not cheering on the Dawgs or filming news stories, you can find me trying out a new restaurant. This passion for food comes from my parents, who opened DV8 Kitchen in Lexington, KY.

The restaurant and bakery hires people in recovery from substance use disorder. I found that this community of people had stories of strength, grit, and hope.

In an effort to share their experiences and start the conversation about the opioid epidemic, I wrote *Deviate From Denial: Erasing the Stigma of Addiction and Recovery Through Inspirational Stories*.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What made you want to write this book? Why was it important to you?
2. What do you hope this book accomplishes?
3. What has been the hardest part of the journey?
4. What's next for DV8 Kitchen? Or what do you hope is next?
5. What would you say to people that are hesitant about the book and its content?

ABOUT THE BOOK

In 2021, over 100,000 people died from an opioid overdose. The crisis continues.

To help combat this growing epidemic, author Sam Perez's parents made a decision that changed her family's life forever. In 2017, they opened DV8 Kitchen in Lexington, Kentucky. The restaurant and bakery cooks up life-changing food for more than one reason: not only does it serve mouth-watering cinnamon rolls; it hires people in recovery from substance use disorder.

Sam watched as her parents' passion for both the restaurant industry and for serving others merged. She saw the positive impact, met people with different perspectives, and learned from them. From that, *Deviate From Denial: Erasing the Stigma of Addiction and Recovery Through Inspirational Stories* was created.

In *Deviate From Denial*, Sam Perez channels her love for storytelling into sharing messages of hope and redemption to tackle the opioid epidemic, save lives and erase the stigma.

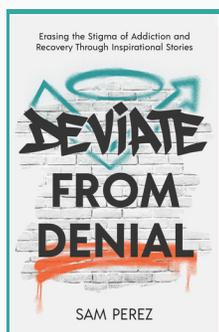
WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"*Deviate from Denial* details dramatically the impact of the opioid crisis in this country as well as the heroic efforts of two bakery owners to help those addicted in their recovery. It is a story of struggle and despair, hope and recovery and a reminder of the goodness that lies within all of us. A must-read."

— Dick Yarbrough, Syndicated Columnist

"This book is fluent in the language of freedom from addiction and it offers a map to anyone seeking a grace-filled journey toward hope. Each page will lead you into the parts of your head and heart that need to be challenged about a difficult subject facing all of us. By the end of it, you will feel better equipped to help real people deal with real problems in real ways."

— Jon Weece, Southland Christian Church Lead Pastor



CONTACT

 spereznews@gmail.com

 www.sam-perez.com