FOREWORD

Dr. Anne Koch is announced, and a tall, impeccably styled lady, oozing sophistication with her effortless chignon and tailored suit, takes the stage. This was the first time I encountered Dr. Koch. I thought, this keynote speaker's appearance is reminiscent of a glamorous fashion executive. However, within seconds I realize that we are dealing with so much more than a pretty face!

My "Auntie" Annie is a force—she was put on this planet with enough energy to fuel living several lives, and she has done just that! Dr. Koch's list of accomplishments is nothing short of absurd. Among her many titles are former college athlete, Harvard professor, endodontist, professional angler, inventor, model, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and mentor (especially to me!) and now (finally!) author. Dr. Koch has applied her zest and enthusiasm to every chapter of her life, and her transition is no different. Annie's charisma spills out onto the pages of her story. In her signature, matter-of-fact tone, she frankly describes her transition in a relatable way.

As a cisgender woman and gender-affirmation surgeon, Annie's memoir challenges my beliefs about gender on both a professional and a personal level. With so much wisdom afforded by her incredible range of life experiences, Annie is incredibly authentic. Though always gentle and charming, she is never afraid to voice her beliefs. She doesn't shy away from controversy, and she tells her story with refreshing honesty and insight. While accompanying her on this journey, readers will be captivated by her sheer resilience and unfailing, upbeat attitude.

Having ascended to the top of so many fields as a man, including athletics, entertainment, corporate America, and academia, Dr. Koch now holds her own as a female entrepreneurial powerhouse, and she is passionate about sharing her insights from this remarkable vantage point. An inspiration to ALL women and probably the most frequently quoted person in *my* life, she has finally penned the ultimate must-read memoir.

"She was never bored because she was never boring."

Sidhbh Gallagher, MD
Founder and Director,
Indiana University Gender Affirmation Surgery