

Local author brings celebrities and homeless together

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L to R: Aaron and Brent, homeless residents of a shelter in downtown Dallas, with Flower Mound author Tammy Kling and Kevin Weaver, an author living in the area, enjoyed a recent book launching party.

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An eclectic group of about 75 people attended a book launching party early this month for Flower Mound resident Tammy Kling, author of *The Compass*. Homeless people and celebrities mingled comfortably with local executives, business owners, and moms at BRIO in Southlake, and conversations flowed like champagne between small groups of people scattered about the upscale outdoor patio. Many of the guests were either talking about *The Compass* or about their own creative endeavors.

Kling, a resident for the past 7 years, seems to have a knack for drawing together people from all walks of life, and one of those attending the party was Tanya Brown, the sister of Nicole Brown Simpson, ex-wife of football player O.J. Simpson, who was murdered in California in 1994. Brown addressed the group about some of her own life experiences and gave Kling and her book a glowing recommendation. Another guest was a man named Aaron, who is homeless. "He is also a writer, working on his first novel. He lives downtown in a shelter," Kling said. Regardless of their life paths, the group came together to celebrate the release of Kling's latest book. *The Compass* is a life transformation novel meant to guide you on a journey of self-discovery, sparking both positive change and causing the reader to access their dreams, according to the author. It is the companion book to the documentary, *The Compass*, featuring world renowned

speakers and motivators Brian Tracy, Les Brown, and Kling, among others.

Another person featured in the movie is local fitness expert Kelli Calabrese, an international and award winning fitness and exercise specialist, as well as a nutrition and lifestyle expert. Her philosophy of life seems very much in tune with Kling's. "When Dr John Spencer Ellis invited me to be in his movie, *The Compass*, I suggested my friend Tammy Kling, best selling author, as an expert cast member. She accepted and asked who was writing the book. When Tammy and John connected, the foundation was set for a life changing book. Tammy quickly came up with the main character, Jonathan, whose travels reveal soul-searching and life enriching changes that anyone can relate to. Tammy wrote this book to empower the lives of those who are stuck, those who know there is more, those who are striving to reach a higher level of purpose and freedom. Everyone who reads the *Compass* feels like it was written for them. Tammy captures something everyone can relate to in *The Compass*," Calabrese said.

The movie premiered last February, and the book just became available in book stores late last month. At the core of *The Compass* are specific lessons about belief systems, authenticity, and understanding who you really are in order to live out your destiny, Kling said. Her busy lifestyle has been even busier as of late, as she was featured on Oprah radio on June 2 to talk about *The Compass*, and recently, the mother of two said she had 18 interviews scheduled on one day as part of a nationwide radio tour. Kling has been on *Dateline NBC* and *Geraldo*, among other national television shows that have featured some of her earlier books. One of Kling's commitments is acting as an advocate for the homeless. She works with the homeless in downtown Dallas every weekend and teaches a writers workshop to help them find their voices. She says she considers some of these friends among the very closest to her. "I don't see it as a mentor-student role because, at times, I'm the student. God has spoken words through these people on the street that have literally changed my life," Kling said.

A defining moment in her own life was when her father committed suicide when she was 7 years old, and Kling said this is the basis for all of her books. "I always have a male reader in mind, and really, it's my father," she said. "I really want my books to not only transform lives, but to save lives," she emphasized. "Loss and finding hope is the core theme of every book I write, in some way. The work I do with the homeless population centers on that theme. Homelessness isn't about economics. It goes deeper than that. So, whether I'm working with

someone famous, or coaching someone who lives on the street, how to put words on paper to heal, the core of it is helping them to see the light. This is the core message of *The Compass*. My characters go to the edge of themselves and then they are pulled back, into this life. It's about hope.

The book was written near her home. "We love this town! It's the idyllic place to live, with such diverse, talented and loving people. It's like a Norman Rockwell painting and I often find myself writing in one corner of a local business or restaurant. So, here is a book that's sold around the world, on Oprah Radio, and created right here. For *The Compass*, I pitched a tent and spent nights out in the woods here. For more info, visit www.escapesuburbia.wordpress.com.