Jeannie Habermehl Norris graduated from Pittsburg State University in 1969 which a major in music education. In June of this year she retired after 40 years as an educator. Although her first teaching job was in the Joplin Public Schools, she spent the bulk of her career on the East Coast, teaching in the performing arts and then working in administration. In her most recent position, that of head of a college preparatory school for girls in New England, she wrote routinely to parents about educating and parenting girls. Shortly before retiring she published a collection of those essays in a book called Parenting Great Girls.

One of the reasons that the book has been well received is that most of the essays begin with an instructive, poignant, and often funny anecdote about growing up in Joplin in the fifties and sixties. They also describe a close-knit community of like-minded adults who supported each other and delivered consistent messages to young people. Today, when many families are isolated geographically, they do not have a reliable community, and are consumed with demanding schedules, parents are looking for support, advice, and encouragement for the hard work of being a good parent. That is what her book provides.

Barnes & Noble has recently purchased copies of her book to test in their stores. It is available, therefore, through Barnes & Noble as well as at amazon.com.