

Miracles Happen: One Mother, One Daughter, One Journey

Brooke Ellison, Jean Ellison

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Miracles Happen



ONE MOTHER, ONE DAUGHTER,

One Journey

BROOKE AND JEAN ELLISON

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#2047713 in Books Brooke Ellison 2002-01-09 2002-01-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .0 x 5.50l, .99 #File Name: 0786867701272 pages Miracles Happen One Mother One Daughter One Journey | File size: 74.Mb

Brooke Ellison, Jean Ellison : Miracles Happen: One Mother, One Daughter, One Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Miracles Happen: One Mother, One Daughter, One Journey:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By E.D. This book is okay. She's a little too much into

"boys this and boys that" for my taste. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Update to prior review By Martina Since writing a less than glowing review [below], I have had time to think and reflect on this book, and am upgrading my review to 5 stars. I initially thought the book too sappy, but I kept thinking about it, and coming back to read passages of it, and that's the sign of a great book. I also saw Brooke on Larry King, and she was amazingly articulate, compassionate, smart and beautiful. It was not just that she was "inspirational" for all she had gone through: she was also incredibly intelligent [not surprising, given her Harvard education], and is using her energies to do great things. She spoke about her experiences in such a thoughtful way. I have since done some research and found articles Brooke has written on a web site dealing with disabilities. I have read, and promptly forgotten, a lot of mediocre books, but this is one I'll remember, so change my review to a wholehearted recommendation. 7 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring, But Sometimes A Bit Corny and Impersonal By Martina I found Brooke's story inspiring, but found it lacked detailed descriptions about what it is really like to live as a quadriplegic on a day-to-day basis. For example, she does not describe exactly how far down her body she has sensations; she talks about being in a wheelchair, but never describes learning to move the wheelchair with breath control, and what her typical day is like. She states she was in rehabilitation for 8 months, and that it was hard, but gives not a single description of what that rehabilitation actually consisted of. She talks about the three-hour ordeal of just getting ready in the morning but does not describe it much. She talks about her mother tending to her medical needs, but doesn't describe them. I know it sounds like I want more "gore," but really, one of the reasons you buy a book like this is to try to understand on a deep level what it is like to be in someone else's shoes, and I didn't get that feeling from this book. It gives a really surface description of an "inspirational" story, but I never really got to know who Brooke is from reading it. It does not even say how in the world this family of limited means afforded Harvard, and all the medical care. Parts of the book seem cliché. With that having been said, one cannot help but admire Brooke for her optimism and perseverance; and especially her Mom, who not only went with Brooke to all of her junior high school and high school classes; but also went with her for 4 years to Harvard, leaving her husband and other 2 kids in New York. [Parenthetically, I wondered why in the world Medicaid or Social Security did not pay for nursing care to give her Mom a break, especially since Brooke's dad worked for Social Security for over 20 years and should have been able to find his way through the system!] I would recommend this book for its inspiring story and tale of an amazing family, but if you like this sort of book, I would more strongly recommend, "Tales from the Bed," by Jenifer Estess [who died of ALS, Lou Gherig's disease] and "Autobiography of a Face," by the late Lucy Grealy, a detailed account of childhood cancer and the resulting disfigurement. Both are beautifully written, and much less sappy than this book.

Brooke Ellison was the victim of an automobile accident that left her paralyzed from the neck down when she was eleven years old. Written with her mother, Jean, her closest companion, Brooke's story starts on the day that changed her life. This inspiring story is not just about one person, but about the heroics of a family.

From Publishers Weekly In a similar vein is Brooke and Jean Ellison's *Miracles Happen: One Mother, One Daughter, One Journey*. When she was 11 years old, Brooke was hit by a car and was paralyzed from the neck down. Her mother, Jean, nurtured her with optimism and confidence, and 10 years later Brooke graduated from Harvard University, becoming the first quadriplegic to do so. This two-person account (in which the authors trade off chapters) covers a lot of ground: living with a disability, the importance of mother-daughter relationships and celebrating everyday wonders. The book's publication coincides with the broadcast of the ABC-TV movie about the Ellisons directed by Christopher Reeve. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal At age 11, Brooke Ellison was left paralyzed from the neck down after being hit by an automobile. Writing together in alternating chapters, Brooke and her mother, Jean, document the exhausting efforts and dedication that it took for Brooke to beat overwhelming physical odds and finally graduate, with honors, from Harvard University. The story begins on the day of the accident and ends triumphantly with Brooke's graduation speech from college. Brooke's upbeat account of her college experience reveals her charming and witty nature, and Jean's contribution is a testimony to the profound powers of a mother's love and unfailing dedication. Although many other biographies of quadriplegics are available, this one, written with keen intellect and an open heart, deserves attention. It is recommended for both public and school libraries seeking nonfiction that provides strong role models for adolescents. Academic libraries supporting a curriculum in the health sciences might also find this suitable. Deborah Anne Broocker, Georgia Perimeter Coll., Dunwoody Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist In 1990, on her first day in seventh grade, 11-year-old Brooke Ellison was hit by a car. Paralyzed from the neck down, she overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to become the first quadriplegic to graduate from Harvard. In this book (published to coincide with the broadcast of a television movie about Ellison, directed by Christopher Reeve), Brooke and her mother tell the story, in alternating chapters, of Brooke's injury, recovery, and eventual triumph. It's an affecting tale, and the unusual structure--the point-of-view shifts constantly between mother and daughter--lets us see in great detail the devastating effect a single moment can have on a family's lifetime. Brooke is a slightly better writer than her mother, but they have in common a sense of humor and a graceful dignity that elevate this story far above the slick sentimentality of many

similar accounts. David Pitt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved