



Walks through Heaven with Dad: A Young Man's Experience with Lewy Body Dementia

Daniel John Woytowich

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Daniel Woytowich's father was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia while he was still in college. This memoir tells the story of the diagnosis of, acceptance of, and journey through the terrible illness that is dementia. Daniel hopes that his family's experience can help others, especially young people, who are dealing with loved ones that have terminal illnesses. It is the story of how a young man watched his father's life unravel in gradual progression, his coming to terms with the fact that his relationship with his father would be changed forever, and how he eventually came to the realization that no illness, no matter how debilitating, can ever touch what resides deep within all of us, and especially how it can never touch the everlasting bond of father and son.

Walks through Heaven with Dad: A Young Man's Experience with Lewy Body Dementia Details

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Paige says

I recieved a copy of this book from a giveaway, in exchange for an honest review. I appreciate where the author was coming from as he wrote this book, I can understand wanting to share his story and give hope/support to others who have become caretakers for dying loved ones. As much as I appreciates the sentiment behind the book, I really struggled with the writing.

Kathleen Schoenhut says

This is a wonderful and touching book about how the love that families have for each other can overcome any difficulty that this frail, physical world may throw at us. I highly recommend to anyone as it is simply inspirational and moving, but it will be especially interesting and perhaps helpful for caretakers of loved ones with any illness. Wonderful, inspiring read.

Margaret says

I won this book through a GoodReads contest, and am giving an honest review.

This is a powerfully moving book that describes the author's father going through what is called Lewy Body Dementia. I had heard of it through the late actor Robin Williams, so I knew some of what it entailed before picking this up. Through the eyes of the author we hear how his father declines, his own personal thoughts, emotions, decisions and inner struggle to deal with his ailing father while he is in his mere 20's, trying to figure out his life. I highly recommend to people who are dealing with a loved one that has a terminal illness.

Matt says

I would highly recommend this book to anyone dealing with the challenges of being diagnosed with, or caring for someone who has been diagnosed with, Lewy Body Dementia, Dementia, Alzheimer's, etc. It is a very personal, touching and relatable story of the author's struggles to take care of a parent suffering from lewy body dementia while trying to balance the daily demands of his own life. As it notes, it is told through the eyes of a young man which seems to differentiate this book from many of the others I've seen on this subject which are often geared toward older caregivers or are much more clinical. That said, though it is from a young man's perspective, I think it would be a helpful read for caregivers of all ages as many of the challenges are universal regardless of age. I found it to be informative and, though sad at times, also uplifting to see how the disease brought a son even closer to his father.

Cameron Miller says

****Disclaimer Won in Goodreads giveaway. The subject matter is far off any book I have read to date. As many citizens of America age into 60-70-80s-90s and some lose some/most/all cognitive function and the identity of what they once were the subject matter will likely be very applicable to many thousands if not millions of people over the next 10-20-30yrs. Located a fair amount of GOLD in this book would say it is in the top 3 for a Goodreads Giveaway win.

Amy says

A well written, moving personal account, from a younger person's view, of taking care of a parent with dementia. The author shows great insight and I found his story inspirational.

I received this book as part of the Goodreads giveaway but the opinions expressed are solely my own.

Marie Buendia says

The author makes an excellent point in the book: as this generation chooses to have children later in life, the future holds more twenty something's dealing with their elderly parents' health challenges. This book describes his experience and I think it is a fantastic resource for those in a similar situation. You are not alone, this book is proof.

The lessons I've learned from this book were: appreciate the time you have with your loved ones, now, not later and don't take your family for granted.

Julia says

I'm read this book to as my father is diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia. It was helpful to read about how another family is dealing with this disease. A well written book that is easy to read.

Erin says

I received a wonderful signed copy of this book as a first-reads giveaway.

I actually read the book cover-to-cover in about an hour and a half. It was a quick, but good read

I only learned what Lewy Body Dementia was after hearing Robin Williams was diagnosed with it posthumously. After seeing the movie "Still Alice" and hearing about Robin Williams, my heart really goes out to those who are affected by dementia, Alzheimer's, and Lewy Body Dementia. That includes the caretakers as well. It's almost like the grown person is aging backwards and needs as much care and attention as a baby does (feeding, diaper, safety and well-being).

I applaud the author for his role as caretaker while balancing medical school. I can't even imagine how hard that would be. I also loved how he and his dad seem to develop a stronger bond as the story unfolds and how such an unfortunate diagnosis has brought them closer.

A good book, and highly recommend it as it was a quick read about a topic many are not aware of, but could happen to them or a relative.

Eva says

I think this book can be very useful for families that are going through some kind of turmoil, whether it can health related, financial issues, relationships within the family, etc. I like how it written from the point of view of someone in their 20s. We all know how difficult a time that can be nonetheless while a family crisis is going. The author tells his story in an extremely open and honest way. He was clear about and didn't shy away from his faults, which was the book's best attribute. We all can relate to the author and to the struggles, doubts, and insecurities that he speaks of. We can all relate because all have our own demons, mountains to climb, and things that we need to improve in our own lives. Without the author being so brutally honest about his experience the book would not have been able to touch and move me the way it did. I just felt like his struggle was my struggle and his struggle is my struggle. Beautiful book.

Pamela Mukherjee says

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

A heart touching story. Hard to write in words how powerful this was and how difficult it must have been for the author to write it. Very well written and nicely described through a young one's perspective or view Helps others who are going through something too.

Caroline says

I won this through Goodreads Giveaways

This is a deeply moving account of Daniels Fathers diagnosis of Lewy Body Dementia and the subsequent years. The impact this illness had not only on himself but the rest of the family.

As Daniel was still young (twenty) when his dad was diagnosed, his reality of dementia and the impact of it is very different to an older person .His account as a young care giver is very touching.

This book would be so helpful to any young person who has a parent or close relative diagnosed with dementia, to know you can get through it and cope with all the adversities.

Even through all the sadness Daniel knew nothing could take away the bond between him and his dad and he took a lot of comfort from their walks.

It didn't take me long to read the book as I found it very inspirational. Highly Recommended.

Art says

The experience the author illustrates in "Walks through Heaven with Dad" is one that many have unfortunately had to deal with, but written accounts such as Daniel's help those in search of methods to cope with emotions of the everyday struggle. It is difficult enough to explain oneself through spoken word when discussing this topic. To read it through someone else's experiences, allows the reader to begin to gather and express his or her own feelings. Having to deal with similar situations, it provided our family with support knowing that we were not in this alone. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the topic or dealing with similar "journeys."

Barbara says

"Walks through Heave with Dad" is a book that thoroughly resonated with me and left me feeling truly emotional when reading. It's a relatively short book that can be read quickly, and left me with plenty to think about.

This book details the journey that the author and his family have been on since his father's diagnosis with Lewy Body dementia. The author is in the unique position of being a family member/caregiver to a patient with this illness, in addition to being a medical student. This allows the author to describe the emotional impact while also providing the reader with enough of the medical facts to build a better understanding of the situation.

As mentioned, this book is emotional and I can imagine that everyone will find something to relate to. To me, being so close to the author's age allowed me to relate to many of the questions and uncertainties mentioned. I would absolutely recommend this book, thank you to the author & Goodreads for my copy.

Stina says

I won this book in a goodreads giveaway

Daniel's father was diagnosed with Lewy body dementia about 7 years ago (Lewy Body Dementia is a diagnoses mixed of both dementia and Parkinson) we get an unique look from a son's view and see how the people close to the person diagnosed life is in the period after the diagnoses.

he has an easy to read writing style and i felt myself fully involved in the book from page one. it is sad but still heartwarming to see how his family and special Daniel deals with the situation that was sprung upon them, the book is written in a openly and understandable way so we get to see his thoughts in the early stage and how it was during the past years for the people nearest to him.

SHOULD I READ THIS BOOK?

Yes you should even though you know someone with the diagnoses or not or even someone with similar diagnoses. I believe that whoever should or can read this book.

5 stars

