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We Are: A Caregiving Manifesto



Synopsis

In this 40 page eBook, I expand on my most popular blog post of all time, to share stories behind what I wrote, stories from our life that everyone can relate to. Laugh, learn and be inspired by this crazy life we lead. My husband and I live the title of our blog, "Love Like This Life." We are honest and real and like everyone else, we face challenges. Some have to do with the fact that Michael is a c5/6 quadriplegic (paralyzed in 1994), some have to do with the fact I am a woman. :) We are only human, but we believe we serve an almighty, sovereign God, and through Him, we can do all things. We enjoy laughing, traveling, reading, writing, painting, taking pictures and experiencing life with family and friends. Juggling marriage and disability can sometimes be tough. It is often a challenge, is often hilarious, and always requires us to be a team. We started this blog with the hope that by letting others in, we can help other people who may or may not be in a similar situation. Or, anyone else who knows us and follows along, or other random people that end up here via a random Google search. We don't only write about marriage and disability. You'll also see some adventures in the kitchen, stories from work and family life, tips to use around the house, ideas for accessibility, and probably way too many pictures of a certain Puggle who smells like Fritos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

EXCELLENT book. Author nailed it on this one. It's an easy read, but deep thoughts. Best caregiving book I've read. You will want to read this one again, so keep it in your library. I bought it with Kindle, but want to get a soft back if available. Great book. Well written.

This book is simply beautiful. I bought it, read half of it, and then called my husband over and began at the beginning, reading it aloud to him. We loved it and I know you will too.

I absolutely LOVED this precious little book! I laughed, I cried, and I was deeply moved on so many levels. I've followed Dana and Michael's journey through their blog ever since they got married in 2009. I also knew Michael back before his gymnastics accident right after he graduated from high school. He was an exceptional young man then, and he is an extraordinary man now. I was thrilled to hear he was getting married, but at the time, I also wondered how difficult it would be for a caregiver bride and wife of a quadriplegic. Dana opens her heart and gives us a glimpse of their life together from the very beginning - the good days, the not-so-good days, the joys, the frustrations, and the sometimes bizarre situations they've shared in their unique relationship. Beautifully written, I honestly believe this "manifesto" could be the sweetest love story I've ever read.

I really loved the "poem" that Dana describes, when I first read it online many weeks ago. I love how honestly she speaks of her life with her husband who is a quadriplegic. I'm my husband's full-time caregiver and I can totally agree and relate to certain things Dana discusses such as the cuddle, the hugs etc without the titanium or rubber coming between us. I also feel, just as she describes at the end how blessed and lucky I am to have my husband and I wouldn't change 1 tiny thing about him, us or our relationship :) I really hope that anyone reading this as a caregiver to a loved one, that may be struggling through tough times, that they have renewed hope when they read this.

From the short time I knew Dana before she shipped off to DC to fulfill some of her biggest life dreams, I always thought to myself, "Whatever man figures out what a catch this chick is, is going to be reeeeeeaally lucky." As it turns out, Both Dana and Michael have lucked out. I have so enjoyed following their life on the Love Like This Life blog, and am so glad that Dana took the time to expand on this post especially. My only question is, when is the full on, hard copy, hundreds of pages version of this coming out? I was so sad when I got to the end... wanted to keep reading.

Dana's beautiful book made me made me tear up, laugh out loud, and count my blessings. Dana's

indomitable effort to find the joy and beauty in the life she lives really inspired me to see my own life from a fresh perspective. I've got a lot to be thankful for. The format and organization of the content is delightful, and Dana's writing voice is poetic, authentic, and beautiful. I think it would be fun and romantic to share this short and inspiring book with your spouse this week in which we celebrate love. I'm totally reading it to my guy!

I remember reading this post on Dana's blog and was excited to see it expanded. Any caregiver will find comradere and encouragement here. I've read the book twice now and plan on reading it again--and I'm not even a caregiver! I enjoy Dana's candor and her writing style. Anyone (especially wives of a men with disabilities) will see themselves in it's pages and leave having been encouraged and empowered by it's message.

It made me laugh, it made me cry .. But most of all, it reminded me that I wasn't alone. As a "new" caregiver, it was comforting to hear similar thoughts and struggles, especially the ones that leave you feeling sad or overwhelmed. Through this book (and her blog), Dana has taught me to appreciate and find happiness in the times I have with my husband. It was a quick read on a rough day when I really needed a hug. And it left me hopeful and inspired.

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