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Hannah's Choice: A Daughter's Love For Life. The Mother Who Let Her Make The Hardest Decision Of All.



Synopsis

The moving and inspirational true story of one little girl's battle against the medical odds and a mother's unwavering love for her daughter. 'If I could have any wish it wouldn't be a part in High School Musical. I'd like to live just one day without having to rest when my heart gets tired: I'd just waste my energy, doing stuff with friends. But I can't and feeling unhappy about it is a waste of time. Being happy gives me energy - so much so that sometimes I want to do a cartwheel even though I can't actually manage it. My decision wasn't about dying. It's about living.'

When her daughter Hannah was only four years old, Kirsty Jones received the news that no mother ever wants to hear. Her little girl had leukaemia. But Kirsty knew that Hannah was a fighter, and after gruelling chemotherapy she beat the disease. But there was more trauma to come: the chemotherapy drugs had damaged Hannah's heart. At first, doctors hoped that Hannah's body would compensate for the damaged muscle, but when Hannah was only twelve her heart failed without warning. As her life hung in the balance, Doctors advised that Hannah's only chance of survival was a heart transplant, but the operation was very risky and the anti-rejection drugs might bring back the leukaemia. Kirsty knew one thing: Hannah deserved to decide her own destiny. Wise beyond her years after learning to cope with so much, Hannah made her choice: she did not want the transplant. She'd had enough of hospitals and wanted to be at home with her family. Then in July 2009, the right side of Hannah's heart completely stopped working and her kidneys started to fail. Days later Hannah celebrated her 14th birthday - a milestone she was never expected to reach - and Hannah was ready to make a different choice. She agreed to have the transplant. Now Kirsty and Hannah tell their unique story and, with wit and honesty, their interweaving voices describe how facing and overcoming death has taught them so much about living. Filled with wisdom and grace, tears and laughter, Hannah's Choice is about beating the odds and finding joy in each day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is such an inspiring tale. I really appreciated reading about two parents who were willing to do whatever it took to make their daughter as happy and comfortable as possible while she faced a deadly disease. Their courage and convictions to do what they thought best are something to be admired. It was also good to get a bit of Hannah's perspective on how she felt through the whole process. While her mother did an excellent job of getting into how things went from the start of her leukemia diagnosis until the resolution of the heart issue, it was nice to know what Hannah thought through it all. The story also gets into the trouble of having multiple healthy children in the same household and how their sister's illness affected them. While leukemia/heart trouble might only strike one member in a family, everyone in it must face the difficulties that come with it. There are so many families that can be torn apart by such hardship. I appreciated seeing the dynamics and strength of this one. The ways they worked together to cope with the ups and downs as they fought to keep Hannah alive and happy. I also thought the methods the mother used to get her daughter to eat again after being on a feeding tube for so long were brilliant. Overall, this is a really touching story. It brought tears to my eyes more than once, but gave me happiness and hope in the end. An excellent testament to the fact we all must stand by our convictions and do what is best for the ones we love no matter the cost to ourselves. Well worth the read!

It was an exciting story with a readable, conversational style that kept me turning the pages as quickly as I could tap them. I liked that it gave more than one perspective on the serious dilemmas that this family faced. It pulled no punches and explained both the psychological and medical details clearly. I felt as though I were right there with the family, watching it all unfold. I was touched by Hannah's courage and that of her family.

This is a wonderful story about a young girl who wanted to make her own healthcare decisions, and her parents and medical providers honored that decision. Brave for all involved. I am a strong supporter for everyone identifying their own end of life treatment decisions, and seeing this happen with one so young was a real eye-opener. Much food for thought. A good read for families in similar situations.

Full of medical information and the struggle made me weary. It took me longer to read this than most books because it was so full of struggles. I think I'd read it if only for the last chapter. Lots of wisdom in the last chapter.

This book was very powerful. A mother's natural instinct is to make decisions for the well being of her child. This mother listened to her daughter's wishes and stood by her, even knowing that it could have meant she would die.

Very well written. When you read this book, you can feel both Mom's heart felt love and Hannah's true feelings. I couldn't put it down and was thrilled with the ending.

Good book. Easy read.

Love this book- this demonstrates resiliency and/or perseverance. I hope she is doing very well today and I wish her all the luck for the future

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