

SYNOPSIS

For Brian's Sake is a true and timeless story of a mother and son healing, learning, and loving against all odds. Kathleen takes you on her journey through divorce, domestic violence and sexual, emotional, and financial abuse from abusive husbands and family. She relays the carnage they all have on her, influencing her life choices. This book shows how her parents taught her lessons that led her to life-long addictions and bad relationships. And, shows how tightly those ideas wove their way into the fabric of who she identifies herself to be.

Kathleen gives birth to a child she longed for, only to discover he is brain damaged, with multiple birth defects with the life-threatening medical condition, CVID, common variable immune deficiency, which few are willing to help her deal with. One obstacle after another makes her constantly redefine her world and how she copes. People she thinks will be there to help, walk away in her greatest hours of need. Her trust in others is so compromised, she travels inward to survive and help her son. Having only her gut instincts to trust, she finds the knowledge she needs along the way.

Adding to the things she knows and becoming independent, Kathleen attends college, and graduates while caring for her son. For most of the time, he attends classes with her and is there while she does her studying and research on campus.

Along her journey, Kathleen meets situations which defy all logic and place her and her very sick child in a nether-world underground. She contacts the Ohio State Attorney General, convincing him to unseat an incompetent judge. Because of prejudices about his condition, Kathleen uses innovative ways to be useful for her son's healing, well-being and education. She arrives at a point where she is forced to make critical decisions because of her health which places them in financial straights yet to be overcome. Kathleen chronicles the language her son developed. The words, definitions and the tale he spins to pass the time without friends, is written as an intertwined children's story, in hopes of making sense of their situation.

She demonstrates what it's like to care for a sick son in a world that judges single mothers with a special-needs child. Kathleen worries about her son's mental abilities and, as his milestone benchmarks protract, becomes increasingly apprehensive that he may never attain some of them. She enlisted as many tangible and intangible free resources as she possibly can.

Her choices made, Kathleen must live within the parameters of what her son is able to do and a life situation full of restraints. Some of those choices help her son to flourish as an independent person and develop skills, abilities and knowledge that place him in contention on a world stage with others vying for recognition in New York City in the modeling and talent industry. Pleased with his progress, Kathleen now feels her son has a way of looking to the future with health-care even though she may lack resources to provide it for him as he ages.

When the neighborhood turns bad, Kathleen is forced to relocate her family again to a safer place. Financial disaster strikes when her new husband loses his job shortly after buying their dream home. As Kathleen sees her only small window of opportunity closing rapidly, the decision is made to uproot the family and move to an area of the country where jobs will be plentiful no matter what the state of the economy. As part of the relocation, Kathleen must find new doctors to manage her son's condition. To her amazement, medical test results show no trace of the condition her son was treated for in Ohio. Ethical and moral questions arise, once again destroying a few more of the last threads of trust Kathleen has in people.

Moving means her son finishes high school in a new environment, a plus in his short life. For the first time, Kathleen is satisfied her son feels like he fits into a world of peers. Graduating with honors from the only Catholic high school in Southern Nevada, her son receives an early admittance letter to UNLV for the following fall, reaching the ultimate goal she set out to achieve. Along the way, Kathleen also discovers who she is, redefining herself yet again.