



Wilderness Blessings

How Down Syndrome
Reconstructed Our
Life and Faith

Jeffrey M. Gallagher

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Wilderness Blessings: How Down Syndrome Reconstructed Our Life and Faith



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From the psychological and poignant blog entries published during his son Jacob's uncertain birth, trying surgeries, and first year of coping with Down syndrome, author and pastor Jeffrey M. Gallagher displays honestly and candidly on disability theology, God's place in tragedy and hardship, the way the church welcomes (or not really) people with differing capabilities, and the joys-the wilderness blessings-that Jacob's existence has provided him. After scanning this book you may look at existence and blessings from God in a fresh way. Appealing to pastors, folks of faith, readers interested in disability theology, parents and family members of those who are differently-abled, those people who are interested in problems of inclusivity and acceptance, and those who struggle with understanding how God speaks and where God moves during difficult occasions, *Wilderness Blessings: How Down Syndrome Reconstructed Our Life and Faith* can be a unique book that provides a pastoral and parental perspective in to the reformation of a life and faith that have been blessed by the addition of a child with Down syndrome.



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Until next time.... That said, I found this book to be a tender, funny, painful and ultimately joyous screen into Jeff's lifestyle and faith amid his younger son's first year of life. Rather, for this reader, it was as though I was elevated from a lineal documentation of the "wilderness blessings," to a shifting of emotions that may best be described by Roald Dahl's "cup elevator" (think "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory"). I did so not want to place the reserve down, though I had to when I completed or what became as well blurred. Jeff Gallagher's honest accounts of the birth of his beautiful son, combined with the challenges his family faced, was extraordinary. Existence with Jacob brings so many blessings, certainly, to his family, his congregation, and to his entire community. He truthfully shares the real lifestyle struggles, many to which I can relate as a professional in the disabilities field (funding! This book awakens the individual spirit and soothes the soul. I wish I possibly could gather you altogether to talk about coffee, stories, battle scars, and successes. But this tale stops too soon - I want to learn, more about lifestyle with Jacob in this little coastal city and how their family members, church, and community continues to learn so many lessons from him. even through the obscure lens of bringing in to the world a "society-labeled", "very poor" child .I must say i enjoyed the style of how this reserve was written - Gallagher's in as soon as words from Care Pages shared and reflected on years later on. What I found rather was a rekindling of my lapsed faith, and a deep respect for Jeff Gallagher as a article writer, a pastor and a dad. I am sharing this reserve with the households I encounter in my personal and professional existence. A Must-Read for Everyon As the grandmother of a lovely little girl with Down syndrome, I eagerly browse this book, assuming I'd discover some parallels between your author and me. Jeff, God does help us proceed through our wildernesses, whatever they may be. Those were bonuses, of program, to the exquisitely written account of his and his wife's lives before and after the birth of their valuable Jacob.The journal (blog) excerpts coupled with narration get this to a work of art.Jeff writes clearly and well, and is most passionate when writing about disability theology, and the love he has for his family. It's all so familiar and yet it under no circumstances gets old to read about other families upon this journey. Positively Honest So, I finished this book yesterday evening. That's the mark of an excellent writer.That is a book for everybody to read. The waiting around, the boredom, the stressing, the fake starts to head home, the meals, the medical equipment, the insurance battles, the community that surrounds you.)and from stories from the families I work with. I hope as Jacob grows this author will keep readers apprised of their lives as a family. The narration arrived alive, and I experienced like I knew this family and was component of their at-situations harrowing ordeals. Gallagher shares his blog posts from his son's initial year of life, as he richly describes their "wilderness wanderings" through unexpected and unfamiliar territories with, yes, many wilderness blessings. I highly recommend this book if you are going through a similar situation or needs a reminder of the effectiveness of a positive attitude and/or faith. I'm hoping the writer will write another installment! ?? Five Stars Thank yiu A remarkable go through. To the faithful or faithless, the healthful or hurt, the dropped or the discovered, this publication is a must read... As someone who has been working in a field serving anyone who has been labeled "disabled" and one who has regained a feeling of "faith" I experienced I had lost way back when, this reserve struck the empathy cord of and emphasizes why I chose my particular career path and why I became transplanted in my own current faith practice (yes, UCC). A wilderness not really of green trees and flowing streams; but of sterile rooms and monitors galore (and the noises they make), all the while leaning on faith and God to find them through ; Yes, Rev. When reading this publication, I surpassed the real rollercoaster trip of trials and tribulations, tears and joy. Rev. I was laughing; This is done in extremely thought-provoking, experienced method to

draw the most feelings from the reader. Jeffery Gallagher was managing that elevator, floating above this unfamiliar wilderness, pressing control keys that shifted in multi-directional paths. I was tearing up (a couple of times having to put the reserve down), but not once did I feel lost in the story line. I cannot picture a better instruction through this "wilderness" and to share the "blessings" than this author. His faith can be astounding, his wit and wisdom contagious. Dr..I must admit, We jumped into this reserve unprepared. Reading this book, as you strap into the wild rollercoaster ride that the author has eloquently distributed to the reader, you start to experience the wilderness that which the Gallagher's experienced. Excellent memoir Full disclosure: The writer and I are co-workers and friends. So well crafted, fun, funny, thoughtful, poignant - this book was a fantastic read into the hearts of a family of faith because they first find out about their soon-to-be-son's heart defect and eventual diagnosis with a developmental disability. Been There Done That As a parent who has been there done that in several Children's Hospitals, I spent a lot of time reading this book and nodding my mind. The raw individual emotion exuded on every page are akin to a storytelling. It's a joy to read - though I don't suggest you browse the October chapters in public areas unless you prefer to gasp and cry before strangers. While the condition of Down syndrome is certainly very clear and specific, his terms actually resonate with any parent who has handled medical crises regarding their children. It is not limited to those with a loved one with Down syndrome or various other disability. I didn't feel like I was reading phrases. Dr.Telling our tales is always important and I think there are numerous people, including individuals who haven't done time period at a hospital, who will connect to this story.



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