

Finding Matthew



A Child with Brain Damage, A Young Man with Mental Illness,
A Son and Brother with Extraordinary Spirit

DONNA KIRK

FOREWORD BY GERALD TAYLOR, M.D.

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, Mississauga, Ontario During the first couple of weeks after Matthew Kirk was born -- brain-damaged because of oxygen deprivation during delivery -- the doctors advised his parents, Donna and Ed Kirk, to place him in an organization, have another baby as quickly as possible, and get on making use of their existence." --JIM TRIANTAFILOU, Executive Director, Brampton Caledon Community Living ". an excellent book. a genuine story in a number of senses ... Donna Kirk is also the author of short stories, which have been released in The Daily American, Ars Medica, CommuterLit, and The Quick Dark brown Fox.D..." --GERALD TAYLOR, M.."So many things in the publication resonate: the sorrows, struggles, and challenges, as well as the guilt and despair -- and, through it all, the surprising and amazing presence of love and joy -- that include being a parent of a kid with a disability. But what the doctors didn't understand was that Matthew was their life. Certainly, as he grew, he'd surprise everyone along with his athletic good looks, spirited character, and supreme ability to create pleasure and love as so many people gathered around to greatly help him through his physical and mental struggles. Right now, with the publication of this clear-eyed, laugh-inducing, and heart-tugging book, Donna Kirk recounts the tale -- the love tale -- of how she and her family found Matthew, and how he found them. accurate in general, true to family life specifically, and true to medication . She lives with her husband, Ed, in Oakville, Ontario.



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Finding Matthew by Donna Kirk Acquiring Matthew is a mother's memoir which chronicles the life span of Matthew, born with multiple disabilities, who fought against the odds and went on to enrich the lives of all who knew him during his forty years of existence. That's what Finding Matthew does, actually - "introduce a valuable new perspective" not just to special needs family members, but to all or any families. From learning to suck as a baby to learning to swim as a small boy; from surviving in the community as an adult to getting a job, each milestone needed extraordinary, heroic work and underlines the importance of advocacy for individuals who are unable to represent themselves. Many people won't understand how it is possible to pour so much time and interest into your high-needs kid. Finding Matthew is a must read for those in the health treatment field and Community Living as well as for households whose lives are touched by profound disabilities and mental illness. Not really until I read her book did I gain a complete new perspective on her capability to hardly ever take no for response and her true dedication to ensuring people with disabilities are treated with the respect that they should have. Fortunately, we've experienced both physical and occupational therapists help with these problems on a weekly basis since her birth. Inspirational! If you learn anything from scanning this book, it must be that not just one human being on this earth fits in a flawlessly square box. 291). Finding Matthew is certainly a book that people employed in my field should go through and take to heart. We ought to look at everyone's exclusive talents and challenges individually and interact to enrich all of our lives. Moving and hilarious sometimes.. One of them specifically appeared poignant for all caregivers who (inevitably) encounter the incredulity of typical parents: " Love your kid to loss of life. To start, the entire book is a full page turner that never disappoints. This really was an unbelievable and powerful stage underpinning the reserve. Matthew Kirk was an inspiration and a fighter atlanta divorce attorneys way.! While reading along the author made me feel as if I were there in the room encountering their achievements, their sorrow and the unconditional love this family members had for one another. Thanks for taking me along on your journey! This reserve reminds me to operate for what I believe in and cherish my children every day. Donna makes me want to be the best mother I could be for my very own children! Two things struck me as I browse this publication: One was that the Kirks didn't have lots of the therapy possibilities for Matthew's development which are certainly obtainable today, but they worked really hard to strengthen his muscle tissues and enroll him in applications that could increase his agility (just like a special needs swimming class). One I'll cherish permanently! Matthew had no problem expressing himself even though he cannot speak. Gorgeous roller coaster through the life of a family fighting adversity! Just what a great insight into your struggles and triumphs! Matthew was a talented young man who taught all who knew him to be better at thinking from the box! I often found myself speaking aloud within my read, expressing genuine admiration for Donna and Ed and rooting for Matthew every step of the way. Five Stars A wonderful book on the subject of love, compassion and devotion. Excellent Memoir About Perseverance, Compassion, and the Gift of each Human Life In a society that predominantly views those who are cognitively impaired as a waste of space, Donna Kirk reminds us that folks are people, and everyone's life issues. That's certainly the case in her memoir, Finding Matthew: A KID with Brain Damage, A Man with Mental Illness, A Boy and Brother with Amazing Spirit. Readers learn about Matthew's dramatic entry into the world, along with Donna and her husband's shock upon learning that he was permanently brain broken during birth. Kirk will an excellent job of not merely relating her personal trip with raising a child who had special needs, but she also reveals the heart that every category of special needs children implicitly understands. The countless layers of guilt, grief, exhaustion, commitment, and advocacy mingle with joy and triumph as she portrays her child because the beautiful and amazing gift to the globe. Matthew touched so many people's lives with his like and humor, even though he couldn't speak.

But one benevolent nurse contradicted this medical "tips" by telling Donna, "1 day at a time is all any of us has. As the publication opens, Kirk explained the horror and sorrow that she and her husband, Ed, experienced when Matthew's doctors basically told the Kirks to institutionalize their son and give up on him. Kirk tells her story, but she also tells a general tale of like and sacrifice. Together with your son it's simply more obvious. Give him a possibility. Let's find out who Matthew is normally" (p. 18). This was all the Kirks needed to hear to be able to forge ahead and care for their son with love and the best possible care offered at the time (1970s). Great publication. As I find out about Matthew's development, I saw so much of Sarah in how he struggled to carry a spoon or swallow, get dressed, and even walk. As a professional in the social provider field I had met Donna Kirk through work and always thought what a determined female she was. The second point that struck me was how Matthew's life made such a robust difference in the people who loved and cared for him. Right here was a guy who by no means spoke and needed constant care, who was simply eventually diagnosed with psychological disorders and other physical maladies. Congratulations Donna on a well written and inspirational reserve! Her list is actually more like words and phrases of wisdom, and each stage she produced resonated in my own heart so deeply, and he changed lives. While I experienced every emotion possible and also cried during several chapters, there was a lot of humour as well. Matthew's life mattered. All people matter. I held thinking this to myself over and over as I browse this incredibly well-written narrative. Kirk offers a fantastic appendix on "How to Cope" when your loved one receives a daunting diagnosis. An unforgettable story Locating Matthew was a genuine pleasure to read. Sometimes harrowing, but always inspirational, the author's use of narrative allows the reader to feel they are present at every step. That's because they don't really have the same opportunity as you. After the doubters find how your child responds to your love and interest, you will introduce a valuable fresh perspective to them" (p. Donna conveys properly the struggles and difficulties that not merely those supported encounter, but also their own families. The challenges presented to the medical staff also to his family were near overwhelming, yet deep in Matthew burned a light, an inspiration to those that cared for him and then found themselves driven to find the best way to give purpose to Matthew's life. That is a book that will open up the hearts of readers who understand this journey and those who are looking for to understand it. The simple truth is every special needs tale is exclusive and vastly differs from any other, yet there are common threads that recognize the hearts of caregivers just about everywhere. Getting Matthew will open up your heart and your eyes to the wonder and gift of each person, despite societal labels and stereotypes. Amazing true story "Locating Matthew" is a powerful, touching and moving true story of a young mother's account having a baby to a baby boy, who encountered severe complications during labour and her family's ongoing battles to fight for Matthew's privileges and existence. Donna Kirk can be an inspiration, strong and replete with perseverance to supply the best life on her behalf entire family. The challenges the Kirks faced jointly are overpowering and shocking (both by today's standards, so when they took place). Donna's unfiltered telling of her struggles, ups and downs, brought me personally to tears or made me laugh out loud. Thank you Donna for telling your story.



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