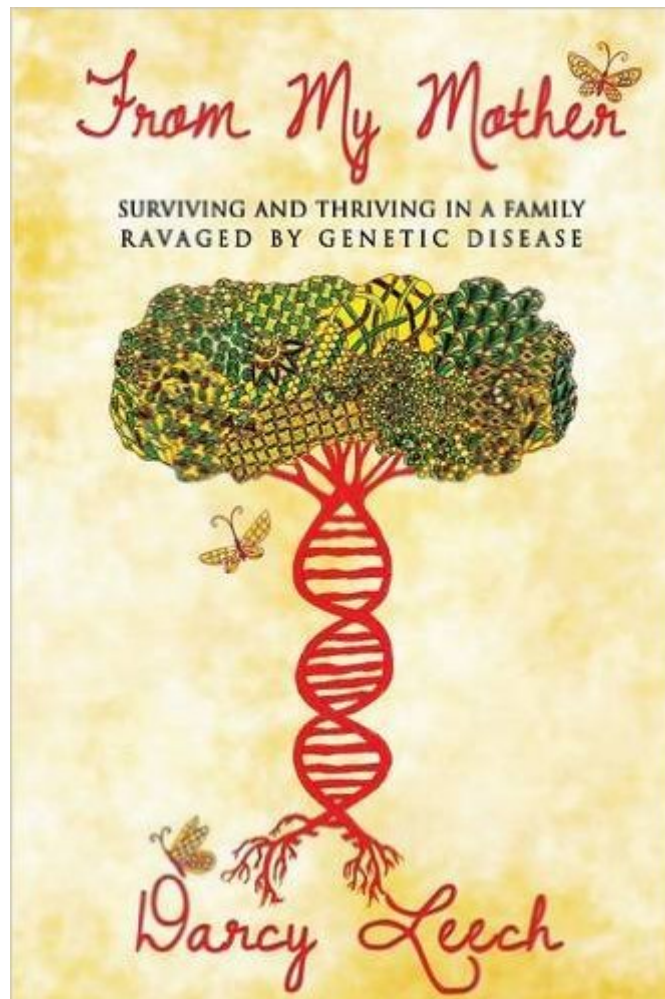


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# From My Mother: Surviving And Thriving In A Family Ravaged By Genetic Disease



## Synopsis

Everyone receives something from their mother. What Darcy Leech received is nothing short of inspiring! Riveting, soulful, and courageously told, *From My Mother* is a meditation on grief, family, genetic disease and also a deeply personal account of the narrator's coming-of-age amid medical crisis and tragedy to carry on the lessons from her mother to raise her young son. A story of loss on many levels, *From My Mother* is a moving book that transforms suffering into art and inspiration. Leech weaves a beautiful tapestry of the enduring mysteries of what dormant harbingers of genetic disease may lurk within, the surprising possibilities in loss, and the deep resilience of the human spirit as the body weakens. *From My Mother* leaves the reader pondering the value of genetic testing, the beauty in a disease easy to accept as genetic fault, and the heart wrenching question of when life should be sustained by machine or ended by choice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a woman with family members who suffer and some who have died from muscular dystrophy these truthful words were hard to read. I could relate very well to the author's feelings to be a good soldier when her brother had passed as I experienced the same feelings. The way the author spoke of her human frailties shows that she has learned a great deal through her difficult experiences with family members with a genetic disorder. I really enjoyed that her mother and her shared a love of the Lord that will continue on forever. I will recommend this book to all my friends and family.

My dear cousin Darcy Leech wrote this book about her mother, my Aunt Jody, who passed from

complications related to the disease myotonic muscular dystrophy. This book concentrates on the human element of growing up with a brother severely affected by a congenital form of the disease and a mother who begins to suffer the effects of the disease as time passes. Beyond being simply a sad tale, this narrative is about love, compassion, acceptance and growth of the human spirit. It doesn't hurt that Darcy is a fabulous writer. Even as a family member, this book gave me an inside view into a world I only ever saw from the outside. Highly insightful, moving... I found myself making connections to life with my dad, a quadriplegic... I'm so glad this book was written.

Just finished the book, wonderful job! I cried heaps and feel as if I have a deeper understanding of those affected by congenital terminal illnesses. I was slightly uncomfortable during your private moments, like I needed to remove myself, they were so authentic. I will treasure this book always as it and you continue to encourage me to appreciate our family members as they age and to value our time together. Thank you for laboring to share your life story- it will help many a person, as we all will face these increments of loss that turn to complete bereavement. Thank you for making others feel less alone, providing an understanding and empathetic voice to those who are traveling this hard road. Your mother is proud of you, I know it!

Darcy Leech shows grace and grit in her story about surviving and thriving in a family ravaged by genetic disease. When she was three, her brother was born with a rare form of muscular dystrophy, revealing this disease's presence in her mother's family of origin. Against all odds, he lived thirteen years with Darcy as one of his greatest advocates. She is honest about how hard it was to be as compassionate toward her mother. She did not want to accept that her mother would die young as well. Darcy had just given birth to her first child when her mother died at age 51. Darcy wrote her memoir as a way to heal, perhaps the reason many memoirs are written. In the writing, she came to know her mother as a strong woman of faith who courageously chose death rather than a life sustained by machines. Darcy transforms her family's story into an inspiring one as she names the many gifts she now knows she received from her mother. Because this disease has touched my family, many memories were triggered as I read Darcy's story. I could relate to the stress her family lived with and, as one who also does not carry the disease, to the impatience and guilt. I, too, live with the sorrow of what could have been and the knowledge that each day is precious and must be lived to the fullest in the NOW.

A must read book. My family has the gene for Muscular Dystrophy. I watched as Darcy Leech, my

niece, grew up in a Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy family. I am so proud of her and the publishing of her book about her life and family.. She has such compassion and 1st hand knowledge, that you cannot help but to want to learn more.

I read this book because I have had Bethlem Dystrophy since birth and I am interested in the ways that other family members cope when this illness is present. In Darcy's case, her younger brother was born with myotonic dystrophy and then her mother was also diagnosed with the same condition. Darcy wrote from the point of view of a well sibling and well daughter. Spoiler alert: Darcy writes about the deaths of both her brother and later, her mother. It is naturally excruciatingly sad in some parts. That said, it's called "surviving and thriving" because the family does just that. As a sibling, Darcy shares what it's like to have to care for her brother during her childhood. She writes about the things that bring him joy and has a very compassionate portrayal of her brother. She describes the loneliness and isolation that come with having a family member with a catastrophic disability, and the financial impact on the family. As her mother's weakness progresses, Darcy describes her mother's effort to continue working and the difficulty they had communicating when her speech became impaired. She describes feelings of guilt, anger and grief over lost dreams that her mother would not live to see her grandchild grow up. The difficulty family members have recognizing the symptoms of advanced disease is also revealed. Darcy bravely writes about end of life decisions and her mother's last few months of life. I am indebted to Darcy for sharing her family's story for the information it gave me about the course of the disease in its final stages. Darcy does not shy away from the difficult parts of the story and I am glad to know it. Better editing would have improved the quality of the story-telling which was confusing at times due to changes in the time line and sequence of events.

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