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Before My Heart Stops: A Memoir



Synopsis

I was born with half a heart. God made up the difference. After living for more than three decades with congenital heart disease, popular musician Paul Cardall has undergone twentyeight operations and seven open-heart surgeries. But the one surgery he needed most his last chance at seeing his three-yearold daughter, Eden, grow up was a heart transplant. This is the remarkable true story of one man s struggle to survive long enough to get a second chance at life. Paul was a poor candidate for a heart transplant, says Angela Yetman, M.D. It would be technically difficult and possibly fatal . . . but Paul was determined to beat the odds. And beat them he did. Paul hopes this miraculous journey will illustrate two things: (1) Truly, there is a God who is clearly in charge of our lives, and (2) each of us has been put on this earth for a reason. Our job is to find it and live it. Paul says, My soul has been stretched in this journey. I m a witness that these soul-stretching experiences can offer us, if we want them, joy, wisdom, happiness, and a personal relationship with God. Along the way, Paul wrote down his thoughts, feelings, and observations in an online blog called Living for Eden. This book reflects those weekly blog entries insights and wisdom beyond his years. After reading his story, you may come away asking yourself, Who do I need to love . . . before my heart stops?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book came highly recommended from several people in a group on facebook. My daughter is four years old. She too was born with half a heart like Paul Cardall. Having already faced three open

heart surgeries in her first three years of life and knowing that her struggles will not end there, I often look to older survivors for inspiration. Paul Cardall's book relays his struggle thru surgeries, being listed for transplant and eventual transplant. In this book, it is evident that faith and a positive attitude are so essential in fighting through these heart issues. He doesn't feel sorry for himself. But instead tells the story of surviving. I have been so inspired by him and his beautiful music. I am thankful to have someone to look to to gain inspiration from. My whole family can read this book and gain insight to my daughter, her fight and what she may face in the future. Sometimes, its easy to feel alone in the battle against a heart defect such as this. But to be able to pick up a book , read his story and see how he handled it all with grace is amazing. So incredibly thankful that he was willing to share his stoey with the world!

Before My Heart Stops: A Memoir I have never been more uplifted or inspired my anything in my life. I've re-read the book simply because it is incredible. How anyone can go through so-o much and maintain such an attitude of gratitude is incredible to me. I struggle a lot. I have physical struggles, but nothing like this...nothing. The emotional pain at times has been almost unbearable...I am almost jealous of the support. I know I am not alone is the dysfunctional family background and the ex from ...well, I guess less is best! But reading this amazing book by this incredible man from a family who stands by it's members gives me strength. Gives me hope. I love it and the power of it's message. Living a Christ centered life. Holding to that promise. Believing that all things are possible through Christ. What a great reminder to hold on to the iron rod, no matter what. I am grateful for Paul Cardall; For his life, for his rich blessings and for sharing them with us that we might grow stronger, too. Now that you will "live for Eden"...may you live a long, long life, filled with the kind of joy you give to others through your music and your life.

I love this book. I recently met Paul Cardall as I got to perform with him in a Christmas concert with our choir. He is a sweet, talented and humble man. His book tells of the journey of his heart problem and eventual heart transplant. I'm so glad the Lord spared this amazing man, so we can enjoy his beautiful piano music.

Good book, but at the time I read it I was looking for a greater message of hope. I found bits and pieces, but for the most part it seemed more of a 'hooray for me' book. The author is an exceptional person and could have done a much better job I think.

I have read the book years ago. I have also had open-heart surgery, nothing anywhere close to what Paul has been through. A friend recently went through her second open-heart surgery and I felt she would enjoy the book. She has.

Mr. Cardall's written account of his wait for a heart transplant is a beautiful reminder to never give up hope. It also illustrates how important a family's love and support is through difficult times. Mr. Cardall is a very good example of a man who lives his Mormon faith in an uncomplicatedly real way which I found refreshing and comforting even though I am not Mormon.

A little religious for my taste, but an interesting view into his life as a Fontan patient awaiting a heart transplant. I thought it was well-written and an interesting read.

Great purchase!

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