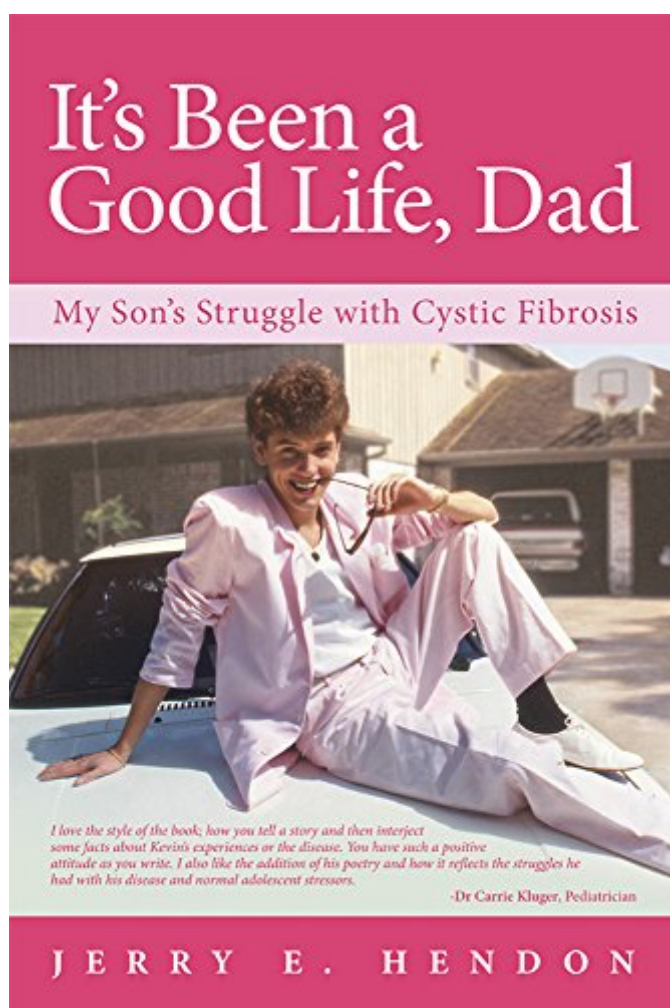


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It's Been A Good Life, Dad: My Son's Struggle With Cystic Fibrosis



Synopsis

"It's Been a Good Life, Dad!" My Son's Struggle with Cystic Fibrosis portrays a young man Kevin Hendon who lived his eighteen years with cystic fibrosis ever present. The author, Jerry E. Hendon, tells the story of his son's life in the first part of this biography. He presents the disease's harsh truths and the severe limits and of medicine's ability to respond to the disease's challenges. With equal clarity, though, he reveals the energy and determination his son showed in the face of his diagnosis. In the second part of It's Been a Good Life, Dad!, Kevin's poetry takes center stage. He shares his feelings of isolation and frustration. He ruminates on love, lust, and romance. He expresses his observations about friends and school. He reflects on the place of religion and family in his life. The final two sections of the book sample the recollections of people who knew Kevin and share the abiding influences of Kevin's spirit in the wider community of those his life has touched. Whether you have cystic fibrosis or know someone who lives with this disease, you might find yourself turning the pages of this portrayal and feeling the temptation to echo the author's despair when he said, "What a miserable life!" But in the face of this disease and in response to such tugs to give in to despair, Kevin responds, "Oh, no. It's been a good life |. It's been a good life."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have never read a book that affected me on so many levels. I bought the book because a friend of ours had CF and had died at the age of 32. As I have discovered, there is no cure for CF. I wanted to read a first hand account of how CF impacts a family and how they deal with a terminal disease. Mr. Hendon's book, based on facts, is to understand the good and bad experiences of a gifted child, who just before he died, at the age of 18, tried to console his grieving aunt with these words, "There hasn't been a single day of my life that I haven't enjoyed full-out. So lighten up, auntie. Let's sing. And so we sang until the sun came up". That sums up for me the way Kevin lived his life. Kevin was always giving, he never ever wanted sympathy, and he always lived in the moment. The author said in the preface, "I believe that as you read his story, you will laugh, you will cry, and whatever your life's circumstances are, you will be inspired to try to make the most of every day and live life to the fullest." I feel blest that this book has crossed my path. And truthfully, I cried a lot while reading this book. Kevin was a gifted poet, who way beyond his chronological years wrote about his struggles, hopes and dreams. For example, The House For long years I have lived in it. It was not discovered till later, though The defects: The vents clogged up, The roof would leak, The air filter ceased to work, It constantly needed repairs, Yet it could not be fixed. Yes, for long years I have lived in it. O, God, how I want to leave it. The house-My body. Everyone has a "story to tell" and Mr. Hendon did a beautiful job honoring Kevin's wish and the promise that he would tell Kevin's story.

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