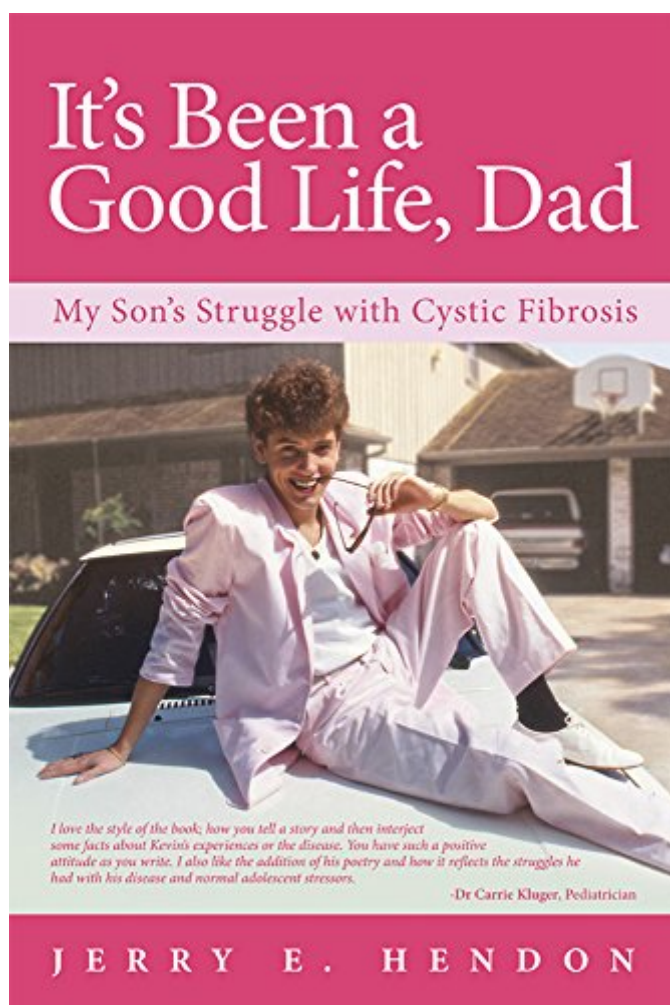


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It's Been A Good Life, Dad: My Son's Struggle With Cystic Fibrosis



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."

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Customer Reviews

Jerry Hendon's story about the life of his son Kevin is captivating. Be warned: Once you have taken Hendon up on the invitation to be a co-participant in making meaning out of Kevin's life-story, you will find it difficult to separate yourself from the experience, until the final page has been turned. Kevin's story is well-written and compelling. While you will learn a great deal about cystic fibrosis, Kevin's chronic health condition that would ultimately take his life, all such information is incidental, offered only as it becomes needed to understand what is happening. First and foremost, this is a story that celebrates the human spirit and demonstrates how one can live life gratefully and with gusto, even while that life is being lived precariously. You will not be able to help experiencing your own humanity at a deep level, even as you celebrate and esteem Kevin's.

Once I started reading Kevin's story, I couldn't put it down. Though I knew him personally, I did not know all the struggles he faced on a day to day basis. This is a story of love, courage, faith, and an incredible warrior.

"Fill your paper with the breathings from your heart." Is a quote from William Wordsworth And that is just what Jerry Hendon did as he attempts to remember all the details of his life with his son Kevin. This story takes place in the 1970s and 80s so the future for someone with CF was not as hopeful as it is today in the 21st century. Jerry is a good writer so he continually paints pictures of a family husband/wife and son with CF that is not as we know a paint by numbers picture. The family is brought together in their fight against CF. Ann, Kevin's mom, is kept strong with a deep faith and Aunt Torchy turns to Shakespeare and all his characters in living through the disease holding up her sister and being a best friend/Aunt to Kevin. Kevin is a handsome and delightful child and teenager. I found his style and charm irresistible. I enjoyed his collections and his white Mazda! Jerry has left no stone unturned. He has gone to Aunt Torchy's diary and even tracked down Kevin's girlfriend, Susan, to find out exactly what she remembered of Kevin 30 years later. Through Kevin's diary we find it wasn't exactly helpful

when she compared Kevin's health issues to the trouble she has putting in her contact lenses! Ann, Kevin's mom, became known as Momma Grizzly to the health care providers and even to how Jerry himself felt left out when Ann didn't want to tell Kevin how serious his disease was and he did was he just the payer? Kevin died way too early and at a time when hope was way off in the future for CF. Would that we could all be so lucky to have our stories documented in such a thorough, heartfelt and profound way. Thanks Jerry! Salt and Light

Outstanding read. It is more than just a story about a courageous young man....it is also a guidebook for those who find themselves at the mercy of intensive health care. Rather than just show up when necessary, Hendon chose to be the best advocate he could be for his child. He utilized many skills in making his son's life the best possible. Communication, negotiation. Read this book because it is a touching story, but if are one of the millions of Americans who are dealing with a disease, whether it be yours or your loved one, read this book. It is an operating manual. It will teach you how to help your family, your doctors and your nurses be the best they can be.

I am an avid non-fiction reader and this book did a great job of pulling me into the story and the lives of Kevin and the Hendon family. I found it to be informative and educational on cystic fibrosis, and life in a children's hospital while also including timely and poignant personal insights and stories, that make you become emotionally invested and keep turning the page. The honest approach of Kevin's father (the author) helps paint a clear picture and you feel that you are in the room with them through the ups and downs by the end of the book. I found the book to be both emotional and inspirational. The book is good for those who enjoy biographies as you get to know several characters well. This would be especially enjoyed by those who have exposure or interests in the medical world or childhood disease. I have spent some time as a patient in a children's hospital and I believe patients, families and friends touched by loss or medical hardship would find this insightful. A great book, I highly recommend it!

Jerry has written a heartwarming story about his son Kevin's struggle to live and die with Cystic Fibrosis. Kevin asked his dad to tell his story and Jerry has brought their life alive during this time. Even though I knew them I wasn't aware of a lot of what they went through. Made my heart swell with sadness but I couldn't put the book down. Whatever part they played in the struggle to keep Kevin alive as long as possible, Ann & Jerry went to the mat for their son. Thank you, Jerry, for

putting your heart down on paper. I know this had to be heart-wrenching and exhilarating during your search for the right words in telling Kevin's story. Well worth the read even if you don't know them because you will by the time you read the last page.

The book is well written and held my interest intensely. It's heart wrenching; but Kevin was so lucky to have such attentive parents. I did not know Kevin but the book makes me wish I could have met him.

When I read Jerry's book, I laughed, then I cried, then I laughed some more and cried a lot! The story of a beautiful and much loved son, an amazing young man who had a sense of his own mortality. He was full of fun and laughter, and grabbed life by the heart, squeezing every drop of joy out of the time he had. I regret that I never met Kevin but after reading about his remarkable journey, I feel that I know him through his father's eyes.

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