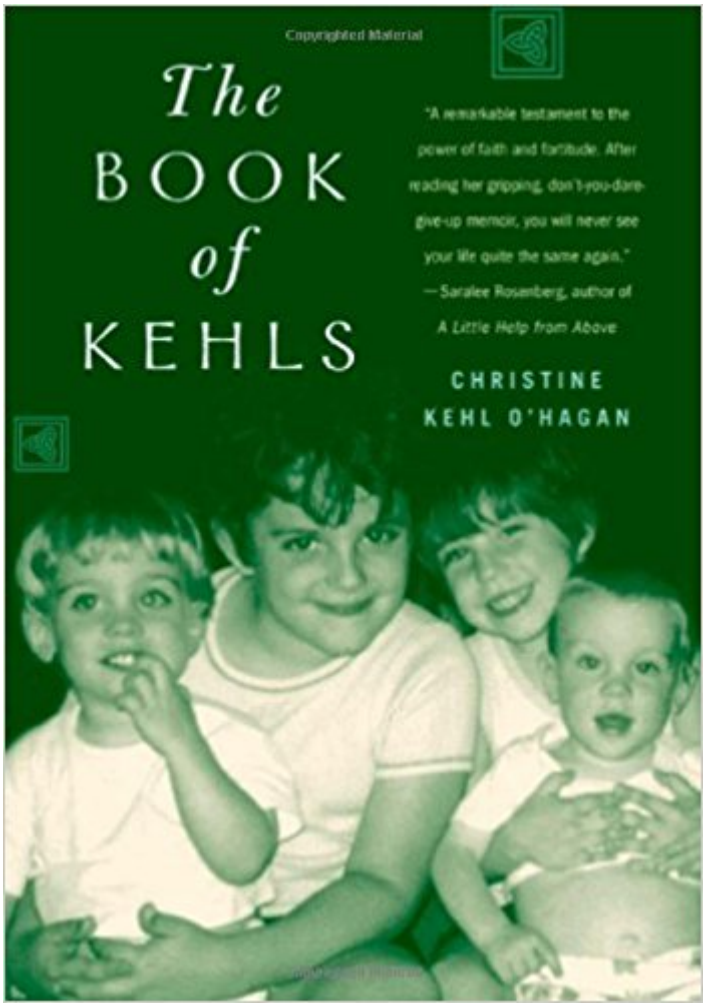
The Book Of Kehls



Synopsis

When Bridget Moore left Ireland in 1865, she never suspected that along with her trunk and rosary beads, she was bringing Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy to New York City. It wasn't until Bridget was a grandmother, one who had buried four of her grandsons, that she realized she'd brought MD to the States, a disease that would haunt her family for generations. Years later, her great-grandchildren grew up under the elevated trains of Jackson Heights, QueensÃ¢â ¬â ¢and one of them was Christine Kehl O'Hagan, the author of this moving and insightful memoir.Christine, her sister Pam, and their brother Richie played in the streets and attended mass every Sunday. But Richie had trouble walking. By the time he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, Christine learned that two of her mother's brothersÃ¢â ¬â ¢uncles she'd never known aboutÃ¢â ¬â ¢had died of MD. Christine eventually married and had a healthy son. But one day she saw her second boy, Jamie, struggle to climb onto the school busÃ¢â ¬â ¢and she knew knew then and there that this disease would be with her the rest of her life.Extraordinarily written, with much honesty and humor, The Book of Kehls is the engaging story of a family that has known love, courage, and heartbreak in equal measureÃ¢â ¬â ¢and survived. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Don't you feel so guilty passing it on?" O'Hagan asks another mom who's also passed fatal Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) to her son. It's "God's will," the woman answers, but in spite of O'Hagan's Catholic upbringing, she finds little comfort in the thought that God would want to afflict

innocent boys. O’Hagan lays out the basics of DMD: one in 4,000 males are born with the hereditary disease, passed via a faulty X gene. Females can be asymptomatic carriers, but if they pass a faulty X to a male offspring, he’ll end up with DMD. O’Hagan’s brother, son and two nephews were all born with no apparent symptoms, but the DMD was undeniable when the boys had trouble walking and climbing stairs, and kept falling down. O’Hagan watched her parents care for and then bury her only brother; when she realized she’d passed DMD to her own son, her grief was almost unbearable. Still, she stayed with him continually until his death at 24. Though missing him tremendously, O’Hagan worked through her anguish and learned how to live like a "regular" person. O’Hagan’s story is extremely depressing, her pain raw and messy. Though marketed as a memoir, this is really a disease/grief book. While the book may resonate with parents of children with other similar illnesses, memoir readers lured by the book’s Irish-Catholic title should look elsewhere.

Shortly after the Civil War, Bridget Moore left Ireland for New York, like many -immigrants, with very little extra in her trunk--a pair of rosary beads, a clay pipe. But a dangerous invisible passenger accompanied her. She carried the gene that causes Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a wasting disorder affecting the legs, arms, and hips in young males. This unexpected curse is the dominant motif of O’Hagan’s poignant, luminous, devastatingly moving memoir of her family and its long, courageous fight with a deadly disease. O’Hagan’s brother, Richie, succumbed to it, as, years earlier, had two of her mother’s brothers. Her first son, Patrick Jr., was born healthy, but her second-born, Jamie, the focal character of much of the book, wasn’t so fortunate. We watch Jamie grow healthily until, when he is six, the family realizes that its fate is overtaking it again. Still, this is also a story of survival, perseverance, and hope, lit by great humanity and even humor. June SawyersCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

This memoir is the story of a family affected by Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy for four generations. The author lost her brother and her son to this disease. Her mother lost two brothers and two cousins whom she had never really known-and the author’s sister had TWO boys with this disease. The main focus of this memoir is the author’s son, Jamie, who died in his early twenties. A handsome, bright boy; he struggles to keep up with others his age-then gradually deteriorates until he is bedridden. The family’s story is heartbreaking; but it is also filled with warmth, love, and even humor. This story is definitely unsparing in showing the reader the horrible ravages of Duchenne-but it also shows that life has beauty and value even in a family like the Kehls.

This beautifully-written memoir brings us into the family of men and women who carry DMD, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. I read this book a number of years ago and re-read it this week. Not often do I feel myself at the brink of tears when reading, not often do I smile at the tender successes. I loved this memoir.Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a genetic disease that is passed from mother to son, is usually diagnosed in young boys and usually leaves them wheel-chair bound before they are ten. And that is only the sad beginning of their decline. Although there has been some progress with something called an exon - skipping gene therapy that helps with some forms of the disease, there is still no cure.Christine Kehl O'Hagan lost her brother and her son to the disease and brings the reader into the journey with great tenderness, with great rawness but with a stalwart and pitiless honesty. Nothing has touched me quite this deeply in ages.

A unique perspective on living with so many generations of duchenne muscular dystrophy. I too have lived with 3 generations of DMD so know what it's like. If you'd like to read my story from a different perspective it's called It's All Right Mum! It too is on Kindle.

The emotional truth in Christine O'Hagan's memoir, THE BOOK OF KEHLS, is raw in its grief and its humor. Yes, the subtext is the genetic chain of Duchene Muscular Dystrophy written in the Kehls' DNA, but the story is that of a family - pulling each other through and soldering the bonds that support them. Central to the strength of the author is the remarkable spirit of her son, Jamie, the child whose genes found the Duchene link. It is their mother and son story which shines above the debilitating cruelty of the disease, making the memoir one held in the reader's memory.It is an admirable skill for a writer to bring her readers the joy of her family life while juggling its pain. Christine O'Hagan does this masterfully.

Christine's heartwrenching story is so well written. She has taken her hardship, and that of her family, and used it to help others understand the effects of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. I highly recommend this book to anyone, especially if you know a family facing this dreadful disease.

i have reread this book every year for 5years. each time I cannot put it down and each time I cry and laugh.it is told in an honest and loving manner, I always wish I could be sitting with the author over a cup of tea.she and her family are blessed with each other and the extrodinary way they have handled their tragedy.so much love.

Fantastic read. Incredibly honest. Best book I've read in a long time.

Ms. O'Hagan writes so that the story flows and is easy to follow. She is houmerous, humble and human in her story telling.

The Book of Kehls Magical Unicorns and Fairies: Adult Coloring Book: Unicorn Coloring Book, Fairy Coloring Book, Fantasy Coloring Book, Fairies Coloring Book, Adult Coloring Book Nautical Guest Book (Hardcover), Visitors Book, Guest Comments Book, Vacation Home Guest Book, Beach House Guest Book, Visitor Comments Book, Seaside ... House, Parties, Events & Functions by the Sea Back to the 80s: 1980s Fads and Fashion Coloring Book: Adult Coloring Books Fashion, 80s Coloring Book, 1980s Coloring Book, Fashion Coloring Book ... Fashion Coloring Book for Adults) (Volume 1) Books for Kids: Am I White Or Black (A Great Children's Book About A Cool Stripy Cat, Bedtime Book, Ages 3-6, Preschool Book, Friendship book,Kids Book) "In Loving Memory" Funeral Guest Book, Memorial Guest Book, Condolence Book, Remembrance Book for Funerals or Wake, Memorial Service Guest Book: A ... the Family. Hard Cover with a Gloss Finish Cast Iron Cookware Recipes 4 Books in 1 Book Set - Cooking with Cast Iron Skillets (Book 1) Cast iron Cookbook (Book 2) Cooking with Cast Iron (Book 3) Paleo Cast Iron Skillet Recipes (Book 4) Birds: An Adult Coloring Book: Over 30 Fun Stress Relieving Illustrations of Birds, #1 Book For Your Inner Artist, mindful meditation coloring book, bird guide natural world coloring book Birds: An Adult Coloring Book: Travel Edition Size, Over 30 Fun Stress Relieving Illustrations of Birds, #1 Book For Your Inner Artist, mindful ... book, bird guide natural world coloring book ABC's for Boys (Alphabet Book, Baby Book, Children's Book, Toddler Book) ABC's for Girls (Alphabet Book, Baby Book, Children's Book, Toddler Book) Chinese baby book: Where is the Baby: English-Chinese picture book (Simplified Chinese book) (Bilingual Edition) Early Reader Chinese book for ... books for kids) (Volume 7) (Chinese Edition) Children's book: Where is Santa. Santaha dokoda: Children's English-Japanese Picture Book (Bilingual Edition), Japanese kids book,Japanese Baby book,Japanese ... Japanese English books for children 1) Bullet Journal: Wood Notebook Dotted Grid, 5,5"x 8,5": Dot Grid Journal, Design Book, Planner, Dotted Notebook, Work Book, Sketch Book, Math Book, 5mm ... paper) (Dotted Journal Notebooks) (Volume 28) Visitors Book: At A Glance Visitor Log Book / Visitor Register / Visitor Notebook Record Guest Sign-In Register Book / High Quality Ideal for Offices ... (Visitor Registration Book) (Volume 4) A Guide Book of United States Coins 2015: The Official Red Book Spiral (Official Red Book: A Guide Book of United States Coins (Spiral)) Animals Coloring

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