



Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio

By Peg Kehret

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In a riveting story of courage and hope, Peg Kehret writes about months spent in a hospital when she was twelve, first struggling to survive a severe case of polio, then slowly learning to walk again.

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Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio By Peg Kehret Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-Twelve-year-old Peg contracts polio in 1949, but she survives the initial paralysis and eventually learns to walk again. Her engaging account will fascinate readers as she relates the symptoms, treatments, and effects of the disease. Kehret also describes antiquated treatments such as the Iron Lung. Black-and-white photos add to the story's appeal. Audio version available from AudioGO.α(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3[^]-5. This heartfelt memoir takes readers back to 1949 when the author, at age 12, contracted polio. Using fictionalized dialogue, she describes her seven-month ordeal--her diagnosis and quarantine, her terrifying paralysis, her slow and difficult recuperation--and the people she encountered along the way. Kehret supplies a few words about the illness in a foreword, but because there is little sense of how medicine has evolved since her hospitalization, some children may find the vivid picture she paints scary indeed. Scary, too, is the epilogue, in which Kehret admits to having post-polio syndrome. Curious children who love Kehret's middle-grade thrillers may pick this up, but since there's little about her life as a writer, it will most likely be children interested in medical issues who will follow through. *Stephanie Zvirin*

From Kirkus Reviews

From a writer known for her fiction, a moving memoir about a 12-year-old who got polio in 1949 in Austin, Minnesota. Kehret (Earthquake Terror, 1996, etc.) describes the disease, the diagnosis, the severe symptoms, treatments, physical therapy, slow recovery, and return home with walking sticks--and how she was forever changed. After her fever broke and she lay paralyzed in the hospital, her parents delivered a big brown packet of letters from her classmates. "I had a strange feeling that I was reading about a different lifetime . . . none of this mattered. I had faced death. I had lived with excruciating pain and with loneliness and uncertainty about the future. Bad haircuts and lost ball games would never bother me again." There are touching black-and-white photographs of her roommates, who had already been there for ten years. Kehret's were the only parents who visited her each Sunday, and soon "adopted" her fellow polio victims. A simple, direct, and sometimes self-deprecating style of writing tenderly draws readers into Kehret's experiences and the effects of the disease firsthand. Almost a half-century later, this lovely book refocuses attention on what matters most: health, love of family, friends, determination, generosity, and compassion. (Nonfiction. 8-13) - *Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robin Martz:

The particular book Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. Tom makes some research ahead of write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

Harry Greene:

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