



Loving Andrew: A Fifty-Two-Year Story of Down Syndrome

Romy Wyllie

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September 2014. Readers' Favorite Book Awards - Honorable Mention in Parenting. May 2014. National Indie Excellence Book Awards - Finalist in Parenting & Family. May 2014. Eric Hoffer Awards - Honorable Mention in Memoir; Finalist for Grand Prize & Montaigne Medal. March 2014. Beverly Hills Book Awards - Finalist in Parenting & Family. December, 2013 - Named to Kirkus Reviews and IndieReader 'Best of 2013.' June 1, 2013 – LOVING ANDREW won second place in the non-fiction category of the IndieReader Discovery Awards, which were announced at BookExpo America, a major trade show in New York City. The book was awarded five stars out of five—see IndieReader Review May 13, 2013.

A mother recounts how the birth of Andrew with Down syndrome, and the loss to cancer of a second baby start a family's journey through the maze of parenthood. With the support of a loving father, mother, and two younger siblings, Andrew mastered the skills of life and became a contributing member of society. In spite of coping with schizophrenia in his later years, Andrew remained active, happy, and full of love until Alzheimer's stole his memory and brought his life to a close at the age of fifty-two.

In spite of being told that their firstborn son would have many limitations in life, his parents were amazed at what Andrew achieved. He learned to read and write, ride a bicycle – sometimes too far from home – play the piano, swim almost as well as his siblings, ride horseback and perform dressage, graduate in special education from high school, take classes at a community college, travel alone on Chicago's public transportation system, hold a job in a regular supermarket for 25 years, win ribbons and medals in Special Olympics events, and serve as the lead acolyte in his church. Andrew's ability to describe the demons of his paranoid schizophrenia that plagued his later years provides a picture of a little-known ailment among the Down syndrome population.

This book is aimed at a broad audience in order to help all people understand the humanity and value of a person with a disability. This is especially important as medical technology continues to improve prenatal testing for abnormalities, and parents are faced with the heart-wrenching decision to terminate a pregnancy or risk having a less-than-perfect baby. The number of children born with Down syndrome is being drastically reduced, just as opportunities for them to be accepted into the mainstream of life have never been better, and their development has improved exponentially. Life is a game of chance and we should not expect to play God. No embryo selection or prenatal test can guarantee a flawless product or rule out unexpected calamities such as the death to cancer of our second baby.

Interwoven in the story of Andrew are: half a century of changing attitudes toward the developmentally disabled; improved educational opportunities; and discussions on pre-natal testing and abortion. Examples from two other children with Down syndrome, born 21 and 35 years after Andrew, help to illustrate the services that became available after passage of the law "Education for All Handicapped Children" in 1975, and underline the challenges that we faced without such services.

Excerpt from the Foreword by Brian Chicoine, MD: "As the medical director of the Adult Down Syndrome Center... I always appreciate any occasion to get a more in-depth look into the lives of those individuals and their families. This book is one such opportunity... It is about the hope of that journey, and is told through the life of an amazing, delightful, loving, fun, and caring man. Each person has a story. Andrew certainly had his. In this book, you will get to know Andrew, learn his story, appreciate him, and love him. Perhaps you, too, will experience the journey, the hope, and the casting aside of preconceived notions."

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From reader reviews:

Tamera Duckett:

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Mike Yerkes:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for people. The book Loving Andrew: A Fifty-Two-Year Story of Down Syndrome seemed to be making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The guide Loving Andrew: A Fifty-Two-Year Story of Down Syndrome is not only giving you more new information but also being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship using the book Loving Andrew: A Fifty-Two-Year Story of Down Syndrome. You never really feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

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Loving Andrew: A Fifty-Two-Year Story of Down Syndrome can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Loving Andrew: A Fifty-Two-Year Story of Down Syndrome yet doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

Jonathan Solis:

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