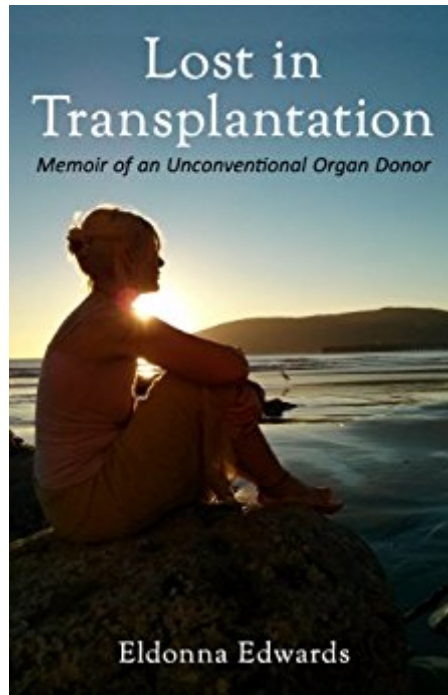


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Lost In Transplantation: Memoir Of An Unconventional Organ Donor



Synopsis

One Gently Used Kidney, Free to a Good Home. When 48 year-old single mother, massage therapist and returning student Ellie meets a young woman with kidney disease, she decides to make it her mission to save the girl. Unfortunately, outdated rules made it difficult for altruistic donors, and besides, the woman doesn't want a savior. Does this stop Ellie from her quest to make the change one seeks in the world? Not a chance. Told with humor and self-reflection, this inspirational memoir of courage and compassion is interwoven with anecdotal stories that help the reader identify what kind of person commits the selfless act of organ donation. Ellie, a self-described devout agnostic, is kind but often irreverent. She is generous, but she is no saint. Ultimately, becoming a kidney donor has given her a renewed sense of purpose and fulfillment. Lost in Transplantation asserts that we are all capable of altering a human being's life for the better, including our own.

Book Information

File Size: 609 KB

Print Length: 251 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Whole Heart Publications (January 14, 2014)

Publication Date: January 14, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00HG68Y1I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #340,508 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #335

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Medical

#1059 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Medical #1737

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Customer Reviews

Dialysis is a horrible way to live and having to ask a person to donate an organ is the hardest thing

that you will ever have to do. Ellie is not just responsible for one transplant, but got the ball rolling for three more people with very difficult matches to have the opportunity to be freed from dialysis. I read it twice and had never heard the details of how determined she was until now. What more can I write? I have her kidney and saying thanks for the kidney just doesn't do it. You will always be my Hippie Chick.

The author does a great job of capturing her journey and sharing it in a story that is exciting to read. I could not put the book down. I laughed, I cried, and I learned the truths about kidney donation. I would highly recommend this book to anybody.

My heartstrings have been pulled beyond their capacity after reading the story of compassion and sacrifice shown to a complete stranger by this author. Tears of joy and sadness fought for residence on my cheeks and I found myself flip flopping through emotions of jocularity and sadness for the varying circumstances that took place in this journaling experience of kidney donation. The writer's ability to awaken our sense of altruism is accomplished by her sweet and humble way of sharing her journey in this book.

A great book, for me, contains and conveys the soul of the book's author. No doubt Ms. Edwards has been told by many of her readers that she writes well. She does indeed write as if she were an angel dipping one of her own wing's feathers into ink. Her narrative flows smooth and as delicate as perfumed oil. But story, above all else, grabs the reader's attention and refuses to relax its grip. Call Ms. Edwards' decision to donate an organ an act of altruism. Or call her a selfless hero. Name her courageous, if you will. All of these statements are true. Yet, deep inside any description you apply to Eldonna Edwards is an apparent love for her fellow human beings. My own transplant journey differs in its details from those of Ms. Edwards'. I'm alive to write this paragraph because a family donated a different essential organ to me. I am in awe of being alive. But I am even more in awe of those who interrupted their grieving process to give me a second chance. I honor. I give praise, and I thank Eldonna for writing this book.

Read it now. This remarkable telling of one woman's quest to donate a kidney to a stranger is engaging from the very first page. The author's writing style is eloquent and accessible, funny, honest, sassy, but always real. One of the best memoirs I've read in a very long time.

I wanted to read this one because of my interest in its main subject: kidney donation. As someone considering a kidney transplant, my reason for reading this book was to gain information about this process. What I learned at Eldonna's side is about matching donors and recipients, how this works, the convoluted process both before and after transplant, and how technology is improving, but not to the point where there are enough kidneys to go around. The author sounds like a caring, fun person, a free spirit, someone whom I'd love to meet in a writing group. A massage therapist, she conveys the true importance of her work as a healing process with the blending of energies when she works. But some parts do not belong in this book. While personal stories affected by the author's decision are relevant, I found the non-related stories about every one of the author's friends and her childhood anecdotes distracted from the main subject. It seemed like she turned her life memoir into this story. I'm glad I read this book, I think Eldonna sounds like a unique person, pursuing a worthy quest to help another human being. This book works mainly because of her voice and her altruism.

Charitable acts of human kindness often go unnoticed, and that's exactly how Ms. Edwards wanted hers to be. Being a professional massage therapist, she derived gratification from easing people's pain and stress and, in general, calming them. The calming effect was double-sided because if she made them feel better, then she, in turn, experienced a sense of well-being. She was a giving person in more ways than one. Realizing that she could help an ailing stranger by becoming a living donor, she resolutely embarked on an exciting -- albeit frustrating -- journey in which she had to break through many layers of medical, legal, psychological, and ethical barriers. It was essential that she be a perfect match for the recipient of her kidney, and that is not only a rare occurrence, but also a monumental process. But her determination never flagged; the lady was on a mission. Not wanting to create spoilers, I will just add that reading this memoir gave me a better understanding of what living organ donation entails. It also demonstrated the kindness and altruism of some very special human beings. The author wrote from her heart, and I found this memoir to be straightforward, touching, funny, and most of all, loving. It was written by an extraordinary human being. Phyllis Eisenstadt

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