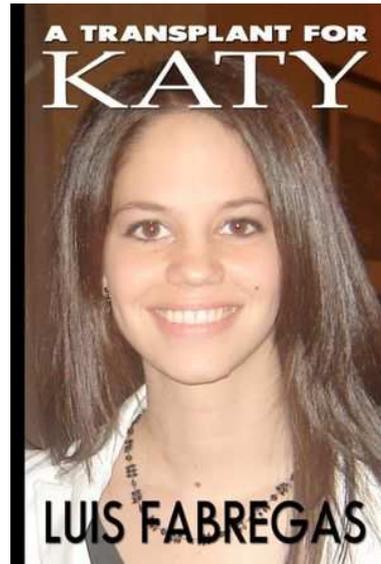


A Review of

A Transplant for Katy (2012)

Author: Luis Fabregas

Luis Fabregas' book about young Katy's death after receiving a living liver donation transplant (actually after receiving a 2nd liver transplant) and the background of UPMC's transplant program with world renowned liver transplant doctors, Thomas Starzl and Amadeo Marcos, as key player roles is fascinating reading. Luis captures the life and tragedy of the Miller family at a very human and readable level, a tragic family story, losing a child, that serves as backdrop for a much deeper and troubling story of the motives and goings on behind the scenes in one of today's major medical center transplant programs at UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center).



In a world of almost routine miracle transplant surgery, pushing the envelope of research on an important topic of finding ways to reduce and even totally eliminate the need for post transplant meds (known as "tolerance") with their extreme cost and multiple side effects, brings the reader into the very complex environment of human immune systems and medical science that is still under development now, almost half a century since the first such liver transplant surgery was performed by the very pioneers covered in this story.

My heart goes out to Katy's family for their loss, and I feel for the medical professional pioneers who live through the lives of such families and suffer along with them (yet in a different way) the tragic loss too often involved with pushing the edge protocols aimed at reducing suffering but sometimes resulting in setbacks along the way.

Be prepared for a read that you can't put down once you get engaged. There may or may not be villains in this story, but there certainly is drama and conflict that author/reporter, Luis Fabregas, offers us in what comes across as a very fact based and balanced portrayal of this sad but complex human story. Luis provides insights from his very close and often quoted interview comments and documents with family and doctors that take us below the surface of what has been a long time public topic of interest in the transplant world. He does a great job of integrating enough medical information at a lay reader level to support full understanding as the story develops, without distracting from that story with too much medical jargon as is often done in books of this nature.

Having read over 100+ transplant related books and life stories, I put this one at the top of my favorites list and give it a well deserved "5 stars" top recommended rating. Whether a transplant candidate, family caregiver, already a recipient (liver or other organ type), medical professional or a general reader, my bet is that you would find this reading as enjoyable as I did.

Note: **A Transplant for Katy** is available in paperback from [Amazon](#) (← click here to link to this book) and see the book's web site at: <http://www.transplantforkaty.com/>

Reviewer bio: Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with NKF, UNOS and the Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia, as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered in thanks to his donor family and can be viewed on-line or obtained on a CD without cost by contacting him at GleasonJim@aol.com