

A Review of

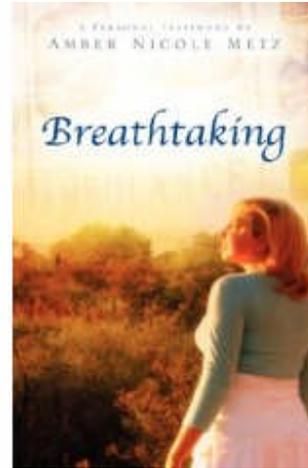
Breathtaking

A personal testimony by Amber Nicole Metz

Author: Amber Nicole Metz

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient

In every life challenge there is opportunity, even when that challenge is facing death. **Breathtaking** is the story of one young woman's spiritual growth through facing and accepting her life threatening CF (cystic fibrosis) and one's mortality through a passion for bible study and accepting Christ in her life. "*A personal testimony*" is the right sub-title to this beautiful faith filled book with the fight for life and eventual successful double lung transplant on September 25th, 2005, serving less as a transplant story than background for this sharing of her faith discovery and spiritual growth in dealing with life threatening medical challenges. While complete in its medical detail, the reflections on life in Christ and their supporting scripture references are the real message behind Amber's life story here. Through her eyes we see that even chronic illness can be a gift that, once accepted, life will never be the same no matter the medical outcome.



CF has to be a most frightening condition with its constant shortness of breath, but Amber never lets it overtake her energy and love for life, even when so weakened from lack of air that all she can do is lay in bed for hours and days on end with just 15% lung capacity and supported by oxygen therapy 24/7. Through the window of e-mails (many used as the foundation for writing this book), even in so drained a state, she reaches out to an ever growing community of friends, sharing her strengthening faith and acceptance of His will, even preparing for death if that is to be her fate, i.e., His plan for her. We read a daily account of that prayer filled life, counting down the days after finally being listed for lung transplant, not knowing if that will come in time. Alternating with her own writing, chapters titled "Reflections" are offered by family and friends sharing their observations of Amber's faith and fight for life during those long months of waiting.

The reader can't help but be amazed at the depth of young 19 year old (now 22 in 2008) Amber's conviction and passion for living her life, however challenged it might be, in total (and "total" is the right word for it) acceptance of Christ's plan for her life. She lives every day as a prayer in itself and that mature faith lived by one so young is an inspiration to all who have come to know her. **Breathtaking** opens up for so many more that opportunity to join her growing circle of inspired faith-filled friends. This book and her newly founded **Breathtaking Ministries** is, in part, the most recent answer to the question of what God had in store for her life through the "miracle" of a life saving transplant gifted by an unknown donor who said yes to organ donation, yet another message Amber now dedicates her life to sharing with the world.

Note: **Breathtaking** is available in hardcover and paperback from Amazon.com and Pleasant Word Books

Brief bio:

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered free in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained by contacting him at GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM.