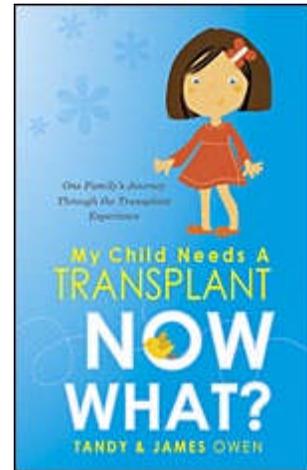


A Review of

My Child Needs a Transplant (2009)

Author: Tandy & James Owen

When faced with their daughter's Biliary Atresia, a liver disease, from birth, and knowing that eventually they would need to see her through a liver transplant, Tandy and Jim Owen found themselves without enough support information. By sharing their experiences through writing this book, they hope to reach out and help others. What a treasure it is! Their message of hope and inspiration through transplant, first a liver in 2005 (actually two when the first was immediately rejected, and miracle of miracles, with little hope left, a second liver becomes available in a nick of time), and then a kidney donated by her mother in 2006, all faced in prayerful faith during some of the most troubled of times. Today in 2010, Jessica, at 16 is living proof of what can be done when strong parental advocates team up with medical science and caring doctors and nurses. So many surgeries over the years, and this young fighter of a patient, survives and today, thrives through it all!



Faced with losing their daughter, the family bravely moves from California to Kentucky to get the care needed to hopefully overcome Jessica's medical challenges. There is a clear message of how many support resources it takes to deal with such a family crisis. Drawn from a mother's journal, we get a detailed, day by day insight into life against odds, a captivating reading that will draw the reader from chapter to chapter as it did this reviewer, unable to put the book down, like a good novel, only this is real life, touching the heart in the reading. This is very emotional reading at times, so come prepared to shed tears in facing their child's life and death as Tandy (mother) and James (father) alternate back and forth in telling this amazing story of overcoming the odds in this 180 page soft cover beautifully written from the heart book.

Along with the story, they accomplish their purpose of providing a resource that educates in many areas both through that life story dealing with such things as liver transplant, septic shock, living organ donation, post trauma syndrome, to name but a few. Going beyond their story, they also offer chapters of general information about the liver and kidney. That kidney section, for example, includes not only how that organ works in filtering the body, but offers detailed advice on how to care for the kidney, citing foods and ways to improve various key mineral levels, especially when one is facing dialysis. For the liver we see again, not only how it works, but also many insights into liver transplant from MELD score to selecting a transplant center, offering a list of critical questions to ask of the doctors in making that selection, as well as much to think about when waiting and preparing "for the call."

The reader is brought in close with a family gallery of thirty-one photos tracing the journey, culminating with the most precious one of Jessica looking so beautiful and healthy in September of 2008, a few years after recovering from the three

transplants and her time on dialysis. To add some icing to the cake, they close with a chapter of letters from some very special friends, adding yet another dimension to this enjoyable and inspiring reading. Whether you are facing the transplant challenge within your own family, especially that of a child, or are a medical professional looking to understand the pediatric family environment, this is a very helpful resource of inspiration and hope. It certainly belongs in the public libraries and those of children's hospitals around the country for easy access by those in need.

Tandy, James and especially Jessica, thank you for seeing the need and taking the action to create the resource you yourself couldn't find when you needed it. Hopefully others will be better prepared in taking that transplant journey with its reading.

Note: This softback book is available on-line at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Borders.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, TRIO 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 obtained on a CD without cost by contacting him at GleasonJim@aol.com