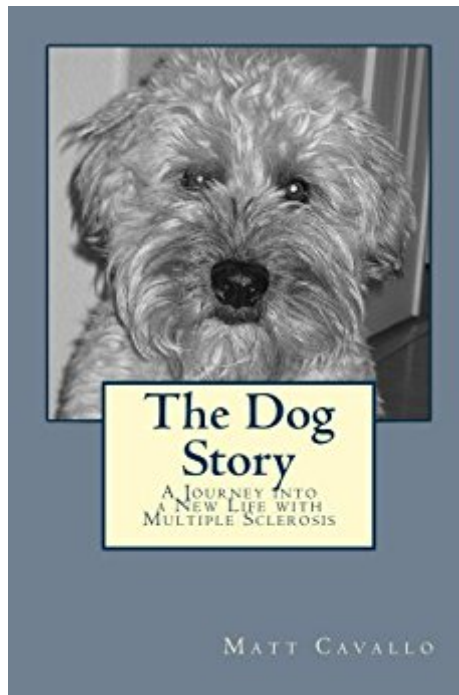




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The Dog Story: A Journey Into A New Life With Multiple Sclerosis



Synopsis

At the age of twenty-eight years old with a promising career in real estate development, Matt Cavallo got out of bed on May 18th, 2005 and stumbled. Overnight, he went from a fully-functioning, healthy man to someone who was numb from the waist down and unable to walk. After consulting his doctor, he was sent to a neurologist who immediately admitted him to the hospital. What would happen to Matt over the next four weeks would redefine all that was important in life. At the end of this four week period, he would learn that he has the chronic neurodegenerative condition *À* *À* Multiple Sclerosis. This book chronicles Matt's journey of being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and his struggle to not only regain his physical health, but also to regain the inner strength needed to fight this chronic illness. It is a story of hope, love, healing and finding man's best friend. Matt is sharing his story in hopes of raising awareness of this devastating illness. A portion of the proceeds from this book will be donated to support MS research and charities.

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Customer Reviews

Having listen to Matt's story for the last 2 1/2 + years, while walking our dogs, it was refreshing to have it all at once. Granted, while reading this story, I could hear Matt's voice in my head, it was really hard to put down once I started. By reading the book, I got details about the journey that cleared a few thing up, like how Joci fueled his recovery not only by staying strong, but also backing him in the decisions he was making along the way, dare I say, "The ultimate wife". I drew insperation from the way Matt kept his mouth closed, when alot of people would have lashed out, or how even in the darkest hour, Matt somehow found the positive in dismal circumstances. Kudos to Matt's father-in-law, because the typical f-i-l would have more than likely offerred support via email or by sending a card or maybe even a phone call. Joci's dad not only sacrificed his time and the comfort of his own home in order to help them, but in the truck ride when he had a conversation with Matt, and in my opinion, smashed any kind of negative attitude Matt was trying to invent,(one of my favorite parts of the book). As far as walking his dog is concerned, I can tell you, Ted gets alot of time walking. Matt had surgery on his neck in 2010, and while in unspeakable pain, called on me, not to walk Ted, but to drive he and Ted to the dog park, so Ted could get his exercise. Bottom line, Matt is my friend, so I am probably a little bias about the book, but I can say honestly that this book is a good read and delivers the message that giving up is just not an option.Love you man.....

My only thought outside of how much I enjoyed this read was, I know Matt and would like everyone to know who are considering reading this that Matt is more than a loving active family man and Ted's best friend, he took this opportunity to enter and work in the Medical Community and interacts now with many Rehab organizations as a trainer and consultant, using his personal experience to drive their interest and knowledge to higher levels in patient care delivery.Matt also has monthly treatments he cannot l've without as he will revert back very quickly. Imagine moving your family to another state, having 2 boys, finishing your Masters, and writing a Book in this short period of time and dealing with MS, I can't.I have not met Joci, I can only imagine that she is the glue in this mix and works hard to help Matt and her family to realize their full potential every day. Matt always has many kind words to say about his family and speaks very highly about their relationship. That in itself is a miracle in this day.Pick up this book and read it, you won't be disappointed. We don't get many opportunities to reflect on the positive aspects of our lives and this will certainly help you do that.

Excellent Book. Different perspective for anyone wanting to read about Multiple Sclerosis. very candid, heartwarming story, about his struggles with the disease, the medications, and his life. Also gives his views on how he copes with the disease and continues to do so. I give the book 5 stars because I have MS also, newly diagnosed, and it's the first book I've read that I can totally relate to all of the things he has written. So many of the books I've read prior to this are books by people who DO NOT have MS, and only give the medical side of it, not the true to life everyday, problems and struggles with it, and the ways this guy deals with it and copes with it, and the medication issues that have the not so nice side effects. Thanks to this author for sharing his life with us.

My book arrived and as soon as I started reading it I couldn't put it down. This is just not a story about a 28 yr old with MS. This is a story about life and how all your dreams, hopes and plans and everything you ever imagined for your life can change in a second. Some things are completely out of our control. Matt made the choice to write this book and share the most intimate details of his life with the world. Matt and Jocelyn are such an inspiration with their strength and positive attitude they have shown us that life is what you make of it. Thank you for sharing your beautiful story.

I have MS and have experienced similar fears and all the emotions expressed by the author-it has been a painful journey and continues to be a struggle every day-the author painted such a clear and perfect picture of life with early ms- at times it was overwhelmingly true and real. This is a must read for ms sufferers but more so for those who love them, it's a real and beautiful illustration of the diagnosis process and the incredible emotions that accompany it- because it's impossible for without ms to understand how this truly feels

It definitely is a book that will hit home if you have MS or know someone who has it. You'll get to read of the trials and tribulations that one must endure while keeping the head up. It just goes to show that the people who really care will always try to make situations better. I've recommended this book to my husband and some of my family because they ask what it's like for me, and this book pretty much hits the nail on the head.

I bought the book because I thought it was going to be a story about how the struggle with a new life health challenge and how his dog showed Matt how to fight the biggest fight of his life. I suppose the story did this in some ways. It never ceases to amaze me how just the presence of a dog can make

you feel that nothing is impossible as long as they are beside you.

It reads like a novel, not a journal of events, making it a 'cannot put down' read. I would recommend this to anyone who wants insight into the feelings of someone facing a life altering condition. It is also a good read for anyone who has a loved one who has been diagnosed with MS.

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