

Carah Jo Austin

Dear Mrs. Kehert,

I have read your book, "Small Steps the Day I Got Polio", several times over the past three years and every time I read it I see myself in your words.

Like yourself, I too, had a very serious illness when I was very young. For years it ruled my life from what damage it had done. I was determined to work hard and do whatever I could to have a normal life, which is what you did in your book.

When you talked about being so afraid because you didn't know what was going on at the beginning of your illness it sent chills down my spine because I remembered those same kind of feelings. As you described the pain you went through it brought back those memories too and I thank God he spared me.

After finally being released from the hospital I thought about the other children that I had seen at the Children's hospital who had cancer and other deadly diseases and then it made me feel like I was one of the lucky ones. I am sure you must have had similar feelings about some of the polio victims that you knew who did not recover as you did.

You mention at the end of your book about your new battle with post-polio syndrome. Again I can relate to this so well. I may have to have my legs operated on to correct my bone growth that could be due to my past illness plus there could be future problems that can creep up as I get older, according to the doctor.

You have such a positive outlook and that is very encouraging to me and that

showed throughout your book.

We also parallel each other in that we both had very supportive families. Your mom sounds a lot like mine except I was very little, so mine didn't donate my toys, but she did go out and buy a lot of children's books and donated them for everyone to use.

As I grow older I remember less of those days in the hospital, but I think you will agree that it made us grow up faster since we had to deal with a lot more than most children plus try to be an average kid too.

I would recommend that any child or , a parent of a sick child , to read your book.

I believe it shows that a person can prevail and even excel over the adversities in their life.

Thank you for sharing your life through your book "Small Steps the Day I Got Polio". If I ever have children I will be sure that they get a copy to read and hopefully it will inspire their lives too.

Sincerely,

Carah Jo Austin