



Uncomplicated Life, An: A Father's Memoir of His Exceptional Daughter

By Paul Daugherty

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Uncomplicated Life, An: A Father's Memoir of His Exceptional Daughter

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A father's exhilarating and funny love letter to his daughter with Down syndrome whose vibrant and infectious approach to life has something to teach all of us about how we can better live our own.

Jillian Daugherty was born with Down syndrome. The day they brought her home from the hospital, her parents, Paul and Kerry, were flooded with worry and uncertainty, but also overwhelming love, which they channeled to "the job of building the better Jillian." While their daughter had special needs, they refused to allow her to grow up needy—"Expect, Don't Accept" became their mantra. Little did they know how ready Jillian was to meet their challenge.

Paul tells stories from Jillian's mischievous childhood and moves to her early adulthood, tracing her journey to find happiness and purpose in her adult life, sharing endearing anecdotes as well as stories about her inspiring triumphs. Having graduated from high school and college, Jillian now works to support herself, and has met the love of her life and her husband-to-be, Ryan.

In *An Uncomplicated Life*, the parent learns as much about life from the child as the child does from the parent. Through her unmitigated love for others, her sparkling charisma, and her boundless capacity for joy, Jillian has inspired those around her to live better and more fully. The day Jillian was born, Paul says, was the last bad day. As he lovingly writes, "Jillian is a soul map of our best intentions"—a model of grace, boundless joy, and love for all of us.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Raw, real, touching and poignant--everything a memoir should be." (Huffington Post)

"An expressive, nostalgic series of memories of living life with a special needs child." (Kirkus)

"Affecting. ... This feel-good memoir will appeal to all parents of children with special needs." (Booklist)

From the Back Cover

Jillian Daugherty was born with Down syndrome. The day her parents, Paul and Kerry, brought her home from the hospital, they were flooded with worry and uncertainty, but also with overwhelming love, which they channeled to "the job of building the better Jillian." They knew their daughter had special needs, but they refused to have her grow up needy. They were resolved that Jillian's potential would not be limited by preconceptions of who she was or what she could be.

In this charming and often heart-stirring book, Paul tells stories about Jillian making her way through the world of her backyard and neighborhood, going to school in a "normal" classroom, learning to play soccer and ride a bike. As she grows older, he traces her journey through high school graduation, four years of college, and ultimately marriage to her boyfriend of 10 years. Through her unmitigated love for others, her sparkling charisma, and her boundless capacity for joy, Jillian has inspired those around her to live better and more fully. As Paul writes, "Jillian is a soul map of our best intentions."

About the Author

Paul Daugherty has been a sports columnist for the *Cincinnati Enquirer* since 1994. He has covered nearly every major American sporting event, as well as five Summer Olympic Games. He is the author of *Fair Game*, a collection of his sports columns, and coauthor of books with Chad Johnson and Johnny Bench. He blogs daily at *The Morning Line* on Cincinnati.com. He lives in Loveland, Ohio, with his wife, Kerry.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angel Garcia:

Often the book *Uncomplicated Life, An: A Father's Memoir of His Exceptional Daughter* has a lot info on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research prior to write this book. This book very easy to read you will get the point easily after reading this book.

Marisa Reber:

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