



Everything Is Possible: Finding the Faith and Courage to Follow Your Dreams

Jen Bricker, Nick Vujicic (Foreward)

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Born without Legs, She Inspires Others to Overcome

Jen Bricker was born without legs. Shocked and uncertain they could care for her, her biological parents gave her up for adoption. In her loving adoptive home, there was just one simple rule: "Never say 'can't.'" And pretty soon, there was nothing this small but mighty powerhouse set her sights on that she couldn't conquer: roller-skating, volleyball, power tumbling, and spinning from silk ribbons thirty feet in the air.

Everything Is Possible is her incredible story--a story of God working out his plan for her life from *before* day one. Readers follow Jen from the challenges of growing up different to holding captive audiences numbering in the tens of thousands. *Everything Is Possible* shows readers what they can accomplish when they remove the words *coincidence* and *limitation* from their vocabulary. Filled with heart and spirit, as well as Jen's wit, wisdom, and no-holds-barred honesty, this inspiring true story points the way to purpose and joy. Foreword by Nick Vujicic.

Everything Is Possible: Finding the Faith and Courage to Follow Your Dreams Details

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Pamela says

"Trust that every experience - good, bad, or ugly - shapes the person you are for the better. Every mistake or misfortune is an opportunity to grow and learn. It's a matter of seeing the bigger picture, the purpose you are working toward, and how each thing you go through is part of the journey."

Jen bricker is one AMAZING young woman. Born without legs in addition to a heart abnormality, and then abandoned at birth, one might expect some bitterness, anger and pessimism to exude from her memoir. Oh, but no! She is a bubbly, vivacious and determined firecracker of joy who chooses to look at challenges as opportunities for growth. Jen is the epitome of Faith in action. She believes we are each unique - and uniquely gifted. And in our uniqueness, we can impact our world for the good.

"Just think about the people you interact with every day: your co-workers, your family, your significant other, your kids. They're watching you, noting what you do and don't do. We all have an opportunity every day to have a positive impact on the lives of others in both big and small ways."

If you haven't seen Jennifer perform one of her aerialist routines, take a moment to look her up on YouTube. Beauty unspeakable. She is also an empowering, encouraging speaker. I love her can-do spirit and joyful outlook on life. But as she says, it's not enough to simply have knowledge, you have to get in the game.

"I will tell you this: all the knowledge in the world won't do you any good if you sit on it. When you learn something, you need to put it into play. Otherwise, it's like holding the basketball and never taking that jump shot."

OH, and take note: she not only performs amazing gymnastic/dance/aerialist routines - she has played basketball, roller-skated, boogie-boarded, climbed trees, among many other amazing things. The title then, is apropos: Everything is Possible. You just have to have faith, a positive attitude, and a can do spirit.

"Sometimes you have to be your own hero. What I mean by this is that you have to fight for what you believe in and for what you want to happen. Don't wait for a knight in shining armor to charge in and do it for you."

Written simplistically, in a conversational style, I found Bricker's book pleasantly good. The simple language allows readability for young and old alike. The book is rich in inspiration and exhibits some wonderful anecdotes and photographs. However, it's a bit spartan and vanilla "safe" in the memoir department; not too deep - just scratching the emotive surface. Plus, the wrap-up seemed a bit thrown together - as if she or the co-writer ran out of creative steam and just tossed out some bullet statements. If that makes any sense???? Overall though, a recommendable good read for ages twelve through adult.

FOUR **** Inspirational Memoir of Faith, Joy, Triumph, and Tenacity **** STARS

Mary Lou says

Jen Brickner validates the axiom of “mind over matter.” Although she was born with no legs, she has become a power gymnast, an aerialist, and has traveled internationally with her acts and as a motivational speaker. She has truly lived as if “Everything is Possible,” the title of her new book. Since birth, her adoptive parents have empowered her to do anything people with a normally functioning whole body could do, and she has far surpassed the breadth of experience of most able-bodied people. She possesses an indomitable will, a singular willingness to take risks and incredible upper body strength that has been fueled by her strong reliance on God. Her book describes how she keeps conquering fear and people’s condescending pity in her quest to live life to the fullest and make the biggest possible impact for God throughout the world. It is a challenging contrast to any inner-indulgent, comfortably pampered lifestyle by one who has refused to be deterred by physical, mental or societal constraints. The acronym TAPS describes this woman: Tapping All One’s Potential in the Spirit. Nick Vujicic, who was born with neither legs nor arms, says this of Jen in the Foreword: “It is not often I meet someone who shares so many of the same truths and goals: dream big; embrace what God has given you; bring light where there are shadows; spread hope, faith, love, and peace.” (Jen Brickner, *Everything Is Possible*, Baker Books, 2016, p. 11). We need more Jens and Nicks in the world.

M.L. Codman-Wilson, Ph.D. 9/15/16

Christopher Sumpter says

I need to start by saying that I admire this author's ability, persistence, positive attitude and influence. But... this book wasn't for me. Maybe a millenial would get more out of it. My impression was of a series of cat posters with Bible verses on them. Oprah with a thin veneer of Jesus.

I've read a few memoirs lately, and I've come away stirred by the lessons learned, the challenges faced, and the testimonies to God's grace. I didn't get that here. Jen Bricker faces a huge challenge in being born without legs, but that seems to be the last challenge she has faced. She was adopted into a loving family, who supported her every dream. When Miss Bricker says, "You can do anything," she speaks from a place of privilege, despite her disability.

The tragic flaws she reveals are things like discrimination against fat people, until a reality show revealed the truth to her. It all comes across as a little disingenuous.

Victoria W. says

Jen's personality shines through the pages as she lays out her life thus far. In fact, most of her book reads more as a conversation - bubbly, reflective, and sometimes a bit rambling.

Everything is Possible covers a wide variety of topics from adoption and finding one's birth family (this was the reason I was familiar with the author it is quite the story), overcoming adversity, and the transitions which accompany every teen moving into adulthood. Jen's story reads like a tv movie between her adventures in gymnastics to working at Disney and eventually joining Britney Spears Circus tour. Supported by her adoptive and biological family, Jen steadily reads as a strong female role model who incorporates

faith and optimism into every moment of her life.

At times I felt a bit conflicted regarding the tone of the book. The author mentions some serious topics but rarely, if ever, loses her optimistic, bubbly tone. This could very well be her personality as it's hard to tell from a biography but, at times, it also felt as if those harder moments weren't given the gravity they deserved.

I felt this book would be best received by those who enjoy biographies, stories of people overcoming the odds, and pre-teen/teen girls who are trying to find their own direction in life.

3.5 out of 5 stars

"Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc."

Donna Willard says

This book is the yet to be completed story of Jen Bricker. This book could be the first edition of a series of books still to be lived and told. Jen is a young woman yet to enter her third decade but she has accomplished a lifetime of career goals! Born without legs and adopted as a baby her parents never let her use the word can't and therefore she LIVES--BOLDLY with more life to still be discovered.

The story is hers to tell and she does so with open and clear communication. Jen gives God all the glory. I found the book hard to put down and could have easily read it in one day without interruptions.

On page 132 Jen says, "You never know when one small good deed can change someone's life for the better. So I say do them--each and every day." I believe this to be her motto and certainly reading this book made me feel a part of her VIP's. I had questions and was pleased that in the last chapter she devoted it to answering what questions she knew her reader's must be wanting to ask. I will be following this young woman to hear of what other life adventures she encounters in the years to come. I expect the future holds great things, discoveries and jewels of wisdom for Jen.

Christian Fiction Addiction says

For those of us who have lost sight of our dreams and feel like it's easier to not even try anymore, Jen Bricker's life story shows that dreams are always worth dreaming, no matter what circumstance you may find yourself in! In a world that seems saturated by negativity, her book serves as a breath of fresh air, offering a dose of courage and purpose to us all. I was truly captivated by this book, finding it to be well-written and engaging in every way, as we readers are allowed into the world that is Jen Bricker, someone who has not let her lack of legs lessen her life purpose in any way. And I think what I especially like about this book is, that as heroic and courageous as Jen is, she doesn't pretend to be perfect. As such, anyone reading this book will be able to relate to her, and realise that they can pursue the kind of life that she leads. Her story is written with humility and grace, and her humour shines through the stories that are so wonderfully shared with us. Every single page seems to point to the goodness of God, and Jen's beautiful faith shines through each chapter, faith that God can do even more than we can ask or imagine, that he can bring good from the most difficult moments.

If there is one book you read this year, let it be this one. You will walk away challenged in your beliefs, and striving to embrace the high calling God has on your life. Both adults and youth will love this book! I award this book a rating of 5 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc.

Diana Montgomery says

What a touching story. I have read Nick Vujicic story and he is one awesome person. Jen Bricker was born without legs and her parents gave her up. But she was placed with a family who adopted her and they were encourage-rs to Jen not to hold her back because of her birth defect. Never tell her she can't do something cause she will prove you wrong. I believe God had his hand in this from the time she was conceived. Through her fearlessness to her faith and the determination to prove she can do what she wishes to do. I was so inspired by her. I'm sure she gets more done through her determination than any of us with our legs. She followed her dreams and succeeded. I know she has inspired me. Awesome book a must read.

Katerina says

Jen Bricker writes, "I want everyone who reads this book to realize one simple, amazing truth: you are significant. We all have special gifts and talents that make us not only unique but also great."

This is an inspirational book, but one that lacks depth. If you don't already accept her positive outlook on life, I doubt her story will convince you otherwise. It is enjoyable reading, but I didn't finish it. I'm not much a fan of inspirational books.

Alyssa says

This is an inspiring and very interesting book. I learned a lot of things about people who are "different" though the words of Jen Bricker. I learned about what it really would be like to walk on your hands or deal with people who don't understand and really have no desire to try to understand you. I loved her positivity and how she was completely honest about the times when she was far from positive. I loved reading about all the different experiences she has had and all the wonderful people who have helped shape her into who she is today. Her faith in God is so strong and is so refreshing to read.

The one thing I really didn't like about this book is that it didn't seem to be laid out real well. We would jump around in the different times of her life with each chapter. I understand that each chapter focused on a different aspect of that time but it got confusing. She would talk about her childhood and then moving to Orlando and LA but then in subsequent chapters we might start out at any of these times and you had to try to remember what years she moved to each place so that you could figure out if this was a new move or if we just went back to before she moved.

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for an inspiring read.

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review

Lynn Jarrett says

"Everything is Possible" by Jen Bricker is written in a conversational style which makes it an easy, quick, and enjoyable read. Photographs are included in the midsection which highlight some of the moments in Jen's past, as well as being an adult and traveling the world.

Given up at birth by her biological parents, Jen was placed into the foster care system. Fortunately, she was only in the system for about three months before her adoptive parents were able to be matched with her. She was the answer to her new mother's prayer because her new mother was unable to have more children and really wanted a daughter after having three sons. It was a family decision to have Jen join them, a decision that has never been regretted.

Even though she was born without legs, Jen Bricker never felt as though she was handicapped or disabled. In fact, she is grateful for the body she was given and feels that is how God works through her -- by her "uniqueness." She is the first one to say that God gave her this body for a reason, so she could catch the attention of others "to educate, inform, and inspire" them. She is a firm believer that everyone has the power to change someone's life by using special, unique talents and gifts.

As Jen grew up, she was raised with love, encouragement, and told that "can't" is a bad word in their home and should not be used. Even though she was physically challenged, she was encouraged to try anything and everything she wanted to do. She had a wonderful well-rounded childhood and grew into a caring, mature adult.

Jen's Christian faith is first and foremost in her life and is the foundation upon which she builds her life. Throughout the book she quotes special verses from the Bible that are important to her and have been pertinent to her life.

Throughout the book, there are sections titled "My VIPs" where someone from Jen's life, e.g., her parents, family, teachers, and friends, have written a few paragraphs on how important Jen is in their lives.

Overall, this was an enjoyable book about an amazing young woman. I look forward to seeing what life has in store for her.

Disclaimer: I was provided a free copy of this book by the Jen Bricker Book Launch Team for an honest opinion and review.

Amy Langmaack says

I want to introduce you to Jen Bricker. She is a woman who has learned how to embrace life. To look forward to the future and not get stuck by the things that might seem to stand in her way.

Bricker has learned how to move through life with a different set of eyes. Rather than seeing obstacles and things she couldn't do, Bricker embraced the challenge. She saw each moment of her life as an opportunity to do her best.

The thing that inspires me most about Bricker is that she truly believes Everything is Possible. Which is why it became the title of her book! She's a woman who doesn't understand the word no. In a really good way. She's willing to put in the work to figure out how to do life in a way that works for her. That makes sense.

Pushing through the difficult is something we all face in life. Bricker encourages us to push through and follow our dreams. To not let someone else stand in our way.

When you believe in yourself and the gifts God has given you, you can do anything!

You are responsible for what you do with your life. Will you be the person God wants you to be or a lesser version of yourself? ~Jen Bricker

This book is for you if you are struggling with life. If you need encouragement to push through the difficulties of life. If you're looking for inspiration.

To see more of my review, visit: <http://betheproof.org/legacyliving/ev...>

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher. All opinions in this review are my own!

Trinity Rose says

Everything is Possible by Jen Bricker is an amazing book. Jen was born without legs and her parents left her at the hospital. She was adopted by a wonderful family who said Never say can't. So Jen did everything everyone else did she didn't let anything hold her back.

Jen really loves the Lord and clings to Him for everything. She has done many things already in her young life and has big plans for the future. She is such a funny, wise girl and you will love her outlook on life.

It's an amazing thing how Jen found her sisters and Mom and how they now love each other.

I recommend this book, because it will lift you up from your everyday life. Very good.

“Disclosure (in accordance with the FTC;s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising”): Many thanks to Propeller Consulting, LLC for providing this prize for the giveaway. Choice of winners and opinions are 100% my own and NOT influenced by monetary compensation. I did receive this book in exchange for this review and post.

Amy says

As I read this book, I was truly inspired that in a society of people using all types of excuses not to be able to do things, Jen never says she can't. As a matter of fact, she is an over achiever.

Jen begins her book by sharing about her abandonment at birth and the blessing of being adopted into a Christian family. She shares how God's hand was in it all, placing her in the exact place she needed to be, with a family that was loving, supportive and encouraging in-spite of her handicaps. They never allowed that to become her "crutch". They taught her to become an independent, self-sufficient young lady and not to let what other people said about her bother her. Instead to be all she could be for the glory of God. She learned to be creative, use her talents, and discover her special gifts.

Her story is truly motivational and inspirational. If she can do it, so can I, is the feeling you get when you read this book! Although, there were times Jen got discouraged, she never let it keep her down. In some ways, Jen can seem bigger than life, but she is first to admit that she is human, has faults and problems too. She has a beautiful testimony and claims God as her strength in weakness. She is thankful for her disabilities because they have given her a greater opportunity to serve Him and be an encouragement to others. Through them, she has gained a platform for reaching people.

I was blessed with this book by the publisher and iconmedia bloggers group. A positive review was not required.

Laura Thomas says

Jen Bricker shares her story about living her life fully and with gusto—without any legs. Born without legs and given up immediately for adoption, Jen was chosen by a loving, God-fearing family who instilled faith and determination into her young life. Feisty and humorous, Jen explains how "can't" has never been in her vocabulary, and to prove it she is now performing daring feats most of us would never even consider. With snippets of encouragement from loved ones, and a thought-provoking challenge at the end of each chapter, this book is inspirational to say the least! Jen Bricker is one remarkable young lady!

Allison Dunlap says

Why did this book not satisfy or fail to elevate me? There was just too much ME, too much ego in it even though she claims to give all the glory to God, how many people did she need to interview in the book to say how amazing she was? I'm not judging because I will never know the adversity she has overcome but the attention she seeks seems insatiable as evidenced by her wish list. Until she finds contentment to be happy without the adoration of others, I think she'll always be searching for the next adrenaline high of applause.
