



Joni: An Unforgettable Story

Joni Eareckson Tada, Joe Musser

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The award-winning story of a young woman who triumphed over devastating odds to touch countless lives the world over with the healing message of Christ. Includes photos and illustrations by Joni. In a split second on a hot July afternoon, a diving accident transformed the life of Joni Eareckson Tada forever. She went from being an active young woman to facing every day in a wheelchair. In this unforgettable autobiography, Joni reveals each step of her struggle to accept her disability and discover the meaning of her life. The hard-earned truths she discovers and the special ways God reveals his love are testimonies to faith's triumph over hardship and suffering. The new 25th Anniversary edition of this award-winning story--which has more than 3,000,000 copies in print in over 40 languages--will introduce a new generation of readers to the incredible greatness of God's power and mercy at work in those who fully give their hearts and lives to him. Joni has written an afterword in which she describes the events that have occurred in her life since the book's publication in 1976, including her marriage to Ken Tada and the expansion of her worldwide ministry to families affected by disability. Joni is now available for the first time in an unabridged audio version read by the author.

Joni: An Unforgettable Story Details

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Author : Joni Eareckson Tada , Joe Musser

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From Reader Review Joni: An Unforgettable Story for online ebook

Sophie says

This book is a beautiful blessing, this story is remarkable.

Joni has touched millions of people and continues to do so. I watched her documentary long time ago, and when i saw her book i grabbed it, and will buy my personal copy as it opens up to pain, suffering, grace, hope, love, courage, support, resentment, gifts, blessings, relationships...

Anyone should read this book,

it really touched my heart, I will re-read it again and again because the heart-warming lessons Joni gives you, opens up your eyes and heart to the most simple and clear message:

God does not give up on you.

Merlin says

This is a very good book that guides us to blindly believe and trust in the Lord...The story confirms the truth that "all things work together for good to them that love God".

Margaret Metz says

This is one of the first Christian biographies I read. It was very inspirational. Her story was very challenging and uplifting at the same time.

Jennifer Tse says

I went to see Joni Eareckson Tada speak and was so enthralled by her that I borrowed this book immediately from the library. She is such a motivating and encouraging hero of faith. You will not be disappointed from reading her autobiography. She tells you what happened in such details that you feel like you are right there in the hospital after her diving accident. I also anguished when I read about her pain, suffering, and depression. I was so happy for her when she turned back to God and realized his will for her life. Instead of escaping, she talked about how she learned to adapt to being a quadriplegic and still living a full life. Her life is indeed a testimony to the saving grace and power of Jesus. PTL!

Favorite Quote: "What I'm saying is that it doesn't matter because we leave the choice and decision with Him. We trust His judgment that 'all things work together for our good' if we love God." (P. 171)

April says

Powerful testament to the truth that even when we don't care about God, are mad at God, are bitter at God, or are running from God, He graciously makes himself known in our lives anyway. I am amazed that Ms. Eareckson Tada was able to surrender to God in such a way as to praise Him each morning though her heart cries out, "I can't 'do' quadriplegia anymore"! She really does "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Rose Dernoncourt says

Read this ages ago when I first became a Christian. It is an amazing story of an amazing walk of faith!

Jennifer says

What a blessing this book was as I read it with my 3 children. It lead to many fruitful discussions, and helped them see how God can work in the life of a young person like them (not just "old" people like me).

John says

What an inspiring book!!! Joni is a person who refused to let circumstances defeat her. Her faith, her perseverance, her sheer determination brought about an amazing triumph of human spirit.

Revonda says

I read Joni's book when I was in my 20's then read again just lately and watched the DVD made by I believe Billy Grahams Association. The book was very interesting, a tragedy, yet a book of redemption & how God can be with us and we are never alone. It was a story of a young girl that faced life's challenges in a very courageous manner esp. For her age. I recommend it to any age but I think young people would find the book intriguing & help them in seeing just how each of our lives contain choices and consequences to those choices according to how we decide on what may or may not occur in a world filled with the unknown. This also being a True Story made it more so a good read.

I recommend all of Joni's books not for ones with these issues she has faced , but for anyone wanting to be inspired by the human spirit & just what can happen when faced with "Life".

Susie says

Although I've known of Joni for years, I had never investigated her story fully. This honest account of a few years following her accident was very informative, and it created a desire in me to read her other book knowing that she did eventually marry. I had two major take-aways from the book. 1. We are all in danger of

being caught in what she called the treadmill of life--eating, breathing, and sleeping, but many of us don't realize we're not living on purpose. 2. What we take in matters. Joni went through a time where she was questioning God's existence. During that time she read the works of atheist authors, and it added to her hopelessness and depression. We need to be careful because what we take in does affect our outlook on life.

Raquel says

I read this book because I'm working with a client on a book and he also has quadriplegia. He said that when he was first injured, this book helped him cope with his disability. I hoped the book would help provide some inspiration and structural ideas for me in my client's project.

Joni is a Christian, and almost the entire book is devoted to her relating to her injury in the context of Christianity. I understand that her faith was important to her in coping with the whys and the hows of her injury, but I honestly was more interested in hearing about the details of physical and occupational therapy and just how she learned to draw so well using her mouth. (She became quite an accomplished artist by holding a pen in her mouth and creating beautiful drawings.) Instead, she glosses over most of these fascinating details to go on and on for pages at a time about Scripture and how her belief in Jesus Christ helped her. Since many readers don't have any direct experience with what it's like to live after a spinal cord injury, I'm sure they'd be just as interested to know many of these things. How does she eat? How does she deal with personal bodily functions? What is her typical daily routine like? Having spoken at length with my client about these sorts of things, I can confidently say that these details are important to relate to people so they can better understand spinal cord injury and have some of the mystery, confusion, and discomfort taken away from the issue.

I really couldn't relate. I have faith that there is a power bigger than ourselves that sort of runs the universe, but I am disillusioned by many of the tenets of organized religion and found that her constant relating of **EVERYTHING** to Jesus and passages from the Bible made me ultimately not care deeply about her story. I think that when difficulties come to us, we ourselves have to figure out the best ways to relate to and deal with them. I think that yes, it's good to have faith that everything will work out for the best, but I myself couldn't just blindly put my faith in God or a bigger force or whatever and trust that that would be enough. There wasn't much in this book that someone dealing with spinal cord injury or another hardship would find of use if they weren't already a Christian or else incredibly open to and welcoming of the Christian message. There's no practical advice. It just isn't for everyone, and this book definitely wasn't inspiring for me.

Joni decides that since it's challenging for an able-bodied person to live life with a physically disabled person, she is just meant to be single. She does end up getting married after the time period in which this book was written, but I just thought it was utter BS to say, "Well, if it's not in God's plan for me to have the love of a partner, so be it." GARBAGE. **EVERYONE** deserves to find and have love if they **WANT** it! The thought of just quietly accepting your destiny is more depressing than inspiring to me.

I'm sure this book can be incredibly helpful and inspiring to people who want a heavily Christian message for overcoming hardship, but if a less religious person or a person who does not believe in Jesus were to read this book, I think they'd find themselves feeling just as bored and alienated (and sometimes frustrated) as I did. I respect that this book helped my client, and that it probably helped many others, but I personally did not enjoy it or learn much from it.

Sue says

Great, inspiring story

LeAnne says

One of the most God-glorifying autobiographies I have read.

Victoria Lynn says

A great inspirational and uplifting read.

Janna says

This is a wonderful book that shows faith and God's amazing plan for our lives. I rate this book five stars because it shows that we are small but he is BIG!

Sara says

I read this when I was junior high. It was very inspirational. Many of my friends were reading it at that time. At one point, I acquired a few back issues of Western Horseman from the 1960's and in one of them I discovered a letter from Joni in the pen-pal section of the magazine, written before her paralysis. I still have that magazine.

Margaret says

Read this as a teen. I think it was instrumental in making me believe I could do anything...I had no excuses. It also made me more grateful for the things I had. Wonderful book!

Claire says

Loved hearing Joni herself narrate this.

Funzee Shu says

I've read this book years ago...

Someone gave it to me, and her story still inspire me until today....

"God is good, all the time."

Sue says

In a sense this isn't a direct autobiography. We meet Joni at the start of the book when she feels as if she is drowning after bumping her head, until she is rescued by one of her sisters. It's a huge shock to her system to find herself in hospital, unable to move anything other than her head. From dreams of college and independence, she is entirely dependent on the hospital staff, and unsure whether she will survive.

The rest of the book charts her progress, including two operations, and a great deal of pain. The emotional pain is even worse; she feels useless, deeply depressed, and determined not to survive. She becomes angry with God, then unsure whether or not He exists - when she is able to read (with assistance) she studies agnostic and atheist philosophers and gets into debate with folk around her. It's a powerful story, and Joni's battles with depression (and other problems) are told openly and honestly.

My only reservation with the book is the amount of 'preaching'. It's not that I disagree with the principles; as a Christian believer myself, I fully understand how Joni's faith was challenged, and the importance of her dedicating her life again to Jesus. But at times it seemed there was too much direct exposition, written in rather stilted conversational form, that did not feel realistic or particularly helpful. Perhaps it's more valuable to those who are not already aware of these principles, and yet my suspicion is that many would find them offputting, and would have preferred a bit more subtlety.

With that proviso, I found this book (on my third reading in thirty years) well-written and well-paced, and enjoyed it very much.
