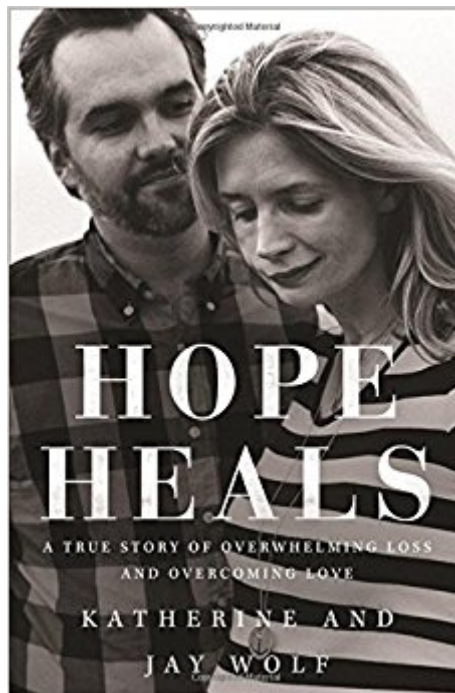




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Hope Heals: A True Story Of Overwhelming Loss And An Overcoming Love



Synopsis

When all seems lost, where can hope be found? Katherine and Jay married right after college and sought adventure far from home in Los Angeles, CA. As they pursued their dreams, they planted their lives in the city and in their church community. Their son, James, came along unexpectedly in the fall of 2007, and just 6 months later, everything changed in a moment for this young family. On April 21, 2008, as James slept in the other room, Katherine collapsed, suffering a massive brain stem stroke without warning. Miraculously, Jay came home in time and called for help. Katherine was immediately rushed into micro-brain surgery, though her chance of survival was slim. As the sun rose the next morning, the surgeon proclaimed that Katherine had survived the removal of part of her brain, though her future recovery was completely uncertain. Yet in that moment, there was a spark of hope. Through 40 days on life support in the ICU and nearly 2 years in full-time brain rehab, that spark of hope was fanned into flame. Defying every prognosis, with grit and grace, Katherine and Jay, side by side, struggled to regain a life for Katherine as she re-learned to talk and eat and walk. Returning home with a severely disabled body but a completely renewed purpose, they committed to celebrate this gift of a second chance by embracing life fully, even though that life looked very different than they could have ever imagined. In the midst of continuing hardships and struggles, both in body and mind, Katherine and Jay found what we all long to find...hope, hope that heals the most broken place, our souls. An excruciating yet beautiful road to recovery has led the Wolf family to their new normal, in which almost every moment of life is marked with the scars of that fateful April day in 2008. Now, eight years later, Katherine and Jay are stewarding their story of suffering, restoration, and Christ-centered hope in this broken world through their ministry Hope Heals.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Zondervan (April 26, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310344549

ISBN-13: 978-0310344544

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.9 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 435 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Health, Fitness &

Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Strokes #28 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Special Needs #136 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Religious

Customer Reviews

As I read this book, tears streamed from my eyes even as joy flooded my heart. Jay and Katherine are a raw yet refreshing testimony to the unshakable trustworthiness of God amidst the unimaginable trials of life. This book reminds all of us where hope can be found in a world where none of us know what the next day holds. (David Platt, author of the New York Times bestseller *Radical* and president of the International Mission Board) *Hope Heals* is a beautiful, true story that illustrates the love and protection God has for us even in the darkest times of our lives. Katherine and Jay's dedication to each other and the Lord through their most devastating season is inspiring. This book will help your heart believe that He sees, He knows, He cares, and He is still working miracles today! (Lysa TerKeurst, New York Times bestselling author and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries) Jay and Katherine Wolf have had our respect for years, but they have our hearts too. They'll soon have yours. *Hope Heals* isn't just a beautifully written book; it's a duet by two people who love Jesus and love each other. It's a book filled with a score of authentic high notes and painful low ones. This book isn't just a moving story; it's a song sung by two humble people and what they've learned about love when the cadence of their lives unexpectedly changed. (Bob and Maria Goff, balloon inflaters and author of the New York Times bestseller *Love Does*) I stumbled upon Katherine's blog near the beginning of her recovery. The words of a sister fighting for her life captivated us all. Now years later, she is fighting for our lives---for us to live the fullest we can with all that we've been given. Do not miss this! (Jennie Allen, founder and visionary of IF:Gathering and author of *Anything and Restless*) I know Jay and Katherine, and I welcome this book, not just as a stirring account of facing tragedy but as a beautiful story of a couple's relentless love---for God and for each other. (Philip Yancey, bestselling author of *What's So Amazing About Grace?*) The book you hold in your hands is so powerful, for if awful things happen to you, you now have a guide . . . *Hope Heals* may well be your most treasured companion through great trial and pain . . . Do not assume you've heard it all before. • Theirs is a story so raw, visceral, and impossibly real that you can't help but identify. (Joni Eareckson Tada, bestselling author and founder and CEO of Joni and Friends International)

Katherine & Jay Wolf are parents, artists, communicators, and survivors. After meeting in college,

they got married and moved to Los Angeles to pursue law school for Jay and the entertainment industry for Katherine. Their son James was born in 2007 and six months later, Katherine's life nearly ended with a catastrophic stroke. Miraculously, she survived and continues her recovery to this day. Katherine and Jay have shared their journey of whole-hearted living and hope in Christ in many forums since 2008. Katherine, Jay, and their family currently reside in Los Angeles, CA.

www.hopeheals.com

I couldn't put this book down. What an amazing story about a young 24 year old woman who has a massive brain bleed in her brain stem. Through her struggle to survive not being able to eat, talk, walk and having double vision Amy survives mainly because of her deep faith, her husband's complete devotion, and the love and help from family and friends. It really is a testament in how God has a plan for us and if you put your life in his hands he will enhance your life. Through her constant trials Amy never gave up. I loved that God blessed her and Jay with another child!

Snuggled up on a cool Sunday afternoon during naptime and came to the end of this beautiful book. Some books become like good friends that are hard to say goodbye to. Hope Heals is just such a book. Written by a husband wife team - Jay and Katherine Wolf - one of my favorite parts of the story is that they tag team their story. Each picks up where the other has left off, but tells their portions of the story from their own perspective. Never once did I feel like they were "speaking for" their spouse and I was simply amazed at how the story unfolded. It's been a while since I read a non-fiction, memoir type book that read like fiction. But these two storytellers not only had me riveted to the story but also hanging on every word. I was so impressed by the caliber of writing. While I found Katherine's voice refreshing and interesting I was particularly struck by Jay's words throughout the story. They are truly talented writers and their vulnerability and authenticity is totally refreshing. I cried, laughed aloud, and literally couldn't put it down. Carrying my book everywhere is sort of a "trait" of mine, but with this book I literally felt like it was an additional appendage. Stay tuned for more tips on how to become an avid reader, that includes this inside scoop of "carrying your book with you." This story is one of hope, as the title suggests, but it includes all the struggle, hurt, hardship and recurring tragedy they faced after Katherine experiences a life-changing, almost life-ending stroke. So as not to spoil the story I will just say that not only did the story speak to their own hardship but it also relays the story of tragedy that many face in daily life. Some of my favorite portions of the book come near the end when they are finally at a point where they can look back and see part of the "purpose" behind their story. That being said this story does not have an normal

"arc" it's just more true to life than a typical beginning, middle, and end. What I found most beautiful about the story was that they learned that hope is the best kind of dangerous. The Wolf's found that hope is what brought healing but it is also a dangerous way to find your hopes up, your hopes dashed, and a genuine hope for God's best in your life realized. I loved the portion of the book at the end that explore the Scripture that was foundational to their experience. One that was not highlighted at the end but was integral to the story and the book's theme was Hebrews 6:19 and I will never read it the same again. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." The Wolf's chose to anchor their hope in Jesus it was not rooted in their own human hopes for this life, but instead they hoped with eternity in minJay's love for his wife, Katherine's determination, and their commitment to each other and their faith is inspiring and incredibly motivating. The true beauty in this book is that this couple did not wait until the "end of their story" or until things were better to reflect on what they were learning and experience. They learned as they went and as they grew their story was able to blossom and develop even in the face of further setback. When they share that... "if hope is only rooted in an outcome, then your expectations will crush you. This season of unrest began to spark a firestorm of questioning, and we found ourselves redefining many things in every area of our lives. What was our truest home? What was our truest hope?" You know they are living it. Their hope was not rooted in an outcome but instead in Him. Nearing the last quarter of the book Jay really begins to dive into how this tragedy has impacted their marriage and boy was I challenged. He explains how serving Katherine changed him. Jay says, "I found that acting in love inevitably provoked true feelings of love, and the reverse was no less true." What I found so uniquely special about their story is how God provided for them, how they seized every moment, and truly accepted God's provision - His help. The Wolf's have an incredible ministry and have walked through each and every open door as they believed that their story will bring hope and healing to others. I truly hope you pick up this story. Share it. The Wolf's are people to watch, and to learn from. I am so grateful for all who helped them tell their story in Hope Heals. ** It was a profound experience to read the pages of Katherine and Jay's story as I held my own 5 month old Corban Hawk and he smiled up at me. Katherine and Jay had a little boy, James; who was just 6 months old when Katherine fell to the floor from a stroke that should have taken her life. *****I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.***--Alex Jacobson

This book was inspirational and a very quick read. I wanted to keep reading to find out how this incredible family would persevere through the trials they were going through. The depth of love and commitment her husband demonstrated throughout her ordeal gave an example to the strength of

marital bonds. Katherine's drive to be well for herself and her family drove her to continue being the optimistic, hopeful, faithful, joyful person she was before her stroke. It was powerful to read of her strength and devotion through the incredibly trying and long process of healing, and doing so while maintaining a loving, devoted faith filled relationship with God and each other..

What happens when life turns out differently than you planned, much different than you expected? Do you wonder if God has made a mistake? Has He forgotten you? Hope Heals takes us on a journey with a beautiful young couple who faced devastating loss while nearly newlyweds and new parents...near death and back to life again. But back to a very different life, a different marriage, a different "new normal." Is it possible that what we think of as a detour is really part of God's plan all along? Hope Heals weaves eternal truths into a captivating true story of tremendous loss and miraculous healing. And yet, this healing isn't complete and will never be so on this side of eternity. How many of us feel incomplete in some way? How many of us long for that one thing to be different? Hope Heals can help you on your journey to coming to peace with some of life's disappointments and "detours." For if Katherine and Jay can go on and find renewed Hope and a sense of healing from it, then so can I...and so can you.

Hope Heals is a beautifully written story about two things that almost never happen; it also addresses deeply universal themes in the human experience. It's rare, certainly, for a 26-year-old to suffer a brain-stem stroke and survive; it's also rare for a young marriage to survive such overwhelming loss. Yet, readers are invited to explore what happens to any of us when life takes a detour and we can't ever get back to our original path. In alternating voices, Jay and Katherine each reflect on their day-by-day struggle to overcome despair with determination, fight fear with faithfulness, and transform overwhelming loss with a love that is being perfected daily through pain. I found encouragement on every page of the story, and I was challenged to redefine what it means to be healed. In Katherine's words: "There is something profound about hope, something so meaningful when you cling to what is beyond anything you know and understand. Hope heals."

Hope Heals is an incredible story of faith, hope, love and healing in the midst of the most tragic circumstances imaginable. I could not put the book down. The way that Jay and Katherine each told their story from their different point of view was captivating and really draws you into their inner circle and you feel as if you were there with them in their fight for healing. It is a beautiful story and I

have told everyone they need to read this book.

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