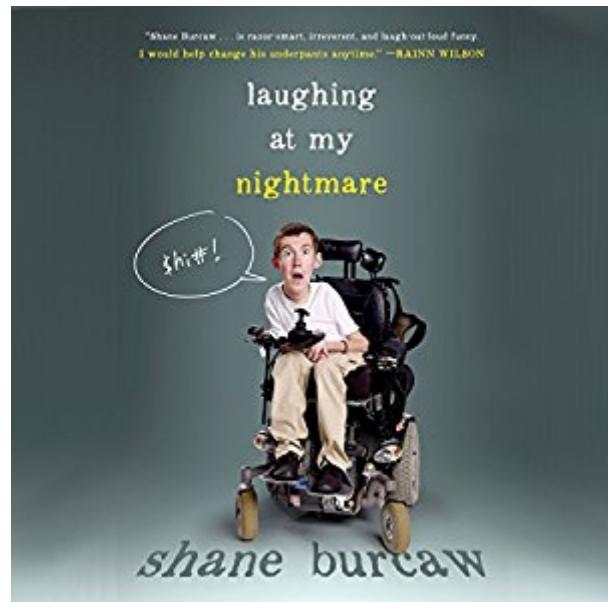


The book was found

Laughing At My Nightmare



Synopsis

With acerbic wit and a hilarious voice, Shane Burcaw's *Laughing at My Nightmare* describes the challenges he faces as a 21-year-old with spinal muscular atrophy. From awkward handshakes to having a girlfriend and everything in between, Shane handles his situation with humor and a "you-only-live-once" perspective on life. While he does talk about everyday issues that are relatable to teens, he also offers an eye-opening perspective on what it is like to have a life threatening disease.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 11 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: October 14, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00OH3LWG2

Best Sellers Rank: #20 in Books > Teens > Personal Health > Diseases, Illnesses & Injuries
#114 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Biographies & History #114 in Books
> Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Nonfiction

Customer Reviews

I have to confess I approached this book--and the blog of the same name--with some mild trepidation. I feared Burcaw was exploiting his disability, i.e., currying praise for being inspirational when all he's doing is, you know, surviving. I don't like referring to a disability as a disease, either. It's like playing the pity card, emphasizing medicalization and portraying yourself as a victim of said disease. BUT | as Shane himself says, he's just a normal guy. He doesn't want to be pitied and he doesn't want to be special. In fact, he's sort of making fun of all that, turning "aw" & "ow" on its head (to "wa-wo," I guess). BUT | Shane is definitely a talented writer. He's funny and expressive and moving. He has a distinctive "literary voice." BUT | this is a good, quick, and gripping read. It's unfortunate that the publishing pros have relegated it to the "teen" market because it would be good for anyone of any age. Full disclosure: I, too, grew up with spinal muscular atrophy, just like Shane. I identify with many of the experiences he describes here. Some of it cuts so close to the bone that it makes me shiver. That's not funny, I want to scream, when for example he describes being herded

to the wheelchair section at a talk Michelle Obama gave at his school, separated from his friends. That's tragic! Yet isn't it also illegal to ghettoize wheelchair folks, to deprive them of at least one "companion" seat? I do wish Shane had a stronger sense of disability rights, of his place in a broad community with a proud and deep history. Not to make the book all serious-like and angry and boring. Just so he'd have some righteous anger.

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