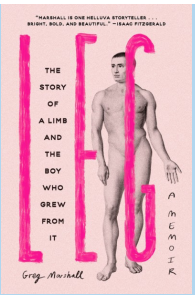
Discussion Guide



Leg
Greg Marshall

Abrams Press
2023
306 pages
ISBN: 978-1419763601

Neurological Disorders

Summary

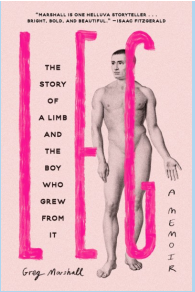
Packed with outrageous stories of a singular childhood, Greg Marshall offers a unique examination of what it means to transform when there are parts of yourself you can't change, a moving portrait of a family in crisis, and a tale of resilience of spirit. It's a story both personal and universal—of being young and wanting the world, even when the world doesn't feel like yours to want.

Questions

1. Greg's parents decide early in his life not to tell him about his cerebral palsy (CP). Do you agree with this decision? Why or why not?
2. The Marshalls moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, for Greg's first leg surgery when he was four years old. How does being the rare non-Mormon family on the block affect Greg's life as a gay kid with a disability? Could you relate to feeling like the odd person out?
3. Let's talk about Greg's mom. She goes on quite a journey over the course of *Leg*, especially after the death of Greg's dad, Bob, when she gets engaged to her former plastic surgeon, moves to New York with Greg's little sister, and changes her name to Frankie. What did you make of Frankie née Debi reinventing her life in the wake of family tragedy? Did you find yourself rooting for her?
4. Travel is a major component of *Leg*. The book opens with a family wedding in Costa Rica. Greg also travels to France with his dad for a class trip in the summer after eighth grade and he studies abroad in Croatia for a summer in college, where he lands his first boyfriend. "Travel is transformational," Greg writes. Even if he's being tongue-in-cheek, is he right? Is travel transformational?
5. Greg displays a subversive nostalgia for the trappings of his youth in the 1990s and early 2000s, an era of Brookstone back massagers, AOL chat rooms, and Afterschool Specials about HIV/AIDS. What are touchstones from your childhood that you're weirdly nostalgic about?
6. *Leg* deals with serious themes like illness and disability with humor. Why do you think Greg chose to write the book in a comedic tone? What moments stand out as particularly funny?
7. Days after running the Chicago Marathon, Greg's dad Bob is diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, a neurological disorder also known as ALS. This leads Greg to reckon with his relationship with his parents in new ways. How has your own perspective about your family, particularly your parents, changed over time?

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8. Deceit, and its aftermath, is a major theme in *Leg*. Besides his parents not telling him about CP, Greg dates men who are harboring some grave secrets, and even delusions. What do you think attracted Greg to these men and vice versa?
9. Greg holds little back when it comes to writing about sex. *Leg* addresses issues such as erectile dysfunction and topping (see: Frankie's Viagra). What, if anything, does Greg's frank portrayal of sex and intimacy contribute to the story of *Leg* as a whole? Is it important to depict disabled people having sex? Why?

Learn more about Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Cerebral Palsy from the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Strokes (NINDS).

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