

Entry Title: Lessons From a CF Cornerman: 38 Lessons I Learned During my Wife's Illness and Lung Transplant

Author: Raymond L. Poole

Judge Number: 48

Entry Category: Life Stories



Structure, Organization, and Pacing: 5/5

Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar: 5/5

Production Quality and Cover Design: 5/5

Plot and Story Appeal: 5/5

Character Appeal and Development: 5/5

Voice and Writing Style: 5/5

Judge's Commentary*:

Raymond Poole has chosen to frame his tale as so much more than a love story, demonstrating what spunk, determination, stoicism and constant optimism do when they are put into the same pot and melded. Poole and his wife, Rebecca, a sufferer of cystic fibrosis, are two of the pluckiest fighters imaginable, a team in every positive sense of the word. When Raymond Poole met Rebecca, she told him about her cystic fibrosis. Anyone who is not aware of the meaning of cystic fibrosis, its triggers and dangers and symptoms, will find the author has done a very complete job explaining it. I liked the way he used experiences with his wife to show what low blood sugar or high blood sugar could do, and what ideas they developed together to solve these problems. When Becca, who is a compulsive worker despite her disease, declines in health, eventually needing a double lung transplant, I realized I was reading a story of a marriage in which husband and wife are so dedicated to each other that the thought of giving up never occurs to either one of them. It is this dedication and sheer grit which makes *Lessons from a CF Cornerman* (and indeed Poole identifies specific lessons learned throughout this wonderful book) so unique. It is obvious that Raymond Poole is an athlete; the pictures in this book show a big, brawny fellow and he says he has thirty years of experience with martial arts. Being a cornerman means, as he explains in his preface, is being the person who supports the fighter from the sideline. Slender delicate Becca, half her husband's size, is the true fighter of CF, but she has a cornerman who will never abandon her. **This book touched my heart.**