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The Forever Fix: Gene Therapy And The Boy Who Saved It



Synopsis

Fascinating narrative science that explores the next frontier in medicine and genetics through the very personal prism of the children and families gene therapy has touched. Eight-year-old Corey Haas was nearly blind from a hereditary disorder when his sight was restored through a delicate procedure that made medical history. Like something from a science fiction novel, doctors carefully introduced viruses bearing healing genes into Corey's eyes - a few days later, Corey could see, his sight restored by gene therapy. THE FOREVER FIX is the first book to tell the fascinating story of gene therapy: how it works, the science behind it, how patients (mostly children) have been helped and harmed, and how scientists learned from each trial to get one step closer to its immense promise, the promise of a "forever fix," - a cure that, by fixing problems at their genetic root, does not need further surgery or medication. Told through the voices of the children and families who have been the inspiration, experimental subjects, and successes of genetic science, Ricki Lewis' THE FOREVER FIX is compelling and engaging narrative science that explores the future of medicine as well as the families and scientists who are breaking new ground every day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lewis does an excellent job of unraveling the history of gene therapy layer by layer. Where others center around the success of science, Lewis masterfully interweaves the bitter reality of failure and the footmarks of success and helps her reader understand how failure was necessary to improve the science to ensure modern day's use of gene therapy was more successful. If gene therapy

incites thoughts of fear and thus reservation about whether it should be allowed, Lewis sides with her readers' reservations and takes them face to face with the failure of medicine throughout time and how it affected the patient, their family and the treating physicians. However, her brilliance emerges in how she doesn't make excuses for the failure, rather, she suggests it as a form of medical evolution to her readers. Why? Because medicine is not a perfect science, Lewis might argue and she poignantly conveys that medical history is riddled with disastrous beginnings that eventually laid the groundwork for medical techniques that society now readily embraces as "routine." But she never lets her reader forget that there are people who bravely died so that we can now benefit from routine procedures. Many scientific techniques are quite abstract because they involve things that society cannot touch and often do not understand. Before the lay person has a chance to be turned off by the detailed science, Lewis masterfully puts an abstract treatment into the palms of her readers by educating them step by step about the science behind gene therapy. "Touch its potential, hold its infancy and feel its power over life and death," Lewis seemingly pleads with her reader.

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