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My Father's Keeper: The Story Of A Gay Son And His Aging Parents



Synopsis

My Father's Keeper is the moving story of Jonathan Silin, a gay man in midlife who learned to care for his elderly parents as a series of life-threatening illnesses forced them to make the difficult transition from being independent to being reliant on their son. Their new needs and unrelenting demands brought parents and child into intimate daily contact and radically transformed what had been a distant and emotionally fraught relationship. My Father's Keeper chronicles the ways in which the ideas and skills Silin acquired as an early childhood educator, a specialist in life span development, and a compassionate witness to the devastation of the HIV/AIDS crisis came together with his interest in human psychology to deeply inform his thinking about the dramatic changes in his family's life and increasingly influence his role as his father's (and mother's) keeper.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My Father's Keeper is the story of a gay man in midlife who must learn to care for his elderly parents when their health begins to fail. The novel takes you through his life roles as he undergoes a shift in responsibilities. We are taken through the struggles that both Silin and his parents must endure as becomes the caretaker and his parents accept their new limitations. This story conveys Silin's struggles with distancing himself from his parents enough that he can understand them,

but not absorb the anger caused by their illness. The ultimate message that we are left with is what it means to be a caregiver to the very end. Silin's work is thoughtful and honest. He offers a series of valuable reports using his experiences from childhood, education, parenting, mental health, old age, death, and forgiveness. This is a unique, well written story that provides us with what may lie ahead.

I've been there. Caregiving is maddening. This work actually portrays the love and insanity that go with the job.

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