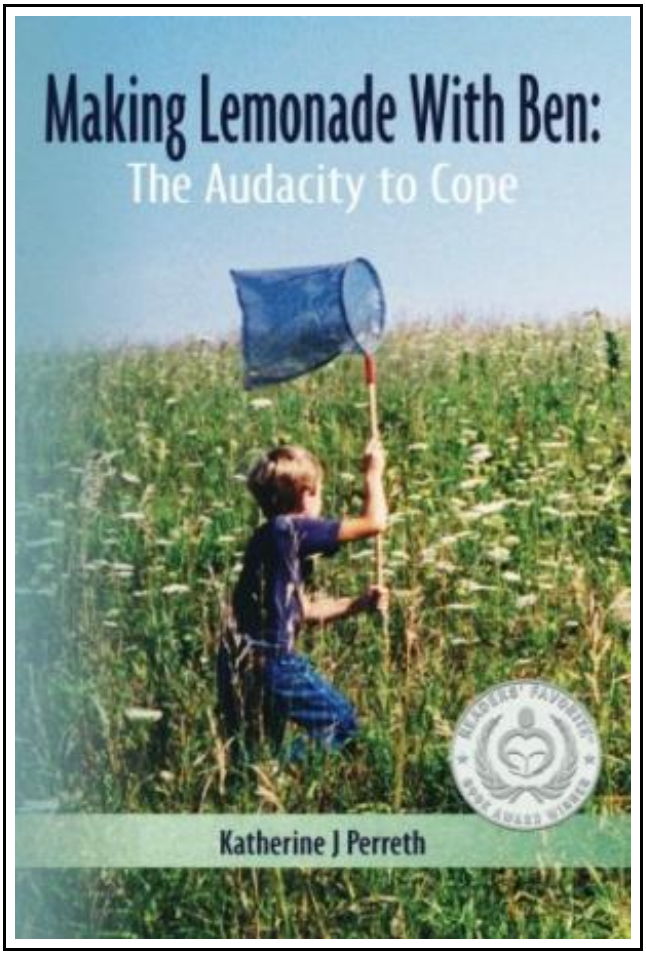
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Reviews

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MAKING LEMONADE WITH BEN: THE AUDACITY TO COPE

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Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 413 pages. This award-winning tale of triumphant woe chronicles the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical effects on a family after seven-year-old Ben is found in a coma. Despite Bens ensuing struggles with myriad disabilities and mental health issues, love wins. Narrated with irrepressible humor by the quirky mom, the story follows parallel tales of sixteen years of trauma and victory, culminating with Bens invitation to Washington DC. This inspiring book explores issues of global significance surrounding a family suddenly presented with a special needs child. At age seven, uber-outgoing Ben experiences myriad disabilities, mental challenges, and later, mental illness. The author candidly portrays her own deep struggles with what Bens life requires of her, and the roles of various communities in Bens recovery, including medical, educational, faith, governmental, and cross-cultural. In addition, the author celebrates the good created in Bens life because of his connection to Yahara House, an internationally accredited mental health treatment and recovery Clubhouse in Madison, and an intentional employer, the Madison Childrens Museum. Bens perpetually cheerful, never-say-die attitude brings him recognition. In 2011, the museum hires Ben, and then selects him as Community Member to accompany staff to Washington DC. There, the museum receives the Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal. Ben is front-page Wisconsin State Journal news on December 5, 2011. In November 2012, Madison Magazine features him as one of top ten people giving back to the community. Despite his various continued challenges and setbacks, Ben now leads an independent life he loves, working at his dream job. Among other museum duties, Ben is employed as a one-handed juggler. His stated goal Make humanity smile. This Cinderella Story is chock-full of pathos, especially employing the authors main coping strategy, humor, while weaving multiple threads of love, and...

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