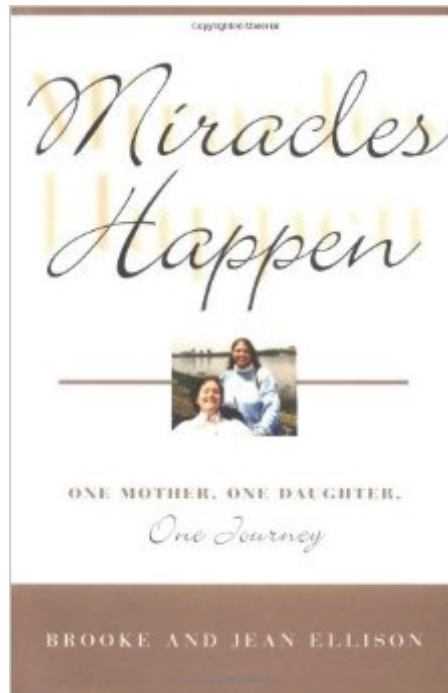


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# Miracles Happen: One Mother, One Daughter, One Journey



## Synopsis

Brooke Ellison was the victim of an automobile accident that left her paralyzed from the neck down when she was eleven years old. Written with her mother, Jean, her closest companion, Brooke's story starts on the day that changed her life. This inspiring story is not just about one person, but about the heroics of a family.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I HAVE NEVER, IN MY LIFE READ A MORE POIGNANT BOOK IN MY ENTIRE LIFE! ALL THE THINGS THAT THIS FAMILY HAS BEEN THROUGH ARE ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE! THE BOOK IS SO ELOQUENTLY WRITTEN IT BOUGHT ME TO TEARS ON SEVERAL OCCASSIONS! THIS BOOK IS A MUST READ FOR EVERYONE.

For anyone who believes the idea of completing an education requires an enormous amount of hard work and perseverance, wait until you read about Brooke Ellison and her mother, Jean. Following a car accident at age eleven which left Brooke paralyzed from the neck down, Jean was determined that her daughter would not simply exist on the sidelines but that she would, indeed, have a productive and fulfilling life. Jean's encouragement, love and determination held Brooke steadfast each and every step of the way, until ten years later Brooke graduated from Harvard University, making her the first quadriplegic to do so. The book alternates in chapters between Brooke's recollections and those of her mother. What intrigued me the most about the book was the

overwhelming and, at times, almost insurmountable odds that Brooke and her mother had to overcome. By the time the last page was reached, I was ready to give a standing ovation for Brooke's accomplishments as she gives her graduation speech. The book is so beautifully written, it will leave the reader with a tear in their eye, and make whatever obstacles they feel they most overcome to achieve their goals, very insignificant compared to Brooke's trials and tribulations. This is an amazingly inspiring story which is due to be released as a television movie.

Since writing a less than glowing review [below], I have had time to think and reflect on this book, and am upgrading my review to 5 stars. I initially thought the book too sappy, but I kept thinking about it, and coming back to read passages of it, and that's the sign of a great book. I also saw Brooke on Larry King, and she was amazingly articulate, compassionate, smart and beautiful. It was not just that she was "inspirational" for all she had gone through: she was also incredibly intelligent [not surprising, given her Harvard education], and is using her energies to do great things. She spoke about her experiences in such a thoughtful way. I have since done some research and found articles Brooke has written on a web site dealing with disabilities. I have read, and promptly forgotten, a lot of mediocre books, but this is one I'll remember, so change my review to a wholehearted recommendation.

Brooke Ellison's magnificent achievements, both because and in spite of her disability, can't help but inspire the reader. Her biography is both a tribute to her and to her loving family, especially her mother. I didn't find the story lacking because it didn't discuss her daily life and limitations in depth; I think perhaps she wanted to maintain SOME privacy in a life that of necessity has sacrificed so much of it, and the whole point of her story is that Brooke is not defined by her disability. I think the true tragedy of her accident was not that she was so severely changed, but that we were all so nearly robbed of a remarkable and gifted human being. I wish Brooke and her family well, and hope to see her on the speaking tour. Five stars for an inspiring story.

A wonderful book about an AMAZING FAMILY. The book does not preach or teach about disabilities. It is not about what she can not do. It is a book about what you CAN do. In my opinion, this is the story of one family and their quest to take care of one another and do right by their family and each other. I love the format of the book. Brooke & Jean take turns writing about similar events that they encountered during this ten year time frame. (Very hard to get too in-depth and too detailed when writing about such a large time frame.) I have read this book to my 6th grade students

(a great example of point of view and perspective since two authors are writing about the same experiences.) A great book for mothers to buy for their daughters or vice versa. (And as always, the book is much better than the movie.) I highly recommend this book.

Brook Ellison really could be an inspiration to us all. Her positive outlook and her "go get em" attitude really is inspiring. That said, her mother Jean is a phenomenal woman. I cannot imagine getting up everyday, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day at 4:00 am to bath, dress, feed, and groom another human being. Would I do it for my daughters? Of course, but it is easy to say that when you are not in the same situation. Let's face it, we have all griped about having to drop them at friends' homes, going to pick them up at school when they are sick etc.... This woman is one to definitely be admired. The other day I was on a message board reading all these nitwits gush on about a certain mobster's daughter and how much they admire her... WHY??? I posted about this book and this extraordinary woman, truly God blessed Brook with having Jean as a mom. I also think she was blessed by all the sacrifices her brother, sister and father made as well to make her dream come true. Brook's sister stated in an interview that the movie does not have their Grandmother in it and they should have, as she was the one who cared for the rest of the family when Brook and her mom were away. Jean is truly a modern day hero. God Bless the whole Ellison family.

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