



Keeping Katherine: A Mother's Journey to Acceptance

Susan Zimmermann

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Katherine was a beautiful, perfect baby for the first year of her life. Then, without warning, she changed forever. She started crossing her eyes. She cried at night for hours at a time and could not be soothed. She stopped saying words, stopped crawling, and began what would become a lifelong habit of wringing her hands. Hospital visits and consultations with doctors offered no answers to the mystery. Soon Katherine slipped away to a place her mother and father could never reach.

In *Keeping Katherine*, Susan Zimmermann tells the story of her life with her daughter Katherine, who has Rett syndrome, a devastating neurological disorder. Writing with honesty and candor, Zimmermann chronicles her personal journey to accept the changed dynamic of her family; the strain of caring for a special needs child and the pressure it placed on her marriage, career, and relationship with her parents; the dilemma of whether Kat would be better cared for in a group home; and most important, the altered reality of her daughter's future. A story of personal transformation that reminds us that it isn't what happens to us that shapes our humanity, but how we react, *Keeping Katherine* shows the unconditional love that exists in families and the gifts the profoundly disabled can offer to those who try to understand them.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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