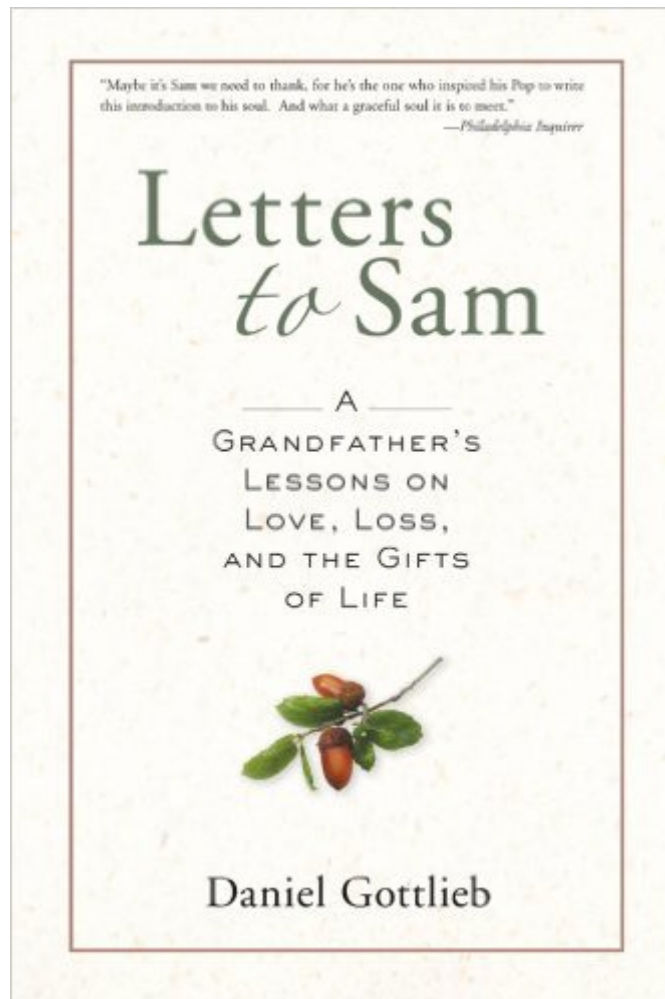


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Letters To Sam: A Grandfather's Lessons On Love, Loss, And The Gifts Of Life



Synopsis

When his grandson was born, Daniel Gottlieb began to write a series of heartfelt letters that he hoped Sam would read later in life. He planned to cover all the important topics—dealing with your parents, handling bullies, falling in love, coping with death—and what motivated him was the fear that he might not live long enough to see Sam reach adulthood. You see, Daniel Gottlieb is a quadriplegic—the result of a near-fatal automobile accident that occurred two decades ago—and he knows enough not to take anything for granted. Then, when Sam was only 14 months old, he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disability, a form of autism, and suddenly everything changed. Now the grandfather and grandson were bound by something more: a disability—and Daniel Gottlieb's special understanding of what that means became invaluable. This lovingly written, emotionally gripping book offers unique—and universal—insights into what it means to be human.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For twenty years, Dan Gottlieb has hosted a psychology call-in radio show, "Voices in the Family," broadcast from Philadelphia's NPR affiliate. For ten years, he has written a column for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Through letters and persons calling in, plus his psychotherapy practice, he has listened, observed, and learned about the cruelties, courage and compassion that touch us all. And as he writes in his introduction, "Books taught me a bit about psychology. But paralysis taught me to sit still and keep my ears and heart open so I could listen." Dan has also for over twenty years of his fifty plus years been quadriplegic. In his introduction, Dan explains that quadriplegia puts the

body at risk, and he feared he wouldn't live long enough to share with his grandson Sam lessons of life, or to be known by him. When Sam was two, it was discovered that he was autistic. Dan wrote: "I wept for Sam. I realized that I had more than ever to tell him. . . I wanted to teach him what I've learned about fighting against the kind of adversity that I face almost daily and fear he will face also. And I wanted to tell him how peace often happens when we simply stop fighting." I have heard Dan speak at two Healing and Spirituality Conferences, so I know his ability to penetrate our defenses and reach those soft spots that many of us intentionally or unconsciously hide, i.e. the very places where we are most deeply human, compassionate, sensitive, and wise. So it's not surprising that Dan is able to do the same in his writing. Nor is it surprising that his publishers believe the books coming impact will be similar to "Tuesdays with Morrie". David Elpern, M.D.

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