

*There is an implicit contract we make at birth: father-mother/son-daughter. Certain expectations are in place, and we assume that all will continue in what is conventionally considered the natural order of things. With a clear eye—and with no emotional manipulation whatsoever—Robert Waxler tells us what happens when that contract goes awry. This is a very important story, beautifully told. The story of Robert, Linda and Jeremy—with Jonathan hovering close by—reminds us that a parent’s love for a child truly knows no bounds.*

– Elizabeth Mehren, Professor of Journalism, Boston University, author of *Born Too Soon*

*A literature professor and writer, Bob Waxler offers here a compelling story that reads at times like a medical thriller, at times like a philosophic meditation, and at times like a family tale of fear and hope. I greatly admire his son Jeremy’s courage to face such difficult odds after his sudden spinal trauma, and I am inspired by the well-trained physicians who helped make his recovery possible. Perhaps most, though, I am moved by the way the poetry throughout the story allows us to glimpse how close to a miracle this whole experience really is.*

Dr. Al Rabson, Deputy Director National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Health

*Robert Waxler’s book provides a poignant and troubling look at a family struggling courageously in the face of a harrowing crisis. What happens when a son is stricken with a mysterious and potentially fatal disease? Why does this happen and how does one—how can one—understand this? What can be done when so much feels out of control? Who should make which decisions? These and other issues are confronted in Mr. Waxler’s unsettling, absorbing and compelling narrative, which speaks to the heart as well as the mind.*

Dr. Francis Haines, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Brown University

*As someone with cerebral palsy who also works in the disability field, I am acutely aware of the unique challenges that disability can bring to individuals and their families. Professor Waxler’s book combines humor, emotion and personal reflection to create a refreshingly honest and accurate look at the highs and lows involved for the entire family after his son Jeremy’s illness. *Courage to Walk* is a winner!*

Patrick Gleason, Staff Writer Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center Spotlight Newsletter

*When Bob Waxler’s son Jeremy fell, his parents’ lives took a sharp turn neither one would have chosen. In this uncharted territory, desperate for his son’s return to health, Bob Waxler teetered between the abysses of immersion and loss. To find his path, he turned to literature, or more accurately, he turned his life into literature. By offering us the story of the those dark days, Waxler sheds light on the love between a father and his son and on the relationship between life and literature.*

Jerry Waxler, M.S., author, lecturer, and therapist