Strangers Assume My Girlfriend Is My Nurse



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by Shane Burcaw

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.8 out of 5 Language : English : 41905 KB File size Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled X-Rav : Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length



A Memoir of Love, Disability, and the Assumptions People Make

: 203 pages

I've been dating my girlfriend, Jess, for over two years now. She's the love of my life, and I can't imagine my life without her. But there's one thing that always seems to get in the way of our relationship: strangers.

You see, Jess has a disability. She uses a wheelchair, and she has some difficulty speaking. As a result, strangers often make assumptions about our relationship. They assume that she's my nurse, or that I'm her caretaker. They ask me guestions like, "How long have you been her nurse?" or "What's wrong with her?"

I'm always polite when people ask me these questions, but it can be really frustrating. I don't want to be defined by my relationship with Jess. I want to be seen as an individual, just like her.

Jess is a strong and independent woman. She's a talented artist, and she's working on her PhD. She doesn't need me to take care of her. She just needs me to love her and support her.

I'm writing this memoir to share our story with the world. I want to show people that interabled relationships are just as valid as any other kind of relationship. I want to break down the stereotypes and misconceptions that surround disability.

I hope that by sharing our story, I can help to create a more inclusive world for people with disabilities. I want people to see Jess for who she is: a talented, intelligent, and beautiful woman. I want people to see me for who I am: a loving and supportive partner.

Excerpt from the Book

I remember the first time a stranger asked me if I was Jess's nurse. I was so taken aback that I didn't know what to say. I just stammered out, "No, I'm her boyfriend." The stranger looked at me with pity in her eyes. "Oh, I'm sorry," she said. "I didn't realize."

I was so angry. Why was she sorry? I wasn't ashamed of being Jess's boyfriend. I was proud of her. I wanted to shout at the stranger, "There's nothing wrong with my girlfriend! She's perfect the way she is!"

But I didn't. I just smiled politely and walked away. I didn't want to make a scene. I didn't want to give the stranger the satisfaction of knowing that she had upset me.

But I couldn't stop thinking about what she had said. Why did she assume that I was Jess's nurse? Was it because she saw her in a wheelchair? Was it because she heard her difficulty speaking? I didn't know. But I knew that I had to do something to change the way people thought about interabled relationships.

That's why I'm writing this book. I want to share our story with the world. I want to show people that interabled relationships are just as valid as any other kind of relationship. I want to break down the stereotypes and misconceptions that surround disability.

I hope that by sharing our story, I can help to create a more inclusive world for people with disabilities. I want people to see Jess for who she is: a talented, intelligent, and beautiful woman. I want people to see me for who I am: a loving and supportive partner.

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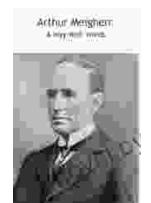
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