



2005

Christopher Reeve: Don't Lose Hope!

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Apte, Sunita. *Christopher Reeve: don't lose hope!* Bearport Inc., 2006. ISBN 1597160741.
\$23.96. 32 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Biography;

Subject: Reeve, Christopher, 1952--Juvenile literature; Quadriplegics--United states--Biography--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

The subject of this Defining Moments Series title is the courage Christopher Reeve and his family displayed after a horse jumping accident resulted in Reeve becoming a quadriplegic. Apte, along with Leitch as consultant, covers Reeve's accident and his initial feelings of devastation. They tell about Reeve's formative years growing up in New York City, his first experiences with acting, and his becoming an international movie star from his lead role in the Superman movies. "You're still you. And I love you," Reeve's wife Dana explained after Reeve's accident. Reeve realized he really did want to live. His family helped him with the demands of physical therapy. He eventually gained feeling over 60% of his body, starred in a movie, directed a film, wrote his autobiography, established a foundation to raise money to find a cure for paralysis, and carried the Olympic torch for the December 2001 Olympics.

This Defining Moments Series title is informative, readable, and filled with colorful illustrations. An index, timeline, glossary, bibliography, and "read more" and "learn more online" sections at the back of the book are also great features of this biography. This book emphasizes the support family provides when an illness, accident, or other special challenge occur in one's life. Reeve's life is an inspiration to all people, not just those who are disabled. "Don't give up. Don't lose hope."