Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio

Kate Reynolds

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol27/iss4/5

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds  
Reading Level: Intermediate  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Autobiographies; Informational books;  
Subject: Kehret, Peg--Health--Juvenile literature; Poliomyelitis--Patients--United States--Biography--Juvenile; Books--Reviews;

Prolific children's writer Kehret tells the story here of her experiences when she was struck with polio in 1949. This autobiography’s is in a clear voice that feels more like having a one on one conversation with the author than just reading. Perhaps some of the dialogue is fictitious--the actual words lost in memory--but all of it is appropriate and very real-sounding. Kehret does not hold back in describing the fear, pain, depression, or selfishness that she experienced during her ordeal, but it is well balanced by her determination, the support she received from her family, and the friendships she had with her roommates at the hospital.

This edition, published at the tenth anniversary of the original work, includes extended information--a "where are they now"--concerning the experiences of Kehret and other people mentioned in the book, as well as a chapter on polio, its history, and its current status. For younger generations who only know of polio by its vaccine, this book is a well-crafted look at the effects of a disease that was once epidemic and terrifying.