



2006

### Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio

Kate Reynolds

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

---

#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Reynolds, Kate (2006) "Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 27 : Iss. 4 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol27/iss4/5>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

Kehret, Peg. *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio*. Albert Whitman & Company, 2006. ISBN 0807574597. \$15.95. 205 p.

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.