Daddy, Can You Make Me Pancakes?
- When Cancer Took His Wife, "Daddy" Took Over.
It's 6:00 a.m., and four year old Amanda shuffles into her parent’s bedroom, where she finds Daddy sleeping in what normally is Mommy's spot. She innocently wakes him up from a deep sleep "Daddy... can you make me pancakes?" Daddy replies "Yes, sure honey." Neither Amanda nor Daddy have their normal energetic smile. Not because they were tired, but because Mommy didn't make it home last night. Cancer unexpectedly took her. Now "Daddy" must find a way to care for three small children while holding down a new executive position within his company. For the moment, making pancakes is the one thing that keeps their family together.

What an amazing story. I received the book and was not sure I was ready to read it based on my own experience I am currently going through. I passed the book to my mom to read first. I walked in after work to pick up my baby to find my mom with tears running down her face but laughing out loud. She told me it would be healing for me and inspire me in every way....she was not lying. Kevin shares raw emotion with a mix of his charismatic and witty personality. A real laughing tear jerker!
OUTSTANDING and WELL WRITTEN.

“...a book with instructions for a father who has to deliver such news...” wrote Kevin McAteer, the author of Daddy, Can You Make Me Pancakes? - The True Story of a Young Mother’s Battle Against Cancer and Her Husband’s Journey to Bring Healing to Their Family. He faced the unbelievably excruciating task of trying to explain to their three small children that their mother had died. And, that was just the beginning. McAteer has knit together both the challenges and the joys of his journey to a new 'normal.' His experiences include some of the most interesting ‘clueless dad’ moments and how to get through them. The community of his friends and colleagues supported him and helped him in material and spiritual ways. In between writing about the struggles, he liberally sprinkles stories of his brief marriage and vignettes of the children and how they also encouraged him. The grieving was not overlooked, but it became one of the tools of healing. A story like this could easily become maudlin in a heartbeat, but McAteer managed to avoid any such thing. There are tearful moments followed by laughter. While the book would be helpful to other bereaved parents, the light of hope in it makes it very much a book for everyone to read.

Daddy, Can You Make Me Pancakes by Kevin McAteer

Imagination! This book is filled with it and with fun. Even while dealing with the loss of his companion and the mother of his three small children, McAteer tries day by day to operate on the premise that whatever is best for the children is what must be done. Decisions are made according to what is right, fair, and uplifting to the family unit. He grieves but he also searches for the positive in every situation. McAteer flounders through new circumstances of being a single parent. He asks for advice when he needs it but doesn’t live allowing others to dictate what is best for his family. This is an excellent book for single fathers and is full of wisdom for parents in general. McAteer brings adventure and humor into the family to keep them growing. Even though I’m a great-grandma I thoroughly enjoyed this read. I teared up and several times laughed out loud. McAteer makes any situation dramatically interesting. You’ll enjoy this read.

A heart warming story of a father that finds strength to survive a death of a spouse through the innocence of three small children. You will experience all emotions in reading this amazing book...sadness, laughter, love and anger. You will truly understand that laughter is the best medicine.... That time is precious... And that regardless of what you endure in life... There is light at the end of the tunnel. All phrases we know but read this amazing book to hear how this family made
It made me more grateful for some of the simple pleasures in life...even pancakes.

I couldn't imagine raising my five kids without my wife, but I got a pretty good idea after reading your book. My primary criteria for reading a book or watching a movie is that it must be a "good story, well-told." Your book "Pancakes" tells a very uplifting story and reaffirms my faith in God and how we manage to cope with unexpected tragedy. Baring your soul is not an easy thing to do. To do it with grace, humility and humor makes for a great read that makes you feel good for reading it.

This is not a book about dying, it's one about living. Specifically, how to live with hope and joy despite the cloak of cancer, and then, how to go on living following the most unimaginable loss possible -- for the author, of his wife; for his children, their beloved Mommy. It's not a checklist, but a story of lessons learned. McAteer takes the reader through the key guideposts of his family's journey, beginning with an unexpected diagnosis, resulting treatment and eventual loss in a poignant, yet direct and unapologetic manner so that the reader can appreciate the place the family began and how far they have come. It's a reminder that no single thing or person makes the difference in the healing journey, but that comfort can be found in unexpected places. In the author's case, these range from the kindness of other parents who make sure the newly single dad doesn't screw up his kids' school schedules, to bosses and coworkers who both offered job security as well as made personal gestures of comfort and support. In fair disclosure, I am a new colleague of McAteer's, and I learned a lot about our company's culture by reading his book. It made me glad I accepted my offer and reminded me that in a time when our careers are often 24/7, it's important to choose a workplace that will treat you like family. Ultimately, my take away from the book is that when faced with the disease or death of a loved one, you have to plow along, and you have to accept help when it is offered, and eventually, one step at a time, you will move out of the fog. The new normal will not match the old one, but it can be just as rich, and it should include pancakes.

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