



Listen To Me
How my Down syndrome brother saved my life
A memoir by Lynne Podrat

Author Lynne Podrat!
Proud Recipient Of Gold Award

Award From:
The National Association Of Nonfiction Authors
For Book 'Listen To Me'

Genres:
Down Syndrome, Sibling Relationships
Biographies Of People with Disabilities And Memoirs

Also:
Gold Award From Literary Titans
For Book 'My Sister Want An Elephant'
Genre: Elephants, Zoo

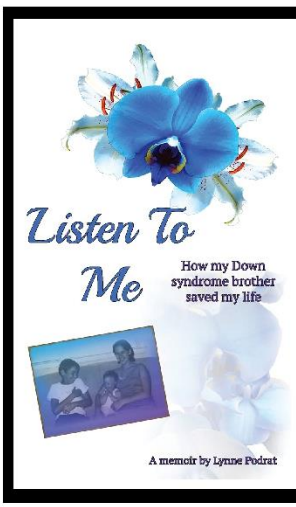
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My Sister Wants an Elephant
Lynne Podrat
Illustrator: Sarah Glendall



Author Lynne Podrat.





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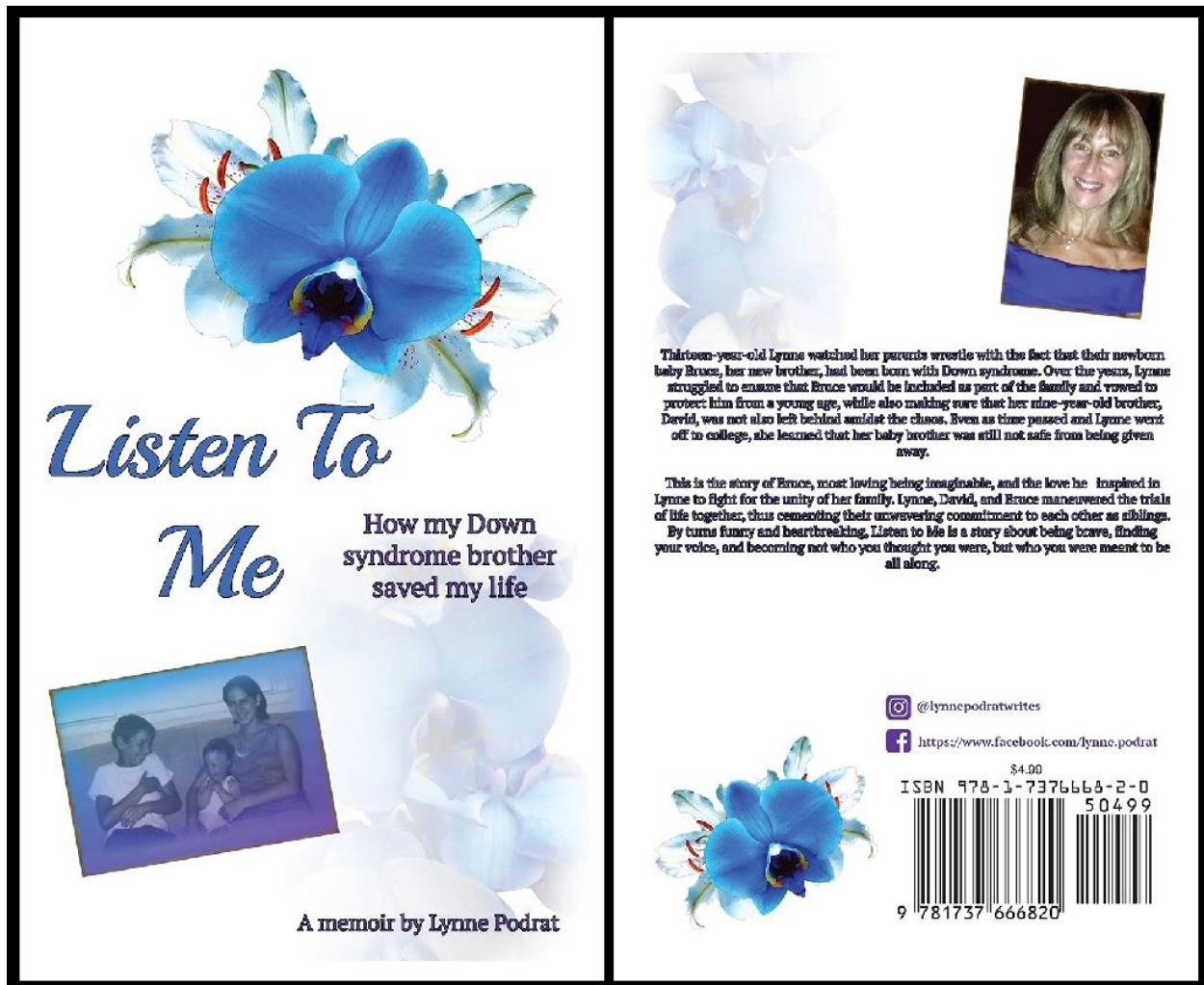
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Listen To Me: How My Down Syndrome Brother Saved My Life by Lynne Podrat

This memoir was written to honor my youngest brother's influence over my life, the good, the bad, and the ugly, of living with a Down Syndrome sibling. It tells the story of the children of my family, despite our parents' frailties, remaining committed to each other through life's many changes and separations. Who I am today is directly related to who I needed to become.



Review by LLF: 5.0 out of 5 Stars Insightful and Inspirational. At times heart-wrenching, always heart-warming. Lynne Podrat's brutally honest memoir, *Listen to Me: How My Down Syndrome Brother Saved My Life* is a deeply personal account of a family whose guilt and fear is washed away by the endless love and total selflessness of a child with down syndrome. So many lessons to be learned. Everyone should take time to read this insightful and most-inspirational story. Well Done!

Review by Bill Tate: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Belief in oneself and unconditional love. There are many lessons to be learned from this memoir by Lynne Podrat. Early in her story she demonstrates the importance of sticking to one's convictions, doing what one knows to be right. Throughout her childhood, Lynne shows her willingness to do this, often at the objection of parents and others in positions of authority. And over the course of her lifetime, this consistent pattern of choosing the virtuous path has led to an unbreakable bond of loyalty amongst her extended family and closest friends. Central to her story is her unconditional love for her younger brother Bruce, who was born with Down syndrome. Her absolute commitment to his well-being is reciprocated by not only his love for her, but a love of life that enables him to flourish, to be the best he can be. As a result, the whole community of relatives, neighbors, and caregivers are inspired to become better versions of themselves. Readers of "Listen to Me" will surely find themselves examining their own lives, their relations with those they cherish, and perhaps take steps to strengthen those relationships. Many worthwhile lessons to be learned from Lynne's story, with the power of belief in oneself and unconditional love being foremost.

Review by luvtoread: 5.0 out of 5 Stars "Listen to me!" After reading this story, you will never again hear that phrase without thinking of Bruce, a child born with Down Syndrome. Although his parents were obviously overwhelmed at the idea of raising this handicapped child and chose to institutionalize him, he was 'saved' as a member of his family by his older siblings. This book is the tale of his life and was written by his sister, who insisted at a young age that Bruce mattered.

Her devotion to him and the bonding she encouraged within his extended family are revealed in the story of an innocent boy who grew to be warm, loving, fun, easily pleased, and extroverted to the point of being a valued friend to everyone he met. His later caregivers loved him and were devoted to both him and his family. Those warm relationships continue to this day.

Many people are still uncomfortable with those that are different from them. This story leaves us with the knowledge that those who are 'different' can enrich our lives in so many ways, and that caring, on so many levels, makes the world a better place. I had tears in my eyes as I closed the book.

Review by Cindy Freifeld: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Touching and loving story of the love between a brother and sister. Listen to Me How my Down Syndrome Brother Saved My Life. This is a beautiful, touching story how a young girl saved her Down syndrome brother, whom she loved at first sight, from a life of being placed in an institution to having a very loving amazing life with people who were caring, supportive, and compassionate to his needs. I myself have been ignorant when I would see a person with Down Syndrome. I would feel sorry for them and think how hard their life must be for them and their family. The truth is they are all very special and deserve the best possible life. I found this relationship between sister and brother to be a touching, loving, trusting and mutual respect. This book was beautifully written by Lynne Podrat. I only hope this is not the last we hear from this talented author and hope there are many more to come.

Review by Kristen Smigelski: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. An important read. This is a beautiful story of sibling love. Lynne shares her fierce desire to have her differently abled brother included and kept a part of the family in a time when special needs individuals may not have been. Her stories are humorous, heartwarming, and honest. After reading this book my wishes are that I had been able to meet Bruce and we, as a society, learn that differently abled individuals are so much more than their diagnosis and need to be included and appreciated for what they bring to the world.

Review by Pat Backley: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. A well written and emotional book. A very moving and well written account of a life well lived and the impact it had on others.

Product Details:

Paperback: 128 Pages

Publisher: Lynne Podrat (August 19, 2021)

Andi Cuba (Illustrator)

Sandi Wissinger (Editor)

Language: English

Sibling Relationships

Biographies of People with Disabilities

Down Syndrome

Memoirs

Amazon Print:

https://www.amazon.com/Listen-Me-Syndrome-Brother-Saved/dp/1737666820/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Kindle:

https://www.amazon.com/Listen-Me-Syndrome-Brother-Saved-ebook/dp/B09C42P3ZC/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

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<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09C42P3ZC>

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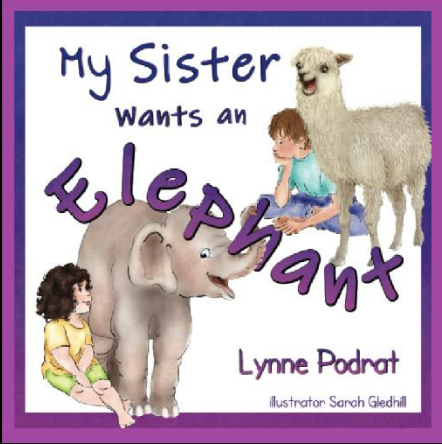
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Customer Ratings:

https://www.amazon.com/Listen-Me-Syndrome-Brother-Saved/dp/1737666820/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=#customerReviews





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Elephant**
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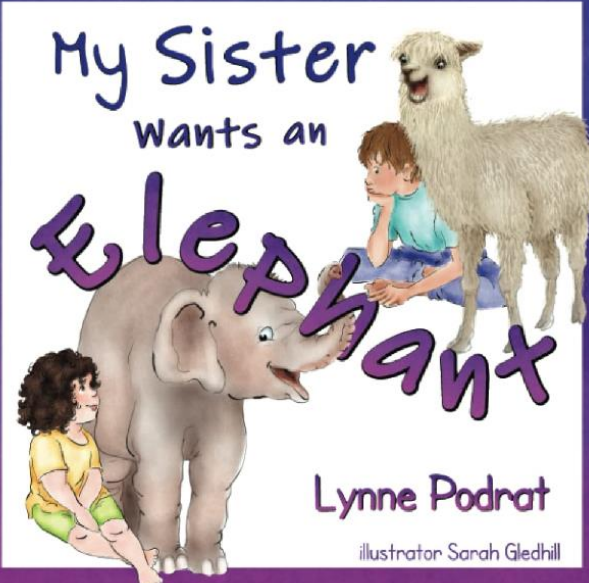
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**My Sister
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**RANDY'S SISTER WANTS A WHAT?!?
AND HIS MOM ISN'T FLAT-OUT SAYING NO?!**

MY SISTER WANTS AN ELEPHANT
IS THE TRUE STORY OF TWO SIBLINGS WHO
TEAM UP TOGETHER TO CONVINCE THEIR
MOTHER TO LET THEM OWN A COUPLE OF WILD
ANIMALS AS PETS, AND A MOTHER WHO JUST
MIGHT BE PERSUADED.

FULL OF HUMOR AND FUN, THIS BOOK
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WILD THEY MAY BE!

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My Sister Wants an Elephant by Lynne Podrat

Randy's sister wants a WHAT?!? And his Mom isn't flat-out saying no?!

My Sister Wants an Elephant is the true story of two siblings who team up together to convince their mother to let them own a couple of wild animals as pets, and a mother who just might be persuaded.

Full of humor and fun, this book is a good lesson in not giving up on your dreams, no matter how truly wild they may be!

Praise for this book:

My Sister Wants an Elephant by Lynne Podrat sees Randy, an eleven-year-old boy, wishing for a llama. His sister, Jerica, asks their mother for an elephant. The children press their mother for their chosen pets, practicing their pouts, and they receive them. Even though the children do not see their elephant and llama roaming in their backyard, their mother finds a way to allow them access to llamas and an elephant.

My Sister Wants an Elephant is about a surprising compromise. Amazingly, it is based on a true story. Told from the viewpoint of eleven-year-old Randy, the story is sure to be a hit with young readers. The mother, Lynne Podrat, was able to secure time with llamas for her son Randy by arranging for him to help with their care on a nearby farm. Additionally, she fulfilled her dream of getting close to a Siberian tiger and her daughter's wish for an elephant by making donations and adopting them from the Philadelphia Zoo.

Being true gave more life to the story, and my children were delighted with the end of the story when they learned that Randy and Jerica were real people. The illustrations were light, and the snapshot of Randy and Jerica added a bit of humor to the story. My Sister Wants an Elephant would be a great addition to any bookshelf but should also be in libraries, as it benefits organizations like the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which rescues and cares for wildlife.

Reviewed by Courtnee Turner Hoyle for Readers' Favorite

"My Sister Wants an Elephant" by Lynne Podrat is a heartwarming and delightful children's story that showcases the determination and teamwork of Randy and Jerica as they strive to convince their mother to consider their unusual pet requests. While they may not get to have the animals directly in their backyard, it's intriguing to hear that their mother finds a way to grant them access to llamas and an elephant, providing a compromise that allows the children to experience the joy of being close to these fascinating creatures.. The themes of persistence, compromise, and the bond between siblings are relatable and endearing. The book is based on a true story, adding an extra layer of authenticity and charm. We can imagine how readers, especially those with a fondness for elephants, would cheer for Randy and Jerica throughout their adventure.

The inclusion of beautiful color illustrations by Sarah Gledhill adds another layer of visual appeal to "My Sister Wants an Elephant." Her illustrations bring the animals and the story to life, capturing the essence and beauty of the creatures in a captivating way. Given her family's experience in Africa, it's likely that her illustrations possess a unique authenticity and attention to detail, making the animal depictions even more engaging and enchanting for readers. The combination of a compelling story and visually stunning illustrations is sure to make the book a delightful reading experience for children and animal enthusiasts alike.

By showcasing the determination of Randy and Jerica in their quest for their chosen pets, the book inspires children to think creatively, explore alternative solutions, and maintain a positive outlook in pursuing their dreams. Such messages can have a lasting impact on children, encouraging them to embrace their passions and pursue their goals with enthusiasm.

Review by Jedlie



Review by Alan and Emily: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. An adorable story for children who love animals and zoos or tales of other children. Eleven-year-old Randy has wanted a soft, fuzzy llama forever, and every year his Mom says, “No.” But this year, something is different! This year, his baby sister Jerica asked for an “elfant,” and Mom did not instantly say, “No.” If there is hope for Jerica’s elephant, there must be hope for Randy’s llama, too!

My Sister Wants an Elephant is an adorable children’s story of a boy who teams up with his little sister to try to convince their mother to agree to two improbable pets. It’s a fun tale of persistence and compromise, based on a true story! As a fellow elephant enthusiast, I was cheering Jerica and Randy on in their sweet endeavor.

There are beautiful color illustrations throughout the book by Sarah Gledhill, who creates especially lovely images of the animals, perhaps honed during the many years her family spent in Africa.

Ms. Podrat’s family story is perfect for children who love animals and zoos or tales of other children. There is a hint of a possible sequel involving a long trip and The International Fund for Animal Welfare, which is mentioned in this book, so I will be keeping an eye on this author.

Review by Cindy Freifeld: 5.0 out of 5 Stars A delight for all to read. My Sister Wants An Elephant is a charming, funny book. Randy and Jerica beg their mother for almost impossible gifts, to have a Llama and a baby elephant as pets. This book teaches you to never give up on your dreams. The love and determination of a mother to make her children’s dreams come true. Does she succeed? You have to read the book to find out. The book is beautifully illustrated which makes it even more delightful. I highly recommend this book for young children and for those who still have the young kid hiding inside.

Reviewed by Courtnee Turner Hoyle for Readers' Favorite: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Wild Animals Abound. My Sister Wants an Elephant by Lynne Podrat sees Randy, an eleven-year-old boy, wishing for a llama. His sister, Jerica, asks their mother for an elephant. The children press their mother for their chosen pets, practicing their pouts, and they receive them. Even though the children do not see their elephant and llama roaming in their backyard, their mother finds a way to allow them access to llamas and an elephant.

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Review by Bruce H Podrat: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Wild Animals; What!! What a wonderful compromise for both children even of different ages. Makes me wish to be young again so I too may never give up on my dreams. Just noticed this book won Gold for February 2023 from Literary Titans. I wanted to share what this prestigious award entails.

"Our literary awards are given to books and authors that have astounded and amazed us with unique writing styles, vivid worlds, complex characters, and original ideas. These books deserve extraordinary praise and we are proud to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and writing skill of talented authors. The Literary Titan Gold Award is bestowed on books that we found to be perfect in their delivery of original content, utilizing fresh themes to convey innovative ideas, and deftly uses elegant prose to transform words into expertly written literature."

Product Details:

Paperback: 36 Pages

Publisher: Atmosphere Press (December 1, 2022)

Sarah Gledhill (Illustrator)

Language: English

Elephants

Zoo

Amazon Print:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1639887318>

Kindle:

https://www.amazon.com/Sister-Wants-Elephant-Lynne-Podrat-ebook/dp/B0BR4J4S1H/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

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About The Author: Award-winning author, Lynne Podrat graduated from the Pennsylvania State University and spent fifteen years in the Fashion Industry as an Assistant Buyer and Department Manager with Bloomingdales Department Store before returning to school to receive her educational degrees from

Arcadia University and Gynedd Mercy. A retired educator and Administrator from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania School District, she taught English, literature, composition, and history in elementary and secondary schools. She has secretly been a writer and poet her whole life. Still, she has only recently chosen to share those talents with the world, receiving Gold from the Nonfiction Authors Association and Silver from Global Book Awards for her memoir Listen to Me: How My Down Syndrome Brother Saved My Life,

Gold from Literary Titans and the recent winner of International Book Awards for her children's book My Sister Wants an Elephant. Lynne now lives with her husband in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, spending winters dragon boating where her heart races and summers hiking the Rockies in Vail, Colorado, where her heart sings.

Amazon Author's Page:

https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09C4V51FS?ingress=0&visitId=d516f688-744e-4626-9c73-cc3bf844236f&store_ref=ap_rdr&ref_ap_rdr

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