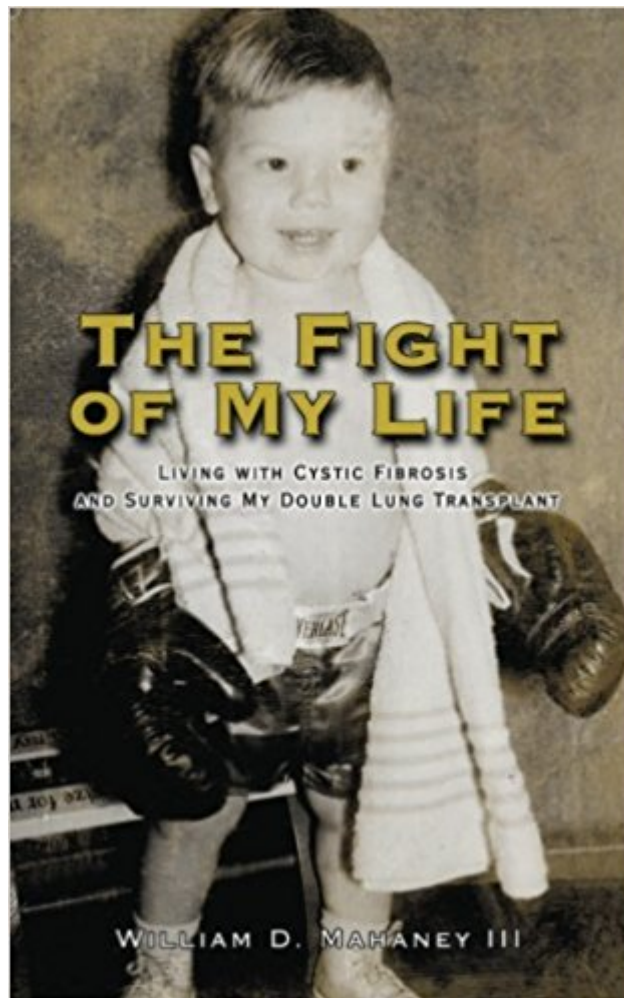




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The Fight Of My Life: Living With Cystic Fibrosis And My Double Lung Transplant



Synopsis

Born with cystic fibrosis, I am no stranger to hospitals, physical exams, PFT's and various other procedures that determined the illness I have and the extend of its' impact on my life. I kept many of my hospital reports, the various test results and procedures I have had throughout the years, including notes I had written and thoughts about these experiences. During the thirty days I was in Cleveland Clinic for my double lung transplant surgery and recovery my wife started a blog informing friends and relatives on my triumphs and setbacks. After my recovery I visited the nurses and respiratory therapists at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, NY. One of the nurse's suggested I write a book on my experiences which I readily dismissed, but...that suggestion got me thinking, and over the course of several months I began to believe writing a book wasn't such a crazy idea. I reflected on the times in my life I could have used a base of reference to more easily comprehend and understand what I have been going through all these years. During my "tune-ups" I often wondered what was going through the mind of the CF patient in the room next to mine on the 10th floor of the Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. Did they have the same issues, problems and fears that I had? How were they dealing with their disease? What were their concerns? Were they sicker or healthier than I was? So, here it is, on paper, my experience living with cystic fibrosis. It's not an extensive day by day diary of my life but it tells a pretty complete story. I know my experiences with this disease differ from other CF'ers, and however unique we all are, there is, still, many similarities and I know those with CF who read this will be able to relate to my story as if it was their own.

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