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AUTOBIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

I Ordered My Future Yesterday: The Julie Cox Story
Julie Cox
Trafford Publishing
978-1-4269-7458-8
Four Stars (out of Five)

Though terrible tragedies happen, survival is possible for those who continue to live despite the darkest of days. This is the recurring theme in Julie Cox's *I Ordered My Future Yesterday: The Julie Cox Story*. Cox herself has suffered through many dark times, from intense poverty in the Philippines to rape, pregnancy from the rape, and leukemia—all by the age of twenty-four. However, her book is not a collection of depressing tales. Instead, it celebrates the author's ability to fight her way past her circumstances and find success, happiness, and redemption.

Not only does Cox survive her traumatic experiences, but she finds ways to make life better for others along the way. She searches for and finds the child she put up for adoption. She provides assistance to disadvantaged kids for their education. She regains the land her father gambled away.

Cox prefers to teach and inspire rather than live in the past. She begins her book with "Fifteen Keys to Life." Here, she shares the wisdom she has gained from her life experiences. For example, she writes that, "The light of a brighter future can be seen through even the smallest hole." Her positive outlook in the face of much adversity is what makes the book so special and inspirational. At no point in her writing does Cox sound angry or depressed. Instead of playing the blame game or cursing the world, she invites readers to "dare to dream."

The chapters of *I Ordered My Future Yesterday* are so packed, though, that they sometimes lose focus. If key events and images were presented in a more organized fashion, the book would be more effective. Still, the author's message shines.

Cox could choose to hide from the demons that haunt her. Instead she greets them with equanimity. "Paying it forward" has become her mantra. She has examined her life, measured the light and lessons, and plunged into the challenge of brightening her present and future. *I Ordered My Future Yesterday* will make readers believe they can do just about anything—if they will but try.

Lisa Bower