



# **The Unbreakable Boy: A Father's Fear, a Son's Courage, and a Story of Unconditional Love**

*Scott LeRette , Susy Flory*

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Like any other teenage boy, Austin loves pizza, movies, dancing, and girls. But unlike most other eighteen-year-olds, he has a rare brittle-bone disease, was locked in a mental ward as a child, and is autistic. Yet Austin doesn't let any of that stop him.

His is a world where suffering a broken back is a minor inconvenience and the quest for the ultimate strawberry shake just might be the best day of his life.

Written with remarkable candor by Austin's father, Scott, and *New York Times* best-selling author Susy Flory, *The Unbreakable Boy* weaves the beautiful and often humorous tale of how Austin teaches his father—and everyone else he encounters—to have faith in God and trust that one day life's messes will all make sense.

Austin's journey dares us all to believe that miracles *are* possible, that hope *does* spring eternal, and that we *can* find joyous moments to celebrate every day.

## The Unbreakable Boy: A Father's Fear, a Son's Courage, and a Story of Unconditional Love Details

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# From Reader Review *The Unbreakable Boy: A Father's Fear, a Son's Courage, and a Story of Unconditional Love* for online ebook

## Eileen Grafton says

I loved this book for its humor in the midst of the incredible challenges of living with an autistic child with a rare bone disease. *The Unbreakable Boy* is the story of Austin LeRette – a wonderful, intense and unpredictable boy who keeps his parents on their toes every minute of every day. Austin has autism and a rare bone disease called brittle bone disease plus OCD and ADHD. Life with the Auzman is an adventure – 24/7 – with snippets of normal thrown in by a merciful God. His exuberance and spurts of intense focus never cease to amaze his parents. And his ability to let go of the bad and see the good in everything and everyone is humbling.

“Austin owns and fully inhabits every moment, no matter how small or consequential. He celebrates every milkshake and every sausage biscuit because to him, what’s before him is the greatest thing in the world, on the greatest day of his life.” Scott LeRette chronicles the life of his son in an engaging and compelling manner that gives hope to all, no matter what challenge they’re facing. This is a great read, filled with hope and humor. I highly recommend it.

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## Katherine Jones says

What do you do if you’re a man who finds himself an unexpected dad, and then an unexpected husband, confronting a maybe-not-so-unexpected addiction as he rears an unexpected son?

Well, if you’re Scott LeRette, you write a popular blog about your journey and turn it into a book. Which becomes a poignant love letter to both your “crazy life” and the son who makes it so.

From the first pages of *The Unbreakable Boy*—in which we meet Austin and then his dad “cowering in the closet”—I was drawn into the story of their quirky, crazy life. First hooked, and then won over by Scott’s heartrendingly authentic representation of his journey, his family, himself. Who wouldn’t be inspired to see how an ordinary guy learned, by God’s grace, to be more like his extraordinary son?

Perhaps because I grew up with a brother with autism and have many good friends parenting children with autism—or perhaps simply because I’m a mom with challenges of my own—Scott’s story helped me. To see blessing in the small things, to find joy in everyday challenges, and to reach for hope.

I recommend *The Unbreakable Boy* to readers who not only wish to increase their awareness of special needs, but to be encouraged. And, as Scott says, to embrace those who are “different” as right and sound and good.

Thanks to Veritas Communications Inc. for providing me a free copy to review. All opinions are mine.

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## **Nicki says**

I really did enjoy this heart-warming memoir by Scott Michael LeRette. I don't have any personal experience of autism, so it was a real eye opener listening to his journey and his family's. It thought it might be a struggle to listen to, but actually it is very funny in places and it filled me with admiration for anyone who has a special needs person in their lives. Lloyd James narrates this book perfectly and drew me into the adventures and stories the author took me on. There were a lot of life lessons in this audio but not cringey or embarrassing, but profound and definitely worth another listen sometime. I definitely recommend this audio to anyone who wants to listen to a really uplifting book, it'll make you appreciate the simple things in life as extraordinary, especially when you see them through Austin's eyes! Thanks to christianaudio.com Reviewer's Program for this copy.

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## **Vanessa says**

3.5 stars

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## **Stella Temenu says**

Just finished reading "The Unbreakable Boy." I was so touched by this honest glimpse into the life of a family learning how to thrive despite challenges that would break many to pieces. Scott LeRette tells with honest candor just what it is like to, with his wife, Teresa, raise his sons, Austin, who was born with autism as well as osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease) and youngest son Logan, and also what it was to awaken to the destruction of Alcoholism on his own life. I found myself literally sobbing over the physical wounds Austin has suffered in his young life, broken bone after broken bone, as well as the innocence and sincerity he immediately applies in forgiving those who would wound his spirit. I want to live more like Austin, exuberant, joyful and full of love for all people, and like his family, courageous and (tired, but) thankful for all they have.

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## **Anne Campbell says**

I have yet to read anything with Susy Flory falling anywhere near flat. She has a wonderful talent for working with people and getting their stories into an awe-inspiring, heart-touching book. This book is no exception. It's definitely another "wow."

Austin LeRette is the first-born baby of two flawed people: Scott is a heavy drinking, ex-navy, macho guy with a propensity to hide in the closet when life gets to be too much--which it does, and often. He also talks a lot to his invisible friend, Joe.

Teresa LeRette has beautiful blue eyes--even the irises are blue--with osteogenesis imperfecta (IO--a bone-breaking disease, literally) and a few secrets in her past.

Little bumps can become big breaks, and there's a possibility she will pass IO on to the baby. Sure enough, Austin is born with the same thing.

There are several unique things about Austin (Auz) they find as he grows up. Yes, he breaks bones right and left. Trips to the emergency room are frequent. He also has autism. Plus a wonderful optimism, a sense of humor that won't quit, and a knack for making friends with absolutely everyone.

Add in a younger brother who somehow becomes the beloved big brother.

Still--their parents find they need more than just optimism and humor to be good parents and spouses. They have a lot to learn about love and life and crises.

This would be the perfect book to begin the new year reading.

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## **Tricia says**

Couldn't finish reading his book.

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## **Melmac MacDonald says**

Unbreakable Boy  
Scott LeRette with Susy flory  
Thomas Nelson Publishers  
November 11, 2014  
Memoir

It was graduation weekend. I walked up to Austin's house where all the festivities were going on celebrating him and there he was sitting on the retaining wall of their driveway.

"Congrats Austin! I'm so proud of you. How are you today?"

"My butt hurts and my back hurts."

And that's just Austin, no pretense, no guessing games. 100 percent real. One of the many reasons I love that kid.

10 minutes later he was sitting by me chomping on some candy and telling me all about his party and thanking me for coming.

What a guy.

When Scott (the dad and author) let me know he was writing a book on Austin and their family I was delighted. I also knew I'd be requesting a review copy as soon as it was ready.

Unbreakable Boy is the story of "unconditional love", the story of a father and his son.

Born with a rare brittle-bone disease and autistic Austin is defined by none of his diagnoses and he's broken every box he's been asked to fit in. He is unique, he is challenging, he is loved. He is also a popular fixture in our town and at my church.

Scott does a beautiful job of weaving the tale of Austin. It's told with such honesty and candor I'll admit I started this late at night and finished it a few hours later, well into the early morning hours. Thoughts of sleep and my agenda for the morning flew out the window as I entered the life of the LeRette family.

I personally have known Austin and his family for a number of years now. Austin loves my parents "Pastor and Connie" and for years just referred to me as "Connie's daughter". Seen in our church and around town wearing one of his wacky hats Austin makes a statement everywhere he goes. I remembered a number of the stories from later in the book and will never forget the first time Austin raised his hands in worship in our church. It was both touching and hilarious, as Scott describes so well.

This book is both inspiring and challenging. I'll be honest and say that I truly did laugh out loud, and cry a couple times too. I so appreciate Scott's openness with the reality of life with Austin. It's challenging, sometimes achingly so, it's also beautiful. Written in a timeline way that doesn't make you feel like you're reading a timeline you'll love the way the story weaves together. From Scott meeting his wife to Austin's birth to the realization that something wasn't quite right with Austin all the way to him going to prom, the story just keeps on getting better and better. It's captivating.

This book has no obvious agenda other than to tell the story of Austin and his dad. Autism is mentioned but not parked on. As the reader, you can't help, however, be intrigued by autism as well as the brittle bone disease.

Throughout the entire book is the very obvious thread of God's grace. Austin loves his Jesus and that love of his Creator has been modeled by two parents who came broken and needy before the throne of grace. You'll love how God woe's Scott in particular.

While it was particularly heart-warming for me to read about a boy and a family I know personally and love so dearly I can promise you you don't have to know them to love them and love this book. I read it and passed it on and everyone who has had it in their hands has become instantly engrossed and fallen in love with Austin.

I highly recommending going over to Amazon to pre-order this book today. It's a story so sweetly written that I know you'll want to read over and over and over again. And if you're passing through Red Oak, Iowa, head to our local grocery store. You just might see Austin carrying out groceries and making everyone he comes in contact with smile just a little brighter. He's just that kind of kid and it's just that kind of story.

My sincere thanks to Thomas Nelson publishers for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for my real and honest review.

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## **Maryellen says**

*"A Father's Fear, A Son's Courage, And a Story of Unconditional Love"* (taken from the cover) couldn't be a more fitting synopsis of this book. What a beautiful love story from a father to his exceptional son.

When Scott and Teresa met, sparks flew. They were young and attractive and, well, you know what happens... Before they knew it, they were pregnant with their first son, Austin. Austin was a beautiful child who just couldn't seem to be placated. In time, Scott and Teresa would learn that Austin would face challenges that would break their heart, their will and their resolve~~not only is Austin autistic, he also suffers from a brittle-bone disease that renders him, at best, fragile; but what amazing lessons they would learn from a boy who would simply remain unbreakable in spirit and unshakable in faith.

This book tells the story of how Scott come to learn from his son how to face each day. Austin LeRette is an amazing young man who can make a friend with just a smile and make a believer of a doubter. And he also just may someday own a restaurant where he'll serve the most amazing strawberry milkshake that you'll ever have!

4.5 Stars

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### **Sherry says**

This was an interesting book by the father of an autistic son who also has osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease) along with some heart issues. In a manner that is often humorous he relates a number of stories about what life is like with his energetic son.

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### **Stacie says**

"The more I research and study autism and try to uncover the secrets behind Austin's behaviors, the more I'm coming to see him as someone who doesn't necessarily need fixing. I'm beginning to see my son as someone I need to better understand and accept instead of continually trying to change him as if something is broken and wrong."

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

I received this book in the mail from a goodreads giveaway.

My apologies for the late review, this book took two months to arrive in the mail for some reason. Anyway, without further ado, here's my review on *The Unbreakable Boy*!

This book is excellent, really intense to read. Imagine if you were a perfectly normal teenager, but you had a disease that made your bones break really easily! Austin's story is remarkable, and this book is a testament to free will, effort and living your dreams. I loved it for the most part, and I highly recommend it.

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### **Nancy says**

Just finished reading "The Unbreakable Boy." Scott LeRette tells with honest candor just what it is like to, with his wife, Teresa, raise his sons, Austin, who was born with autism as well as osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease) and youngest son Logan, and also what it was to awaken to the destruction of Alcoholism on his own life. I found myself literally sobbing over the physical wounds Austin has suffered, broken bone after broken bone, as well as the innocence and sincerity he immediately applies in forgiving those who would wound his spirit. I want to live more like Austin, exuberant, joyful and full of love for all people, and like his family, courageous and (tired, but) thankful for all they have. Want to be inspired? Read.

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**Judi says**

It was interesting but not compelling. A nice story about a man who unexpectedly becomes a husband and father to a child with multiple challenges and how that man grew. Some may connect with this story better than I did.

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**Darcy King says****Heartwarming!**

So honest and joyful. The book is more helpful because the author isn't afraid to share the whole story. By the time it's all over, you understand more what it means to become like little children. The book practically glows!

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