

What People are Saying About *Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope*

readers' reviews and reactions

Real stories from her life, advice from what she's learned, and an inspiring message of hope to all who need it, this book is so important. A manual for those living with chronic illnesses and also for the people around them.

~ Pamela Doerksen, MS patient

Written with clarity and candour. this book demonstrates that choosing to live with grace and humour amid profound challenges is a choice. But in a life replete with choices, it is the wisest one any of us can make.

~ Patricia Paddey, writer

I quickly discovered that I'm far from alone in dealing with mental illness. ~Audrey

I laughed and I cried ...all on the last page! I just finished it. Thank you for this incredible book!! It's fabulous.
~Jeri-Anne

Canadian
content!



NEW RELEASE by Winnipeg author Robyn Derksen Olfert

endorsed by experts

...a must-read for anyone seeking to be more inclusive and empathetic.

~ Shellie Power, Bachelor of Special Education, executive director of Hope Centre Ministries

I'd highly recommend you read it to better understand the journey of so many.

~ Al Letkeman, MDiv, pastor

A mix of subjective and objective professional details that are quite enlightening.

~ Georges Saab, MD, MS neurologist

Robyn's book is an eloquent and humorous look at a hard and complex journey.

~ Julia Stoesz, certified professional counsellor

A delightful read for anyone interested in health care and the intersection of functionality and style.

~ Andrew McPhail, CO(c), BHK, Canadian certified orthotist

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ROBYN DERKSEN OLFERT



Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope offers a refreshingly honest glimpse into the complexities of navigating life with multiple disabilities.



—Shellie Power, Executive Director of Hope Centre Ministries

NEW RELEASE

Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope

ISBN: 978-1-4866-2627-4

Now available via local Christian bookstores,
Chapters/Indigo, Amazon, and more.



ROBYN DERKSEN OLFERT FOCUSES ON THE UNSEEN IN HER NEW BOOK *INVISIBLY ILL AND LIVING WITH HOPE*

WINNIPEG, MB, DECEMBER 2024—Robyn Derksen Olfert shares her story of living with four chronic and invisible illnesses in her new book *Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope*. Robyn aims to offer hope to her readers as a woman who has been loved, cared for, and supported consistently, by her church and broader community. Readers facing similar challenges will find comfort knowing that they are not alone. Caregivers will feel inspired by the stories shared by Robyn's caring community. Despite the pain and setbacks of living with chronic, invisible illnesses, Robyn's message is that God offers us a different and better future than what we could have ever planned for ourselves.

“We are better at dealing with and getting through trials in the present than we think we will be in the hypothetical future.”

—excerpt from *Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope*

ROBYN DERKSEN OLFERT is a Canadian writer living with multiple chronic illnesses. She lives with her husband and adult daughter, delighting friends with her sense of humour and expressing herself through music and writing.



WORD ALIVE PRESS is a Canadian Christian publishing company located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. A hybrid publisher, Word Alive Press offers authors world-wide distribution services via Ingram and supply-chain distribution through Anchor Distributors. A nondenominational Christian publisher, Word Alive Press seeks to create a community of authors who will impact the Kingdom of God.

INVISIBLY ILL AND LIVING WITH HOPE

“This book recounts my experience living with chronic illness and the resulting disability. In Part One, you’ll learn the particulars of each of four significant health challenges I’ve encountered. Part Two will introduce you to practical ways I have contended with these surprises. Throughout the book, you will encounter themes of hope, blessing, and community...Although these health hurdles are experienced widely, it’s less common for one person to manage all four. I tend to be an overachiever, and acquiring multiple invisible illnesses is an area in which I have unwillingly excelled. You’ll be pleased to know that not one of my sicknesses is contagious, not from reading about them or from being around me.”

—Excerpt from *Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope*



Print:

Format: 6" x 9", 192 pages
Softcover: 978-1-4866-2627-4
Canadian Retail Price: \$17.99

eBook:

ISBN: 978-1-4866-2628-1
Format: PDF, EPUB
Canadian Retail Price: \$8.99

“I’m sorry, Mrs. Olfert. The results of your MRI were not normal.” Those words marked the beginning of the second chronic invisible illness for Robyn Derksen Olfert. As the years progressed, Robyn went on to add two more major illnesses and a raft of less impacting ones.

Living with chronic illness and disability is often overwhelming and challenging, and knowing how to interact with others experiencing these complications can be difficult. In *Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope*, Robyn candidly shares her story of living with multiple chronic and invisible illnesses and the disability that has resulted. Her vulnerable, transparent, and often humorous writing provides awareness of life with her realities. Robyn empowers her readers to gain understanding of how to relate to individuals in similar circumstances, and she outlines practical ways to make a difference in their lives.

Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope is for people who are struggling and are desperate to know they aren’t alone and for caregivers who want insight into how to be the support their loved ones need. *Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope* is equally for those looking to better understand others impacted by health challenges. Above all, this is a book offering hope!

ABOUT ROBYN DERKSEN OLFERT

Robyn Derksen Olfert was born and raised in Winnipeg, Canada and has continued to make her home there. She graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Education and enjoyed five and a half years as a middle school teacher. Her career was interrupted when she and her husband, Kevin, joyfully welcomed their daughter, Claire. Claire's arrival also coincided with Robyn's "big diagnosis," which became a life-altering event in her family's life. Profound fatigue and subsequent disability hindered Robyn's return to full-time teaching. As the years progressed, she "collected" a total of four significant invisible illnesses along with various less impacting ones.

While in university and managing the first of these illnesses, Robyn completed her Level 10 Piano with the Royal Conservatory of Music, achieving a high standing. This has been one of her greatest accomplishments, and she has joyfully opened her home and heart to students of all ages and abilities in her small private piano studio. Teaching piano has been an ideal blend of her skills.

Robyn and her family have been members of a local church for years, and they have relished their support and community. She enjoys keeping her close extended family and loving circle of friends connected and laughing.

Connect with Robyn!



www.robynolfert.ca



Robyn Derksen Olfert



@robyns.hope



Robyn is available to speak on:

- Suffering
- Disappointment and Hope
- Managing illness and disability

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was the process of writing a book like in the context of the health challenges you face?
2. How can others show love, care, and support to people living with illness or disability?
3. How have you learned to live with a healthy perspective amidst your health hiccups?
4. Explain why Job 1:21 is an important verse for you.
5. I hear you like to laugh. What role has laughter played in your story of invisible illness and disability?

For media inquiries or to schedule an interview with Robyn Derksen Olfert, please contact:

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