

(Mobile book) The Cure: How a Father Raised \$100 Million--and Bucked the Medical Establishment--in a Quest to Save His Children

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Geeta Anand

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Geeta Anand : The Cure: How a Father Raised \$100 Million--and Bucked the Medical Establishment--in a Quest to Save His Children before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cure: How a Father Raised \$100 Million--and Bucked the Medical Establishment--in a Quest to Save His Children:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring story (but a bit overlong in the telling)By Paul MastinA

while back, I commented on John Crowley's memoir, *Chasing Miracles*, in which Crowley recounts some of his experiences seeking a cure for his kids, two of whom have Pompe syndrome. His efforts have been truly heroic and groundbreaking, literally saving the lives of his children and improving their health by spearheading the development of drugs to treat Pompe. Their story first came to the attention of the public through a series of articles in the *Wall Street Journal* by Geeta Anand. The lengthy subtitle of Anand's book, *How a Father Raised \$100 Million--and Bucked the Medical Establishment--in a Quest to Save His Children*, tells most of the story in a nutshell, but doesn't come close to communicating the challenges Crowley, his family, and business associates challenged along the way. *Chasing Miracles* was heart-breaking as the father tells his story, but *The Cure* will break your heart, too. Much of it does read like something a *WSJ* business journalist would write, recounting the business deals and corporate life in meticulous detail, but Anand captures Crowley's emotion and passion as well as she describes the business angle. Besides learning about Pompe disease, the reader will gain insight into the biotech industry and Wall Street dealings. *The Cure* is well-written and tells an amazing, inspiring story. Anand chronicles the events meticulously and compellingly. But I think she fell prey to the common "stretch this article into a book" syndrome. I appreciated her commitment to detail and skillful crafting of the story, but I couldn't help thinking that I would have been satisfied by the articles themselves. All criticism aside (I realize this criticism only reflects my own shallowness and laziness anyway!), the bottom line is an inspiring story that will make you want to meet this terrific family and join their efforts to treat rare, formerly untreatable diseases. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. *Dual Focus* By Evelyn Uyemura This book was made into the movie "Extraordinary Measures," and I'm glad that the author probably was well-paid for the effort she put into this book. The level of detail here is extraordinary in itself. But at the same time, it is also the book's one weakness: what story is she telling? Is this a human interest story, an inspiring story of the struggles and triumphs of a family with more than its fair share of heartbreak and suffering? Or is it a story about venture capital and the role it plays in the pharmaceutical industry? Actually, it's both, and it pretty much works, since John Crowley is both the father of an extraordinary family and the business executive who tries to find a cure for a terrible disease. But because of this double focus, almost any reader is going to find parts of the story a waste of time, and get the urge to start skimming sections. There is also quite a bit of information about the science side of the story as well, but again, neither the human interest reader nor the business reader is likely to care. The writing is smooth and unobtrusive. The pacing is excellent. The story is heart-breaking and amazing. But the question of audience remains. Also, since the author originally wrote two stories about this family and their situation for the *Wall Street Journal*, one of the morals she draws in her conclusion is that this book demonstrates "the power of the profit motive to speed science into medicine." I think many readers would question whether this story or any story shows "the power of the profit motive" in such a positive light. The need to put stockholder value first, above the needs of patients with rare diseases, and the extraordinary cost of the medicine, as well as the extraordinary financial rewards that a man like John Crowley receives, all call that conclusion into question in my mind. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Fascinating story* By Helen the Swimmer The storyline is compelling, but author gets carried away with detail at times. I would have liked to see pictures of the main characters over the years.

“Amazing! Explores human courage under the most trying circumstances.” —New York Post
“An inspirational story about business, medical science, and one father's refusal to give up hope.” —Boston Globe
The book that inspired the movie, *Extraordinary Measures*, starring Harrison Ford, Brendan Fraser, and Keri Russell, *The Cure* by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Geeta Anand is the remarkable true story of one father's determination to find a cure for his terminally sick children even if it meant he had to build a business from scratch to do so. At once a riveting story of the birth of an enterprise—ala Tracy Kidd's *The Soul of a New Machine*—and an inspiring tale of the indomitable human spirit in the vein of Erin Brockovich and *A Civil Action*, *The Cure* is a testament to ingenuity, unflinching will, and unconquerable love.

From Booklist At 15 months old, Megan Crowley was diagnosed with Pompe disease, a rare genetic disorder that was likely to reduce her life span to five years at most. Her five-month-old brother, Patrick, shared the same disease and its crippling progression. Their father, John Crowley, a freshly minted Harvard MBA graduate, was determined to use his brains and connections to find a cure. He started a family foundation to fund research on Pompe disease and eventually headed a biomedical start-up company with a promising approach. Ironically, the more involved he got in efforts to find a cure, the slimmer the prospects were for his own children as hard business decisions and conflict-of-interest questions thwarted his efforts. Blocked from getting his children into clinical trials that could prolong their lives, and watching them grow weaker and weaker, Crowley concedes that he was occasionally tempted to simply steal the precious drugs. But he pressed ahead. Anand, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter with the *Wall Street Journal*, delivers a detailed and heart-wrenching account of a father's extraordinary efforts to save his children and find a cure for a debilitating and life-threatening disease. Vanessa Bush Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved “Suspenseful, poignant! Anand's *The Cure* is a wild rollercoaster ride at the edge of

medicine. From the Back Cover The remarkable true story of one father's race against time to found a business that would cure his sick children. John and Aileen Crowley were on top of the world. With a brand-new Harvard Business School degree, three beautiful children, a new house, and a great job, they thought that they had just entered the best years of life. Then doctors diagnosed their two youngest children with Pompe disease, and everything changed. Fifteen-month-old Megan and five-month-old Patrick were given only months to live. Pompe disease, the Crowleys were told, was so rare that no company had bothered spending the money needed to sponsor research. There was no cure, no treatment—only the gradual degeneration of muscle so that at the end, the children would be unable to walk, eat, or even breathe on their own. It was a nightmare the Crowleys could hardly comprehend. But John Crowley refused to accept this death sentence—and in the absence of other options, he made his own. Determined to find scientists who could develop a replacement enzyme that would keep the disease at bay and his children alive, Crowley quit his job as a financial consultant and invested himself and his life savings in a biotechnology start-up company. In just over a year, Novazyme Pharmaceuticals, Inc., went from an endowment of \$37,000 to \$27 million, and was sold to Genzyme Corp. soon thereafter for a news-breaking \$137.5 million. But the struggle wasn't over yet, and scientific setbacks, accusations of conflict of interest, business troubles, and the children's own worsening condition would test the limits of John and Aileen's minds and hearts as they fought towards a cure. With deft prose and devastating clarity, Pulitzer Prize-winning Wall Street Journal reporter Geeta Anand weaves together the disparate threads of this remarkable story of cutting-edge science; of business acumen and daring; and of the indomitable fighting spirit of a family that refuses to give in. Heart-wrenching yet triumphant, *The Cure* takes readers from the boardrooms and laboratories to hospital beds and kindergarten classrooms. With its captivating and ultimately deeply uplifting narrative, *The Cure* is a wholly American story of commerce and technology, of determination and daring, and of family and the power of a belief in happy endings.