

Schuyler's Monster is a captivating book about a journey of a couple with their daughter who has a rare disorder called polymicrogyria. The book starts with him telling of how he and his wife Julie came to know each other and about his previous rocky relationship. The couple moves several times, each time in search of looking for answers and a better situation for their daughter and her "monster". It is a journey of finding the diagnosis and looking for answers. The dad tells of their journey from a special needs parent perspective; how people treated them and their daughter Schuyler, the compassion of others to help get her to the doctor and her AAC device. The writer openly talks of his battle with the concept and belief of a God and his role with the "monster". The last part of the book is Schuyler's journey through the school system and the education side of things. They were parents searching for answers with optimism and they faced opposition, but in the end Schuyler rose up and showed people that even little girls can fight monsters.

I loved this book. I had a really hard time putting this book down and I feel like this is because the writer makes you feel like you are having a conversation with him instead of reading a book. Several times during the book I wish I could have talked to him and respond to some of the situations and themes. It really surprised me that both of them had affairs and how casual he made it seem and feel. Although I understand the train of thought he had, I cannot justify an affair. Marriage should be a stronghold and the place that you turn to however, seeing as neither of them believers, they may not have had that instilled in them and I feel like that may be missing in their relationship. I also found it very interesting that even though the writer claims to be agnostic, he still referenced God numerous times. I found it

profound that he went to the church and cried out to someone he didn't believe to be in existence. It was in these instances that I really sensed that he does believe, he just cannot make sense of it. I think that he may feel like because he doesn't have it all figured out he can't believe in God, or trust the existence of him. I really can resonate with this. Many times in my life I have wondered and questioned and even cried out about how a "good God" can allow things to happen. What I want the author to know is that it is good to have questions and that it is OK to cry out and be angry. That the God of the universe can handle someone being mad at him, and just like in every relationship, you are going to get mad and angry, he is a relational God and will give you nothing that you cannot handle. That sometimes our biggest struggles are our biggest blessings. And I think to an extent the author understands this, that at the end of the book he says he thinks about God more. I think that through my lens of faith I see things a little bit different. Because of my faith I know that God has a reason and a plan, that he works through the "broken" and turns it into the beautiful. I have seen more of God's love and divine nature through special needs children than I have anywhere else. Because I have faith in God I can connect that the disability is God given- it is a different ability. Through my lens of faith I can see that they have more love to give and show us that that is what life is really about. God makes all things beautiful and I definitely see God's handiwork in Schuyler and her parent's love for her and their perseverance. I am so blessed that I have a faith to lean on and a God who is the rock of my foundation.

After reading this book I was very convicted as my role as a future SLP and how my faith will influence how I do things, especially when it comes to interacting

with parents who aren't necessarily believers. I firmly believe that God is going to work through that in amazing ways- that being placed somewhere where you can interact with people on a daily basis and touch them with the love of Christ daily. For one, I want to be someone who doesn't give up and settle for the easiest solution. I want to be someone who still believes that God performs miracles and can help people do things that others don't see possible. For example Schuyler really could use a more advanced device, she just needed someone to believe in her and provide her with those possibilities. I think that by doing that parents will see the hope and faith you have in their child and that will inspire them and maybe even change them. You never know what conversations you will have with someone. I believe that God calls us to be radical in our love for other people and I hope that by taking that on I will be able to serve in awesome ways. Even though I won't be working in a strictly Christian work place the lord says that all who labor out of Christ labor in vain. I want to honor the king in the work that I do and do it with all of my heart for the glory for him. I believe that parents will be able to see the love you have and the faith you have in their child, and that will make all of the difference. Maybe even an eternal difference.