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Rishabh Puri
Entrepreneur & Author

THE ULTIMATE SURVIVOR YOUTH ICON

Author Rishabh Puri has a medical condition that makes his life different from the rest. But unlike others around him, he sees this not as a curse, but as an opportunity to cherish life and all the bitter-sweet gifts it brings with it.

I was blessed by loving parents who showed heaven and earth to keep me as safe and healthy as they could, but they could not protect me from the dangers hidden inside my own body. I had barely begun to breathe when I was diagnosed with Apertachondria (dangerously high cholesterol) (I was just six months old). When I was ten, the discovery of a faulty valve in my heart sent me on a series of surgeries and visits to the doctor during my adolescence.

The doctors tried to put off replacing the valve as long as they could, but eventually a replacement was needed. Just a few months after some blockages were discovered in my heart which led to further complications, it's been a long and winding road towards recovery. The journey continues to this day. After a few years I met with a car accident at 21, which left me with immense pain in my legs. It was discovered that I had aortic aneurysm, which is the death of large blood due to lack of blood supply.

Still, I'm keeping a positive outlook in spite of the pain and focusing on the excitement of the success of my most recent books. Inside the heart of things and flying without things and looking towards the future as I write other books, I began to greet each day with a smile on my face, knowing that my attitude was the only thing that could keep me from a life of despair. I became the family provider, the funny guy with my friends, and the person everyone could recognize from the smile on my face. (Holding

"In foolishness you'll gain wisdom, by falling you'll rise, in rebelling against God, you'll accept him, by stammering you'll learn to speak, and by hating you'll learn to love. I say this, because I've gone through it, I've seen it. And with this said, I believe we are all strong enough to conquer life with a big broad smile"

that doctor's drawing blood were really just doing some exciting new spa treatment, or that in physical therapy I was really training myself to be the next big thing in boxing. The "fucky" I was able to use laughter as the best medicine and feel more quality than anyone believed I could.

Though I've always been an avid reader, it was writing that captivated me when nothing else could. When I was suffering severe pain, I knew that I could always turn to my notebook and write poetry, taking in what I couldn't say out loud. It could also extend that understanding to an audience who might find solace in my books the way I've always found solace in literature.

I intended to write for other people, so that they could see the struggles

of my life and find the inspiration to survive their own struggles. What started out as a hobby quickly grew into something at which I found true success. And I realized that I could use that success to help other people who had struggled in their lives. I have dedicated a large portion of the profits that I've made from writing to charitable organizations such as Save the Children, Disability of the Blind, and Helping the Mentally Challenged.

I was a writer for years before I went about seeking publication. At first it was just the tool which used to keep me going through sadness and confusion, a way of spilling out my thoughts and interpreting them through verse and prose whenever I came face to face with confusion and doubt. But as I began talking to my friends and family there were people whom I realized who thought my story was worth writing to the world. Gradually I gained the inspiration to put myself to the test of writing for others.

It was hard at first and did not know precisely what I was doing. Writing isn't just an art, it's a craft one has to improve upon.

Hope that my writing is able to give others that same sense of insight and joy that I feel when writing these characters. Know that God is on your side, and that somewhere out there, a man with a pen is writing to tell you that he is on your side too. We can overcome even the darkest of days with a smile on our faces if we only believe in the power of optimism that lies within.