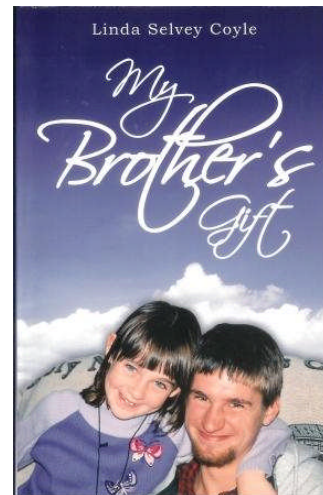


A Review of  
***My Brother's Gift***  
Author: Linda Selvey Coyle

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient

Reflecting recently on having come across literally no books written from the donor perspective of organ donation and transplantation - except for a few living donor books - I was pleasantly surprised in the gift of a small gem of a book titled "My Brother's Gift." In its very short 54 pages of lifelike dialogue and narrative to say that it touched my heart as no other book has seems trite yet very true. I often use the amount of elapsed time it takes for me to read a book as one indication of its quality and despite the brevity this book is the fastest read I have yet done and along with the many tears shed as I breezed through those pages, that short time lapse and those deep emotional feelings put this near the very top of my list of best books.



Told from the perspective of Grace, a sixth grade sister facing the sudden loss of her loved older brother, we truly live and feel the family experience of losing a child and facing the decisions around organ donation. Linda Coyle, both the real-life mother and first time author of her story, captures in this unique and creative storytelling perspective the true life heart wrenching experience of unexpected loss of a son but blessed with the opportunity of respecting his wishes to be an organ donor. How does one tell an eleven year old, or for that matter break the news to a six year old, that their brother is brain dead and not coming home? How can a family provide for a loving way to say their good byes, each in their own ways? This is a family story in which we the readers, through a simple but so beautiful telling, come to feel the many dimensions of sorrow and support as a family lovingly deals with each other's needs in this time of personal and family crisis, some times in tears, yet often in loving laughter of their son's life moments. Uniquely, this book can be read by young and old alike, parent or child, family or friend, donor or recipient, medical professional or general public - all will read it and find themselves drawn in and touched deeply in their own heart. Linda offers the world a precious gift in its telling that will honor their Bobby's life and keep his name and memory alive forever.

On behalf of this reviewer heart recipient, thank you Linda and family, not only for your gifts of Bobby's life saving donations, but also for the open sharing of your hearts in telling this wonderful and loving story.

Note: **My Brother's Gift** is available in paperback directly from the author or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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**Brief bio:**

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered free in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained by contacting him at GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM.