

Synopsis and Blurb for Jerry Lewis Told Me I Was Going To Die by Matthew Del Papa

Disability may be his lot, but he decided long-ago not to let it control his fate.

A collection of humorous essays centered on life with a disability. These essays give a wry look at the obstacles faced while growing up in a small town in Northern Ontario. For many people even the thought of being disabled is a nightmare. Matthew gets that fear. Sitting where he does, in a wheelchair for the past 40 years, he knows first-hand that living with a disability in a small town is not easy. But, rather than dwell on his physical impairments, he has chosen to laugh at life's ridiculousness. Whether it's his ongoing feud with William Shakespeare, his elevator meet-cutes with famous celebrities, or his love-hate relationship with public transportation, Matthew reveals the humour in being disabled. Filled with determination, hilarity, and even the odd insight, *Jerry Lewis Told Me I Was Going to Die* is a giant raspberry to the disease that shaped him, but cannot define him.

"Reading through Del Papa's memories, I can almost hear him say, "Picture it. Capreol, 1978." His unfiltered, touching, sometimes self-deprecating, and often funny-as-heck anecdotes show us how he tenaciously navigates through the many layers of ableism without skipping a rimshot."

—Cait Gordon, co-editor of *Nothing Without Us* and *Nothing Without Us Too*