The Struggle Bus of Rewriting My Story of Infertility and Loss



The Mother of Second Chances: The Struggle Bus of **Rewriting My Story of Infertility and Loss**

by Justine Brooks Froelker



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I never thought I would be one of those women who struggled to get pregnant. I was healthy, active, and had a regular menstrual cycle. But after a year of trying, I still hadn't conceived. I went to the doctor, who ran some tests and told me that I had unexplained infertility.

I was devastated. I had always dreamed of being a mother, and now it seemed like that dream would never come true. I went through a period of deep grief and despair. I felt like a failure, and I was ashamed of my body for not being able to do what it was supposed to do.

But I refused to give up. I started seeing a therapist, who helped me to process my grief and to develop coping mechanisms. I also joined a

support group for women with infertility, where I met other women who were going through the same thing. Their stories gave me hope, and they helped me to realize that I was not alone.

After a few years of trying, I finally got pregnant. But my joy was short-lived. At my 20-week ultrasound, I found out that my baby had a serious birth defect. I was given the option to terminate the pregnancy, but I couldn't bring myself to do it. I loved my baby, and I wanted to give him a chance at life.

My son was born prematurely at 26 weeks. He spent the first few months of his life in the NICU, fighting for his survival. He had multiple surgeries and procedures, and there were many times when I thought I was going to lose him. But he was a fighter, and he eventually pulled through.

My son is now a healthy and happy 5-year-old boy. He is the light of my life, and I am so grateful for every day that I have with him. But the experience of infertility and loss has changed me forever. I have learned that life is precious and that anything can happen.

I have also learned that it is possible to rewrite our stories. We may not always get the ending we want, but we can choose to make the best of what we have. I am not the same person I was before I went through infertility and loss. I am stronger, more resilient, and more compassionate. And I am grateful for the opportunity to share my story with others in the hope that it will help them to find hope and healing.

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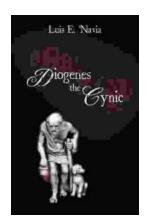
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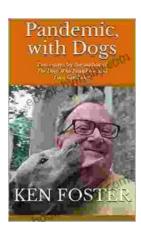
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