



The Best Seat in the House: How I Woke Up One Tuesday and Was Paralyzed for Life

By Allen Rucker



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Like the day Elvis died or O.J. was acquitted, the Tuesday you wake up paralyzed is not a day you soon forget. For writer Allen Rucker—baby boomer, husband, father of two, aging Hollywood also-ran—life started over that Tuesday when, at the age of fifty-one, he was struck by a rare disorder—transverse myelitis—that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Why him? Was he being punished? Was it his stressful life? His frustrating career? Telling too many Christopher Reeve jokes? Dazed and paralyzed, he was forced to reevaluate everything, from the simplest bodily functions to the mysteries of the universe.

In a style that is at once funny and moving, *The Best Seat in the House* offers an unpretentious and unapologetic account of learning to live with paralysis. Without trivializing his situation, and without sermons or clichés, Rucker invites all readers, whether disabled or not, to identify with him for better or for worse. This remarkably comic and heartfelt book speaks to the fragility of life and to the resilience and adaptability of a single, ordinary human being. Lucky for us, this human being has a sense of humor.

At first, it may not look like the best seat in the house, but read on. You might be surprised.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Rucker (*The Sopranos: A Family History*) has written many TV shows, including the 2005 Peabody Award-winning Vietnam documentary, *Two Days in October*. At 51, he became a victim of transverse myelitis, a rare neurological disorder that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Opening with an entertaining, sarcastic glimpse at the TV industry and his struggles to script amusing "patter for splashy Hollywood ego fests," he interrupts the fun with a chilling account of the two hours in 1996 when he suddenly became paralyzed. Learning to reprogram his life at L.A.'s Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, he felt "fear, guilt, loss, more fear" and had crying jags plus the shame and embarrassment of bowel accidents. Listing a litany of "pride-bruising indignities," such as being gawked at and carried up stairs "like a beanbag chair," he explains how he confronted each new challenge. With many pages devoted to dealing with the "overly kind" able-bodied and their self-conscious attitudes, this potent memoir is also an effective how-to guidebook for anyone who is disabled. Rucker is a gifted observer-humorist, unleashing a straight-arrow honesty and a vibrant, penetrating wit while probing the most intimate aspects of contemporary life and human behavior. (Jan. 9)

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From [Booklist](#)

TV writer Rucker likes to think he's on the cutting edge of what lies in the future for all of us. Truth be told, he is. In our hearts, we all know we will one day lose our independence to the ravages of old age and/or illness. Rucker doesn't make it seem as bad, however, as many anticipate. The limiting problem for him is transverse myelitis, which struck him from out of the blue when he was a mere 51 years old and in excellent health. In an hour and a half on a Tuesday afternoon, the able-bodied runner was thrown back to some of the physical helplessness of infancy by paralysis from the waist down. Ten years later, and with self-deprecating humor, he is able to walk--er, *roll*--through the ups and downs of being wheelchair bound. He has two rules: never whine, and never ask "Why me?" since that leads only to whining. He does lament the lack of positive wheelchair role models in the movies. Meanwhile, he's a good literary role model. *Donna Chavez*

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Review

"Very moving, not scary. [Rucker] is a talented man."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gary Flint:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important usually. The book The Best Seat in the House: How I Woke Up One Tuesday and Was Paralyzed for Life seemed to be making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The guide The Best Seat in the House: How I Woke Up One Tuesday and Was Paralyzed for Life is not only giving you more new information but also for being your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship together with the book The Best Seat in the House: How I Woke Up One Tuesday and Was

Paralyzed for Life. You never feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

April Robles:

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make them keep up with the era and that is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which you should start with. This The Best Seat in the House: How I Woke Up One Tuesday and Was Paralyzed for Life is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Cynthia Olson:

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the title The Best Seat in the House: How I Woke Up One Tuesday and Was Paralyzed for Life suitable to you? The actual book was written by famous writer in this era. The particular book untitled The Best Seat in the House: How I Woke Up One Tuesday and Was Paralyzed for Lifeis the one of several books that will everyone read now. This particular book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know prior to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this publication. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world in this particular book.

Ann Conley:

On this era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. Among the books in the top record in your reading list is usually The Best Seat in the House: How I Woke Up One Tuesday and Was Paralyzed for Life. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking way up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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