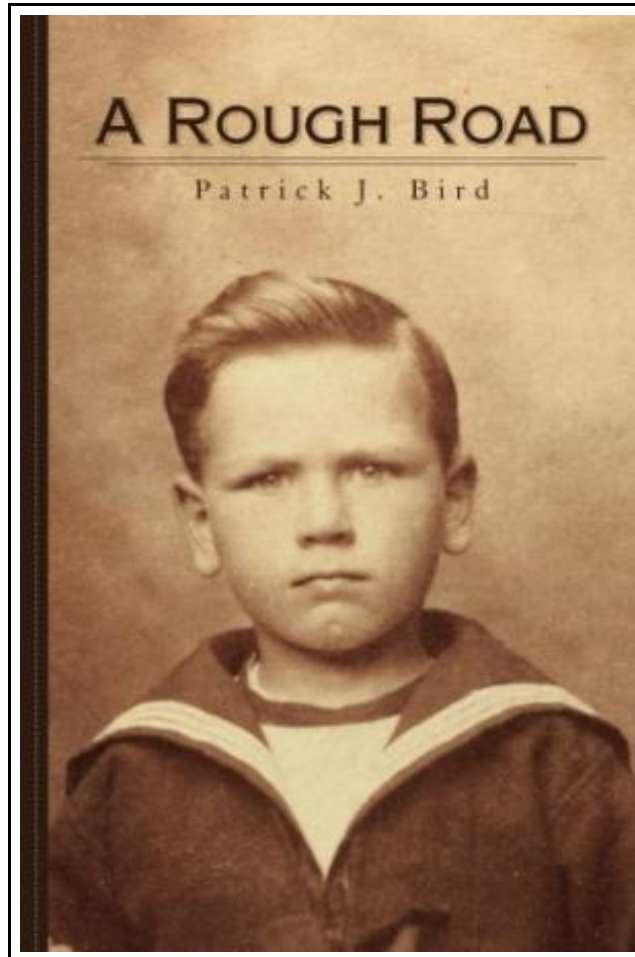


A Rough Road



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Reviews

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(Prof. Alvis Wuckert)

A ROUGH ROAD



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Createspace, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 203 x 133 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.During the polio epidemic of 1940, four year-old Paddy finds himself ensconced for nineteen months in a reconstruction home far from his family. Since all the other children are at least twice his age, he is placed in a room, initially by himself, instead of one of the dormitories. Enduring aching loneliness, painful treatments, and lengthy, frustrating rehabilitation sessions, Paddy learns to overcome his fears and to prevail physically and emotionally through his interactions with a colorful cast of hospital staff-from the friendly giant orderly Johnny Cant and the lighthearted Nurse Kelly to the no-nonsense physical therapist Ma Gillick, an evangelical swimming instructor Mr. Cooney, and the imposing and frightening Dr. Strasburg and his mean assistant Nurse McCormick. Perhaps most important to his reconstruction however, is the arrival of roommate Joey. An adventure loving, bedridden youngster with spina bifida, three years Paddy s senior, Joey introduces Paddy to the joys and tomfoolery of boyhood and inspires him with his physical and mental toughness. Then, there are the infrequent-but significant-visits from Paddy s mom, who is sure the Blessed Virgin will cure him, and his pop, who fears in his heart that he will have a cripple for a son. Finally, after spending over one-third of his entire life to that point in the reconstruction home, and forever changed by his experiences, Paddy returns home to the family he loves and missed so terribly. An uplifting and surprising recollection of author Patrick J. Bird s childhood treatment for polio, A Rough Road is a testament to the innate will and spirit of children faced difficult challenges. With a stunning facility for place, voice, and character, as well as the...



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