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Walk in My Shoes

The Path to Empathy and Compassion

Book Review by Joel R. Dennstedt for Readers' Favorite (2.23.2021)

Similar to the engaging people/story memes tied to one American city so immensely popular on Facebook, but more focused and thematic and international in scope, and with a lovely dose of personal artwork gracing each chapter, *Walk in My Shoes* by Cliff Hakim devotes itself to a shared examination of compassion and empathy as shown in everyday life. Short vignettes of self-revelation offered from a variety of sources, both public and personal, accompanied by author-sketched stylings of their favorite shoes (lending a provocatively literal meaning to the more metaphorical and memoir-generated text) are compiled here into a highly readable, highly accessible, and highly positive book. One might easily refer to it as a compendium of empathy and compassion as lived and experienced in a world overfilled with the need for both.

In a condensed but powerful and revelatory manner, Cliff Hakim provides the instantly engaged reader of *Walk in My Shoes* with short life summaries and distilled lessons that read like daily affirmations of good behavior. A most refreshing and appreciated source of inspiration for those wishing to be kind and at the same time world-changing. Fair warning to the narrow-minded soul who inadvertently wanders onto paths these others walk: This mini treatise expounds the broadest worldview, the most inclusive form of tolerance, and the greatest liberality of conscience. In other words, reading all these personal stories of compassionate people sowing empathetic inspiration in the world will crack your hard shell of ignorance and indifference. Not an insignificant achievement, by any means.