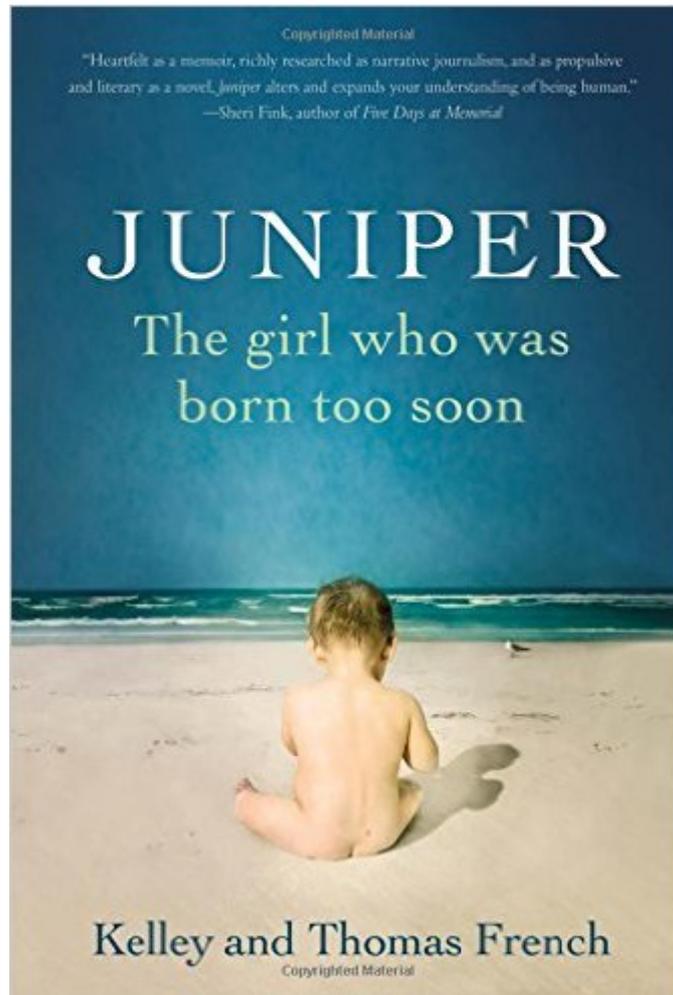


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Juniper: The Girl Who Was Born Too Soon



Synopsis

A micro-preemie fights for survival in this extraordinary and gorgeously told memoir by her parents, both award-winning journalists. Juniper French was born four months early, at 23 weeks gestation. She weighed 1 pound, 4 ounces, and her twiggy body was the length of a Barbie doll. Her head was smaller than a tennis ball, her skin was nearly translucent, and through her chest you could see her flickering heart. Babies like Juniper, born at the edge of viability, trigger the question: Which is the greater act of love--to save her, or to let her go? Kelley and Thomas French chose to fight for Juniper's life, and this is their incredible tale. In one exquisite memoir, the authors explore the border between what is possible and what is right. They marvel at the science that conceived and sustained their daughter and the love that made the difference. They probe the bond between a mother and a baby, between a husband and a wife. They trace the journey of their family from its fragile beginning to the miraculous survival of their now thriving daughter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not going to use reviewer words to talk about this book because I was there when all of this happened. Having just turned the last page, I almost can't believe how faithfully and accurately Tom and Kelley record the events. Telling this story -- the story of their daughter's extremely premature birth and long suspension a kind of limbo between life and death -- is an act of courage to begin with. Telling it with this kind of honesty and specificity is almost heroic. For Tom and Kelley and those of us who love them, Juniper's hospitalization was a journey to another world -- a world of

razor-edge technology and superstition, of loss and hope, of a medical system that does its best but often is just guessing at what might work. It's an astonishing reading experience. But look, I'm biased. I'm friends with these people. Still, I don't see how anyone can read the story of this beautiful, broken, longed-for little girl and not be moved.

I whipped through this book in one sitting. It grabbed me and didn't let go. The writing is raw, vivid, devastating and exhilarating. The authors' story of their relationship, their efforts to conceive, the birth of their daughter, and the hell of watching her almost die over and over again is intense and keeps you turning pages. The ending is the best of all possible endings. I lost it so many times reading this book, out of shock as well as out of pure joy. I promise, you'll love it.

One Love of one Woman, one Man, one Child, one Dog, and one Chicken are beautifully packaged in "Juniper." To share their private moments so deeply with us is another Miracle. A beautiful textbook for our Hearts. Thank You

What a beautiful story. I tore through it in one sitting. Unflinchingly honest and expertly told, JUNIPER blends a complex personal narrative with complicated questions of life and medical ethics at the threshold of viability. The authors offer no easy answers to these uniquely 21st Century questions. I promise you won't regret going on this journey with them.

Kelley and Tom are writing masters who could find the right words for emotions that leave you speechless. This is a love story - of a woman who wanted a daughter since she was a little girl herself - and fought as only a parent could for every breath her fragile daughter drew. This book is a gift for all parents who struggle to tell their children how much they love them. Just hand your child this book and and tell them, "I love you as they love Juniper." You will not need more words.

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