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# Reflections of a Peacemaker

A Portrait Through Heartsongs



Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Edited by JENNIFER SMITH STEPANEK

# Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs

**Mattie J.T. Stepanek** 

### **Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs:**

Reflections of a Peacemaker Mattie J.T. Stepanek, 2005-08 Reflections of a Peacemaker is the final collection Mattie was working on and it includes unpublished poetry photographs and artwork spanning the decade from when he began writing at **Reflections of a Peacemaker: a Portrait Through Heartsongs**, 2010 I write about anything that touches the essence of my existence What I witness what I feel what I think what I fear what I treasure I write about life which is our greatest gift Mattie Stepanek 1990 2004 Mattie J T Stepanek lived and died a child but he had the spirit of a giant Affected by a rare and fatal neuromuscular disease Mattie lived almost 14 years but in that time became a poet best selling author peace activist and a prominent voice for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Before his death in June 2004 his five volumes of Heartsongs poetry sold more than a million copies Reflections of a Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs is the final collection of Heartsongs that Mattie was working on when he died It includes the last poem Mattie penned along with a special collection of unpublished poetry photographs and artwork spanning the decade from when he began writing Heartsongs at age three Culled from the thousands of poems essays and journal entries Mattie left behind the entries in Reflections of a Peacemaker create a portrait of Mattie in his own words In these poems he explores disability despair and death but also the gifts he finds in nature prayer peace and his belief in something bigger and better than the here and now The poems are grouped by theme such as playful stormy sacred and final Heartsongs with each section introduced by a personal tribute from the likes of Maya Angelou Oprah Winfrey Larry King and former President Jimmy Carter In the words of Mattie's mother Jeni Stepanek who has published Reflections of a Peacemaker at her son's request In reading these poems we enter Mattie's world and gain insight through a child who somehow balanced pain and fear with optimism and faith

Reflections of a Peacemaker Mattie J.T. Stepanek,2010-04-22 Mattie J T Stepanek lived and died a child but he had the spirit of a giant Affected by a rare and fatal neuromuscular disease Mattie lived almost fourteen years but in that time became a poet best selling author peace activist and a prominent voice for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Before his death in June 2004 his five volumes of Heartsongs poetry sold more than a million copies Reflections of a Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs is the final collection of Heartsongs that Mattie was working on when he died It includes the last poem Mattie penned along with a special collection of unpublished poetry photographs and artwork spanning the decade from when he began writing Heartsongs at age three Culled from the thousands of poems essays and journal entries Mattie left behind the entries in Reflections of a Peacemaker create a portrait of Mattie in his own words In these poems he explores disability despair and death but also the gifts he finds in nature prayer peace and his belief in something bigger and better than the here and now The poems are grouped by theme such as playful stormy sacred and final Heartsongs with each section introduced by a personal tribute from the likes of Maya Angelou Oprah Winfrey Larry King and former President Jimmy Carter In the words of Mattie's mother Jeni Stepanek who has published Reflections of a Peacemaker at her son's

request In reading these poems we enter Mattie's world and gain insight through a child who somehow balanced pain and fear with optimism and faith Messenger Jeni Stepanek, 2009-11-03 The moving tribute to the young man Oprah Winfrey called an inspiration told by the woman who raised him Mattie Stepanek's Heartsongs books were a phenomenon Not only did they hit the bestseller lists but the books and Mattie himself were a source of inspiration to many and brought him major recognition Jimmy Carter described young Mattie Stepanek as the most remarkable person I have ever known In Messenger Jeni Stepanek shares the inspiring story of her son's life Mattie was born with a rare disorder called Dysautonomic Mitochondrial Myopathy and Jeni was advised to institutionalize him Instead she nurtured a child who transformed his hardships into a worldwide message of peace and hope Though Mattie suffered through his disease his mother's disabilities and the loss of his three older siblings he never abandoned his positive spirit His Heartsong the word he used to describe a person s inner self spread a philosophy that peace begins with an attitude and can spread to the entire world Mattie J.T. Stepanek, Jimmy Carter, 2009-01-01 From a New York Times bestselling author an inspirational world vision from the boy Jimmy Carter called the most remarkable person I have ever known I was touched by the depth of passion and awed by the firm resolve with which Mattie Stepanek pursued a dream that has evaded men and women throughout history What began as a casual discourse became a treasured and enlightening friendship that changed my life forever Jimmy Carter Sometimes the most important messages come from the most unlikely places Mattie J T Stepanek a thirteen year old boy made a difference before he died with his Heartsongs poetry series He continues to impact the world through Just Peace This poet best selling author peace activist and prominent voice for the Muscular Dystrophy Association fervently believed in world peace not just as a concept but as a reality Mattie was working on this manuscript with Jimmy Carter when he died in June 2004 Just Peace explores Mattie's concept of the world and all people as a unique mosaic of gifts War and injustice shatter the mosaic which can only be made whole again by planning and actively pursuing peace The young visionary s essays poetry and photographs appear throughout the book Just as important to the book and enlightening to the reader are Mattie's many correspondences including his personal e mails to and from former president Nobel Peace Laureate Jimmy Carter Mattie's peace hero and role model who has written a special forward for the book Just Peace is an intimate portrait of a president a young man of hope and peace itself Muscular Dystrophy Paula Johanson, 2008-08-15 Describes muscular dystrophy including the history of the disease how it is treated and current medical research towards a cure Spirit Heals Meredith L. Young-Sowers, 2007 This title combines the author's personal voice with universal healing principles to create an enlightening new approach to healing and health encompassing mind body and spirit For Younger Readers ,2007

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poems artwork and e mail correspondence with former President Jimmy Carter to share his message of hope for universal peace Heartcries and Heartsongs ,2003

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### Table of Contents Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs

- 1. Understanding the eBook Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - o Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs

- Personalized Recommendations
- Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs User Reviews and Ratings
- Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs Free and Paid eBooks
  - Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs Public Domain eBooks
  - Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs eBook Subscription Services
  - Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs eBook Formats
  - o ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs Compatibility with Devices
  - Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - Interactive Elements Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
- 8. Staying Engaged with Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - Setting Reading Goals Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs

- Fact-Checking eBook Content of Reflections Of A Peacemaker A Portrait Through Heartsongs
- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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