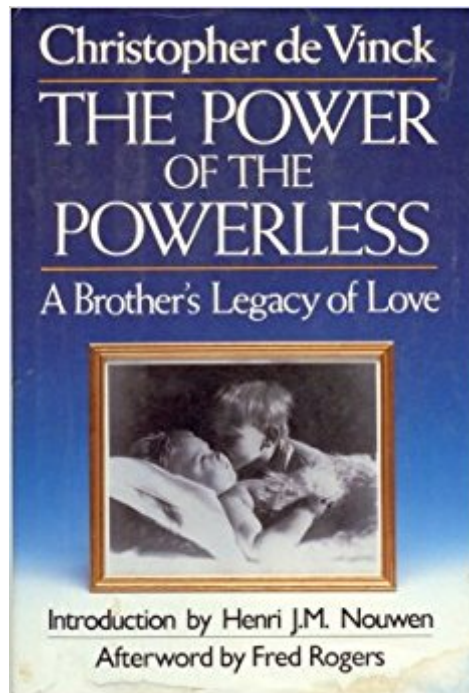




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# The Power Of The Powerless: A Brother's Legacy Of Love



## Synopsis

De Vinck's true account of his severely handicapped brother's life is a powerful, inspirational statement on the value of life. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When de Vinck's appreciation of his handicapped brother Oliver appeared in the Wall Street Journal, it resonated across America. His book describes the widespread response to the article from the White House to families of handicapped persons. Although Oliver might have been considered a "vegetable" by some, de Vinck vividly conveys the enormous impact his brain-damaged brother had on him and his family during his 32 years of life. Included also are stories of three other families also enriched by similarly handicapped children. Particularly affecting is the eulogy for Oliver given by a Catholic priest, a friend of the family. De Vinck, who teaches at a New Jersey high school, offers inspiration and support in facing the mystery of human suffering. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Christopher de Vinck is the award-winning author of Simple Wonders, The Power of the Powerless, Only the Heart Knows How to Find Them, Songs of Innocence and Experience, and Augusta and Trab. He is a regular feature writer in Reader's Digest, Guideposts, and the New York Times. He lives with his wife, Roe, and their three children, David, Karen, and Michael, in Pompton Plains, New Jersey --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Without being preachy and dogmatic, Christopher deVinck gave a well-written and sad but not emotionally over-wrought account of his disabled brother's life and impact. He also shared some interesting stories from respondents to his articles in Readers' digest and the Wall Street Journal. The book kept my attention and made me think, without forcing an agenda upon me. The author comes across as a kind, caring, compassionate soul who shared a very emotional story intelligently and eloquently, without any finger-shaking. The only shortcoming I found was that there could have been a little more focus on the life of Oliver himself. I'm not saying that some of the other things he shared about his own childhood should be omitted, but rather some more information about his brother's 33 years may have made this excellent book even better.

I just finished this book and knew I needed to write a review of the value of this story. It is inspirational to read about the story of a man with a disability making such a large impact with so many different people, and the author tells his story so well. It has been hard (for me) to find any considerable amount of literature connecting disabled persons to God, so I enjoyed this book immensely and recommend it to anyone. This is a great read. For anyone looking for something along similar lines, I would recommend Adam: God's Beloved by Henri Nouwen (who wrote the forward for The Power of the Powerless).

In the early 1990's, Christopher De Vinck--an unknown author--wrote a short tribute to his handicapped brother Oliver. A friend suggested he have it published, so De Vinck crossed his fingers and sent it to the Wall Street Journal. The Journal published it, and the story resonated across America. People showered De Vinck with letters. He decided to write a book featuring the original story intermingled with the letters he received. It is first a story of personalization: these typical American families were scarcely cognizant of the weak, handicapped, and needy in the world until they were unexpectedly thrust (through all variety of accidents and medical situations) into the thick of caring for them. Then it becomes a story of unlocking the love & compassion within all of us. Of revealing who we are, and who we can become. As one contributor in the book put it, "I, like my Father, could have been a shallow, hard, demanding, domineering person. We could have been impervious to people's hurts and pains, but Paul brought a dimension into my father's life, into my life, which has given us an extraordinary balance." This is one of those books with lifechanging potential that will put everything back into perspective. Highly Recommended.

This book carries me back to my Childhood, Teen Years, and College. My older brother was

hydrocephalic and lived in our home with my Mother, Father, Younger Brother, and Me. We provided Love, Care, and Comfort for him for 19 Years until his Death at age 19. The Book is My Life, too. I try to give this book to Others at Christmas Time because the message is so powerful..... Love and Hope Eternal for our Loved Ones. My Brother is still Triumphant To Me.

I read this book years ago. I loaned my copy to a friend and never got it back. I was glad to get a used one cheap and in good condition. It reminds us that the best measure of a person or a nation is how they treat the helpless in their midst.

I read this book years ago and loved it. As the mother of a child with a disability it touches my heart deeply. Thank you.

Honestly, this is the best book I have ever had the pleasure of reading. It sent me through a whirlwind of emotion, discovery, and affirmation. I cried through the whole book, sobbed even. The messages of human value, compassion, love, and hope are so inspiring and real. Each story is artfully tied into de Vinck's goal of writing about life and purpose. This is a book for everyone. I couldn't recommend a book more strongly than this one. It's astonishing really, pain is part of the process.

As depicted and quick ship.

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