

WHATEVER IT TAKES



MS DOES SUCK. MS MUCKS WITH YOUR CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM. ALMOST EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR BODY, YOUR MUSCLES, YOUR ORGANS, YOUR ABILITY TO SPEAK, YOUR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND, YOUR ABILITY TO MOVE, YOUR ABILITY TO BREATHE, THE THINGS YOU FEEL, THE THINGS YOU TASTE, THE THINGS YOU SMELL, THE THINGS YOU HEAR. I WENT THROUGH A VERY LONG STAGE OF LEARNING HOW TO COPE WITH IT ALWAYS TAKING AWAY. YOU NEVER GET ANYTHING BACK. MS TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME, EVERYTHING I THOUGHT WAS IMPORTANT, EVERYTHING I VALUED. I USED TO JUMP ON A TRAMPOLINE AND SWIM WITH THE KIDS AND PLAY BASEBALL, FOOTBALL. MS HAS AFFECTED ME BEING A MOM BECAUSE I'M SICK. PLAN FOR THE WORST AND HOPE FOR THE BEST IS KIND OF THE WAY I'M LOOKING AT LIFE. EVERY DAY, I'M INSPIRED BY PEOPLE WITH MS WHO SAY TO ME, WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP. IT'S THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY THAT ENABLES THE PROGRESS THAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS. I'VE HEARD REPEATEDLY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS YOU'RE SO POSITIVE, YOU'RE SO POSITIVE. I FIGURE I'M STILL GONNA LIVE MY LIFE. OCCASIONALLY, IT SLOWS ME DOWN A LITTLE BIT, BUT IT HASN'T STOPPED ME. HOW DO I WANT MY DAUGHTERS TO LOOK AT ME, THEY'VE SEEN THE RESILIENCE OF DAD, THEY'VE SEEN THE STRENGTH IN DAD AND THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO PORTRAY. CAUSE MS IS BRUTAL. MS ISN'T FAIR. MS IS HARSH. BUT MS IS ALSO A GREAT TEACHER. I JUST DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO BE ISOLATED IN THEIR SORROW AND, INSTEAD, KICK ASS. I WALK IN A LOT OF GRATITUDE TO BE ABLE TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL WORLD, TO BE ABLE TO DANCE AND WALK, TO BE ABLE TO THAT'S A