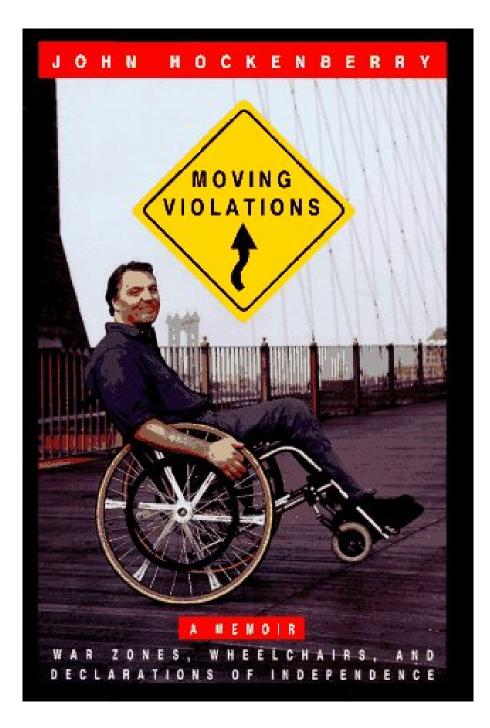


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A veteran NPR commentator and popular correspondent on ABC-TV's Day One news program relates his experiences of danger and discrimination during to his world travels and confinement to a wheelchair.

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- Binding: Hardcover
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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

An incredible journey, filled with insightful, enlightening experiences. Not to be missed.

By sterlingAg

This is an incredible story about an incredible journey. I have made that same journey, with some common experiences, and many different ones, and have lived with a wheelchair since a losing encounter with gravity, at age 16, in 1960. John does a beautiful job of describing what it is like being in the fishbowl and relating to all of the staring folks outside of it. It is a world that the privileged Americans who are not disabled in some way have a hard time understanding. I am heartened that John has done such a great job of helping them understand (if only they would read this book!). The disability that John and I share has made it possible for us to overcome the tendency of most folks to ignore people who are different from them, especially our mentally retarded citizens.

Especially interesting and telling is John's observation and description of how different cultures relate to disability. The Iranians, Palestinians and Israelis are fascinatingly unique in their attitudes and behavior, and all much more accepting than smug, complacent Americans. From my own experiences, I must add Mexicans to that group of more-accepting and understanding people.

John's editors missed on little error about Iran: Tehran's big cemetery is not called "Beheshed al Zahra"; it is "behesht-e-zahra" (???? ????).

My only semi-critical comment is that John is pretty selfish in his quests, and he could never have gone on this without causing worry and concern to his family (it's a good thing he does not have children!) John is also extremely lucky he never broke any bones during his travels; the leg bones of us paraplegics become very fragile after years of stasis, and are easily fractured. How he fell off of that mule without breaking a leg is astonishing. Personally, I have had 5 fractures of femur, tibia and fibula bones over the years (femur fractures are most troublesome, and often can't be tended to with splints or casts, sometimes resulting in chronically unhealed ["open"] breaks).

These criticisms in no way detract from the overall, tremendous impact of John's wonderful narration. It will make you think about your own life.

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

What to do when you answer the door and the wolf is there.

By Antigone2

I want to keep my review short because, if you have not read this book, reading my review will take up some of the time in which you could be reading the real book. When "Moving Violations" was first published, I heard a review of it on NPR. John Hockenberry is an NPR alum so I expected the book to be almost as good as the review led me to believe. I ordered it from Amazon and devoured it in almost no time. It was actually better than the radio review had led me to expect. A month later, I got a call from Seattle that delivered horrific news. My 21-year-old son had been in a contest with gravity and gravity had won. Although he had just had 18 hours of surgery, there was no way to know if he would ever walk again. Through the years since that time, I have read "Moving Violations" many times. It initially gave me entrance to a new world and was much more helpful to both my son and I than all the rehab publications combined. I knew, from the moment I answered that phone call that both my son and I had crossed into the Twilight Zone and nothing would ever be the same again. The Twilight Zone, however, had at least one map. My son's journey was, and continues to be, unique (as all such journeys are). I did feel, from the very beginning, that we had a preview of some of the directional signposts and even some of the scenic overlooks. I cannot help but think that our family has been living and learning about this new life in a richer way than would never have been possible if we had not read this book. As soon as my son came home from rehab it became clear that he had lost his will to live. I had a captive audience and started reading "M V" aloud. It is well written and mirrors many of the dilemmas in the life of a young male with spinal cord damage. I think it only took two days for my son to get interested enough that he started reading it himself. This book was truly one of the first things that helped him recover his will to live. Living with a catastrophic spinal cord injury is not even at the bottom of the list of interesting travel sites, and while I cannot believe that anyone would take that path voluntarily, "M V" is proof that, along with the horror, there can be adventure and possibilities in life; possibilities that could be so easily missed. So...READ IT! While spinal cord injury may never be a part of your personal life, sooner or later something awful could be. As the Eagles remind us, "The wolf is always at the door." In whatever guise the wolf presents itself, you will have learned something useful about what to do when or if the wolf appears.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Enjoyed this book even more than his great NPR program!

By M. Mcleod

Love this book, for many reason! I recommended it to my book club, and they loved it, too -- very interesting topics, very discussable, funny, lots of insight into the world of disabled workers and journalism, very literate and fully of tales of humanity around the globe.

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