Seeing Million Dollar Baby From My Wheelchair
DIANE COLEMAN

I thought I was emotionally well prepared. I already knew many of the details about the last half hour — the injury, hospital, nursing home and killing scenes — from disabled colleagues.

But my preparation was more than that. When I grew up, through braces and surgeries, my elementary school teachers called me “Mary Sunshine.” When I completed UCLA law school from a motorized wheelchair, I was called “inspirational.” I took it as the highest compliment by some non-disabled person that they “didn’t think of” me as “handicapped.”

When I was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at age two, I was told that I would have looks like me. That’s why I felt a little queasy about going to see Million Dollar Baby.

Many people have told me that they don’t think they could “stand to live” if they needed a wheelchair, ventilator at night since 2002, it’s become even more personal.

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