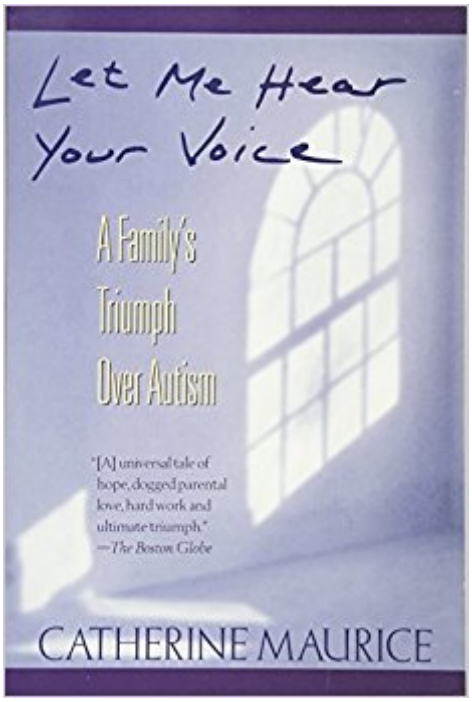
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Let Me Hear Your Voice: A Family's Triumph Over Autism



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Synopsis

She was a beautiful doelike child, with an intense, graceful fragility. In her first year, she picked up words, smiled and laughed, and learned to walk. But then Anne-Marie began to turn inward. And when her little girl lost some of the words she had acquired, cried inconsolably, and showed no interest in anyone around her, Catherine Maurice took her to doctors who gave her a devastating diagnosis: autism.In their desperate struggle to save their daughter, the Maurices plunged into a medical nightmare of false hopes, "miracle cures," and infuriating suggestions that Anne-Marie's autism was somehow their fault. Finally, Anne-Marie was saved by an intensive behavioral therapy.Let Me Hear Your Voice is a mother's illuminating account of how one family triumphed over autism. It is an absolutely unforgettable book, as beautifully written as it is informative."A vivid and uplifting story . . . Offers new strength to parents who refuse to give up on their autistic children." -- Kirkus Reviews"Outstanding . . . Heartfelt . . . A lifeline to families in similar circumstances." -- Library Journal

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Customer Reviews

A vivid and uplifting story of how a family pulled not one but two children out of the torments of autism--and into a normal life. Maurice is the pseudonym for a mother of three whose courage and determination overrode the pessimistic prognosis that ``autism is incurable.'' She was already pregnant with her third child when her one-year-old daughter, Anne-Marie, was diagnosed as autistic. Maurice and her husband cast about to find not merely a relief from symptoms but a cure,

finally adopting the form of behavior modification found successful in carefully controlled studies by O. Ivar Lovaas, a California-based researcher. The program involved a daily regimen of repetitious training, the resetting of patterns of behavior that had gone awry, and the replacement of sympathy by discipline, interrupting the child's repetitive motions and self- withdrawal no matter how she resisted or cried. The family hired a teacher skilled in behavior modification who worked with Anne-Marie every day, as well as a speech therapist who visited three times a week. To counter what she at first felt were the mechanistic techniques of behavior modification, Maurice also took up ``holding therapy,'' which calls for holding the child tightly for at least an hour a day. It was the behavioral techniques that succeeded, and, in less than two years, the girl was pronounced ``normal''--as was Maurice's younger son, also autistic. Unlike other recent books about children who've recovered from autism (e.g., Donna Williams's Nobody Nowhere, 1992), this offers not only hope but a road map, with names, addresses, and phone numbers for Lovaas and others. (Caveat: Behavioral therapy, Maurice says, benefits measureably only about 50% of autistic kids.) Powerful in her detailing and in her intelligent, honest observations, Maurice offers new strength to parents who refuse to give up on their autistic children. -- Copyright Ã Â©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

She was a beautiful doelike child, with an intense, graceful fragility. In her first year, she picked up words, smiled and laughed, and learned to walk. But then Anne-Marie began to turn inward. And when her little girl lost some of the words she had acquired, cried inconsolably, and showed no interest in anyone around her, Catherine Maurice took her to doctors who gave her a devastating diagnosis: autism.In their desperate struggle to save their daughter, the Maurices plunged into a medical nightmare of false hopes, "miracle cures," and infuriating suggestions that Anne-Marie's autism was somehow their fault. Finally, Anne-Marie was saved by an intensive behavioral therapy.Let Me Hear Your Voice is a mother's illuminating account of how one family triumphed over autism. It is an absolutely unforgettable book, as beautifully written as it is informative."A vivid and uplifting story . . . Offers new strength to parents who refuse to give up on their autistic children." -- Kirkus Reviews"Outstanding . . . Heartfelt . . . A lifeline to families in similar circumstances." -- Library Journal

Wonderful book for families with an autistic child. I have a child with Down syndrome and wanted to learn more about ABA. This book was recommended by a field professional. As mothers of children with special needs we can all relate to the experience of navigating the field to find proper treatment

and therapy in our desire to do the best for our munchkins (regardless of the diagnosis). Our experiences often include opening our homes to the help of strangers and trusting that they know what they're doing. This book sheds light on that very real experience and was a great introduction for me to ABA.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Whatever neurological processes had been reactivated in her brain, whatever chemical imbalance had been corrected, we would probably never know. Nor would we care, as she emerged into the light of human loving,and lifted her blue-green eyes into ours.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•--Catherine Maurice, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Let Me Hear Your Voice: A FamilyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Triumph over AutismÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•An exquisite work of art and science, written through the critical lens of the researcher with the lyrical pen of the poet. This book presents arguments about the scientific approach of treating autism while singing about the triumph of the human soul.

Every parent with a newly diagnosed child NEEDS this book. Excellent resource for creating a home ABA therapy program for a child with autism. I personally have a 7-year old son with severe autism and this book has been very well loved in our home.

Excellent book on the horror of Autism. Poignantly and brilliantly written by a Mother of two of her three children who were diagnosed early and the 'war' she fought for her children. Reminds me of the true story "Lorenzo's Oil' and the fierce love and dedication of a Mother and Father who will not accept anything but 'recovery' for her children.Highly recommended.

Well written, however I was looking for more information for an older child.

Very informative information; however, I thought it was a little too wordy. All in all, a very informative read about autism.

Two and half years ago, my daughter was diagnosed with autism. Terror, loneliness, and a lack of knowledge wreaked havoc on our family life. We read a lot of books, joined online communities, and finally got her into a very limited ABA program that is part of a university research lab (only once a week during semesters). Through it all our extended family at first denied and then accepted the diagnosis, but other than expressing sympathy, they were at a loss as to how to empathize with us.

"Let Me Hear Your Voice" expresses all that we went through. Additionally, it reinforced what we have been learning, that ABA works for some children and that it needs to be done intensively. Ms Maurice also is honest that her children made remarkably "quick" progress and that this is not necessarily the case for all children with autism because each child has varying degrees of the three main categories of symptoms: language (expressive and receptive) delays and disorders; social skills delays and disorders, and obsessively habitual body movements that are unusual."Let Me Hear Your Voice" brings readers into the Maurices' world and shows us the fears, the lack of knowledge, the loneliness, and how it can be overcome by taking control of the situation through research, a supportive family, and through the application of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Although she clearly states that their therapy was successful, she cannot promise it will work for all; but she demonstrates that taking initiative and using the science behind the therapy progress can be made.Most importantly, she eloquently communicates what it is like to be in a family afflicted with autism, which is something that most of us cannot adequately communicate; therefore, this book should be read by everyone who is affected: within the nuclear family, extended family, and even friends of the family.After reading this story, readers will have learned what autism really is and how everyone needs to work together to help the child and the family make progress against autism.

As an ABA therapist, this book moved me to tears, and gave me the extra "push" to be my all for the families that I work with/for. A great read.

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