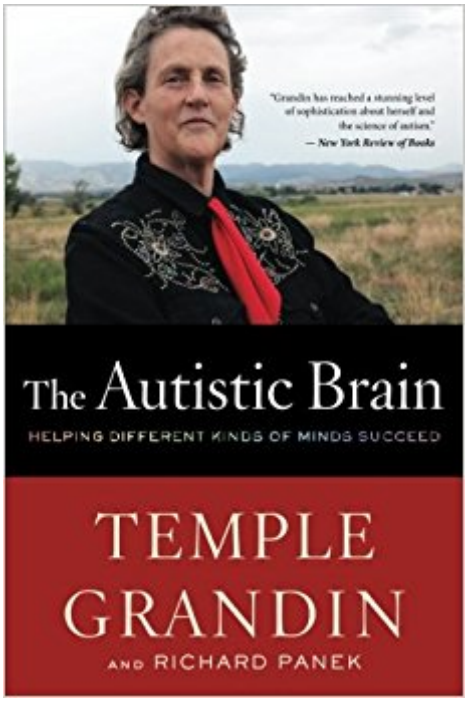
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The Autistic Brain: Helping Different Kinds Of Minds Succeed



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“The right brain has created the right book for right now.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Pittsburgh Post-GazetteTemple Grandin may be the most famous person with autism, a condition that affects 1 in 88 children. Since her birth in 1947, our understanding of it has undergone a great transformation, leading to more hope than ever before that we may finally learn the causes of and treatments for autism. Weaving her own experience with remarkable new discoveries, Grandin introduces the advances in neuroimaging and genetic research that link brain science to behavior, even sharing her own brain scan to show which anomalies might explain common symptoms. Most excitingly, she argues that raising and educating kids on the autism spectrum must focus on their long-overlooked strengths to foster their unique contributions. The Autistic Brain brings GrandinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s singular perspective into the heart of the autism revolution. "[GrandinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s] most insightful work to date . . . The Autistic Brain is something anyone could benefit from reading, and I recommend it to anyone with a personal or professional connection to autism or neurological difference."Ã¢â ¬â •John Elder Robison, author of Look Me in the Eye"The Autistic Brain can both enlighten readers with little exposure to autism and offer hope and compassion to those who live with the condition."Ã¢â ¬â •Scientific American

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Customer Reviews

Grandin and Panek explore neuroimaging, genetics, and brain science in this book that looks at what causes autism and how it can be treated and diagnosed. Though coauthored, the narrative is

largely told from Grandin's point of view, with many first-person references. This filtering of the prose through Grandin allows narrator Andrea Gallo to read in a more personal manner that represents Grandin's singular voice. Gallo shifts to a more critical tone when she reads sections in which Grandin and Panek offer commentary on current practices related to the treatment of autism. A fascinating listen and a winning performance from Gallo. A Houghton Mifflin Harcourt hardcover. (Apr.) --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Grandin is the face of autism. Because of her work, the general public is now aware of what was until fairly recently a strange, disturbing, and essentially unknowable condition. In her latest book, Grandin not only discusses her own experiences with autism but also explains the latest technological advances in the study of the disorder, including the genetics of autism. The symptoms that she displayed at a young ageÃ¢â ¬â •destructive behavior, inability to speak, sensitivity to physical contact, fixation on spinning objectsÃ¢â ¬â •are now considered classic indicators of the disorder, though she was diagnosed as having brain damage. Things have changed since then, of course. She discusses when autism was first diagnosed (in 1943), but she makes clear from the start that her priority here is to encourage an accurate diagnosis for the disorder and promote improved treatments for sensory problems associated with autism, since difficulty in the latter can often be debilitating. She discusses different ways of thinking and even includes lists of potential jobs for those people among us who think differently. An important and ultimately optimistic work. --June Sawyers --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Very well written text on autism and brain science. The collaboration between Grandin, probably the world's best known individual with high functioning autism, and Panek, a well regarded science writer, was a smart move for this book. While I have not read a previous work by Grandin, as a parent with a child diagnosed with moderate level autism I have frequently read about her and have seen enough interviews of her that I could hear her voice as I made my way through this text. Out of necessity, I have read a high number of books and research papers associated with autism, and the vast insight that Grandin shares from her own experience is valuable, as is what she shares about brain science and the opportunities she has had throughout the years to participate in ground breaking research that included scans of her own brain.These two topics are interwoven throughout the book, and I agree with other reviewers here that this book probably has a wider audience than what the authors may have originally surmised. However, because I have read so much with regard to autism, potential readers of this book should be aware that the criticisms from autistic readers

that Grandin mentions in this book about her past assertions with regard to how "thinking in pictures" is a common trait across autistic individuals, might cease but be redirected toward the fact that Grandin heavily concentrates on high functioning autism, not the entire spectrum. The DSM-5 may no longer include different degrees of autism, but even Grandin explains her reservations about DSM diagnoses. Potential readers just need to keep in mind that the vast majority of her focus here is on those with high functioning autism like herself.That said, interestingly enough Grandin is probably among the most optimistic writers with regard to the potential of those with autism. In one of the best brief written summaries of the history of the DSM, for example, she writes the following words of encouragement for those with autism in their lives: "Unlike a diagnosis for step throat, the diagnostic criterion for autism has changed with each new edition of the DSM. I warn parents, teachers, and therapists to avoid getting locked into the labels. They are not precise. I beg you, do not allow a child or an adult to become defined by a DSM label." For those of us that have had to battle ICD codes while seeking treatment for our children, we realize that this categorization is probably not going to go away any time soon, but it is about time that someone of Grandin's stature is questioning their long-term validity.As a parent, I especially appreciated chapter 1 ("The Meanings of Autism"), in which Grandin discusses the history of the autism diagnosis and reflects on the original diagnosis that she was given, "brain damage", chapter 4 ("Hiding and Seeking"), in which sensory disorders, an oft neglected area in research, are discussed in relationship to autism, and how Grandin came to realize that there exists great variety, chapter 5 ("Failing on the Spectrum"), in which she furthers her earlier thoughts on the DSM, and chapter 7 ("Rethinking in Pictures"), in which Grandin writes that "of course autistic brains don't all see the world the same way - despite what I once thought" after realizing that those with autism exhibit multiple rather than one type of visualization.Although I enjoy the conversational style of this book, I also especially appreciated the way she shares her thought process in chapter 5. Following her thoughts on what she refers to as two phases of autism the diagnosis (1943 to 1980, and 1980 to 2013), she discusses how it is time for another shift. "Thanks to advances in neuroscience and genetics, we can begin Phase Three in the history of autism, an era that returns to the Phase One search for a cause, but this time with three big differences." She later furthers this thought by writing: "Phase Two thinking says, 'Let's group people together by diagnosis.' Phase Three thinking says, 'Forget about the diagnosis. Forget about labels. Focus on the symptom.' Focus on the cause.""Instead of - or at least in addition to - assigning human subjects to studies through a common autism diagnosis, we should be assigning them by main symptom. I sometimes see researchers pooh-poohing self-reports. But as I learned from examples like Carly Fleischmann's description of feeling

overstimulated in the coffee shop, I think what researchers should be doing is looking at the self-reports very carefully as well as eliciting them in new ways. They they should be putting the subjects into studies based on those self-reports." Bravo! In my opinion, this is the climax of the book. Concentration on the individual. Looking at every case of autism as an individual will lead to the broadest spectrum possible, a holistic analyses that includes the brain science that the authors discuss, and continues to encompass the entire being, both for classic and regressive cases of autism.

This has been one the most facinating books I've ever read. Science can elevate Dareinianism all it wants, but our bodies still tell, "Fearfully and wonderfully made." -just sayin'. Thank you, Temple, for your insights and transparency.

I've read several of Temple Grandin's books which have been invaluable in my work with ESE students, mostly students dealing with Autism. I'm looking forward to this read!

Everyone needs to read this book. Quick read and a fabulous reference for those of us that have kiddos on the spectrum and those of us that work with this incredible group of kiddos. Temple is amazing in her writing...everyone can benefit and get a better perspective.

I appreciated the updates on the many studies conducted over the past several years to understand autism. The third style, spatial thinking is a good complimentary to verbal and thinkong in pictures.

I am a Paraprofessional substitute teacher in Minnesota. Temple has taught me a great deal about handling my students ! I also purchased this book because my 10 yr old Grandson is Autistic & I very much want to help my Daughter cope with him & his often severe mood swings & horrible tantrums. This is a GOD SEND for my family ! A million thanks to Ms. Grandin !

Temple asks thought-provoking questions, offers solutions backed with scientific studies conducted by respected researchers, and enlightens us about the positive contribution and lifestyle of those who have autism, ADHD, Asperger's and other diagnoses ...don't make excuses ...make a life!

I read her book, Thinking in Pictures and was amazed! My grand daughter has autism and I still think of things Ms Grandin wrote when I am with Georgia. This book is equally impressive although

more difficult to read. I would expect this since it is more about the science of autism as opposed to a narrative with so many personal experiences. I am a pediatric nurse practitioner and believe she explores many of the problems with the DSM labels better than most. Definitely a helpful as well as interesting book.

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