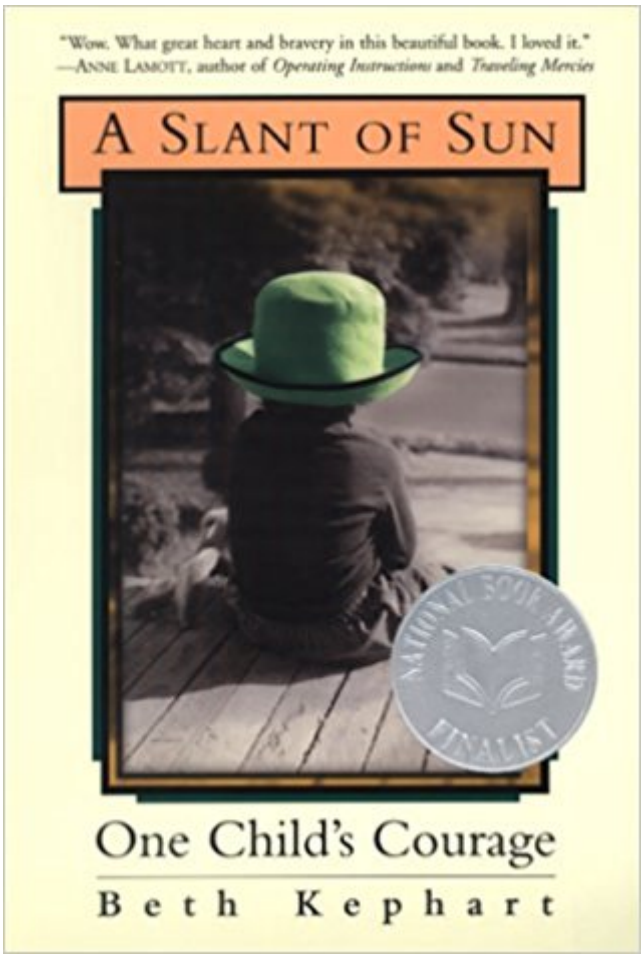
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A Slant Of Sun: One Child's Courage



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Synopsis

Named a Best Book of the Year by Salon magazine and The Philadelphia Inquirer, A Slant of Sun was praised for its incandescent prose about the experience of loving a child who brings tremendous frustration and incalculable rewards and for its extraordinary resonance. Like Operating Instructions and The Liars' Club, A Slant of Sun is a contemporary classic.Nearly one in five children grow up facing a developmental or behavioral challenge, and like them, Beth Kephart's son, Jeremy, showed early signs of being different: language eluded him, he preferred playing alone to an afternoon on the jungle gym. Doctors diagnosed Jeremy with a mild form of autism called Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified. A Slant of Sun is a passionate memoir about how Kephart, guided by the twin tools of intuition and imagination, helped lead her son toward wholeness. Pulsing with the questions, "Is normal possible? Definable?" A Slant of Sun speaks to everyone not just parents of the redemptive power of love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The hardest part of being a parent is the certain knowledge that there are some things you can't control. When Beth Kephart's son Jeremy was labeled with the unsettlingly vague diagnosis of pervasive developmental disorder (a behavioral disorder related to autism) in the fall of 1991, there were no definitive medical answers, no guidebooks to Jeremy's inner world, no maps to help Jeremy's mom and dad lead their boy back into the land of relatively uncomplicated childhood. Jeremy was a beautiful child who screamed whenever strangers came near him and spent long hours every day obsessively rearranging his toy cars into indecipherable patterns. He was an early

talker, but by the time of his diagnosis Jeremy’s speech had degenerated into mindless parroting--a condition known as echolalia. Jeremy’s triumph over his disability and his journey to reintegration is the primary story of this beautifully written book, Kephart’s first. The other story, the more universal story, is the haunting account of the symbiosis between mother and child, which grows particularly intense when a child feels pain from which his mother cannot shield him. Kephart’s fears that her own maternal failings are somehow implicated in Jeremy’s problem stand out as the emotional core of this memoir. Her faith in her son, perseverance, and eventual acceptance of herself play as important a role in his healing process as any course of therapy--and her unflinching descriptions of her own healing are what make A Slant of Sun such a stunning debut. --Patrizia DiLucchio --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

At two and a half years old, Kephart’s son, Jeremy, was diagnosed as suffering from pervasive developmental disorder, a condition that has some of the elements of autism. The child’s speech was "atypical," he was terrified of contact with everyone but his parents and grandparents, and his life became characterized by certain behaviors that became obsessions. Because his situation was so anomalous, even professionals used to dealing with so-called exceptional children were at a loss as to how to cope with Jeremy at times. But the Pennsylvania-based author and her husband, Bill, after blaming themselves for the child’s difficulties and encountering problems with experts, determined to deal with their son on his own terms and to modify his behavior without wrenching him away from his few interests, ranging from trains and cars to planes and trucks, and by letting him set his own pace when encountering other children and adults. They also chose his schools wisely, with the result that Jeremy now functions well in society at age nine. Freelancer Kephart conveys her frantic reaction to the original diagnosis, her furious desire to change conditions for Jeremy at once and her ultimate realization that a tangible, positive outcome was possible, given great patience. Kephart tells an affecting story of parental dedication. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a beautiful book! I am a parent of a recently diagnosed preschool son with a PDD-like diagnosis and I found myself weeping as I read it. The author puts on paper what I feel in my heart but am unable to find the words to express. This book provides an eloquent vision of both the beauty and courage of our atypical children as well as the emotional jouney we as parents find ourselves on. I wish I had read this book first as we began the long evaluation of our son by multiple specialists. And I wish all our "specialists" would read this book to improve their expertise. What a

gifted writer and mother Beth Kephart is!

This book was hard to find in the local stores. My daughter needed it for scholl summer reading. the price was right at $0.01 Each. Came quickly and in good condition. will order from this person again

This book is a must read for parents of children finding their way back from the cloud of autism spectrum disorders. Beth Kephart paints a picture, not just of a heartbreaking condition but also of hope and joy in the midst of recovery. As the mother of a toddler battling the same mysterious condition I appreciated her acceptance and delight in her son. Beth Kephart put into words perfectly how parenting an autistic child can be so magical and thrilling and so sad and heartbreaking at the same time. Her refusal to let a diagnosis define her son is inspiring.This is an excellent book to read as a companion to all the information books about autism and pdd. Her son is not 'cured' but he is back, loving and being loved.Aside from the story itself Beth Kephart's use of words and language make the book worth reading, she writes beautifully.A wonderful book.

As one who appreciates beautiful writing and as the mother of a son with PDD, I absolutely loved this book. There were many moments I recognized from my own experience in the roller coaster-like highs and lows Ms. Kephart experienced, the sterile and absolute reports from the medical community, and, worst of all, the rejection of her child. The only additional experience I've had that she didn't report is the blame that others would like to lay at the feet of the parents of such a child. Like Jeremy, my son has made great progress and is a high school honor student at our local public high school. While he doesn't spend time with friends, he's gained enough social confidence to enjoy social functions.I'm glad that this book is drawing an audience beyond those with an interest in autism-like disorders, however, if you finish the book and don't question the way we as a society define "normal," then you've missed the point of the book.

A Slant of Sun by Beth Kephart is about a journey of an extraordinary mother and son relationship, a relationship of wonder, a relationship of need. Kephart collects memories in her heart and paints them in vivid imagery and beautiful poetry for the reader. Through one of her conversations with her son, Kephart reminds all people to believe in themselves. Jeremy is one lucky young man, and we, as readers, are privileged to learn right along with him. For all parents who have special needs children, this memoir offers hope.

Beth Kephart’s moving account about Jeremy’s seemingly autistic behaviors and his condemnatory diagnosis is unflichingly honest. Bright and beautiful, Jeremy spoke early and made all developmental milestones within normal limits. However, shortly after turning a year and a half, his speech seemed to freeze in mid-developmental track and he began exhibiting rigid ritualistic behaviors. Luckily, the author had him enrolled in preschool and had early intervention specialists working with Jeremy. It is through this loving effort that Jeremy was able to detour the more traditional trappings of autism and enjoy a healthy, regular lifestyle.I loved the stories Jeremy told, especially the one where he would "wait for the Red Baron." Beth Kephart, to her credit, joins Jeremy in this wishful flight of fancy.I did get a little impatient with the author when she wanted to ram stories of her skating career down Jeremey’s throat. Jeremy was antsy and did not want to listen to this seemingly long drawn out account. I liked it when Jeremy was interested in his great grandfather’s car, a green 1969 Dodge Dart. (I love Dodge Darts and for me, the critical part of the story was answered -- the year and color of the Dodge Dart). Although that seems like a minor peeve, I did feel that the author just wanted a forum to brag about her skating and forced this story on Jeremy, ostensibly to help the boy increase his attention span for listening skills.All in all, it was a delightful read. Jeremy walks in the Sun of Health and really is a bright light. I would highly recommend this book.

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