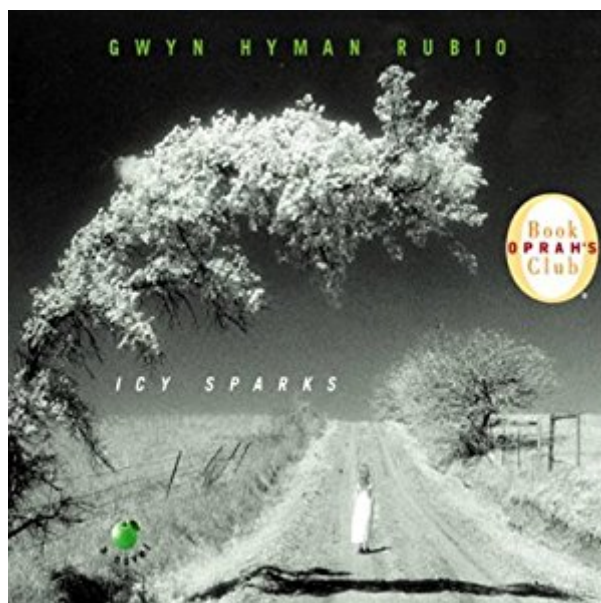


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# Icy Sparks



## Synopsis

A New York Times Notable Book and the March 2001 selection of Oprah's Book Club! Icy Sparks is the sad, funny and transcendent tale of a young girl growing up in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky during the 1950s. Gwyn Hyman Rubio's beautifully written first novel revolves around Icy Sparks, an unforgettable heroine in the tradition of Scout in To Kill a Mockingbird or Will Tree in Cold Sassy Tree. At the age of ten, Icy, a bright, curious child orphaned as a baby but raised by adoring grandparents, begins to have strange experiences. Try as she might, her "secrets"—verbal croaks, groans, and physical spasms—keep afflicting her. As an adult, she will find out she has Tourette's Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder, but for years her behavior is the source of mystery, confusion, and deep humiliation. Narrated by a grown up Icy, the book chronicles a difficult, but ultimately hilarious and heartwarming journey, from her first spasms to her self-acceptance as a young woman. Curious about life beyond the hills, talented, and energetic, Icy learns to cut through all barriers—physical, mental, and spiritual—in order to find community and acceptance. Along her journey, Icy faces the jeers of her classmates as well as the malevolence of her often-ignorant teachers—including Mrs. Stilton, one of the most evil fourth grade teachers ever created by a writer. Called willful by her teachers and "Frog Child" by her schoolmates, she is exiled from the schoolroom and sent to a children's asylum where it is hoped that the roots of her mysterious behavior can be discovered. Here Icy learns about difference—her own and those who are even more scarred than she. Yet, it isn't until Icy returns home that she really begins to flower, especially through her friendship with the eccentric and obese Miss Emily, who knows first-hand how it feels to be an outcast in this tightly knit Appalachian community. Under Miss Emily's tutelage, Icy learns about life's struggles and rewards, survives her first comical and heartbreaking misadventure with romance, discovers the healing power of her voice when she sings, and ultimately takes her first steps back into the world. Gwyn Hyman Rubio's Icy Sparks is a fresh, original, and completely redeeming novel about learning to overcome others' ignorance and celebrate the differences that make each of us unique. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Best Sellers Rank: #21 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments >](#)

[Tourette Syndrome](#) #1613 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books &](#)

[Reading](#) #28305 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is one of those books once you read ten pages of the book you will not be able to put it down. I read this book in two days because I could not put it down except to sleep. This book is very sad; however, it is a great book and this is in my list of top ten books. I felt very close to the characters in the book and the emotions they were going through. The book is realistic in terms of real life scenarios. Great book and would recommend to anyone looking for a great book to read. This book will touch your heart for sure. Great book

My son has Tourette's Syndrome so I was especially excited to read this. I know every case is different but the way it presented itself was so very different than my sons experience. I also had a hard time relating to Icy in any way. I found myself wishing the book would end so I could read something else-never a good sign, but I didn't give up; I did finish it.

Icy Sparks is a book that will educate you concerning all children who grow up with disabilities of one sort or another. Her disorder is "Tourette" Syndrome and this is an eye opener of a book, encouraging the reader to feel empathy and to understand the fear and uncertainty that children with this syndrome must endure every day of their lives. I found it a compelling book. A book that I could not put down until I had satisfied myself that this little girl had found hope and a way of controlling the urges that attacked her little body when under stress. I recommend this book to all people who are interested in children who are special because they are different.

I really enjoyed this book. The characters came alive and I felt that I was always along side Icy as she grew and experienced life as someone different from everyone else. Icy is someone I would love to know.

Icy Sparks is an interesting book. One of its primary assets is the beautiful descriptive prose used throughout the book. Also, it gives a vivid portrayal of the disorder which plagued Icy. However, the story really bogged down in the middle with a drawn out hospital stay, homeschooling, and lags in action. I thought surely we would come to the discovery of the disorder and hope for the future, but it didn't come until the epilogue and was strictly a report, disappointing.

The novel is written from a child's point of view, in which the author, very creatively, delves into the very painful experiences Icy encounters growing up without understanding her disability. Almost heartbreaking at times, but also very humorous at times. Very insightful and entertaining!

Did not enjoy this book at all. The characters were unlikeable, unrealistic, and no one who was 'bad' ever got what was coming to them. This book had the potential to really shed light on Tourette's syndrome, but instead, it took unlikeable characters and created more disdain for their maladies. Also, there was so much extra plot that was unnecessary and made it harder to read than it should have been.

Author writes with authority and sense of place. Good understanding and empathy for Tourette's syndrome. Thought the southern dialect a bit thick and the characters a little stock.

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