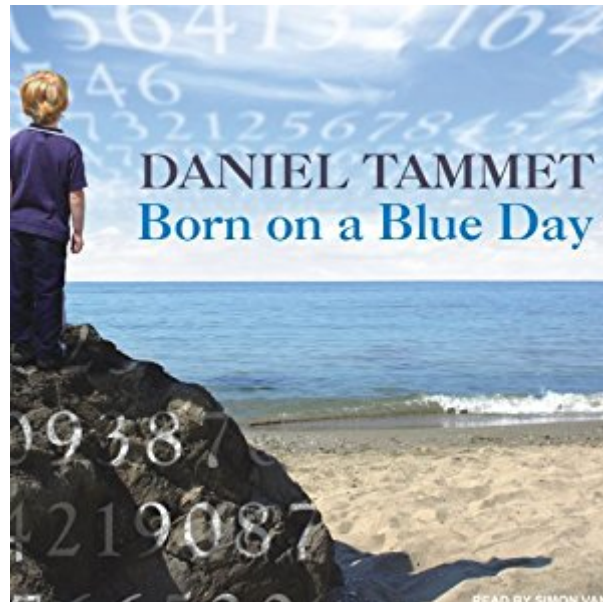




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Born On A Blue Day: A Memoir



Synopsis

One of the world's fifty living autistic savants is the first and only to tell his compelling and inspiring life story-and explain how his incredible mind works. Worldwide, there are fewer than fifty living savants, those autistic individuals who can perform miraculous mental calculations or artistic feats (think Dustin Hoffman's character in Rain Man). Until now, none of them has ever been capable of discussing his or her thought processes, much less undertake the writing of a book. Daniel Tammet is the first. From childhood, Tammet's problems were immediately apparent. He was shunned by his classmates and often resorted to rocking and humming quietly. Yet he could memorize almost anything, and his math and language skills were astonishing. By the time he entered high school, Daniel was diagnosed as autistic, and he began to discover his own superhuman abilities-calculating huge sums in his head in seconds, learning new languages in one week, and memorizing more than 22,000 digits of pi. With heart-melting simplicity and astonishing self-awareness, *Born on a Blue Day* tells Daniel's story-from his childhood frustrations to adult triumphs-while explaining how his mind works. He thinks in pictures. He sees numbers as complex shapes; thirty-seven, for example, is lumpy like porridge, while eighty-nine reminds him of falling snow. Today, Daniel has emerged as one of the world's most fascinating minds and inspiring stories. While his brain has amazed scientists for years, everyone will be moved by this remarkable man's life story. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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#102 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Nervous System

#124 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Children's Health > Autism & Asperger's Syndrome

Customer Reviews

Fascinating. This book gave me an inside look into the mind of an autistic savant, also I have a better understanding of epilepsy now. It amazes me how Daniel Tammet sees numbers as colors and shapes. I read the whole book in one session. Read this book if you are looking to be inspired and are looking to explore new perspectives of people with disabilities and how they see the world. I find it interesting how he can describe his mathematical abilities so clearly.

After seeing this appealing young man on a 60 minutes video clip, I bought the book to learn more about him. In the tv interview, I found it hard to believe that he was particularly autistic, but his memoir convinces me that, yeah, he is pretty autistic. In spite of his high-functioning, he does have fairly serious difficulties with normal living. He is able to make a living, of a sort, though in a somewhat sheltered environment. He has fallen in love and the warmth of his affection towards his partner and towards his family members is particularly touching since he seems so naive and had to actively learn to be cognizant of other people and their feelings. But in addition to overcoming the limitations of autism, he also has very impressive savant abilities. Under controlled conditions, he has proven that he can memorize thousands and thousands of digits of pi and that he can learn the fundamentals of the vocabulary and grammar of an unfamiliar language in less than a week. (I do disagree that Icelandic was a stunningly difficult language choice. It's not a bad choice, since it's a language that few people know any little snippets of. But it is actually related to Old English and is nowhere near as unrelated or difficult as Vietnamese or Navajo would be for an English-speaker.) The story is sweetly and gently told, reflecting the mind of a sweet and gentle guy with a highly unusual mind. And the implications of savant abilities continue to suggest that our minds are far different than we might suspect.

In a literary era of memoir, it takes a lot to stand out. This book does so. The prose is indicative of the writer's unique world view and conveys an interesting life story.

interesting first person account of asperger's syndrome. well written kept my attention

We meet people every day and everyone is different. Daniel allows us to look out on the world through his eyes. In an age of hate and intolerance, the more we see life through others' eyes, the more accepting we become. Anyone who enjoys autobiographies, those with friends or family on the autism spectrum, those in a service related field all would enjoy this remarkable book.

The author describes his life, the successes and challenges, so the the reader gains a perspective on autism and ausbergers.

Interesting, esp. his early years. Makes it clear that we have a lot to learn about the brain.

Daniel Tammet is a gifted man who happens to be an autistic savant. He has overcome his hardships--including epilepsy--and has learned to excel in life. He is now socially and financially independent, has traveled to many countries and has found love. Daniel is from Kent, England and is the oldest of Jennifer and Kevin's four boys and five girls. His parent's patience and unconditional love have made a miraculous difference in his ability to successfully function in a world he had to learn to participate in. Daniel loves numbers and sees them differently from the masses. He sees them as patterns and colors. Additionally, his memory is astonishing. In support of a fundraiser to help those with epilepsy, he memorized over 25,000 decimal points of PI, reciting them aloud in front of a large crowd in a feat that took over five hours. He has the unique ability to quickly grasp the most difficult of languages. He learned the considerably difficult language, Icelandic in about a week and participated in interviews using that language. He even invented his own language. This inspiring exceptionally written life story is truly amazing. Losing track of time, once I flipped the first page I could not put this mesmerizing 226-page story down until I finished it. Whether you are in a position to associate with or around people on the autistic spectrum or not, you will be hard pressed to find a book more interesting than this one written by a person with autism. Enjoy!

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