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Kerry Cohen

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#9926824 in Books 2016-06-28 2016-06-28 Formats: Audiobook, MP3 Audio, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 1 6.75 x .50 x 5.251, Running time: 8 Hours Binding: MP3 CD | File size: 28.Mb

Kerry Cohen : Seeing Erza: A Mother's Story of Autism, Unconditional Love, and the Meaning of Normal before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seeing Erza: A Mother's Story of Autism, Unconditional Love, and the Meaning of Normal:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Painful as it was to read By Opsimath Honest but troubling... I really appreciate the author's belief in "seeing" her son as a whole child, as a child with differences and challenges, not as a series of pathological symptoms that need to be "fixed" to make him fit into the world's conception of normal. She is spot on that with some children who have fairly mild to moderate autism, bonding and working with interests can produce, in the long run, the same development as can intensive early therapy -- particularly therapy based on frustrating the child in order to get him or her to do what the adult wants. Painful as it was to read, I also appreciated her honesty about the impact of an autistic child on her marriage. However, there were two really big issues with the book for me. First the minor: this book is very workmanlike in its prose, often clunky, sometimes even painful to read. Second, the far more serious issue, which is that this is a really troubled woman who, though a psychologist (counselor at a local high school for kids with problems), does not have any insight whatever into her own problems. In her own mind she is never wrong, her child is perfect and the world is her enemy, all doctors and every therapist but one have no understanding of her child, the schools are all horrible and a bad fit, etc. Sometimes these judgments are made before she even meets the people, sometimes with only what seems like a fifteen minute or half hour visit. I understand that she is trying to argue for an entirely different paradigm through which the medical, educational, and therapeutical industries -- for that is how she presents them and that is indeed what they are to a large extent -- need to view and interact with autistic children, but I think her point would have been more palatable to many people had she been less self-righteous about it. The disturbances I have noted make it all the more amazing and wonderful that the author has such a close bond with Ezra and has managed to do as much for him as she has. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By GRANDMA Was not what I was looking for 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I loved who sincere Kerry Cohen was when writing this book By aileen carmona I loved who sincere Kerry Cohen was when writing this book. It realistically describes the struggles that special needs families go through on a daily basis. This is an amazing read.

Seeing Ezra is the soulful, beautifully written memoir of a mother's fierce love for her autistic son, and a poignant

examination of what it means to be "normal." When Kerry Cohen's son Ezra turns one, a babysitter suggests he may be "different," setting her family on a path in which autism dominates their world. As he becomes a toddler and they navigate the often rigid and prescriptive world of therapy, Cohen is unsettled by the evaluations they undergo: At home, Ezra is playfully expressive, sharing profound, touching moments of connection and intimacy with his mother and other family members, but in therapy he is pathologized, prodded to behave in ways that undermine his unique expression of autism. It soon becomes clear that more is at stake than just Ezra's well-being; Cohen and her marriage are suffering as well. Ezra's differentness, and the strain of pursuing varied therapies, takes a toll on the family; Cohen's husband grows depressed and she pursues an affair; all as she tries to help others recognize and embrace Ezra's uniqueness rather than force him to behave outside his comfort level. It isn't until they abandon the expected, prescriptive notions about love, marriage, and individuality that they are able to come back together as two parents who fiercely love their little boy. Powerful and eye-opening, *Seeing Ezra* is an inspirational chronicle of a mother's struggle to protect her son from a system that seeks to compartmentalize and "fix" him, and of her journey toward accepting and valuing him for who he is—just as he is.

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