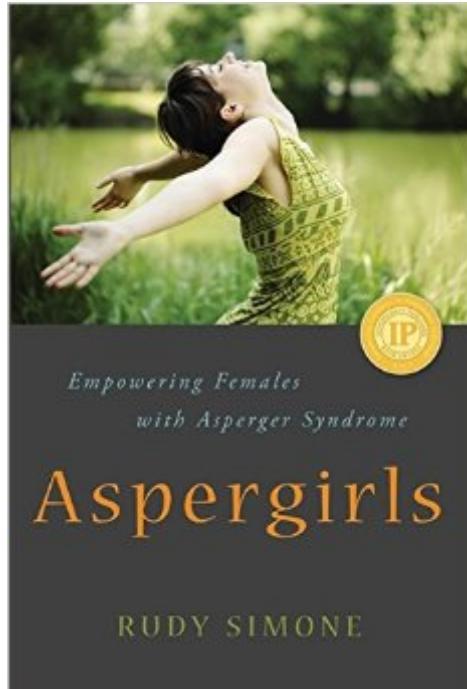


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Aspergirls: Empowering Females With Asperger Syndrome



Synopsis

*Gold Medal Winner in the Sexuality / Relationships Category of the 2011 IPPY Awards** Honorary Mention in the 2010 BOTYA Awards Women's Issues Category *Girls with Asperger's Syndrome are less frequently diagnosed than boys, and even once symptoms have been recognised, help is often not readily available. The image of coping well presented by AS females of any age can often mask difficulties, deficits, challenges, and loneliness. This is a must-have handbook written by an Aspergirl for Aspergirls, young and old. Rudy Simone guides you through every aspect of both personal and professional life, from early recollections of blame, guilt, and savant skills, to friendships, romance and marriage. Employment, career, rituals and routines are also covered, along with depression, meltdowns and being misunderstood. Including the reflections of over thirty-five women diagnosed as on the spectrum, as well as some partners and parents, Rudy identifies recurring struggles and areas where Aspergirls need validation, information and advice. As they recount their stories, anecdotes, and wisdom, she highlights how differences between males and females on the spectrum are mostly a matter of perception, rejecting negative views of Aspergirls and empowering them to lead happy and fulfilled lives. This book will be essential reading for females of any age diagnosed with AS, and those who think they might be on the spectrum. It will also be of interest to partners and loved ones of Aspergirls, and anybody interested either professionally or academically in Asperger's Syndrome.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was astounded to recognize myself in these pages. For decades I have been wrestling with self-diagnosing my non-normal neurological behaviors, but always sort of discounted Aspergers as an answer. It makes sense now that I realize most previous studies on Aspergers Syndrome were based on studies of men and boys. It's a huge relief to realize that Aspergers presents differently among girls and women - and to realize I have found myself within these pages. It's at once incredibly freeing and a little sad. It's freeing to realize I am not alone, not some alien masquerading (poorly) as a human. It's freeing to know who I am, neurologically. But then, sad, to realize that the things that have been endless challenges for me - mainly work, relationships and finances - are NOT going to magically go away, no matter how hard or optimistically I try to fix them. They are part and parcel of me. I have to work *with* these things - allow for them - and give up on trying to *solve* them. I wish I could make everyone I come into close contact with read Aspergirls. Friends and family would understand and hopefully tolerate my quirks better. And in fact, I am sure I would be more completely appreciated for my assets - the creativity, quirky humor, hyperfocus, passionate interests and engaging literacy...and the ability to spot patterns, amazing people with 'intuitive' leaps of logic that seem to spring from very few clues. A few things in this book could be easily added to make it better: it seems that the author intends readers to be somewhat familiar with Autism in the first place, and I had to Google such terms as Mutism and Trainspotting.

This is one of the best books about girls and women on the autism/Asperger's spectrum that I have EVER read! No parent, educator or medical professional should be without this gem. Women and girls on the spectrum will certainly recognize themselves in this stellar masterpiece of a book. It is very empowering! If you are a girl or woman on the spectrum, this book is truly your best friend. Rudy Simone, like Dr. Travis Thompson and Dr. Tony Attwood is the voice of tolerance and understanding in re the a/A experience. She really "gets" it! I like the way she replaces harmful verbiage such as "stimming," which is a term I never liked either with the more tolerant and much more accurate term "soothing" behaviors. She dislikes the term "stimming" because to her it sounds "creepy." I dislike it because I think it trivializes or downplays the need to release excess tension when sensory input gets to be too much. After all, the neurotypical (NT) population "stims," by tapping and jingling things in their pockets and fidgeting, just to name a few. Rudy Simone is a genius. It is as simple as that. She has interviewed women on the spectrum and included their thoughts in this masterpiece of a book. Liane Holliday Willey wrote the foreword and she has Asperger's and her daughter does as well. Rudy Simone outlines critical points throughout one's life, from birth to senior citizenship with Asperger's. She outlines with clearly written, easy to follow lists

of key bullet items that help direct readers' focus on Aspergerian behaviors, reasons for same and mechanisms for coping. Each chapter closes with Advice to Parents and Advice to Aspergirls. I like the new terminology - Aspergirls.

But in book form and specifically for Aspergirl...Seriously, it is *that* honest, empowering, and inspiring. Give Aspergirls wings that they can use, and watch them soar! This book is not intended as a "maybe my female child falls somewhere on the spectrum" or a tool to identify where on the spectrum a person may fall. It is delightfully specific. I think the best audience for this book is well, Aspergirls of all ages, women who suspect they have as-of-yet-undiagnosed Asperger's Syndrome. It is a good book for parents of girls, young women, and even grown women with Asperger's Syndrome. It is a book that would be helpful for any loved one of a female with Asperger's Syndrome. It is definitely mostly for Aspergirls of all ages, or parents of Aspergirls (or suspected Aspergirls) of all ages. If my parents took an interest in knowing the real me (an Aspergirl raising a son with Asperger's) instead of lamenting in how I failed in meeting their expectations for the past 34 years, then they would learn so much about why I was the way that I was growing up, and why I am the way I am now. Simone finds a careful balance in addressing all of the audiences- she gives wonderful and a wide variety of examples of experiences in each chapter/topic, and then summarizes them into a couple of paragraphs directly addressed to the female with Asperger's and then refocuses into a summary directly addressed to the parents of an Aspergirl. I am grateful for Simone's insight into the remarkable differences between boys and girls with Asperger's. I am hopeful that this book helps to change professional opinion and help more girls and women get the support they need to succeed as themselves, in all aspects of life.

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