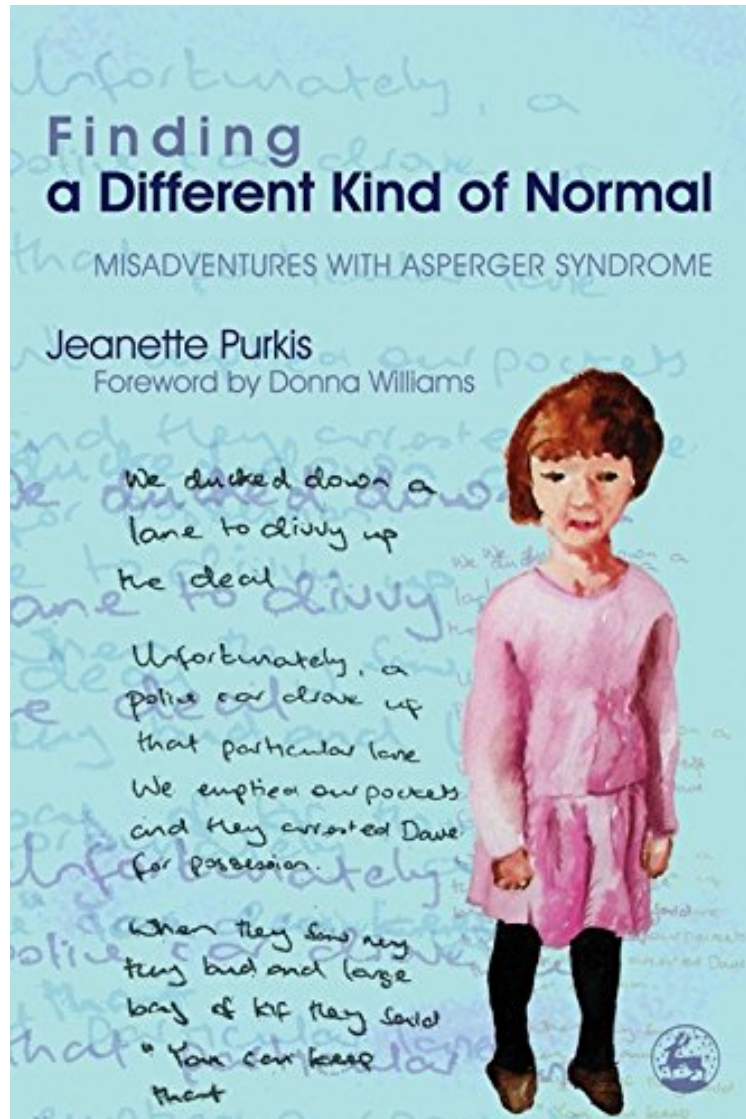


Finding a Different Kind of Normal: Misadventures with Asperger Syndrome

Jeanette Purkis

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Jeanette Purkis : Finding a Different Kind of Normal: Misadventures with Asperger Syndrome before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Finding a Different Kind of Normal: Misadventures with Asperger Syndrome:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Raw and enlighteningBy Debbie DenenburgI could not put this book down. It is an exceptionally well written autobiography that is breathtakingly honest. Thank you Jeannette for sharing your story with the world. It is a stellar example of what it means to grow up with a condition that clouds your

judgment. It illustrates what happens when help comes along to assist you in figuring it all out and making some changes that will improve the quality of life. I have Aspergers and I related to it very well even though my own experiences were drastically different. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. *Dark But Beautiful Honesty* By SuzieWith all due respect to another reviewer here, I would not describe this as a humorous book. The themes of violence and drug addiction don't naturally lend themselves to comedy. Personally I think you'd have to be a bit sick to laugh at the author's very painful story. It definitely does not show "the fun side to having Asperger's Syndrome". If anything it is quite the opposite. Sorry Beetlebangs1964 but did you actually read this book?The author has succeeded in describing her life before she knew she had Asperger Syndrome and resisting the temptation to apply retrospective wisdom, capturing perfectly what it is like to see everything going wrong in your life and not knowing why. Neither does she shy away from dark thoughts and feelings... in that way most typical of people on the spectrum she is frank and honest, confronting the reader with sometimes harsh realities. A book like this should change you a little bit, and this one does. That said, this is still an accessible read and is ultimately very positive and hopeful. It proves that no matter how big a hole you get yourself in to or how desperate things may seem, there is always a way forward. I don't think you can underestimate what a big step it must have been for the author to talk so publicly about these most difficult times in her life, and hopefully her generosity in sharing her experiences will help others who have faced similar challenges. As with any auto-biography this is the story of part of one persons life, not a description of Asperger's syndrome, and I cannot stress enough to the casual reader that Asperger Syndrome does not cause or result in criminal or violent behaviour and is not at all characterised by such. The author explains herself "I tend to think we are all given a set of circumstances to deal with and that we have to do the best with what we have at our disposal". She has just happened to have a "somewhat dark and bizarre life". You probably have to already have some knowledge about what Asperger Syndrome is I think to see how it fits in to that picture, but nonetheless this is a very worthwhile read. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. *Scary and Mistitled in My Opinion* By CustomerI feel that these authors included the "Asperger Syndrome" subtitle simply to find a market audience. I think "Misadventures With Poor Parenting, Drugs, and Poor Choices" is more appropriate. I am trying very hard not to come across as judgmental, because I actually liked the "Jeanette Purkis" character in this story. She is both strong and honest, and I like that. I am not a mental health professional of any kind but my daughter and I have both been diagnosed with Asperger's and our lives have not even remotely taken the scary path outlined by these authors. This being said, the book is extremely well written and quite fascinating. The human touches Purkis includes are brilliant. For example, I think Jeanette was wise to become a lesbian, and foolish to choose such poor partners. This kind of foolish wisdom, found throughout the book, makes her story very touching and very believable. Want to find out about Asperger's? Look elsewhere. Want to read a marvelous autobiography? Look no further.

Jeanette Purkis spent her early life reacting violently against her feelings of embarrassment, anger and confusion about her 'difference' from other people. She was unaware until well into adulthood that everything she found difficult, including her lack of success in forming relationships, could be a result of having Asperger Syndrome. Used to being a misfit from a very young age, Jeanette found that being a member of a group in which she had a label - Jeanette the Communist; Jeanette, Enemy of the State; Jeanette the convict; Jeanette the drug addict - gave her a sense of order she could depend on, particularly in prison, where each day had a set routine and the inmates accepted her because of her rebel attitude. Finally diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome at the age of 20, the author only began to accept her diagnosis some years later when she felt for the first time that she might learn to cope with being herself. Jeanette's remarkable life and her journey towards finding a different kind of normal is compelling and inspiring reading for people with autism spectrum disorders, and those living or working with them.