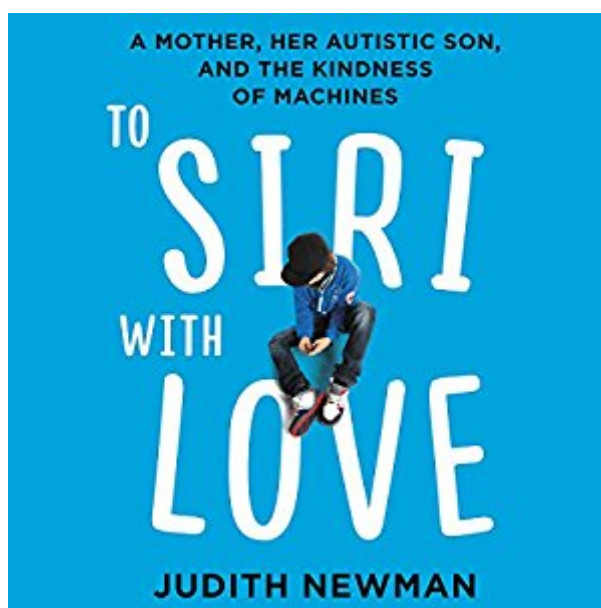


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To Siri With Love: A Mother, Her Autistic Son, And The Kindness Of Machines



Synopsis

From the author of the viral New York Times op-ed column "To Siri with Love" comes a collection of touching, hilarious, and illuminating stories about life with a 13-year-old boy with autism that hold insights and revelations for us all. When Judith Newman shared the story of how Apple's electronic personal assistant, Siri, helped Gus, her son who has autism, she received widespread media attention and an outpouring of affection from listeners around the world. Basking in the afterglow of media attention, Gus told anyone who would listen, "I'm a movie star". Judith's story of her son and his bond with Siri was an unusual tribute to technology. While many worry that our electronic gadgets are dumbing us down, she revealed how they can give voice to others, including children with autism like Gus - a boy who has trouble looking people in the eye, hops when he's happy, and connects with inanimate objects on an empathetic level. To Siri with Love is a collection of funny, poignant, and uplifting stories about living with an extraordinary child who has helped a parent see and experience the world differently. From the charming (Gus weeping with sympathy over the buses that would lie unused while the bus drivers were on strike) to the painful (paying \$22,000 for a behaviorist in Manhattan to teach Gus to use a urinal) to the humorous (Gus' insistence on getting naked during all meals, whether at home or not, because he does not want to get his clothes dirty) to the profound (how an automated "assistant" helped a boy learn how to communicate with the rest of the world), the stories in To Siri with Love open our eyes to the magic and challenges of a life beyond the ordinary.

Book Information

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Audible Audiobooks > Science > Medicine

Customer Reviews

It was a mistake to pick up this book. I was going to save it for a weekend read and I didn't see the harm in just teasing myself with a few pages. Wrong. One page turned thrillingly and obsessively into another, and before I knew it, I'd been blown off the day. Fortunately, it's only about 250 pages, or it could be burning down another day. I know the author's work (I'm now going back to her wonderful "You Make Me Feel Like An Unnatural Woman"), so I was expecting lots to smile about, laugh at, and gawk at how her effortless snark only enhances the warmth and humanity beneath. You know who else does that? No one. This is the best yet from an essential writer. I'm not going to describe the book there's plenty of that in other reviews including raves from The New York Times and The Washington Post because it doesn't really matter what you're interested in; this book will entertain, enlighten, and move everyone. If you don't believe it, read just the first few pages and stop. Go ahead. Try. I dare you.

The first time I heard of Judith Newman was several years ago. She had written a hilarious piece on "outsourcing potty training, and I happened to be in the throes of potty training my six-year-old, autistic son. When I read her hysterical article, I laughed my head off. I was in one of the unfunniest seasons of my life, and Judith Newman made me fall off my chair laughing. Naturally, I had to read her new book on parenting and autism, and it's even better than I thought it would be: sure, I laughed (one time, waking my sleeping husband), but, more importantly, this book left me feeling less isolated and more hopeful. I think just about anyone would enjoy this book, but I would encourage parents (especially mothers) to read it. Highly recommended. Five Stars.

I have one huge complaint about this book: It eventually ends. I did not want it to end, ever. I can't tell you how gorgeously written this is (funny, sad, breathtaking, heartbreaking, did I mention funny?) but to those who've followed Newman's work in the NYT, this will come as no surprise. Here's the deal: I am not a mother of human children, either off or on the Spectrum. But lots of my friends are (who doesn't have a friend with a precious child on the spectrum these days?) And I'm not one to buy "parenting" books, God forbid. I bought this in part to understand my friends' worlds a little better, maybe be a better friend. What I did NOT expect was a book that transcended autism. At its heart (and there is so much heart), it's a story about a warm and fabulous (and fabulously quirky) Mom--the kind of woman you just want to knock back Cosmopolitans with--and her

fantabulous twin sons, Gus and Henry. It could be a novel, one in which the mom understands that each of her sons is very much his own person and cherishes that, embraces that, loves the hell out of them for that. Henry is such a character, you will be tempted to think that you ARE reading a novel. And Gus. Omg, Gus. What an absolutely joy. Judith Newman gets book of the year in my view. And mother of the year, too.

Judith Newman conveys the conflicting joys, absurdities and heartaches of parenting in such a brilliant way. Rather than casting herself as some sort of paragon of patience and virtue, she's not afraid to be honest about how she feels about the daily struggles of mothering--especially the struggles of mothering a child with autism. This makes the book a powerful read for all mothers, who will recognize themselves in Judith's story and feel relief and courage. Oh and did I mention that at the same time this book is so friggin hilarious that I'd recommend some type of panty protection.

A beautiful hilarious open honest look at life with Gus, Gus a charming boy on the autistic spectrum. Henry who is not autistic but is unique in his own fantastic way. Not to mention John Judith's much older husband with his own peculiarities. Judith has a wonderful hilarious spirit. A loving mother wife who seems to embrace whatever challenge life throws at her. I laughed till tears came down my face I was sorry to finish this book & say goodbye to this unique family.

Tolstoy's famous cliché says all happy families are alike. Judith Newman is a big-time exception. Dad is in his 80s and lives in an apartment separately from Mom, who is in her 50s and their twin teenage-boys, one of whom is autistic. If this doesn't sound like a recipe for a joyous, life-affirming, and gripping story you're right. But, nonetheless, that's exactly what it is. Newman is a terrific writer and her great sense of humor and deep humanity make this book as memorable and as fun to read as it is a compelling insight into the growing number of autistic people among us and a wake-up call about their future and ours.

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