



The Autistic Brain: Helping Different Kinds of Minds Succeed

By Temple Grandin, Richard Panek

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"The right brain has created the right book for right now."—*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Temple Grandin may be the most famous person with autism, a condition that affects 1 in 88 children. Since her birth in 1947, our understanding of it has undergone a great transformation, leading to more hope than ever before that we may finally learn the causes of and treatments for autism.

Weaving her own experience with remarkable new discoveries, Grandin introduces the advances in neuroimaging and genetic research that link brain science to behavior, even sharing her own brain scan to show which anomalies might explain common symptoms. Most excitingly, she argues that raising and educating kids on the autism spectrum must focus on their long-overlooked strengths to foster their unique contributions. *The Autistic Brain* brings Grandin's singular perspective into the heart of the autism revolution.

"[Grandin's] most insightful work to date . . . *The Autistic Brain* is something anyone could benefit from reading, and I recommend it to anyone with a personal or professional connection to autism or neurological difference."—John Elder Robison, author of *Look Me in the Eye*

"*The Autistic Brain* can both enlighten readers with little exposure to autism and offer hope and compassion to those who live with the condition."—*Scientific American*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Grandin and Panek explore neuroimaging, genetics, and brain science in this book that looks at what causes autism and how it can be treated and diagnosed. Though coauthored, the narrative is largely told from Grandin's point of view, with many first-person references. This filtering of the prose through Grandin allows narrator Andrea Gallo to read in a more personal manner that represents Grandin's singular voice. Gallo shifts to a more critical tone when she reads sections in which Grandin and Panek offer commentary on current practices related to the treatment of autism. A fascinating listen and a winning performance from Gallo. A Houghton Mifflin Harcourt hardcover. (Apr.)

From [Booklist](#)

Grandin is the face of autism. Because of her work, the general public is now aware of what was until fairly recently a strange, disturbing, and essentially unknowable condition. In her latest book, Grandin not only discusses her own experiences with autism but also explains the latest technological advances in the study of the disorder, including the genetics of autism. The symptoms that she displayed at a young age—destructive behavior, inability to speak, sensitivity to physical contact, fixation on spinning objects—are now considered classic indicators of the disorder, though she was diagnosed as having brain damage. Things have changed since then, of course. She discusses when autism was first diagnosed (in 1943), but she makes clear from the start that her priority here is to encourage an accurate diagnosis for the disorder and promote improved treatments for sensory problems associated with autism, since difficulty in the latter can often be debilitating. She discusses different ways of thinking and even includes lists of potential jobs for those people among us who think differently. An important and ultimately optimistic work. --June Sawyers

Review

"[Grandin's] most insightful work to date...*The Autistic Brain* is something anyone could benefit from reading, and I recommend it to anyone with a personal or professional connection to autism or neurological difference."—John Elder Robison, author of *Look Me in the Eye*

"In *The Autistic Brain*, Grandin explains what she's learned in recent years about her brain and the brains of others with autism." -- *USA Today*

"Grandin has reached a stunning level of sophistication about herself and the science of autism. Her observations will assist not only fellow autistics and families with affected members, but also researchers and physicians seeking to better understand the condition." — Jerome Groopman, *The New York Review of Books*

"Her visual circuitry extends well beyond where neurotypicals' circuitry stops. Grandin is wired for long-term visual memory. She is sure that one day, autism will be explained by neurobiology. Her new book, *The Autistic Brain*, outlines that quest." -- Los Angeles Times

"Grandin has helped us understand autism not just as a phenomenon, but as a different but coherent mode of

existence that otherwise confounds us...She excels at finding concrete examples that reveal the perceptual and social limitations of autistic and "neurotypical" people alike." — *The New York Times*

"Autism is a spectrum, and Temple is on one edge. Living on this edge has allowed her to be an extraordinary source of inspiration for autistic children, their parents—and all people." —*Time*

"*The Autistic Brain* can both enlighten readers with little exposure to autism and offer hope and compassion to those who live with the condition." —*Scientific American*

"The right brain has created the right book for right now." — *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"An iconic example of someone who puts her strengths, and even her limitations, to good use." — KQED, San Francisco

"Temple Grandin has yet again been of enormous service to the millions of autistic individuals worldwide, to anyone labeled with a disability, and to the rest of us curious about the brain and the intricacies of human experience." — *New York Journal of Books*

"*The Autistic Brain* is an engaging look at life within the spectrum. It's also an honest one." — *HealthCare Book Reviews*

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"A tremendous gift, not just to patients and their families, but also to teachers, mentors, friends, and everyone who is interested in understanding how our brains make us who we are...This is a book everyone should read." — Dr. Ginger Campbell, *Brain Science Podcast*

"Highly recommended for anyone who knows or works with people on the spectrum." — Library Journal (Starred Review)

"Grandin's particular skill is her remarkable ability to make sense of autistics' experiences, enabling readers to see 'the world through an autistic person's jumble of neuron misfires,' and she offers hope that one day, autism will be considered not according to some diagnostic manual, but to the individual." — *Publishers Weekly*

"An important and ultimately optimistic work." —*Booklist*

"An illuminating look at how neuroscience opens a window into the mind." —Kirkus

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Butcher:

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Della Francis:

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