



Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking

Julia Bascom

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The Loud Hands Project, a project of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, was funded through IndieGoGo to create an anthology titled *Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking*. *Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking* is a collection of essays written by and for Autistic people. Spanning from the dawn of the Neurodiversity movement to the blog posts of today, *Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking* catalogues the experiences and ethos of the Autistic community and preserves both diverse personal experiences and the community's foundational documents together side by side.

-from ASAN

Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking Details

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Author : Julia Bascom

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From Reader Review Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking for online ebook

Audra says

MUST READ. If you live in this world, this is a must read. If you teach, this is a must read. If you parent, this is a must read. If you interact with other people, this is a must read. Seriously. Buy. Read. Now.

Opal says

Three people are borrowing this book after me, and I'm not at all leery of letting them read it. I honestly feel they'll be more knowledgeable/aware after reading it. There's my ringing endorsement! (My local public library, [linked here], actually purchased the copy I read after I put in a request.)

I found all the authors' pieces to be extremely intense. The tones varied--angry, sardonic, determined, among others--but all read strongly and clearly. *Loudly*, even.

There were some especially good quotes ('work of art that I would hang on my wall and admire constantly' sort of quotes) that I wanted to keep. Alas, there's a line of people waiting to read, so I don't have the book on hand...

The anthology format is a lot easier to read, imo, and it was nice to finish a book for the first time in a while. The cover is also very clean and attractive. I don't believe this is available in large print, but they have ebook and Kindle editions (at least one of which can be read with a screen reader, I think?)

I do wish there were more contributors. Several of the authors had multiple essays included; I'm not knocking their pieces, all of them are very well-written, but I think it might have been an improvement if there were more contributors.

TL;DR it's good, it's a strong book, you should read it. Share it. Paper your living room with a full copy of the text.

Don't skip the dedication.

bekah says

This is an extremely important and insightful book.

The one concern I have is the inclusion of essays purported to be written through FC, in which case the authentic authorship by autistic persons comes into question, given the overwhelming body of research evidence discrediting FC as authentic communication. Although I suppose that there is a possibility in some cases, that's not a judgement I can make, and I don't feel comfortable with that.

Sarah says

If you're autistic, read this book.

If you're not autistic, read this book.

Though I'd read most of these essays previously, it's incredibly powerful to see them all in one place. It's real. It's intimate. It's gut-wrenching. It's beautiful. This is the most important book ever published on the subject of autism and, in my opinion, one of the most important books, period.

Kathleen O'Neal says

This amazing anthology goes a long way towards answering skeptics of the Autism rights movement and exploring the truly oppressive realities Autistic people, especially Autistic youth, face from the wider society. The section of the book entitled "What They Do To Us" was for me both the most compelling and the most disturbing section of the book, highlighting as it did the evils that occur at the intersection of ableism and ageism. One of my best friends, Shain Neumeier, has an excellent piece in this section about the horrors visited on Autistic people (among others) at the notorious Judge Rotenberg Center in Massachusetts. Other friends also have great pieces in the book. The writing by Julia Bascom, who as of this writing I do not personally know, I also found to be especially powerful. If I ever know anyone outside the neurodiversity movement who has a child diagnosed with Autism, they're getting a copy of this book courtesy of me.

Elizabeth says

How is this book not in every library? (Rhetorical question.)

Minus one star because I kept thinking of how Lydia and others created *All the Weight of Our Dreams: On Living Racialized Autism* because this book (and so much of everything else by/about autistic folks) is almost all white people.

Azzia Walker says

great book, mind the small print and buy on Kindle if you can. my husband's chapter is on Throwing Away the Master's Tools: Liberating Ourselves from the Pathology Paradigm. if you have ever wondered why we need to talk about Autistic people instead of "people with autism" or how to truly be an ally in this movement, this is the book for you.

instead of listening to neurotypical so-called experts and scared neurotypical parents, read this book and listen to Autistics teach about autism and the neurodiversity movement. it's the responsible thing to do.

Savannah says

I'm actually in this book, so I'm going to refrain from an in depth review- please read this and rec it to your friends, family, teachers, and co workers. The essays from my fellow autistics are incredibly important to help you get a good sense of what it is to live an autistic life in this world.

Anna "Andi" says

The only thing above a book that's unputdownable is the one you have to stop, pause, take in the sheer strength of what you've just read after every essay. Loud Hands is one of those. I never thought I'd say this about an anthology, but I found every single contribution valuable. Some spoke to my experience, others broadened my perspective. The contributions were heartfelt, articulate, sometimes angry, sometimes heartbreak, sometimes beautiful. Reading it, I felt a palpable sense of being on the edge of something big, something important, something happening.

My criticisms are small: there were a few times when a sentence didn't make sense because it started out as one thing and became another - this is possibly inevitable in a book written by autistics, but the book would have benefited from these being caught in the editing stage. Many contributors had several essays included, and whilst all of them were of high quality and very worthwhile, I'd have appreciated greater diversity of contributors and more of the longer personal essays (of which there were some excellent examples). But these are minor. This is not just an important book, but a highly readable one too.

Charlene says

This book was beyond excellent. I am a parent to an autistic teen and sometimes have trouble seeing the world from his view, and sometimes he has trouble explaining it to me. This have me wonderful insight to the autistic community and how important the voices of autistics are. I know that I work hard to teach my son self advocacy skills, an am reminded that this is his road that I am walking with him to be a support. Thanks for this wonderful book!

Eli Johnson says

This book taught me so much about myself and my community and the ways I can self-advocate and advocate for others. Absolutely a must read for anyone on the autism spectrum or who knows someone on the spectrum. Changed my life.

Linus says

This is a great collection, I learned so much. I felt like the way racism was handled was a bit odd though - there were a few essays in which parallels were drawn between ableism and racism, without ever discussing the intersections. That looked a bit like some authors were using these comparisons as a way to demonstrate that ableism is actually a bad thing, which would be quite clear from the material alone, I think.

Alice Lemon says

Wow. I'd been meaning to read this for quite a while, but I didn't expect it to hit me quite so hard when I did. I loved the book, even if it's a bit hard for me to put into words why.

Although it's not clear to me that Autism Network International exists anymore--their website is years out-of-date--Jim Sinclair's essay on the development of it as an autistic community and culture was very moving, and reminded me of just how lucky I've been since college to have found friends with similar autism to mine, and how much more comfortable I feel around them. A number of the essays in the book gave me similar feelings of warmth and belonging, and that's part of why I liked it.

Other parts, though, were a lot more painful, especially the discussions of the treatment of more severely disabled autistic people by parents, teachers, and the American medical system. I've largely been isolated from this: because I've never been formally diagnosed, and since I'm mostly able to live independently and support myself, it's easy to not pay attention to just how bad things are for other people who've been treated worse by the system. This material is important, though, and the various authors did a good job of giving compelling accounts with what is wrong with the system and how they think it can be improved.

My only complaint about the book is that, unfortunately, the copy-editing leaves something to be desired. Sometimes page breaks are in odd places or there are other layout issues, as well as some odd typos.

Charlene Fujino says

Educate Yourself

A must read for every person in our world, especially public school teachers, coordinators, administrators, and leaders. Educators, read this book slowly and carefully. It is full of things that go against the grain of most things we have been taught. Amazing read from true masters in the subject of autism. Spend time reading the pages of bullet points at the ending from the contributors. Concise and priceless thoughts, tips, suggestions straight from the source.

J L's Bibliomania says

Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking is a collection of essays written by the growing Autistic self-advocate community. I did not read Loud Hands, cover to cover, but dipped into it over about 6 weeks (before having to return it to the library). Like any collection of essays or short stories, the quality varies, but several of the pieces haunted me for days.

The best of the pieces in this volume should be required reading for parents new to Autism-land. Thankfully, many of the entries, such as Julia Bascom's breathtaking essay "Loud Hands" and Amy Sequenzia's piece "Why Autism Speaks Hurt Us" are also available from other online sources.
