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Pieces: My Sister, Her Autism And Me



Synopsis

Jaqueline and Jessica Moreno are sisters born less than two years apart who have developed a truly extraordinary relationship. At two years old, Jessica was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder as a nonverbal and low-functioning, shaking their family's world and changing the course of history for them, their younger brother, and their parents forever. "Pieces" offers a glimpse at Jaqueline's own journey as Jessica's sister, chronicling her childhood, adolescence, and adulthood through her feelings of resentment, confusion, inspiration, and love that ultimately shaped her passion and purpose in life. Filled with original poetry, diary entries, and honest and raw narrative insights into the complex but rewarding relationship facing most Siblings of brothers and sisters with disabilities, Pieces illustrates the deeply emotional connection that binds these two young women, and stands as a tribute to the inherent beauty of Sibling relationships. Jaqueline Moreno was born and raised in Pasadena, CA. She graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.A. in Neuroscience and Psychology, and from Pacific Oaks College with an M.A. in Human Development. Her published thesis work centered on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: 5th Edition changes in diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder. She has been working as a Behavior Interventionist for the past two years, and is currently seeking her Board Certified Behavior Analyst certification. She serves as Chair on the Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center's Programs & Services Committee, co-founded and assists in operating the California Sibling Leadership Network (CASLN), and is spearheading Sibling advocacy and support programs through these two organizations. She lives in Atwater Village, Los Angeles, CA.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is part memoir, part essay collection, part poetry anthology, and entirely a love letter from one sister to another. It is relatable, accessible, and altogether inspiring. From one complicated sisterly relationship stemmed a life's calling and unparalleled gratitude. Moreno approaches each moment of her life with thought provoking wisdom, a touch of self-critique, and always empathy. As a woman with siblings who do not struggle with autism, I still saw myself in every moment of sisterly frustration, tortured helplessness, and over-protective love. I recommend this to anyone interested in helping those with special needs, but also to those who may have someone in their life who struggle with this diagnosis. If nothing else, know that Jaqueline Moreno hears you and wants to put a voice to your story.

This book is a must-read for everyone, but especially for those who have grown up with a sibling with autism. The author analyzes the behaviors typical of those with autism from a clinical perspective, but follows each chapter with a loving, heartfelt diary entry to her sister validating her love, devotion, respect and appreciation for the powerful piece that her sister has become in Jaqueline's own life. Sibling rivalry is typical in all families, but for those in families with autism, the challenges are anything but typical. This book tracks the author's own growth through childhood to adulthood, examining her own reactions and realizing that her sister is indeed her greatest gift.

An inspirational life's journey of what it is like growing up with a Special Needs family member. I couldn't put it down.

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