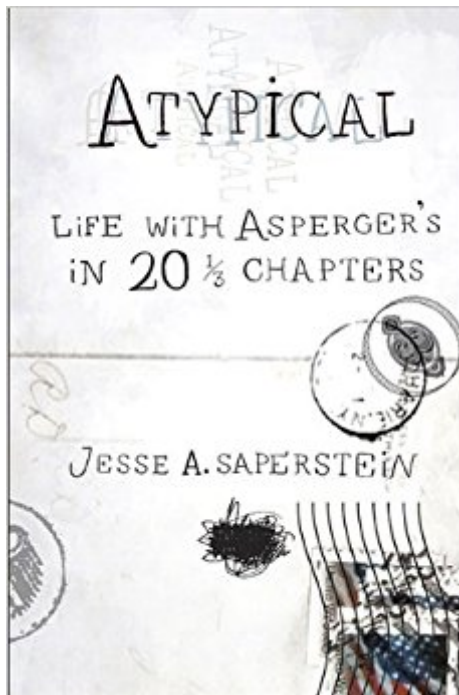




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Atypical: Life With Asperger's In 20 1/3 Chapters



Synopsis

The poignant, funny, and truly unique observations of a young writer diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. "Please be forewarned that you are about to read the observations and life lessons of someone who entertains himself by farting in public and conversing in gibberish with his cats." Thus begins the charming, insightful, and memorable story of Jesse Saperstein. Diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a mild form of autism, Jesse has struggled since childhood with many of the hallmark challenges of his condition-from social awkwardness and self-doubt to extreme difficulty with change and managing his emotions. He has also worked hard to understand and make the most of his AS- developing his keen curiosity and sense of humor, closely observing the world around him, and most of all, helping others with AS to better cope and even thrive. Told with endearing and unflinching honesty, Jesse brings his unique perspective to the circumstances of his life and his condition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Brilliant, creative writing. His next book should be a novel." -Temple Grandin, Ph.D., author of *Thinking in Pictures* "With a voice as keen and honest as any I've ever had the pleasure of reading, Jesse Saperstein cracks open the underbelly of life with Asperger's, mesmerizing readers with a tale that is as fabulously incorrigible as it is strikingly compelling. Jesse Saperstein is the son I always wanted!" -Liane Holliday Willey, author of *Pretending to be Normal: Living with Asperger's Syndrome* "This funny, poignant, and honest book provides further evidence that Asperger's

Syndrome is no cookie-cutter diagnosis. Atypical also informs us that Jesse Saperstein is a wonderful addition to the world of Asperger literature." -Michael John Carley, executive director of The Global and Regional Asperger Syndrome Partnership (GRASP) and author of Asperger's From the Inside Out "Honest, funny, bristling with ideas and intelligence, Jesse A. Saperstein's Atypical marks the debut of a bright young voice from the Asperger's community." -Tim Page, author of Parallel Play and professor at the University of Southern California "Amusing, surprising, and informative. Just when I thought I had learned all I can from personal accounts, I had the chance to read this one!" -Jerry Newport, author of Mozart and the Whale, with Mary Newport and Johnny Dodd "Jesse Saperstein's wise and compelling memoir lets us know how frustrating and strange life can be for a bright, resourceful young man with Asperger's navigating the typical world. Funny, irreverent, and ultimately forgiving of all the damage we 'well-adjusted' typicals wreak on those who are a little different from us." -Sigourney Weaver, actress "By describing his experience with honesty, passion and deep clarity, Saperstein allows a so-called 'neurotypical' like myself to completely identify with his atypicality. A very powerful read." -Bruce Altman, actor "Jesse Saperstein is witty, insightful, and smart. He is also caring, social, emotional, empathetic, and able to learn from his mistakes and other people's rudeness-all traits we are often told that people with Asperger's don't have. I highly recommend this book to parents, educators, community members-frankly, to everyone. Jesse, I want to know what happens next; I hope you are working on a sequel!" -Chantal Sicile-Kira, author of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Autism Life Skills

An autism advocate and popular motivational speaker, Jesse A. Saperstein is considered one of the most respected leaders in the anti-bullying movement of his generation.

I've known the author since he was a student in the high school where I'm a teacher. He has dealt with his Asperger's in some astonishing ways: dedicating himself to learning his choreography in a play I directed in high school (a feat that took relentless work for him), dedicating himself to a cause and consequently walking the length of the Appalachian Trail to raise money and awareness, dedicating himself to overcoming the stigma of his condition in high school and college... But this book tops it all. Read it to laugh yourself silly (the author's command of language and his outrageous sense of humor put him in a class with Jean Shepherd, Philip Roth, and C. D. Payne), or read it to gain new insights into what Asperger's is all about, or both. Or read it to discover how what most would see as an affliction has been made by the author into an asset. However you look at it, this is an astonishing literary debut that I can't recommend highly enough.

I hope *Atypical* is just the beginning of what Jesse Sapperstien (JS) has to offer. This book left me wanting more from his gifted and unique voice. For me this was a glimpse into what living with Asperger's is. His trials and tribulations of navigating social quagmires permeates every page. His aching desire to be accepted by his peers is heartbreaking. In describing the times he achieved acceptance JS brought me to the verge of tears. Never have I read anything like this. JS this is a plea, please write more! I'd love to hear more in depth of your experience on the Appalachian Trail. JS describes finding acceptance with social outcasts in the wilderness, acceptance from people he'd never expect it from in a place he'd never expect it. I'd also like to hear more of the dark side of asperger's. This book isn't only about hardship, it is also a look at the Strengths of Asperger's and the reader is taken to heights of joy as Jesse describes his personal victories, which aren't so personal considering one of his accomplishments is raising thousands for a pediatric HIV/AIDS summer camp. In this book we get a peripheral view of the damage both physical and mental that a person with asperger's endures in life, as well as the ecstasy. What's amazing about this book is the pain and joy is so human and so humanely portrayed that it will be identifiable for any reader willing to "give it a chance".

As a life-long misfit who only recently, at age 46, is seriously attempting to deconstruct his own awkwardness, I've been reading every Asperger-related book I can get my paws on. And mostly, they read like dull-witted middle school textbooks, with authors paid per click. Jesse Saperstein's books are the brilliant exception, and you should drop whatever you're presently doing, and immediately order both of 'em. No therapist-speak, no watered-down generalities, no filter. Jesse takes you through the full gamut of his experience, with brutally honest tales to make you wince, laugh coffee out your nose, and get misty-eyed at the poignant vignettes only those on the autism spectrum will understand. But he also gazes intelligently through every layer of the autistic experience, making clear sense of it all, and illuminating a tangible path through the obstacles. He lives as a true example of finding ones own best attributes and carving out ones own purpose. It also helps that he's gut-bustingly hilarious, and an immensely talented wordsmith.

This book caught my attention originally because of the title. After reading the first few pages, I found myself laughing hysterically, something I rarely do when reading anything, especially stuff that's supposed to be funny. Jesse's story is honest, sometimes brutally (how refreshing!) and his talent as a writer shines through. I didn't want this book to end and am now following his blog -

which is equally as funny and great. This is not a "typical" self-help book for parents with kids on the spectrum (per se anyway), so don't expect to read a "how to cope" book by an "expert". It's more of an honest disclosure of what it's really like to live in a world that's not designed for people who are different. It's told by a most interesting and inspirational guy who happens to be "Atypical" in the best possible way. I won't tell you what my favorite parts are because that would spoil a few surprises, let's just say I thoroughly enjoyed every word of it and am waiting anxiously for his next book!

As honest, funny and poignant a book as I've ever read, Jesse Saperstein's memoir is beautifully written and powerfully felt. He guides us through his life on the autism spectrum, sharing personal anecdotes that sometimes make us laugh out loud and sometimes make us hurt, all the while giving us a view inside of how someone with Asperger's thinks and FEELS. I admire Jesse's keen insight and ability to problem solve. All of us, on and off the spectrum, can learn many of life's lessons including how to appreciate and embrace the uniqueness of ourselves.

Recommended reading for those wanting to know more about life as an Asperger's or Autistic Individual! Well written memoir that has it's share of humor, heartache, and cringe worthy moments. Very lively and easy read!

I LOVED this book. I tend to read a lot of books about AS as my son is AS (as well as ADHD, CAPD and Tourettes). He is much as Jesse describes himself, mild AS and more quirky than disabled. I hope he grows up to be like Jesse--funny, self-aware, compassionate, and dedicated to goals. Jesse's writing is laugh-out-loud funny (I had to keep biting the pillow, I was reading in bed with hubby asleep next to me). It also can bring a tear. It's painfully honest, poignant and moving. I recommend this book to anyone, whether they have a loved one on the spectrum or not. It will help open your eyes to AS and what it means to live with it. Five stars, Jesse, and I can't wait for your next book!

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