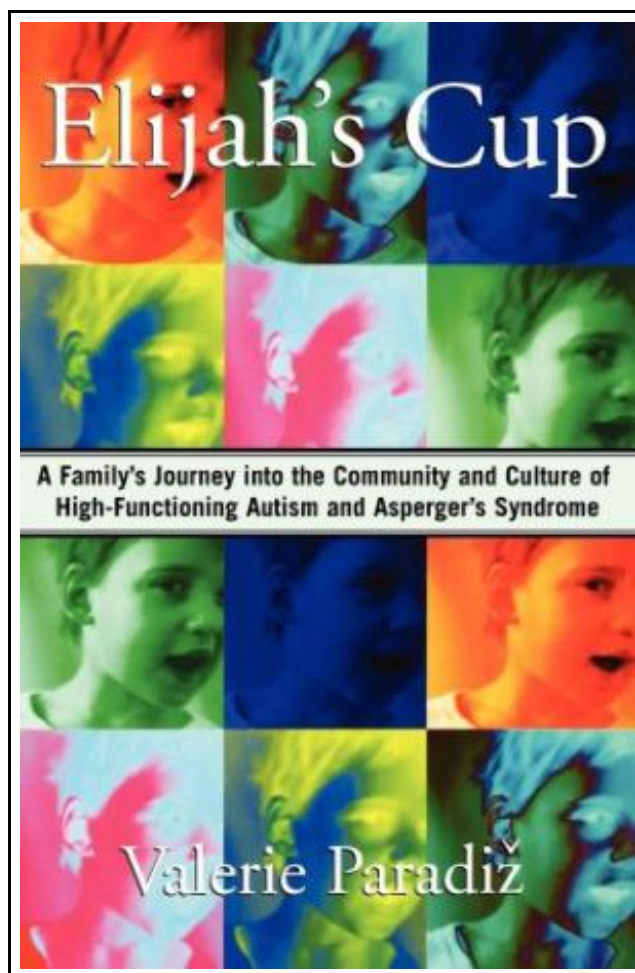


Elijahs Cup: A Familys Journey Into the Community and Culture of High-Functioning Autism and Aspergers Syndrome



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Reviews

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ELIJAHS CUP: A FAMILYS JOURNEY INTO THE COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OF HIGH-FUNCTIONING AUTISM AND ASPERGERS SYNDROME

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Free Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 256 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 6.1in. x 0.7in. Faced with her two-year-old toddlers precipitous bout with epilepsy and his puzzling behaviors, Valerie Paradiz took a bold and unusual path, coming to terms with and ultimately embracing the strange beauty of her son Elijahs special neurological disorder, which was diagnosed as Aspergers syndrome, a form of autism. In *Elijahs Cup*, Paradiz tells the powerful story of her familys struggle with her sons disease, one characterized by social awkwardness, literal-mindedness, and a fixation with particular subjects and interests. Like attention deficit disorder (ADD), dyslexia, depression, and obsessive-compulsive disorder, Aspergers has exploded in diagnosis in the last decade, reconfiguring the known incidence of autism in the population with estimates as high as one in fifty people. Ever since autism was discovered by researchers in the 1940s, the disability has been under the strict purview of professionals in medicine, psychiatry, and education. Like the deaf community, autistics themselves have had little voice in expressing their real experience and needs. They were framed as too sick to be conscious of their own internal lives, too mentally ill to possess an identity. All this has changed. Today there is a blossoming movement of autistic self-advocacy groups and alliances that pose challenging questions to the medical status quo. A fascinating, independent expression of another way of life, full of quirkiness, hardship, and humor, has emerged. *Elijahs Cup* is a provocative and pioneering book that pushes the envelope of what we know about autism. Were Andy Warhol, Albert Einstein, and the comedian Andy Kaufman, whom we usually think of as brilliant eccentrics, autistic. Can these figures serve as role models to this community? *Elijahs Cup* offers a refreshing take on mental disability from the perspective of civil rights, history, and the arts. From...



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