

Book Title: The Sound of a Miracle: A Child's Triumph over Autism

Author: Annabel Stehli

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Book Review by Judy Ferguson

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In this book, Annabel Stehli shares the story of her life and the challenges, disappointments, and successes she experienced raising a child with autism. Ultimately, she shares her daughter's victory over autism, which was thought at the time to be caused by her inadequacies as a mother. Stehli was relentless in seeking what she thought was best for Georgie. She sought treatment for her in Switzerland with Dr. Berard after being advised that institutionalization would be best for Georgie. After assessing Georgie's hearing, auditory training was recommended and implemented.

Annabel Stehli does a wonderful job of describing her emotional journey in coping with a series of significant life events: a healthy child who becomes ill and dies, a child with autism (and being blamed as the cause), divorce, nervous breakdown, remarriage, a move to a different country and back, the birth of other children, and her daughter's victory over autism. This was a mother's heart-wrenching story of her love for her children and one that brings emotions to the surface. Some readers may find themselves relating closely to Annabel's experiences, hardships, and joyous occasions. Those of us who have had the chance to experience children like "Georgie" in our lives can relate to the pain, guilt, and daily frustrations described by the author—and that sometimes a "leap of faith" is necessary to overcome life's obstacles.

Although autism has been researched for decades, there is still no cure. This book describes one approach that worked for one child and family. It was a tear-jerking story for me. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading success stories of children who overcome their disabilities.