

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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The Special Needs Parent Handbook: Critical Strategies to Help You Survive and Thrive.

Singer, Jonathan (Author)

Dec 2010. 81 p. Clinton + Valley, paperback, \$14.99. (9781452074467).

Of the multitude of special-needs parenting books available, most cover a specific area in depth—keeping the marriage together (*Married with Special-Needs Children*, 2007); navigating the health-care system (*Parenting Children with Health Issues*, 2007); advocating for inclusion (*The Complete IEP Guide*, 1998); tackling a specific diagnosis (*Coloring outside Autism’s Lines*, 2010); or offering advice on keeping life balanced (*If You’ve Ever Wanted to Crawl in the Closet with an Oreo*, 2000). Singer, whose daughter has a genetic disorder that “causes autistic tendencies,” touches on all of these areas in this short, personal volume that rose out of conversations on a Yahoo discussion group. Some of the advice is overly simplified (“You need to find the best doctors for your child”), but the short chapters on practical subjects (“Finding Babysitters,” “Your Health,” “Planning for the Future”) could serve as a useful introduction for a parent just starting down the path of raising a special-needs child. The proceeds of this book benefit Advocacy for All, an initiative founded by Singer.

— *Laura Tillotson*