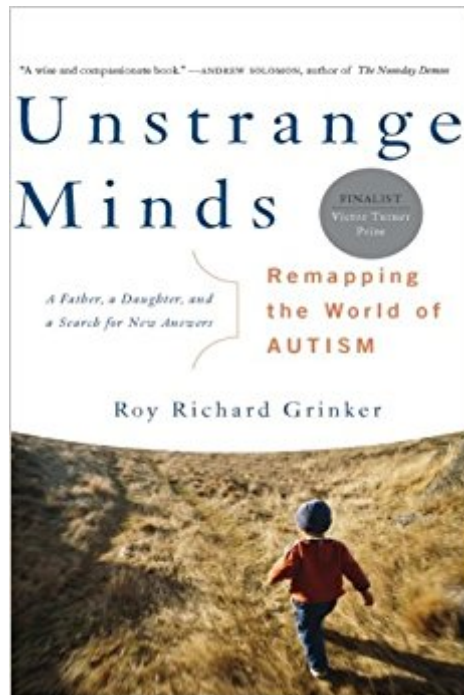




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Unstrange Minds: Remapping The World Of Autism



Synopsis

When anthropologist Richard Grinker's daughter was diagnosed with autism in 1994, it occurred in only about 1 in every 10,000 children. Within ten years, rates had skyrocketed, and the media was declaring autism an epidemic. *Unstrange Minds* documents Grinker's quest across the globe to discover the surprising truth about why autism is so much more common today. Grinker shows that the identification and treatment of autism depends on culture just as much as on science. Filled with moving stories and informed by the latest science, *Unstrange Minds* is a powerful testament to a father's quest for the truth.

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Customer Reviews

Autism is no longer considered a rare, stigmatized disorder; it's one that touches the lives of an increasing number of individuals worldwide. Grinker, director of the George Washington University Institute for Ethnographic Research, is one example of this phenomenon. Driven by the 1994 autism diagnosis his daughter, Isabel, received, Grinker endeavors to collect the myriad scientific, historical and cultural components of autism into an accessible primer. The book is divided into two parts—academic and anecdotal—throughout which the author illustrates his daughter's development and how his family has coped and developed alongside her. The first section recounts the history of autism, from the illness's initial description in 1943, its once taboo status and the erroneously cited causes of autism. Special attention is given to the evolving diagnostic criteria and the increase in prevalence rates. In the emotionally powerful second portion, Grinker details the experiences of parents of autistic children in South Africa, South Korea and

India, how their respective societies view the disorder (often negatively) and the obstacles surmounted to increase awareness of autism, its treatment and management. While this grounds the book, the lengths to which Grinker goes to prove to the parents of autistic children they are not alone needn't have been so extensive. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Anthropologist Grinker, whose daughter was diagnosed with autism in 1994, asks whether there is a sudden epidemic of autism and whether that would be such a bad thing. While the media is quick to point to a recent explosion of autism (from 1-in-10,000 children to an estimated 1-in-158 in little more than a decade) and call it a crisis, many question that depiction's accuracy. Since autism was first described in the 1940s, and nearly 40 years passed before the American Psychiatric Association accepted it as a developmental disorder, the so-called epidemic may only reflect more refined diagnostics and better reporting. Epidemic or no, Grinker is grateful for the attention, for he feels that the more autism, which actually now covers a spectrum of disorders, is put in the spotlights of public, medical, and political scrutiny, the more help and support will become available to diagnosed children and their families. Grinker's worldwide scope embraces the personal experiences of families with autistic children from the U.S. to Africa and adds dimension and power to his position. Donna Chavez Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Was not too enthused about reading this book but it was on my book club list.....turns out to be one of my all time favorite books. Well written and a real eye opener as far as the state of the art of psychiatry. Worth the read if you have any interest in any aspect of Autism and enjoyable book to read.

I have been "studying" autism for 20 years. I've read everything from Son-Rise to Uta Frith. Yet, reading this book, I've learned things that I've never come across anywhere else. I love the author's positive attitude toward autism and his positive spin on the increase in diagnoses. I also loved the different cultural perspectives he presented. This is a must read for parents of children with autism and anyone who has autism.

The book is written from the perspective of a parent who has a child with ASD yet you can hear the

echos of the academic training the author has in between the lines. The no nonsense way he puts the issues regarding the views on what might be causing autism and which therapy method works best as well as the different perceptions on autism in different parts of the world is quite well put. Another thing I enjoyed is the informal references the author provides as end notes at the references section. It allows you to check the articles he has woven into the text for ease of reading.

Really helps a person understand the history and settings for ASD diagnosis

The best part of this book was the extensive history of the diagnosis of autism. I have a 28 yr old son with Asperger's Syndrome and experienced quite a bit of that history first-hand but seeing the whole picture was still helpful and informative. It puts into perspective the current "epidemic" of autism and, alone, is worth the price of the book. The author's personal experience with raising an autistic daughter, while interesting, wasn't as compelling as other acclunts I have read. I was particularly looking forward to his perspective on autism in other cultures as he is an anthropologist. While the anecdotes in this part of the book were fun to read, there was almost none of the academic rigor that I was hoping for. I look forward to reading THAT book when he writes it.

Unstrange Minds is a wonderful book. Especially the part that tells you how other countries are dealing with Autism. Autism has been around for centuries. It is not caused by vaccines anymore than Cerebral Palsy or Tourette's. We must find positive ways for dealing with the problems it causes and make the best of it.

Great book for parents and educators!

When you are the parent of an autistic child (I am the parent of a 9 1/2 year old boy named Charlie), the professional, the political, and the personal, all meld together, and Grinker's Unstrange Minds does just this. The book combines memoir (of his daughter's life and, too, of his own) along with a well-argued case for why there is no autism epidemic (via careful analysis of the evolution of the DSM and of changing cultural attitudes towards autism, and of statistics on the prevalence of autism) and thoughtful accounts of autistic children in Korea, India, and South Africa and their families. Grinker summons his professional training as an anthropologist with his life with Isabel to write a book that ought to become an autism classic. Kristina Chew[...].

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