



Finding Ben

Barbara LaSalle

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One mother's remarkable account of raising an Asperger's syndrome child

Ben seemed to be an extraordinary child.

Born with a superanalytical mind, he was able to store hordes of information like a minicomputer. Yet, lurking beneath this boy genius's amazing, albeit useless, gifts for facts were an extraordinary fear of change and social aloofness. Unknown to his mother, Barbara, until much later, Ben suffered from Asperger's syndrome--the "little grown-up" disorder--a neurobiological disease similar to autism. Frank, honest, and beautifully written, *Finding Ben* is a remarkably moving account of Barbara LaSalle's struggles to understand--and overcome--the guilt she feels for not fully loving her son.

Burdened with the belief that the world would look at her son and somehow see her own failure, *Finding Ben* is a powerfully honest narrative account of how a mother's love can turn over time into resentment for having to raise a special-needs child.

LaSalle's special friendship with Jack, a man full of wisdom despite his debilitating brain aneurysm, that LaSalle is finally able to love her son--and herself--again. With two stories to tell, *Finding Ben* is both a fascinating look at a mercurial disease and a powerful story of one mother's personal journey from frustration and resentment to love and acceptance.

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