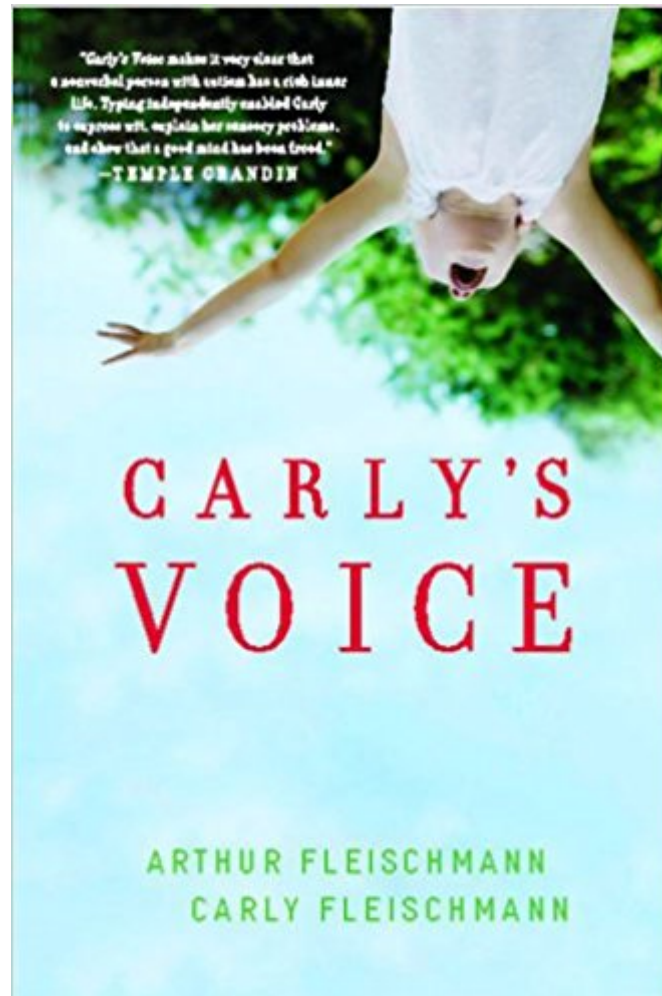




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Carly's Voice: Breaking Through Autism



In this international bestseller, father and advocate for Autism awareness Arthur Fleischmann blends his daughter Carly's own words with his story of getting to know his remarkable daughter—after years of believing that she was unable to understand or communicate with him. At the age of two, Carly Fleischmann was diagnosed with severe autism and an oral motor condition that prevented her from speaking. Doctors predicted that she would never intellectually develop beyond the abilities of a small child. Carly remained largely unreachable through the years. Then, at the age of ten, she had a breakthrough. While working with her devoted therapists, Carly reached over to their laptop and typed "HELP TEETH HURT," much to everyone's astonishment. Although Carly still struggles with all the symptoms of autism, she now has regular, witty, and profound conversations on the computer with her family and her many thousands of supporters online. One of the first books to explore firsthand the challenges of living with autism, *Carly* brings readers inside a once-secret world in the company of an inspiring young woman who has found her voice and her mission.

"Carly's Voice makes it very clear that a non-verbal person with autism has a rich inner life. Typing independently enabled Carly to express wit, explain her sensory problems, and show that a good mind has been freed." (Temple Grandin)"I have learned more from Carly about autism than any doctor or 'expert,' and she has helped me understand and connect with my son in ways I couldn't have imagined. Her book takes the autism conversation to new places and disproves the ridiculous

notion that non-verbal people with autism don't have feelings and thoughts or are unintelligent. Carly is--for me--autism's fiercest and most valuable advocate." (Holly Robinson Peete, actress, author, and autism advocate) "Carly's Voice is the wishful slogan of a movement. Autism has spoken, and a new day has dawned. Carly's story is a triumph." (Richard M. Cohen, author of *Strong at the Broken Places* and *Blindsided*) "In this unsparing but affecting account . . . it's clear that while most people take the ability to communicate for granted, for Arthur Fleischmann it defines her daily struggles and miraculous successes. . . . [An] inspiring story." (Publishers Weekly) "To read along as [Carly] expresses her feelings in conversations with her father is almost as stunning as when she writes of life inside her autistic head. . . . Both heart-wrenching and deeply inspiring." (Kirkus Reviews) "Throughout Arthur Fleischmann's exceptional memoir about his and wife Tammy's experience raising a child with severe autism, it is the plaintive "voice" of the wordless-from-birth Carly that resonates. . . . It is Carly's chapter, written in her words, and her charm that set this memoir apart." (Booklist (starred review)) "A well-written story of one family's struggle, perseverance, and triumph in helping a child with autism find her voice. This book will benefit people with autism, their families, and all who interact with them." (Library Journal) "[Carly's] explanation of what it feels like emotionally and physically to have autism is eye-opening. Quite frankly, I think [her] chapter should be required reading for our society, especially as we head into Autism Awareness Month." (Parents.com) "Witty, sarcastic, and heartfelt, Carly's words shine with personality and intellect, her strength and determination adding sparkle and hope." (New York Journal of Books)

Arthur Fleischmann lives with his wife, Tammy Starr, and their three children, Matthew, Taryn, and Carly, in Toronto, Canada, where he is partner and president of John St. Advertising. Carly Fleischmann lives in Toronto, Canada, and attends a mainstream high school where she is enrolled in gifted classes. She corresponds with her thousands of friends and followers via Twitter and Facebook. Visit her at CarlysVoice.com.

I cried through the first half of the book. I am the mother of a child diagnosed with severe autism. Like this family we have been to geneticists, nutritionists, gastroenterologists, endocrineologists, otolaryngologists (ENT's). We have had metabolic panels, karyotypes, X-rays, MRI's. We have had other medical concerns with our child including surgery and various other diagnoses. We are NOT a

"well to do" family. So to say that this book is not representative of the resources available. At least medically, is mildly dishonest. We do have state appointed therapists that come to the home (Ours is a special education teacher) as well as 2 ABA therapists, we go to a facility for Physical, occupational, and speech therapy. We don't have a nanny though (Goodness how I wish I did), and I work 50+ hours a week. We figure it out, any family can. To say this is not representative of a real families struggle is silly to me, as parents of children on the spectrum we all know the extremes that can be present within the disorder. Some children talk, some don't. Also, much of the second half of the book is written in Carly's words. No, the book is not an account written entirely in her voice. but her parents kept transcripts and copies of their conversations and her father included those in much of the writing in the book. All in all, I think the purpose of this book, at least to me, was to offer hope. Hope that my seemingly out of control child will one day be able to tell me what she needs. Hope that one day, something will just click. I am not "wealthy", But much of the early struggle still is reminiscent of my daughters early life. Tammy, If you still come and read these reviews, Thank you. I am not Canadian, but I absolutely appreciate any advocate for children. Many of us are so wrapped up in what needs to be done for our own children, that we do not have the energy at the end of the day to do what you are doing for the children who are not ours.

I know nothing about autism and the life lead with a family in such crisis. This book helped educate me and rewarded ME by allowing me to get to know this amazing girl and family just a little bit. I have learned so much. Money can't buy how important that is, most importantly to simply know how all of us everywhere relate to an autistic person when we meet them. I know now that I can speak to them and they know, and may even enjoy it.

Fantastic! Such a wonderful feeling to know that someone else has been through what you're going through (and more!) and survived (and more!!) Carly's father goes into great detail with respect to all the doctors, therapies, therapists and assorted weird stuff they tried over the years as they desperately seek to reach their daughter. As the father of an autistic little girl, sometimes it's like looking into a mirror. Lots of "don't know whether to laugh or cry" moments. It would be almost too heart-wrenching to read were it not for the fact that Carly's Facebook posts give away the "happy ending" Hyperbole really is impossible. It is an incredible story of an unstoppable family and their amazing daughter.

This book will really open alot of eyes on autism, I just started reading it but also have researched

alot of background on Carly and she is just amazing. If you are or have and autistic child, as I do, then this book will give you insight on what these people go through and help understand what we can do to help. Love this book!

I felt the families frustration, which it clearly defined. The last chapter is carlys answers. I wanted more from her to teach me how to help children with AUSTISM and it did not do that for me. I saw a small light on Carly, but I wanted to see inside her mind and heart. Good book for parents to understand the struggle they face with an autistic child, but for the parent who has an AUSTISM child, it seems to give a little insight of how carlys was feeling about different issues. It validates a parent on their continued struggle to be a good parent and Carlys tells how she loves her father reading a book to her every night and what it means to her. She explains her tics and why she does them. We have tics too, but no one fights with us daily for doing them like tapping our foot. Excellent book for parents and families who have an autistic child.

I am a speech pathologist working with many students with autism for many years now. A teacher and a parent that I work with strongly recommended that I read this. Carly and her father have opened my eyes more than any workshop I have ever attended. I have a new found understanding of and compassion for the families who have this in their experience. It will change how I deal with parents and students as well as teachers. I have students right now whom I see differently after reading this. Carly's descriptions of what it is like to have autism are amazing. This young woman is amazing. She truly is a voice for autism. And what an incredible family who never gave up. I don't know that I could do what they have done. This book can capture anyone's interest. It's easy to read. I would definately recommend it for anyone who works with autism from any angle. It will change and widen your perceptions.

Absolutely eye-opening. A must read for therapists and parents alike. My son is autistic, and though I do not/did not try to draw similarities between him and Carly (my favorite saying in autism is that if you've met one kid with autism.... you've met one kid with autism), but it was very insightful. I love Carly's wry sense of humor - that does remind me of my son! I read it then immediately gave my copy to my mom and bought for a couple of my son's therapists. That was a year or two ago - and we're still bringing it up!

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