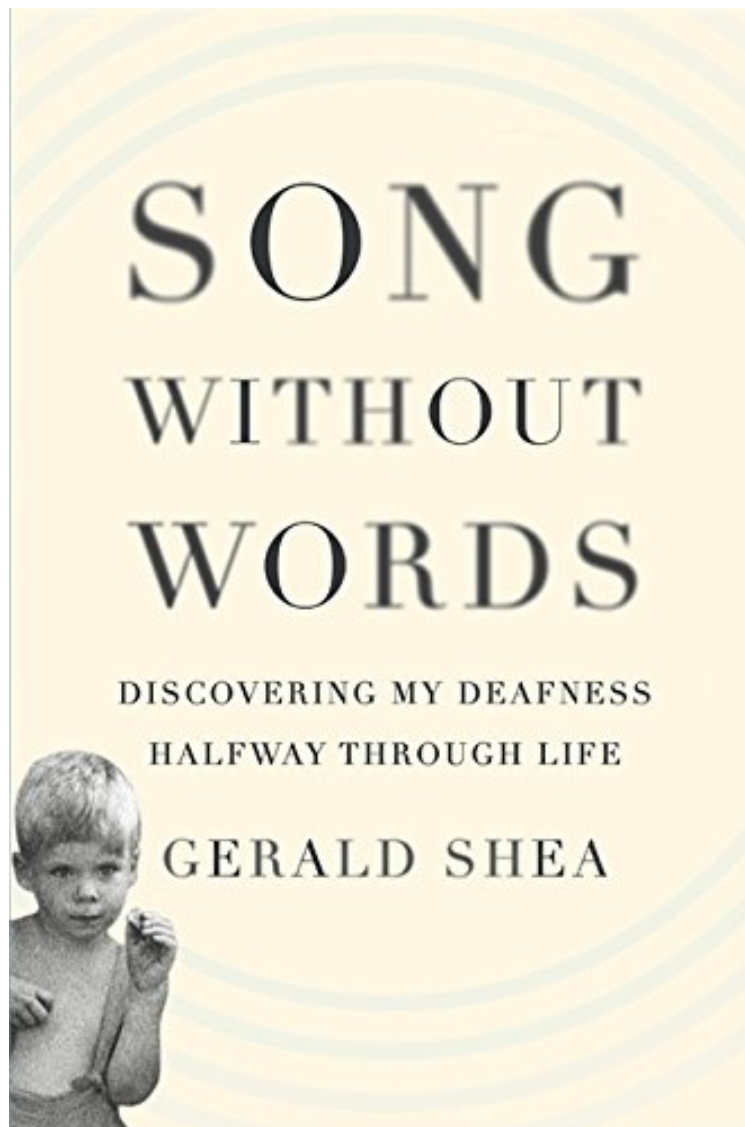


(Download) Song Without Words: Discovering My Deafness Halfway through Life (A Merloyd Lawrence Book)

Song Without Words: Discovering My Deafness Halfway through Life (A Merloyd Lawrence Book)

Gerald Shea

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Gerald Shea : Song Without Words: Discovering My Deafness Halfway through Life (A Merloyd Lawrence Book) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Song Without Words: Discovering My Deafness Halfway through Life (A Merloyd Lawrence Book):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Incredible story about navigating the hearing worldBy A. R. Miller and J. M. MillerI have a young niece who speaks well, although partially deaf. When I saw this book I was immediately intrigued., and ordered it, as it was not available in my local library. It more than lived up to my expectations: it was an insight into how difficult it is to be constantly translating in one's mind what others 'are/might be' saying.The passages where Mr. Shea transliterates what he might be hearing are tedious, as the reality of doing that must have been for him on a daily basis, and perhaps remains so, now, even though he has excellent hearing aids.If this subject interests you, I also recommend the documentary film Sound and Fury which studies and analyzes pros and cons of cochlear implants and gives those of us in the hearing world a peek into the world of the non-hearing.In addition, Mr. Shea has led a very interesting life, and writes very well. I was riveted to his story. It is heart-breaking to read his honest telling of feeling sure there is something wrong with him when everyone else around him seems to be all right. That is a very universal experience with which all of us, even if not handicapped, are familiar.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The lyricals told him what he heard.By Janemb35I like Gerald Shea. I admire his courage and integrity. I like his ability to face facts, no matter how difficult or unpleasant. Half deafened by scarlet fever in his youth, he was never subjected to a hearing test, and so his deafness was not confronted. He went to college and law school and was hired at a big law firm where he spent his entire career. Finally, of course, the strain of keeping his deafness in the background and dealing with incredibly large sums of money proved too much for his over-taxed body and he retired.All my life I have had good hearing and so was unaware of what deafness means to the one who has it. Shea doesn't complain, he treats it rather like a nuisance that must be borne. I encourage others to read it if only to broaden their horizons.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Song Without WordsBy Charles A. Reap Jr.As a partially-deaf man for most of my life, this book really struck home. He spelled out many of the unrealized difficulties and potential solutions that I also have experienced. I can only say that having defective hearing is somewhat better than having severely defective sight. It's frequently a bit embarrassing to ask/require speakers to blend/alter their speaking into something I can hear and understand, but I do find most people sympathetic enough to do so for me. The author speaks of having rather severe tinnitus, which I have; but in addition, I also have (when not wearing my hearing aids) a dull roaring--like machinery in the next room. Maybe more hearing-defective people reading this are similar, and can relate. Anyway, I found it easy reading and more or less "comforting" to read.

Much has been written about the profoundly deaf, but the lives of the nearly 30 million partially deaf people in the United States today remain hidden. Song without Words tells the astonishing story of a man who, at the age of thirty-four, discovered that he had been deaf since childhood, yet somehow managed to navigate his way through Andover, Yale, and Columbia Law School, and to establish a prestigious international legal career.Gerald Shea's witty and candid memoir of how he compensated for his deafness--through sheer determination and an amazing ability to translate the melody of vowels. His experience gives fascinating new insight into the nature and significance of language, the meaning of deafness, the fierce controversy between advocates of signing and of oral education, and the longing for full communication that unites us all.

From BooklistIn this fascinating memoir, overachiever Sheawho graduated from Andover, Yale, and Columbia Law School and became a partner at a prestigious New York law firmexplains what its like to be partially deaf. Unbeknownst to him or anyone else, he lost his ability to hear higher ranges of speech (that is, most consonants) after he contracted scarlet fever at age six. (As he notes, he was lucky: Helen Keller became both deaf and blind from the same disease.) To compensate, he learns to decode sounds he calls lyricals. He hears characters as cows are saying and Be careful crossing the street as Be airful washing the trees. As he tries to translate what he mishears, he makes mistakes, such as reading the next five chapters in a book instead of the next five pages. Hearing aids help, but not always. Eventually, he quits his job, learns sign language, and spends more quality time with his wife and kids. His story gives one a renewed appreciation for both the ear and the human spirit. --Karen Springen Nominated for the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Award for Best First BookFinalist, Nonfiction (All Authors), New England Book FestivalAntonia Fraser, author of My Life with Harold Pinter "A brilliant window into the largely unknown world of the partially deaf: riveting to read, and illuminating at every level.Louis Begley, author of About Schmidt Fascinating, heartbreaking, heroic, and relentlessly riveting.Kirkus s, 1/15/13 The moving, poignant account of how a brilliant lawyer came to terms with the midlife discovery of his own partial deafnessThe book is a powerful expression of loss, acceptance and the very human need to communicate. Shea's narrative derives its true power from the eloquence and intelligence with which he illuminates a world that may be unfamiliar to many readers.David Lodge, author ofDeaf Sentence: A Novel"Song Without Wordsis [an] incredible story . . . Gerald Shea . . . tells it with eloquence, wit, and the narrative drive of a good novel. It is a unique contribution to the growing literature about deafness, one which will illuminate the experience of fellow-sufferers, and deepen understanding in society at large.Boston Globe, 2/22/13