



"Endearing...Robison is a natural storyteller."

—*Boston Globe*

# look me in the eye

THE  
NEW YORK  
TIMES  
BESTSELLER

my life with  
asperger's

John Elder Robison

foreword by Augusten Burroughs, author of *RUNNING WITH SCISSORS*

John Elder Robison

## Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's



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NEW YORK Situations BESTSELLER “and the globe.” That understanding changed the way he saw himself—had earned him the label “occasionally alien yet often deeply individual.” from the foreword by Augusten Burroughs Ever since he was young, John Robison longed for connecting with other people, but by the time he was a teenager, his odd habits—cultural deviant.” It was not really until he was forty that he was identified as having a kind of autism called Asperger’s syndrome. —As nice and funny and unfortunate and true and heartfelt a memoir as one could find. A born storyteller, Robison provides written a shifting, darkly funny memoir about a life that has taken him from developing exploding guitars for KISS to creating a family of his personal. It’s a strange, sly, indelible accounts—an inclination to blurt away non sequiturs, avoid vision get in touch with, dismantle radios, and dig five-foot holes (and stick his younger brother, Augusten Burroughs, in them)—



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An insightful memoir marred by too much technical detail on electronics and mechanics. I enjoyed this book. Robison had difficulty all of his life associated with people, emotions, social situations. He was extremely gifted in understanding electronics and math, but regular conversations baffled him. This memoir opened my eyes to an understanding of what we are dealing with every day; Life changing! Look Me In The Eye is a publication about developing up in the 70s, when an autism diagnosis generally meant a kid entirely incapable of most conversation - they didn't actually understand the spectrum however. His home lifestyle was chaos, with an alcoholic dad and a mother with mental issues. His expertise in electronics led to small jobs fixing amplifiers for local rock bands, and lastly as the consumer electronics special-effects guy for the band KISS. He entered the corporate globe helping design inter-active games and early video games, but finally still left when he was promoted to management and didn't like it (managing people was difficult, he was not in a position to make use of his hands and expertise, and the rat-race stress was too much). He went back to mechanics and opened an extravagance car repair business. Great read Fantastic read Excellent book on developing up with undiagnosed autism. John Elder, you are amazing for everything you have overcome! I recommend this book. A must read for anyone who is trying to comprehend Asperger's! But (as additional reviewers have mentioned) there is way too much technical stuff about retrofitting fire-breathing guitars and designing games. We have a seven year outdated (also named John) who was diagnosed some time ago. Trouble in college, self hate and other things are big things currently. It wasn't until he was 40 yrs older that he was identified as having Asperger's Syndrome - a form of autism. MANY THANKS for sharing your tale, it is amazing to start to see the hope of a bright potential, the perseverance of someone who continued trying new items and learned to sort out difficulties and find a measure of satisfaction with life regardless of emotional and public adversity. his insufficient understanding at others expressions in speech, and body gestures; After scoring high in an Autism Spectrum Quotient test on-line, I spoke to my therapist. his anxiety; Individuals who read this book need to be sure and read the Preface and Prologue as they are an important section of the book, aswell. I read cover to cover with a pencil, marked it up with points to review and then returned and read the entire thing again. Recommended by my therapist My grandson was recently diagnosed as autistic. It flowed and held my interest throughout, from starting to end. his frustration with other folks not understanding his point the first time (He hates explaining what to "stupid" people). I want both of my Aspergians to learn his books. After reading, pieces of my childhood started to fall into place and questions unanswered for days gone by 50 years begun to seem sensible. This is a good read for anybody who suspects they may be on the spectrum, knows someone on the spectrum, or simply wants to know more about autism. So with his second follow-up in a few weeks with a child's developmental experts, I decided to do some analysis by reading and watching movies of Aspergers. The just component that I didn't really look after is the information on his passions (experiments, pyrotechnics, trains). A lot of people think his "characteristics" (sensitivity to sound, past due potty teach, echoing (repetitions of phrases), delay insufficient communication flapping of hands when excited, lack of play with others) will become outgrown eventually. John Elder Robison was not that child, so he didn't discover his diagnosis until his 40s. As with motherly instincts, I insisted to the pediatrician that I need to see experts which with persistency eventually happened. Good insight for Aspergerians I have a son who is 4 years aged. I have no idea what the outcomes will become with my child but at least I could be more proficient in this topic. This gives you understanding of how Aspergerians cope with social aspects, why they do what they do and that despite this condition (NOT a disease), they can still have a family, career....a fulfilling existence. He is atypical but very delicate when you fulfill him. His book gave me hope that I'm not screwing up parenting them as much as I think I really do. Great publication! It helped me live a little bit easier everyday and offered me confidence to keep on." Perfectly done-I enjoyed! It opens up a window into the life of someone who has Asperger's Syndrome. John Robinson shares his story in a no nonsense method, it's totally honest and makes no excuses. It was by far one of the least complicated books for me personally to read. Being one of is own caregivers going back 4 years, I had not seen a notable difference in his actions and mine as a child or some nonetheless. Great browse, from a fellow Aspergian I was recently identified as having Aspergers at the age of 29. John Robinson was really likable and its hard to believe he wasn't able to make many close friends as you really can easily see his character shine through. I liked seeing the interactions along with his brother and how it transformed over the years. The memoir is definitely well crafted and shows incredible courage and development

of the writer. Very insightful. Overall, I believe families should consider this book as a way to understand the perception of this way of life. Good info in a relatively new condition in the DSM This memoir helped me know very well what it's prefer to walk within an Aspergian's shoes and empathize with those that touched my life. I received this book for free in return for my honest opinion, no payment was received. Hope for my parenting skills! For the very first time I no longer feel alone Overall, a good memoir, if you can kind of scan over the super-techie parts. I found so much to relate to as I listened to his capabilities to visualize mathematics, amazing focus on detail, and in addition his difficulty in romantic relationships. He suggested I read this reserve. I want them to learn that different does not mean less. They have lives filled with success and failing. It had been a bit boring if you ask me but after scanning this reserve, you will realize why. The parts of the memoir where he discusses his feelings and frustrations about romantic relationships, and the Asperger's-related issues, are very good. It's always amusing if you ask me spotting the similarities between autistic memoirs and my hubby - one of these came extremely early in the publication, when Robison is talking about a book proven to him by his father. Even though he tested far above his schoolmates in intelligence, he dropped out of school before graduating. However, extremely intelligent identify letters and counts to 200 at age group 2, reads, writes, spells, memorize downloadable from videos at age group 2 1/2 years. Autistic adults finding the reason behind their quirks is an extremely common story, though nowadays it's more often ladies who fall through the cracks than guys. I try to make a habit of picking up books written by people on the autism spectrum - it's part of my effort to read inclusively, but it also has a personal element, since my husband is on the spectrum. "We viewed books together, specifically the Boy Scout Woodsman manual. I could still remember the images that showed how to make a trap, and the way in which to stage over a fallen log. I wished for trapping wolves and bears, but garter snakes and frogs were as close as I got. And I've hardly ever forgotten the woodsman's log-crossing methods that I learned at five. This book is funny, insightful and eye opening. I am a mom of an Aspergian child and this reserve helped me realize the social potential my son has. Because of this I am very grateful. If you have a child on the spectrum, understand of a child on the spectrum, or even if you don't this is certainly an excellent afternoon read. Wonderfully written! It had been sweet in a whole lot of ways and a little bit shocking in others, but I could get a real sense of how many kids and adults live their daily lives who are on the spectrum. I can relate to nearly everything described in this book. Funny, insightful, and honest. Thank you John Robinson. In this memoir he recounts his awkward childhood, few close friends, the butt of jokes, being bullied. Look Me in the Eye: MY ENTIRE LIFE with Asperger's simply by John Elder Robison.



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