



Anything But Typical

By Nora Raleigh Baskin

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Jason Blake is an autistic 12-year-old living in a neurotypical world. Most days it's just a matter of time before something goes wrong. But Jason finds a glimmer of understanding when he comes across PhoenixBird, who posts stories to the same online site as he does.

Jason can be himself when he writes and he thinks that PhoneixBird-her name is Rebecca-could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca wil only see his autism and not who Jason really is.

By acclaimed writer Nora Raleigh Baskin, this is the breathtaking depiction of an autistic boy's struggles-and a story for anyone who has ever worried about fitting in.

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Anything But Typical By Nora Raleigh Baskin Bibliography

- Rank: #35857 in Books
- Brand: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 2010-03-09
- Released on: 2010-03-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.63" h x .70" w x 5.13" l, .30 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4–7—Baskin writes in the voice of a high-functioning boy who identifies himself as having numerous disorders, most with labels that appear as alphabet soup. In the third grade, after yet another battery of tests, Jason receives the diagnosis of autism. Now in sixth grade, he relates how he does not fit in, even though he tries to follow the instructions of his therapists and helpers. He labels the rest of his classmates and teachers as neurotypicals, or NTs for short. While humor resonates throughout the book, the pathos of Jason's situation is never far from readers' consciousness. If only he could act on what he knows he needs to do, his life would be so much easier. Jason also shows himself to be a deep thinker and an excellent writer. Through his stories and thinly veiled fictional characters, Baskin reveals not only the obstacles that Jason faces, but also his fierce determination to be himself at all costs. Jason is a believable and empathetic character in spite of his idiosyncrasies. Baskin also does a superb job of developing his parents and younger brother as real people with real problems, bravely traversing their lives with a differently abled child without a road map, but with a great deal of love.—*Wendy Smith-D'Arezzo, Loyola College, Baltimore, MD*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Baskin tells this luminous story entirely from the point of view of Jason, an autistic boy who is a creative-writing whiz and deft explainer of literary devices, but markedly at a loss in social interactions with “neurotypicals” both at school and at home. He is most comfortable in an online writing forum called Storyboard, where his stories kindle an e-mail-based friendship with a girl. His excitement over having a real friend (and maybe even girlfriend) turns to terror when he learns that his parents want to take him on a trip to the Storyboard conference, where he'll no doubt have to meet her in person. With stunning economy, Baskin describes Jason's attempts to interpret body language and social expectations, revealing the extreme disconnect created by his internalization of the world around him. Despite his handicap, Jason moves through his failures and triumphs with the same depth of courage and confusion of any boy his age. His story, while neither particularly heartbreaking nor heartwarming, shows that the distinction between “normal” and “not normal” is whisper-thin but easily amplified to create the chasm between “different” and “defective.” This is an enormously difficult subject, but Baskin, without dramatics or sentimentality, makes it universal. As Jason explains, there's really only one kind of plot: “Stuff happens. That's it.” Grades 4-7. -- Ian Chipman

Review

"Should readily captivate readers and open eyes." -"Publishers Weekly"

"Baskin reveals not only the obstacles that Jason faces, but also his fierce determination to be himself at all costs. Jason is a believable and empathetic character in spite of his idiosyncrasies. Baskin also does a superb job of developing his parents and younger brother as real people with real problems, bravely traversing their lives with a differently abled child without a road map, but with a great deal of love."--"School Library Journal"

*"Baskin's delineation of an autistic boy's world is brilliant."--"Kirkus", starred review

* "Luminous....This is an enormously difficult subject, but Baskin, without dramatics or sentimentality, makes it universal."--"Booklist", starred review

"A children's book that's every bit as subtle and smart as the best adult novel."--"nytimes.com"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carlos Garcia:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. These are reading whatever they take because their hobby is actually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book if they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this Anything But Typical.

Paul Hill:

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