



Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant

By Daniel Tammet

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Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant

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A journey into one of the most fascinating minds alive today—guided by the owner himself.

Bestselling author Daniel Tammet (*Thinking in Numbers*) is virtually unique among people who have severe autistic disorders in that he is capable of living a fully independent life and able to explain what is happening inside his head.

He sees numbers as shapes, colors, and textures, and he can perform extraordinary calculations in his head. He can learn to speak new languages fluently, from scratch, in a week. In 2004, he memorized and recited more than 22,000 digits of pi, setting a record. He has savant syndrome, an extremely rare condition that gives him the most unimaginable mental powers, much like those portrayed by Dustin Hoffman in the film *Rain Man*.

Fascinating and inspiring, *Born on a Blue Day* explores what it's like to be special and gives us an insight into what makes us all human—our minds.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This unique first-person account offers a window into the mind of a high-functioning, 27-year-old British autistic savant with Asperger's syndrome. Tammet's ability to think abstractly, deviate from routine, and empathize, interact and communicate with others is impaired, yet he's capable of incredible feats of memorization and mental calculation. Besides being able to effortlessly multiply and divide huge sums in his head with the speed and accuracy of a computer, Tammet, the subject of the 2005 documentary *Brainman*, learned Icelandic in a single week and recited the number pi up to the 22,514th digit, breaking the European record. He also experiences synesthesia, an unusual neurological syndrome that enables him to experience numbers and words as "shapes, colors, textures and motions." Tammet traces his life from a frustrating, withdrawn childhood and adolescence to his adult achievements, which include teaching in Lithuania, achieving financial independence with an educational Web site and sustaining a long-term romantic relationship. As one of only about 50 people living today with synesthesia and autism, Tammet's condition is intriguing to researchers; his ability to express himself clearly and with a surprisingly engaging tone (given his symptoms) makes for an account that will intrigue others as well. (Jan.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Although Tammet is only 27, his autobiography is as fascinating as Benjamin Franklin's and John Stuart Mill's, both of which are, like his, about the growth of a mind. Not that Tammet is a scientist-statesman or philosopher. He is an autistic savant who can perform hefty arithmetical calculations at lightning speed and acquire speaking competency in a previously unknown language in mere days (the latter capability he used to create the Web-based language-learning systems with which he supports himself). More socially competent and independent than the autistic savant famously played by Dustin Hoffman in *Rain Man*, Tammet shares his peers' strong preferences for routine, peace and quiet, private space, and literalness, as well as aversion to chance occurrences, aural and informational noise, and figurative language (despite his arithmetical gift, he can't do algebra; he reads a lot but never fiction). He learned fellowship very gradually and says he couldn't really acknowledge his eight siblings until he grew up. He also writes some of the clearest prose this side of Hemingway; he tells his story with such concentration, precision, and simplicity that his familial poverty, schooling as a "mainstreamed" student, self-realization as gay, and embracing of Christianity prove as enthralling as they are, ultimately, normal. *Ray Olson*

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Review

"Artists and poets would give their best simile to perceive things with the same kind of vividness...For anyone interested in the workings of a truly 'beautiful mind,' *Born on a Blue Day* is a banquet."

-- *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"Tammet, now 28, manages the feat of introspection -- and self-insight. His book brims with humanity. His approach is honest, eloquent, at times funny, and completely free of pity."

-- *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"With all due respect to Stephen Hawking, Bill Gates, and any living Nobel laureates, the most remarkable

mind on the planet just might belong to Daniel Tammet...Tammet displays a surprising level of sensitivity -- and a refreshing lack of sentimentality -- in an account that inspires even as it astonishes."

-- *Entertainment Weekly*

"Remarkable, revealing, and nearly flawless."

-- *The Raleigh News & Observer*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cynthia Hughes:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a publication then become one contact form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get ahead of. The Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant giving you another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life within this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Thomas Deleon:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant guide written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant as good book not merely by the cover but also by the content. This is one reserve that can break don't determine book by its deal with, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Sarah Luis:

This Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant is new way for you who has fascination to look for some information because it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having small amount of digest in reading this Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant can be the light food for you because the information inside this book is easy to get through anyone. These books create itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in publication form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book kind for your better life along with knowledge.

Clyde Traynor:

A lot of people said that they feel bored when they reading a publication. They are directly felt that when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose the actual book Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading proficiency is developing when you including reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the feeling about book and studying especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to available a book and read it. Beside that the guide Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant can to be your friend when you're really feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of the time.

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