

Book List for February HLAA-Linn/Benton chapter meeting

In February, 2020, our chapter meeting will discuss one book that members have selected to read. If we do this early enough, a member could get the book through either the local library or interlibrary loan and avoid buying a book. Another way to purchase a reduced price book is using the website: half.com. Price quotes listed have been copied from the used books(both paperback or hard copy) at that website.

Return this survey by the end of October. Your input will help make this another worthwhile chapter meeting. Please select your first two choices from the list, below:

Listening Closely: A Journey to Bilateral Hearing by Arlene Romanoff Prices from \$3.34 to \$10.95

Author's 25 year journey with hearing loss isn't just about the magic of cochlear implant technology. What she endured reveals as much about the strength of the human spirit, about the wonders of chance and fate, and about making the most of what life dishes out.

LISTENING CLOSELY will give you a chance to walk in Arlene Romoff's shoes, to understand the pain of her loss and the joy of once again being able to hear the music of the world. Those suffering from hearing loss--or who have loved one who is--will find Arlene's very special journey both inspirational and informative.

The Way I Hear It by Gael Hanaan Prices \$9.13 to \$20.15

If you think hearing loss is just a condition of old age--think again.

In *The Way I Hear It*, Gael Hannan explodes one myth after another in a witty and insightful journey into life with hearing loss at every age. Blending personal stories with practical strategies, Gael shines a light onto a world of communication challenges: a marriage proposal without hearing aids in, pillow talk and other relationships, raising a child, going to the movies, dining out, ordering at the drive-thru, in the classroom, on the job and hearing technology.

It's part memoir and part survival guide.

If a Tree Falls: A Family's Quest to Hear and Be Heard by Jennifer Rosner : Prices \$4.20- \$14.20

Jennifer Rosner's revelatory memoir explores family, silence, and what it means to be heard. When her daughters are born deaf, Rosner is stunned. Then she discovers a hidden history of deafness in her family, going back generations to the Jewish enclaves of Eastern Europe. Traveling back in time, she imagines her silent relatives, who showed surprising creativity in dealing with a world that preferred to ignore them.

Rosner shares her journey into the modern world of deafness, and the controversial decisions she and her husband have made about hearing aids, cochlear implants and sign language. An imaginative odyssey, punctuated by memories of being unheard, Rosner's story of her daughters' deafness is at heart a story of whether she—a mother with perfect hearing—will hear her children.

Shouting Won't Help by Katherine Bouton Prices \$3.99-\$10.95

In this deftly written and deeply felt look at a widespread and widely misunderstood phenomenon, Bouton recounts her own journey into deafness—and her return to the hearing world through the miracles of technology. She speaks with doctors, audiologists, neurobiologists, and others searching for causes and a cure, as well as those who have experienced hearing loss, weaving their stories with her own. *Shouting Won't Help* is an engaging and informative account of what it's like to live with an invisible disability—a must-read not only for those with hearing loss, who will recognize their stories in Bouton's own, but for their families, friends, employers, and caregivers.

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The Odyssey of Hearing Loss: Tales of Triumph by Michael A. Harvey Prices \$4.25 -\$19.95

These 10 true stories document the assaults to self-esteem, the isolation, and the spiritual crises that are faced by individuals with hearing loss, giving an intimate account of how each person triumphed and how therapeutic dialogue offers growth and inspiration. The struggles with the psychological, social, and spiritual aspects of hearing loss in these stories reveals lessons valuable to anyone looking for self-understanding. Readers with acquired hearing loss will find validation of their experiences, and friends and family of people with hearing loss will find avenues for increased understanding and empathy.

Rebuilt: My Journey Back to the Hearing World by Michael Chorost

Prices \$3.99 to \$14.93

After Michael Chorost suddenly lost what was left of his hearing, he took the radical step of having a cochlear implant -- a tiny computer -- installed in his head. A technological marvel, the device not only restored to him the world of sound but also could be routinely upgraded with new software. Despite his initial fear of the technology's potentially dehumanizing effects, Chorost's implant allowed him to connect with others in surprising ways: as a cyborg, he learned about love, joined a writing group, and formed deeper friendships. More profoundly, his perception of the world around him was dramatically altered.

Brimming with insight and written with charm and self-deprecating humor, *Rebuilt* unveils, in personal terms, the astounding possibilities of a new technological age.

Hear Again by Arlene Romoff Prices \$3.98(used); \$24.75 (new)

It's a medical miracle--and a story that will inspire you, touch you, and perhaps even change your own life (or the life of one you love). Arlene Romanoff began losing her hearing when she was just twenty and started a slow descent into deafness. No cause could be found; no known cure existed. She struggled to function, using hearing aids and reading lips. But, just as soon as she gained a coping skill or a new piece of equipment, her hearing would worsen again, leaving her back at the beginning. Finally, nothing at all worked: she had become profoundly deaf. Her salvation lay in the most cutting-edge technology: a surgically implanted cochlear implant, with computer chip and magnet. Once attached to an external device that stimulates the auditory nerve hearing is possible once again. Here is the amazing diary of her experiences, shared with family, friends, and colleagues. It will let you know--probably for the first time--what life is like without sound and how it feels to join the hearing world once again.

Not Fade Away: A Memoir of the Senses by Rebecca Alexander Prices \$4.50 to \$15.00

Born with a rare genetic mutation called Usher syndrome type III, Rebecca Alexander has been simultaneously losing both her sight and hearing since she was a child, and she was told that she would likely be completely blind and deaf by thirty. Then, at eighteen, a fall from a window left her athletic body completely shattered.

In *Not Fade Away*, Rebecca tells her extraordinary story, by turns harrowing, funny, and inspiring. She meditates on what she's lost—from the sound of a whisper to seeing a sky full of stars, and what she's found in return—an exquisite sense of intimacy with those she is closest to, a love of silence, a profound gratitude for everything she still has, and a joy in simple pleasures that most of us forget to notice.

Not Fade Away is both a memoir of the senses and a unique look at the obstacles we all face—physical, psychological, and philosophical—exploring the extraordinary powers of memory, love, and perseverance. It is a gripping story, an offering of hope and motivation, and an exquisite reminder to live each day to its fullest.