[PDF] The Spark: A Mother's Story Of Nurturing, Genius, And Autism

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Description:

From In this compelling memoir, the mother of an autistic savant featured in a 60 Minutes segment tells the story of her remarkable son. The book would have benefited from a foreword by a prominent scientist and/or psychiatrist who could establish that this is completely legit. At two, Jake is diagnosed with autism. As a tyke, he memorizes every license plate in the neighborhood and teaches himself Braille. At eight, he starts auditing college courses. At 10, he teaches himself the entire high-school math curriculum in two weeks. At 13, he is a college sophomore at Indiana

University-Purdue University Indianapolis. The book contains many interesting nuggets about kids with autism; for example, they dislike bowling alleys (too noisy). The family's story, which includes Jake's dad losing his job and his mom suffering from a stroke at age 30, seems destined for a TV or movie screen. Barnett even runs a day-care center, takes in foster kids, and starts a sports program for autistic kids. Jake is unusual, but so is his superhuman mom. --Karen Springen

Review Advance praise for *The Spark*

"*The Spark* is about the transformative power of a mother's unconditional love. If you have a child who's 'different'—and who doesn't?—you won't be able to put it down."—Sylvia Nasar, author of *A Beautiful Mind* and *Grand Pursuit*

"*The Spark* describes in glowing terms the profound intensity with which a mother can love her child."—Andrew Solomon, author of *The Noonday Demon* and *Far from the Tree*

"Every parent and teacher should read this fabulous book!"—Temple Grandin, author of *Thinking in Pictures* and co-author of *The Autistic Brain*

From the Hardcover edition.

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