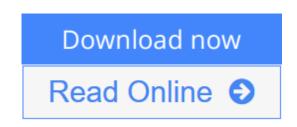


Count Us In: Growing Up with Down Syndrome (A Harvest Book)

By Jason Kingsley, Mitchell Levitz



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At ages nineteen and twenty-two, respectively, Jason Kingsley and Mitchell Levitz shared their innermost thoughts, feelings, hopes, and dreams, their lifelong friendship—and their experiences growing up with Down syndrome. Their frank discussion of what mattered most in their lives—careers, friendships, school, sex, marriage, finances, politics, and independence—earned Count Us In numerous national awards, including the EDI Award from the National Easter Seal Society. More important, their wit, intelligence, candor, and charm made a powerful and inspirational statement about the full potential of people with developmental disabilities, challenging prevailing stereotypes.

Now, thirteen years later, the authors discuss their lives since then—milestones and challenges, developments expected and unexpected—in a new afterword.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

YA-Written by two young men with Down's Syndrome, this book will open eyes and touch the heart. The interview style is involving as the authors discuss their friendship, having Down's Syndrome, marriage, children, becoming independent, and their hopes and dreams for the future. They speak openly about how people have treated them differently because of their disorder and how they feel about it. The book is occasionally a challenge to read since the authors speak in unusual syntax. Black-and-white photographs from family albums appear in a center insert. Curious teens and friends and family members of the disabled will feel the emotions of these two remarkable young men and learn how they work to cope and to succeed. *Jacqueline Craig, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA* Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From **Booklist**

Kingsley and Levitz write about education, employment, ambitions, families, sex and marriage, and their disability--Down syndrome--in a dialogue format. At Jason's birth, the obstetrician said that he'd never learn anything and should be institutionalized. Fortunately, the Kingsleys ignored this advice, and their son has since attended school, written poetry, registered to vote, and memorized scripts for appearances on "Sesame Street" and "The Fall Guy." Mitchell is an equally successful young man whose mother was one of the founders of the Parent Assistance Committee on Down Syndrome. Hearing about Down syndrome directly from these young men has a good deal more impact than reading any guide from a professional or even a parent. Their comments are eye-opening and heartening. *Denise Perry Donavin*

From Kirkus Reviews

Two young men with Down syndrome celebrate--with the support and word-processing assistance of their mothers--their successful coming of age and hard-won independence. When, three years apart in the early 1970's, Kingsley and Levitz were born and diagnosed with Down syndrome, their respective parents were advised to institutionalize the boys without even taking them home from the hospital. Fortunately, that advice was ignored, and the parents became friends through the Parent Assistance Program on Down Syndrome, founded by the Levitzes; soon, the boys became friends as well. As pioneers in the infantstimulation program now widely approved, if not widely available, for Down syndrome children, Levitz and Kingsley entered some early special-education programs and went on to be mainstreamed in high school. Bolstered by the unusually rich cultural resources of their families, they passed their New York State Regents exams, graduated, and are now dipping their toes into college and independent living. The text here consists primarily of transcribed conversations (minus difficulties in articulation) between Kingsley and Levitz, along with their parents' occasional interjections and questions, supplemented by some written material from the young men. It's both a celebration of the pair's triumph over expectations (``we should call each other Up syndrome") and a sometimes painful recitation of their struggles and sorrows. All the usual issues of adolescence are here--sex, girls, God, death, love, war, independence--discussed with both a realistic assessment and an idealistic innocence that typifies ``mainstream" teenagers. Levitz, who loves politics, wants to be President; Kingsley, with the soul of a performer, wants to be a teacher, newscaster, actor, and spokesperson for the disabled. Each grudgingly accepts that they may never get driver's licenses-but, as Kingsley says, life is ``A Learning Adventure." Worthwhile inspiration and insight for Down syndrome children, as well as for their families, teachers, friends, and advocates. (Photographs) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frances Lawler:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Count Us In: Growing Up with Down Syndrome (A Harvest Book). Try to make the book Count Us In: Growing Up with Down Syndrome (A Harvest Book) as your good friend. It means that it can being your friend when you really feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let's make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Sophia Whitfield:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or all their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book is usually option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled Count Us In: Growing Up with Down Syndrome (A Harvest Book) can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Donald Sams:

As we know that book is important thing to add our know-how for everything. By a publication we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This guide Count Us In: Growing Up with Down Syndrome (A Harvest Book) was filled concerning science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can experience enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

David Black:

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