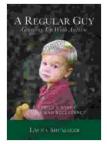
### A Regular Guy Growing Up with Autism: My Personal Journey

Growing up with autism was not always easy. There were times when I felt different and alone. But it also presented me with unique opportunities and helped me develop into the person I am today.



#### A REGULAR GUY: GROWING UP WITH AUTISM

by Laura Shumaker		
🚖 🚖 🚖 🌟 4.4 out of 5		
Language	: English	
File size	: 2195 KB	
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled	
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I was diagnosed with autism when I was three years old. At the time, I didn't really understand what that meant. All I knew was that I was different from the other kids in my preschool class.

One of the biggest challenges I faced growing up with autism was social interaction. I had difficulty understanding social cues and making friends. I often felt like an outsider looking in.

But I also had some unique strengths. I was very good at problem-solving and had a strong interest in computers. I also had a great sense of humor and loved to make people laugh.

As I got older, I learned to embrace my autism. I realized that it was part of what made me unique and special. I also learned to find ways to cope with the challenges I faced.

Today, I am a successful software engineer and a proud advocate for autism awareness. I am grateful for the journey I have been on and would not change a thing.

#### Here are some of the lessons I have learned along the way:

- Autism is not a disability. It is a different way of thinking and experiencing the world.
- Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. It is important to focus on your strengths and find ways to work around your weaknesses.
- It is important to be yourself. Don't try to be someone you're not.
  People will appreciate you for who you are.
- Never give up on your dreams. Anything is possible if you set your mind to it.

I hope my story can inspire others who are growing up with autism. Know that you are not alone. There are people who care about you and want to help you succeed.

Embrace your autism. It is part of what makes you unique and special.

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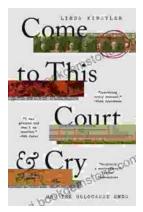
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