



Switched On: A Memoir of Brain Change and Emotional Awakening

John Elder Robison

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An extraordinary memoir about the cutting-edge brain therapy that dramatically changed the life and mind of John Elder Robison, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Look Me in the Eye*

Imagine spending the first forty years of your life in darkness, blind to the emotions and social signals of other people. Then imagine that someone suddenly switches the lights on.

It has long been assumed that people living with autism are born with the diminished ability to read the emotions of others, even as they feel emotion deeply. But what if we've been wrong all this time? What if that "missing" emotional insight was there all along, locked away and inaccessible in the mind?

In 2007 John Elder Robison wrote the international bestseller *Look Me in the Eye*, a memoir about growing up with Asperger's syndrome. Amid the blaze of publicity that followed, he received a unique invitation: Would John like to take part in a study led by one of the world's foremost neuroscientists, who would use an experimental new brain therapy known as TMS, or transcranial magnetic stimulation, in an effort to understand and then address the issues at the heart of autism? *Switched On* is the extraordinary story of what happened next.

Having spent forty years as a social outcast, misreading others' emotions or missing them completely, John is suddenly able to sense a powerful range of feelings in other people. However, this newfound insight brings unforeseen problems and serious questions. As the emotional ground shifts beneath his feet, John struggles with the very real possibility that choosing to diminish his disability might also mean sacrificing his unique gifts and even some of his closest relationships. *Switched On* is a real-life *Flowers for Algernon*, a fascinating and intimate window into what it means to be neurologically different, and what happens when the world as you know it is upended overnight.

Praise for *Switched On*

"An eye-opening book with a radical message . . . The transformations [Robison] undergoes throughout the book are astonishing—as foreign and overwhelming as if he woke up one morning with the visual range of a bee or the auditory prowess of a bat."—*The New York Times*

"Astonishing, brave . . . reads like a medical thriller and keeps you wondering what will happen next . . . [Robison] takes readers for a ride through the thorny thickets of neuroscience and leaves us wanting more. He is deft at explaining difficult concepts and doesn't shy from asking hard questions. This is a truly unusual memoir—both poignant and scientifically important."—*The Washington Post*

"Fascinating for its insights into Asperger's and research, this engrossing record will make readers reexamine their preconceptions about this syndrome and the future of brain manipulation."—*Booklist*

"Like books by Andrew Solomon and Oliver Sacks, *Switched On* offers an opportunity to consider mental processes through a combination of powerful narrative and informative medical context."—*BookPage*

“A mind-blowing book that will force you to ask deep questions about what is important in life. Would normalizing the brains of those who think differently reduce their motivation for great achievement?”—**Temple Grandin, author of *The Autistic Brain***

“At the heart of *Switched On* are fundamental questions of who we are, of where our identity resides, of difference and disability and free will, which are brought into sharp focus by Robison’s lived experience.”—**Graeme Simsion, author of *The Rosie Effect***

From the Hardcover edition.

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Candice Delgado:

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Katrina Frey:

Exactly why? Because this Switched On: A Memoir of Brain Change and Emotional Awakening is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will zap you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who write the book in such incredible way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have got such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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