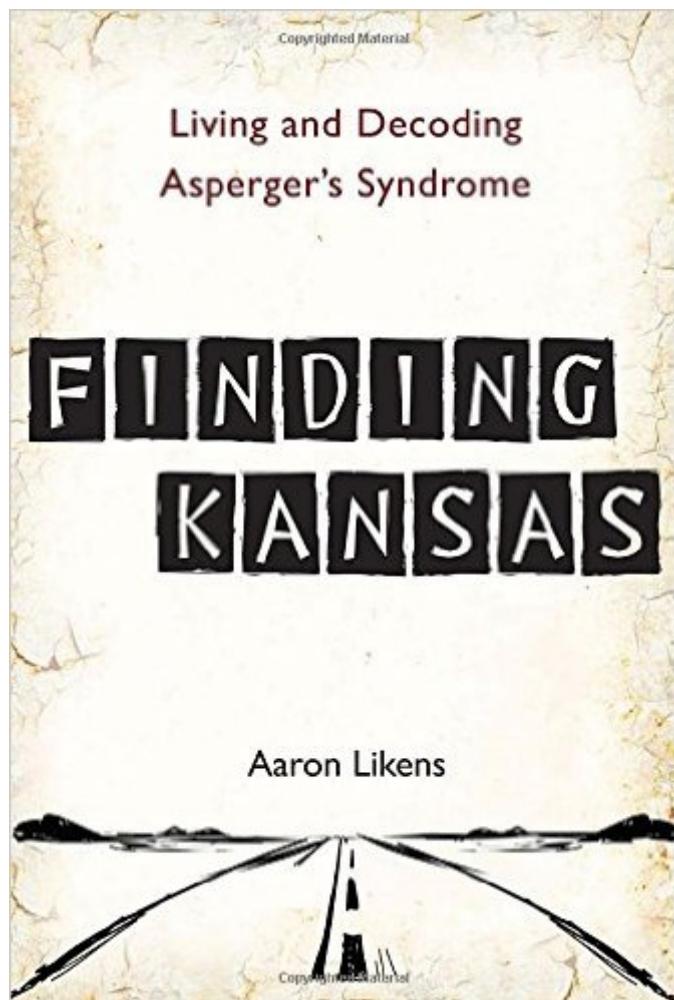


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# Finding Kansas: Living And Decoding Asperger's Syndrome



## **Synopsis**

All I want is someone to care, to know, to understand. And maybe, for a brief moment, I will be free... Finding Kansas is a memoir like no other, written by an unlikely author who at first never dreamed he would find even one reader. When he was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome at age 20, Aaron Likens began to collect his thoughts and experiences on paper-the highs, the lows, the challenges, and the unexpected joys. What he found was hope -- not only for himself, but also for others with Asperger's. Now a sought-after speaker and blogger, he is passionate about sharing his insights into this often misunderstood condition. Aaron has another passion, too: the world of auto racing. A successful flag man at racing events across the country, Aaron calls racing his Kansas-a place where he feels safe, confident, and normal. For others on the autism spectrum, Kansas might be trains, history, or the weather. It is here where, like Aaron, they find freedom, and the possibility for growth and change. Finding Kansas brings us into Aaron's world and, in the process, offers a richly observed, deeply thoughtful, and sometimes painful picture of what it's like to live on the autism spectrum.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I have a brother with Asperger's and I'm so thankful I happened upon this book. It has shed light on so many of the traits that sometimes exasperate the entire family. This was very reminiscent of the film THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY about a stroke victim who was somehow able to transcend his condition and actually describe what was going on inside his head. Like this movie, the book FINDING KANSAS is wrenching in its ability to throw back the curtain on medical

diagnosis and assumptions and care-takers frustration with those with brain abnormalities, no matter what they may be, and eloquently illustrate that behind all these surface things, there is ultimately a person who is deeply suffering. The author has uniquely described what he goes through on a daily basis, just trying to get through the day. What fascinated me most is the agony this writer goes through KNOWING he is not quite normal, but being utterly POWERLESS to do anything about it. It has always been easy for me to assume that my brother was just being difficult and stubborn. I never imagined that perhaps he doesn't WANT to be that way, that perhaps he is completely aware of what is causing other people distress and simply can't do anything about it. I never thought his actual condition could be causing as much deep internal pain for him as it does for all of those who love him. In many ways this book is painful and heartbreakingly, but it is also full of threads of hope. If the people surrounding those with Asperger's are better able to understand them, there has to be a chance that some of the internal pain can be slightly relieved. (For everyone involved!!!

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