

HCAA-CC Book List Focusing on the Deaf

CHILDREN OF DEAF ADULTS (CODA) MEMOIR

- **My Sense of Silence: Memoirs of a Childhood with Deafness** by Lennard Davis. (2008) In this candid, affecting, and often funny memoir, he recalls the joys and confusions of this special world growing up as a hearing child of deaf parents as he gracefully slips through memory, regret, longing, and redemption.
- **Signs of Survival** by Renee Hartman with Joshua M. Greene (nonfiction/memoir). As Jews living in 1940s Czechoslovakia, Renee, Herta, and their parents were in immediate danger when the Holocaust came to their door. As the only hearing person in her family, Renee had to alert her parents and sister to danger. Eventually they, would be captured and taken to the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen where they communicated in sign language and relied on each other for strength.
- **A Loss for Words: The Story of Deafness in a Family** by Lou Ann Walker (nonfiction/memoir). From the time she was a toddler, Lou Ann Walker acted as the ears and voice for her parents, who had lost their hearing at a young age. As soon as she was old enough to speak, her childhood ended, and she immediately assumed the responsibility of interpreter as they faced a world that misunderstood and often rejected them.
- **Burn Down the Ground: A Memoir** by Kambri Crews (nonfiction/memoir). In this powerful, affecting, and unflinching memoir, a daughter looks back on her unconventional childhood with deaf parents in rural Texas. As a CODA she wished that she'd been born deaf so she, too, could belong to the Deaf community. As she moves through family challenges what started as adoration, moves to fear until she finally arrives at understanding.

NON-FICTION MEMOIR - DEAF / BLIND

- **Deaf Utopia:** by Nyle DiMarco (2022) A renowned actor, producer, and advocate of the global Deaf community, presents an inspiring memoir that serves as a cultural anthem for Deaf identity. Born as one of Deaf twins into a deeply rooted Deaf family in Queens this memoir explores his upbringing, his academic career at Gallaudet University as a math major and athlete, and his journey into acting on reality TV shows.
- **Alice: Princess Andrew of Greece** by Hugo Vickers (nonfiction/biography) Born deaf, at Windsor Castle, in the presence of her grandmother, Queen Victoria she was a mystery figure within her own family. Her family, husband and her life were overshadowed by wars, revolutions, and enforced periods of exile. How she achieved her recovery from a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia is just one of the remarkable aspects of her story.
- **I'll Scream Later** by Marlee Matlin (nonfiction/memoir). Marlee reveals the illuminating, moving, and often surprising story of how she defied all expectations to become one of the most prolific, critically acclaimed, award-winning and beloved actresses of our time. With uncompromising honesty and humor, she shares the story of her life -- an enduring tale that is an unforgettable lesson in following your dreams.

- **Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust at Ground Zero** by Michael Hingson (Nonfiction/Memoir). It's the 9/11 story that will forever change your spirit and your perspective. Thunder Dog allows you entry into the isolated, fume-filled chamber of stairwell B to experience survival through the eyes of a blind man and his beloved guide dog.
- **Invisible : My Journey Through Vision and Hearing Loss** by Ruth Silver. A silent, frightened child Ruth Silvers lived with undiagnosed vision loss that ultimately became one of total darkness. As she grew, her other contact with the world sound was also taken from her. Where others might have given up, Ruth refused to surrender to the darkness and silence and instead founded the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons.
- **Not Fade Away: A Memoir of Senses Lost and Found** by Rebecca Alexander (nonfiction/memoir). A memoir of the senses and a unique look at the obstacles we all face, by turns harrowing, funny and inspiring as Rebecca rises to every challenge she faces. Losing her sight and hearing since she was a child from Usher Syndrome type III she then overcame falling from a window at 18. It is a gripping story, an offering of hope and motivation, and an exquisite reminder to live each day to its fullest.
- **Deaf Blind Champion : A True Story of Hope, Inspiration, and Excellence in Sport and Life.** by Kevin Frost 2022 A true account of triumph, even in the midst of adversity, Kevin's life has been nothing short of a miracle. In Deaf Blind Champion, I give you a front-row seat into how my life changed when I heard my diagnosis and what I did to get through the depression that engulfed me to become an accomplished sportsman, a dad, life partner, son, a brother, teammate, and activist.
- **Train Go Sorry: Inside a Deaf World** by Leah Hager Cohen (1995) A look inside a New York City school for the deaf, blending memoir and history. Leah Hager Cohen is part of the hearing world but grew up among the deaf community as her father served as superintendent at the Lexington School for the Deaf in Queens.
- **The Unheard: A Memoir of Deafness and Africa** by Josh Swiller Deaf since a young age and he joined the Peace Corps on a quest to reconcile his deafness in an unforgiving world. It is at once a poignant account of friendship through adversity, a hilarious comedy of errors, and a gripping narrative of escalating violence in Zambia.

FICTION

- **The Silent House** by Nell Pattison. A little girl is murdered while her deaf family is home, and they don't know it's happening. The police call Paige Northwood to the scene to interpret for the witnesses. They're in shock, but Paige senses the family is hiding something.
- **The Lip Reader** by Michael Thal (fictionalized account of true story). Set in Iran during the 1960s and 1970s, and later in Los Angeles, California, Zhila Shirazi tells her story of the real-life struggle of being a deaf woman who refuses to allow adversity to stop her from reaching her dreams of living a normal and fulfilling life. Although fiction, as author Michael Thal makes clear in the preface, this story is largely true. Names have been changed but for the most part this is the story of the author's wife's life.

- **Dark Pines** by Will Dean (mystery). A journalist in a small town in rural Sweden, Tuva is desperate to write the story that will make her name and get her a job in the city. Tuva's deafness occasionally throws challenges in her way, but when she finds a link between a recent murder and a serial killer from twenty years earlier, she's determined to dig out the truth.
- **The Sign For Home** by Blaire Fell. When a young DeafBlind man learns the girl, he thought was lost forever might still be out there, he embarks on a life-changing journey to find her—and his freedom.
- **Hide & Seek, Or, The Mystery of Mary Grice** by Wilkie Collins (Classic). Skillfully plotted tale of gentle deaf-mute girl and shocking circumstances of her birth. Blends pathos, domestic comedy, humor, and social protest. This work has been selected by **Scholar Select** as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. Circa: 1848-1868
- **Signs of Murder** by Jean Bedford (mystery). Fiona Galloway is a young, deaf social worker who consults with private eye Anna Southwood after receiving a series of threatening letters.
- **Havana Heat** by Darryl Brock (Sports related). Havana Heat takes readers back to 1911 America, where thirty-six-year-old Luther Taylor, legendary deaf pitcher, is trying to work his arm back into fighting shape.
- **Resurrection Bay** by Emma Viskic (mystery). Insurance investigator Caleb Zelic was deafened at the age of five by meningitis, he becomes embroiled in the investigation into the death of a friend, and he is forced to face his own issues surrounding his deafness.
- **Deaf Republic** by Ilya Kaminsky (Poems). Ilya Kaminsky's astonishing parable in poems asks us, what is silence?
- **Not a Sound: Silence is Deadly**, by Heather Gudenkauf. When a tragic accident leaves nurse Amelia Winn deaf, she loses everything that matters—her job and family. With the help of her hearing dog, Stitch, she is finally getting back on her feet when she discovers the body of a fellow nurse.
- **The Listening Eye (The Miss Silver Mysteries)** by Patricia Wentworth. After becoming deaf in a WWII Blitz a deaf woman is targeted after she learns some dangerous information while using lipreading.
- **Deafening** by Frances Itani. Grania O'Neill is five years old when she emerges from a bout of scarlet fever profoundly deaf. It isn't until she's enrolled in the Ontario School for the Deaf, that Grania truly begins to thrive. The internationally bestselling, "gorgeously moving, old-fashioned novel" about a woman's life, loves, and self-discovery on the eve the Great War.
- **The Quality of Silence** by Rosamund Lupton. Yasmin and her ten-year-old daughter Ruby set off on a journey across Northern Alaska. They're searching for Ruby's father,

missing in the arctic wilderness. More isolated with each frozen mile they cover, they travel deeper into an endless night. And Ruby, deaf since birth, must brave the darkness where sight cannot guide her as somebody is tracking them through the dark.

- **True Biz** by Sara Novic. The students at the River Valley School for the Deaf just want to hook up, pass their history finals, and have politicians, doctors, and their parents stop telling them what to do. This is a story of sign language and lip-reading, disability and civil rights, isolation and injustice, first love and loss, and, above all, great persistence, daring, and joy.
- **The Silent World of Nicholas Quinn** by Colin Dexter. Nicholas Quinn is deaf, so he considers himself lucky to be appointed to the Foreign Examinations Board at Oxford, which designs tests for students of English around the world. But when someone slips cyanide into Nicholas's sherry, Inspector Morse has a multiple-choice murder.
- **Murder on Lexington Avenue: A Gaslight Mystery** by Victoria Thompson. When Detective Sergeant Frank Malloy is assigned to investigate the murder of an influential man in the deaf community-presumably because his own son is hearing impaired-midwife Sarah Brandt lends a hand, only to find herself searching for a killer in an unfamiliar world where those who can hear refuse to listen to those who cannot.

HELEN KELLER BOOKS

- **The Story of My Life** by Helen Keller (Nonfiction/Memoir) Helen Keller's autobiography detailing her early life, especially her experiences with Anne Sullivan.
- **Teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy: A Tribute by the Foster-Child of Her Mind** by Helen Keller (Nonfiction/biography) A biography of Anne Sullivan Macy by her student Helen Keller.
- **Beyond the Miracle Worker: The Remarkable Life of Anne Sullivan Macy and Her Extraordinary Friendship with Helen Keller** by Kim E. Nielsen which is a biography of Ann Sullivan. (nonfiction) After many years, historian and Helen Keller expert Kim Nielsen realized that she and her peers had failed Anne Sullivan Macy. While Macy is remembered primarily as Helen Keller's teacher and a straightforward educational superhero, the real story of this brilliant, complex, and misunderstood woman has never been completely told.
- **The Radical Lives of Helen Keller (The History of Disability, 1)** by Kim E. Nielsen (nonfiction/biography). Using analytic tools and new sources, this political biography of Helen Keller has many lives, teasing out the motivations for and implications of her political and personal revolutions to reveal a more complex and intriguing woman than the Helen Keller we thought we knew.
- **Helen Keller: Selected Writings (The History of Disability, Book 2)** by Kim E. Nielsen (nonfiction) Helen Keller: Selected Writings collects Keller's personal letters, political writings, speeches, and excerpts of her published materials from 1887 to 1968.

- **Blind Rage: Letters to Helen Keller** by Georgina Kleege (nonfiction/memoir). Kleege's absorption with Keller originated as an angry response to the ideal of a secular saint, which no real blind or deaf person could ever emulate. However, her investigation into the genuine person revealed that a much more complex set of characters and circumstances shaped Keller's life leading her to gradually shift her perspective from anger to admiration.